

medicine minute

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

kudos

INFLUENCERS

Conzen Appointed to NCI Board of Scientific Advisors



Suzanne Conzen, M.D., a Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief of Hematology & Oncology, has been appointed to serve as a member of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Board of Scientific Advisors.

The Board was established in 1996 to assist and advise the NCI Director on scientific policies and to provide concept review of research and resource activities.

“These are extraordinary times for the National Cancer Institute,” says W. Kimryn Rathmell, M.D., Ph.D., NCI Director. “We are thrilled that [Dr. Conzen] agreed to participate in our

oversight and planning for our scientific mission by serving on this vital Institute Board.”

An established laboratory scientist with multiple National Cancer Institute grants and a Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) established investigator award, Dr. Conzen focuses her research on glucocorticoid receptor biology in prostate, breast, and ovarian cancer epithelial cells and the tumor microenvironment. Her early research in Chicago supported the recognition of a role for stress hormone signaling in breast cancer biology and, more recently, in cancer progression and therapy-resistance in prostate and ovarian cancer. This work has formed the basis of several ongoing clinical trials testing the effectiveness of selective glucocorticoid receptor modulators in cancer therapy.

Dr. Conzen joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2019.

Dr. Conzen holds the Andrea L. Simmons Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research.

To learn more about Dr. Conzen’s research, visit the [Conzen Lab site](#).

HONORS

Incoming Implementation Research Director Named AHA Distinguished Scientist



Jiang He, M.D., Ph.D., M.S., Director of Implementation Research in the Department of Internal Medicine and Chair of Epidemiology in the Peter J. O'Donnell School of Public Health, has been selected as a Distinguished Scientist of the American Heart Association.

Dr. He joins other prominent scientists and clinicians who have made significant, original, and sustained contributions to cardiovascular and stroke research. Previous Distinguished Scientists from UT Southwestern are **Michael Brown, M.D.**, a Professor of Molecular Genetics and Internal Medicine; **Joseph Goldstein, M.D.**, a Professor of Molecular Genetics

and Internal Medicine; **Scott Grundy, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Professor of the Center for Human Nutrition and Internal Medicine; **Helen Hobbs, M.D.**, a Professor of Internal Medicine and Molecular Genetics and Director of the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development; and **Eric Olson, Ph.D.**, a Professor and Chair of Molecular Biology.

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

Dr. Brown, a Regental Professor, holds the Paul J. Thomas Chair in Medicine and The W.A. (Monty) Moncrief Distinguished Chair in Cholesterol and Arteriosclerosis Research.

Dr. Goldstein, a Regental Professor, holds the Julie and Louis A. Beecherl, Jr. Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Research and the Paul J. Thomas Chair in Medicine.

Dr. Hobbs holds the Eugene McDermott Distinguished Chair for the Study of Human Growth and Development and the Philip O'Bryan Montgomery Jr., M.D., Distinguished Chair in Developmental Biology.

Dr. Olson holds the Annie and Willie Nelson Professorship in Stem Cell Research, the Pogue Distinguished Chair in Research on Cardiac Birth Defects, and The Robert A. Welch Distinguished Chair in Science.

SERVICE

Infante Appointed Member of NIH Study Section



Rodney Infante, M.D., Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Center for Human Nutrition and the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, has been invited to serve as a member of the Cell Signaling and Molecular Endocrinology Study Section, part of the Endocrinology, Metabolism, Nutrition and Reproductive Sciences Integrated Review Group in the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health.

Members of review groups evaluate applications submitted to NIH, make recommendations on the applications to the appropriate NIH national advisory council or board, and survey the status of research in their respective fields.

Dr. Infante's research focuses on the molecules and mechanisms that cause cachexia-associated adipose wasting associated with oncologic, liver, infectious, and rheumatologic diseases.

Dr. Infante holds the Kern and Marnie Wildenthal President's Research Council Professorship in Medical Science.

To learn more about Dr. Infante's research, visit the [Infante Lab](#) site.

PUBLICATIONS

Faculty Members Offer Ways to Improve Wellbeing of Women in Healthcare



Roma Mehta, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and colleagues recently published an [editorial in *Signa Vitae*](#) offering a plan of action for mitigating work- and home-related stressors among women healthcare workers.

“Recent studies suggest that female front-line healthcare workers experienced substantially more deleterious effects of the pandemic compared to their male counterparts, with higher rates of burnout and psychiatric illness,” the authors write. “As a result, turnover and decreased productivity have increased disproportionately among female healthcare workers, which

has substantial economic consequences for the healthcare organizations that employ them.”

The authors then propose 13 specific interventions to support the wellbeing and retention of women front-line healthcare workers that are designed to address barriers that disproportionately affect them.

*Additional authors from the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine included Associate Professor **Hetal Patel, M.D.**, Associate Professor **Rosechelle Ruggiero, M.D., M.S.C.S.**, and Assistant Professor **Traci Adams, M.D.** Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry **Carol North, M.D.**, also contributed to the publication.*

SCHOLARLY IMPACT

Rhodes Among Top Cited Authors in Geriatrics Journal



Ramona Rhodes, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.C.S., an Associate Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, and colleagues produced one of the top 10 most-cited papers published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* from January 2022 to December 2023.

Dr. Rhodes was senior author of the article, “[Exploring the Intersection of Structural Racism and Ageism in Healthcare](#),” which has been accessed more than 13,000 times since it was published in October 2022. In it, the authors provide an overview of efforts to both identify and eliminate bias within healthcare delivery systems and health professions training

programs.

Dr. Rhodes joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2009.



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in case you missed it

HEART HEALTH

Rohatgi Discusses ‘Good’ Cholesterol in TIME Article



Anand Rohatgi, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Director of Academic Development, was among several experts who were quoted in a [recent TIME article](#) about the role cholesterol plays in heart health.

“Starting from the 1970s, large population studies...showed that people who had very low levels of HDL cholesterol...had a higher risk of heart attacks,” Dr. Rohatgi says. “The challenge has been that when drugs have been studied that raise HDL cholesterol...that has never translated into a reduced risk for heart disease. So, from a pharmaceutical standpoint, it’s not a

treatment target—it’s a risk marker.” Rather than fixating on any single aspect of cholesterol, he says, consider the numbers in conjunction with other risk markers for heart problems, such as age, sex, blood pressure, and diabetes.

While certain lifestyle habits can boost HDL cholesterol, the impact of raising HDL levels on heart health remains uncertain.

“It’s complex and dynamic, and that’s what makes it hard to study and hard to pin down,” Dr. Rohatgi says.

To learn more about Dr. Rohatgi’s research, visit the [Rohatgi Lab site](#).

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Wojciechowski to Speak About Kidney Transplantation on July 19



David Wojciechowski, D.O., an Associate Professor in the Division of Nephrology and Medical Director of the Kidney Transplantation Program, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, July 19, at 8 a.m.** in D1.502. His topic: “Supply and Demand in Kidney Transplantation: Innovations to Improve the Equation.”

Originally from Reading, Pennsylvania, Dr. Wojciechowski holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. He earned his medical degree at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in nephrology

at Georgetown University Hospital/Washington Hospital Center, followed by an additional fellowship in transplant nephrology at the University of California, San Francisco.

Before joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2019, he served as director of the Inpatient Kidney Transplant Service at UC San Francisco, and Director of Transplant Nephrology Clinical Research at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Wojciechowski’s research focuses on kidney transplantation, specifically preventing and treating post-transplant viral infections, increasing access to transplantation, and evaluating immunosuppression protocols to maximize patient outcomes and minimize toxicity.

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Tuesday, July 16, Noon:** [Mental Health Awareness Keynote Address](#) by **Dr. Joseph Guillory** (Psychiatry) – “Holding Steady: How to Create and Share Space for Yourself and Others”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

Click to view additional events

reminders

PHYSICIAN RECOGNITION

Nominations Being Accepted for Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards



Nominations are being accepted through **Tuesday, July 23**, for the 2024 Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards.

Established in 2018, these awards recognize clinical faculty for their exceptional contributions to the care of patients, to the education and training of the next generation of healthcare professionals, and to UT Southwestern overall.

For more details, click [here](#).

on the horizon

HEALTH EQUITY SPEAKER SERIES

Duryea to Discuss Reducing Maternal Morbidity on July 31



The Internal Medicine Health Equity Committee summer lecture series begins on **Wednesday, July 31, at noon**, with a presentation by **Elaine Duryea, M.D.**, an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Her topic: "Improving Maternal Postpartum Access to Care: Reducing Maternal Morbidity."

To join the lecture via Zoom, click [here](#).

one last thing

WEBSITE UPDATE

Department Debuts Video Banner on Landing Page

The Department's [landing page](#) features a new video banner, in addition to other new elements that are part of a redesigned web presence intended to be more visually engaging.

Editor's Note: The video does not display on mobile devices.

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, July 23**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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