



PRESIDENT'S LECTURE SERIES



Deborah Farr, M.D.
Heather McArthur, M.D., M.P.H.

*Innovations in Breast Cancer Care: Advancing
the Future of Medicine and Surgery, Today*

Thursday, April 16, 2026

4 p.m. Lecture – Reception to follow

Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium

Livestream also available

UT Southwestern
Medical Center

ABOUT
THE
PRESIDENT'S
LECTURE
SERIES



The President's Lecture Series was established to recognize the importance of UT Southwestern staff in enabling the Medical Center to achieve its mission and goals. The faculty excels in education, research, and patient care only with the contributions of staff, whose work, directly and indirectly, supports faculty endeavors.

The lectures selected for this series provide an opportunity for the employees of UT Southwestern to learn more about the research discoveries, clinical advances, and other contributions of the Medical Center's most accomplished scientists, physicians, and senior leaders. Three times each academic year, leading experts present a President's Lecture, discussing in nontechnical terms the basics of their research and clinical programs and their implications for good health and medical care.

The President's Lecture Series is offered in appreciation and respect for the work and dedication of UT Southwestern staff.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.
President
UT Southwestern Medical Center

ABOUT
THE
LECTURE



Advances in breast cancer treatment are opening new possibilities for patients – from first-of-their-kind surgical techniques to emerging immunotherapy strategies. **Deborah Farr, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Surgery, and **Heather McArthur, M.D., M.P.H.**, Professor of Internal Medicine, will explore how these innovations are reshaping care and improving outcomes for patients diagnosed with the disease.

In February 2020 at UT Southwestern, Dr. Farr performed the first single-port robotic nipple-sparing mastectomy and profunda artery perforator (PAP) flap reconstruction procedure in America, in collaboration with Nicholas Haddock, M.D., Professor of Plastic Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery. Robotic surgery would quickly capture the attention of the medical community and cancer patients.

Since then, Dr. Farr has traveled worldwide to train physicians in the technique with the goal of making the surgery more accessible to patients.

Dr. McArthur is advancing a different frontier in breast cancer treatment using cryoablation and immunotherapy to improve patient outcomes.

She is a Principal Investigator on various national and international clinical trials. Her research has focused on the impact of immunotherapy before surgery, often in combination with cryoablation, to stimulate immunity and extend life. In one trial, she used the immunotherapy medication pembrolizumab to stimulate the immune system along with chemotherapy to treat patients with early-stage HER2-positive breast cancer. Adding pembrolizumab before surgery, rather than giving it to patients after a mastectomy, led to significant results.

Together, these physicians are redefining breast cancer care and expanding possibilities for patients.

ABOUT
THE
SPEAKERS



Deborah Farr, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery, and **Heather McArthur, M.D., M.P.H.**, Professor of Internal Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Clinical Director of the Breast Cancer Program at the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, share a singular mission: delivering exceptional care and advancing treatment for patients facing breast cancer.

Dr. Farr, a surgical oncologist, centers her research on surgical resident education and disparities among breast cancer patients across populations. She has published several scholarly articles, and her accolades include membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society; nomination to the Association for Women Surgeons Excellence in Surgery Residency; and the Southern Illinois University Department of Surgery's Excellence in Teaching Award for four consecutive years.

After receiving her M.D. from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, she completed a surgery residency at Southern Illinois University and a breast surgical oncology fellowship at Northwestern University's Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center. She also earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry, with honors, from Northwestern University.

Dr. McArthur, a medical oncologist, holds the Komen Distinguished Chair in Clinical Breast Cancer Research. Her work focuses on innovations in diagnosing and treating breast cancer, with a special emphasis on immunotherapy strategies. She has held multiple leadership roles in the field and serves on several committees.

Originally from Canada, she received her bachelor's degree from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. She earned her M.D. from the University of Toronto and completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Calgary. She received advanced training through a medical oncology fellowship at the University of British Columbia and an advanced clinical research fellowship in breast cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Dr. McArthur also holds an M.P.H. from Harvard University with a concentration in clinical trial design.

ABOUT THE NEXT
SPEAKER

Thursday,
Sept. 17, 2026



Jim Collins, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology at UT Southwestern, has dedicated his career to studying some of the world's most overlooked diseases and the parasites behind them. The study of parasitic worms may seem far removed from everyday life, but his research is opening new paths toward treatment and reshaping approaches to global health. His work concentrates on neglected tropical diseases affecting hundreds of millions of people worldwide, driving cycles of illness and poverty in vulnerable populations.

Among the most devastating is schistosomiasis, a disease caused by blood-dwelling parasitic worms known as schistosomes. More than 200 million people are infected globally. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, schistosomiasis ranks second only to malaria among parasitic illnesses. Despite its widespread impact, many of the parasite's most basic biological processes have remained elusive. Dr. Collins and his team are redefining scientific understanding of the parasite.

Using innovative molecular tools, his team is uncovering how these parasites thrive and reproduce in the human body. In a breakthrough, his lab was the first to establish laboratory conditions allowing researchers to observe the worms' reproductive cycle without using a host. This advance has enabled more detailed study of the parasite, accelerating efforts to identify new treatments.

For this work, he received the 2023 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Award in Biological Sciences from the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology. He has also authored numerous publications.

Dr. Collins is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. He holds the Jan and Bob Bullock Distinguished Chair for Science Education and the Jane and Bud Smith Distinguished Chair in Medicine and is a Rita C. and William P. Clements, Jr. Scholar in Biomedical Research.

He completed his B.S. in biology at Southeast Missouri State University and his Ph.D. at Washington University in St. Louis, followed by postdoctoral training at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.