

**Joshua Mendell, M.D., Ph.D., and Duoja Pan, Ph.D., elected to
National Academy of Medicine**

October 20, 2025

To the UT Southwestern Community:

We are very pleased to share the news that earlier today, two of our esteemed colleagues, **Joshua Mendell, M.D., Ph.D.**, and **Duoja Pan, Ph.D.**, were elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), one of the highest honors in health and medicine. [With this announcement](#), UT Southwestern now has 25 members of the NAM – more than any other institution in Texas – who advance our commitment to excellence in biomedical research, education, and clinical care.

Dr. Mendell, Professor of Molecular Biology, has conducted pioneering research on the functions of microRNAs in normal physiology and disease. Dr. Pan, Chair and Professor of Physiology, is recognized for his groundbreaking work in elucidating molecular pathways that regulate growth and tissue homeostasis. Both are members of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, and their discoveries have significantly advanced our understanding of the mechanisms underlying cancer development and progression.

Dr. Mendell, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Investigator who holds the Charles Cameron Sprague, M.D. Chair in Medical Science, joined UT Southwestern in 2011 following seven years at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His laboratory investigates fundamental aspects of post-transcriptional gene regulation and uncovered the first vertebrate transcription factor known to regulate microRNA (miRNA) expression. His team has defined the roles of miRNAs in key oncogenic and tumor suppressor pathways and translated these insights into novel therapeutic approaches – notably demonstrating that systemic delivery of miRNAs can suppress tumor growth in mouse models without toxicity. Dr. Mendell serves as Vice Chair of the Department of Molecular Biology and is a member of the Hamon Center for Regenerative Science and Medicine.

Dr. Pan, also an HHMI Investigator as well as a member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), first served on the UT Southwestern faculty from 1998 to 2004 and returned in 2016 as Chair of the Department of Physiology. He is best known for foundational discoveries of the Hippo signaling pathway, which plays a critical role in regulating organ size, tissue regeneration, and tumorigenesis. His laboratory also elucidated the molecular function of the *Tsc1* and *Tsc2* tumor suppressor genes, linking them to Rheb and TOR signaling. This work provided the key molecular insight for the use of mTOR inhibitors in treating tuberous sclerosis, a genetic disorder that causes tumors in the brain, spinal cord, and other organs. Dr. Pan holds the Fouad A. and Val Imm Bashour Distinguished Chair in Physiology.

Founded in 1970 as the Institute of Medicine, the NAM is one of three academies that comprise the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. In addition to 25 NAM members, UT Southwestern is proud to also have 24 members of the NAS and 13 HHMI Investigators among our faculty.

Please join us in congratulating Drs. Mendell and Pan on this most recent honor, which recognizes their transformative contributions to medical science and their impact on improving human health.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

President
UT Southwestern Medical Center

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
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