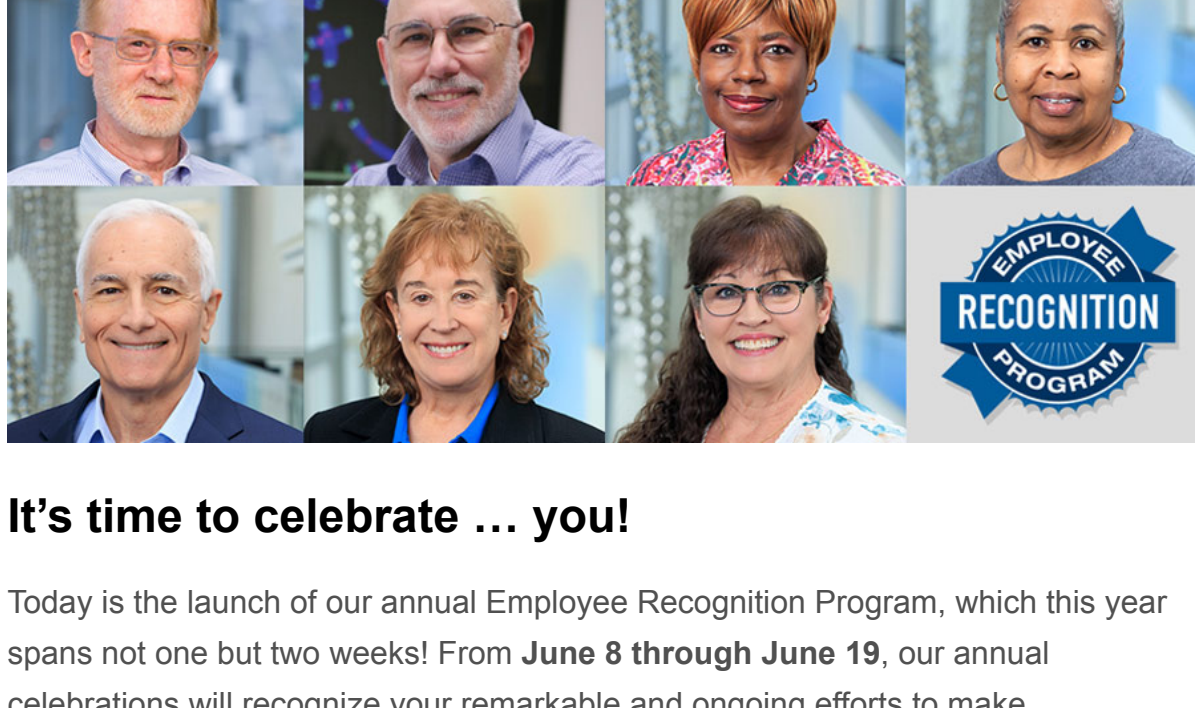




It's time to celebrate ... you!

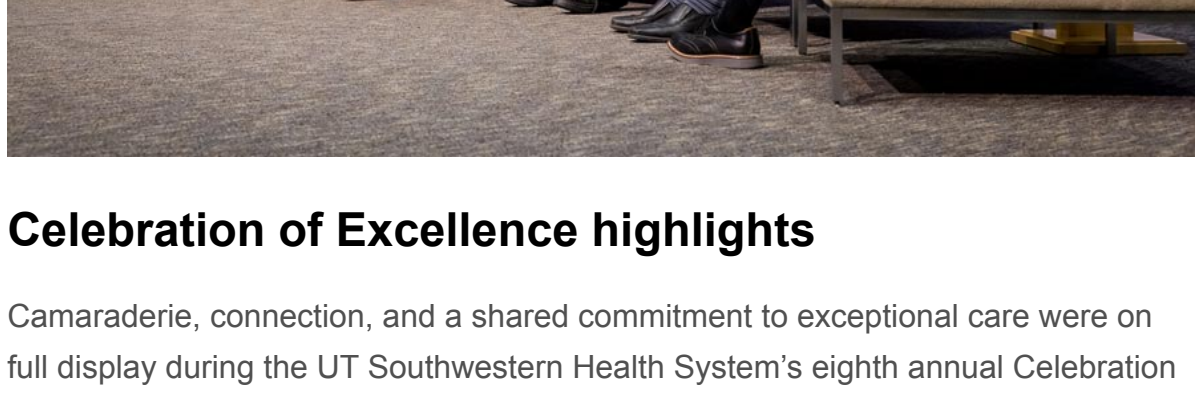
Today is the launch of our annual Employee Recognition Program, which this year spans not one but two weeks! From **June 8 through June 19**, our annual celebrations will recognize your remarkable and ongoing efforts to make UT Southwestern an exceptional place for patients, faculty, staff, learners, and visitors to our campus.

Tomorrow and Wednesday, we will honor some incredible career milestones. UT Southwestern President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, will host a breakfast and a luncheon recognizing employees celebrating 50, 45, 40, 35, and 30 years of service, and he will also welcome 108 new members to the Quarter Century Club for 25 years of dedication.

Behind each milestone is an unforgettable story. You can learn more about them in a special collection on *Center Times Plus*.

To keep the celebration moving throughout the two weeks, members of the Employee Advisory Council (EAC) will be popping up across the Dallas campus and regional locations with fun giveaways and employee appreciation events. Check the schedule to connect with them and collect some cool swag.

Here's to you and the difference you make every day!

[Swag wagon schedule](#)
[Milestone honorees](#)


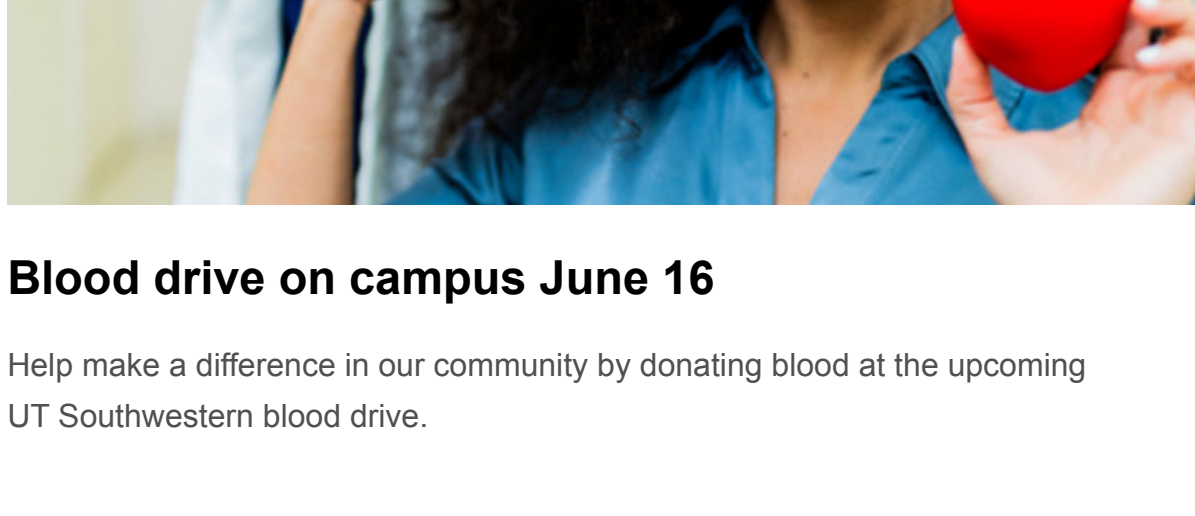
Celebration of Excellence highlights

Camaraderie, connection, and a shared commitment to exceptional care were on full display during the UT Southwestern Health System's eighth annual Celebration of Excellence (COE).

Guests were treated to an informative keynote speech by **Harry S. Hertz, Ph.D., FAAAS, HFACHE**, Director Emeritus, Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, who emphasized that performance excellence is an ongoing, systemwide effort rooted in culture, leadership, and continuous improvement.

The COE, held May 1, also honored the people behind the work. A powerful patient story highlighted the impact of UTSW's teamwork and service excellence, while poster presentations (a record 240 entries!), Patient Safety Star Awards, and Academy for Performance Excellence (APEX) recognitions showcased initiatives that are transforming care across the organization.

Check out the event recap on [Center Times Plus](#), where you'll also find videos of the keynote, poster competition presentations, remarks from **Dr. Podolsky**, the year in review by **Jonathan Efron, M.D.**, Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs, and a fireside chat.

[View photos, event highlights, and recap](#)


Blood drive on campus June 16

Help make a difference in our community by donating blood at the upcoming UT Southwestern blood drive.

Hosted in partnership with Carter BloodCare, the drive will take place **Tuesday, June 16**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cancer Care Outpatient Building, Thompson Conference Center, on the third floor.

Blood donations play a critical role for patients across North Texas, including those undergoing cancer treatment and individuals living with conditions such as sickle cell disease. Each donation can help provide the lifesaving support patients depend on every day.

Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome as space allows. Donors should bring a valid photo ID. As a thank-you, participants can enjoy free snacks and receive giveaways while supplies last.

[Save your spot to donate](#)

UTSW Research highlights: Cancer, autism, and fasting

[Stress hormone signaling helps ovarian tumors evade immune attack](#)

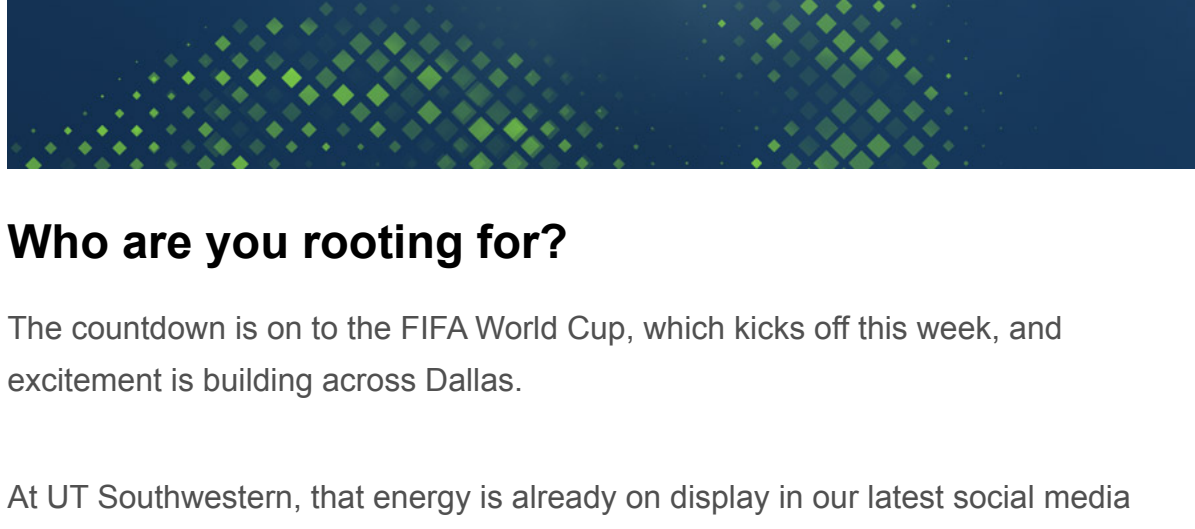
Our researchers found that a receptor activated by the body's primary stress hormone can reshape the tumor environment in ovarian cancer and prevent the immune system from effectively responding. The findings were published in *Endocrinology*.

[Gene-focused studies reveal complexity behind autism spectrum disorder](#)

Two UTSW studies – one published in *HGG Advances* and the other in *Autism Research* – shed new light on the genetic roots of autism spectrum disorder, showing how distinct gene variants can affect brain development in different ways.

[Refueling after fasting may drive longer lifespan benefits](#)

New UTSW research suggests that the health benefits of intermittent fasting may depend less on the fast itself and more on what happens in the body when eating resumes. The study was published in *Nature Communications*.

[Visit our Newsroom](#)


Who are you rooting for?

The countdown is on to the FIFA World Cup, which kicks off this week, and excitement is building across Dallas.

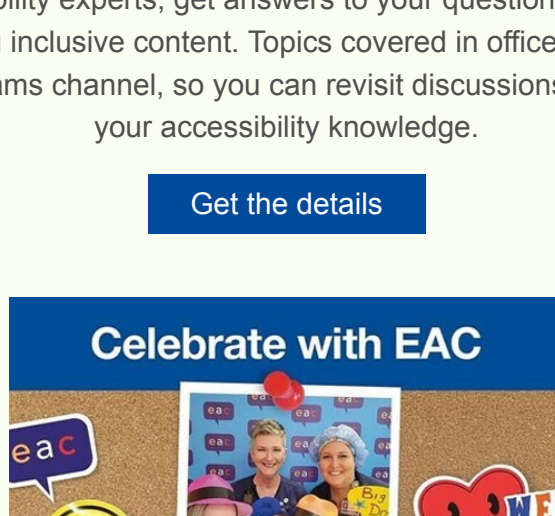
At UT Southwestern, that energy is already on display in our latest social media video. Our community members are rallying behind their favorite teams and getting ready to cheer them on. See how the World Cup is sparking connection, pride, and a shared love of the game.

Even Tia, our beloved therapy dog, is getting in on the action with her own pick. You'll have to watch the video to find out who she's rooting for.

UT Southwestern is proud to be an Official Host City Supporter of FIFA World Cup 2026 Dallas. Join the conversation and share which team you're cheering for this summer.

[Watch the video on Instagram](#)

Insider Guide



Digital Accessibility Office Hours

Noon-1 p.m., June 9

Virtual

Join digital accessibility experts, get answers to your questions, and learn practical strategies for creating inclusive content. Topics covered in office hours will be recorded and shared in the Teams channel, so you can revisit discussions and continue building your accessibility knowledge.

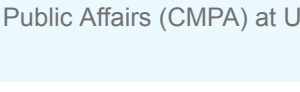
[Get the details](#)


Employee appreciation events

June 9

Various locations

Enjoy fun pop-up events and surprises across the main Dallas campus and our regional facilities today. You can score some cool UTSW goodies and pose in front of a photo backdrop to capture memories with co-workers.

[EAC swag wagon locations](#)


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.

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

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