

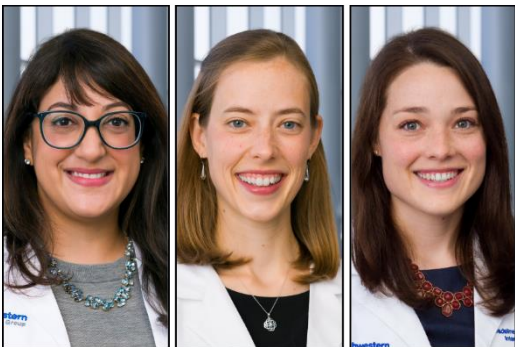
medicine minute

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

announcements

RESIDENCY TRAINING

Desai, Freeland Become APDs as Rodriguez Prepares to Succeed Bonnema



Shivani Desai, M.D., and **Deborah Freeland, M.D.**, have been appointed Associate Program Directors (APDs) for the Internal Medicine Residency, effective immediately, while **Madeliene Rodriguez, M.D.**, will become an APD in September, succeeding **Rachel Bonnema, M.D., M.S.**

Dr. Desai, left, an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, will continue having oversight of primary care education, which she has directed since 2021. She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2015.

Dr. Freeland, center, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, will continue directing the combined Internal Medicine-Geriatrics training track, which she established in 2023. She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021.

Dr. Rodriguez, right, an Assistant Instructor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, will have oversight of the Medical Education track. She will become an Assistant Professor after completing her fellowship training in September.

FELLOWSHIP TRAINING

Cardenas Named APD of Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship



Carlos Cardenas, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, has accepted a position as Associate Program Director for the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Fellowship.

“Dr. Cardenas has been committed to medical education for the bulk of his post-graduate career,” says **Hetal Patel, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and the Fellowship Program Director. “Within our division, not only is he an exemplary medical educator, he is an essential contributor to our Back to the Basics curriculum, serves as an ambulatory first-year fellow mentor, and is a member of our core curriculum and recruitment committees.”

Originally from Scotland, Dr. Cardenas grew up in Corpus Christi. He received his bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from Southwestern University in Georgetown and earned his medical degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He then completed internal medicine residency

training at UT Southwestern, where he also served as Chief Resident, and fellowship training in pulmonary and critical care medicine.

Dr. Cardenas joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021.

kudos

HONORS

Ahmad Receives President's Service Award from Lipid Organization



Zahid Ahmad, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, was awarded the President's Service Award from the National Lipid Association (NLA) "in recognition of service and dedication to the Association and for advancing the development of the specialty of clinical lipidology."

Among Dr. Ahmad's accomplishments, he was acknowledged for chairing the organization's first CME course on triglycerides, establishing the NLA's Health Equity Committee, implementing an implicit bias training program, and co-chairing the Lipid Scholar's Program Committee.

Dr. Ahmad's research aims to identify the causes of cholesterol and triglyceride disorders and to develop new treatment options for patients who suffer from them. His clinical and investigative focus is lipid metabolism disorders, including dyslipidemia, chylomicronemia, and familial hypercholesterolemia.

Dr. Ahmad joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2010.

INFLUENCERS

Barker Appointed Co-chair of SGIM Regional Leaders



Blake Barker, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Associate Dean of Students, has been appointed Co-chair of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) Board of Regional Leaders for 2024-2025. The group governs regional programs and engages with the organization's leadership council to ensure the SGIM's strategic goals and functions are being addressed.

The SGIM has more than 3,300 academic general internists who are involved in enhancing medical education, improving healthcare access, and addressing cost of care.

COMMENTARY

Ladhani Suggests How to Improve Patient-Physician Relationships



Sanah Ladhani, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, recently published a commentary in *JCO Oncology Practice* about a simple solution for hospital rooms that could lead to improved patient satisfaction and outcomes.

As an oncology hospitalist, she writes, she often must share news “that no physician wants to share with their patient. Yet as I try to find a place to sit next to the patient, at eye-level, cannot find anywhere to sit.”

Dr. Ladhani says in an era in which shared decision-making and patient-centered care can influence health outcomes, the way doctors communicate with patients and engage them in high-impact encounters is even more important. Her suggestion: provide “a comfortable, warm, and welcoming seating space for clinicians in the hospital room.”

She then cites several studies to support her argument that simply providing a place for the physician to sit next to a patient can become a “hallmark of the human-centered patient-physician relationship.”

To read the complete article, click [here](#).

BEST PRACTICES

King Shares Wellness Insights at Conference



Kimberly King, C-TAGME, Program Coordinator for the Hematology and Oncology Fellowship, and colleagues recently presented three posters centered around GME Coordinator wellness and job satisfaction at the Association for Hospital Medical Education Institute in Phoenix, Arizona.

As lead author on “Elevate and Celebrate: PCACC Wellness & Well-Being Subcommittee’s Journey to GME Coordinator Well-Being and Career Satisfaction,” Ms. King reported on work that the Wellness and Well-being Subcommittee has done during the last two years, including implementing an annual GME Coordinator Pulse Survey, in-person social/networking events,

an monthly anonymous GME Coordinator Fuel Gauge, and an upcoming GME Coordinator of the Year Award.

She was also a contributing author on “GME Jenga-Building Success, One Committee Block at a Time,” which detailed the process of forming the Program Coordinator Advisory Council subcommittees, and “Insights Unveiled: Elevating Coordinator Well-Being and Career Dynamics through Pulse Survey 2.0,” which discussed the GME Coordinator Pulse Survey.

research roundup

PUBLICATIONS

Shukla, Colleagues Present Insights on HIV-1 Reactivation Mechanisms in Latency



Ashutosh Shukla, Ph.D., an Instructor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, and colleagues recently reported a novel approach that could lead to new drugs for treating HIV-1 (the primary virus that causes AIDS) more effectively. The study, published in [Viruses](#), describes transcription, a process necessary for HIV-1 to produce RNAs and proteins needed for viral reactivation and spread in cells.

“HIV-1 transcription is controlled by two regulatory layers during its reactivation from latency,” Dr. Shukla explains. “Initially, human proteins activate the virus in the ‘host phase,’ leading to the expression of the Tat protein. This marks the

beginning of the ‘viral phase,’ during which Tat drives the high levels of transcription necessary for the virus to replicate and sustain infection. The sequential feedback loop of these phases has made it challenging to discern their individual contributions to HIV-1 reactivation, thereby complicating therapeutic strategies.”

For the study, Dr. Shukla employed CRISPR gene editing to generate T cell clones with integrated HIV-1 and mutations in the Tat gene. By comparing these mutated clones to paired control T cell clones, he and his colleagues were able to dissect the molecular contributions of the host and viral phases to HIV-1 transcription.

AWARDS

Nephrology Organization Names Patel a Distinguished Researcher



Vishal Patel, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Nephrology, has received a Distinguished Researcher Award from the American Society of Nephrology. The award is presented to midcareer clinicians, educators, and researchers in recognition of substantial research contributions to the discipline of nephrology.

“In a very short time period, Vishal’s research has put UT Southwestern on the map for polycystic kidney disease research and clinical care,” says **Samir M. Parikh, M.D.**, a Professor and Chief of the Division of Nephrology. “His research into microRNA mechanisms regulating polycystin

gene expression has led to patents and clinical trials testing his ideas. More broadly, Vishal’s work is helping to usher in the previously radical idea that enhancing endogenous gene expression from the ‘good’ allele in autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease may slow or even reverse disease manifestations.”

Dr. Patel joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2010.

Dr. Patel holds the Yin Quan-Yuen Distinguished Professorship in Nephrology.

Dr. Parikh holds the Robert Tucker Hayes Distinguished Chair in Nephrology, in Honor of Dr. Floyd C. Rector, Jr. and the Ruth W. and Milton P. Levy, Sr. Chair in Molecular Nephrology.

in case you missed it

CONFERENCE REPORT

Division Faculty, Trainees Present at ASCO Meeting



Faculty, trainees, and staff members from the Division of Hematology and Oncology participated in three panel discussions and presented 26 poster sessions at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, which took place from **May 31 to June 4** in Chicago.

The conference brings together more than 45,000 attendees annually to explore the art and science of cancer research and patient care.

To read the complete listing of UTSW posters and panel participants presented during the conference, click [here](#).

Articles and Videos Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [High-level Exercise Doesn't Fuel Buildup of Coronary Artery Calcium, but Longer Duration of Exercise Might, Findings Suggest](#) (via UTSW Newsroom, with **Benjamin Levine, M.D.**, and **Amit Khera, M.D.**)
- [How Exercise Prevents & Reverses Heart Aging](#) (via FoundMy Fitness on YouTube, with **Benjamin Levine, M.D.**)
- [UT Southwestern Professor Named to National Medicare Advisory Board](#) (via *Center Times Plus*, with **Joshua Liao, M.D., M.Sc.**, and **Thomas Wang, M.D.**)



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

need to know

RECOGNITION

Employees to be Celebrated for Milestone Service



Long-term employees play an invaluable role in the life of UT Southwestern and the Department of Internal Medicine. Their faithful, dedicated service has helped the institution become what it is today.

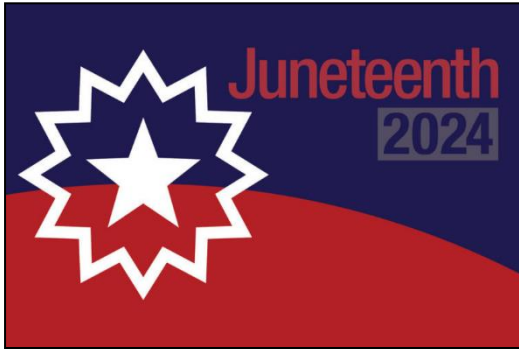
Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D., President of UT Southwestern, will host a luncheon on June 12 to honor employees with 45, 40, 35, and 30 years of service, including Web Specialist [Beni Stewart](#) (35 years) and Program Coordinator [Demetria "Dede" Wilson](#) (30 years). He will also welcome new members into the Quarter-Century Club, including Research Scientist [Merrill Dane](#).

The Department will host an event on **Thursday, June 13**, to honor these and other employees and present the Donald W. Seldin Award for Outstanding Service.

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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

UT Southwestern to Join in Area Observances of Juneteenth



Volunteers from UT Southwestern will be attending Juneteenth Strong's "Empowering You" event, which is designed to address disparities through a job, health, and education fair. Attendees will have access to free CPR instruction, cancer and blood pressure screenings, educational materials on an array of health conditions, and a Q&A session with UTSW physicians. The event will be held on **June 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at Tarrant County College.

Visit the [Empowering You](#) website for more information.

Also on **June 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**, the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Dallas will host the annual [Juneteenth 4K Freedom Walk & Festival](#). All are invited to enjoy the free festival, which will include live entertainment and activities.

To register to walk with the UTSW community, click [here](#).

personnel updates

FACULTY AFFAIRS

Bashyal is New Manager of Faculty Affairs



Shristy Bashyal, M.B.A., M.S., has joined the Department Administration as Project Manager for IM Faculty Affairs, replacing Whitley Anders.

Ms. Bashyal holds a bachelor's degree in finance from St. Xavier's College in Nepal. She earned her master's of business administration degree in marketing from Missouri University of Science and Technology, where she also earned a master's degree in technical communication. Throughout her career, she has progressively advanced through a number of roles in academic administration, including serving as Director of Academic Affairs at Texas Christian University and at the

University of North Texas Health Science Center, both in Fort Worth.

ADMINISTRATION

Burzlaff Joins Chair's Office Staff

Heather Burzlaff has joined the Chair's Office as Sr. Administrative Associate, replacing Christia Malonga. She will provide administrative support to the Chair in addition to other duties.

Since joining UT Southwestern in 2021 as Sr. Administrative Assistant, Ms. Burzlaff advanced to become Administrative Associate in the Bone Marrow Transplant program, providing administrative support to **Robert Collins, M.D.** Previously, she held several administrative positions in healthcare organizations throughout North Texas.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Sucilea is Named Department Facilities Administrator

Savir Radu Sucilea has joined the Department Administration staff as Department Facilities Administrator.

Originally from Romania, Mr. Sucilea holds an associate's degree in telecommunications management and is a graduate of the Jandarmeria Româna, the military branch of the Romanian Police. In addition to

his police experience, he has worked as a private security specialist. Before joining UT Southwestern, he held progressive facilities management roles for a private school.

In his new role, Mr. Sucilea will manage day-to-day shop renovation projects, creating AUTOCAD drawings, and meeting with facilities and contractors to review progress.

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Koolwal to Discuss Home Dialysis for Undocumented Immigrants



Pooja Koolwal, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology, will present the Internal Medicine Grand Rounds lecture on **Friday, June 14, at 8 a.m.** in D1.502. Her topic: “Breaking Barriers: Pioneering Home Dialysis for Undocumented Immigrants.”

Originally from Staten Island, New York, Dr. Koolwal holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg, Texas, which she received *summa cum laude*. She earned her medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. She then completed internal medicine residency training at Washington University in St. Louis, where

she also obtained advanced training through a fellowship in nephrology.

Dr. Koolwal joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2018.

Noteworthy Lectures & Events

- **Wednesday, June 12, 8 a.m.:** [Neurology Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. J. David Beckham** (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine)
- **Wednesday, June 12, 9 a.m.:** [Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center Experimental Therapeutics Program Pancreatic Cancer Initiative](#) with **Dr. Ravikanth Madditpati** (Digestive & Liver Diseases) and others
- **Thursday, June 13, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Jeremy Chow** (Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine) – “Systems of HIV Care and Care Innovations in Dallas County”
- **Thursday, June 13, Noon:** [Nephrology Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Oluwatitomi Tedunjaiye** (Nephrology) – “Point-of-Care Ultrasound in Nephrology”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, June 18, 2024.**

Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

Copyright 2024 UT Southwestern Medical Center. All rights reserved.
Medicine Minute is a publication of the Department of Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

