

U T S O U T H W E S T E R N M E D I C A L C E N T E R

★ LEADERS IN CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS ★



DECEMBER 2, 2020

Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards Presentation Program Agenda

Remarks from Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky

Presentation of Awards by Drs. Daniel K. Podolsky, W. P. Andrew Lee, and John Warner

Rising Star Award

- Jaime Almandoz, M.D., MBA
- Neil B. Desai, M.D.
- Brad Lega, M.D.
- Megan G. Maxwell, M.D.

Mentoring Award

- Susan Hedayati, M.D., M.H.Sc.
- Una Makris, M.D., M.Sc.

Patient and Family Recognition Award

- Kevin Courtney, M.D., Ph.D.
- A. Thomas Hyslop, M.D.
- Catherine Minor Ikemba, M.D.
- Joel E. Wells, M.D., M.P.H.

Program Development Award

- Abdominal Transplant Program – Steven Hanish, M.D.; Jorge Marrero, M.D.; Parsia A. Vagefi, M.D.; David Wojciechowski, D.O.
- Care of the Vulnerable Elderly (COVE) Program – Namirah Jamshed, M.D.

Institutional Service Award

- Cecelia (Shiela) Brewington, M.D., FACP
- Carol L. Croft, M.D.

The President's Award for Diversity and Humanism in Clinical Care

- Naomi Winick, M.D.

Patricia and William L. Watson Jr., M.D. Award for Excellence in Clinical Medicine

- Mark H. Drazner, M.D., M.Sc.



Rising Star Award

This award recognizes exceptional early-career clinical faculty whose actions and activities consistently exemplify enthusiasm, commitment, professionalism, and leadership.



Jaime Almandoz, M.D., MBA

Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

Since he joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2013, Dr. Almandoz has been making a name for himself and UT Southwestern in the field of obesity medicine, creating and building what some say is becoming one of the top obesity programs in the country. An endocrinologist and expert in nonsurgical weight management and the medical care of patients following bariatric surgery, he founded UTSW's Weight Wellness Program. Together, the multidisciplinary team – obesity medicine physicians, advanced practice providers, dietitians, and a clinical psychologist – handles more than 10,000 patient visits a year, even as it maintains high patient satisfaction scores. Originally from Trinidad in the Caribbean, Dr. Almandoz earned his medical degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, graduating first in his class.

As the primary expert on obesity medicine at UTSW, Dr. Almandoz is sought out as a mentor and collaborator on campus. One colleague notes that "Dr. Almandoz understands how his clinical program fits into the ecosystem of UT Southwestern overall." ■



Neil B. Desai, M.D.

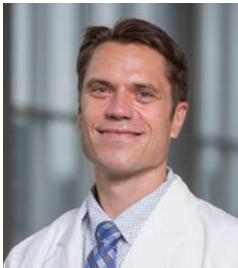
Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology

Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dr. Desai was recruited to UT Southwestern as a radiation oncologist in 2015 following his residency at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. During his time at UT Southwestern, he has built a reputation of being a uniquely driven engine for collaboration in nearly every corner of his work, which has carried him to high regard by his patients and peers on campus and across the nation.

Specializing in the treatment of genitourinary and hematologic malignancies and, specifically, prostate cancer, Dr. Desai is known as an early adopter, investigator, and instructor for various devices and tests, making him a standard-bearer for UT Southwestern's innovative, personalized care. Among other accomplishments, he has been selected as principal investigator of a national six-center clinical trial and for an upcoming national cooperative group phase three trial.

Add to this Dr. Desai's unwavering self-critiques that improve processes and treatments for patients, and it's clear why he is a role model for his trainees and peers on making a commitment to growth. ■

**Brad Lega, M.D.***Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery, Neurology, and Psychiatry**Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute*

Dr. Lega's clinical focus is epilepsy, and his expertise and technological skills have enabled UT Southwestern to dramatically increase the number of surgical epilepsy cases, leading to UTSW's accreditation as a Level IV epilepsy center.

Dr. Lega, who joined the Department of Neurological Surgery in 2014, earned his medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine and then completed a neurosurgery residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He performed his fellowship in epilepsy surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, where he gained expertise in the use of stereo EEG, a technique used to identify whether patients with epilepsy are candidates for surgical treatment. He is one of only a handful of neurosurgeons in the country using this technique.

Along with being a gifted surgeon, Dr. Lega is highly regarded as an educator and mentor, consistently receiving high marks from students and residents. Over the past year, he created a neuroscience course to provide instruction to learners during the COVID-19 pandemic. ■

**Megan G. Maxwell, M.D.***Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management*

Dr. Maxwell, an anesthesiologist in the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, leads a revamped UT Southwestern presurgical/preprocedural testing enterprise that reaches more than 45,000 patients and procedures a year. In that role, she interfaces with dozens of surgical and procedural faculty members across UT Southwestern on a daily basis and maintains an active clinical presence, specializing in general anesthesia and obstetrics anesthesia.

Dr. Maxwell joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2014, after earning her medical degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and completing her residency in anesthesiology at UTSW. Eventually, she was charged with reorganizing and expanding UT Southwestern's presurgical efforts and activities, and she has since built a collaborative program inclusive of nursing, advanced practice providers, internal medicine, geriatrics, nutrition, infection prevention, and hospital operations.

Known as an expert in her field, she implemented a reliable presurgical testing program around COVID-19, ensuring safety for patients, staff, and faculty. ■

Mentoring Award

This award celebrates clinicians who demonstrate exceptional commitment and effectiveness as a mentor to health care providers.



Susan Hedayati, M.D., M.H.Sc.

Professor of Internal Medicine – Nephrology

Director, Nephrology Clinical and Population Health Research

Associate Vice Chair, Research and Faculty Development

Throughout her 16 years at UT Southwestern, Dr. Hedayati has performed various roles, including formerly serving as Director of the Nephrology Fellowship Program and the Nephrology Division Chief at the VA North Texas Health Care System. As the Nephrology Fellowship Program Director, she introduced simulation-based teaching to improve the safety of kidney biopsies and central line placements for patients.

Dr. Hedayati is an independent NIH-funded clinical investigator who has used her research as a platform to mentor a broad group of 24 trainees, from medical students to residents, fellows, and junior faculty. She remains active as an educator at the national level, including serving as faculty for the American College of Physicians MKSAP Board Review Course and the American Society of Nephrology In-Training Examination. At UT Southwestern, she holds the Yin Quan-Yuen Distinguished Professorship in Nephrology. ■



Una Makris, M.D., M.Sc.

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Population and Data Sciences

Division of Rheumatic Diseases

Dr. Makris, who joined UT Southwestern's faculty in 2011, developed the Rheumatology Fellowship Mentoring Program and implemented the Writing Accountability Group, an initiative that has been enormously successful in helping many clinician-scientists document, submit, and publish their research. She regularly conducts career development workshops and is a popular lecturer for internal medicine residents and rheumatology fellows, providing guidance for careers in academic medicine or community practice.

On the national level, Dr. Makris helped to establish CARMA (Creating Adult Rheumatology Mentorship in Academia), a program designed to match fellows and junior faculty with mentors across institutions. She is the recipient of numerous awards for her research on aging, particularly in the areas of chronic musculoskeletal pain. Among other honors, she has received the American Geriatrics Society's New Investigator Award. Dr. Makris completed advanced training in rheumatology, clinical epidemiology, and aging research through fellowships at Yale University School of Medicine. ■

Patient and Family Recognition Award

This award honors clinical faculty whose dedication to the compassionate, respectful delivery of exceptional patient care has garnered the highest degree of patient trust and satisfaction.



Kevin Courtney, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine – Hematology and Oncology

Co-leader of the Genitourinary Oncology Disease-Oriented Team

Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center

As a specialist in genitourinary cancers, Dr. Courtney treats patients with advanced and metastatic disease, for whom his bedside manner can be as important as his clinical skills and collaborative abilities in working as part of a multidisciplinary team. Dr. Courtney joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2012, after serving as an Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He earned his medical degree and a doctorate in molecular cancer biology at Duke University. He completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and received advanced training in oncology through a fellowship at the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. He also holds a master's degree in clinical sciences from UT Southwestern.

Among other recognitions, he was named a Clinical Research Scholar in 2013 by the UTSW Department of Clinical Sciences and is the recipient of the John W. Boddie, Ph.D. & Joan Reisch, Ph.D. Fund in Prostate Cancer Research in Honor of Dr. Kevin Courtney. ■



A. Thomas Hyslop, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Hyslop received his medical training at UT Southwestern and completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at UTSW's former St. Paul University Hospital. Following 20 years as a private practitioner in Dallas, he joined the UTSW faculty in 2012.

Many of his patients comment on the number of friends and family members whom they have referred to Dr. Hyslop because of their satisfaction in his care – a testament to his clinical excellence, said Robyn Horsager-Boehrer, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital. "A visit to an Ob/Gyn can often be anxiety provoking and even uncomfortable," Dr. Horsager-Boehrer says. "To have so many women who happily refer their mothers, sisters, and daughters to their own doctor speaks to the high level of trust they have in his care."

Dr. Hyslop has received numerous other honors and accolades in the years since, including being named a Super Doctor by *Texas Monthly*. ■

**Catherine Minor Ikemba, M.D.**

*Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Cardiology
Director, Fetal Heart Program*

A highly skilled pediatric cardiologist with special expertise in noninvasive diagnostic imaging, Dr. Ikemba is on the front line of detection and management of congenital heart anomalies. Her patients often express their gratitude for her extraordinary skills and her capacity for empathy and patience.

Dr. Ikemba, who joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2003, earned her medical degree at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She completed additional training in pediatric cardiology and advanced noninvasive pediatric and fetal cardiac imaging through separate fellowships at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

She currently oversees the Fetal Heart Program at Children's Medical Center Dallas, also seeing patients at Parkland Memorial Hospital and William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital. She has published broadly in academic medical journals and delivered numerous invited lectures on her areas of expertise.

Among many other honors, she was included in *D Magazine's* Best Doctors list for 2018, 2019, and 2020. ■

**Joel E. Wells, M.D., M.P.H.**

*Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
UT Southwestern Orthopaedic Surgery Clinic
Sports Medicine Clinic at Richardson/Plano*

A specialist in comprehensive hip surgery, Dr. Wells provides care for patients of all ages. He is an expert at performing periacetabular osteotomies, a complex surgery for repositioning the hip joint.

Dr. Wells has unique insight into his patients' treatment and recovery, in part due to his background as a college baseball player who was drafted by the New York Mets in 2006. His colleagues laud him for his attention to detail, compassion, and approachability and note his "immense understanding of what it means to truly care for patients."

Dr. Wells is a prolific author, with numerous peer-reviewed articles covering every aspect of hip surgery. He and his team put together a guide for patients to use through their journey to recovery.

Outside of UT Southwestern, Dr. Wells volunteers in the Frisco ISD Mentoring Program and at the Agape Clinic, a facility designed to provide quality health care services to underserved people. He also works hard to make his 2-year-old son, Gabe, and his wife, Katerina, a colorectal surgeon, proud. ■

Program Development Award

This award celebrates the innovation and collaboration that are foundational to the success of UT Southwestern Medical Center. It recognizes a group of clinical faculty and staff who have worked together as a team to create, develop, and sustain an innovative program that significantly advances our ability to improve the care received by our patients.

Abdominal Transplant Program



Steven Hanish, M.D.

Associate Professor of Surgery and Surgical Director of Liver Transplantation



Jorge Marrero, M.D.

Professor of Internal Medicine and Medical Director of Liver Transplantation



Parsia A. Vagefi, M.D.

Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief, Division of Surgical Transplantation



David Wojciechowski, D.O.

*Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Surgery and
Medical Director of Kidney Transplantation*

Since the first kidney and liver transplants were performed at UT Southwestern in 2007, the growth of the Abdominal Transplant Program has been remarkable. Thanks to a commitment to preeminent clinical quality, enhanced patient access, and cutting-edge translational research, the kidney and liver programs have become market leaders.

In the past three years alone, the kidney program has grown from 55 transplants a year to an expected 240+ procedures in 2020. During that same time, the liver program has grown from 57 transplants a year to an estimated 115+ this year. Alongside the rapid growth, quality has remained an utmost priority, with outcomes for both programs now exceeding both expected and national benchmarks.

Research and innovation also have driven both programs to greater recognition and success, as has a commitment to educating future transplant practitioners through fellowship programs in transplant surgery, nephrology, and hepatology.

Ultimately, as program leaders point out, transplant is a team endeavor. The collaborative efforts of a multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurse coordinators, dietitians, social workers, pharmacists, financial counselors, administrators, and others enable the abdominal transplant programs to provide superior care at every step of the patient's journey. ■

Care of the Vulnerable Elderly (COVE) Program



Namirah Jamshed, M.D.

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Family and Community Medicine

UT Southwestern's COVE program (Care of the Vulnerable Elderly) was established in 2015 to serve patients ages 65 and older. Led by Dr. Namirah Jamshed, Associate Professor in the Departments of Internal Medicine and Family and Community Medicine, COVE provides primary care for patients both at home and in assisted-living facilities. These patients are referred by a UTSW clinic because they have difficulty performing daily activities or are challenged to come to their providers' offices for medical appointments. COVE-provided care also helps alleviate some caregiver burdens.

Started with just 70 patients, the program today delivers care to nearly 350 seniors who live within 10 miles of UT Southwestern's campus. Care is provided by an interdisciplinary team that includes geriatric-trained physicians, nurse practitioners, a registered nurse, a licensed social worker, and a clinical coordinator.

Proof of the program's effectiveness is shown in the numbers: a reduction in Emergency Department visits, hospitalizations, and outpatient visits. One analysis indicated that compared to similar patients who did not receive home visits, UT Southwestern COVE patients had 12 percent fewer emergency room visits, nearly 35 percent fewer hospitalizations, almost 17 percent fewer readmissions, and 29 percent fewer specialist visits.

Because of its impressive success, UTSW's COVE program has been invited to help develop national benchmarks for elder care, one of only nine programs tapped to participate in the effort by the Learning Collaborative for Home-Based Medical Care. ■

Institutional Service Award

This award honors clinical faculty who consistently share time and expertise in service to internal committees, task forces, and other institutional activities that make a significant impact on the care delivered to UT Southwestern patients.



Cecelia (Shiela) Brewington, M.D., FACR

Professor of Radiology

Vice Chair of Clinical Operations

Chief of Community Radiology

Dr. Brewington has spent her medical career at UT Southwestern, beginning soon after completing a residency in diagnostic radiology and a fellowship in body imaging at UTSW in the mid-1990s. She has managed the radiology operations for UT Southwestern's growing outpatient imaging services, including the establishment of new services in Fort Worth, Richardson, Las Colinas, and Frisco.

She has worked with pulmonologists to establish the institution's first lung cancer screening program and spearheaded UTSW's colonography program. Among her 60+ committee assignments at UTSW, Dr. Brewington has held positions involving the incorporation of HIPAA guidelines, the Health System five-year strategic plan, and membership on the business operations board of the Medical Service Research and Development Plan.

Dr. Brewington is also known as an advocate for the health of underserved populations and as a mentor to women and people of color at UT Southwestern. ■



Carol L. Croft, M.D.

Professor of Internal Medicine

After completing her internal medicine residency at UT Southwestern, Dr. Croft joined the faculty in 1994, and she has served as a critical leader across the entire landscape of UTSW clinical enterprises.

Her involvement in institutional service has ranged from education and faculty development to hospital quality and safety, as well as pharmacy/therapeutics and perioperative services. Over the course of her career, she has served on more than 40 different committees at UTSW, including at least 10 where she has been either Chair or Co-chair. Among those, she is the founding Chair of the Clinical Care Learning Group, which seeks to improve the care UTSW delivers. A inquisitive diagnostician and a tenacious patient advocate, Dr. Croft has been recognized on *D Magazine's* Best Doctors list for 15 consecutive years. She holds the Baldridge Family Professorship in Internal Medicine and Preventive Care. ■

The President's Award for Diversity and Humanism in Clinical Care

This award honors clinical faculty who exemplify the humanistic spirit of patient-centered medicine, both through clinical excellence and in outstanding compassion in the delivery of care.



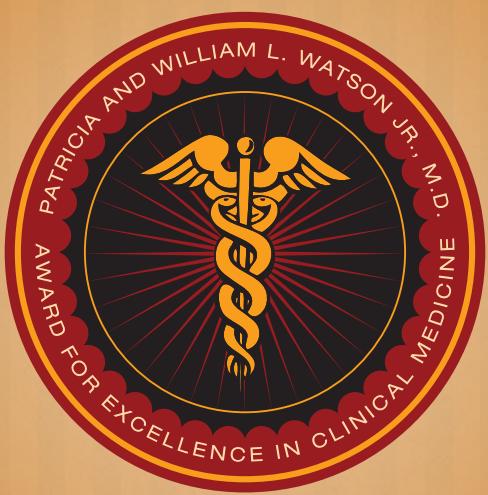
Naomi Winick, M.D.

Professor of Pediatrics

In the course of her 35 years on the UT Southwestern faculty, Dr. Winick, a specialist in pediatric hematology and oncology, has touched countless lives. Colleagues say that Dr. Winick's expertise in managing the treatment of children with leukemia is unmatched, but they also note that her commitment to inclusion, diversity, and humanism equally distinguishes her as a physician.

Among the many roles she's held over the course of her career, she's been a member of the UT Southwestern Advancement of Women in Medicine Committee and continues to serve on the Women in Science and Medicine Advisory Committee. In recent years, she has been an active participant in discussions of ways to facilitate recruitment of trainees and faculty members from underrepresented minority populations.

In 2021 – 43 years after earning her medical degree at Northwestern University – Dr. Winick will complete a master's degree in public health at UT Health Science Center at Houston, UT Southwestern campus. ■



Patricia and William L. Watson Jr., M.D. Award for Excellence in Clinical Medicine

This award recognizes a UT Southwestern clinician who exemplifies excellence in patient care and is a leader in advancing clinical innovation. It honors a faculty member who has had a profound impact on patients, students, trainees, and colleagues through the quality of his or her clinical work.



Mark H. Drazner, M.D., M.Sc.

*Professor of Internal Medicine
Clinical Chief of Cardiology*

In his 23 years on the UT Southwestern faculty, Dr. Drazner has built a record of accomplishment and excellence in patient care and medical education that has brought hope and health to his patients, enlightenment and inspiration to his trainees and students, and distinction and recognition to his institution.

A cardiologist with special expertise in treating cardiomyopathy and advanced heart failure, Dr. Drazner was appointed Clinical Chief of Cardiology in 2016. For the past 14 years, he has led UTSW's Advanced Heart Failure/Transplant Section within the Division of Cardiology, during which time the program has grown substantially, emerging as a leader on the national stage.

In 2018, the American Heart Association's Council on Clinical Cardiology awarded Dr. Drazner the prestigious Laennec Master Clinician Award, which recognizes lifetime achievement in patient care and teaching in cardiology. This year, he was selected as President-elect of the Heart Failure Society of America.

Dr. Drazner also has been at the forefront of research in the arena of heart failure and cardiac transplantation. More recently, he has been orchestrating the Cardiology Division's response to COVID-19 to ensure excellent cardiovascular care is delivered, regardless of how the pandemic has evolved.

Holder of the James M. Wooten Chair in Cardiology, Dr. Drazner earned his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis and completed his residency in internal medicine at UT Southwestern, where he was Chief Resident. He has completed fellowships in cardiology at Duke University, and in heart failure/cardiac transplantation at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He also has a master's degree in epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health. ■

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