

## Groundbreaking sleep science adds to UTSW's Lasker legacy

Masashi Yanagisawa, M.D., Ph.D., has been named a recipient of the 2026 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award for discoveries that revealed the root cause of narcolepsy and have transformed the science of sleep. The groundbreaking work, which isolated a peptide in the brain called orexin that maintains wakefulness, was conducted during his more than 20 years as a member of the UT Southwestern faculty. This is the third consecutive year and sixth time overall that a UT Southwestern scientist has received a Lasker Award, often called "America's Nobel."

Dr. Yanagisawa is now a part-time Professor of Molecular Genetics at UTSW and holds a primary appointment as Director of the International Institute for Integrative Sleep Medicine at the University of Tsukuba in Japan. He shares the Lasker honor with Emmanuel Mignot, M.D., Ph.D., of Stanford University, who independently identified the role of the orexin protein in controlling sleep.

Learn more about Dr. Yanagisawa's scientific achievements and how they are leading to new treatments for sleep disorders in our news release.

[Explore the breakthrough](#)

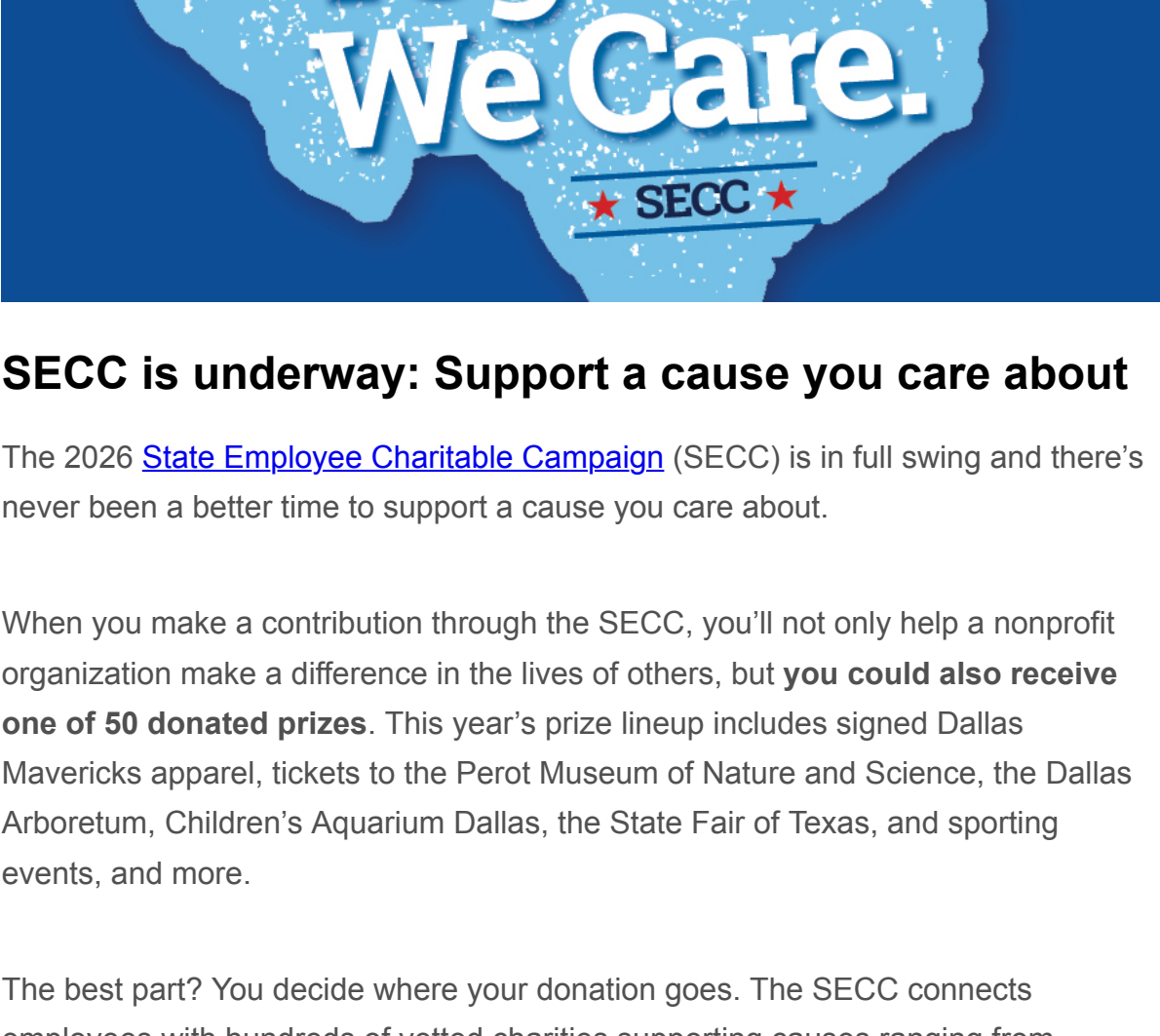


## Listen to the President's campus briefing today

Be sure to tune in **today at 9 a.m.** for the campus briefing with UT Southwestern President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.** Use the button below to access the briefing page, or watch for the link by email later this morning.

All faculty, staff, and learners are encouraged to listen to Dr. Podolsky, who will address key leadership updates, progress on capital projects and clinical expansion efforts, information about new Human Resources technology enhancements, details on this year's State Employee Charitable Campaign, campus security, and more.

[Listen at 9 a.m.](#)



## SECC is underway: Support a cause you care about

The 2026 [State Employee Charitable Campaign](#) (SECC) is in full swing and there's never been a better time to support a cause you care about.

When you make a contribution through the SECC, you'll not only help a nonprofit organization make a difference in the lives of others, but **you could also receive one of 50 donated prizes**. This year's prize lineup includes signed Dallas Mavericks apparel, tickets to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, the Dallas Arboretum, Children's Aquarium Dallas, the State Fair of Texas, and sporting events, and more.

The best part? You decide where your donation goes. The SECC connects employees with hundreds of vetted charities supporting causes ranging from healthcare and education to children, animals, environmental conservation, and community services.

Giving is simple. Make a [one-time gift via credit/debit card](#) or set up a [payroll deduction](#) through PeopleSoft. Every contribution, regardless of size, helps UT Southwestern work toward its \$300,000 campaign goal.

If you need help getting started, stop by an [SECC pop-up event](#) this fall for assistance, campaign giveaways, and more information about participating charities.

[Make an impact](#)



## #ICYMI: Recognizing excellence in action: Leaders in Clinical Excellence honorees revealed

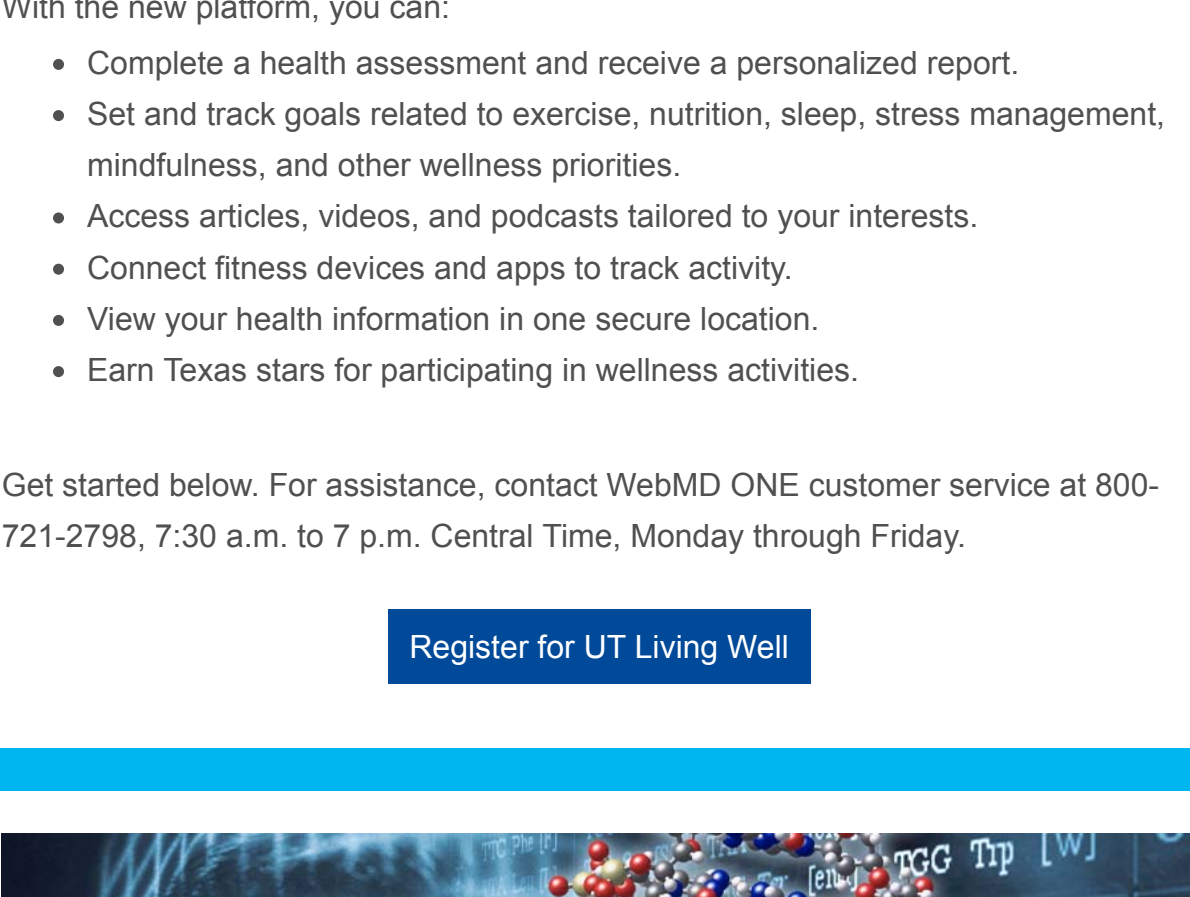
In case you missed it, last Wednesday, the recipients of the ninth annual Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards were named in a message from Dr. Podolsky; **Jonathan Efron, M.D.**, Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs; and **W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.**, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Dean of UT Southwestern Medical School.

We extend our congratulations to this year's recipients, whose clinical expertise, innovation, and compassion exemplify the very best of UTSW.

We hope you'll join us in honoring these exceptional colleagues at an all-campus celebration on **Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 4:30 p.m.** in the Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium, followed by a reception on Seldin Plaza.

You can learn more about the newest awardees and the programs they lead in an upcoming story on *Center Times Plus*.

[See the LCE lineup!](#)



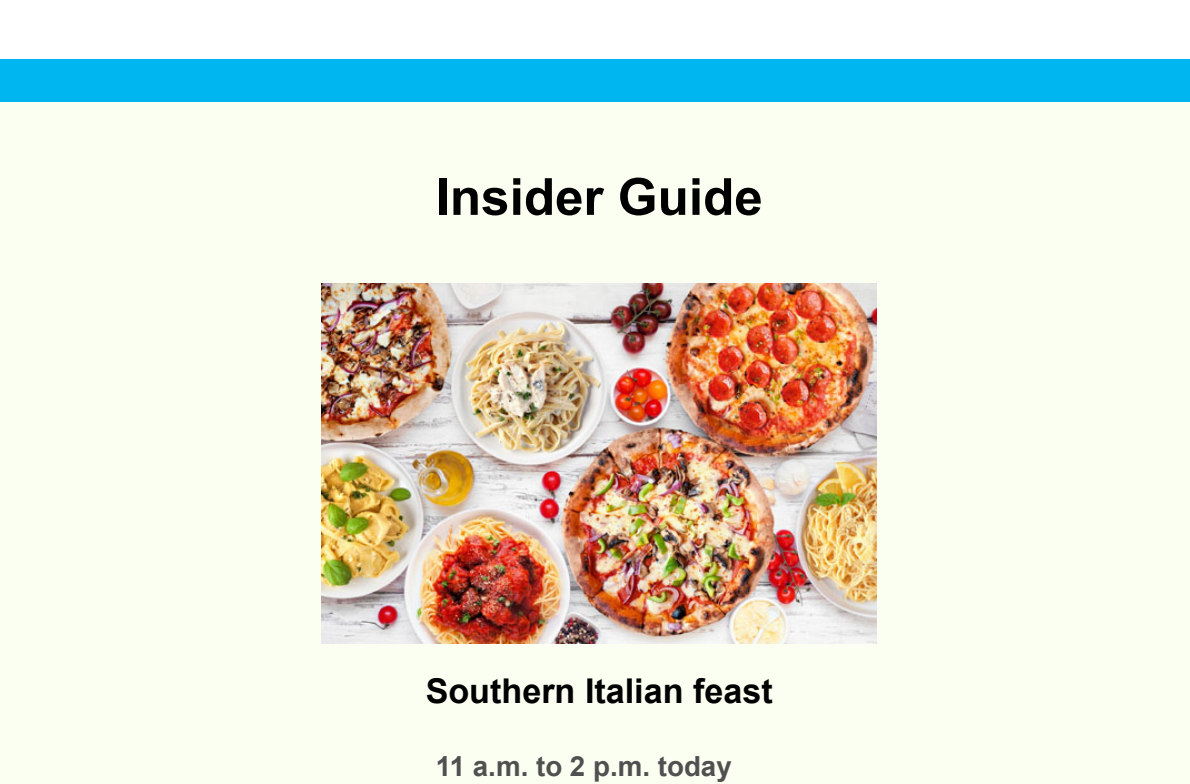
## From reflection to action: Set your FY27 goals

Thank you to all who took the time to complete performance evaluations, engage in meaningful conversations, and contribute to a thoughtful review process. Your commitment to feedback and development helps strengthen both individual and organizational growth.

With evaluations complete, now is the time to shift focus to FY27 goal setting. Establishing clear, measurable goals creates a strong foundation for success, helping you prioritize your work, stay aligned with team objectives, and make meaningful progress throughout the year.

Need help getting started? Visit the Performance Management team's SharePoint site, where you'll find a FY27 goal-setting video, designed to make the process easier and help you feel confident about where you're headed.

[View goal-setting resources](#)



## Reminder: Register for the new UT Living Well platform

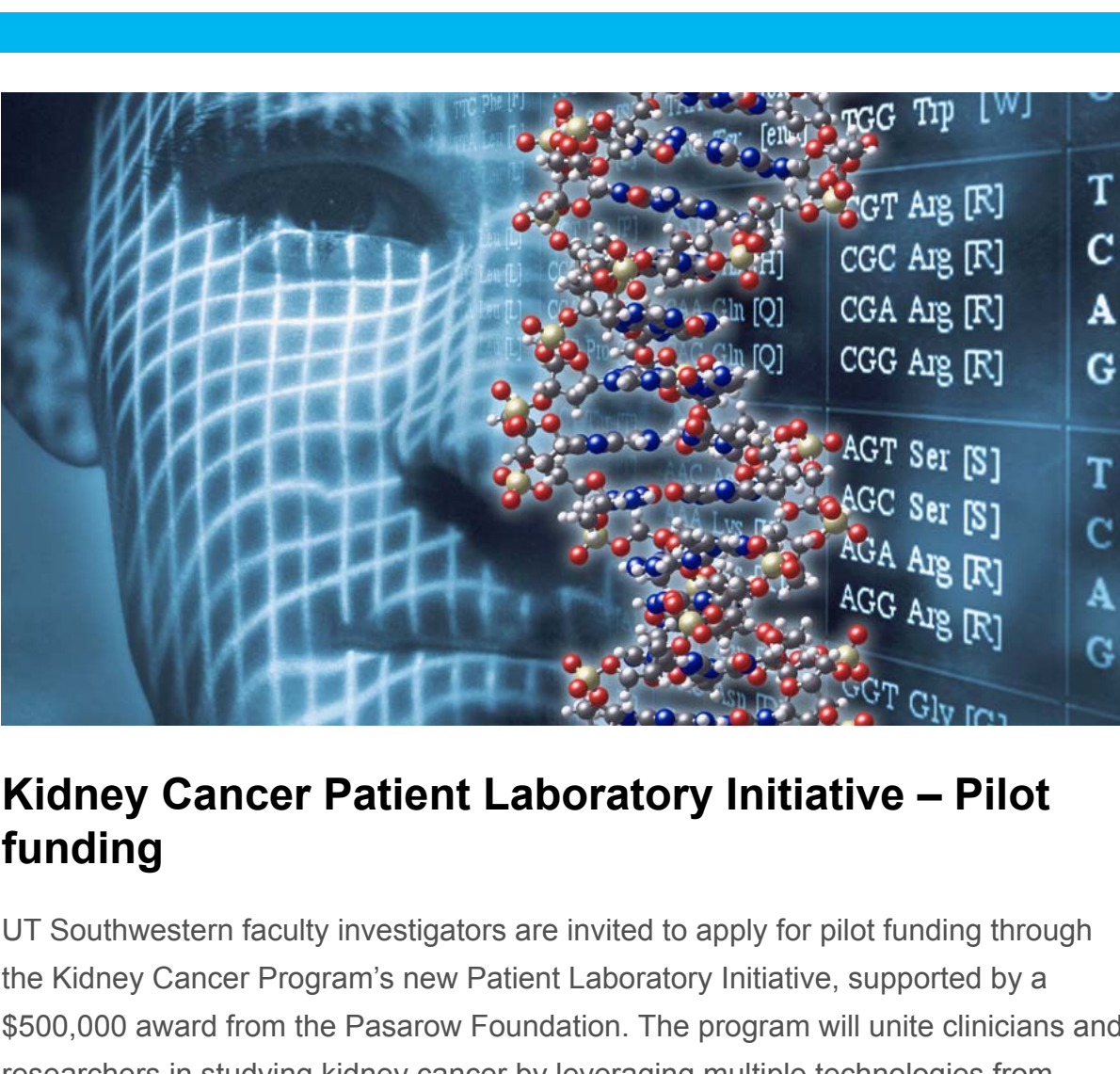
Last week, UT Living Well transitioned from Limeade to WebMD ONE. Employees and eligible adult dependents (18+) covered by a UT SELECT or UT CARE medical plan can now register and access wellness resources through the new system.

With the new platform, you can:

- Complete a health assessment and receive a personalized report.
- Set and track goals related to exercise, nutrition, sleep, stress management, mindfulness, and other wellness priorities.
- Access articles, videos, and podcasts tailored to your interests.
- Connect fitness devices and apps to track activity.
- View your health information in one secure location.
- Earn Texas stars for participating in wellness activities.

Get started below. For assistance, contact WebMD ONE customer service at 800-721-2798, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday.

[Register for UT Living Well](#)



## Kidney Cancer Patient Laboratory Initiative – Pilot funding

UT Southwestern faculty investigators are invited to apply for pilot funding through the Kidney Cancer Program's new Patient Laboratory Initiative, supported by a \$500,000 award from the Pasarow Foundation. The program will unite clinicians and researchers in studying kidney cancer by leveraging multiple technologies from genomics and proteomics to spatial analyses, molecular imaging, circulating biomarkers, and functional modeling.

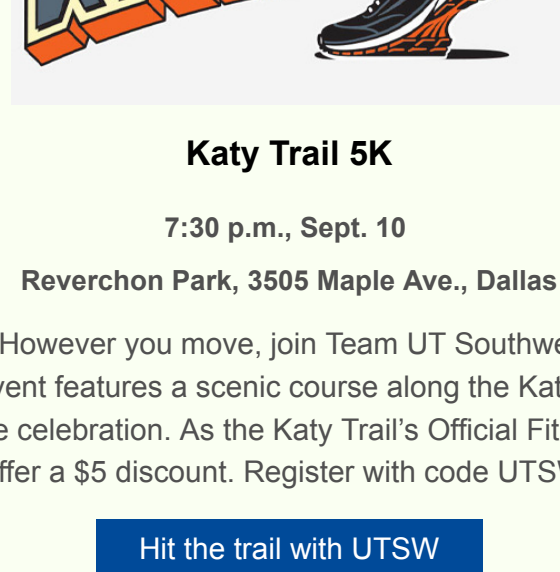
Investigators will become active members of multidisciplinary patient research and care teams, working alongside physicians.

Interested faculty should submit a one-page application describing their proposed technology and the scientific question it addresses, along with a brief budget outlining anticipated per-patient technology-related expenses.

**Applications are due Sept. 18** and should be submitted [via email](#).

[View application details](#)

## Insider Guide



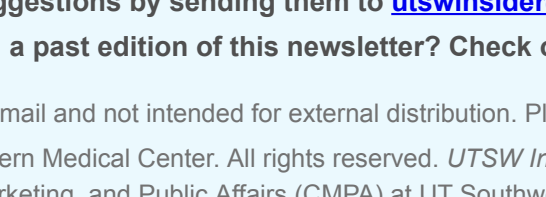
### Southern Italian feast

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today

**T. Boone Pickens Biomedical Building, Skyline Café (ND.14)**

Enjoy a hearty Italian buffet featuring chicken spinach alfredo, sweet Italian sausage and peppers, cheesy lasagna ravioli, herb-seasoned pasta, roasted vegetables, green beans with Parmesan, and an artisan pizza bar with garlic toast. Cost is \$12.79 per plate, not including tax, for UTSW faculty, staff, and learners.

[See what's cooking](#)



### Katy Trail 5K

7:30 p.m., Sept. 10

**Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave., Dallas**

Walk it. Run it. Jog it. However you move, join Team UT Southwestern for an evening of fitness and fun. The event features a scenic course along the Katy Trail followed by food, music, and a post-race celebration. As the Katy Trail's Official Fitness Partner, UTSW is proud to offer a \$5 discount. Register with code UTSW5 to save.

[Hit the trail with UTSW](#)



## 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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