



Pediatric excellence recognized in national rankings

Congratulations to our colleagues in the UT Southwestern Pediatric Group – faculty, advanced practice providers, staff, and trainees – whose contributions have once again helped place Children’s Health Dallas among the nation’s leading pediatric hospitals.

In the newly released 2026-27 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, Children’s Health Dallas is the only hospital in North Texas recognized in all 11 pediatric specialties evaluated and is ranked No. 2 in Texas. This is the ninth consecutive year – and the 15th time since 2008 – that the hospital has earned recognition in every specialty.

The rankings come as UT Southwestern and Children’s Health prepare to mark another milestone for the New Pediatric Campus: the topping out of Moody Children’s Hospital. Together, these achievements reflect a long-standing partnership that is advancing pediatric care today while building even greater possibilities for patients and families in the years ahead.

For more details and specialty rankings, please see the message to campus from UTSW President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, **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 the UT Southwestern Medical School.

[View the rankings](#)

Celebrating UTSW postdocs

National Postdoc Appreciation Week, Sept. 21-25, is an annual celebration recognizing the important contributions postdoctoral scholars make to research, discovery, and innovation. Since 2009, institutions across the country have used the week as an opportunity to spotlight postdocs and the vital role they play in advancing science and strengthening the research community.

To recognize our postdocs and their impact at UT Southwestern, the Postdoctoral Association (PDA) is kicking off the activities early and invites the campus community to attend these upcoming events:

[Symposium & Poster Presentations, Sept. 18, 1-4 p.m. \(NG3.112\)](#)

Explore the diverse research taking place throughout campus as postdocs present their work, exchange ideas, and connect with colleagues from across disciplines.

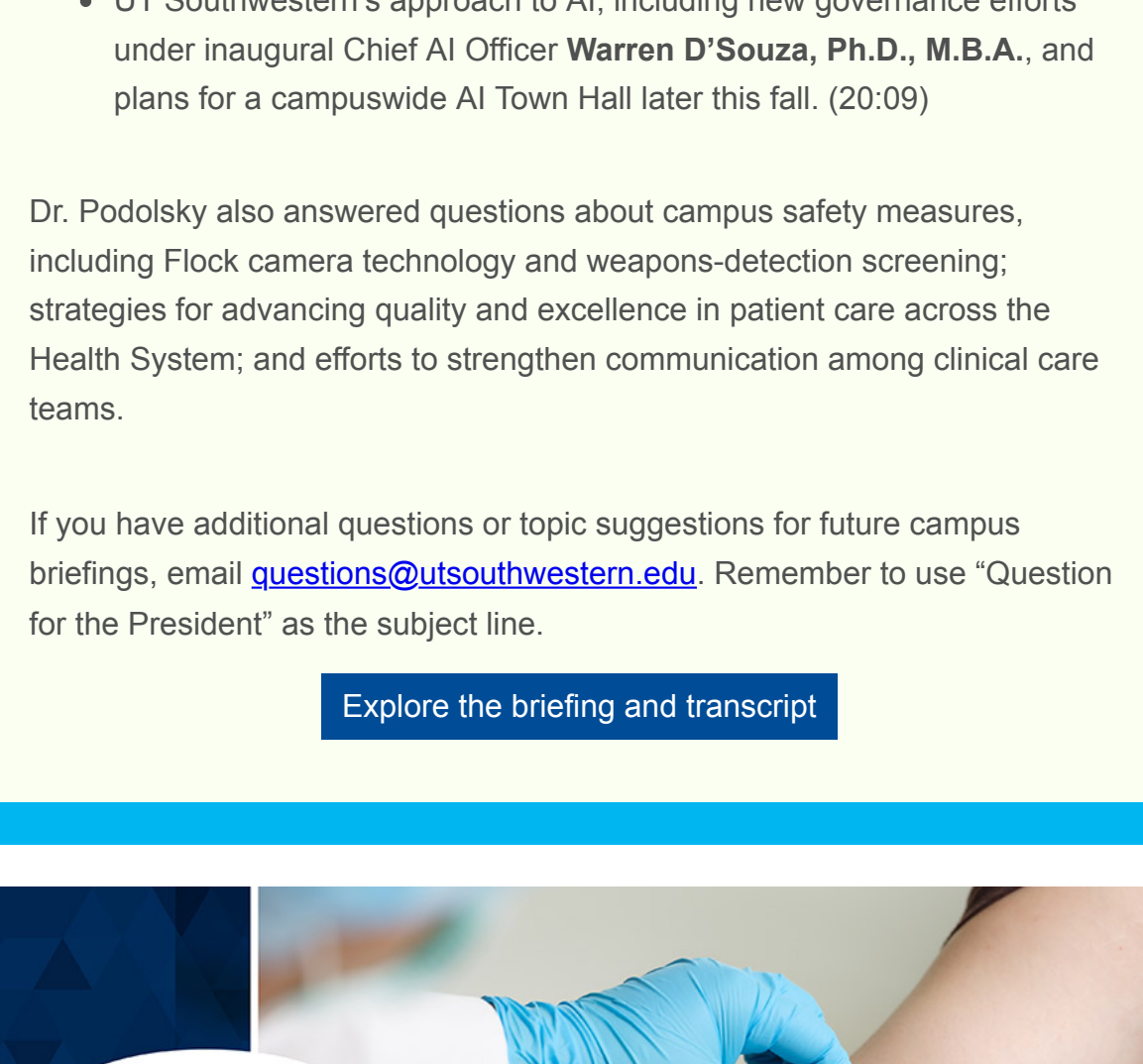
[Brown-Goldstein Award University Lecture, Sept. 23, 4 p.m. \(NG3.112\)](#)

Hear Víctor López, Ph.D., recipient of the 2026 Brown-Goldstein Award for Excellence in Postdoctoral Research, discuss his use of bioinformatic tools to discover orphan enzymes.

Remember to thank a postdoc next week!

#ICYMI: President’s Briefing

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Catch up on last week’s campus briefing from **Dr. Podolsky** with the online recording and transcript.

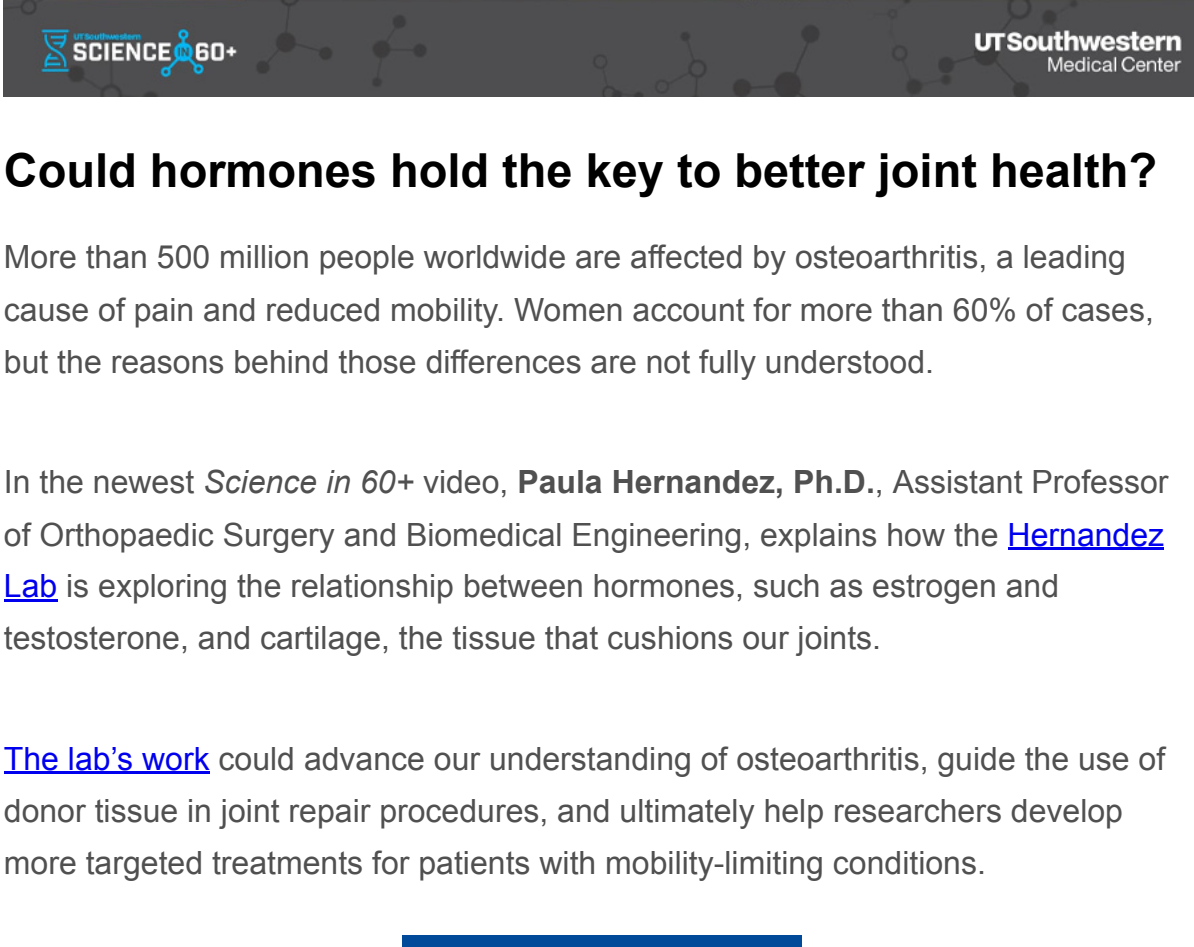
Below are some key topics covered during the briefing, along with time stamps of where they are in the audio recording:

- Updates to UTSW’s Standards of Conduct, including guidance related to artificial intelligence (AI), research security, cybersecurity, and employee responsibility to report concerns and potential misconduct. (10:23)
- HR technology enhancements, such as HR Central and UTSW Learn, a new learning management system designed to support career development and professional growth. (12:58)
- UT Southwestern’s approach to AI, including new governance efforts under inaugural Chief AI Officer **Warren D’Souza, Ph.D., M.B.A.**, and plans for a campuswide AI Town Hall later this fall. (20:09)

Dr. Podolsky also answered questions about campus safety measures, including Flock camera technology and weapons-detection screening; strategies for advancing quality and excellence in patient care across the Health System; and efforts to strengthen communication among clinical care teams.

If you have additional questions or topic suggestions for future campus briefings, email questions@utsouthwestern.edu. Remember to use “Question for the President” as the subject line.

[Explore the briefing and transcript](#)



Join a study on vancomycin antibiotic allergy

UT Southwestern’s Drug Allergy team is conducting a research study to better understand why some people experience allergic reactions to the antibiotic vancomycin. Findings from this study could help physicians improve the diagnosis and treatment of vancomycin-related reactions.

Who can participate?

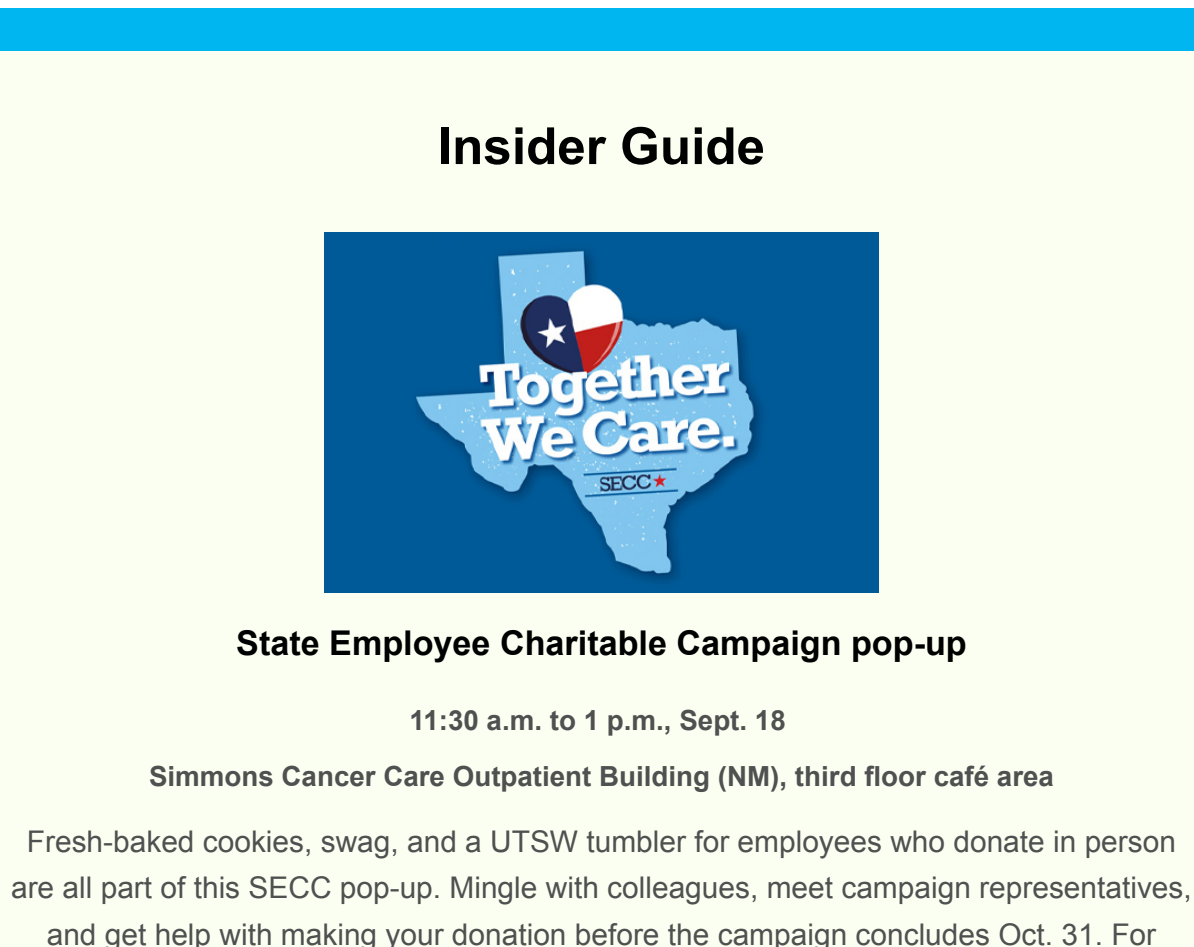
Individuals who have experienced a reaction while receiving vancomycin.

Study details:

- One to two study visits over a one- to two-month period
- Vancomycin skin testing
- Blood draw
- Possible small skin biopsy

Participants will be compensated for their time. Reach out to [Sophia Lopez](#) to find out if you’re eligible to participate.

[See if you qualify](#)



Could hormones hold the key to better joint health?

More than 500 million people worldwide are affected by osteoarthritis, a leading cause of pain and reduced mobility. Women account for more than 60% of cases, but the reasons behind those differences are not fully understood.

In the newest *Science in 60+* video, **Paula Hernandez, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Biomedical Engineering, explains how the [Hernandez Lab](#) is exploring the relationship between hormones, such as estrogen and testosterone, and cartilage, the tissue that cushions our joints.

[The lab’s work](#) could advance our understanding of osteoarthritis, guide the use of donor tissue in joint repair procedures, and ultimately help researchers develop more targeted treatments for patients with mobility-limiting conditions.

[See the science in action](#)

Explore the potential of brain-computer interfaces

Discover how brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) are helping people regain communication and movement at “Brain-Computer Interfaces: Innovation, Access, and Real-Life Impact” on **Sept. 18 from 1-4 p.m.** at Central Commons, 4711 Westside Drive, Dallas.

BCIs translate brain activity into digital commands, allowing users to interact with devices such as smartphones and computers. The technology has the potential to enhance independence and quality of life for people living with conditions such as spinal cord injury, stroke, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

The event will feature presentations on how BCIs work, current applications, and potential impact on patient care. Attendees will also see demonstrations and hear directly from BCI users about their experiences.

Anyone interested in learning more about this emerging technology and its real-world applications is welcome to join.

[Register to attend](#)

Insider Guide



State Employee Charitable Campaign pop-up

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sept. 18

Simmons Cancer Care Outpatient Building (NM), third floor café area

Fresh-baked cookies, swag, and a UTSW tumbler for employees who donate in person are all part of this SECC pop-up. Mingle with colleagues, meet campaign representatives, and get help with making your donation before the campaign concludes Oct. 31. For details on future pop-ups near you, visit the [UTSW Events Calendar](#).

[SECC info](#)



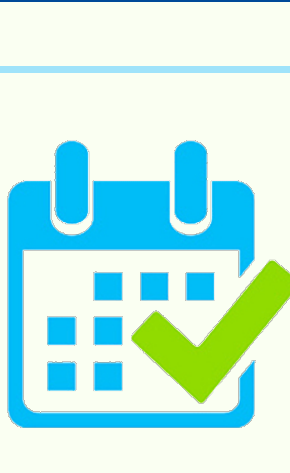
Health Disparities Research Lecture Series: **Kia Parsi, M.D.**

Noon to 1 p.m., Sept. 23

Hybrid, South Campus, E6.200

Learn strategies for improving healthcare access in underserved areas with **Kia Parsi, M.D.**, Executive Director of the Texas A&M Rural and Community Health Institute. The lecture is sponsored by the Office for Institutional Opportunity and the Peter O’Donnell Jr. School of Public Health. Registration is required. Lunch will be available while supplies last.

[Register to attend](#)



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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