Appendicitis scare inspires
Ho Din Award winner to surgical career
as way to help people in need

Dr. Natasha Houshmand
By Carol Marie Cropper

A childhood health scare set in motion Dr. Natasha Houshmand’s career path to becoming a physician. At age 7, with intense abdominal pain, she was taken to an emergency room. A doctor quickly put her and her age 7, with intense abdominal pain, she was taken to a 15-year-old high school senior (she skipped grades 6 and 7 in school), she persuaded a Dallas surgeon – her father, a boattail – to let her tag along one Saturday while he visited patients during rounds. That trip turned into regular Saturday obser-

The 126 members of the Graduate School’s Class of 2020 have been invited to have their names listed in the 2021 program. Many will participate in the May event along with the 23 graduates from this year’s smaller COVID-19 year class.

In 2020, for the first time in its history, the Medical School held a virtual commencement for its graduates rather than gathering in person during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Graduate School postponed its commencement ceremony.

The rollout of several COVID-19 vaccines and a drop in hospitalizations for the virus in North Texas allowed for the return to in-person commencements, said Dr. W. P. Andrew Lee, Executive Vice Presi-
dent for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Dean of the Medical School.

"This year’s graduating Medical School Class has endured a great many chal-
denges due to the pandemic, most notably being pulled off clerkships, having a completely virtual residency interview season, and having to celebrate Match Day virtually,” said Dr. Angela Mihalic, Dean of Medical Students, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, and Professor of Pediatrics. “We are delighted that we will be able to honor this momentous occasion on the campus and in the presence of their loved ones who have sacrificed so much to support them in accomplishing their dreams of becoming a physician.”

This year’s group of Medical School gradu-
ates is expected to grow with the inclusion of students attending the virtual commencement ceremony.

Please see COMMENCEMENT on page 4
This image shows new spinal neurons converted from glia.

By Christopher Brosnien

Researchers at UT Southwestern and Indiana University have reprogrammed scar-forming cells in mouse spinal cords to create new nerve cells, spurring recovery after spinal cord injury. The findings, published in Cell Stem Cell, could offer hope for the hundreds of thousands of people worldwide who suffer a spinal cord injury each year.

Cells in some body tissues proliferate after injury, replacing dead or damaged cells as part of healing. However, explained study leader Dr. Chun-Li Zhang, Professor of Molecular Biology, the spinal cord typically does not generate new neurons after injury—a key roadblock to recovery. Because the spinal cord acts as a signal relay between the brain and the rest of the body, its inability to self-repair permanently halts communication between these two areas, leading to paralysis, loss of sensation, and sometimes life-threatening consequences such as an inability to control breathing or heart rate.

Dr. Zhang said the brain has some limited capacity to produce new nerve cells, relying on progenitor cells to turn on distinct regenerative pathways. Using this knowledge as inspiration, he and his colleagues looked for cells that might have similar potential for regeneration in the spinal cord.

Working with a mouse model of spinal cord injury, the researchers investigated a marker normally found in immature neurons. The scientists found this marker present in the spinal cord after injury and tracked down the cells that produce it. These are neuronal NG2 glia cells.

NG2 glia serve as progenitors for cells called oligodendrocytes, which produce the insulating fat layer that surrounds neurons. They are also known to form glial scars following injury. Dr. Zhang’s team showed that when the spinal cord was injured, these glia temporarily adopted molecular and morphological markers of immature neurons.

To determine what caused NG2 glia to change, the researchers focused on SOX2, a stem cell protein induced by injury. They genetically manipulated NG2 glia to overproduce SOX2 in the weeks after spinal cord injury, mice with this manipulation produced tens of thousands of new mature neurons. Further investigation showed that these neurons integrated into the injured area, making the new connections with existing neurons that are necessary to relay signals between the brain and body.

“Two of the field’s major problems are how to take these scar-forming cells and turn them into new nerve cells that can create new connections, and the second is how to move these cells to the place in the body needed for recovery,” said Dr. Zhang. “We think our results are a step toward solving these two problems.”


eventually be used as a template for pharmaceutical companies to develop new medicines that target this and related nicotinic acetylcholine receptors. They plan to continue studying 7 in various cell types and how it interacts with other molecules and proteins.

Dr. Zhang and colleagues then genetically manipulated NG2 glia to overproduce SOX2. In the weeks after spinal cord injury, mice with this manipulation produced tens of thousands of new mature neurons. Further investigation showed that these neurons integrated into the injured area, making the new connections with existing neurons that are necessary to relay signals between the brain and body.

Even more promising, said Dr. Zhang, is that this genetic engineering led to functional improvements after spinal cord injury. Animals engineered to overproduce SOX2 in their NG2 glia performed markedly better on motor skills weeks after spinal cord injury compared with those that made normal SOX2 amounts. Not only did these glia have new neurons that appeared to take over for those damaged during injury, Dr. Zhang explained, but they also had far less scar tissue at the injury site that could hinder recovery.

Eventually, Dr. Zhang said, researchers may be able to discover safe and effective ways to overproduce SOX2 in human spinal cord injury patients, helping repair their injuries with new neurons while reducing scar tissue formation.

“The field of spinal cord injury has extensively researched trying to heal the damage with stem cells that produce new neurons, but what we’re proposing here is that we may not need to transplant cells from the outside,” said Dr. Zhang, an alumnus of the UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. “By encouraging NG2 glia to make more SOX2, the body can make its own new neurons, rebuilding from within.”

Dr. Zhang is a W.W. Caruth, Jr. Scholar in Biomedical Research.

More online: Read the full story in the newsroom at UTSouthwestern.edu/newsroom.

Study reveals structure of nicotinic acetylcholine receptor

Identification of three shapes of a cell-surface protein could pave the way for new disease treatments

By Christopher Brosnien

UT Southwestern researchers have identified the structure of a key member of a family of proteins called nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in three different shapes it takes while performing its job. The work, published in Cell, could eventually lead to new pharmaceutical treatments for a large range of diseases or infections, including schizophrenia, lung cancer, and even COVID-19.

Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors are members of a broader superfamily of proteins called Cys-loop receptors that function on cell surfaces and are found in the membranes of many cell types. When the right molecule settles on these receptors, it acts as a key and opens the gated channels, letting ions flood from the outside to the inside of cells to trigger other cellular processes. Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors respond to acetylcholine, a molecule that nerve cells use to communicate with each other. However, they also respond to other molecules found outside the body, such as nicotine, the essential nutrient choline, and a toxin found on the skin of poison dart frogs called epibatidine.

With these new tools, the researchers said they could now study these nerve cells’ functions in physiology and disease, said Dr. Hibbs, a member of the Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute.

Dr. Hibbs is an Effie Marie Cain Scholar in Medical Research.

More online: Read the full story in the newsroom at UTSouthwestern.edu/newsroom.

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Delivering exceptional patient care during a pandemic

Health System Celebration of Excellence event highlights importance of teamwork

By Carol Marie Cropper

While UT Southwestern’s health care teams and staff bravely faced challenges from a pandemic in 2020, they also came up with innovative ways to improve patient care.

Health care workers and employees submitted more than 100 proposals for this year’s Health System Celebration of Excellence poster competition—everything from a way to cut medication costs to a strategy to reduce the number of babies transferred to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for low blood sugar.

These were among the eight projects honored at the March 26 event, held virtually this year due to COVID-19. A finalist and a winner were chosen in each of four categories—quality, service, people, and financial stewardship—from posters that emphasized ideas for improvement. In other awards, four employees were recognized for efforts to improve patient safety.

“The view is that we can’t go back to the way things were,” said Dr. William Daniel, Vice President and Chief Quality Officer, told the more than 1,150 people listening in during the third annual Celebration of Ex- cellence, noting the UT Southwestern staff’s accomplishments during a time of unprecedented challenges.

The theme for this year’s event was teamwork, with keynotes from part of the health system’s leadership: Dr. Eduardo Salas, Chair of University’s Department of Psychology; Dr. Ethan Halm, a general internist who researches, heads training technology development at the U.S. Naval Air System Command (NARS-ON): and Dr. Jon Williamson, Dean of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

“Thanks to teamwork, we have our finest hour,” added Dr. Daniel, a UTSW Medical School alumnus. Achieving clinical excellence is not about building a super hospital, Dr. Daniel said, but about doing what we can with what we have.

“Looking back at our moments of greatness—mak- ing long-standing contributions to care really does matter—that teamwork leads to performance,” the keynote speaker Dr. Eduardo Salas of Rice University (left) spoke about how effective teamwork can positively impact health care.

Dr. Salas, who has served as chief of General Internal Medicine and online health education.
Dr. Lora Hooper

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option to become available for myeloma patients. Even though we don’t yet know if some of these patients may be cured, and many only have two years to live, it can at least buy many patients time until other treatment options become available. Most patients also have good quality of life with relatively low risk of second, or delayed, side effects.”

Multiple myeloma, the second most common blood cancer, is a cancer of plasma cells, a white cell blood cell important in the immune system (see Box). The disease’s attack on bone marrow puts patients at risk of life-threatening infections. It is diagnosed in more than 32,000 people in the U.S. each year, but only a small percentage of the general population is likely to be diagnosed with this disease.

Three main treatments are available: drugs called proteasome inhibitors, drugs called monoclonal antibodies, and antibody-drug conjugates. Among more than a dozen new therapies for myeloma patients is idecagabine vudelise, or idecG. It is also known as BMS-228629.

Study participants had their T-cells engineered to target a molecule called B-cell maturation antigen, or BCMA, which is only expressed on BCMA, a form of immunoglobulin. This is a cell membrane protein, a receptor on the surface of B-cells, and many patients with idecG. Until now, most treatments induced responses in only a third of patients, and complete remissions were rare. The trial included 128 patients, ages 18 and older, who previously had been given regimens from the three main classes of treatments. The clinical trial included nine sites in the U.S., one in Canada, and 10 in five European countries. Several patients traveled from as far away as Michigan and Minnesota to UT Southwestern for the trial.

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Therapy continued from page 1

Dr. Lora Hooper's findings have helped explain how a host coexists with the trillions of microbes that inhabit the human gut. Her research shows that the immune system prevents these microbes from causing infection, but also can deter-
The journey to becoming a doctor took an unusual route for Dr. Thassos Rossopoulos, who had worked as an oilfield drilling engineer in India and the Middle East after a undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering. The close friendships he made with co-workers stationed offshore for months along with volunteer work at a food pantry pulled him toward a new career path of service – and the medical field. It’s something that was absent from my life. During my medical training, I have sought the value of caring for family and community. Dr. Thassos Rossopoulos

USFW activities: “I founded an expanded student-led program at Union Gospel Mission (UGM) to help individuals struggling with homelessness quit smoking, serving over 300 clients from 2018 through 2020. I also co-founded the Patient Navigator Program for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, which pairs students with UGM clients to help them navigate the health care system. In addition, I co-led a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic as a first-year student and collaborated on a project to implement health care education sessions and primary care needs assessments for undergraduate students of Paul Quinn College.”

Surprising fact: “I spent one and a half years in India, Bangladesh, and the Middle East after graduating college, primarily working and living on oil rigs in the desert or the ocean.”

Future plans: “I am headed after graduation to a combined Psychiatry-Family Medicine Residency at UC San Diego. I want to work clinically with underserved populations in preventive primary and mental health care, focusing on patients with severe mental illness and/or addiction. I also want to improve the field of integrated/collaborative health care.”

About the award: The Iatros Award was established by the UT Southwestern Medical School Class of 1994 to honor a graduate who most emulates the complete qualities of a physician. The Iatros Award carries a cash prize provided by the Alumni Association.

Dr. Logan Mills

William F. Ross, M.D., Scholarship Award in Family Medicine and the Lorraine Sulkin-Schein Medical Student Award in Geriatric Medicine

Inscribed by his late grandmother, Dr. Logan Mills felt led to pursue a career dedicated to elderly and underserved populations. His commitment to family and community left an indelible impact, one that he hopes to honor as a future physician in community-based care.

What the Ross Award means: “Throughout my medical school training, I have admired the dedication of the Family Medicine faculty to teaching medical students and advocating for their patients. To be selected and recognized by these amazing mentors and faculty members as a recipient of one of the William F. Ross, M.D. Scholarship Award is an amazing honor because I hope to carry the same level of dedication and advocacy into my future practice as these mentors.”

Mentor comment: “Logan has created an amazing passion and commitment for primary care. This passion has been on display since he entered medical school and is a model for future students interested in family medicine.” – Dr. Zali Jepson, Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine

What the Sulkin-Schein Award means: “One of my aspirations to enter medicine and care for adults was my grandmother. She instilled in me the value of caring for family and community. She unfortunately passed away during my first year of medical school. I will never forget my dedication to her family and her impact on my life. During my medical training, I have sought out opportunities to care for older adults and have encountered many amazing mentors in this process. The Lorraine Sulkin-Schein Award is very meaningful to me because I strive to provide compassionate care for older adults in the same way I have observed my mentors care for their patients.”

Mentor comment: “Logan has been committed to elderly adults and their care throughout his training at UT Southwestern. He is a gifted physician who shows great respect and understanding of older adults with complex medical issues.” – Dr. Vivian Roche, Geriatrics Fellowship Program Director and Professor of Internal Medicine

What led to your career path: “Growing up in rural East Texas instilled in me a strong sense of responsibility and community. During my medical training, I noticed that my mentors within family medicine shared these characteristics and saw their dedication to their patients. I was inspired to pursue a career in family medicine during my family medicine rotation with Dr. Shrum Agarwal in Jackson, Texas. His servant nature, dedication to teaching, and compassion for patients led me to consider no other career path than one involving family medicine.”

USFW activities: “I served as President of the Geriatrics Interest Group, Medical Student Manager of the student-run free clinic, President of the Family Medicine Interest Group, and representative of the Free Clinic Committee.”

Surprising fact: “One of my hobbies is baking, but during my medical school training I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. I have not let this prevent me from enjoying my hobby.”

Future plans: “After graduation I am headed to a family medicine residency at John Peter Smith Hospital and plan to complete the Advanced Rural Medicine and Surgery Track.”

About the awards: Named after the former Chair of Family and Community Medicine, the Ross Award includes a $1,000 scholarship from the Dallas Chapter of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians Foundation. The Sulkin-Schein Award recognizes a student committed to the care of older adults. Mrs. Schein, who died in 2007, was a longtime supporter of UTSW who bequeathed funds to promote geriatrics.
Dr. Dr. Allen:  

**Dr. Allen:**  

**Barriers and challenges never intimidated Dr. Allen.** The daughter of an ambitious single mom in West Texas who put herself through occupational therapy school, Dr. Allen had the perfect role model growing up. Her exposure to the many barriers faced by underserved communities led her to pursue a career as a physician, with a focus on family medicine in particular.

**What this award means:** “I’m honored to be recognized by the faculty that helped develop my love for family medicine. My roots were planted in this Department and I grateful for the support as I grow through my career.”

**Mentor comment:** “Dr. Allen is a very responsible, self-motivated, mature, and compassionate learner. She has always demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm and commitment to family medicine. She earned her M.D. during medical school and has received a Bronx Presidential Service Award.” – Dr. Zaiba Jetpuri, Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine.

**Background and family:** “I grew up in Lubbock, Texas. I was raised by a young single mother in occupational therapy school who read anatomy textbooks to me. I’d like to think that is where my interest in medicine began. I am the second doctor of the family, following behind my cousin who is a doctor of physical therapy. Outside of medicine, I love dancing, football, and my two miniature schnauzers.”

**Future plans:** “I plan to be a general internist with an interest in patient centered care, particularly in underserved communities. I am very excited to start my family medicine residency next year!”

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Dr. Emily Magallanes:  

**Dr. Emily Magallanes:**  

**Working hard and giving back are two philosophies that have guided Dr. Emily Magallanes throughout her life.** As a new physician, wife, and mother of two young boys, the pace it seems will only get more hectic now. But Dr. Magallanes enjoys the challenge and looks forward to a career in family medicine where she can help people of all ages and develop long-term patient relationships.

**What this award means:** “It’s always nice to be recognized, but this award is especially meaningful because it validates the philosophy I have lived by across the past four years – It’s more important to take good care of your patients than to make yourself look good on rounds.”

**Mentor comment:** “Emily was very strong during her clerkship and actively sought feedback to improve. She consistently would get glowing comments from patients and showed an ability to be empathetic, a patient’s social context and physical and emotional needs. She is a hard worker, team player, dependable, honest, and earnest. Her commitment to nutrition and primary care is impressive.” – Dr. Zaiba Jetpuri, Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine.

**Background and family:** “I grew up in Kennexa, Georgia, raised by my two wonderful parents. My parents taught us to work hard. I can’t remember a single Saturday that I wasn’t scrubbing toilets, pulling weeds, doing laundry, or mudding sheet rock. At Brigham Young University, I met my husband through my job teaching Spanish to missionaries. He substituted in my class one summer. We were married the next year, right before medical school, and now have two beautiful children who are 6 months old.”

**What led to your career path:** “Throughout my childhood, I was the kid who wanted to watch PBS specials and National Geographics about natural disasters and public health crises. Sometimes when they talk about them really lit my fire and gave me the desire to make a difference in the world. As a teen, I was present for the births of my two youngest brothers. My mom’s midwife, Teri, was so inspirational in our whole family about pregnancy and childbirth. In the summer, Teen would travel with her family to do research on midwifery, which I thought was just amazing. For the longest time, I wanted to be just like her. Somehow, despite all of these early influences, it still took me a long time to realize that medicine was the right path for me.”

**TSW activities:** “One of my most meaningful experiences has been being given the opportunity to evaluate a new medical student elective, Culinary Medicine. I believe physicians are not getting enough education about nutrition and lifestyle habits that are the root cause of many diseases contributing to morbidity and mortality in our country. We just recently published some of our earliest findings and are in the process of evaluating recently collected data.”

**Surprising fact:** “During high school I danced with the Little General Cloggers, a group from my hometown that performed old-style clogging routines. Every summer we danced at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee.”

**Future plans:** “I plan to pursue training in full scope family medicine, including surgical obstetrics and lifestyle medicine.”

**About the award:** The TAFP (Texas Academy of Family Physicians) Outstanding Graduate Award is given by the Dallas Chapter to one student annually.

Dr. Carolyn Shanks:  

**Texas College of Emergency Physicians Award**

**Mentor comment:** “Carolyn excelled on her emergency medicine rotations, impressing all by her diagnostic acumen, procedural skills, and warm bedside manner.” – Dr. Christine Kulstad, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine.

**Future plans:** “After starting medical school, I moved to France and worked as an English tutor. It was an experience that has helped me to connect with people from different cultures and certainly taught me how to explain complex subjects despite language and cultural barriers — which is certainly useful in emergency medicine.”

**About the award:** “My most meaningful experience to me was when I was in a shift in the Emergency Department, time flew by and I would leave feeling more impressed by the imagination of the work. I loved the challenge of the undifferentiated patient, but also loved the education of emergency medicine to the community. At Vanderbilt, one of my majors was medicine, health, and society. I spent four years studying topics such as social determinants of health, racial and ethnic health disparities, health care policy, and how health is portrayed in the media. When I worked in the Emergency Department, I saw all of those topics come to life. It confirmed the importance of providing care to patients who do not other wise have access to medical care and continues to inspire me to improve health care both in the hospital and out in the community.”

**UTSW activities:** “I served as a Reflections Workshop Leader, seniors community Pen Pal Program volunteer, Meals on Wheels volunteer, and kept active with various community organizations.”

**Surprising fact:** “Before medical school, I was a dance teacher who taught children and adults many genres – from ballet to ballroom dancing.”

**Attractive fact:** “I even skipped a grade in those two subjects, as well as competed on my school’s math bee team.”

Dr. Sara Hassan Youssuf:  

**Minnie Lancaster, M.D., Scholarship Award in Family Medicine**

**Mentor comment:** “Sara has been very committed to community service and this has led to a passion in her serving the underserved. She volunteered with several community organizations and became an advocate for those with minimal resources. Physicians who have worked with her commented on her work ethic and compassion for patients.” – Dr. Zaiba Jetpuri, Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine.

**About the award:** “This award is meaningful to me as it emphasizes the importance of primary care in not only managing medical conditions in the community but also in preventing complex diseases from developing in high-risk patients.”

**Future plans:** “As of right now, I see myself serving the community as a general primary care physician.”

**About the award:** “The award honors Dr. Lancaster and her husband, Dr. Edgar Lancaster, who held leadership positions at the Aggie Clinic, a medical student-run free clinic in my first year of medical school. I helped mentor pre-med students through the Pre-Med Mentorship Program as well as the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students. I am a student member of the Family Medicine Interest Group, the Islamic Medical Association, and the Latino Medical Student Association.”

**About the award:** “I was born and raised in New York, but moved with my parents to Dallas at the age of 5 for my father’s residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation right here at UTSW! My mother is from Guatemala and my father is from Egypt, and I feel fortunate to have such a unique cultural background as it has allowed me the ability to connect with many people. I recently married my husband, who has been a huge part of my support system throughout medical school and who is finishing up his intern year in family medicine.”

**About the award:** “I was very strong during my career as a physician initially intrigued me to pursue a career in medicine myself. Then, as a graduate student in business school, I was able to learn about the management side of health care as well as the shortage of physicians. Therefore, I was drawn to a role that helped shape my commitment to family medicine.”

**About the award:** “What led to your career path: “I explored many different fields, but realized that when I was in the Emergency Department, time flew by and I would leave feeling more impressed by the imagination of the work. I loved the challenge of the undifferentiated patient, but also loved the education of emergency medicine to the community. At Vanderbilt, one of my majors was medicine, health, and society. I spent four years studying topics such as social determinants of health, racial and ethnic health disparities, health care policy, and how health is portrayed in the media. When I worked in the Emergency Department, I saw all of those topics come to life. It confirmed the importance of providing care to patients who do not otherwise have access to medical care and continues to inspire me to improve health care both in the hospital and out in the community.”

**Future plans:** “After my emergency medicine residency, I hope to complete a fellowship. I am interested in medical education, ultrasound, and health policy. After fellowship, I plan to work in the community for at least a couple of years. Eventually, I do hope to return to an academic institution to work.”

**About the award:** “The award is presented to a medical student who demonstrates excellence in emergency medicine, with special dedication to Texans who need emergency care.”
Dr. Bradley Uphchurch:  
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Award

Dr. Naveen Kishore Balakrishnan  
Background and family:  
As the son of Indian immigrants, Dr. Naveen Kishore Balakrishnan deeply felt drawn to diverse patient populations. During his medical education, he sought out experiences involving community health research that included working with the homeless or those with psychiatric issues. Ultimately, his goal is to work in internal medicine and care for underserved populations.

What this award means:  
“I hope to be at the forefront of internal medicine care and serve underserved populations. To receive an award from my role models who have previously given this award to students I’ve looked up to is quite possibly the second best affirmation of my efforts that I could receive now (after making my parents proud, of course!).”

Mentor comment:  
“Naveen is a well-rounded student with a strong foundation of clinical skills and an earnest communication style that makes patients feel comfortable — allowing him to deliver evidence-based, personalized care. Inducted into the Golden Honor Humanism Society, Naveen is invested in addressing social barriers to care and strives to work with disadvantaged communities. Naveen has a bright future ahead of him, and we are grateful for the opportunity to continue to watch him grow in the next three years as a resident at UTSW!”  
— Dr. Ahmad Ansari, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

Dr. Calvin Geng  
As a child of Chinese immigrants, Dr. Calvin Geng appreciates the educational opportunities available in the U.S. He dove full force into academics, graduating with a degree in biology and chemistry from Texas Tech University. He then attended medical school in Houston during the rheumatology rotation.

What this award means:  
“I feel extremely grateful for the support from my mentor Dr. Upchurch and Dr. Madhusudhan. But, it means even more to have the opportunity to advise my own medical students. I hope to pass on the same passion and enthusiasm for medicine that Dr. Upchurch and Dr. Madhusudhan have instilled in me.”

Mentor comment:  
“Calvin’s intellect, curiosity, and persistence have helped him excel academically and in research at UT Southwestern and UT Dallas. However, Calvin truly stands out for his warm nature, enthusiastic efforts to earn a degree in medicine, and his gift for forming human connections and relationships. I have no doubt that Calvin will combine his considerable skills at the bedside, interest in research, and passion for education in a career in academic medicine.”  
— Dr. Stephanie Brinker, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

Dr. Nikhil Madhusudhan  
About the award:  
The award is given annually to one or more graduating medical students who excel academically during clinical rotations and exhibit an interest in and compas- sion for patients.

About the award:  
The Dr. Richard Mays Smith Award recognizes residents who demonstrate leadership, excellent academic performance, and excellence in patient care. It is an honor to have been selected by Dr. Brinker and Dr. Madhusudhan as a recipient of this award.”

— Dr. Guillermo Andros Querido, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine

Future plans:  
“After graduating from medical school with this award, I will continue with my research interests in cancer biology and work towards a career in academia and research.”

What led to your career path:  
“I have great mentors who have previously given this award to great residents. I was excited to be among them and hope to mentor others in the future.”

Mentor comment:  
“Nikhil is an M.D./Ph.D. student who distinguished himself for the interest he put in the rheumatology rotation. It was clear that he was reading about his patients and that he was intellectually curious. His bedside manners were excellent, and even difficult patients felt comfortable around him. He’s an excellent student.”

— Dr. Richard Mays Smith, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine

Dr. Naveen Kishore Balakrishnan and Dr. Calvin Geng  
Dr. Richard Mays Smith Award

Dr. Nikhil Madhusudhan  
Background and family:  
I was born in India, but my family moved to Northern Virginia when I was 2 years old. I graduated from high school in 2007 and completed my undergraduate degree at Boston University in 2011. I spent two additional years in Broadbrooks, studying cancer cell metabolism prior to enrolling in the M.D./Ph.D. program at UT Southwestern in 2015. My parents are both software engineers. My sister is a resident in the combined pediatrics and anesthesia residency program at Johns Hopkins. My wife is currently a third-year Ob/Gyn resident at UT Southwestern.

What led to your career path:  
“I worked in a research lab at the VA Hospital in Washington, D.C., during the summer before my senior year of high school. There, I studied how lipid metabolism is altered in heart disease. This experience got me hooked on biomedical research and set me on the path to becoming a scientist.”

Future plans:  
“I will be completing my internal medical residency and oncology fellowship at UT Southwestern in the Physician Scientist Training Program (PSTP). The PSTP offers three years of protected research time after clinical training, which will allow me to develop my scientific focus. After this, I will launch an independent career as a laboratory investigator and eventually become a leader in the academic institution. I hope to make important discoveries that advance medicine and science.”

About the award:  
The award, presented to the most outstanding medical student in rheumatology training, is named for Dr. Richard Mays Smith, a former Division of Rheumatic Diseases faculty member who died in 1988. Dr. Smith distinguished himself as a scholar, teacher, and clinician.

Dr. Dr. Bradley Uphchurch:  
As a resident in emergency medicine at Parkland, I decided to focus on emergency medicine and make it my career. But, as a resident, I also dealt with contracting COVID-19 myself within a day of getting a new dog. That, and my wife, Dr. Naveen Kishore Balakrishnan, and I chose to marry in a small ceremony due to the pandemic. This has made me more challenges this past year. He married his wife in a small ceremony due to the pandemic. This has made me even more passionate about emergency medicine.”

Dr. Naveen Kishore Balakrishnan always felt drawn to diverse patient populations. During his medical education, he sought out basic research positions in college to determine if I would pursue a M.D. or Ph.D. I determined that medicine, learning, and ability was to have the chance to train at my father’s alma mater – UT Southwestern (Dr. My Upchurch, ’82). During medical school, I found the Emergency Department to be the place that I enjoyed the hospital due to the emergency medicine emphasis, large breadth of pathology, diversity of patients, and need for timely interventions and decision-making.

What led to your career path:  
“Excellent mentorship during the rheumatology rotation.”

Mentor comment:  
“As a child of Chinese immigrants, Dr. Calvin Geng appreciates the educational opportunities available in the U.S. He dove full force into academics, graduating with a degree in biology and chemistry from Texas Tech University.”

About the award:  
The award is given annually to one or more graduating medical students who excel academically during clinical rotations and exhibit an interest in and compassion for patients.

Future plans:  
“I will continue my internal medical residency and oncology fellowship at UT Southwestern in the Physician Scientist Training Program (PSTP). The PSTP offers three years of protected research time after clinical training, which will allow me to develop my scientific focus. After this, I will launch an independent career as a laboratory investigator and eventually become a leader in the academic institution. I hope to make important discoveries that advance medicine and science.”

About the award:  
The award, presented to the most outstanding medical student in rheumatology training, is named for Dr. Richard Mays Smith, a former Division of Rheumatic Diseases faculty member who died in 1988. Dr. Smith distinguished himself as a scholar, teacher, and clinician.

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**Dr. Anika Morgado**

Experiences with medical professionals who demonstrated compassion inspired Dr. Anika Morgado to follow suit. Gratitude for the opportunities she received in the U.S. as the child of Venezuelan immigrants led to her desire to become a physician committed to helping underserved Latinx communities.

**What this award means:** "When I think back to what led me to pursue medicine in the first place, at the forefront are experiences with medical professionals who emanated a spirit of compassion and empathy. I’ll always remember the pediatrician who warmly reassured worried parents and the surgeon who had a tremendous bedside manner. These experiences consistently motivated me to focus on providing empathic and humanistic care to all patients. Consequently, I am both humbled and honored to receive this award."

**Mentor comment:** "Anika’s clinical acumen exceeds her level of training – repeatedly drawing favorable comparisons to first-year residents. Her ability to distill complex patient presentations in a structured, concise manner is a testament to her competence and maturity. Anika’s professionalism, critical thinking skills, and empathy will allow her to thrive during residency. Anika has the makings of a future chief resident and will be an outstanding physician." – Dr. Ahmad Aminshah, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

**Background and family:** "My family is originally from Caracas, Venezuela, and moved to the United States when I was about a year old. They left behind their family, friends, and economic stability with the hopes of providing better opportunities for their children."

**What led to your career path:** "I grew up in a Spanish-speaking household, which meant that from a young age I was impacted by two unique cultures. It also meant that I was able to witness what life was like by watching my parents experience firsthand. These experiences sparked my desire to use my ethnicity to help others experiencing similar difficulties, especially from cultural backgrounds like mine. In medicine, I found that I could easily apply this passion by striving to incorporate cultural competence and accommodate a patient’s diverse background when providing medical care for them. I have loved using my background to help care for the underserved Latinx community, and I hope to continue making this a priority in my career."

**UTSW activities:** "While here, I enjoyed volunteering and translating at the student-run free clinics as well as participating in leadership for United Itinerant Serve."

**Surprising fact:** "I love the outdoors, but I’m deathly afraid of several bug species. Usually, this doesn’t deter me from hiking or camping, but it does provide free entertainment for my company!"

**Future plans:** "I plan on pursuing my residency in internal medicine and have a special interest in longitudinal care and preventive medicine. My current plans include going into primary care or a fellowship in rheumatology."

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**Dr. Kyle Saysana**

Dr. Kyle Saysana is in a unique class as a physician-in-training who speaks five languages and is learning a sixth. Through an international exchange program, he spent an additional year of his medical school training learning about diverse care models at hospitals in three countries. His exceptional dedication to education led to his selection as a recipient of the Hemphill-Gojer Award.

**What this award means:** "If there’s anything my short-stint in this field has taught me, it’s that life can be incredibly fleeting and to care fiercely for one another as friends, family, and colleagues while we’re still here, especially in the context of this past year. That will remain my greatest lesson from medical school moving forward, and that is why this award is meaningful to me."

**Mentor comment:** "An ardent advocate of marginalized populations and the child of immigrants, Kyle truly understands the need to earn his patients’ trust and uses these experiences to create a more inclusive curriculum and widen others’ perspectives. Kyle truly embraces diversity and continual growth! He is poised for an incredibly successful academic career and will be a cherished colleague and leader in medicine." – Dr. Reeni Abraham, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine

**Background and family:** "My father is an aerospace engineer and my mother is a homemaker. I have a sister who is pharmacist in Houston. My family is of Chinese/Laotian heritage and emigrated from Laos as refugees, later ending up in the United States, where I was born."

**What led to your career path:** "Growing up, I’ve always had an organic interest in math and science, but it was reading about and experiencing the stories of the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a teenager that really moved me to consider medicine as a career. When I was diagnosed with an autoimmune condition in high school, later facing the challenges it presented in college, it truly brought home my passion for this field."

**UTSW activities:** "Through the International Medical Exchange Program here at UT Southwestern, I was able to spend an additional year of medical school in hospitals abroad spanning six months in France and three months each in Morocco and Argentina, rotating in the fields of critical care, cardiology, and infectious diseases, learning and working in French and Spanish, where I was able to see care and medical education delivered in three very different models from our own here in the U.S."

**Surprising fact:** "With the exception of a few shows, I’ve watched every episode of television in the last five or six years exclusively in either French, Spanish, or both languages."

**Future plans:** "I’ll be heading to Harvard and Massachusetts General Hospital for my internal medicine residency prior to pursuing subspecialty training in interventional cardiology/advanced heart failure or pulmonary/critical care medicine."

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**Dr. Syed Kazim Rizvi**

**Background and family:** "I am fortunate to have matched at UT Southwestern in internal medicine. I am determined to provide health care to underserved Latinx populations while also working as a clinician-educator."

**What this award means:** "It is validating to know that your hard work is appreciated and valuable. It gives you additional motivation to continue to build your vision. I am honored to be chosen for this award."

**Mentor comment:** "Everything about Syed is praiseworthy – his journey to medicine, his respectful spirit, his infectious passion. He epitomizes the student who pushes you to be a better teacher and an even better physician. Syed, an inducted member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, prioritizes assisting patients with social determinants of health on both a community and individual level. With an interest and growing expertise in information technology, Syed has many skills that will make him an asset to our residency program here at UT Southwestern."

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**Dr. Reshma Narain**

Dr. Reshma Narain had an impressive role model in her grandmother, who moved to a large community hospital in Beijing during the Cultural Revolution. It allows her to thrive during residency. She hopes to use her selection as a recipient of the Hemphill-Gojer Award to provide free entertainment for my company.

**What this award means:** "As I reflect back on my time as a medical student, I realize that I have been truly fortunate to train under such amazing Internal Medicine faculty and residents during my clinical years. I can’t help but feel both incredibly honored and humbled to receive this award from the physicians I so admire."

**Mentor comment:** "Reshma is a true and passionate patient advocate. She has spent her time in medical school particularly dedicated to the health of women and adolescents through research and community outreach efforts. She hopes to use her career in medicine to empower patients through healthy lifestyle interventions. Her ability to form authentic connections with patients will make this possible.” – Dr. Stephanie Brinker, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

**Background and family:** "I am a child of immigrants and grew up in a multicultural [Chinese and Indian] household. My parents are engineers. We’re definitely a small family – I am an only child. My maternal grandmother was an internist who headed a large community hospital in Beijing during the Cultural Revolution. It makes me proud to be following in her footsteps as a future internal medicine doc!"

**About the award:** The award is given annually to one or more graduating medical students who excel academically during clinical rotations and exhibit an interest in and compassion for patients."

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**Dr. Kyle Saysana and Dr. Reshma Narain: Hemphill-Gojer Award in Internal Medicine**

**About the award:** The award, presented to one or more graduating medical students who excel academically during clinical rotations and exhibit an interest in and compassion for patients. This award is given annually to one or more graduating medical students who excel academically during clinical rotations and exhibit an interest in and compassion for patients.
Dr. Sonal Gagrani: American Academy of Neurology Medical Student Prize for Excellence in Neurology

Background and family: “I was born in India, and my family immigrated to the United States when I was about 3 years old. I grew up in the Northeast for most of my life and moved to Texas for medical school.”

What led to your career path: “My first neuroscience course was during a summer program in high school, where I fell in love with the idea of studying the essence of who we are all are. There is so much we don’t know about the brain and rapidly advancing knowledge in the field. It became my college major, and although I started medical school with an open mind, I chose the brain to study again. Empathy and compassion are traits that I have always considered strengths, and these are traits that I felt would help me serve patients well in a medical profession.”

UTSW activities: “I was involved in the Neurology Student Interest Group, served as Show Chair for the Multicultural Work Committee, and Open School Chapter Lead and Coach for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and am graduating with distinction in quality improvement and patient safety.”

Surprising fact: “I speak intermediate-level Mandarin Chinese and have spent several summers in China during college for leadership and service programs. I’ll have yet another on my visa, so I’m hoping to visit again in the next few years!”

Future plans: “I will be starting a neurology residency program this summer. I am pursuing interests in neuromuscular and neuroimmunological diseases. I hope to continue integrating quality improvement and patient safety in my career, as I have during medical school.”

Dr. Anthony Dao

Considering he can solve a Rubik’s Cube blindfolded, there probably isn’t much Dr. Anthony Dao can’t do. He has been a go-getter from the start, excelling academically and pursuing leadership roles in student and community organizations while also devoting time to research. He wants to pursue a fellowship in cardio-thoracic or critical care, eventually practicing at an academic institution.

What this award means: “This award is a reflection of all the hardships and imperfections I have worked on during medical school, and I am incredibly honored to be recognized for this. I am very appreciative to all the welcoming faculty and students, as well as the patients who have challenged me to grow into the best possible version of myself.”

Mentor comment: “Anthony is a natural leader with a servant’s heart. He stood out early in his medical career through his leadership in the Anesthesiology Student Interest Group, among others, and has participated in multiple research projects. Beyond all of this, Anthony embodies a true spirit of service. He has volunteered countless hours to many organizations across UT Southwestern and was awarded the President’s Volunteer Service Gold Award.”

Dr. Lauren Shaffer

What led to your career path: “After majoring in anthropology in college, I was very interested in a medical career that would be intellectually stimulating and have a positive human connection. During my clinical rotations, I found that internal medicine provided the ideal balance between the scientific and humanistic aspects of patient care. While I am excited by the investiga- tive nature involved in managing and helping to care for a patient’s illness, truly love the opportunity to listen and advocate for patients.”

UTSW activities: “I was Manager of The Monday Clinic and have been an active participant in United to Serve’s annual Carnaval de Salud health fair. I served as an orientation leader for incoming medical students and as a mentor for high school students interested in the sciences. I have also been involved in research on pulmonary diseases.”

Surprising fact: “I grew up playing the piano since the age of 5. The music is a major source of stress relief, as well as giving me a close commu- nity of fellow piano players.”

Future plans: “I am thrilled to be starting my internal medicine residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania this summer. While I have an interest in pulmonary and critical care medicine, I am also interested in pursuing fellowship opportunities before deciding my future career.”

About the award: “The award recognizes a UT Southwestern medical student who demonstrates excellence in internal medi- cine. It is named after Dr. Herbert S. Salomon, who graduated from UT Southwestern in 1967 and died shortly after graduation.”
Dr. Amy Xia: Roland C. Reynolds Pathology Award

About the award: "The award, which includes $1,500, honors the late Dr. Reynolds, a UT Southwestern alumna and faculty member remembered as a gifted pathologist and a generous person.

The award celebrates the career of Dr. Reynolds and recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of pathology. It is given annually to a young pathologist who has shown promise for leadership in the field.

The award is supported by the Reynolds Foundation, which was established by Dr. Reynolds and her husband, Dr. Robert Reynolds, to promote excellence in pathology education and research.

The award is open to all residents and fellows in pathology at UT Southwestern Medical Center, as well as any individual who has completed a residency program in pathology and is currently employed in a teaching hospital or academic institution.

The selection committee for the award includes senior faculty members from the Department of Pathology at UT Southwestern, as well as representatives from other institutions.

The winner is chosen based on their demonstrated excellence in research, teaching, and mentoring, as well as their potential for leadership in the field of pathology.

The award ceremony and reception are held annually at UT Southwestern Medical Center, and the winner is presented with a certificate and a check for $1,500.

The award is a testament to the legacy of Dr. Reynolds and the ongoing commitment of UT Southwestern to excellence in pathology education and research.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Reynolds, who was a trailblazer in the field of pathology and a dedicated teacher and mentor.

Her contributions to the field have had a lasting impact on the careers of many pathologists and clinicians, and her legacy will continue to inspire future generations of pathologists.

The award is a tribute to Dr. Reynolds' dedication to excellence in pathology education and research, and to the ongoing commitment of UT Southwestern to excellence in the field.

The award is an opportunity for UT Southwestern to recognize and celebrate the achievements of young pathologists, and to support their continued growth and development.
Dr. Kelly Scott, Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

**Background and family:** “I am originally from Stephenville, Texas. I went to Abilene Chris-
tian University for undergrad before starting medical school at UT Southwestern. My
husband, Sterling, and I have been married for almost four years. We have a 6-month-old
twin and a 5-year-old golden retriever.

**What led to your career path:** “My younger cousin was born with a rare genetic condition. Watch-
ing her defy the odds and accomplish things that many thought would ever be achieved was incredibly inspiring. I knew I wanted to become a doctor with work to do
with patients like my cousin, and when I learned about physical medicine and rehabilitation, it was evident that it was the field for me.”

**UTSW activities:** “I was President of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Student Interest Group, President and founder of Walk with a Future at UTSW, a member of the Preven-
tive and Lifestyle Medicine Student Interest Group, a volunteer to the Helping Augment Neontal Development Group, and concus-
soin booth coordinator for United to Serve’s Carnaval de Sahale.

**Surprising fact:** “I love learning about all things space and the Interna-
tional Space Station.”

**Future plans:** “I don’t know what my career will look like after finishing my UMSR residency. Right now, I’m interested in pursuing pediatric rehabilitation or sports medicine.”

**About the award:** “When I made the decision to attend UTSW, I knew it would be an incredible place and an experience that would be invaluable. What this award means:

‘This award means

**Surprising fact:** “People would be surprised to

**Future plans:** “I plan to stay in child and adoles-
cent psychiatry to treat patients ages 16 to 25. I also want to improve the accessibility and quality of parental care and child mental health care, which is a spe-
cially vulnerable place for patients as they navig-
ge away being from home for the first time.”

**About the award:** “The Psychiatric Physicians of North Texas recognized my excellence in psychiatric work in psychiatry and mental health.”

**Background and family:** “I am originally from

**What led to your career path:** “Following my early job internships at Johns Hopkins, I volunteered with a urogynecologist in Cape Town, South Africa. The experience was profound and set my career path on a direction toward global health and women’s health. I was accepted to the M.D. with Distinction in Global Health track during my first year of medical school, which gave me the opportunity to pursue research in Thailand, Peru, and Guatemala. Several of my projects focused on women’s health, specifically among those in under-

**UTSW activities:** “I am a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, a medical student representative of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists for District XI in Texas, co-founded and President of Guate-

**Surprising fact:** “Would people be surprised to

**Future plans:** “I am headed to a residency in

**About the award:** “The Southwestern Gynecologic

**Future plans:** “After completing my Ob/Gyn residency at UTSW, I hope to complete a fellowship in gynecologic oncology. I am currently engaged, and we have a wedding date set for Sept. 3rd.”

**About the award:** “The award is given in honor of Dr. Ahmed, a UT Southwestern Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology faculty member who died of breast cancer at age 39. Given to a student who demonstrates exemplary character and who is devoted to improving the care of women as well as advocate for women on a larger scale.”

**UTSW activities:** “I presented a uterine manipu-

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Dr. Edward Daniel: Terting students over the past eight years here at UT Southwestern – as both a medical student and a graduate student – Dr. Edward Daniel realizes his passion for teaching. He has helped hundreds of students absorb the abundant scientific material of Cell Biology and Pharmacology courses, and his dedication even led to one of his students following in his footsteps as a tutor.

What this award means: “I originally started tutoring because I wanted to help prcliclinary students learn material that is often confusing. Then I realized that tutoring helped me discover a passion for teaching and medical education. I have worked countless hours to prepare and teach the materials, and I have tutored hundreds of students over the last eight years. I am extremely proud of what I have done as a tutor, and I am truly honored that the school has recognized my contributions by giving me this award.”

Mentor comment: “Edward’s work as a tutor with Student Academic Support Services spans both his M.D. and Ph.D. years. He was especially valuable during the rollout of a new curriculum for the Medical School in 2013 as a wonderful bridge between ‘old’ and ‘new’ for two different classes. Edward’s deep knowledge, teaching skills, humor, and heartfelt concern for fellow students will be dearly missed.” – Carol Wortham, Manager, Student Academic Support Services

Background and family: “I was born and raised in DFW. One of my two brothers is an interventional cardiologist in Houston and has first generation doctors in our family. I met my wife, Chandrika, in medical school, and we married in 2018. She is a UTSW hospitalist/fellow who will be completing her training this year. We have a 5-month-old son, William.”

What led to your career path: “I remember receiving a little science kit for Christmas when I was 6 years old, and I thought it was the coolest thing. But I didn’t discover a passion for research until I worked in a lab here at UT Southwestern before starting college. As an undergraduate, I discovered the growing field of stem cell, developmental, and regenerative medicine and realized that I wanted to pursue a career where I can bring regenerative therapies to the clinic. This led me to apply for the M.D./Ph.D. dual-degree program and eventual matriculation to the Medical School Training Program here.”

UTSW activities: “In addition to my work as a tutor, I have been heavily involved with wellness initiatives on campus. I have organized, promoted, and participated in ‘Meditation in Our Humanity,’ an event aimed at spreading mental health awareness on campus. I also work as a peer advisor, providing confidential support to other students struggling with mental health or personal issues.”

Surprising fact: “I have over 120 rubber ducks.”

Future plans: “I am pursuing an internal medicine residency at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. I plan on staying in academia to help teach the next generation of doctors. Additionally, I fully plan to continue research.”

About the award: The award includes a certificate and $500, and honors graduating students who have made significant contributions to tutoring fellow students.

Dr. Christian Carr: Growing up in a rural area of Utah, Dr. Christian Carr witnessed firsthand the effects of living in a medically underserved area. Now he wishes to give back to the community and improve the lives of those in need, aspire to working in complex medical dermatology and pursue health system research.

What this award means: “Much of the reason I went into public health and medicine was based on growing up in a medically underserved area. There are significant difficulties that people in these areas face every day. I want to be able to improve the lives of underserved populations through enhancing health care delivery. This award is recognition that my efforts matter, and that the health of all people is important.”

Mentor comment: “Christian was primarily responsible for the success of our research to analyze the effectiveness of telemedicine at Parkland Memorial Hospital’s Urgent Care Clinic. Our analysis demonstrates that the patients seen through telemedicine had improved health care outcomes.”

About the award: The award includes a certificate and $500, and honors graduating students who have made significant contributions to academic medicine and medical education.

Dr. Dr. Vi Hung Pham: Had Dr. Vi Hung Pham’s younger brother not been born prematurely, the thought of becoming a doctor might not have entered his mind. But that experience inspired Dr. Pham, as he saw his sibling compassionately cared for as a newborn. Later, the experience of volunteering at a pediatrician’s office convinced him of his calling.

What this award means: “I am so honored to receive this award. I deeply admire the individuals of our Pediatric Department, and to be selected for this award by the very people I view as role models is a true recognition of my work. I hope that I can play a part in honoring Dr. Wey’s memory by practicing humanistic, empathetic, and thoughtful care.”

Mentor comment: “Vi is the trusting of the patients in his care through his level of investment in finding out what matters the most to his patients, and of course through his ability to deliver compassionate, holistic care. He embodies everything this award stands for.” – Dr. Soumya Adhikari, Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Background and family: “I was born in Connecticut but grew up in Keller, Texas. My parents are both Vietnamese immigrants. I am engaged to my significant other of nine years, Qy prv, who is starting medical school at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.”

What led to your career path: “A career in pediatrics has always been my dream. My brother was born prematurely and had an extended stay in the NICU and, growing up, I was in and out of the pediatrician’s office due to catching many different bugs. My mom always talked about how reassuring the pediatricians were during my brother’s NICU stay, and I saw firsthand how my own pediatrician made my family feel at ease. My passion for pediatrics grew as I volunteered at a pediatrician’s office in college and as I went through my pediatric rotations.”

UTSW activities: “At UT Southwestern, I have been involved in leadership, serving as a free-clinic Manager for the Aggie Clinic and as President of both Healthy Living and the Southwestern Alliance Against Food Insecurity. I have also worked on research projects within the Pediatrics Department, studying eosinophilic esophagitis.”

Surprising fact: “I’m a huge Nintendo nerd. In fact, I have caught all 898 existing Pokémon in the mainline video game series and the release of Pokémon Crystal on the Game Boy in the year 2000. I’m also a sneaker enthusiast/collector, with my favorite shoe being the Jordan 1 and 4.”

Future plans: “I am thrilled to be pursuing a residency in pediatrics. My passions lie in preventive medicine and advocacy, and I’m currently considering a career in primary care.”

About the award: The award includes a certificate and $500, and honors graduating students who have made significant contributions to academic medicine and medical education.

Dr. Layla Zahra Samandi: Dr. Layla Zahra Samandi has always had a soft heart for children. In high school, she taught swimming lessons and tutored elementary school students. Then in college, her volunteer work at a children’s hospital solidified her career path. She hopes to pursue a career as a pediatrician in academic medicine and medical education.

What this award means: “I am so humbled and grateful to have received this award. This award represents the values that I always hope to embody in my practice as a pediatrician. I have immense respect for the Pediatrics faculty here at UT Southwestern, who have served as role models for me, and to be selected by them for this award is especially meaningful.”

Mentor comment: “Beyond Layla’s clinical skills, she is compassionate, humble, self-motivated, and thoughtful. She made such strong impressions on our faculty throughout the year, and I can’t wait to see what she does with the next stage of her training in Boston.” – Dr. Soumya Adhikari, Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Background and family: “My parents are originally from Iran. My father is a retired engineer, and my mother is a homemaker. I was born in Australia and Australia until I was 7 years old, when my family moved to the United States. In college, I met my fiancé, Kevin Alloway, and our wedding is in May 2021. We will be joining me in Boston and attending architecture school.”

What led to your career path: “I always loved working with children, even when I was still one myself! In high school, I taught swimming lessons and tutored elementary school students, and in college, I volunteered at the local children’s hospital. I knew coming to medical school that I was interested in pediatrics, and in my third-year clerkship solidified it.”

UTSW activities: “In medical school, I have been involved in student government, serving as the test committee representative as well as on multiple curriculum feedback committees. I was also the volunteer coordinator for the Pediatrics Interest Group, coordinating student volunteer efforts at the Ronald McDonald House and Readers 2 Leaders, and tutoring for USMLE Step 1. I also completed research on the association between food allergies and eosinophilic esophagitis.”

Surprising fact: “I love trivia. I passed the initial round of casting for ‘Feud’ and I was invited to audition for the show in New York City, but I was unable to attend the show at the time in Sydney and couldn’t go!”

Future plans: “I will be starting my pediatrics residency at Boston Children’s Hospital/Boston Medical Center in the Boston combined residency program. I hope to pursue a career in academic medicine and medical education, and to subspecialize, likely in allergy/immunology.”

About the award: The award recognizes an outstanding graduate who has the personal character and dedication to serve, as well as be an advocate for children.
AOA honor society welcomes 49 new members

Forty-nine new members were inducted recently into the UT Southwestern Medical School chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Although COVID-19 prohibited the annual in-person banquet, a virtual event was held on March 18 celebrating the inductees and honoring their accomplishments.

Alpha Omega Alpha inducted five faculty or alumni members in 2021:

- Dr. Leslie Cler, Chief Medical Officer of Methodist Dallas Medical Center and a 2006 alumnus of UT Southwestern Medical School
- Dr. Steven Ellis Hill, Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management and Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery
- Dr. Kehinde Odogunjo, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine
- Dr. Karleen Tollef-Hoel, Professor of Psychiatry
- Dr. Rachel Woldridge, Associate Professor of Surgery

Five residents or fellows were inducted into AOA:

- Dr. Donovan Patrick Brem, Dr. Matthew Hibbs, Dr. Geoffrey Flynn McCrossan, Dr. Elia Mabel Pichlinski, and Dr. Joshua Wahl

Members are selected based upon high academic standing, leadership among peers, professionalism, a firm sense of ethics, promise of future success in medicine, and a commitment to serve in the school and community.

Ho Din Award

The Ho Din Award is presented to a student who embodies the qualities of the Medical School. The prize, established in 1979, was named for the Ho, Hudson, and Roberts families.

This year’s honoree was Dr. Houshmand. “Receiving this recognition for doing the work that I love doing and I have enjoyed doing…feels very lucky and very, very humbled to be in this position,” she said.

The two awards are humbling, said Dr. Houshmand. “Besides the Ho Din Award, Dr. Houshmand also received the Hudson-Penn Award, given by the Department of Surgery to a senior medical student whose performance in surgery and attitude toward the care of surgical patients represent the highest standards of the Medical School. The prize, established in 1979, was named for the Ho, Hudson, and Roberts families.”

“Natacha Houshmand has all the qualities that we seek to foster in future surgeons: proclivity for technical work, the restless intellect of a scholar, passion for the field, and empathy for patients,” said Dr. Herbert Zeh, Chair of Surgery.

The two awards are humbling for Dr. Houshmand. “Receiving this recognition for doing the work that I love doing and I have enjoyed doing…feels very lucky and very, very humbled to be in this position,” she said.

Such surgeons often work in emergency rooms, tending to patients who need immediate attention for gunshot wounds, traffic accidents, falls – or acute appendicitis, she said. Because of the intellectual challenge from the wide range of injuries treated and the need to act quickly, this type of surgery appeals to her. “Trauma surgeons have to be ready for anything that comes through the door,“ she said.

Dr. Houshmand said one day she would like to work at a large academic medical center like UT Southwestern, treating patients, teaching, and conducting research.

During her time at UTSW, Dr. Houshmand served as a Vice President for the UT Southwestern Chapter of the American Medical Women’s Association. She completed additional work in order to earn a distinction in quality improvement and patient safety along with her medical degree.

“UT Southwestern Medical Foundation Trustees take great pride in awarding the Ho Din Award to a student who inspires us with both demonstrated medical wisdom and a passion for the betterment of humanity,” said Kathleen M. Gibbons, President and CEO of UT Southwestern Medical Foundation. “Natacha Houshmand is a wonderful embodiment of this combination of intellectual and personal skill, which will no doubt change the trajectory of the many lives she will touch for the better.”

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Many of us lean heavily on the rhythms set by eating, working, and sleeping to get through the day. This circadian clock — as we call it — can have a substantial impact on the health of humans and other species.

For the past five years, postdoctoral researcher Dr. Filipa Rijo-Ferreira has been engaged in this intriguing line of investigation, focusing on the circadian clocks of the human parasites Trypanosoma brucei and Plasmodium berghei. For her efforts, she has received the Brown-Goldstein Award for Excellence in Postdoctoral Research, the highest honor bestowed by the UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. The award honors the contributions of Nobel Laureates Drs. Michael Rosbash and Jeffrey C. Hall at MIT, who in 1997 were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries concerning the molecular mechanisms underlying the circadian rhythm of Drosophila melanogaster, the fruit fly. Dr. Hall is a professor of molecular and cellular biology and genetics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Rijo-Ferreira, who works in the lab of Joseph Takahashi, has received the Brown-Goldstein Award for Excellence in Postdoctoral Research for her investigations of the circadian clocks of two human parasites.

Dr. Filipa Rijo-Ferreira, who works in the lab of Joseph Takahashi, has received the Brown-Goldstein Award for Excellence in Postdoctoral Research for her investigations of the circadian clocks of two human parasites.

The researchers continued this hypothesis using mice with altered circadian rhythms. Some mice breeds had a circadian rhythm with cycles that are longer or shorter than 24 hours. When the researchers infected each of these different breeds with Plasmodium, they saw that the parasites’ own patterns of gene activity did not adjust right away — although they seemed to be taking cues from the host. Plasmodium had its own independent rhythm. They then infected mice with no circadian rhythms and found about 60 percent of Plasmodium’s genes continued to cycle every 24 hours, suggesting that these parasites have an inherent clock that functions independently of the host’s patterns.

Understanding parasites’ clocks could lead to more effective treatments for malaria, Dr. Rijo-Ferreira said. In fact, her research with Dr. Takahashi showed that T. brucei can be effectively killed in culture when it is exposed to light stimulated by a circadian rhythm.

2.5 times less suramin — a medication frequently used to treat sleeping sickness — when delivered at a certain time of day. Because treatment for sleeping sickness can be extremely toxic, being able to deliver less medicine with the same efficacy could save more lives.

Dr. Rijo-Ferreira noted that although all life on Earth appears to have circadian cycles, circadian cycles do not always precisely align with the time of day. For example, bacteria circadian clocks use different molecular mechanisms than human ones. Capitalizing on this effect could lead to drugs that effectively target parasites while sparing treatment side effects.

“There are so many questions that remain in this area: the molecular mechanisms behind other parasites’ circadian clocks, the receptors’ circadian clocks, and how each of them interacts with humans’ circadian clocks,” Dr. Rijo-Ferreira said. “These mysteries will continue to fuel my career far into the future.”

The Brown-Goldstein Award includes a monetary prize as well as the opportunity to present a University Lecture, Dr. Rijo-Ferreira’s virtual seminar, “Circadian Rhythms in Parasites: An Enigma or a Key to Curing Malaria Parastes,” was held on Thursday, April 29.

In addition, award finalists Dr. Joeslyn Ubelacker and Sanjay Pendurthi, both UTSW Graduate School alums Dr. Bryan Gibson, postdoctoral scholars in the Children’s Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern and the Department of Biophysics, respectively, received Dean’s Discretionary Awards for their outstanding research.

Dr. Rijo-Ferreira, a Regental Professor, is director of the Erik Jonsson Center for Research in Molecular Genetics and Human Disease, as well as a professor of Molecular Genetics and Internal Medicine. He holds the W. (Mayo) Monteir distinguished Chair in Cholelate and Arteriosclerosis Research and the Paul J. Thomas Chair in Medicine. Dr. Takahashi holds the Loyd B. Sands Distinguished Chair in Neuroscience.
The RESTORE Program will effectively provide centralized orthopedic services to patients such as William “Bill” Lawson, 96, and his wife, Jane, 93, who experienced identical surgical procedures after falling within a week of one another last year.

The laws, New York state natives, have routinely been patients of Drs. Tara Dalvi and UT Southwestern Medical School alumna Jessica Vose, both undergirding Professors of Internal Medicine, since moving to Texas a couple of years ago.

In the autumn of 2020, Mrs. Lawson fell at her assisted living facility and needed surgical help. Within four days, Mr. Lawson also was admitted to Zale Lipshy Pavilion – William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital following a tumble of his own.

“They both sustained right displaced femoral neck fractures,” said Dr. Megan Sorich, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery who specializes in geriatric orthopedic trauma, RESTORE (RESTORE) Program.

By Patrick Wascovich

UT Southwestern is providing new hope for older adults who suffer fractures and the complications that can result from those injuries with the new Returning Seniors to Orthopedic Excellence (RESTORE) Program.

Led by Dr. Megan Sorich, who had fellowship training in orthopedic geriatric trauma, RESTORE is the only program in North Texas focusing on the musculoskeletal health of older people and consolidates clinical efforts across UT Southwestern departments including Geriatric Medicine, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Anesthesiology and Pain Management, Clinical Nutrition, and Physical Therapy.

RESTORE launched on Feb. 1, shortly after the opening of the third tower at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, and provides coordinated care to improve outcomes and reduce hospital stays for UT Southwestern patients from initial onboarding through recovery and follow-up care.

“The Program’s goal is to provide the best comprehensive collaborative co-managed care of the older adult with an orthopedic injury. We have teamed up to help standardize patient care, expedite patients to the OR and, ultimately, improve outcomes,” said Dr. Megan Sorich, an Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery who specializes in geriatric trauma as well as elbow and shoulder procedures.

The costly toll of hip fractures

The medical needs of geriatric patients are growing. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that by 2030, 21 million Americans will be older than 65, accounting for 20 percent of the population.

Hip fractures are the most costly of fall-related breaks in older adults, common events associated with significant morbidity and mortality. More than 300,000 people are hospitalized for hip fractures annually in the U.S., and those older than 65 years of age represent 86 percent of these cases. Most geriatric hip fracture patients are hospitalized and undergo surgery. Several studies have shown hospitalization costs to be the largest expenses associated with hip fracture care, averaging 44 to 57 percent of total costs.

Co-ordinated care

The Golden Years orthopedic trauma program focuses on non-narcotic medicine use to reduce delirium, a common side effect of fragility fracture treatments in older people.

After treatment, nutritionists provide dietary guidance, and follow-up visits are scheduled to help prevent future falls.

“Generally, hospital systems and individual orthopedic surgeons have not been specifically focused on improving care of our aging population,” Dr. Sorich said.

“Previously at UT Southwestern, if a patient had a hip fracture they normally arrived and were processed through Clements’ ED and then got transported to Zale Lipshy Pavilion. With RESTORE, we will have operating room space at Clements University Hospital and trained geriatric/orthopedic physicians and nurses to help care for these patients.”

In general, these new treatment models standardize the approach to geriatric patients through five principles: surgical management; prioritized operative intervention; medical co-management with geriatricians; patient-centered standards and evidence-based guidelines to increase workflow efficiencies and reduce medication errors; and proactive discharge planning with a focus on rehabilitation.

Specialized care for specialized patients

Many older fracture patients have multiple medical comorbidities such as cardiac or pulmonary disease, dementia, diabetes, and renal impairment that are not adequately assessed in the traditional care model.

Postoperative issues such as osteoporosis challenges and concerns, the inability or unwillingness of patients to take on long-term physical therapy, and the lack of focus on scheduling and follow-up care can be highly debilitating while hampering recovery. In many cases, one incident leads to other medical challenges that result in loss of functional independence and higher postoperative mortality rates.

The RESTORE Program addresses these issues by identifying needs and coordinating care. Elderly patients who arrive at the emergency room at Clements University Hospital receive expedited care, including consultation from both geriatric and orthopedic teams. A pain management program that focuses on non-narcotic medicine may be used to reduce delirium, a common side effect of fragility fracture treatments in older people.

After treatment, nutritionists provide dietary guidance, and follow-up visits are scheduled to help prevent future falls.

Vaccination

Our ability to quickly vaccinate a majority of our workforce in the midst of what became the largest surge to date in the region made a critical difference in ensuring we were able to continue providing top-flight care while health systems were strained, said Dr. John Warner, Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs. Researchers even saw advantages among partially vaccinated individuals and, beginning in mid-January, one month after vaccination of staff initially began, the actual number of positive tests among all UT Southwestern employees was consistently lower than the number projected.

UT Southwestern is now approaching 80 percent immunization among its workforce.

"Real-world experiences with SARS-CoV-2 vaccination at UT Southwestern demonstrated marked reduction in the incidence of infections among our employees, preserving the workforce when it was most needed," said Dr. Daniel E. Podolsky, President of UT Southwestern and an author of the article.

UT Southwestern has provided educational outreach to community groups and businesses, developed extensive online resources including FAQs and blogs, and is preparing to launch a multilingual public service announcement campaign to help educate diverse communities about vaccination and address issues of hesitancy.

It is important to reach out across multiple platforms to effectively address people’s questions so that we can continue to make progress on vaccine hesitancy," said Dr. Marc Novot, Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

The RESTORE Program provides special care for seniors with fractures

Decades of health, days of need

The RESTORE Program provides special care for seniors with fractures

The RESTORE Program is open to patients with hip fractures. If patients are admitted to UT Southwestern, they are seen in the Orthopedic Urgent Care Clinic, which is co-managed with the Geriatric Service.

Viewed through a collaborative lens, the geriatric orthopedic trauma program focuses on a proactive approach to care, aiming to prevent complications and expedite recovery.

By the numbers

- Fractures of the hip are the costliest fall-related breaks in older adults.
- More than 300,000 U.S. patients are hospitalized for hip fractures annually.
- Patients older than 65 years old represent 86% of these cases.

Vaccination Continued from page 1

Dr. Daniel holds the William T. Solomon Professorship in Clinical Quality Improvement at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

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.

Dr. Warner holds the Jim and Norma Smith Distinguished Chair for Interventional Cardiology, and the Nancy and Jeremy Halbreich, Susan and Theodore Strauss Professorship in Cardiology.

New SARS-CoV-2 Infections

(Data as of Jan. 28, 2021)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Infections</th>
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<td>9,896</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partially Vaccinated</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Vaccinated</td>
<td>13,454</td>
<td>9,896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employees with COVID-19 (%)

- Not Vaccinated: 1.5%
- Partially Vaccinated: 1.61%
- Fully Vaccinated: 0.05%
Two UT Southwestern faculty members inducted into Shyne Academy

By Patrick Wascovich

In recognition of outstanding teaching, UT System’s Kenneth L. Shyne, M.D., M.A.C.P. Academy of Health Science Education recently inducted two UT Southwestern educators as new members.

Sarmistha Sen, a cancer researcher in Radiation Oncology. UT Southwestern Medical Center announced that Dr. Kevin Klein, Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, and Otosurgery—Head and Neck Surgery, joined 28 current and former UT Southwestern faculty members to the Academy that recognizes exceptional health science teaching.

In 2005, the Academy is named after Kenneth L. Shyne, former UT System Executive Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs. More than 150 UT System educators have been inducted into the Academy, and nominations for membership may come from the President, Dean, Vice Dean, or Faculty Senate at any of the six health institutions in the UT System.

Nora Gimpel, M.D.

A member of UT Southwestern Academy of Teachers (SWAT) since 2014, Dr. Gimpel serves as Vice Chair for the Department of Family and Community Medicine. She has mentioned numerous pre- and post-doctoral students in community-based participatory research (CBPR) principles, training them to create innovative research models and culturally appropriate approaches of care for the underserved. Dr. Gimpel has published several peer-reviewed articles relevant to international, national, and regional presentations on CBPR and topics related to community medicine.

“My goal as an educator is to inspire learners to think about medicine as the art of compassion and social interaction,” she said. “I teach the scientific and social aspects of medicine and intend to create environments where the learners are inspired to think critically.

In addition to her departmental roles, Dr. Gimpel leads UT Southwestern Medical Center’s community health scholarly activity and distinction tracks and directs the Community Medicine Fellowship Program. She also serves on the boards of the Student-Run Free Clinic Programs and the North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy.

Dr. Gimpel earned her medical degree at the University of Buenos Aires School of Medicine in Argentina and completed her residency in family medicine at the Center of Medical Studies and Clinical Research in Buenos Aires.

Kevin Klein, M.D.

Dr. Klein graduated from UT Southwestern Medical School in 1981, then completed a three-year residency in internal medicine and a two-year residency in anesthesiology here.

His career at UT Southwestern spans four decades, during which he has served as Leader of the anesthesiology faculty and as a practicing anesthesiologist. Dr. Klein, known as the Southwestern expert in difficult airway management, is also a Fellow of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

In 2009, Dr. Klein served as the 156th President of the Dallas County Medical Society. At UTSW, Dr. Klein has served on numerous institutional committees, task forces, and initiatives.

He helped establish the UTSW Heart Transplant Program at the former St. Paul University Hospital and served as Medical Director of Anesthesiology when Zale Lipshy was preparing to open.

“When I meet with my students for the first time, I do my best to make them feel welcome in the clinical environment,” Dr. Klein said. “I want you to walk away from their room, patients, and staff—feel that the care given to each patient is better because a medical student is there. And I want them to have fun.”

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

More online: Read the full story on Center Times Plus at utsouthwestern.edu/plus

From loss to legacy

UTSW cancer researcher’s tragic death inspires family to establish Chair in her honor

By Andrew Martin

On Aug. 1, 2020, Arindam Roy’s life dramatically changed. His wife, Sarmistha Sen, a cancer researcher in UT Southwestern’s Department of Radiation Oncology, left for her customary early morning jog. She never returned.

Police found her body later that morning. The 45-year-old had been attacked and killed on a trail not far from the Plano home she shared with her husband and two sons.

The next morning, hours after his family’s lives were shattered, Mr. Roy began the healing process.

His wife’s story was covered by the local media and people were starting to reach out, asking what they could do to help. Working to make sure something positive came out of this unbelievable tragedy, Mr. Roy set up an online fund-raising campaign for charities devoted to issues that Ms. Sen deeply cared about, including cancer awareness, cancer research, and healthy living.

What began as a humble remembrance to honor his wife’s 16 years led to an overwhelming response from colleagues, friends, and the general public. In total, 683 people contributed to the effort that raised $60,000—far more than Mr. Roy had ever hoped.

“This fundraising effort may have been an important first step for all of us to recover from such a terrible tragedy,” Mr. Roy said. “It became a truly beautiful outcome.

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“This fundraising effort may have been an important first step for all of us to recover from such a terrible tragedy,” Mr. Roy said. “It became a truly beautiful outcome.

More than $1,100,000 was raised in the year, enabling the fund to grow over time. Distributions will support the endowed chair holder’s clinical research activities in radiation oncology.

A passion for cancer research

Mr. Roy, who is Vice President of Product Management with the E.J. Johnson Co. in Irving, confessed he had a hard time understanding the complexities of his wife’s work.

“But I never underestimated her passion for cancer research and her devotion to her colleagues and UT Southwestern as a whole,” he said.

A native of Sindri, India, Ms. Sen was an avid gardener and trained her colleagues in the latestfashion. As a pharmacist and professor of molecular biology, her family inspired her commitment to cancer research.

“Her own mother was a breast cancer survivor, so her work hit very close to home for her,” Mr. Roy said.

Dr. Kalkay Huy helped Ms. Sen to direct clinical research in UT Southwestern’s Department of Radiation Oncology.

“She brought such care and compassion to her work,” Dr. Huy said. “From the moment she arrived, the amount of clinical research we were able to do grew considerably.

“When asked about the impact that the Sen Chair will have on the Department, Dr. Choy was heartfelt in his response: “We are very grateful to Ms. Sen’s family. He said: “While grieving the loss of a loved one, they wanted to support clinical research in memory of Ms. Sen.

Such generosity will also help UT Southwestern grow its research capabilities.

“Establishing an endowed chair helps us recruit and retain even more leading clinical research faculty,” Dr. Choy said. “It adds prestige and makes the position even more meaningful.”

Dr. Choy returns to reflecting on the gift’s greater meaning to Ms. Sen’s family and friends as well as her colleagues who continue the work she was so committed to at UT Southwestern.

“His family makes Ms. Sen’s name and her institutional legacy eternal. For that alone, I hope she is looking down on us and smiling.”

Dr. Choy holds The Nancy B. and Boyd K. West, M.D. Chair in Radiation Oncology.

More online: Read the full story on Center Times Plus at utsouthwestern.edu/plus

In Memoriam

Medical School

Robert F. May, M.D. (82)
Boyd K. West, M.D. (93)
John M. Richardson, M.D. (93)
Charles E. Van Cleave Jr., M.D. (53)
Donald P. Brotherman, M.D.

MEDICAL SCHOOL

Class of 1999: Dick C. Ko, M.D., FACP, FAAEM, Chair of Emergency Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, is currently a member of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine.

His research interests include cardiovascular disorders, such as ACS, heart failure and stroke, clinical effectiveness and testing in the emergency department, and competency in education.

Class of 1999: Monroe A. Spiller, M.D., has been elected Chair of the American Medical Association Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs for 2020-2021. As Chair for this national organization, she will guide the committee on its mission to shape ethical guidance on contemporary medical issues for the AMA.

For the latest updates on alumni events and news, visit engage.utsouthwestern.edu/alumni and follow @utsouthwestern on Facebook.

Please send your Class Notes contributor or address changes to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, UT Southwestern Medical Center, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75239-9098. email alumni@utsouthwestern.edu, or call 214-648-4539.