Message from
Christopher Madden, M.D.
Executive Clinical Director

Dear Colleagues,

We have had a busy fall with the O’Donnell Brain Institute taking part in several CME and outreach events. In the photo above is the Haitian Women’s Amputee Soccer team who played an exhibition game at the UT Southwestern Adaptive Sports Expo. Read about the event on page 12.

Congratulations to those who received promotions this year and to our grant award winners. You will find all the details inside.

Please continue to send us news of your accomplishments, awards, and progress at obinews@utsouthwestern.edu.

Sincerely,
Chris Madden
O’Donnell News

Brad Lega, M.D., and Genevieve Konopka, Ph.D., awarded NINDS grants for memory research

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) awarded Brad Lega, M.D., Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery, an R01 for his research using deep brain stimulation of the parietal cortex to investigate the electrophysiology of human episodic memory.

The grant is 1.78 million dollars over five years. Dr. Lega has secondary appointments in the departments of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics and Psychiatry.

NINDS also awarded Dr. Lega and Genevieve Konopka, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Neuroscience, a multi-PI R21 grant for their translational study “Identification of human genomic signatures of episodic memory.” The grant totals $445,500 over 2 years.

Statewide consortium for Alzheimer’s research awards grant to John Hart, M.D.

John Hart, M.D., Professor of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics and Psychiatry, was awarded a research grant from Texas Alzheimer’s Research and Care Consortium to expand, characterize and longitudinally track the established Hispanic cohort.

The research is a collaborative effort that includes Texas Tech, UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, and UT Austin. The award is for $2,117,376 over 2 years.
UT Southwestern renewed for 5 years as site in national clinical trials neuroscience network

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) funded NeuroNEXT for an additional 5 years and renewed UT Southwestern as a clinical site. The national network conducts clinical trials in neuroscience and was established to respond quickly to opportunities to test promising new treatments for neurological disorders.

UTSW NeuroNEXT PI Mark Goldberg, M.D., and Clinical Research Manager Mariam Andersen, M.A., (photo), were honored for their work on the NeuroNEXT executive committee. UT Southwestern is the number one recruiting site for the network.

Sherwood Brown, M.D., Ph.D., awarded 4 separate grants for investigation of a neurosteroid and a probiotic

Sherwood Brown, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry, is principal investigator on four new grants. Two of the grants will examine the neurosteroid pregnenolone as a treatment for mood disorders in women.

A two-site R01 grant from the National Institute on Aging, with UT Southwestern as the lead site and Massachusetts General Hospital as a participating site, will examine pregnenolone as a treatment for menopausal and perimenopausal depression. An R61/R33 medication development grant from the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health will use neuroimaging biomarkers to advance pregnenolone as a more general treatment for women with depression.

A new R01 from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, with Thomas Ritz, Ph.D., at Southern Methodist University, and collaboration with Denise Park, Ph.D., at the University of Texas at Dallas, will examine whether people with asthma show evidence of accelerated brain aging. Lastly, a grant from the Stanley Medical Research Institute will fund a study examining whether a probiotic can decrease readmission rates in people with bipolar disorder who have been recently hospitalized for a manic episode.
Expertise in management of NF2 and auditory brainstem implants distinguishes UTSW clinic

At least once a year, Gladys Reyes and her three daughters take a road trip from their home in Houston to UT Southwestern’s Otolaryngology Clinic. They make the 4-hour drive to see Dr. Walter Kutz and Dr. Laura Klesse, specialists in neurofibromatosis 2 (NF2). The inherited genetic disorder is marked by the proliferation of benign tumors on the nerves and spinal cord impacting hearing, balance, facial movement, and vision.

Mrs. Reyes does not have the disease but her daughters inherited NF2 from their father who lost hearing and vision on his right side and is hearing and vision impaired on his left side. He is also wheelchair-bound. When the Reyes family visits, the doctors spend one-on-one time with each girl since every NF2 case is complex in its own way.

Part of what makes NF2 so complex is the variability of the tumors and their growth, said Dr. Klesse. Each patient has tumors growing in different areas and therefore causing different symptoms. You can’t treat all NF2 patients the same.

One thing the sisters have in common, as with most NF2 patients, is bilateral acoustic neuromas which are tumors on the hearing and balance nerves. Sandra’s acoustic neuromas were more severe than her sisters and that prompted Mrs. Reyes to come to UT Southwestern, one of the only centers in the southern United States that offers the auditory brainstem implant (ABI). Dr. Kutz has special training with the device.
I trained at House Clinic as part of a 2-year fellowship in skull base surgery, said Dr. Kutz. This is where the ABI was developed, so I was able to gain unique experience with the it.

The ABI can restore some hearing for patients whose cochlear nerve was removed. Sandra still has hearing in one ear but in the other, a tumor had to be removed.

“She had a large tumor that could have become life-threatening with further growth, so we removed it and at the same time placed an ABI,” said Dr. Kutz. “We activated the ABI about 3 weeks after surgery, and Sandra had good sound awareness. Since she still has hearing in her other ear, she will not use the ABI until she loses hearing in the good ear.”

“We were afraid that because the tumor was attached to the facial nerve she would lose her dimple if the nerve was injured during surgery,” said Mrs. Reyes. “They did such a great job preserving the facial nerve, and she still has her dimple.”

The doctors are taking a wait-and-see approach with Sandra’s twin sister Sarah and younger sister Cynthia.

“Everyone with NF2 will have at least one surgery, if not multiple surgeries, to remove tumors causing symptoms on the spine or elsewhere in the brain,” said Dr. Klesse. “Patients can have issues with their eyes, including early cataracts, so close vision follow-up is also necessary. They can also have weakness and pain due to the tumors.”

UT Southwestern has a multidisciplinary program to manage NF2 cases including a vestibular rehabilitation program to treat imbalance disorders as well as specialists in otolaryngology, oncology, neurosurgery, neurology, audiology, plastic surgery, and others.

There is no cure for NF2 and chemotherapy can only slow down the tumors, so Dr. Kutz and Klesse’s job is to help families like the Reyes manage the disease and preserve as much quality of life as possible.

(on right) The Reyes family visits the giant eyeball in downtown Dallas after their clinic visit.
Faculty Promotions and Appointments

ANESTHESIOLOGY AND PAIN MANAGEMENT

David Busch, Ph.D., to the rank of Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management and Neurology and Neurotherapeutics (secondary appointment)

NEUROSCIENCE

Julian Meeks, Ph.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Neurology and Neurotherapeutics (secondary appointment)

Jonathan Terman, Ph.D., to the rank of Professor of Neuroscience

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Samuell L. Barnett, M.D., to the rank of Professor of Neurological Surgery and Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (secondary appointment)

NEUROLOGY AND NEUROTHEPRAUTICS

DaiWai Olson, Ph.D., R.N., to the rank of Professor of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics and Neurological Surgery (secondary appointment)

Juan Pascual, M.D., Ph.D., to the rank of Professor of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics, Pediatrics (secondary appointment), Physiology (secondary appointment), and the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development (secondary appointment)

PEDIATRICS

Steven Gray, Ph.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Neurology and Neurotherapeutics (secondary appointment), and Molecular Biology and the Hamon Center for Regenerative Science of Medicine (secondary appointment)

PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

Kim Barker, M.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation

Nneka L. Ifejika, M.D., Ph.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Neurology and Neurotherapeutics (secondary appointment), and Clinical Sciences (secondary appointment)

Robert Rinaldi, M.D., to Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

PSYCHIATRY

Osman M. Ali, M.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Psychiatry

David Atkinson, M.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Mary Ellen Bret, M.D., to the rank of Professor of Psychiatry

Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Gloria J. Emmett, Ph.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Psychiatry
PSYCHIATRY

Ran Friedman, M.D., to the rank of Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Nicole Gutierrez, M.D., to the rank of Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Dina Hooshyar, M.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Michael David Laney, M.D., to the rank of Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Alyson K. Nakamura, M.D., to the rank of Professor of Psychiatry

Shirali S. Patel, M.D., to the rank of Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Sidarth Wakhlu, M.D., to the rank of Professor of Psychiatry

Andrea Leigh Zartman, Ph.D., to the rank of Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Kavita Trivedi, D.O., has been named Associate Medical Director of the UT Southwestern Spine Center.

Dr. Trivedi is Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She is a specialist in the nonsurgical treatment of spine and other types of musculoskeletal pain.

Gang Yu, Ph.D., Professor of Neuroscience, is the inaugural holder of the Rosalee G. and James M. McConnell Professorship in Alzheimer’s Disease Research.

The McConnell Professorship endowment was established to support basic or clinical research in the diagnosis, genetics, prevention or cure of Alzheimer’s disease.
Awards and Recognition

David R. Busch, Ph.D., was named a Senior Member of The Optical Society, a distinction that recognizes experience and professional accomplishments within the field of optics and photonics. He was also named a fellow of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery. Dr. Busch is Assistant Professor in the departments of Anesthesiology and Pain Management and Neurology and Neurotherapeutics.

Celeste Johnson, DNP, APRN, PMH, and Kimberly Roaten, Ph.D., are nominated for the 2018 D CEO Magazine “Excellence in Healthcare Award for Healthcare Innovator of the Year.”

Drs. Johnson and Roaten created, implemented, and now lead the Parkland Hospital Universal Suicide Screening Program. Each month, nearly 50,000 suicide screenings are completed in the Parkland Health System for more than 2 million total to date.

Dr. Johnson is Vice President of Behavioral Health at Parkland Hospital. Dr. Roaten is Associate Professor of Psychiatry. The D award winner will be announced in November 2018.

Veronica Bordes-Edgar, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, will serve in a leadership role with the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN). Dr. Edgar was elected to the AACN’s Board of Directors.
Mary Tanner, PT
Outpatient PM&R, Zale Lipshy University Hospital

Mary received the UTSW Strauss Award for the second quarter. She coordinates the outpatient rehabilitation program for lung transplant patients. Mary helped develop the program and remains actively involved in its implementation and assessment, always looking for areas of improvement. Mary is board-certified in orthopedic physical therapy, and involved with teaching at UTSW’s School of Health Professions. She also serves as a clinical coordinator, communicating with other physical therapy schools and coordinating student clinical rotations in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Outpatient Therapy Services.

Lauren Phillips, M.D., was accepted into the Leadership Emerging in Academic Departments (LEAD) Program. Dr. Phillips is Assistant Professor of Neurology and Director of the Neurology Residency Program. The LEAD program is for junior faculty who want to explore and develop leadership potential.

Melissa Cunanan, BSN, RN, CCRN, is President-Elect of the North Texas Chapter of the Philippines Nurses Association of America. Melissa is a member of the NeuroICU team at Zale Lipshy University Hospital.
Yasin Y. Dhaher, Ph.D., joins the O’Donnell Brain Institute as Vice Chair of Research for the Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) and Orthopaedic Surgery.

He was most recently Professor of PM&R at Northwestern University. The central theme of his research is to understand the basic biomechanical and neurophysiological properties of the lower limbs after neurological lesions and post stroke impairments. His research group has conducted a series of experiments to explore the neuro-mechanical underpinnings of these impairments after stroke with the goal of informing future clinical interventions.

Dr. Dhaher’s research program has been anchored by NIH, DOE-NIDRR, NSF, DOD, and foundational grant funding. In addition, he served as mentor on a number of pre-doctoral and post-doctoral awards (NIH as well as foundational awards), NIH-Rehabilitation Medicine Scientist Training Program awards, and NIH–Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development awards.

At UT Southwestern, Dr. Dhaher will build a research program that spans bioengineering and regeneration medicine with the ultimate goal of building a bridge between basic science and clinicians.

“We are very excited about the opportunity to pursue knowledge expansion at the interface between the central nervous system and movement,” said Dr. Kathleen Bell, Chair of UT Southwestern’s Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. “Dr. Dhaher has a track record of accomplishment in this area as well as mentoring of young physicians, engineers, and scientists. I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to collaborate closely with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in supporting this true exploration of mind and body.”

New Faculty and APPs

Psychiatry

Emine Rabia Ayvaci, M.D.
Instructor
Psychiatric Epidemiology, Homelessness, Substance Abuse

Jai Ghandi, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Race/Ethnicity, Mental Health

Heejin Kim, Psy.D., ABPP-CN
Assistant Professor
Dementia, Stroke, Geropsychology

Qiwei Li, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Bayesian Statistics
**Psychiatry**

**Christian LoBue, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Traumatic Brain Injury, Neurodegenerative Disease, Neurovascular Disorders

**Paige Marnell, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Addiction and Physician Wellness

**Caitlin Reese, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Neurodegenerative diseases, Epilepsy and seizures, Concussion

**Megan Tierney, Psy.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Pediatric, Consult-Liaison and ARFID

**Zakaria Zayour, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Opioid and Alcohol Addiction, PTSD

**Neurology**

**Jami Landers, APP**  
Epilepsy Monitoring Unit

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**O'Donnell Headlines**

**Dr. Peter Tsai, M.D., Ph.D.,** led a multi-center study that tested a therapy for autism and the results show promise for older teens and adults. Researchers were able to reverse some of the social deficits related to autism in adult mice. Dr. Tsai's findings were published in Cell Reports. [Read more about the study.](utswmed.org/odonnell)

**Dr. Steven Gray** has pioneered gene therapies for several rare diseases and is currently working to find treatments for others. One of these is multiple sulfatase deficiency (MSD) – an inherited metabolic disorder. [Read more about Dr. Gray’s work in the UT Southwestern Gene Therapy Center.](utswmed.org/odonnell)

**Jennifer L. Hughes, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, Assistant Professor and Licensed Psychologist at the Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care, recently gave a TEDxKids talk at SMU on the topic of resilience. Dr. Hughes is the head of the CDRC Risk and Resilience Network and focuses on understanding the value of struggle, including positive struggle, in building resilience. [Watch Dr. Hughes’ talk.](utswmed.org/odonnell)
The UT Southwestern Adaptive Sports Coalition held its annual Expo in September to raise awareness about the benefits of adaptive sports for people with mobility, cognitive, and visual impairments.

The Expo was held at the University of Texas at Arlington where participants were able to try out a variety of sports.

There were also demonstrations showing how people living with disabilities can take part in physical activities in a variety of ways.

The coalition is comprised of members from local adaptive sports groups including UT Southwestern’s Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, UT Arlington, UTA Movin’ Mavs and Ladies Movin’ Mavs, Texas Paralympic Regional Sport, Southwestern Wheelchair Athletic Association, Project Invest, Texas Woman’s University, and more.
Neurosphere at Science Saturday

Hundreds of budding scientists filled UT Southwestern’s Donald Seldin’s Plaza on south campus on November 3, 2018, for the first ever Science Saturday.

More than 25 interactive booths highlighted what goes on behind laboratory doors.

The O’Donnell Brain Institute and Dr. Mark Goldberg provided an immersive experience into the brain with Neurosphere - an IMAX-type film focused on how imaging is helping scientists unlock the brain’s secrets.

The film (photo on right) was shown in an inflatable dome and narrated by Elizabeth Davenport, Ph.D., and Denise Ramirez, Ph.D.
UT Southwestern employees had a special day at the Perot Museum on October 20, 2018. Lots of families were there to enjoy the interactive exhibits.

The O’Donnell Brain Institute manned several tables including “Ask a Brain Scientist” (top left) and the Con-Tex table (bottom left) where Dr. Stephen Bunt shared concussion information, and offered the dowel response time test and proper helmet fittings information.
Upcoming Events

TAMEST 2019 Conference: Neuroscience and Brain Health
Joseph Takahashi, Ph.D., Chair of Neuroscience, is Program Chair for the 2019 conference. The meeting will cover topics including neurodegeneration, addiction and the opioid crisis, neurological disease prevention, technological advances in mapping the brain, and neuroscience research priorities and challenges that lie ahead. The TAMEST Annual Conference is open to all in the research community. Learn more.

When: January 14-16, 2019
Where: Horseshoe Bay, Texas
Learn more and register.

2019 Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference
Sponsored by the UTD Center for Vital Longevity. Conference brings together scientists who are focused on the cognitive neuroscience of aging to share their latest findings and insights. Learn more.

When: January 26-28, 2019
Where: Marriott City Center in Dallas.
Learn more and register.

Photo Session for Faculty and APPs

Is your professional photo from another decade? Were you having a bad/big hair day the last time you stepped in front of a camera?

If you answered yes, please attend the upcoming photo session.

Dates: December 10, 2018
Times: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: CUH, 3rd floor patient lobby

Contact Paige Poletes to schedule a time slot. paige.poletes@utsouthwestern.edu 214-405-5526
Respiratory Therapists learn how to place peripheral IVs

Respiratory Therapists at Clements and Zale Lipshy University Hospitals are getting trained on placing ultrasound-guided peripheral IVs. A training class was held in October for additional staff. RTs have placed more than 2,000 ultrasound-guided peripheral IVs since June 2017.

The goal is to provide quality and timely vascular access to patients with a “no blind stick” approach.

Inpatient Rehab team treats patients to Halloween fun

The Inpatient Rehab unit at Zale Lipshy University Hospital held a Fall Festival for patients who could not be home for Halloween. The staff traded in their scrubs to dress as their favorite superheroes.

Patients made trail mix, painted pumpkins and also “bobbed” for pumpkins.

Neurosurgery residents are Tough Mudders!

It’s safe to say that our Neurosurgery residents do not mind getting a little dirty. They took part in a “Tough Mudder” race in Midlothian this fall. The muddy course was 5K and had 13 obstacles along the way to the finish line. This is the third year in a row that the residents have participated in the race.