

# ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

THOUGHTS AND UPDATES FROM DR. W. P. ANDREW LEE

June 8, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that UT Southwestern has been granted the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) – a \$46 million, five-year grant – from the National Institutes of Health. With this award, UT Southwestern joins a national network of medical research institutions tasked with working together to speed the translation of research discovery into improved patient care.

UT Southwestern is uniquely positioned to administer this grant through our Center for Translational Medicine (CTM), directed by Dr. Robert Toto, Associate Dean for Translational Science and Education, and Principal Investigator of the CTSA hub, our consortium of seven academic institutions, five health care systems, and six teaching hospitals in North Texas, serving a population of about 7.4 million. This grant recognizes the effectiveness of our institution's scientists and our growing clinical network to create a vibrant, translational research training and clinical care environment.

The CTSA grant will provide resources to strengthen our clinical and translational research infrastructures, which support investigators, students, and trainees in accelerating the translation of scientific discovery into improved health.

An important aspect of the grant that closely aligns with our institutional priorities is to further engage those underrepresented in biomedical research – including racial/ethnic minorities and women – to expand our highly-functioning diverse and inclusive translational workforce. It also seeks to address the health challenges of vulnerable and medically underserved populations by supporting innovative approaches that enable scientists and clinicians to engage community members in the design and conduct of clinical research.

Leveraging the expertise of our Department of Population and Data Sciences, the CTSA will support data-driven evaluation and quality improvement to promote personalized medicine and population health. With our Clinical Informatics Center, UT Southwestern will continue to provide streamlined access to the data and informatics infrastructure required for research teams to rapidly employ real-world, clinically-generated data to glean new insights, and in turn improve health.

Through the leadership of Dr. Eric Peterson, Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research, and Dr. Toto, the CTSA will be leveraged to support UT Southwestern's transformation in clinical and translational science, and investigation that aspires to raise clinical research to new levels of accomplishment.

I want to thank the members of the CTSA leadership team for their work and commitment:

- Robert Toto, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine, Population and Data Sciences, and in the Charles and Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research; Principal Investigator, CTSA
- Chul Ahn, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Population and Data Sciences

- Keith Argenbright, M.D., M.M.M., Professor, Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, Family and Community Medicine, and Population and Data Sciences; Director, Moncrief Cancer Institute
- Bijal Balasubramanian, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., M.P.H., Dean, UTHealth School of Public Health, Dallas Regional Campus
- Jarett Berry, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine and Population and Data Sciences
- Gaudenz Danuser, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman, Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics and Cell Biology
- James de Lemos, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine
- Ralph DeBerardinis, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pediatrics, and in the Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern and in the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development
- Tracy Greer, Ph.D., M.S.C.S., Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry
- Ethan Halm, M.D., M.P.H., Professor of Internal Medicine and Population and Data Sciences
- Jeffrey Kahn, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Microbiology
- David Karp, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Internal Medicine
- Simon Craddock Lee, Ph.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, Department of Population and Data Sciences
- Christoph Lehmann, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Population and Data Sciences, and in the Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics; Director, Clinical Informatics Center
- Stacy Pritt, D.V.M., Assistant Vice President, Conflict of Interest and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
- W. Gary Reed, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine, Surgery, and Quality Safety Outcomes Education
- Madhukar Trivedi, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry; Director, Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care
- DuWayne Willett, M.D., M.S., Professor of Internal Medicine
- Helen Yin, Ph.D., Professor of Physiology and Faculty Diversity & Development; Associate Dean, Office of Women's Careers

I commend the ingenuity and dedication of these investigators who worked tirelessly to secure this grant. I am excited to support CTSA's activities to advance translational science, respond to the health needs of our community, and promote team science.



Sincerely,

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W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School

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