

# medicine minute

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

## announcements

### LEADERSHIP

#### Jiang He Named Director of Implementation Research



**Jiang He, M.D., Ph.D., M.S.**, has been named Director of Implementation Research in the Department of Internal Medicine. He will be joining UT Southwestern on July 15 as the inaugural Chair of Epidemiology in the Peter J. O'Donnell School of Public Health, where he will have his primary appointment.

Dr. He joins UT Southwestern from Tulane University, where he served for 20 years as Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and, most recently, as Director of the Tulane University Translational Science Institute. During his tenure as chair, he grew the Department of Epidemiology from seven to

27 faculty members, increased annual research funds from \$2 million to more than \$20 million, and increased the faculty's peer-reviewed publications from fewer than 20 per year to more than 200.

After completing his undergraduate education at Jiangxi Medical College, Dr. He received his medical degree from Peking Union Medical College in China. He earned his doctorate in epidemiology from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and his master's degree in human genetics from Tulane University School of Medicine.

Dr. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2023. He has led numerous landmark observational studies and clinical trials on the prevention of cardiometabolic disease. He has authored more than 700 peer-reviewed publications and has been awarded more than \$200 million in research funding.

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

#### Thomas Named Program Director for New Med-Derm Residency



**Cristina Thomas, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the departments of Dermatology and Internal Medicine, has been named the inaugural Program Director for the new Internal Medicine-Dermatology Combined Residency.

Dr. Thomas graduated *magna cum laude* from Northwestern University with a degree in biological sciences. She earned her medical degree also at Northwestern and then pursued residency training at Harvard Medical School, where she completed a combined residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and dermatology at the

Harvard Combined Internal Medicine-Dermatology Residency Program. In her final year of training, she served as administrative Chief Resident for the program.

Certified by the American Boards of Dermatology and Internal Medicine, she joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2020.

## kudos

### CLERKSHIP

#### Medical Students Honor Faculty, Fellows with Teaching Awards

Seven faculty members and two fellows have been honored by Medical School students with Outstanding Internal Medicine Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Teaching Awards.

“These educators have taught in many of the clinical rotations led by the Department of Internal Medicine, including the Ambulatory Clerkship, CCU, IM Clerkship and the Sub-internship,” says **Reeni Abraham, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Associate Vice Chair of Undergraduate Medical Education. “These awards are in addition to the residency awards presented by Drs. Brinker and Odedosu earlier this summer.”

The 2023-2024 Outstanding IM UME Faculty Teaching Awards went to **Suzanne Cole, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology; **Lanna Felde, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine; **Tiffany Lee, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine; **Srijna Nandivada, M.D.**, a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine; **Charles “Chad” Owens, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology; **Melanie Sulistio, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology; and **Libay Woldeyes, M.D.**, a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine.

The 2023-2024 Outstanding IM UME Fellow Teaching Awards went to **Omowunmi Adedeji, M.D.**, a first-year Cardiology fellow; and **Alexandra Sykes, M.D.**, also a first-year Cardiology fellow.

### HONORS

#### Contreras Receives Seldin Service Award



**Erika Contreras**, a Program Coordinator in the Division of Cardiology, received the Donald W. Seldin Award for Outstanding Service during last week’s Employee Recognition Program event.

**James de Lemos, M.D.**, Professor and Chief of the Division of Cardiology, and **Mark Drazner, M.D.**, Professor and Clinical Chief of Cardiology, nominated Ms. Contreras for the award by submitting separate testimonial letters.

“Erika has a tremendous attitude,” Dr. de Lemos wrote in his nomination letter. “She is always challenging herself to learn new tasks and take on greater responsibility. She is absolutely instrumental to the success of the Division of Cardiology and has been a leader in multiple different dimensions for us.”

“Erika has a wonderful combination of effectiveness (related to a strong work ethic, dedication to service, and outstanding organizational skills) and interpersonal skills,” Dr. Drazner wrote in his nomination letter. “Her contributions to the morale of the Cardiology Division are immense.”

## research roundup

### TECHNOLOGY

## CTSA to Host Introduction to Epic Cosmos



The Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program will host an "Introduction to Epic Cosmos" course on **Tuesday, June 25, at 11 a.m. in G9.102.**

Cosmos is a data analytic/modeling tool that effectively combines data from all participating Epic organizations (which includes 240 million-plus patient records from over 30,000 clinics and 1,400 hospitals with 9 million-plus rare disease patient records). It can be represented and modeled in a dashboard and SlicerDicer-like interfaces.

UT Southwestern has a small number of active users and is looking to expand its usage of the tool.

To register for the hybrid event, click [here](#).

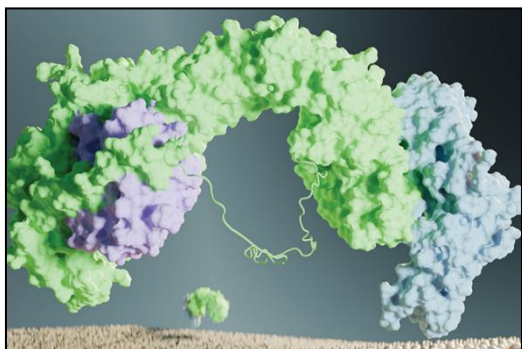


**Internal Medicine News Portal**  
Click for more Department news and updates

### in case you missed it

CENTER TIMES PLUS

## Research Team 'Retrieves' Structure of Protein Recycling Complex Implicated In Cancer



Cells engulf parts of their membranes for many purposes: to transport large molecules, to "eat" bacteria or debris from dead cells, or to "drink" external fluid, for example. This process, called endocytosis, also captures important proteins in the cell's surface. To maintain normal function, cells must cycle these proteins back to the surface by a complex and not fully understood process.

Taking a major step to understand this system, UT Southwestern researchers uncovered the structure of a protein recycling complex called retriever-CCC. They found that this structure is conserved among species, meaning that it is

evolutionarily ancient. They also showed that cancer-associated mutations disrupt it.

"Understanding protein structures helps us see how mutations can affect the functions of a protein," says **Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor of Internal Medicine and Molecular Biology and co-senior author of the study, which was published in [Nature Structural & Molecular Biology](#). "This is a watershed moment in understanding this system."

To read the complete article in Center Times Plus, click [here](#).

### Articles and Videos Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

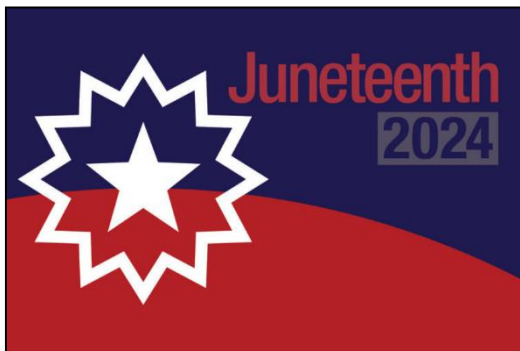
- [Research Could Lead to Treatments for Obesity, Extreme Weight Loss](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with **Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D.**)
- [Study Reveals Unexpected Mechanism of Drug Resistance in Kidney Cancer](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with **James Brugarolas, M.D., Ph.D.**)

- [Team Tests Strategies to Care for Patients with Multiple Diseases](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with **Miguel Vasquez, M.D.**)
- [The Truth About Bacterial Vaginosis: It's Nothing You Did Wrong](#) (Via MedBlog, with **Abiola Fadayomi, M.S.N., APRN, AGNP-BC**)
- [Experts Call for More Clinical Trials on Alcohol Use, Liver Disease](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with **Mack Mitchell, M.D.**, and **Thomas Cotter, M.D.**)
- [Success Requires Persistence, Resilience, and Critical Thinking, Nobel Prize Winner Tells Audience](#) (Via Center Times Plus, with **Salahuddin Kazi, M.D.**, and **Kyle O'Malley, M.D.**)

## need to know

### DESIGNATED HOLIDAY

## Clinics, Academic Offices, and Labs Closed on June 19



**Wednesday, June 19**, is a [designated holiday](#) for UTSW in observance of Juneteenth National Independence Day, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States after the Civil War.

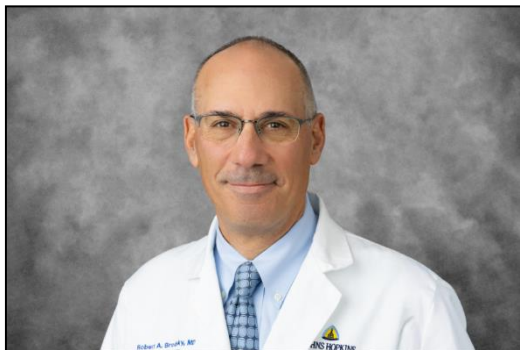
All UTSW clinics, central administration, academic offices, and research labs will be closed. Hospitals will be fully operational with the appropriate staff in support areas.

*If you have questions about the holiday policy, call Human Resources at 214-648-0821.*

## this week

### INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

## Robert Brodsky of Johns Hopkins to Lecture on June 21



**Robert A. Brodsky, M.D.**, a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of Hematology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, June 21**, in D1.502. His topic: "Shining Light on Complement: aHUS to Xenographs."

Dr. Brodsky received his medical degree from Hahnemann University. He then completed internal medicine residency training at Vanderbilt University, and fellowship training in hematology at the National Institutes of Health and in oncology at Johns Hopkins. His area of clinical expertise is classical

hematology and haploidentical bone marrow transplant for sickle cell disease and aplastic anemia.

Dr. Brodsky joined the Johns Hopkins faculty in 1997. From 2017 to 2022 he served as Associate Editor of *The Journal of Clinical Investigation* (JCI) and Secretary to the American Society of Hematology (ASH). He became president of ASH in 2023.

*Dr. Brodsky is the Johns Hopkins Family Professor of Medicine and Oncology.*

## Noteworthy Lectures & Events

- **Monday, June 24, Noon:** [General Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Tonia Vinton** (Endocrinology) – “Treating Obesity in the Primary Care Setting”



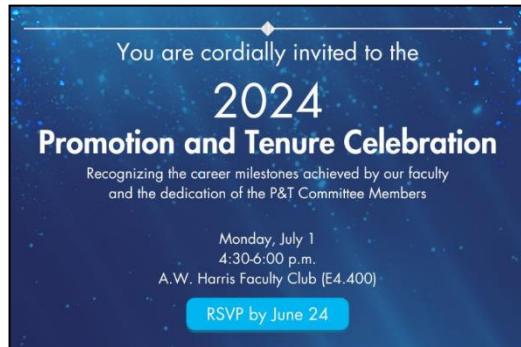
## Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

### on the horizon

#### PROMOTION & TENURE

### Newly Promoted Faculty to Be Honored on July 1



UT Southwestern will host a Promotion & Tenure Celebration to honor newly promoted faculty members across all schools for their significant career achievements on **Monday, July 1, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.** in the A.W. Harris Faculty Club.

The event will also recognize the members of the Promotion and Tenure Committee for their role in the deliberative process, as well as the Department and Division leaders associated with promoted faculty. Food, beverages, and entertainment will be provided.

To RSVP by June 24, click [here](#).

### one last thing

#### LIBRARY SPECIAL

### Get a Free Subscription to *The New York Times* Through UTSW



Did you know you can get full access to *The New York Times* – including audio, games, and cooking apps – for up to four years when you create/connect a New York Times account with UT Southwestern’s institutional account? Just follow the easy steps below:

- Go to [accessnytimes.com](https://accessnytimes.com)
- Search for and click the listing for “University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center”
- Follow the steps depending on whether you are on or off-campus

#### Important notes:

- If you have previously registered your email address on *The New York Times* site, click the “Already have an account? Log in here” link (below the “Create Account” button).
- Existing paid New York Times subscribers must cancel their paid subscription before authenticating via the school-funded program.

During the registration process, users will be asked to self-identify as either a student or a faculty/staff member. Students will be asked for their graduation year and will have access until December 31 of that year once they complete the registration. Faculty/staff will have four years of full access, after which they must re-authenticate by visiting [accessnytimes.com](https://accessnytimes.com).

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, June 25**.

Share feedback and news items with us at [IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu](mailto:IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu)

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