

# CENTER TIMES

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CAMPUS EDITION

## DeBose-Boyd, Pan elected to National Academy of Sciences

*UT Southwestern now has 26 NAS members, more than any other institution in Texas*

From Staff Reports

The National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors for American scientists, elected two more UT Southwestern scientists in the fields of molecular genetics and physiology into its membership.

With their elections in early May, UTSW now has 26 faculty who are members of the National Academy of Sciences, more than any other institution in Texas.

Russell DeBose-Boyd, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular Genetics, and Duoja Pan, Ph.D., Chair of Physiology and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, were nominated and elected by current National Academy of Sciences members in recognition of

their ongoing and planned research as well as the importance of their scientific contributions. Dr. DeBose-Boyd discovered the pathway by which sterol and nonsterol isoprenoids combine to regulate the degradation of HMG-CoA reductase, basic mechanisms that inform the prevention and treatment of heart disease. Dr. Pan identified the “Hippo” pathway of intracellular signaling, which plays important roles in the determination of organ size, tissue regeneration, and tumorigenesis.

“The elections of Dr. DeBose-Boyd and Dr. Pan to the National Academy of Sciences acknowledge the pioneering contributions they have made, respectively, to advance our understanding of cholesterol synthesis and statin resistance, and tumorigenesis and the use of mTOR inhibitors in the treatment of



Russell DeBose-Boyd, Ph.D.

tumors in the brain and other systems,” said Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D., President of UT Southwestern. “This high honor



Duoja Pan, Ph.D.

is a reflection of scientific excellence and the impact of these outstanding investigators.”

Drs. DeBose-Boyd and Pan were among 120 new U.S. and 23 non-voting foreign members announced May 2, 2023.

“This news is a testament to the caliber and expanse of science at UT Southwestern and serves as an inspiration to new generations of trainees and scientists who will continue the long tradition of discovery that we embody,” said W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D., Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Dean of UT Southwestern Medical School.

**Russell DeBose-Boyd, Ph.D.**

The DeBose-Boyd laboratory focuses on the regulation of HMG-CoA reductase, which produces mevalonate, a crucial intermediate in the synthesis of cholesterol. **Please see NAS on page 2**

## Cancer biologist wins Nominata Award



Divya Bezwada, Ph.D., won the Nominata for her work on how kidney cancer tumors use different nutrients to support their growth and survival.

By Aline McKenzie

“Divya Bezwada’s discoveries in human kidney cancer have changed the way we think about how these tumors grow and metastasize, and they give rise to a whole series of questions we will try to answer in the coming years,” said the graduate student’s mentor, Ralph DeBerardinis, M.D., Ph.D., Professor in the Children’s Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern.

For this work, Dr. Bezwada is the 2023 winner of the Nominata Award, the

highest honor bestowed on a student by the UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

It is remarkable success on an unexpected path. As a college student interested in attending medical school, Dr. Bezwada initially regarded a laboratory as a place to do pre-designed work with unsurprising results. Then, in the final semester of her senior year, a professor steered her toward a research lab.

“He saw that I liked discovery,” she said. “It was my first time in a lab where it wasn’t just to check off a required box – it was to really learn something new.”

That spirit has carried her through graduate school and research at UT Southwestern, where she has identified metabolic changes in tumor cells from kidney cancer patients.

“Divya’s project required an exceptional level of creativity, determination, and collaboration,” said Dr. DeBerardinis, also Chief of the Division of Pediatric Genetics and Metabolism and Professor of Pediatrics at UT Southwestern.

This is her second major recognition from the Graduate School; in 2020, she received the Ida M. Green Award for her outstanding commitment to the well-being of fellow students, exceptional community service, and research excellence.

Dr. Bezwada, who graduated in May with a Ph.D. in cancer biology, investigated how kidney tumors use different nutrients to support their growth and survival. The key to tracking the cells’ function was carbon-13 (13C), a form of carbon that’s heavier than the

**Please see NOMINATA on page 18**

## Scientists identify agent that reverses effects of intoxication

*Hormone speeds recovery from alcohol poisoning in mice, researchers report*

By Christen Brownlee

An injection of a liver-produced hormone called FGF21 sobered up mice that had passed out from alcohol, allowing them to regain consciousness and coordination much faster than those that didn’t receive this treatment, UT Southwestern researchers report. The findings, published in *Cell Metabolism*, could lead to effective treatments for acute alcohol intoxication, which is responsible for about 1 million emergency room visits in the U.S. each year.

“Humans have long searched for agents that could reverse drunkenness, and now we have discovered something to achieve this effect that’s been in our bodies the whole time,” said David Mangelsdorf, Ph.D., Chair of Pharmacology.

Dr. Mangelsdorf co-lead the study with his longtime collaborator, Steven Kliewer, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular Biology and Pharmacology, and Mihwa Choi, Ph.D., an Instructor of

**Please see ALCOHOL on page 17**



UT Southwestern researchers have found that a hormone produced in the liver helps to reverse the effects of acute alcohol poisoning in mice and could one day lead to an effective treatment in humans. Credit: Getty Images.

## Accomplishments, improvements hailed at Health System’s Celebration of Excellence

By Patrick Wascovich

Programs and initiatives that have enhanced patient care, safety, and satisfaction across UT Southwestern were honored April 21 at the UT Southwestern Health System’s Celebration of Excellence.

Now in its fifth year, the event recognizes advancements big and small across multiple service lines. In all, 139 teams submitted entries in the categories of Quality, People, Fiscal Stewardship, and Service – actions that led to lower mortality, quicker access to treatment, fewer

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## Recognizing service and longevity

In a special section that begins on page 3, we honor UT Southwestern colleagues celebrating milestone years of service, including this year’s new members of the Quarter Century Club.

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UTSW volunteers celebrate the return of the Carnaval de Salud health fair at Thomas J. Rusk Middle School.

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# From iconic to inclusive: NFL executive shares journey of transformation for Women's History Month

By Carol Marie Cropper

At this year's Women's History Month Signature event, UT Southwestern's Women & Allies Business Resource Group (BRG) featured a groundbreaking NFL executive who has prioritized diversity and inclusion in her leadership as a female in a traditionally male-dominated field of professional sports.

In welcoming the audience, UT Southwestern's Suzanne Farmer, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Organizational Development and Training and Executive Sponsor of the BRG, praised women leaders who bring "their talents, their creativity, their hearts, and their energy to this BRG, and they're the reason why we have great events to connect and network people and to also learn and grow."

To observers, the National Football League might not seem like the most obvious group to reach out to women. But, as part of an overall goal of becoming more inclusive, that's exactly what it's doing.

Just as the United States is changing in the 21st century, so is the NFL, said keynote speaker Marissa Solis, Senior Vice President of Global Brand and Consumer Marketing for the NFL, who spoke to about 400 members of the UT Southwestern community gathered in person and online for the event. The March 30 event, which carried the theme "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories," took place in a McDermott Lecture Hall on South Campus.

"We want to transform from an iconic brand – which it is – to truly being an inclusive brand and a force for good," said Ms. Solis, who spent 18 years in marketing at PepsiCo Inc. before joining the NFL 1½ years ago.

The speaker described a meeting early in her career when she walked into a room in a Latin American country to present a marketing campaign – only to find a conference table surrounded by men, one of whom suggested she go outside with his female assistant "while the men talked business." Although it was



Women's History Month Signature event speaker Marissa Solis, Senior Vice President of Global Brand and Consumer Marketing for the NFL (right), shares with Jenny Doren, M.S., UTSW Vice President for Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs, about the challenges of being a high-profile working mother in a male-dominated industry.



Ms. Solis said the NFL is reaching out to a more diverse fan base by focusing increasingly on the humanity of the players.

awkward, she explained she would need to stay since she was leading the campaign development. From this experience, she learned it's important to take your place at the table – and to pull other women and disenfranchised groups with you.

"With such a great platform comes



The event also featured UT Southwestern's M-Cats Jazz Group performing the Spanish-language song *Mujer*.

great obligation and great responsibility," Ms. Solis added, explaining why the NFL has made it a priority to work toward greater inclusivity.

The NFL is reaching out to a more diverse fan base by focusing increasingly on the humanity of the players, Ms. Solis said, making them

approachable to a greater degree. In one key initiative, called "My Cause My Cleats," players select a cause to support and decorate their cleats to reflect that movement. The cleats are sometimes later sold, with funds donated to the player's charity.

New England Patriots cornerback

Jonathan Jones chose to support the "Play Like a Girl" campaign, which encourages girls to participate in sports and to pursue STEM and other nontraditional female careers. He said he did so because of his daughter Skylar.

Following the presentations, Ms. Solis participated in a "fireside chat" with Jenny Doren, M.S., UT Southwestern's VP for Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs. Ms. Solis talked about her background and what it is like to be such a high-profile working mother. Although she travels from McKinney, Texas, to New York weekly for work, Ms. Solis strives to maintain a connection with her family. "You cannot control time," she said, "but you can manage your energy and your engagement."

The NFL Senior VP said she meditates daily, reflecting on her gratitude and what she intends to accomplish that day. She quoted *Invictus* as her favorite poem, reciting the lines: "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."

The event was hosted by the Women & Allies BRG and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. In addition to the keynote, the event featured UT Southwestern's M-Cats Jazz Group performing the Spanish-language song *Mujer* and a reading of the Amanda Gorman poem *We Rise* by BRG member Yeturde Broomfield-Figueroa.

Before the event, Ms. Solis spent some time touring the UTSW campus and reflected on what she described as a "peaceful place" with incredible faculty.

"The most important thing is remembering why you're here," she told the audience. "You are here to give others not just healing but to give others well-being, happiness, comfort, and peace. All those things are very powerful."

**More online:** To watch a video replay of the event, go to [Center Times Plus](https://centertimesplus.utsw.edu/cplus) at [utsw.edu/cplus](https://utsw.edu/cplus).

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of cholesterol. Inhibitors of HMG-CoA reductase, collectively called statins, have revolutionized the treatment of high blood cholesterol levels. Statins trigger effects that result in the decrease of LDL cholesterol, thereby reducing the incidence of heart attacks. The deficiency in mevalonate-derived products that accompany statin therapy leads to a compensatory increase in HMG-CoA reductase protein, resulting in the need for higher doses of the drug to maintain cholesterol-lowering effects. Understanding the mechanisms for this compensatory increase in HMG-CoA reductase provides a foundation for the development of novel therapies that enhance the therapeutic effectiveness of statins.

Dr. DeBose-Boyd joined UT Southwestern in the laboratory of Nobel Laureates Joseph L. Goldstein, M.D., and Michael S. Brown, M.D., as a fellow of the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research. Following this postdoctoral fellowship, he was invited to join the UT Southwestern faculty as an Assistant Professor in Molecular Genetics in 2003. He received an Established

Investigator Award from the American Heart Association in 2005 and was appointed a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Early Career Scientist in 2009. In 2013, Dr. DeBose-Boyd was promoted to Professor and in 2016 was named the Beatrice and Miguel Elias Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Science. In 2022, he was recognized by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with the Avanti Award in Lipids for outstanding research contributions in that field. He also mentors students in Biological Chemistry and Cell and Molecular Biology in the UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

In response to the news, Dr. DeBose-Boyd thanked past and present members of his laboratory, saying their "work and dedication were instrumental to my election into the National Academy of Sciences" and credited UTSW leadership for creating an environment that allows scientists to thrive.

"I'd also like to acknowledge my colleagues in the Department of Molecular Genetics that have provided valuable critique and excellent sugges-



tions," he said. "Finally, I must thank Drs. Brown and Goldstein, who gave me a chance to pursue research and offered unfettered advice and mentorship; I will always be grateful for their support and guidance."

### Duoja Pan, Ph.D.

The Pan laboratory investigates the molecular mechanisms of growth control and tissue homeostasis. Dr. Pan is best known for foundational discoveries of the Hippo signaling pathway that controls organ size in animals. Using *Drosophila* as a model, his lab made a series of discoveries that defined, in a stepwise manner, the key molecular events in the Hippo signaling pathway. His team further established a critical role for that pathway in controlling mammalian organ size, regeneration,

and tumorigenesis.

In addition to research on the Hippo pathway, the Pan lab elucidated the molecular function of the *Tsc1* and *Tsc2* tumor suppressor genes, linking *Tsc1/Tsc2* to Rheb and TOR signaling. This work provided the key molecular insight for the use of mTOR inhibitors in the treatment of tuberous sclerosis, a genetic disease that can lead to tumor development in the brain, spinal cord, and organs. Current efforts are aimed at further understanding the composition, mechanism, and regulation of the Hippo pathway, clarifying its physiological roles in normal development and diseases, and discovery of chemical probes that target it.

In mid-2022, Dr. Pan received the Passano Award related to his Hippo pathway discoveries. Dr. Pan was named a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator in 2008 and a Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science in 2012 and was awarded the Paul Marks Prize for Cancer Research in 2013. He served on the UT Southwestern faculty from 1998 to 2004 and returned in 2016 to become the fifth Chairman of the Department of Physiology at UT Southwestern. Dr. Pan mentors students in Genetics and Development and

Disease for the UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

"I am humbled and thrilled by this recognition. Science is the ultimate team sport. I could not have achieved this without the dedication and team efforts of past and present members of my laboratory," Dr. Pan said. "This honor belongs to them. I would also like to thank my mentors, colleagues, and collaborators for their long-standing support and encouragement, and the leadership at UT Southwestern for creating such a wonderful environment for scientific discovery."

*Dr. DeBose-Boyd holds the Beatrice and Miguel Elias Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Science.*

*Dr. Lee holds the Atticus James Gill, M.D. Chair in Medical Science.*

*Dr. Pan holds the Fouad A. and Val Imm Bashour Distinguished Chair in Physiology.*

*Dr. Podolsky holds the Philip O'Bryan Montgomery, Jr., M.D. Distinguished Presidential Chair in Academic Administration, and the Doris and Bryan Wildenthal Distinguished Chair in Medical Science.*

## CENTERTIMES

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# CENTER TIMES

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION 2023

Long-term employees play an invaluable role in the life of UT Southwestern Medical Center. Their faithful, dedicated service has helped the institution become what it is today. In this special section of *Center Times*, we showcase some of these employees and their varied interests.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D., President of UT Southwestern Medical Center, will host a June 13 luncheon to honor employees with 45, 40, 35, and 30 years of service and to welcome new members of the Quarter Century Club.

### A legacy of nursing that began where she was born

By Carol Marie Cropper

More than 45 years have passed since Marilynn Bordelon applied for her first nursing job at the same medical center where she was born – UT Southwestern’s former St. Paul University Hospital. She was hired on the spot, and to this day UTSW is the only place she has ever worked.

At the time she interviewed for the position, Ms. Bordelon had just earned her associate degree in nursing from Angelo State University. Since then, she added a bachelor’s and then a master’s degree in nursing via evening classes at Texas Woman’s University.

Over the past four decades, she has seen significant change. “There’ve been lots of new innovations with medicine and surgery,” Ms. Bordelon says.

The mid-1980s brought major shifts in procedures, she says, as the AIDS epidemic required nurses to learn how to care differently for extremely ill patients. Staff members had to adopt more intensive procedures to protect themselves from the virus in what some might consider a foreshadowing of COVID-19.

She also recalls that as a new millennium loomed, preparations had to be made in case technology broke down when the year 1999 rolled over to 2000, as was widely predicted because of a two-digit code for the year in most computer programs. Ms. Bordelon trained other nurses so they could manually set up IVs the old way for patients just in case – as never happened – the automatic ones failed to operate due to concerns over “Y2K bug” computer crashes.

Another highlight she notes occurred in 2014, when William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital replaced St. Paul University Hospital.



**Marilynn Bordelon**

Patient Safety Coordinator  
Health System Chief Quality Office

From that point forward, Ms. Bordelon witnessed exponential growth of the Medical Center along with advancements in technology and patient care.

Through the years, she has worked on the renal medical floor (the same department where she started) as well as with the IV team, on the medical surgery floor, and in day surgery. She also spent time as a nurse educator, training other caregivers, and is currently a Patient Safety Coordinator who investigates

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### Watching medical technology evolve over four decades



**Mario Moreno**

Senior Medical Technologist  
Zale Lipshy Pavilion – William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital

By Cathy Frisinger

Mario Moreno, a Senior Medical Technologist at Zale Lipshy Pavilion – William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, says when he started his job in 1977, he could not have envisioned the state of medical technology that exists today.

“The work has changed so much over the years,” says Mr. Moreno,

68. “For one thing, there were no computers when I started working. Everything was done manually. Everything was written on paper, and the reports were delivered to the floors on paper.

“And the testing technology was low-tech. It could take hours to get results on a test. Now we put a blood sample in a machine, and in 10 or 15 minutes we have our results.”

While the way duties were completed evolved dramatically over those 45 years, Mr. Moreno’s hours have not.

When he finished his medical technology training at the former St. Paul University Hospital, Mr. Moreno was immediately offered a job on the night shift. And although he was hesitant to join the world of midnight oil burners, four decades later he’s still working 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.

In the beginning, there were advantages to working the night shift. It was quieter, with fewer tests requested back then. But that is not the case these days, since it is much busier now.

Mr. Moreno had been assigned the night shift for several years when he married his wife of 42 years, Mary Jane.

“In the beginning, she was hoping I would change to a day shift. But it worked out for us. She was a teacher, and I would sleep during the day while she was at work. Then we had the evening hours together, just like any couple.”

When their three children were young, Mr. Moreno’s work schedule was seven days on and seven days off, which allowed the couple to save money on child care.

A sense of humor and patience are qualities that enabled Mr. Moreno to thrive in his job for so long.

“I think most would describe me as the funny guy. And not just in looks,” he quips.

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### Celebrating more than 80 longtime employees for exceptional commitment to UT Southwestern

By Deborah Wormser

Nearly seven dozen UT Southwestern employees will be honored at a June 13 luncheon hosted by President Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D., in recognition of their service as part of the Medical Center’s annual Employee Recognition Week celebration.

At the event, 83 staff members are invited to commemorate their achievement of an impressive 25, 30, 35, 40, or 45 years of UT System work. Forty-nine of these honorees are joining the Quarter Century Club this year, meaning they have amassed 25 years working for either UTSW or partner institutions.

The luncheon keynote speaker will be Eric Olson, Ph.D., founding Chair of

Molecular Biology, who will describe the life-changing decision that brought him to UT Southwestern nearly three decades ago.

“UT Southwestern has a remarkable track record in basic science, clinical research, patient care, and education. I believe the strides I’ve witnessed at the University during my time here grew from a unique vision of the ways that research and education can seamlessly combine to strengthen both endeavors,” Dr. Olson said.

Formerly the Chair of Biochemistry at the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Olson had already accepted a job elsewhere when the University’s first two Nobel Laureates – Michael Brown, M.D., and Joseph Goldstein, M.D. – recruited him to UT Southwestern to become Chair

of the new Department of Molecular Biology in 1995.

Dr. Olson also directs the Hamon Center for Regenerative Science and Medicine and the Senator Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Cooperative Research Center. His most recent work has provided a new strategy for correcting Duchenne muscular dystrophy (in mouse models) using CRISPR gene editing.

Discoveries by Dr. Olson’s team at the interface of developmental biology and medicine have illuminated fundamental principles of tissue formation and have provided new concepts in the quest for muscle and cardiovascular therapeutics. In addition, Dr. Olson has co-founded multiple biotechnology companies to

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Eric Olson, Ph.D.





## Business analyst does an ‘Epic’ job to keep health records running smoothly



**Dave Barnes**

Business Analyst/Architect Lead  
Information Resources

By Sharon Reynolds

Dave Barnes is an outside-the-box thinker, a trait that has helped him succeed during four decades of working at UT Southwestern.

Back when he joined the Medical Center in 1983 as a Medical Technologist, Mr. Barnes never dreamed of the opportunities that awaited him. By embracing new challenges and welcoming unexpected career turns, he quickly benefited from unique opportunities for learning and growth.

As a Business Analyst and Architect Lead in Information Resources, Mr. Barnes serves as one of the go-to people for help to navigate the Epic electronic health record (EHR) system. He provides front-end support for laboratory work, support for order processing, and recently expanded the scope of his responsibilities to include assistance for integration between UTSW Epic and external genomics laboratories.

He is very proud to be associated with UT Southwestern, which is recognized in the Epic community as a leader whose standards have set a high bar for other institutions.

“My career at UTSW has been and continues to be a continuous process of opportunities to develop creative solutions for challenging requests; to learn from and collaborate with truly talented and creative staff; and, in the end, to come out more than I was when I began. It has been most rewarding. I especially value all of those with whom I have worked and from whom I have learned so much,” he says.

Mr. Barnes joined UTSW’s Epic team when inpatient computerized physician order entry was implemented. Since then, Epic has become progressively more sophisticated, focusing on tools that assist clinician decision-making, make electronic data entry and ordering easier, meet complex governmental reporting requirements, enable patient-focused workflows, and improve engagement with patients through features including telehealth, billing, scheduling, and e-prescriptions.

He sees exciting innovations in Epic’s future. “Epic is evolving toward a faster, more user-friendly environment, including increasingly sophisticated support for mobile devices. In the coming years, Epic may leverage artificial intelligence to provide advanced clinical decision support,” he says.

After earning an undergraduate degree in biology at Iowa State University, Mr. Barnes graduated from the former St. Paul University Hospital’s School of Medical Technology.

He is intrigued with paleoecology – the study of past ecosystems using fossil data – because “putting a multitude of clues together to gain a picture of the deep past fascinates me.” He enjoys collecting fossils and studying medieval history, especially eighth century and 10th century France. He and his wife, Mary, share their lives with four cats: Hercule, Boudica, Digby, and Cugel.

## Speaker Continued from page 3

develop therapies for heart and muscle disease.

Many of Dr. Olson’s trainees have emerged as the next generation of leaders in cardiovascular medicine around the world. In 2016, he was recognized with the Eugene Braunwald Academic Mentorship Award, one of the highest honors presented by the American Heart Association – for his mentorship of future scientists and physicians.

Dr. Olson earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Wake Forest University. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, Dr. Olson has won many other prestigious awards, including the 2012 Passano Award, presented to a U.S. scientist for exemplary research with real-world implications for clinical treatment.

“UT Southwestern has a remarkable track record in basic science, clinical research, patient care, and education.”

– Eric Olson, Ph.D.

Outside of work, he plays guitar and harmonica with The Transactivators, a rock band he founded with UTSW colleagues. He has also performed with Willie Nelson, the Texas troubadour and country music legend who created the Professorship that helps support Dr. Olson’s research.

Dr. Brown, a Regental Professor, is Director of the Erik Jonsson Center for Research in Molecular Genetics and Human Disease. He holds The W. A. (Monty) Moncrief Distinguished Chair in Cholesterol and Arteriosclerosis Research, and the Paul J. Thomas Chair in Medicine

Dr. Goldstein, a Regental Professor, is Chair of Molecular Genetics. He holds the Julie and Louis A. Beecherl, Jr. Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Research, and the Paul J. Thomas Chair in Medicine.

Dr. Olson holds the Pogue Distinguished Chair in Research on Cardiac Birth Defects, The Robert A. Welch Distinguished Chair in Science, and the Annie and Willie Nelson Professorship in Stem Cell Research.

Dr. Podolsky holds the Philip O’Byryan Montgomery, Jr., M.D. Distinguished Presidential Chair in Academic Administration, and the Doris and Bryan Wildenthal Distinguished Chair in Medical Science.

## Bordelon Continued from page 3

why patient falls happen in the hospital.

Early in life, Ms. Bordelon says, she felt a calling to nursing. At age 12, her father died and she helped care for her two younger brothers. That’s when she came to love caregiving. Also, her mother – who had herself wanted to be a nurse but became a medical secretary instead – supported her career choice. Ms. Bordelon’s mother even accompanied her on the first job

interview at St. Paul.

Through it all, Ms. Bordelon – who, in her spare time, enjoys reading and traveling to WinStar World Casino in Oklahoma with a retired UTSW colleague – remained loyal to working at UT Southwestern. “I stayed all these years because of the people I worked with. I met some really great people,” she says.

## Moreno Continued from page 3

“Even though I take my job very seriously, I have always been the one to crack the jokes and lighten the mood for all those around me.”

Patience, he says, is the most important attribute in success at anything. “No matter how hard or how difficult something may seem, if you remain calm and patient, the right solution will eventually present itself,” Mr. Moreno says.

His seven grandchildren, ranging in age from 10 months to 14 years, are the lights of his life. “I’m sure other grandparents would agree that grandkids are even more fun than raising our own,” he says.

Fortunate to live near all of his grandchildren, Mr. Moreno enjoys keeping up with their school and sports activities.

He is energized by young people in general,

he says, including junior colleagues. “Their enthusiasm at seeing something as new and interesting that I take for granted is refreshing,” he says.

“A good many of my co-workers were not even born when I started working here. That is an amusing perspective on my age. Some have referred to me as the ‘lab dinosaur.’ To think that we have gone through nine U.S. presidents since I began working here is a bit mind-boggling.”

Frequently, Mr. Moreno says, he does get asked when he plans to retire.

“I always reply with a smile that retiring is something that ‘old people’ do. It has been a fun 45 years, and I am looking forward to the next 45,” he says.

## Quarter Century Club: Facts and figures

**1996** The year the program was established to honor employees with 25 or more years of UT System service.

**372** Total number of members in the Quarter Century Club – about 2.5% of UTSW’s 14,655 nonfaculty employees.

**49** Number of years of service of the current employee – Bernadine Wafford – with the longest tenure. She is a Unit Secretary for William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, 5 Green NICU.

**29** Number of Quarter Century Club members in the Department with the most such members, which is Information Resources.







## Suma Abraham

OR Pharmacy Technician Coordinator  
Acute Care Pharmacy, William P. Clements Jr.  
University Hospital

### Pharmacy leader's dedication to service and helping others motivates team

By Sharon Reynolds

Suma Abraham's passion for helping others led her to the former St. Paul University Hospital, where she began her career in 1987 as a Pharmacy Technician. She says her diligence and desire to support other teammates helped her excel in her work over more than three decades.

"It is not just about me doing my best, it's about all of us coming together and learning from one another," she says.

Ms. Abraham, Operating Room Pharmacy Technician Coordinator for Acute Care Pharmacy at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, says she is deeply committed to UT Southwestern's comprehensive health care model that gives patients their best chance to not just recover but thrive.

She enjoys the daily challenges of managing pharmacy operations for the Surgery and Anesthesia departments, helping to resolve issues with medication stocking, refilling, dispensing, or discrepancies. She and her team also rallied through the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic, which required them to follow additional safety protocols in the hospital and work extra hours.

In 2006, her commitment to team-based health care led to a Diana and Richard C. Strauss Service Excellence Award.

"I am proud to be a part of UT Southwestern Medical Center, where I can assist with patient care and work with an extraordinary group of dedicated and talented people," Ms. Abraham says.

Her husband of 34 years, James, works in the Pharmacy Department at Children's Health. She considers being a mom to daughters Julie and Shalie and son-in-law Berly as her greatest achievements.

On a lighter note, she recalls one of her funniest on-the-job memories: "I put in a ServiceNow incident for an IT issue I was having, and the person who called to assist me on the issue was my daughter Julie, who is a Senior Business Analyst in Information Resources at UTSW and was born at St. Paul. It felt like life had just come full circle," she says.

In her free time, Ms. Abraham enjoys sports and is a super fan of the Dallas Cowboys and Dallas Mavericks. She also enjoys singing in her church choirs and teaching Sunday school.



## Patty Ashworth

Program Coordinator  
Center for Human Nutrition

### Program coordinator inspires culture of camaraderie and community

By Sharon Reynolds

Patty Ashworth is a problem solver who loves a good challenge – a quality she says has benefited her greatly during her 35 years at UT Southwestern.

In 2022, she began a new role in the Center for Human Nutrition as Program Coordinator for the Nutrition Obesity Research Core. Ms. Ashworth is grateful to be able to use the extensive knowledge in grants, finance, and administration she has gained through previous positions at the Medical Center.

"When I started working at UT Southwestern in 1987 as an Accounting Clerk in Radiology, I never imagined it would turn into a rewarding career and that I would make lifelong friends along the way," Ms. Ashworth says.

"Since then, I have worked in several departments, and each role provided me with valuable experience that prepared me for the next. I have learned so much from supervisors and peers. I strive to help and motivate others so that they may be encouraged to seek similar success in their careers at UT Southwestern," she adds.

Ms. Ashworth enjoys assisting the faculty and staff to make the Center run efficiently and smoothly. In return, co-workers have come to deeply respect and appreciate her knowledge and dependability. In 2022, Ms. Ashworth learned she would receive the Donald W. Seldin Award for Distinguished Service by a classified employee. It was a moment she will always cherish.

"Last year, my Division in Internal Medicine was being rolled into another division. When I was scheduled to meet with my supervisor, I thought the meeting was to let me know that my position was going away due to this change. Instead, I was surprised to learn that I was the recipient of this distinguished award," Ms. Ashworth says.

Family is important to her and her husband, John Michael. The couple care for their own mothers, who live with them. They also have two sons, Michael and Aaron.

Not surprisingly, the couple's leisure activities revolve around family, church, and travel, and Ms. Ashworth enjoys creating photo books to capture their favorite memories and cruising adventures.



## Darrel Conger

Senior Neuro-Ophthalmic Imaging Specialist  
Department of Neurology

### Unusual first day on the job still stands out after three decades

By Cathy Frisinger

Photography skills earned Darrel Conger a job in the Medical Illustration Department of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas (today UT Southwestern) in 1987.

He recalls that his job got off to an odd start. Picture this: It's Mr. Conger's first day on his new job, and he's walking down the cafeteria hallway when suddenly a naked man nearly plows into him, then streaks past. The man, not a streaker but rather a Parkland Memorial Hospital patient who has run away from the hospital, is followed closely by police officers in all-out pursuit.

Thirty-five years and 5,000-plus patients later, Mr. Conger has yet to have an experience that tops that first-day exposure to work life.

His work in medical photography turned out to be short-lived. After about 18 months on the job, Mr. Conger moved from Medical Illustration to Ophthalmology, and he has worked with patients ever since.

In Ophthalmology, Mr. Conger learned how to perform 25 types of imaging tests, including fundus photography, which takes sharp images of the interior surface of the eye; fluorescein angiography, which uses a contrast dye to highlight blood vessels in the retina; and ultrasound for patients who are going to have implants.

About 15 years ago, he moved to the Department of Neurology, where he continues to do various types of eye testing, especially optical coherence tomography, which is like a high-resolution ultrasound and can measure individual layers of the retina. Most of the patients he works with in Neurology have demyelinating diseases such as multiple sclerosis. Myelin is an insulating fatty layer that surrounds nerves.

Fridays are Mr. Conger's favorite day of the week because that's when he works at CONQUER, a specialty clinic at Children's Medical Center Dallas for youth with demyelinating diseases.

"It's a really fulfilling thing to do. It's a whole-team approach with teachers, psychologists, social workers, and physical therapists, and we have people who come from all over the country for the clinic," he says.

Mr. Conger lives in Plano, Texas, with his wife, Amy, who is a Research Coordinator at UT Southwestern. He enjoys scuba diving and has done more than 500 dives in places like Mexico and the Caribbean. His bucket list includes scuba diving in Fiji.

Why has he stayed at his job for so long? "UT Southwestern feels like home. Cooperation and the quest for knowledge are part of the culture. Finding that combination somewhere else would be difficult," Mr. Conger says.

Besides, he says, he really likes his parking spot.





## Pam Dunham

Nurse Manager  
Cardiovascular Surgery, William P. Clements Jr.  
University Hospital

### Thirty-five years later, career journey comes full circle for cardiovascular nurse

By Carol Marie Cropper

After getting her associate degree in nursing, St. Paul University Hospital was the first and only place Pam Dunham applied. She had done a clinical rotation there as she trained. "They really treated me well," she explains.

Now, 35 years later, with a bachelor's degree from UT Arlington and a master's in nursing from Western Governors University under her belt, Ms. Dunham is still working for the institution that acquired St. Paul – although now at UT Southwestern's William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, which replaced St. Paul in late 2014.

In fact, her career has come full circle. She started working on the cardiovascular surgical thoracic unit in 1987, and that's where she works today – although, after years of experience on other floors as well, she is now a Nurse Manager, supervising 60 nurses and four Assistant Managers.

"It's just been a journey. This floor that I'm on right now was the floor I started on 35 years ago. That floor taught me how to be a nurse," she says.

Ms. Dunham, who has an adult daughter and a 10-pound rescue dog named Riley, said an aunt inspired her to go into nursing. "I just remember looking up to her when I was younger. She was taking care of people and making a difference in people's lives," she says.

After all these years, the attraction for doing that still holds. "I look back and say, 'I did something. I helped take care of people,'" Ms. Dunham says.

She also likes the opportunity her job provides to learn new things. The floor where she works now cares for heart and lung transplant patients – involving treatments that were not even offered there when she began helping cardiovascular surgery and heart failure patients as a fledgling nurse.

Another aspect she likes is the people she works with. That's important in nursing, she emphasizes.

"It's hard work. Nursing is not easy. And there's a lot of time away from your family and on weekends. Everyone is going through the same thing," she says, referring to co-workers, "so the nurses become close."



## Sylynn Garza

Medical Technologist  
William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital

### A family vacation and impromptu job interview all led to UT Southwestern

By Cathy Frisinger

For Sylynn Garza, an impromptu job interview more than three decades ago led to a lifelong career. Ms. Garza, who was about to graduate from the Medical Technology Program at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, had gone to Houston on a vacation with her family.

"We were just driving through Dallas on the way home," she says. "Dad had the Dallas newspaper, looked at the want ads and saw an opening for a Med Tech at St. Paul Hospital. 'Hey, let's go interview,' he said."

Ms. Garza changed her clothes while they were driving, her dad parked the motor home in front of the hospital, and she went inside and nailed the interview.

Today, she works in the chemistry group at UT Southwestern, conducting tests for biomarkers such as antinuclear antibodies, creatinine, potassium, troponin-T, and thyroid-stimulating hormone. The main reason she has stuck with her hospital lab job for so long – at first with the former St. Paul University Hospital and now at William P. Clements University Hospital – is because of the camaraderie with co-workers. "They are all knowledgeable, they are all caring, and we all know a lot about each other. We are different ages and come from different backgrounds, but we are a compatible group," she says.

Despite the closeness of her work group, some colleagues might be surprised to learn that Ms. Garza grew up on a horse farm in Wagoner, Oklahoma. Her father raced thoroughbreds and the family would travel widely – to places like Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Arkansas – to watch the horses race. It was a fun way to grow up, she says.

For future travels, however, Ms. Garza has a more exotic destination in mind. Since she learned through Ancestry.com that she has a Scottish heritage, she longs to visit the charming castle city of Edinburgh and to see the beautiful Highlands.

At home here in Texas, Ms. Garza leads an active life. She runs and bicycles with Joe, her husband of 29 years. The couple live in Carrollton with their two adult daughters, Stephanie and Amy.



## Felecia Hannah-Bishop

Billing Services Supervisor  
Medical Services, Research, and Development  
Plan Account Resolutions

### This 'people person' negotiates billing issues with fairness, finesse

By Jan Jarvis

During difficult situations, Felecia Hannah-Bishop is known for keeping calm and resolving differences fairly.

Over 35 years at UT Southwestern, she has put her listening and fact-gathering skills to the test often – all toward the goal of helping patients negotiate issues to their satisfaction. Throughout her career in Account Resolutions, she has followed a few simple rules to achieve success: "I respect others' opinions and take all the facts into consideration before making a decision," she says.

Mrs. Hannah-Bishop takes pride in having spent her entire career at the Medical Center.

"I am so proud to be a part of an institution that is well known and respected in the community," she says.

After earning a bachelor's degree in business administration from Paul Quinn College in Waco, Mrs. Hannah-Bishop started working at UTSW in 1987 as a Self-Pay Collector. She has built a reputation as a people person who really cares about others and today works as a Billing Services Supervisor in Account Resolutions, supervising service staff handling patient billing inquiries.

Co-workers consider Mrs. Hannah-Bishop transparent, fair, dependable, and kind-natured. She sees herself as hard-working, reliable, and respectful. Her management team energizes her every day, she says.

"We have a great rapport and work really well together to make sure the Department goals are met," Mrs. Hannah-Bishop says.

While she takes immense pride in working only at UTSW, she is equally as proud of her family.

Mrs. Hannah-Bishop has been married to her husband, Marcus, for 31 years, and they have two daughters, Hannah, an insurance adjuster, and Samantha, a student at Prairie View A&M University. The Dallas native, who lives in DeSoto, Texas, is the youngest of four sisters.

"I have a very close relationship with my family," she says. "I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to be a part of the UTSW family, too."





**Kathy Hill**

Research Scientist  
Charles and Jane Pak Center for Mineral  
Metabolism and Clinical Research

Mining for new  
discoveries and  
treatments in blood  
metabolism

By Aline McKenzie

In 1981, after teaching high school and completing a master's degree in physiology, Kathy Hill took advice from a mentor and got a job as a Research Technician at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas (today UT Southwestern).

The guidance paid off, and she's been with what is now the Charles and Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research for decades. The Center, founded by Professor of Internal Medicine Charles Pak, M.D., focuses on calcium, phosphates, magnesium, and other biologically important minerals.

The lab Ms. Hill manages as a Research Scientist conducts a combination of basic and clinical research and diagnostic clinical services, generally involving patients being treated by urologists and nephrologists for kidney stones and osteoporosis. This effort includes both human and animal research subjects.

"The work I do not only helps physicians treat their patients, but also - through clinical and basic research - we increase our knowledge of disease processes and move toward new treatments to improve outcomes for our patients," she says.

Some of her most satisfying work was with Dr. Pak, who developed Citracal, which is now widely prescribed to prevent osteoporosis.

Ms. Hill also worked with him on several "orphan drugs," treatments for diseases so rare that they're often overlooked in pharmaceutical research.

"These are things that patients are taking now, and they're helping," she said. "I like that!"

Ms. Hill took a few years off work from UTSW when her children were young, teaching part time at a junior college.

For fun, she quilts and relaxes at a family property in East Texas.

"We have a deer feeder and watch the animals - it's just a place to get away from the city," she says.



**Ruben Gonzales Jimenez Jr.**

Mechanical Foreman  
Facilities Management

Y2K watch turned out  
to be a bust, which is  
a good thing

By Jan Jarvis

Of all the experiences he has had over 35 years at UT Southwestern, one day stands out above the rest for Ruben Gonzales Jimenez Jr.

Dec. 31, 1999 - the eve of an anticipated computer glitch known as the Y2K bug - is entrenched in his memory. That was the day people around the world feared that computers would crash because most code included only the last two digits for that year; many feared computers would read "00" as the year 1900. So Mr. Jimenez, who works in Facilities Management, spent that New Year's Eve braced for whatever unusual event might happen when 2000 arrived. Fortunately, nothing did.

"Everything went so smoothly," Mr. Jimenez says. "No technical issues occurred."

Keeping things running well is just the way he likes it, and over the past three decades, Mr. Jimenez has strived to do exactly that. Since he was hired as a maintenance worker in 1987, he has been committed to doing his job well and making others feel welcomed with a simple "howdy."

"Greeting people just makes you feel good inside," says Mr. Jimenez, today a Mechanical Foreman.

Being part of a large team that works well together has been one of his greatest rewards. Like everyone in his group, he strives to make things better for everyone on campus.

"With all the departments we have, it is tremendously important to communicate," he says. "Together, we can solve any kind of problem, no matter what occurs."

On the job, he takes pride in being someone who can take charge when needed. Although he's excelled in his profession, there is one dream of his that people might be surprised to learn about.

"I'm scared of heights and I'm claustrophobic," Mr. Jimenez says. "But I always wanted to be an astronaut."

On the other hand, he still enjoys hobbies that are more down-to-earth, such as bowling. "I was a good bowler in my prime," he says. "I won a lot of trophies."

Mr. Jimenez, who has five children, 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, says he shares a bucket list with his wife, Blanca. "We want to see the national parks in this great nation in which we live," he says.



**Mary Mallory**

Nurse Practitioner  
Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease

A heart for caring  
for the youngest at  
the highest risk

By Cathy Frisinger

Mary Mallory exemplifies the best of compassionate, hardworking nurses dedicated to the well-being of their young patients.

In honor of her efforts, the Nurse Practitioner in the Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease who cares for children infected with or exposed to HIV received the highest honor of her career last fall. UT Southwestern annually presents awards recognizing the contributions of its nearly 1,000 Advanced Practice Providers (APPs), and Ms. Mallory was selected as the Outstanding APP in Clinical Practice.

Ms. Mallory began her career with UTSW in 1986 as part of a research position studying babies with low birth weights. When the project ended, she worked for 11 months at Bryan's House, a nonprofit that cares for children with special needs, including those who were infected with HIV at a time when the disease was widely feared.

In 1989, she returned to UT Southwestern on a Ryan White grant, which provides federal funding for HIV services, and she has continued to serve that population ever since.

"In the beginning, working with this population was considered risky, but I never felt that. They were just people who needed care, and I wanted to help them," says Ms. Mallory.

Today, she says her job has changed in a wonderful way. "The percentage of babies who acquire HIV from their infected mothers is only about 1%-2% nowadays. When I started, it was about 20%. Now all pregnant women get tested, and if they are positive, mothers are started on HIV therapy and their babies are treated prophylactically.

"Sometimes we see an HIV-positive mother whom we cared for as an infant, and she is able to give birth to an HIV-exposed baby who does not become infected," Ms. Mallory says.

Over the years, her job has had other challenges. When she first began working with HIV-exposed and HIV-infected children, she was an anomaly, a UTSW employee who worked at Children's Medical Center Dallas. Due to that unusual situation, no dedicated office space was available. So Ms. Mallory got creative and set up a makeshift office in an orthopedic casting room.

In addition to assisting the pediatric HIV-exposed population, Ms. Mallory works in the International Adoption Medicine Clinic at Children's Health.

In her leisure time, Ms. Mallory is a die-hard football fan. The two teams she follows are Baylor, where her daughter, Grace, attended college, and the Longview Lobos, her high school team. "They're always in the state playoffs," she says.





## Victor Stastny

Research Scientist  
Hamon Center for Therapeutic Oncology Research

## Evolution from teenage lab assistant to molecular biology scientist involved in deriving cancer cell lines for research

By Deborah Wormser

Victor Stastny might be one of the youngest UT Southwestern hires in history. As a teenager, he began working in 1976 in the lab of the late J. Donald Capra, M.D., an international leader in immunology.

“Being a member of Dr. Capra’s lab during my high school summers and working under several of Don’s graduate students opened my eyes to the beauty of science,” he says.

With a background in primary tissue and cell culture, he is now a molecular biology bench scientist in the laboratory of John Minna, M.D., in the Nancy B. and Jake L. Hamon Center for Therapeutic Oncology Research.

Mr. Stastny considers his greatest claim to fame as an ability to derive cell lines for the Center. He’s aided in the vitally important work of some of the world’s top cancer researchers. For instance, he honed his cell culturing skills in the lab of the late Adi Gazdar, M.D., who with his longtime research partner Dr. Minna developed hundreds of cell lines credited with advancing cancer research around the world.

Mr. Stastny attributes his 35-year UTSW longevity to his relationships with great co-workers, the University’s atmosphere

of innovation and creativity, and the pursuit and fulfillment of research goals that serve science and medicine.

In his spare time, the native Dallasite enjoys mountain biking, windsurfing, snowboarding, and growing vegetables. He says colleagues might be surprised to learn, however, that he worked for a year at the Sinica Institute – an academic institution in Taiwan.

What he enjoys most about his work is solving problems, he says, attributing much of his success to his curiosity.

Energizing him on the job is “the ability and potential to contribute meaningful science,” Mr. Stastny says.

Where does he see the University going in the next 35 years?

“I envision UT Southwestern strengthening its position as the premier academic medical center in the Southwest and continuing its tradition of attracting and fostering creative, talented people,” Mr. Stastny predicts.



## Patty Aitson

Medical Photographer Supervisor  
Department of Plastic Surgery



**First UTSW job:** Medical Photographer I.

**Best part about my job:** Being affiliated with a world-renowned medical institution. It’s an honor and a privilege to work with a top-rated medical group.

**What energizes me at work:** Working with accomplished, attentive, responsible, and awesome co-workers.

**How co-workers describe me:** Supportive. If I’m available, I’m happy to help.

**Best UTSW memory:** The many holiday costume contests and luncheons we’ve had in the Department of Plastic Surgery.

**Recipe for success:** Adaptability. Medical photography has made notable changes during my career. Whereas 30 years ago I was mounting slides, loading film, and printing prints in the darkroom, today we capture still photos and video using specialized imaging systems, including a 3D camera system and DSLR cameras.

**I’m really good at:** Using Photoshop to change facial photographs to illustrate the exciting possibilities of simulated aesthetic procedures.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Playing the piano, because music is therapy and everyone loves music.

**Hobbies:** Collecting antique Native American artifacts.

**Surprising fact:** I’m an open book, so people wouldn’t be surprised by me.

## Gloria N. Daniel

Senior Administrative Assistant  
Department of Pathology



**First UTSW job:** Senior Clerk Typist.

**Best part about my job:** The job is very diverse; I get to experience the academic spectrum as well as a small portion of the clinical work.

**What energizes me at work:** Learning new things. It gives me a sense of growth.

**How co-workers describe me:** A team player and loyal. They know they can depend on me taking responsibility for my workload and that I will help them in any way I can.

**Recipe for success:** A strong work ethic that motivates me to accomplish my goals, along with patience, integrity, discipline, and a willingness to learn.

**Best UTSW memory:** All of my favorite memories have been with my co-workers and faculty. It has been a joy to come to work and interact with them. I’ve made lifelong friends at work and shared too many laughs to count.

**I’m really good at:** Encouraging others.

**Passion:** Studying and reading my Bible, which gives me courage when I feel low in spirit and peace of mind when the

storms of life rage. My church inspires me and gives me strength when I am weak.

**Surprising fact:** I’m a huge fan of Korean dramas.





## Donna Drury

Director  
Transplant Services Center



**First UTSW job:** Transplant Technician I.  
**Best part about my job:** Being able to positively impact so many lives with a single process. My favorite example of the impact of donation is an elementary teacher who received a cornea transplant: Without sight, she could not have continued teaching. Think of all the lives a teacher impacts, and you see the ripple effect of donation.  
**What energizes me at work:** Being able to share my passion for eye and tissue donation.  
**How co-workers describe me:** Dedicated, hardworking, and goal-oriented.  
**Recipe for success:** Three things my parents instilled in me and my brother through sports: Quitting is not an option; give 110% at everything you do; and have good sportsmanship.  
**Best UTSW memory:** Being promoted to Director of the Transplant Services Center (TSC) on Sept. 1, 2010. Within a month of starting at TSC in 1992, I knew I had found my career and decided my goal was to become Director of the Center. After 18 years of hard work, I reached my goal.

**Hobbies:** Riding bicycles and motorcycles, kayaking, paddleboarding, hiking, and traveling.

**Surprising fact:** I was extremely shy in high school.

**Claim to fame:** Receiving the 2020 Leonard Heise Award from the Eye Bank Association of America. The national award is presented to eye bankers in recognition of outstanding devotion to the Association's development and for exemplifying the precepts of Mr. Heise, one of the Association's founders.

## Kenneth Gabriel

Facilities Manager  
Building Maintenance and Operations



**First UTSW job:** Maintenance Worker.  
**Best part about my job:** Working with a great group of guys every day.  
**What energizes me at work:** The joy of turning a negative situation into a positive.  
**How co-workers describe me:** Dependable and fair.  
**Recipe for success:** Attention to detail. It's something they teach you daily while serving in the Navy.  
**Best UTSW memory:** One of my first calls as a Building Manager in the Charles Cameron Sprague Clinical Science Building was from an Administrative Assistant who was searching for super glue after breaking the heel of her shoe. I didn't have any in my office, so I went out and bought some to make the repair. She was so happy, and she thanked me every day for taking the time to do something that wasn't part of my job duties.  
**Hobbies:** I love taking cruises. I have been on 15 so far, with more to come.  
**Surprising fact:** I like to shop at thrift stores to find unique items.

## Stacey Grant

Lead Medical Technologist  
Core Lab, William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital



**First UTSW job:** Second-shift generalist at the former St. Paul University Hospital.  
**Best part about my job:** A handful of co-workers have been by my side since day one. When you work with someone for 30 years, you really do become family.  
**How co-workers describe me:** I'm from South Louisiana, and they say they can hear the "feisty Cajun" come out when I get excited.  
**Recipe for success:** Adapting to ever-changing workflows and technologies.  
**Best UTSW memory:** My husband started working at UTSW nine years ago in Facilities Maintenance. We can't carpool together because we work different hours, but it's still fun to run into him in the hallways and swap work stories at home.  
**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Researching a cure for multiple sclerosis. My youngest daughter was diagnosed with MS at age 17.  
**Hobbies:** Spending time in my backyard, hiking with friends, and taking beach vacations.

**Surprising fact:** I can catch you some blue crab with just a piece of string, two poles, and some turkey necks, thanks to many family reunions on the coast.

**Claim to fame:** Raising three children – Courtney, Mya, and Matthew – into young adults with the help of my husband of 29 years, John.

“I take pride in my work and like to ensure my Department members have what they need to be productive in their daily tasks. ... Anytime you feel appreciated, whether on the job or in your personal life, it make you feel that what you're doing is being valued.”

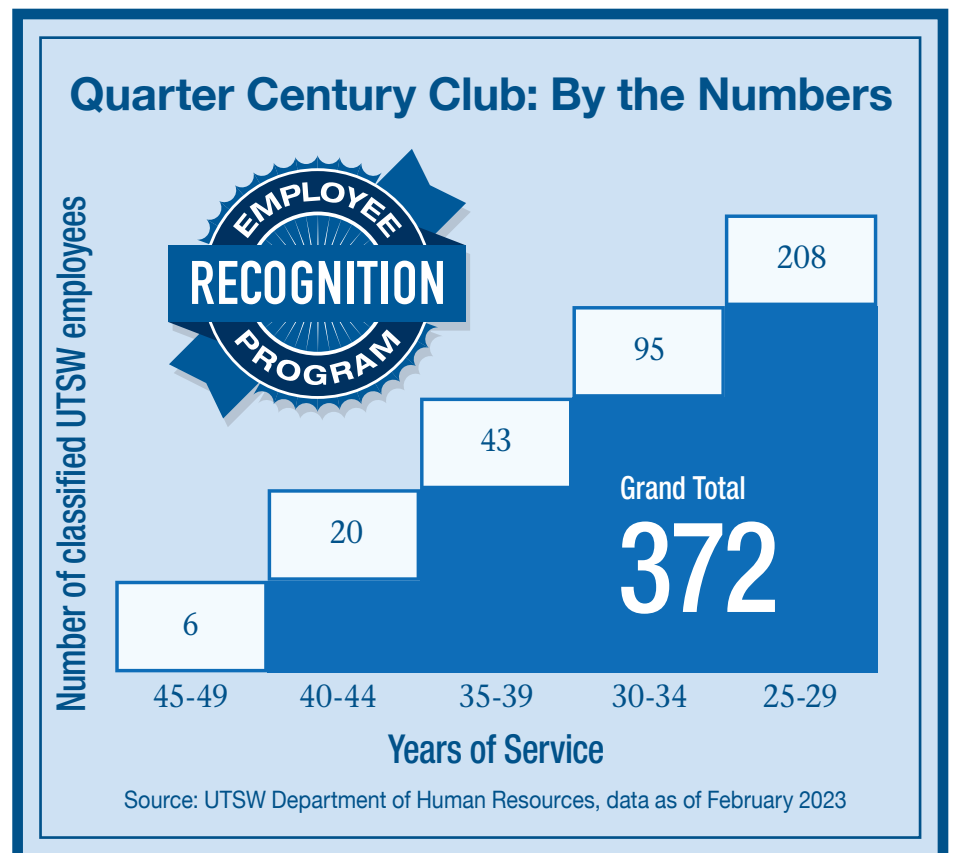
– **Patty Aitson**, Medical Photographer Supervisor

## Michelle Franklin

Assistant Nurse Manager  
6 Blue/Obstetrics, William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital



**First UTSW job:** Staff Nurse.  
**Best part about my job:** I work with the best team.  
**What energizes me at work:** Seeing new staff members come in excited to learn.  
**Hobbies:** Traveling and gardening.  
**Surprising fact:** My husband and I have a combined total of 16 grandchildren.







## Enna Jeudy, B.S.N., RN, CCRN

Registered Nurse II  
2 Blue Pre-Surgery Testing  
William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital



**First UTSW job:** Nurse Aide at the former St. Paul University Hospital.

**Best part about my job:** Everything. That's why I've stayed for 30 years.

**What energizes me at work:** The idea that I'm getting paid. I need money to survive.

**Recipe for success:** My relationship with God. He is my primary everything; my boss, my mentor, my counselor, my teacher, my secret friend, my adviser, my English teacher.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Being a healer. If I could snap my finger and heal someone or make them feel better, it would be nice. Our biggest enemy is sickness, pain, and suffering.

**Hobby:** I like to drive around wealthy neighborhoods.

**Surprising fact:** None. My co-workers already know everything about me.

## Kaffie McDowell

Registered Nurse II  
5 Blue Labor and Delivery  
William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital



**First UTSW job:** Nurse extern (Nonresident nurse).

**Best part about my job:** I truly enjoy meeting, engaging with, and taking care of patients. I also cherish the lifelong relationships I've developed with co-workers who have become like family to me.

**How co-workers describe me:** Consistent.

**Surprising fact:** I love DIYs, gardening, and watching a good documentary. I can also juggle.

**Recipe for success:** Gratitude. It's hard to stay frustrated for too long if you can instead dwell on the things you're grateful for.

**Claim to fame:** My husband, Ronnie, and our three children: Izaiah, Jakari, and Selah.

## John Ritter

Senior Research Scientist  
Department of Biochemistry



**First UTSW job:** Research Technician I in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, testing hormone levels for infertility patients.

**Best part about my job:** Learning the quickly evolving techniques for gene editing using CRISPR.

**What energizes me at work:** Immersing myself in a challenging experiment.

**How co-workers describe me:** A good teacher, because I'm good at explaining things in simple but accurate terms.

**Recipe for success:** A positive attitude and hard work.

**Best UTSW memory:** Conducting presentations for local high school teachers and students through the STARS (Science Teacher Access to Resources at Southwestern) program.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Learning a new language, so I can better get around when traveling.

**I'm really good at:** Baseball facts. Go, Texas Rangers!

**Hobby:** Woodworking with my son and daughter.

**Surprising fact:** I'm a twin, and my awesome twin brother, Joe, recently retired as a Colonel after 35 years in the Army. I

served in the Army Reserve for 32 years and retired as a Major.

**Claim to fame:** Being husband to Jill for 30 years as well as the father of two wonderful children, Justin and Jordan.

“I have an opportunity to be involved in the growth of UT Southwestern. I am excited to see clinics in various communities and see UT Southwestern's name on billboards. This makes me proud to work at an institution that is expanding in health care.”

– Sterling Mayes, Manager, Office of Legal Affairs

## Sterling Mayes

Manager, Office of Legal Affairs  
Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs



**First UTSW job:** Administrative Staff Assistant III.

**Best part about my job:** I have an opportunity to be involved in the growth of UT Southwestern. Legal Affairs works with leadership on projects that include the growth of the campus. When I first started working at UTSW, there was no North, West, or East Campus. I am excited to see clinics in various communities and see UT Southwestern's name on billboards. This makes me proud to work at an institution that is expanding in health care.

**What energizes me at work:** Working with a wonderful team of attorneys and administrative professionals and the variety of issues that Legal Affairs handles.

**How co-workers describe me:** Caring and hardworking. Co-workers know that I am someone whom they can rely on to get the job done.

**Recipe for success:** I am dependable and responsible. Those traits helped me to promote into positions with more responsibility.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Traveling. Even though I have not traveled outside of the United States, I would like to travel and spend extended periods of time in other countries to learn about different cultures.

**Hobbies:** I love spending time with my family, listening to music, and watching movies.

**Surprising fact:** I love all types of music and video games.

## Bridget Scott

Registered Nurse II  
Apheresis Clinic  
William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital



**First UTSW job:** Registered Nurse, Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) at the former St. Paul University Hospital.

**Best part about my job:** Having the opportunity to make a patient feel better.

**How co-workers describe me:** Dependable and patient.

**Recipe for success:** Being a team worker. When I played sports in high school, the coach often told us to “hold the rope,” meaning do your part as an individual to support the success of the team. That's something I've taken with me and applied to my nursing care, because I believe it benefits our patients tremendously.

**What energizes me at work:** Making my patients feel comfortable.

**Best UTSW memory:** My best memories are of the many people I've met and all the celebrations we had on the night shift in CVICU.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Home repairs. I wouldn't have to depend on contractors.

**I'm really good at:** Home decorating.

**Surprising fact:** I'm a Dallas Cowboys fan.

**Claim to fame:** Receiving both the Diana and Richard C. Strauss Service Excellence Award and the Meritorious Service Award.





## Paula Arellano Cruz

Regulatory Analyst  
Human Research Protection Office



**First UTSW job:** Research Technician.  
**Best part about my job:** Every day is a challenge but also a new opportunity to develop professionally.  
**How co-workers describe me:** Funny, caring, kind, and always willing to help.  
**Recipe for success:** Take any opportunity you can to grow, interact, and learn as you go. Lead by example.  
**Best UTSW memory:** My best memories at UTSW are when I would volunteer to participate at different festivals held throughout the metroplex, teaching members of the community CPR. It was very refreshing and felt good to contribute to helping save lives.  
**Claim to fame:** I was in a Parkland commercial many years ago highlighting a program for new mothers. Many family members and friends told me they saw me on TV.  
**Hobbies:** Traveling, music, and art.

## Michael Cantu

Senior Parking Enforcement Officer  
Parking Services



**First UTSW job:** Mail Courier.  
**Best part about my job:** Helping patients and visitors get to the right place here at UT Southwestern Medical Center.  
**What energizes me at work:** Learning and training new hires about Parking Services.  
**How co-workers describe me:** Dependable, detail-oriented, and knowledgeable.  
**Recipe for success:** Being detail-oriented, because with Parking Services, it's all about the details.  
**Best UTSW memory:** Attending departmental Christmas parties and being elected to the Employee Advisory Council.  
**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Auto mechanics – to be able to fix a vehicle no matter what is wrong with it.  
**I'm really good at:** Putting anything together that needs assembling.  
**Hobby:** Collecting sports autographs.  
**Surprising fact:** I'm a licensed massage therapist.  
**Claim to fame:** Issuing 155 citations in a single day.

## Ranjit K. Deka, Ph.D.

Senior Research Scientist  
Department of Microbiology

**First UTSW job:** Research Associate.  
**Best part about my job:** Collaborative work and oversight of a research project funded by the National Institutes of Health for more than 20 years. I have enjoyed the freedom to plan and implement experiments as well as pursue new avenues of investigation.  
**What energizes me at work:** Discovering/finding new biology that addresses practical problems and may lead to practical applications. In addition, I enjoy the academic freedom in choosing the emphasis and direction of a project.  
**How co-workers describe me:** "Early bird." I typically am the first one to arrive at work in the morning. This allows me to maximize space and equipment utilization.  
**Recipe for success:** I consider myself a rational, meticulous thinker and planner. I get much satisfaction when serving as a research collaborator; I enjoy building a team, solving problems, and helping others.  
**Best UTSW memory:** Growing and harvesting live treponemal bacteria (the causative agent of human syphilis) from rabbit testicles.  
**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Dancing, to relax and spend quality time with friends and family.  
**I'm really good at:** Heart-healthy cooking (including authentic Indian food, especially tandoori chicken).  
**Hobbies:** Nature watching, photography, and gardening.  
**Surprising fact:** I enjoy playing loud music; it helps me to concentrate and accomplish tasks.  
**Final note:** UTSW's supportive environment allowed me to maximize my research potential. As a result, I have become a confident Senior Research Scientist.

“Every day is a challenge but also a new opportunity to develop professionally. Take any opportunity you can to grow, interact, and learn as you go. Lead by example.”  
 – Paula Arellano Cruz, Regulatory Analyst

## Cindy Brown

Information Resources Manager, Inventory and Assets  
Infrastructure Services



**First UTSW job:** Telecom Office Clerk.  
**Best part about my job:** The people I work with.  
**Passions:** My grandbabies and photography.

## Michael Donovan

Accounting Manager  
Accounting and Fiscal Services







## Robert Feltis

Chief Anesthesia Technician  
Department of Surgery

**First UTSW job:** Anesthesia Technician.

**Best part about my job:** Helping to train new staff, technicians, and anesthesia residents coming through the program.

**What energizes me at work:** Seeing people learn and then observing that they later teach others the same way I taught them.

**How co-workers describe me:** Someone who loves to teach and is reliable.

**Recipe for success:** Being on time. I get here two hours before my shift. I have always done this.

**Best UTSW memories:** Working with a lot of friends from the early days and helping to start heart and lung transplants in 1988-89.

**I'm really good at:** Reassuring patients as they go off to sleep for surgery.

**Hobby:** Ham radio emergency communication.

**Surprising fact:** I have been an anesthesia technician for 37 years. I also was a volunteer firefighter/paramedic for 17 years.

**Final note:** Always try to make UT Southwestern a great place to work, and then it will not feel like a job.

“My childhood was spent watching my mom suffer from scleroderma. In the '70s and '80s, very little was understood and there were no treatment options. My heart was drawn to research for her. I wanted to become a researcher to give back to the scientific community in her honor.”

– Terry Gemelli, Research Scientist

## Terry Gemelli

Research Scientist  
Department of Neurology, Napierala Lab



**First UTSW job:** Research Assistant.

**Best part about my job:** Staining tissues fluorescently is visually rewarding.

**What energizes me at work:** Discovering new details along the way that can help patients with new treatments. Every new discovery leads to another step in the right direction.

**How co-workers describe me:** Enthusiastic, helpful, and knowledgeable.

**Recipe for success:** Bringing humor and positivity to even difficult situations.

**Best UTSW memory:** Watching technology evolve has been astounding. Before the human genome was sequenced and blasting technology existed, I would compare base pair to base pair, looking for genetic changes. Years later, finding an intronic base-pair disease-causing change made me realize how quickly the research field had evolved.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Understanding how everything in the world works – a detailed engineer mindset.

**I'm really good at:** Being easily approachable. Strangers talk to me randomly.

**Passions:** Cat rescue, dog lover, running, weightlifting, travel, gardening, and crafts.

**Surprising fact:** My childhood was spent watching my mom suffer from scleroderma. In the '70s and '80s, very little was understood and there were no treatment options. My heart was drawn to research for her. I wanted to become a researcher to give back to the scientific community in her honor.

## Paula Haggerty, M.B.A., B.S.N., RN

Clinical Nurse Manager  
Pre-Surgical Testing Department



**First UTSW job:** ECT nurse, providing pre- and post-care to patients undergoing electroconvulsive therapy.

**Best part about my job:** Being involved at the beginning of patients' surgical journeys. It's gratifying to ensure patients are preoperatively optimized and have a positive experience.

**What energizes me at work:** Whether it's ensuring thorough pre-surgery testing or simply providing a reassuring word to a patient or team member, I feel energized by the opportunity to contribute to the well-being of others. Collaborating with the Pre-Surgery Testing team also is invigorating.

**How co-workers describe me:** Resourceful and dependable. I'm always looking for ways to improve processes and make things run more smoothly, and I'm always willing to go above and beyond to help out my colleagues and serve our patients.

**Recipe for success:** Compassion. Having a deep sense of empathy and care for others has enabled me to build strong relationships with colleagues and patients as well as navigate challenging situations with grace and understanding.

**Funniest UTSW memory:** That had to be when a woman tried to sneak her pet dog into the hospital in a baby stroller to be with her husband, who was the patient.

**I wish I were an instant expert in:** The area of disadvantaged youth. I feel a strong sense of responsibility to support young people who face systemic barriers and challenges.

**I'm really good at:** Gardening. I've cultivated an impressive collection of different plant species in my home. There's something incredibly calming about tending to plants and watching them grow, and it's a great way to escape from the stresses and pressures of everyday life.

**Hobbies:** Traveling, shopping, watching crime TV shows, and spending time with family – especially my two adult daughters.

**Surprising fact:** Growing up, I aspired to become a police officer. The desire to serve others and make a positive impact on the world remains a fundamental part of who I am, and it's something that I strive to embody in everything I do.

**Claim to fame:** My parents and I established a college scholarship for high school students. It is named in honor of my late grandmother, Fannie Russell, who was a strong advocate for education and believed in the transformative power of learning.

## Maryland Jones

Clinic Staff Assistant Supervisor  
Allergy, Immunology, and Pulmonary Clinic



**First UTSW job:** Unit Secretary on 3 North.

**Best part about my job:** I like the benefits of working for the state. I love my clinic and the peers that I work with; it is a wonderful clinic.

**What energizes me at work:** Knowing that I like what I do. It's rewarding to see patients smile after a visit, and when they compliment the clinic, it makes my heart smile.

**How co-workers describe me:** They would describe me as humorous; they know I love a good laugh – it's good for the soul.

**Recipe for success:** Longevity and my knowledge of my job and being promoted to CSA Supervisor in the Pulmonary Specialty Clinic.

**Funny UTSW memory:** The funniest moment I recall was when I came to work without my wig on – good thing I had an alternative. That was a close one.

**I'm really good at:** Customer service and conversing with patients to make them feel important and that they're in the best hands here at UTSW.

**Surprising fact:** I'm about to be a first-time biological grandmother. I'm so excited!

**Claim to fame:** Twenty-six years of employment and looking forward to many more.

**Hobbies:** I love applying makeup on my family and friends.

**Final note:** I really love working for UTSW. I would recommend employment here to anyone searching for a career start – this is the place, and the sky is the limit.





## Cindy Jozefiak

Senior Division Operations Administrator  
Department of Internal Medicine



**First UTSW job:** Administrative Assistant in Management Development and Training.

**Best part about my job:** I like the variety of functions that I perform as well as the mentoring and coaching aspect of my role.

**What energizes me at work:** I love my job, and I pride myself on being the best that I can be.

**How co-workers describe me:** Honest, witty, demanding, and fair.

**Recipe for success:** My organizational skills and common sense. I like to streamline processes when possible, and being organized helps me do that.

**Most unusual UTSW memory:** I was involved in the implementation of the Human Resources Management System during the Office Administration System days by entering all the paper change funding forms into the system. I was also involved in the move of HR from the B Building to Exchange Park.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** I would like to be great at singing.

**I'm really good at:** Organizing. My daughters say that I should do it professionally.

**Hobbies:** I make my own greeting and Christmas cards and enjoy DIY decorating projects.

**Surprising fact:** As a child, I was in a commercial for a line of Texas Instruments board games.

**Final note:** I have been blessed to work with some amazing people over the years, and I've made friendships that will last beyond UTSW.

## Kevin Dwayne Kennon

Supervisor, Financial Analysis  
Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute



**First UTSW job:** Administrative Staff Assistant.

**Best part about my job:** The variety of people I work with.

**How co-workers describe me:** Nice and generous, because I am considerate of all and willing to share; funny, because I make everybody laugh – a lot.

**Funniest UTSW memory:** I got to work one morning in the summer of 1997, and my first to-do item was to buy Prince concert tickets. This was before you could buy them online – you had to dial the phone and speak to a representative to purchase your tickets. I tried multiple times and was not very successful. My manager at the time witnessed my frustration and finally said to give her the contact information. She had much better luck than I and was able to help me get my Prince tickets. I thanked her, and she said she felt it was her duty to help because otherwise I would not have gotten any work done that day.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Being an organist, so I could play the Hammond B-3 organ, my favorite musical instrument.

**Hobbies or passions:** I'm an avid tennis fan.

**Surprising fact:** I am the baker in my family. I bake a mean pecan cake.

## Marcus Lewis

Chief of Police  
University Police



**First UTSW job:** Police Cadet.

**Best part about my job:** I love that every day I get to work with a diverse group of highly intelligent and intellectual professionals who challenge me to be the best version of myself that I can be.

**What energizes me at work:** I love service. There is no higher calling than serving people. Every day provides an opportunity for me to serve those who work in the Police Department and in the institution.

**How co-workers describe me:** Dedicated and responsive. I will help anyone I can at any time.

**Recipe for success:** I love to learn and grow. Those traits propel me forward to explore new ways to improve what we do as a Department.

**Best UTSW memory:** Being selected as the Chief of Police tops the list. It was an honor to be given that level of trust.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Leadership. It impacts every domain and relationship in life.

**I'm really good at:** Research and problem-solving.

**Passion:** I love music. I have a home recording studio where I write music and play and record a variety of instruments.

**Surprising fact:** I have a bachelor's degree in fine arts.

## Ultra Lucas

Phlebotomist  
Clinical Laboratory Services



**First UTSW job:** Phlebotomist.

**Best part about my job:** I get to meet new people every day.

**How co-workers describe me:** A team player and hard worker who is always motivated to get the job done.

**Recipe for success:** My funny and outgoing personality.

**Best UTSW memory:** My best moments are the annual lab week parties. I love how everyone just lets their hair down and enjoys being themselves. The best one was when everybody sang karaoke and did line dances.

**I'm really good at:** Organizing parties and decorating.

**Hobby:** Crafting.

**Final note:** I am grateful to be making this milestone at UT Southwestern. When I came here at age 27, I never in a million years thought I would still be here 25 years later. I'm truly blessed.

## Xiang Luo

Research Scientist  
Division of Cardiology, Department of Internal Medicine



“I love service. There is no higher calling than serving people. Every day provides an opportunity for me to serve those who work in the Police Department and in the institution.”

– Marcus Lewis, Chief of Police





## Alejandra Madrigales

Manager Oncology Quality and Outcomes  
Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center Clinic Registry



## Isela Edna Perez

Senior Education Coordinator  
Department of Physician Assistant Studies



**First UTSW job:** Administration Assistant in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies.

**Best part about my job:** Getting to know our PA students.

**How co-workers describe me:** Loyal and hardworking.

**Recipe for success:** Attention to detail.

**Funniest UTSW memory:** All the times I screamed because of a fake roach that our former Chair would hide around the office, especially the time he put it in a box of Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

**Claim to fame:** My scary Halloween costumes.

**Surprising fact:** All my 25 years at UTSW have been with the same Department, Physician Assistant Studies.

## Glinda McFeders

Accountant III  
Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health



**First UTSW job:** Administrative Clerk.

**Best part about my job:** My working relationships across the years.

**What energizes me at work:** Sharing knowledge with my peers when asked and seeing them succeed. I like making a difference in someone's life.

**Recipe for success:** I attribute my success to patience because everything can't happen overnight.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** I would become an expert at playing the violin, playing beautiful music.

**I'm really good at:** Giving to others.

**Hobbies:** I love going to the movies.

**Surprising fact:** I'm terrified of frogs.

“The best part about my job is knowing that I help improve the quality of people's lives and contribute to second chances. It can mean parents get to watch their child grow up or children get to be raised by their parent who got a lifesaving solid organ or bone marrow transplant.”

– Kimberly Pervis, Senior Histocompatibility Technologist

## Kimberly Pervis

Senior Histocompatibility Technologist  
Clinical Laboratory Services – Transplant Immunology



**First UTSW job:** Histocompatibility Technologist.

**Best part about my job:** Knowing that I help improve the quality of people's lives and contribute to second chances. It can mean parents get to watch their child grow up or children get to be raised by their parent who got a lifesaving solid organ or bone marrow transplant.

**What energizes me at work:** Knowing that what I do impacts patients' lives. It matters to me that those within my sphere of influence do well and thrive.

**How co-workers describe me:** Capable and knowledgeable. I can fix almost anything on instruments. I am the only tech in our lab with a full clinical degree and two board certifications.

**Recipe for success:** Curiosity and tenacity. I have a great desire to understand how and why things work. I also have a high standard of excellence, and I am tenacious about seeing things through.

**Best UTSW memory:** Getting to work under Peter Stastny, M.D., and being permitted to do clinical research and development when our Department was under Internal Medicine. When

our lab was under Internal Medicine, we were permitted to make a lot of advancements in the field of histocompatibility and immunogenetics, commonly known as transplant immunology.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Being an invertebrate paleontologist. North Texas does not have one, and there is so much work to be done to describe the invertebrate paleofauna of Texas.

**I'm really good at:** Flow cytometry.

**Passion:** Paleontology and a standard of excellence in whatever I do.

**Surprising fact:** I am a serious amateur paleontologist. I have served on the board of the Dallas Paleontological Society, and I volunteer to do paleontological excavations for both the Perot Museum of Nature and Science and Southern Methodist University.

**Claim to fame:** In 1999, I developed a new crossmatch method for organ transplant that utilizes flow cytometry, a technology that uses lasers to rapidly analyze cells. This method uses B lymphocytes, which express MHC Class II, part of the immune system, instead of red blood cells like crossmatches for blood transfusions. Our lab still uses this crossmatch method for every solid organ transplant, as do most transplant labs around the world.

## Rehana Mohammed

Grants and Contract Specialist  
Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases  
Department of Internal Medicine



**First UTSW job:** Office Assistant.

**Best part about my job:** The opportunity to work with many incredible people on campus, and to be part of a multi-center group studying acute liver failure has been an incredible journey.

**What energizes me at work:** The respect, trust, and value that I have with the people I work with.

**How co-workers describe me:** Calm and reliable, always willing to go the extra mile to help and get things done.

**Recipe for success:** Patience, listening, and always willing to learn.

**UTSW memory:** Staying late on the last day to get a National Institutes of Health grants package done and mailed via FedEx to arrive at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases office by the first of the month. Now it's all done online!

**I'm really good at:** Controlling expenses to save money.

**Passions:** Spending time with my family and watching current affairs.

**Final note:** I am so thankful for the time I've spent here at UTSW and for the many experiences and people who have had a huge impact on my life, both professionally and personally. Special thanks to William M. Lee, M.D., who trusted me and afforded me the opportunity to work with him on clinical research for the last 25 years.





## Michael Peyton, Ph.D.

Senior Research Scientist  
Hamon Center for Therapeutic Oncology Research



**First UTSW job:** Postdoctoral Fellow.  
**Best part about my job:** One of the favorite things about my job has been working with graduate students and summer students. I really enjoy teaching science to the next generation. In turn, they help keep me young by letting me know the scoop on the music and entertainment industry.  
**What energizes me at work:** New discoveries that we or others make. It always excites me to think of the implications and what experiments need to be done next.  
**How co-workers describe me:** Funny or humorous – work can sometimes be stressful, and a little levity can help take the edge off that.  
**Recipe for success:** I have always been a very analytical thinker, which is probably one of the things that has helped me most in science.  
**I wish I were an instant expert at:** It would be investing!  
**Hobbies:** Reading and puzzles, like sudoku and KenKen.

“One of the favorite things about my job has been working with graduate students and summer students. I really enjoy teaching science to the next generation. In turn, they help keep me young by letting me know the scoop on the music and entertainment industry.”  
 – Michael Peyton, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist

## Hugo Pons

Supervisor, Television Maintenance Engineer  
Information Resources Strategy and Engagement – IR Media Tech and Audio Visual



**First UTSW job:** Television Maintenance Engineer. One of my first responsibilities was to set up and monitor videoconferences, particularly the ones where the President of UTSW was one of the participants.  
**Best part about my job:** I help every day with the mission of the institution. I help people to connect and communicate.  
**How co-workers describe me:** I am ready to collaborate when needed.  
**What energizes me at work:** I care for the mission of the institution, and I feel my job helps it to advance.  
**Recipe for success:** I try to always be present (show up) when needed or be ready to help in case I am needed.  
**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Artificial intelligence with Python. I think it will have a great impact on the world.  
**Best UTSW memory:** Filming and broadcasting live surgery events and witnessing how a physician's knowledge, talent, and use of the technology greatly improved patients' lifestyles.  
**I'm really good at:** Thinking outside the box; it helps the team to have a broader picture of the project.

**Passions:** Coaching U16 recreation girls' soccer and visiting the sick at hospitals.  
**Claim to fame:** Around the year 2000, I participated in the deployment of 50 videoconferencing units to help scientists around the world collaborate on the Alliance for Cellular Signaling, a large-scale collaboration designed to answer global questions about signaling networks.

## Deborah Ribardo, Ph.D.

Senior Research Scientist  
Department of Microbiology



**First UTSW job:** Postdoctoral Fellow.  
**Best part about my job:** It is a constantly shifting puzzle.  
**What energizes me at work:** The results of an experiment – these will either confirm what we expected, and then we can expand our model, or will refute the hypothesis, and we rethink what went wrong and try again.  
**How co-workers describe me:** Female MacGyver, because I'm always improvising.  
**Recipe for success:** Persistence. Experiments don't always work the first time, so you have to reevaluate what worked and what didn't and change your strategy.  
**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Too many to choose, although mind reading would be a useful skill.  
**Hobbies:** Crafts, such as furniture refinishing and stained glass art.  
**Surprising fact:** I'm a National Association of Scuba Diving Schools Certified Divemaster.

## Deborah Recla

Certified Ophthalmology Technician  
Department of Ophthalmology



**First UTSW job:** Ophthalmology Technician.  
**Best part about my job:** I love helping patients see better.  
**What energizes me at work:** Working with patients and interacting with them like they are family.  
**How co-workers describe me:** I would hope they would see me as dependable, always at my workstation, and ready to see our patients. Also, kind and understanding to patients and co-workers.  
**Recipe for success:** Listening to patients and interacting with them. That helps you to learn more about their medical problems, and they trust you more.  
**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Baking.  
**I'm really good at:** Cooking.  
**Claim to fame:** My grandchildren and great-grandchildren.  
**Surprising fact:** I love to country line dance.  
**Hobbies:** Crafts and making desserts.

## Eric J. Riggs

HVAC Technician II  
Facilities Management



**First UTSW job:** Print Shop Press Operator.  
**Best part about my job:** Working at UT Southwestern keeps me on my toes. It's rewarding on a personal level, knowing I have an impact on the day-to-day operations.  
**What energizes me at work:** My co-workers! They keep me motivated.  
**How co-workers describe me:** A team player and all-around nice guy.  
**Recipe for success:** My work ethic, which is something my dad passed on to me: Work hard and play hard.  
**Hobbies:** Waterfowl hunting and music.  
**Surprising fact:** In my spare time, I was a hunting guide for many years.





## Martha Romero

Research Associate  
Applied Clinical Research



**First UTSW job:** Research Assistant I in the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management.

**Best part about my job:** It allows me to meet people from different cultures and countries and to help my co-workers.

**What energizes me at work:** Being able to start the day with a smile and solve problems.

**How co-workers describe me:** A person who is understanding, organized, neat, and always there to help where needed.

**Recipe for success:** Be disciplined and constant, and treat others as you would like to be treated.

**Best UTSW memory:** Once at a Christmas party, we played the white elephant gift exchange game and the late Jere Mitchell, M.D., chose to open my gift. On that occasion, I had wrapped the gift in many different boxes of various sizes, and I remember the joy on his face as he unwrapped one after another.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Physical rehabilitation, so I could help as many people as possible regain their normal function and active living.

**I'm really good at:** Listening and giving emotional support to others.

**Hobbies:** Being physically active with weights and cardio exercise as well as watching all kinds of sports.

**Surprising fact:** I was a bone marrow donor and a national basketball player in Mexico.

## Girlie Ophelia Stanley

Certified Health Unit Coordinator  
Surgical Services

**First UTSW job:** Health Unit Coordinator at the then-Zale Lipshy University Hospital, fifth floor.

**Best part about my job:** The people that I work with and the ability to be the secretary that I am.

**What energizes me at work:** Being able to do my job well.

**How co-workers describe me:** A hard worker and go-getter.

**Recipe for success:** Being straightforward with my peers, because my mother raised me to be a very strong, positive Black woman.

**Funniest UTSW memory:** When Bruce Mickey, M.D., thought my real name was a nickname.

**Hobbies:** Crocheting, reading, and working crossword puzzles. My grandmother taught me to crochet, and a family friend helped me pick it up again when I got out of the service. My mother was a reader, and I also picked up working crossword puzzles from her. It helped me relax when I got out of the service.

**Surprising fact:** I was in the U.S. Army.

**Claim to fame:** People can always come to Ms. Girlie, knowing that she will know what to do, where to get it, and who to get it from.

**Final note:** At one time in my life I wanted to be a teacher, because I love teaching people how to do things.

## Tina A. Tran

Senior Financial Analyst  
UT Southwestern Simulation Center



**First UTSW job:** Student Intern in the General Accounting Department.

**Best part about my job:** I like solving problems and assisting my team with compliance-related policies and procedures.

**What energizes me at work:** Learning how to work with my colleagues in the most effective and efficient ways. I also enjoy learning from them and growing with them.

**How co-workers describe me:** Hardworking, meticulous, and a bit of a perfectionist (in a good way).

**Recipe for success:** I treat everyone equally, and I'm very honest and straightforward.

**Hobbies:** I like international travel and shopping.

“I love having access to people who are leaders in their field. I appreciate being able to walk down the hall or make a phone call and discuss something about which I am uncertain with any number of people who are experts. This ability to connect to thought leaders is something I cherish and utilize on a regular basis.”

– Eric Shellhorn, Nurse Practitioner

## Eric Shellhorn

Nurse Practitioner  
Department of Psychiatry

**First UTSW job:** Research Assistant I in the Bipolar Disorders Clinic.

**Best part about my job:** I love having access to people who are leaders in their field. I appreciate being able to walk down the hall or make a phone call and discuss something about which I am uncertain with any number of people who are experts. This ability to connect to thought leaders is something I cherish and utilize on a regular basis.

**What energizes me at work:** My long-standing relationship with my supervising M.D., precepting nurse practitioner (NP) students, and witnessing patient transformations.

**How co-workers describe me:** Someone who has a good work ethic and is resourceful. My co-workers have commented that they appreciate my ability to be mindful of them and “hold space” for their lives and concerns.

**Recipe for success:** Being curious – about my patients, myself, world events, and nature. I believe that being curious and eager to learn sets up the condition to practice thoughtful, collaborative patient care.

**Funniest UTSW memory:** I will never forget having a deep belly laugh with my supervisor, Larry Thornton, M.D., at a baby shower held in the office for his wife. It was a shared laughter that no one understood except the two of us, which made it even funnier. To this day, I don't think I have ever laughed harder.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Geopolitical affairs and frosting cakes.

**I'm really good at:** I truly love hosting a dinner party. I find great joy in creating an evening in which a selection of people gather to laugh, eat, and converse. I am an empath, so trivial conversations bore me, but a conversation-rich dinner party that lasts for hours feeds my soul!

**Hobbies:** I love all things outdoors, especially winter camping, boating, and hiking. I am a true fan of weeklong road trips.

**Surprising fact:** In 2021, I had a traumatic brain injury that required neuromuscular retraining to get my visual cortex and proprioception to be in sync with one another. Not fun, but truly helpful!

**Claim to fame:** I was the first, and only I believe, NP to give a grand rounds lecture in the history of the Psychiatry Department.

**Final note:** I believe that being our best UTSW employee-self requires us to also have a rich, purposeful life outside of UTSW. By being in balance between these two aspects of our being, I believe we bring our best selves to both.

## Lan Vu

Program Manager, Advanced Practice Providers  
Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center



**First UTSW job:** Physician Assistant.

**Best part about my job:** Hands down, the best part of my job has to be my team. They define what it means to have a work family. They keep me sane.

**What energizes me at work:** Knowing how many patients are affected by my work gives me the fuel I need to keep going.

**How co-workers describe me:** Driven and competitive. I prefer the term “driven” over “competitive,” but a little friendly competition is not a bad thing.

**Recipe for success:** My motto in life: If there's a will, there's a way. Be creative, think outside the box, and don't take no for an answer.

**I wish I were an instant expert at:** Financial investments – work smarter, not harder.

**I'm really good at:** I am pretty decent at playing Texas Hold 'em.

**Hobbies:** I am part of a pool league and play in weekly matches. The team's name is Motley Cues. I also love to travel, learn about different cultures, and try new cuisines.

**Surprising fact:** I graduated from high school at age 15 and graduated from Physician Assistant (PA) school at age 20. I am pretty sure that I was the youngest person to ever apply to PA school.



## Alcohol Continued from page 1

Pharmacology. Drs. Mangelsdorf and Kliewer are members of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Kliewer explained that for thousands of years, humans have attempted to speed up the sobering process after drinking too much alcohol. Dr. Mangelsdorf added that other than removing undigested alcohol by pumping the stomach and preventing people from aspirating their own vomit, however, getting sober takes time.

In recent years, Drs. Mangelsdorf, Kliewer, and their colleagues discovered that FGF21 discouraged alcohol drinking in sober mice and encouraged water drinking to prevent dehydration in intoxicated mice. This hormone also appears to protect against alcohol-related liver injury.

While further exploring the hormone, UTSW scientists discovered that mice genetically altered to delete the gene that produces FGF21 took far longer than unaltered mice to become sober after acute alcohol poisoning.

As part of this latest study, the researchers delivered enough alcohol to mice to render them unconscious, mimicking a binge drinking session. They then injected some of the animals with FGF21. While those that didn't receive this agent took about three hours to regain consciousness and stand upright, those that received FGF21 were able to accomplish this feat in half the time.

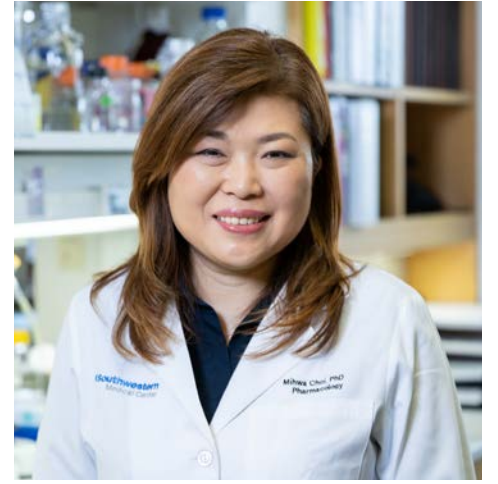
When the researchers delivered smaller amounts of alcohol more akin to typical human drinking – enough to significantly affect the animals' coordination – the mice that received FGF21 injections also regained their coordination much faster than those that didn't receive the hormone.



David Mangelsdorf, Ph.D.



Steven Kliewer, Ph.D.



Mihwa Choi, Ph.D.

Further investigations showed that FGF21 acts on noradrenergic neurons, a type of nerve cell in the brain that promotes wakefulness. The hormone did not affect alcohol metabolism, though, as both treated and untreated mice showed the same blood alcohol concentrations.

FGF21 appears to specifically affect intoxication from alcohol, Dr. Kliewer said. Animals that received other types of sedatives did not become alert any faster than usual when given this hormone.

Dr. Mangelsdorf, also a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Investigator and a member of the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute, said FGF21 has been explored in clinical trials involving diabetes, weight loss, and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Eventually, he said, FGF21 could be developed into a drug for patients in hospital

emergency rooms, college campuses, or elsewhere, akin to the way Narcan is used to treat opiate overdoses, potentially saving countless lives.

"We don't want to send the signal that it's OK to get drunk because a drug can undo it," Dr. Kliewer said. "But FGF21 may eventually be able to prevent some negative consequences for people incapacitated from alcohol."

Other UTSW researchers who contributed to this study were Wei Fan, Ph.D., a postdoctoral researcher in the Mangelsdorf/Kliewer lab; Abhijit Bugde, Lab Manager in Cell Biology; Laurent Gautron, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine; Kevin Vale, Research Technician II in the Mangelsdorf/Kliewer lab; Robert E. Hammer, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry; and Yuan Zhang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacology.

This study was supported by grants from the

National Institutes of Health, the Robert A. Welch Foundation, and the HHMI. Drs. Mangelsdorf and Kliewer are founders of Atias Pharma LLC and members of the advisory board.



*Dr. Hammer holds the Graydon Heartsill Professorship in Medical Science.*

*Dr. Kliewer holds the Diana K. and Richard C. Strauss Distinguished Chair in Developmental Biology.*

*Dr. Mangelsdorf holds the Alfred G. Gilman Distinguished Chair in Pharmacology and the Raymond and Ellen Willie Distinguished Chair in Molecular Neuropharmacology in Honor of Harold B. Crasilneck, Ph.D.*

## Celebration Continued from page 1

hospitalizations, efficiency gains, and reduced costs impacting the Medical Center's clinical enterprise.

In opening remarks to those gathered at Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium, UT Southwestern President Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D., highlighted the importance of the institution's mission of universal improvement, noting that UTSW is ranked No. 2 by Vizient as a patient-centered institution and has the 13th lowest mortality rate among the nation's 110 comprehensive academic medical centers.

"We did not start off with a clinical strategic plan that was driven by a financial goal or a growth goal. It was driven by the ambition to provide access to our care for those who need it, and to provide the very best care possible," Dr. Podolsky said. "The goal has always been, what is the highest quality? And I think there is much here that shows we're living up to that expectation."

UTSW continues to experience growth in patient volume, Dr. Podolsky said. The Medical Center had 4.69 million patient visits in the last fiscal year and is projected to reach 4.83 million this year. "That's a 3% increase, which may seem modest until one does the math and realizes that it is about 140,000 more patient visits than the previous year," he said.

The event's keynote address was delivered by Allan Frankel, M.D., Executive Principal for the Safe and Reliable Healthcare group within health care management corporation Vizient. He discussed the challenge of creating a culture aimed at improving reliability. Dr. Frankel served as the first physician patient safety officer for Partners Healthcare in Boston and, over the past three decades, has assessed more than 1,000 health care organizations and certified over 5,000 medical industry leaders in high reliability.

The main components to achieving high loyalty, he said, include a learning mindset, positive culture, effective and invested leadership, shared knowledge, and supportive management systems.

"High reliability is a cultural phenomenon," said Dr. Frankel, an anesthesiologist who also served as a senior faculty member with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. "You have to have individuals who feel accountable to each of the components, who feel accountable to create the culture, accountable to participate in identifying defects and coming up with ideas, and accountable to participate in

the learning process."

He added that high allegiance creates a sense of momentum, which he could feel at UT Southwestern. "You all are in an organization that feels different than the other places that I go around to in the U.S.," he said.

Following the keynote speech and a "fireside chat" among Dr. Frankel and Health System leaders, poster project winners in the four categories were announced. This year's accomplishments by UTSW clinical teams included improved infusion scheduling for cancer patients as well as unprecedented nursing retention in a unit at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital.

A team at the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center used brainstorming, across-the-board focus groups, proactive interventions, and planned training and communication to shorten the time for initial patient infusion treatments from 41 days to 17. The multilayered streamlined process cut insurance approval times in half, while elevating patient satisfaction scores.

At Clements University Hospital, a clinical leadership team at 6 Green eliminated a 22% nursing turnover rate. The 48-bed unit's staff developed a plan that improved staffing ratios, increased productivity through a supportive environment, and boosted morale. By year's end, 6 Green had retained its complete nursing team while generating an employee engagement score of 88, 12 points above the benchmark.

"I can tell you without doubt that we are getting a lot better at getting better," said William Daniel, M.D., Vice President and Chief Quality Officer, who helped host the program.



*Dr. Daniel holds the William T. Solomon Professorship in Clinical Quality Improvement.*

*Dr. Podolsky holds the Philip O'Bryan Montgomery, Jr., M.D. Distinguished Presidential Chair in Academic Administration, and the Doris and Bryan Wildenthal Distinguished Chair in Medical Science.*

**More online:** For additional coverage and to watch a video replay of the event, go to *Center Times Plus* at [utsouthwestern.edu/ctplus](http://utsouthwestern.edu/ctplus).



The event featured a "fireside chat" with UTSW Health System leaders (from left) William Daniel, M.D., Vice President and Chief Quality Officer; Susan Hernandez, D.N.P., M.B.A., RN, Associate Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive; (far right) Seth Toomay, M.D., Associate Vice President and Health System Chief Medical Officer; and (third from left) keynote speaker Allan Frankel, M.D., Executive Principal of Vizient, Inc.



Dr. Frankel spoke about the challenge of creating a culture aimed at improving reliability.



Dr. Daniel hosted the event, sharing wins in quality, people, financial stewardship and service as the celebration honored exceptional teams in those areas.



# Nominata Award winners: Where are they now?

By Aline McKenzie

Many winners of the Nominata Award – the highest honor bestowed upon a Ph.D. student of UT Southwestern's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences – have gone on to lead esteemed biomedical careers that progressed from postdoctoral researcher to academic or industry scientist to professor or division leader.

Andrew Zinn, M.D., Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School and a Nominata winner himself in 1988, is not surprised at the success.

"We have 50 to 100 students graduate each year," Dr. Zinn said. "The best students from this large pool are nominated, and the best of the best are chosen as Nominata winners."

The Nominata, the highest honor for academic and research accomplishment from the Graduate School to a student, began in 1980 as the Outstanding Student Award presented by the Graduate Student Organization. In its early years, the award name changed to its current moniker, based on a plural of the Latin word "nominatum" (something that is named), perhaps to reflect that students are nominated rather than self-submitting, said UTSW University Archivist Kendall Martin.

The first Nominata recipient was Mary Elizabeth "Pila" Estess (Siegelman), Ph.D., in 1980, then a doctoral candidate in microbiology, for her work on antibody structures and the genetic basis of their diversity. Her adviser, the late J. Donald Capra, M.D., Professor of Microbiology and Internal Medicine, praised not only her work in learning a difficult technique but also her dedication in teaching it to other students. Dr. Estess went on to work at Stanford University, in industry, then on the faculty of UTSW before leaving in 2014.

Today, the Committee on Graduate School Awards, comprising the School's faculty, evaluates and selects the nominees. The recipient receives a monetary award and the honor of presenting their research to the UTSW community as part of a University Lecture Series.

"We look at the impact of the research, the originality, the degree to which the student did the work, and their ability to communicate," Dr. Zinn explained of the selection process.

"For me, the Nominata Award validated my approach to science taught by my mentors," said Rodney Infante, M.D., Ph.D., the 2008 awardee. Now an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine and in the Center for Human Nutrition at UT Southwestern, he studies the mechanisms of cachexia, a wasting condition related to several diseases. "This recognition cemented how I would proceed with my scientific career," Dr. Infante said.

He completed his graduate work under Nobel Laureates Michael Brown, M.D., and Joseph Goldstein, M.D., using a combination of biochemical and molecular biological techniques to study how cholesterol is transported out of a cell

structure called a lysosome in disease and in health. Dr. Brown is Director of the Erik Jonsson Center for Research in Molecular Genetics and Human Disease and Professor of Molecular Genetics and Internal Medicine, while Dr. Goldstein is Chair of Molecular Genetics and Professor of Internal Medicine.

Sheryl Smith, Ph.D., who won the Nominata in 1983, called receiving the honor her best achievement as a graduate student. Dr. Smith's graduate work looked at mechanisms underlying the onset of puberty. Now a Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, she studies the mechanisms of changes in mood and learning at puberty, along with "synapse pruning," a drastic reduction in brain connections that happens at the same time, which is necessary for optimal brain function.

Among other academic careers of past Nominata winners are Jared Rutter, Ph.D., a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Utah, and Nick Grishin, Ph.D., Professor of Biophysics and Biochemistry at UTSW. Dr. Grishin uses modern computational methods to build genetic maps of moths and butterflies.

Another is Charles Sentman, Ph.D., Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at Dartmouth University, who was named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors in 2022 for his work using immune cell receptors and the molecules that bind to them as a basis for therapeutics. John "Trey" Fondon III, Ph.D., who served on the UTSW faculty before becoming a Lab Director at Othram, a forensics company near Houston that specializes in using genetic technology to solve cold cases, is taking the industry route in a unique but growing field of science.

"I hope that the Nominata Award, highlighted by a campuswide seminar by the winner, inspires other UTSW graduate students to achieve similar success in their Ph.D. studies and subsequent careers," Dr. Zinn said.

*Dr. Brown, a Regental Professor, holds The W.A. (Monty) Moncrief Distinguished Chair in Cholesterol and Arteriosclerosis Research, and the Paul J. Thomas Chair in Medicine.*

*Dr. Goldstein, a Regental Professor, holds the Julie and Louis A. Beecher, Jr. Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Research, and the Paul J. Thomas Chair in Medicine.*

*Dr. Grishin, a Virginia Murchison Linthicum Scholar in Biomedical Research, holds the Cecil H. and Ida M. Green Chair in Biomedical Science.*

*Dr. Zinn holds the Henry Ross Perot Distinguished Professorship in Biomedical Science, and the Rolf Haberecht and Ute Schwarz Haberecht Deanship of the UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.*

## Nominata Continued from page 1

most common type, carbon-12 (12C).

By making nutrients that contain 13C instead of 12C, she could infer how the cell is working by measuring which products of metabolism contain 13C. For instance, 13C-labeled citrate indicated normal mitochondrial metabolism, while 13C-labeled lactic acid produced in the presence of oxygen showed that glucose is being consumed less efficiently in the cell's body.

Dr. Bezwada's research focused on clear cell renal cell carcinoma (ccRCC), the most common type of kidney cancer. ccRCC cells are known to have a disordered metabolism in culture, but her work is the first to identify how ccRCC tumors use different fuels to support growth in humans.

In close collaboration with her clinical mentor, Professor of Urology Vitaly Margulis, M.D., and Urology surgical teams, Dr. Bezwada administered these labeled nutrients to patients who were having surgery to remove kidney tumors. Once the tumors were removed, she froze tissue for analysis and analyzed fresh tissue for oxygen usage, 13C enrichments, and other factors.

The surgery time is long enough for the tumor to pick up the 13C-labeled molecules and metabolize them into 13C-labeled products of metabolism, which Dr. Bezwada could detect through a technique called mass spectrometry. The findings showed that ccRCC tumors suppress a step in mitochondrial glucose oxidation called the TCA cycle. This difference in energy generation in tumors was first described by German scientist Otto Warburg in the 1920s.

Dr. Bezwada's work marks "the first definitive demonstration of the Warburg effect ... in human tumors," said Andrew Zinn, M.D., Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School.

She also developed techniques to culture fresh patient tissues and demonstrated that tumor tissues retain their metabolic characteristics outside of the body, indicating that ccRCC tumor metabolism was intrinsic to the tumor.

However, Dr. Bezwada found something surprising when studying ccRCC tumors that had spread to other organs. The metastatic tumors used more glucose in the TCA cycle than primary ccRCCs. This difference in metabolism

might be exploitable in preventing or treating cancer spread.

"That's really the ultimate goal – finding effective therapies for metastatic kidney cancer patients – but we're well out from that," she said. "We're still in the early days of figuring out what causes this difference during metastasis and what's the critical driver. But our work is an important first step."

After graduation, Dr. Bezwada will continue her work in cancer and chemical biology as a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Benjamin Cravatt, Ph.D., at Scripps Research in La Jolla, California.

*Dr. DeBerardinis holds the Joel B. Steinberg, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Pediatrics and is a Sowell Family Scholar in Medical Research.*

*Dr. Margulis holds the Paul C. Peters, M.D. Chair in Urology.*

*See the endowed title held by Dr. Zinn above.*

**More online:** To watch a video interview of the winner, go to [Center Times Plus](https://www.centertimesplus.com) at [utsouthwestern.edu/ctplus](https://utsouthwestern.edu/ctplus).

## Award winners through the years

Year	Name	Current or last known position	Program
2022	<b>Rui Chen, Ph.D.</b>	Genome engineer scientist, Colossal Biosciences	Cell and Molecular Biology
2021	<b>Ian Boys, Ph.D.</b>	Postdoctoral researcher, Univ. of Utah	Immunology
2020	<b>Jin Suk Park, Ph.D.</b>	Research scientist, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Cancer Biology
2019	<b>Mingjian Du, Ph.D.</b>	Postdoctoral researcher, Columbia Univ., Zuker lab	Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
2018	<b>Chelsea Hepler, Ph.D.</b>	Postdoctoral researcher, Northwestern Univ.	Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
2017	<b>Ryan Golden, Ph.D.</b>	Director, Translational Medicine Lead, AstraZeneca	Integrative Biology
2016	<b>Zhejian Ji, Ph.D.</b>	Assistant Professor, Laboratory of Protein Machines, Westlake Univ., Hangzhou, China	Genetics, Development & Disease
2015	<b>Katie Schaukowitz, Ph.D.</b>	Basic life research scientist, Stanford Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine	Neuroscience
2014	<b>Jiayi (Chris) Wu, Ph.D.</b>	Staff scientist, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	Genetics & Development
2013	<b>Yuxiao Wang, Ph.D.</b>	Co-founder and Senior Director of Discovery Research, Myeloid Therapeutics	Molecular Biophysics
2012	<b>Tina Han, Ph.D.</b>	Associate Principal Scientist, Dewpoint Therapeutics	Biological Chemistry
2011	<b>Ying Liu, Ph.D.</b>	Professor, Institute of Molecular Medicine, College of Future Technology, Peking University	Biological Chemistry
2010	<b>Courtney Karner, Ph.D.</b>	Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and in the Charles and Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research, UTSW	Genetics & Development
2009	<b>Heng-Chi Lee, Ph.D.</b>	Assistant Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology, Univ. of Chicago	Genetics & Development
2008	<b>Rodney Infante, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Assistant Professor, Center for Human Nutrition, UTSW	Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP)/Cell Regulation
2007	<b>Ryan Potts, Ph.D.</b>	Executive Director and Head, Induced Proximity Platform, Amgen	Cell Regulation
2006	<b>Agnel Sfeir, Ph.D.</b>	Professor, Memorial Sloan Kettering	Integrative Biology
2005	<b>Eileen Foy, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Assistant Clinical Professor, Pediatrics, UCSF	MSTP/Molecular Microbiology
2004	<b>Andrew Shulman, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Medical Director, Rheumatology, Children's Hospital of Orange County	MSTP/Cell Regulation
2003	<b>John "Trey" Fondon III, Ph.D.</b>	Laboratory Director, Othram Inc.	Molecular Biophysics
2002	<b>Jared Rutter, Ph.D.*</b>	Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry, Univ. of Utah	Molecular Biophysics
2001	<b>Chad Cowan, Ph.D.</b>	Assistant Professor, Harvard, Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Bio (also scientific founder of CRISPR Therapeutics AG)	Cell Regulation
2000	<b>Eva Istvan, Ph.D.</b>	Associate Professor, Infectious Diseases, Wash Univ. School of Medicine	Molecular Biophysics
1999	<b>Pallavur "PV" Sivakumar, Ph.D.</b>	VP and Head of Discovery, Immunology and Cell Therapy Thematic Research Center, Bristol-Myers Squibb	Immunology
1998	<b>Nikolai Grishin, Ph.D.</b>	Professor of Biochemistry, UTSW	Molecular Biophysics
1997	<b>Ellen Lumpkin, Ph.D.</b>	Professor of Cell Biology, Development and Physiology, UC Berkeley	Neuroscience
1996	<b>Mircea Podar, Ph.D.</b>	Joint Faculty Associate Professor, Univ. of Tennessee Knoxville, and Distinguished Scientist and Group Leader, Oak Ridge National Laboratory	Genetics & Development
1995	<b>David Raizen, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Associate Professor of Neurology, UPenn	MSTP/Neuroscience
1994	<b>Bostjan Kobe, Ph.D.</b>	Professor, School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, ARC Laureate Fellow, U Queensland	Molecular Biophysics
1993	<b>Kerstin "Kiki" Leuther, Ph.D.</b>	Research Scientist, Satellite Healthcare/WellBound	Genetics & Development
1992	<b>Michelle Southard-Smith, Ph.D.</b>	Professor, Departments of Medicine and Cell & Developmental Biology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center	Genetics & Development
1991	<b>Robert Kowal, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	VP and General Manager, Cardiac Pacing Therapies, Medtronic	MSTP/Cell & Molecular Biology
1990	<b>Charles Sentman, Ph.D.</b>	Director, Center for Synthetic Immunity; Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine	Immunology
1989	<b>Ellen Pizer, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Pathology Specialist, Seattle	MSTP/Microbiology
1988	<b>Andrew Zinn, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, UTSW	MSTP/Cell & Molecular Biology
1987	<b>John Williams, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Clinical Assistant Professor of Endocrinology, Univ. of Tennessee	MSTP/Biochemistry
1986	<b>John Hackett, Ph.D.</b>	Divisional VP of Applied Research and Technology and Manager of Global Viral Surveillance Program, Abbott Laboratories	Immunology
1985	<b>Diane Jelinek, Ph.D.</b>	Professor of Immunology, Mayo Clinic	Immunology
1984	<b>Omid Khorram, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Investigator, The Lundquist Institute, and Professor-In-Residence of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UCLA	Physiology
1983	<b>Sheryl Smith, Ph.D.</b>	Distinguished Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University	Physiology
1982	<b>James Koenig, Ph.D.</b>	Director, Stroke Program, NET Cluster, Division of Neuroscience, NINDS	Physiology
1981	<b>Ellen Puré, Ph.D.</b>	Professor of Pharmacology, UPenn School of Veterinary Medicine	Immunology
1980	<b>Mary Elizabeth "Pila" Estess Siegelman, Ph.D.</b>	N/A	Microbiology

\* Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator

Sources: Southwestern Medical Foundation, UT Southwestern, alumni records, and online record searches. The data above is based on the most current information available and cannot be guaranteed as necessarily the most accurate, however, particularly regarding an individual's last known position and in cases where some records could not be located or verified. All efforts were made to validate and confirm data.



# From great pain, great gain

## How one woman's struggle led to a transformative gift for bladder disease research and treatment

By Andrew Marton

Felecia Cain knows all too well the debilitating effects of bladder disease. More than 20 years ago, she suffered agonizing pain in her lower abdomen. A chain of doctors suggested it was interstitial cystitis – a chronic condition characterized by severe bladder pain.

Agonizing symptoms often left her lying in bed for days on end. One specialist after another offered limited treatment options.

“My doctors’ only solution was pain medication, and I wasn’t willing to do that for the rest of my life,” she said.

Desperate for relief, Mrs. Cain sought out a specialist in women’s urology, which led her to UT Southwestern. There, she and her husband, John, met Philippe Zimmern, M.D., Professor of Urology.

“We felt strongly that Mrs. Cain had been misdiagnosed,” Dr. Zimmern said. “Women with this condition have an all-but-ruined life. It can be extremely sad.”

Tests revealed the source of Mrs. Cain’s suffering was chronic bladder inflammation, not interstitial cystitis. After treatment, she felt immediately better.

“I was relieved beyond words,” Mrs. Cain said. “While I might not have had a life-threatening problem, I certainly had a life-altering one. Dr. Zimmern gave my life back to me.”

Brimming with gratitude, the Cains wanted to support Dr. Zimmern’s research in women’s urology by giving back through their family’s foundation. The gift continued a family legacy of supporting UT Southwestern’s mission that reached back to the fami-



Felecia and John Cain – for years, the Cains and their family have generously given to UT Southwestern causes through their family’s foundation.

ly’s patriarch, Dallas oilman Wofford Cain, and his wife, Effie Marie. In the generations since, the family has supported myriad causes at the Medical Center, including its efforts as a leading center for biomedical research and clinical care, multiple awards for research scholars in medical science, and distinguished chairs to support faculty research in cancer therapy, radiology, and Alzheimer’s disease. They also helped fund the Cain/Denius Comprehensive Center in Mobility Research to advance the study of mobility disorders, including multiple sclerosis and stroke, and supported the institution’s Campaign for the Brain, which surpassed its goal of making a \$1 billion impact on UT Southwestern’s Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute last year.

The Cain Foundation’s first gift to the Department of Urology came in 2007 with the creation of the Felecia

Cain Fellowship in Urology, which supported the Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship Program. The gift solved a dilemma for Dr. Zimmern. He had begun to double the size of the fellowship program he led but faced challenges supporting the fellows’ salaries. The Foundation’s gift provided the solution.

“We knew there were lots of women who badly needed help but didn’t have the luxury of living close to UT Southwestern,” Mrs. Cain said. “Supporting the expanded fellowship program ensured skilled doctors would take their training into other communities.”

Today, more than 16 highly specialized urologists have completed training in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery with the support of the Foundation’s fellowship.



Philippe Zimmern, M.D.

In 2018, the Cain Foundation established the Felecia and John Cain Distinguished Chair in Women’s Health, in Honor of Philippe Zimmern, M.D. In addition to being recognized by the gift, Dr. Zimmern was also selected as the Chair’s first recipient. The appointment enabled him to dedicate more time to researching urological conditions that affect many women, including urinary tract infections, incontinence, and pelvic organ prolapse. He has also pursued research collaborations with other leading institutions in hopes of attracting federal grant funding.

To further support women’s urology at UT Southwestern, last year the Cain Foundation made a transformative gift to endow the John and Felecia Cain Center for Bladder Health, unlocking new potential for Dr. Zimmern and colleagues in the Urology Department, under the leadership of Chair Claus Roehrborn, M.D.

“We would love for this Bladder Center to become as well known as some of the country’s premier cancer centers,” Mrs. Cain said. “And that it would be a place where any woman or

### Facts and figures on bladder disorders and UT Southwestern’s Department of Urology

- More than 35 million Americans suffer from bladder disorders.
- Bladder disorders affect women at a much higher rate than men.
- In women, some of the more common bladder disorders include:
  - 1) urinary tract infections
  - 2) urinary incontinence
  - 3) pelvic floor prolapse
- The UTSW Department of Urology is ranked No. 11 in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- The Department of Urology boasts the largest residency program of its kind in the nation.

man – from anywhere in the world – could get help with urological issues.”

Dr. Roehrborn holds the S.T. Harris Family Chair in Medical Science, in Honor of John D. McConnell, M.D., and the E. E. Fogelson and Greer Garson Fogelson Distinguished Chair in Urology.

Dr. Zimmern holds the Felecia and John Cain Distinguished Chair in Women’s Health, in Honor of Philippe Zimmern, M.D.

**More online:** Read the full story on *Center Times Plus* at [utsouthwestern.edu/ctplus](https://utsouthwestern.edu/ctplus).

# Alzheimer’s expert Rosenberg appointed Professor Emeritus of Neurology

By Aline McKenzie

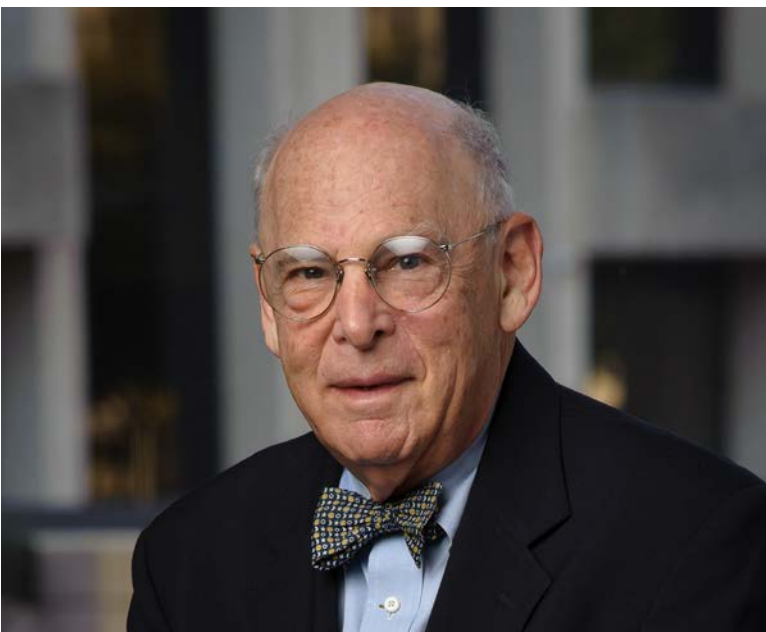
Roger Rosenberg, M.D., a Professor of Neurology renowned as an expert in Alzheimer’s and other neurodegenerative diseases, has been named Professor Emeritus after 50 years at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Rosenberg had been a member of the faculty at the University of California, San Diego, when he left to join UTSW as its inaugural Chair of Neurology in 1973, a position he held until 1991. He oversaw the Department’s growth into several subspecialty divisions and brought a focus that was strongly grounded in clinical practice while at the same time being intensely research-focused and scholarly. He retired from UTSW on January 1.

As Chair, Dr. Rosenberg established the presence of neurology at UTSW and multiple affiliated hospitals. For 31 years, he additionally was Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded Alzheimer’s Disease Center, which served as both a patient-care and research center.

“My emphasis here was to build up our work in neurogenetics and neurodegenerative diseases,” he said.

Dr. Rosenberg also served as President of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) from 1991 to 1993, during which he created the AAN Education and Research Foundation, now the American Brain Foundation. He has published more than 300 research and review papers in peer-reviewed journals. In 1995, he produced the first edition



Roger Rosenberg, M.D.

of *Rosenberg’s Molecular and Genetic Basis of Neurological and Psychiatric Disease*, which is now entering its seventh edition. As an educator, Dr. Rosenberg has mentored dozens of researchers and clinicians over decades.

Born and raised near Milwaukee, Dr. Rosenberg became interested in medicine as a child. His father served as President of Mount Sinai Hospital (now Aurora Sinai Medical Center), and his family’s doctor, Max Fox, M.D., was Director of the Southside Isolation Hospital during the polio epidemic.

“He took me on rounds. He allowed

me to see patients in iron lungs at the time, and obviously I was very impressed and very overwhelmed by seeing a viral infection of the brain producing alteration in brain function, breathing, swallowing, and paralysis,” Dr. Rosenberg said in an interview for the AAN’s 75th anniversary.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and his medical degree at Northwestern University, then completed an internship at what was formerly known as Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, and a residency in neurology at Columbia University Medical School,

where he was Chief Resident.

He was a postdoctoral research fellow in the lab of Marshall Nirenberg, Ph.D., at the NIH Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics in 1968, the same year that Dr. Nirenberg shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his “interpretation of the genetic code and its function in protein synthesis.”

Dr. Rosenberg’s research interests centered on Alzheimer’s disease and Machado-Joseph disease (MJD). Like Huntington’s disease, MJD is a neurodegenerative disease caused by a genetic mutation that is dominant – only one copy of the gene is needed to cause the disease – and it worsens with each generation.

Dr. Rosenberg’s primary focus has been on developing a vaccine against Alzheimer’s. He has been awarded a patent for a DNA vaccine against the protein amyloid beta 42 (Aβ42), a major component of plaques found in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s.

The normal function of Aβ42 is unclear, and it has not been conclusively proven as to its precise role in the causation of disease. The DNA vaccine has been found to reduce Aβ42 levels in mice, rabbits, and primates and doesn’t cause inflammation – a severe side effect that has halted other types of Aβ42 immunotherapies.

“The jury’s still out,” said Dr. Rosenberg, also a member of UT Southwestern’s Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute. “We still have to do a clinical trial.”

### About Dr. Rosenberg

Dr. Rosenberg has had a prolific career in professional associations and editorial work that includes:

- Editor-in-chief of the *Archives of Neurology* (now *JAMA Neurology*), 1997-2016
- Editorial board member of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), 1997-2016
- President, American Academy of Neurology, 1991-1993
- *Rosenberg’s Molecular and Genetic Basis of Neurological and Psychiatric Disease*, edited with Juan Pascual, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Neurology, Pediatrics, Physiology, and in the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development. About to be released in its seventh edition.

#### His honors include:

- First recipient of the Medal for Scientific Achievement in Neurology, World Federation of Neurology, 2009
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Texas Neurological Society, 2005
- Holder of the Abe (Brunky), Morris and William Zale Distinguished Chair in Neurology, UT Southwestern.



# Carnaval de Salud health fair reunites Dallas community

Medical students, faculty, and volunteers welcome return of outreach effort following hiatus

By Jan Jarvis

The concentration showed all over young Juan Acosta's face as he carefully poured honey, vegetable oil, and other fluids into a vial to compare their density. The more mixtures he stacked, the increasingly excited he got. "Oh, it's making bubbles!" he shouted. "I made a potion!"

As thrilled as Juan was to visit the liquid-stacking booth at UT Southwestern's 18th annual Carnaval de Salud on April 22, his enthusiasm was matched only by the adults who attended and the more than 500 volunteers who provided free health screenings, medical information, and interactive educational activities for kids of all ages taking part in fun science experiments.

Students from UT Southwestern's Medical School, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and School of Health Professions planned and coordinated the fair, which is typically held annually at Thomas J. Rusk Middle School in Dallas, not far from the main UT Southwestern campus. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event had been paused since 2019.

Astrud Villareal, M.D., who has been volunteering at the outreach effort since 2012 when she was a first-year medical student, was among those excited to return to the school to assist families in person. Now an Assistant Professor in the Department



Visitors to the "Magic Science Bus" at Carnaval de Salud took a wild ride into the world of science. Volunteers educated and entertained visitors at the UT Southwestern community health fair by performing fun experiments such as making "elephant toothpaste" from hydrogen peroxide and dish soap.

of Family and Community Medicine, Dr. Villareal said the chance to serve others has kept her and other UTSW faculty volunteers coming back. "When people ask why you want to be a doctor, well this is it," she said.

Jared Morphew, M.D., an Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Internal Medicine, said the event is a wonderful opportunity for UTSW students early in their biomedical education to interact with those in the neighborhood.

"Hopefully it will inspire them, like it did me, to help and give back to the

community," Dr. Morphew said.

For some attendees, the atmosphere of the event makes it easier to talk about health issues than in a clinical setting, said Shanup Dalal, M.D., former Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine.

"This is more fun," Dr. Dalal said. "They're not seeing us in white coats; they're seeing us in a school – a happy place."

Carnaval de Salud was certainly a joy-filled occasion, with plenty of ways for families to learn through safe, interactive experiments teaching



A young visitor to the fair shows off his concoction of "elephant toothpaste" made at the event.

lessons about health or science. Children lined up to make fake snow, create candy "cells," or suture a banana. Meanwhile, adults could take advantage of free screenings for diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol.

As expectant parents, Katy and Justin Christ said they were grateful to practice performing CPR on a baby-sized mannequin.

"I've watched CPR online, but to see it in person is really impressive," Mr. Christ said.

At the dental health screening room, children could make giant

"teeth" out of clay before getting their mouths examined. By lunchtime, more than 50 people had stopped by the dental station. To encourage additional dental hygiene and maintenance, staff and volunteers provided attendees with a list of low-cost oral care programs in the area.

The event is part of the UT System's United to Serve initiative to foster community outreach. And after planning activities all year, seeing the fair come to fruition is so rewarding, said Christine Chen, a fourth-year UTSW medical student and an event director.

"We get to share our medical knowledge and have a direct impact on the community," Ms. Chen said.

The gathering not only helps people in the community, but it also provides a learning opportunity for volunteers, said Nora Gimpel, M.D., Professor and Vice Chair for Community Health in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and a Distinguished Teaching Professor.

"This is a true example of service learning," said Dr. Gimpel, Medical Director for the fair. "And it's fun."

Dr. Gimpel holds the Dr. John L. and Louise Roan Professorship in Family Medicine.

## A fresh face with a different kind of 'moxie'

Pilot project using robots for deliveries frees up more time for caregivers to assist patients

By Jan Jarvis

With eyes that light up and turn into hearts, Moxi is hard to miss as the robot rolls down the halls of William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital.

But there is more to Moxi than a friendly digital face. Moxi 1 and Moxi 2 are designed to perform tasks that make it possible for nurses and patient care technicians to spend more time with their patients, said Matthew Terbeek, B.S.N., RN-BC, Manager of Clinical Informatics.

"Instead of leaving their unit and walking across campus, a nurse can dispatch Moxi to perform the task," he said. It is estimated that Moxi will give nurses up to 30% of their shift time back by picking up some of their duties – all noncritical, routine tasks that do not require direct patient interaction, such as collecting lab specimens from neonatal intensive care and newborn units for transport to labs.

Currently, Moxi's primary workflow is to deliver remote telemetry boxes (portable heart monitors) from the Central Monitoring Unit to nursing units. Kiosks, located at every nursing unit, make it easy to request a delivery,

Mr. Terbeek said. When Moxi arrives at the unit, a nurse places the telemetry box in one of three locked drawers on Moxi before sending the robot on its way. (Patients and visitors cannot access the locked drawers on the robot unit.)

The robots are programmed to travel through the hospital on their own. Sensors help them effectively navigate through halls and in elevators.

As hospital staff members become more familiar with Moxi and its capabilities, additional tasks may be added. Although Moxi does not have verbal conversations with people, the robots can communicate simple messages, Mr. Terbeek said.

"Moxi doesn't really talk to you, so if you try to interact with it, it doesn't respond," he said. "But when it arrives for an order, it can say, 'I'm here for a pickup.'"

For several months, the Nursing Informatics Team worked to ensure that Moxi was providing value. The team is evaluating Moxi's effectiveness, tracking every move, recording how long each delivery takes, and collecting data to ensure the robot is helpful to nurses, Mr. Terbeek said. Once the data is tabulated, additional workloads and robots may be added, depending on an analysis of the information.



Moxi 1 and Moxi 2 in action at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital.

So far, the robots have been well utilized.

In the first three months, Moxi completed 6,463 deliveries in 2,859 hours. Currently, Moxi completes more than 500 deliveries a week and is trending upward as usage grows.

"Moxi has returned valuable time that is now devoted toward patient care," said Michelle Warr, a Monitoring Technician with the Central Monitoring Unit.

"It saves us time on the long walk from 6 Orange to the Central Monitoring Unit and keeps staff on the floor to take care of our own patients," added Marites Yanto, M.S.N., RN, CMSRN, 6 Orange Nurse Manager. "Everyone loves to see Moxi deliver, and it picks up efficiently. It works really well and is easy to use."

Before Moxi started working in December, nurses in every unit trained with the robots and learned best practices for use. The response was very positive, Mr. Terbeek said.

"Not only is Moxi cute, with eyes that turn to hearts every once in a while, but the robot is also very friendly to work with," he said. "Nurses were able to get selfies with Moxi before the robot went to work."

## Lea appointed Chief of Division of Gynecologic Oncology

By Jan Jarvis

Jayanthi Lea, M.D., a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology who has worked to improve the outcomes and quality of care for women with gynecological cancers and those at risk for malignancies, has been named Chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology.

The gynecologic cancer specialist is charged with leading the Division in clinical, educational, and research excellence while overseeing the care of patients at both William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital and Parkland Memorial Hospital. Her new role took effect Feb. 1.

"Dr. Lea continues to work on ovarian cancer early detection, with National Institutes of Health funding to characterize the role of the immune system in the pathogenesis of ovarian cancer," said Catherine Spong, M.D., Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology.



Jayanthy Lea, M.D.

Most recently, she has been the physician champion of a developing multidisciplinary program at UT Southwestern for the care of women at risk for developing gynecologic malignancies."

As Director of the Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Program, she also helps prepare physicians for productive, impactful careers through specialized training.

"The Division will build on its strength as a destination of choice that provides patients with the highest-quality evaluation and treatment as well as dedicated clinical trials that offer the latest in novel therapies," Dr. Lea said. "Through collaborative research, we will build a comprehensive program to advance the care of women with gynecologic cancers."

Dr. Lea graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a bachelor's degree in biology. She earned her medical degree at East Carolina University School of Medicine and completed her residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Following a four-

year gynecologic oncology fellowship at UT Southwestern, she joined the faculty in 2004. Dr. Lea returned to UTSW in 2010 after serving as Assistant Director for the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

She is a subspecialty board examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, serves on the Gynecologic Oncology Qualifying Exam subcommittee, and is a member of the Case Review and Differential Item Functioning Analysis Group. Additionally, she is a member of NRG Oncology, a cancer clinical-cooperative group funded by the National Cancer Institute, and is an advisory board member of the National Ovarian Council Coalition.

As a scholar of the National Institutes of Health Reproductive Scientist Development Program, Dr. Lea investigated the molecular pathogenesis of cervical cancer. She played a major

role in successfully establishing a clinically annotated ovarian cancer tumor repository with matched normal and blood tissue samples to enable biomarker detection for early detection and treatment.

In collaboration with the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences, Dr. Lea will recruit clinicians and scholars to establish UTSW as a destination of choice for gynecologic cancer care. Drs. Lea and Spong are both members of the Simmons Cancer Center.

Dr. Lea holds the Patricia Duniven Fletcher Distinguished Professorship in Gynecological Oncology.

Dr. Spong holds the Paul C. MacDonald Distinguished Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology.