



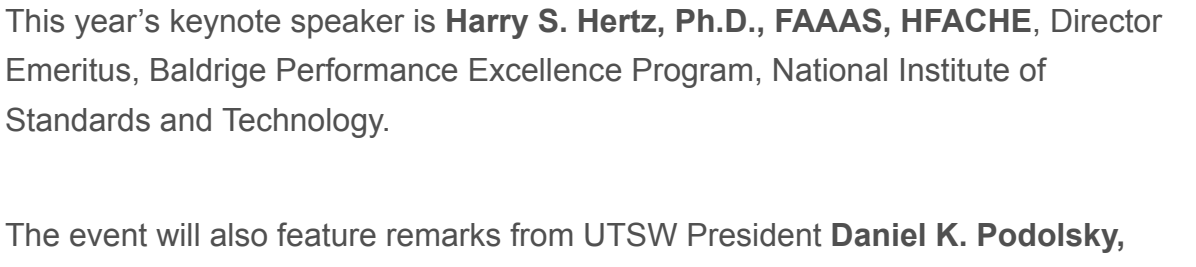
## Kim Orth, Ph.D., elected to American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Join us in congratulating **Kim Orth, Ph.D.**, Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, who was elected last week to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. Founded in 1780 during the American Revolution, the Academy has nearly 6,000 active members in academia, the arts, industry, journalism, philanthropy, policy, research, and science, including hundreds of Nobel Laureates and Pulitzer Prize winners.

Dr. Orth, who is also a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, is internationally known for advancing the understanding of basic biochemical mechanisms underlying many bacterial infections by identifying new ways that invading bacteria hijack and deregulate a cell's signaling systems. She is one of 252 new members elected to the Academy this year, including actress Jodie Foster and author Barbara Kingsolver.

With her election, UT Southwestern now has 12 faculty who are members of the Academy. See [who else was elected to the Academy](#) this year and read more in the news release linked below.

[Learn more about the Academy honor](#)



## See you at the Celebration of Excellence!

We're just a few days away from the Health System's Celebration of Excellence (COE), and we'd love to see you there. Don't forget to register now to attend in person or online this **Friday, May 1**.

This year's keynote speaker is **Harry S. Hertz, Ph.D., FAAAS, HFACHE**, Director Emeritus, Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology.

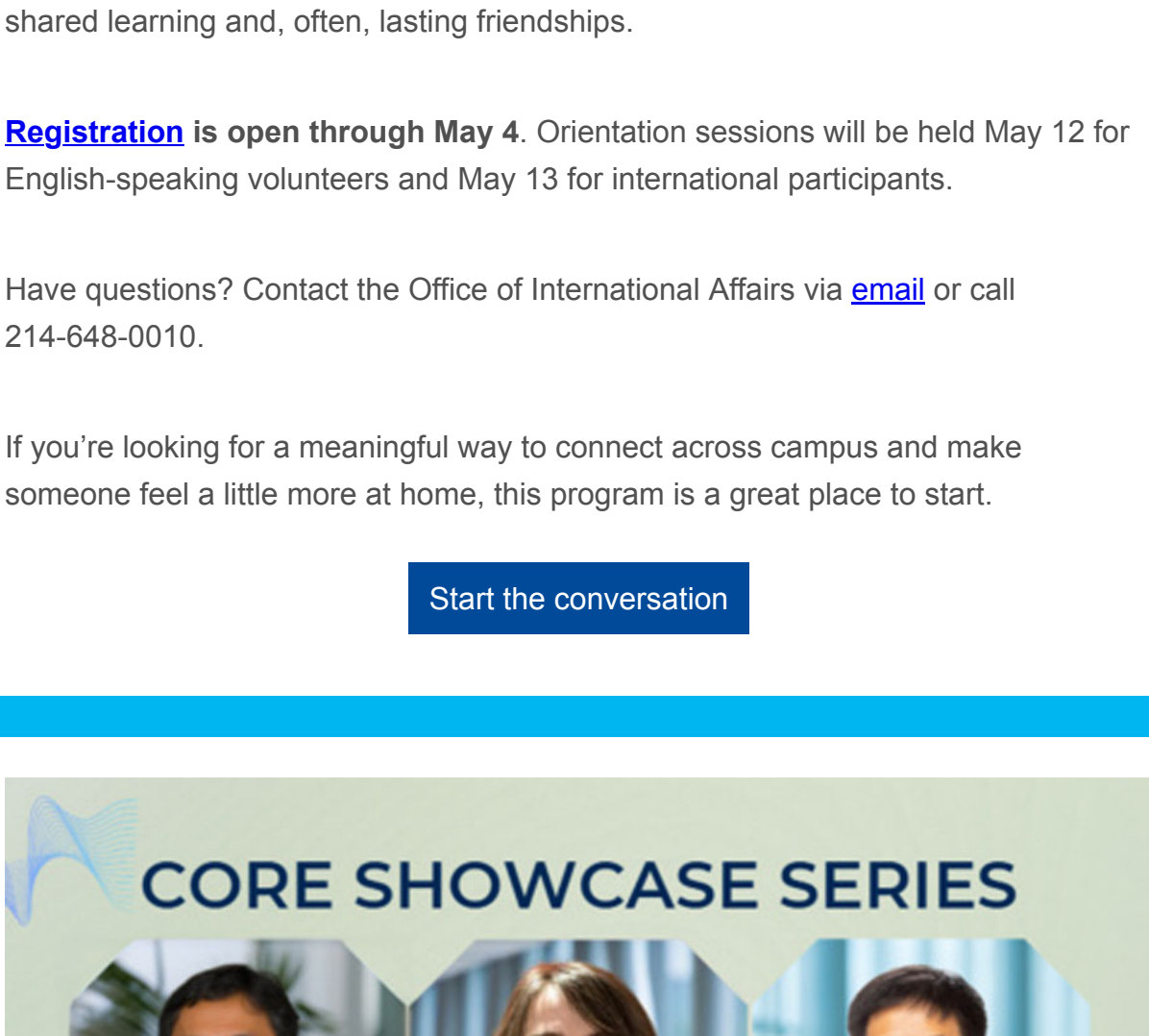
The event will also feature remarks from UTSW President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, and **Jonathan Efron, M.D.**, Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs, who will deliver a presentation focused on prior-year successes and a look forward at hospital and ambulatory priorities.

Continuing education credit is available for physicians (CME) and nurses (NCPD) attending the keynote presentation and fireside chat. Learn more on the [Continuing Education section](#) of the [COE SharePoint site](#).

Other opportunities to engage with colleagues include the improvement project poster session and the Arena of Excellence, with representatives from the Office of Faculty Wellness, the Employee Advisory Council, and the Library, among others, on hand to provide information and answer questions.

View the [schedule of events](#) to plan your personal agenda for the day.

[Register today](#)



## Meet, talk, connect: Conversation Partners returns

Sometimes, the simplest conversations lead to the most meaningful connections. UT Southwestern's [Conversation Partners program](#) brings international postdoctoral scholars together with native English-speaking employees for one-on-one language practice, cultural exchange, and the chance to truly get to know one another.

Participants are paired for regular conversations throughout the summer 2026 session, running **May 11 to Sept. 25**. Whether you're hoping to strengthen your English skills or enjoy learning about another culture, the program creates space for shared learning and, often, lasting friendships.

**Registration is open through May 4**. Orientation sessions will be held May 12 for English-speaking volunteers and May 13 for international participants.

Have questions? Contact the Office of International Affairs via [email](#) or call 214-648-0010.

If you're looking for a meaningful way to connect across campus and make someone feel a little more at home, this program is a great place to start.

[Start the conversation](#)



## See research in action: Inside preclinical imaging

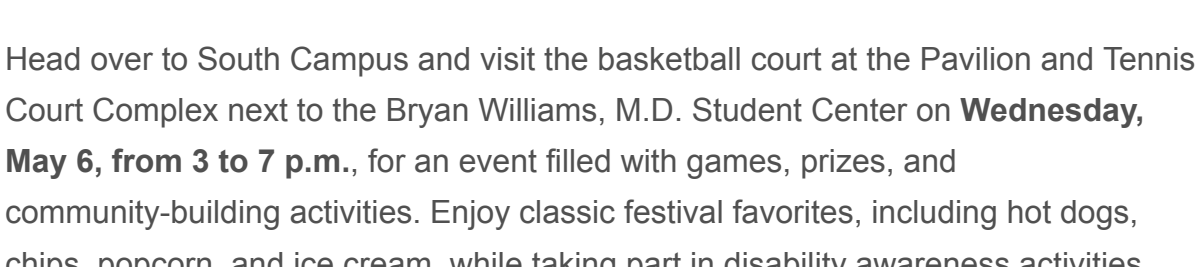
Many scientific breakthroughs at UT Southwestern are supported by a powerful network of shared research resources that help investigators ask bigger questions and pursue more complex studies.

One of those resources is the [Preclinical Imaging/Image-Guided Radiation Core Facility](#), which combines advanced imaging with image-guided radiation to support study designs beyond the reach of individual laboratories. Researchers can track disease progression, evaluate treatment response, and deliver targeted radiation in preclinical models to help move discoveries from basic science toward clinical application.

These capabilities, and others across campus, are being highlighted through the new [Core Showcase Series](#), which offers the UT Southwestern community an inside look at the technologies, services, and expertise available.

The event is from **noon to 1 p.m. May 11** on North Campus at the T. Boone Pickens Medical Education & Conference Center (NG3.112). Light refreshments and snacks will be provided.

[Get an inside look](#)



## How are you nurturing your mental well-being?

Take a moment to pause, reflect, and reconnect **May 11-15** during Mental Health Awareness Week.

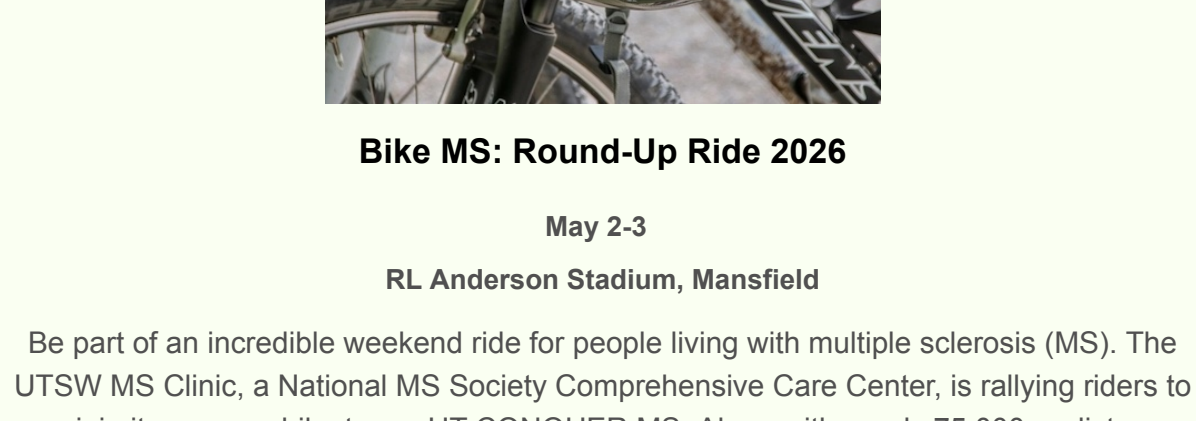
The UT Southwestern community is invited to take part in five virtual sessions offering practical tools and meaningful dialogue around personal wellness, parenting, and children's mental health. Designed to support individuals across life stages and career paths, each session encourages intentional engagement with well-being, both at work and beyond.

Events include:

- Inhale. Exhale. Repeat. – Yoga Skills for a Stronger You
- Living an Energy Efficient Life: A Conversation with **Jenna Glover, Ph.D.**, Licensed Psychologist and Chief Clinical Officer at Headspace
- The Hidden Transition of the Working Parent: The Story We Don't Talk About
- The Hidden Fixer: Break Free from the Habit of Solving Other People's Problems
- Growing Minds: Recognizing and Supporting Children's Mental Health

This series is hosted by the Office of Faculty Wellness and Engagement and open to the entire UT Southwestern community.

[Register and get the details](#)



## Celebrate spring with the EquallyAble Alliance BRG

Liven up your afternoon with food, fun, and learning at the EquallyAble Alliance BRG's [Springtime and Sunshine Festival](#).

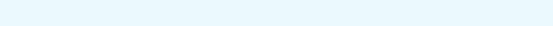
Head over to South Campus and visit the basketball court at the Pavilion and Tennis Court Complex next to the Bryan Williams, M.D. Student Center on **Wednesday, May 6, from 3 to 7 p.m.**, for an event filled with games, prizes, and community-building activities. Enjoy classic festival favorites, including hot dogs, chips, popcorn, and ice cream, while taking part in disability awareness activities designed to promote understanding.

All are welcome to stop by and enjoy the celebration as their schedule allows.

To attend, please be sure to register by **May 1**.

[Be part of the fun](#)

## Insider Guide



### 16th Annual Head for the Cure 5K Run/Walk

8-11 a.m., May 2

Red Tail Pavilion, Plano

Join the O'Donnell Brain Institute (OBI) to ignite hope and build awareness for brain tumor research. The OBI team is running and walking to honor the countless individuals and families affected by this devastating disease and needs our help to make a difference!

[Sign up today](#)



### Bike MS: Round-Up Ride 2026

May 2-3

RL Anderson Stadium, Mansfield

Be part of an incredible weekend ride for people living with multiple sclerosis (MS). The UTSW MS Clinic, a National MS Society Comprehensive Care Center, is rallying riders to join its campus bike team, UT CONQUER MS. Along with nearly 75,000 cyclists nationwide, team members ride together in support of patients, research, and progress toward a future free of MS.

[Join the team](#)



## UTSW Events Calendar

Looking for your daily dose of happenings?

The UTSW Events Calendar is updated every day.

[View upcoming or trending events](#)

Share your *Insider* suggestions by sending them to [utswinsider@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:utswinsider@utsouthwestern.edu).

Looking for an item in a past edition of this newsletter? Check out our [Insider archive](#).

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