



*Pictured Above: UT Southwestern Medical Center and University of Texas at Dallas officials participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Biomedical Engineering and Sciences building on UT Southwestern's East Campus.*

A new [Biomedical Engineering and Sciences Building](#) will catalyze a unique partnership between UT Southwestern and UT Dallas to leverage the two institutions' traditional strengths in biomedical and engineering sciences and accelerate the translation of these advances into the clinic.

Scheduled for completion in 2023, the project includes financial support from the Permanent University Fund of the University of Texas System, and a \$15 million gift from Texas Instruments, which is half of the current fundraising goal. The new facility has been named the Texas Instruments Biomedical Engineering and Sciences Building.

It will support the work of dozens of faculty and their teams with both wet and dry laboratory space. In addition, it will house the new UT Southwestern Department of Biomedical Engineering led by the incoming inaugural Chair, Dr. Samuel Achilefu, and provide areas designated specifically to promote multidisciplinary interactions.

"[This] will not just be a place for collaboration, but for integration, for merging of ideas in such a way that we can explore new frontiers," said Dr. Achilefu during the groundbreaking ceremony. "When we can work together as a team, we can transform the world as we know it."

## UTSW Launches Virtual Tour Tool

*Pictured left:*  
This aerial view of campus opens the newly launched UT Southwestern [YouVisit tour](#). Created to assist with recruitment efforts, the interactive campus tour



brings to life what a future at UTSW could look like for prospective learners and faculty members.

## Developing Leaders at UT Southwestern



The [Leadership Emerging in Academic Departments \(LEAD\) program](#) welcomes its 2022 class today, marking 10 years of continuous leadership training for junior faculty at UT Southwestern.

Designed for assistant professors and associate professors with fewer than four years in rank, the LEAD program has trained 304 faculty members, providing an opportunity to learn and practice how to influence decisions and affect their surroundings.

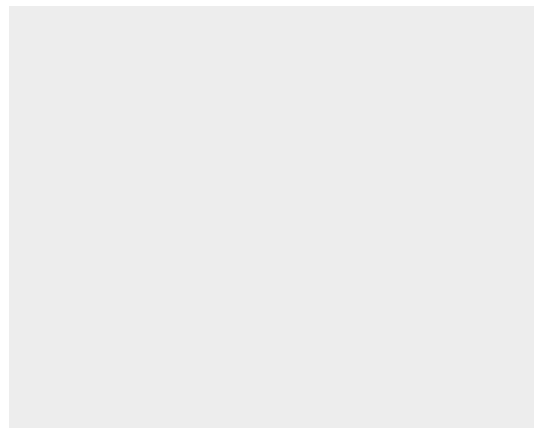
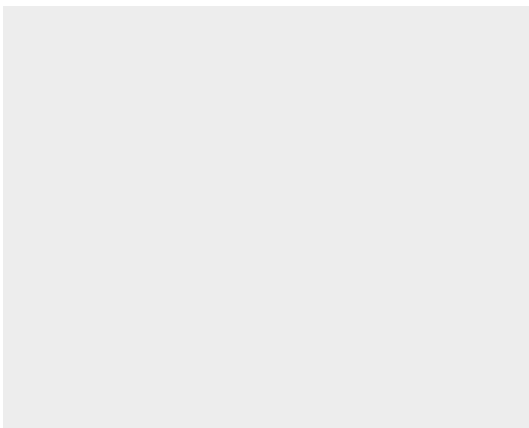
As part of the 12-month program, each faculty identifies a challenge confronting his or her unit, and develops a capstone project to propose a solution. Even though implementation is not a requirement, approximately 50% of the projects are adopted.

The LEAD 2021 Capstone Dean's Award Winners were announced last week during the graduation ceremony of the outgoing class:

- **Michael Fediw, M.D.** – "*Neoadjuvant Rehabilitation in Gastrointestinal Malignancies: Developing a Multidisciplinary Prehabilitation Program to Improve Post-Surgical Outcomes.*" [View poster.](#)
- **Bethany L. Lussier, M.D., FCCP** – "*Access Granted: Building a Neuromuscular Pulmonology and Home-Based Ventilation Clinic at Parkland Hospital.*" [View poster.](#)
- **Jessica Moore, M.D.** – "*Bridging the Gap and Building the Future: Development of a Transitional Age Youth Mental Health Program.*" [View poster.](#)
- **Caroline Park, M.D., M.P.H.** – "*Leveling Up Informed Consent: How Video-Based Informed Consent Can Improve Satisfaction and Improve Outcomes in the ICU.*" [View poster.](#)
- **Jessica H. Voit, M.D.** – "*A UT Southwestern Hospital Elder Life Program: HELP to Reduce Delirium in the Hospital.*" [View poster.](#)

## Faculty Announcements

### Drs. Catherine Spong and J. William Harbour Appointed as New Academic Department Chairs





Catherine Spong, M.D., is the new Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, where she had served as Vice Chair since 2018.

A renowned expert in maternal-fetal medicine, she has authored many landmark clinical trials in obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, and fetal surgery that have defined the standard of care.

Before joining UT Southwestern, she spent 23 years in leadership roles at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

As Chair, Dr. Spong plans to expand research, grow the Division of Gynecology, and develop specialty clinics to enhance the institution's local, national, and international reputation. [Read more.](#)



J. William Harbour, M.D., is the new Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology. Dr. Harbour joins us from the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

Dr. Harbour leads a busy clinical/surgical practice and an active laboratory where he studies key genetic and epigenetic events associated with tumor progression and metastasis in uveal melanoma and retinoblastoma, with the goal of developing new precision therapeutic strategies.

A native of Dallas, he has watched UT Southwestern grow into one of the nation's premier academic medical centers. As Chair, Dr. Harbour sees a great opportunity in the ophthalmology field to make UT Southwestern a major regional referral center. [Read more.](#)

## Congratulations to our Faculty Award Recipients



Ralph DeBerardinis, M.D., Ph.D., is one of three researchers honored with the 2021 Memorial Sloan Kettering



Sam McBrayer, Ph.D., is one of six winners of the 2021 Distinguished Scientist Award, presented by the Sontag



Vivienne Roche, M.D., has been recognized with the UT System's highest honor for an educator – the Regents'

Paul Marks Prize for Cancer Research. The award recognizes scientists making significant contributions to the understanding and treatment of cancer through basic or clinical research. [Read more.](#)

Foundation. The award is given annually to remarkable scientists with the potential to make a significant impact in the field of brain cancer research. [Read more.](#)

Outstanding Teaching Award. This honor recognizes exceptional teaching, mentoring, and personal commitment to students and the learning process. [Read more.](#)

## 2021 Leaders in Clinical Excellence

The [Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards](#) recognized the exceptional contributions of clinical faculty to the care of our patients, to the education of the next generation of health care professionals, and to UT Southwestern overall. Congratulations to this year's winners!



## School of Health Professions Commencement

[UT Southwestern's School of Health Professions](#) will honor 132 graduates from six academic programs during its commencement ceremony on Dec. 12.

The Class of 2021 will receive degrees for Master of Prosthetics-Orthotics, Master of Physician Assistant Studies, Master of Clinical Nutrition, Doctor of Physical Therapy, and Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Clinical Research. Additionally, four students will receive their Master of Radiation Therapy, marking the program's final cohort.

This year's graduates were among the first to undergo Cultural Competency and Implicit Bias Modules added in 2020 as part of the school's expanded diversity and inclusion programming. The training teaches students strategies to provide culturally competent care and how to recognize and mitigate bias, preparing them to deliver quality patient care, and reduce biases and health disparities.

For over 50 years, the school has educated students for careers in health care. It offers top-tier facilities, dynamic training methods, and a highly distinguished faculty – 88% of which are practicing care providers. Employment rate for students six months after graduation is 100%, according to data collected by each program.



## Upcoming Events

### State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC)

Dec. 10 is the new deadline to contribute to this year's [SECC](#). There are [several hundred state-vetted charities](#) to select from, so you can give to the causes and organizations that speak to you. Donating is easy through [PeopleSoft](#).

### Faculty Wellness Room Opening

On Dec. 14-16, faculty may tour a newly designated Wellness Room located at 02.335 in William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital. Representatives from the Office of Faculty Wellness will be present from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to present the new space designed to be a place to relax and recharge. Faculty may use the room at any time. Email [FacultyWellness@UTSouthwestern.edu](mailto:FacultyWellness@UTSouthwestern.edu) to request the access code.



### Successfully Obtaining an R (SOAR) Grant Program

Jan. 20, 2022 is the [application deadline](#) for the [SOAR R-Grant Writers Workshop](#). This grantsmanship program provides junior faculty conducting basic, translational, or clinical research the opportunity to work with a coach to craft a fundable proposal.

### 2022 Alfred G. Gilman Educational Symposium

Save the date for the annual Alfred G. Gilman Educational Symposium taking place April 7, 2022, under the theme *The Pillars of Education: Innovate, Build, Deliver*. Hosted by the Southwestern Academy of Teachers, the event will feature Dr. Eugene C. Toy, Assistant Dean for Educational Programs and Professor and Vice Chair of Medical Education in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the McGovern Medical School at UTHealth in Houston.

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### Staying Connected, Informed, and Involved

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