

medicine minute

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

announcements

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Burstein to Assume New Leadership Roles



Ezra Burstein, M.D., Ph.D., a Professor of Internal Medicine and Division Chief of Digestive and Liver Diseases, will lead a new endowed center dedicated to research in inflammatory digestive diseases, while also serving as the inaugural Director of the Jean Wilson Society, which will support the development of physician-scientists across the Department.

The new research center will leverage the substantial strengths at UT Southwestern related to inflammatory bowel disease, gastrointestinal biology, and immunity. Further, it should catalyze the introduction of new research initiatives and the recruitment of additional outstanding investigators to the

Department and UT Southwestern.

The Jean Wilson Society will advance the Department's historical commitment to promoting the success of early career physician-scientists. Dr. Burstein will work closely with the Department's vice chairs, division chiefs, and faculty to support trainees interested in careers as physician-scientists; provide personalized guidance for early-career faculty in the clinical scholar or tenure track; assist with identification of mentors and with networking, locally and outside, the institution; create educational programs for trainees and faculty; and assist with physician-scientist recruitment.

With his new responsibilities, Dr. Burstein will step away from his role as Division Chief of Digestive and Liver Diseases once an appropriate successor is identified. During his tenure, the division has not only grown considerably, but has strengthened its well-deserved reputation as one of the best GI divisions in the nation, with world-class clinical, research, and educational programs.

A nationwide search for Dr. Burstein's successor will begin soon, with a search committee led by **James de Lemos, M.D.**, Division Chief of Cardiology. In the meantime, Dr. Burstein will continue to lead the division and to work energetically to ensure its ongoing success.

Dr. Burstein holds the Berta M. and Dr. Cecil O. Patterson Chair in Gastroenterology.

Dr. de Lemos holds the Sweetheart Ball – Kern Wildenthal, M.D., Ph.D., Distinguished Chair in Cardiology.

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

kudos

SERVICE

Patel Elected Regional Governor of Gastroenterology Organization



Neha Patel, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, has been elected a regional governor for the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG). Dr. Patel will serve a term of three years.

The ACG is an international medical association of gastroenterologists, founded in 1932, with more than 14,000 members from 86 countries.

Originally from Queens, New York, Dr. Patel holds a bachelor's degree in biology with a double minor in psychology and chemistry from the University of Miami in Coral Gables,

Florida. She earned her medical degree with honors from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and completed an internal medicine residency – with a focus on women's health – at Northwestern University McGaw Medical Center. She then obtained advanced training through a fellowship program in gastroenterology and liver diseases at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Patel joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2014.

HONORS

VanWagner Named Starzl Lecturer



Lisa VanWagner, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, has been selected to deliver the Thomas E. Starzl Transplant Surgery State-of-the-Art Lecture at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Liver Meeting in November. Her topic: "Life after a Liver: Victories, Challenges, and Opportunities for More."

Named after Thomas Starzl, M.D., the surgeon who performed the world's first human liver transplant in 1963, the annual lecture recognizes Dr. Starzl's pioneering work to elevate liver transplantation from an experimental procedure to one that

saves thousands of lives annually.

Dr. VanWagner holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Northwestern University. She received her medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine and completed residency training at Northwestern University's McGaw Medical Center in Chicago, where she served as Chief Resident and obtained a master's degree in clinical investigation from the Northwestern University Graduate School. She then remained at Northwestern to receive fellowship training in gastroenterology and hepatology, followed by an advanced fellowship program in transplant hepatology.

Dr. VanWagner joined the UT Southwestern Faculty in 2022.

research roundup

PUBLICATIONS

Levine and Colleagues Examine Racial Disparities in Sports Cardiology



Racial disparities in cardiovascular health, including sudden cardiac death (SCD), affect both the general population and athletes. Among competitive athletes, health outcomes may be influenced by social determinants of health and structural racism, but our understanding remains incomplete. In a recent [study published in *JAMA Cardiology*](#), **Benjamin Levine, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Director of the Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas, and colleagues examined disparities in SCD risk, false-positive cardiac screening rates among athletes, and the prevalence of left ventricular hypertrophy. The authors called for a reexamination of race-

based practices in sports cardiology, such as interpretation of screening 12-lead electrocardiogram findings.

Dr. Levine holds the Distinguished Professorship in Exercise Sciences at UT Southwestern and the S. Finley Ewing Chair for Wellness and the Harry S. Moss Heart Chair for Cardiovascular Research at Texas Health Presbyterian Dallas.

CTSA PROGRAM

Olaniran Accepted into KL2 Scholars Program



Kabir Olaniran, M.D., M.P.H., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology, has been accepted into the KL2 Clinical Scholars Program, which is part of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program. The two-year program is designed to support early career faculty who are interested in becoming independently funded clinical and translational science investigators.

Originally from Nigeria, Dr. Olaniran earned his medical degree at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. He completed internal medicine residency training at Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx, New York, where he also served as Chief Medical

Resident. He completed advanced training through a fellowship in nephrology at Harvard Medical School. He also holds a Master of Public Health degree from Harvard University.

Dr. Olaniran currently runs an early intervention kidney disease clinic for people with sickle cell disease at Parkland and UT Southwestern. His research focuses on the identification of novel biomarkers for the early detection of kidney abnormalities in sickle cell disease. His KL2 research mentors are **Orson Moe, M.D.**, and **Robert Toto, M.D.**

Dr. Moe holds the Donald W. Seldin Professorship in Clinical Investigation and the Charles Pak Distinguished Chair in Mineral Metabolism.

Dr. Toto, a Distinguished Teaching Professor, holds the Mary M. Conroy Professorship in Kidney Disease.

To learn more about the KL2 Scholar Program, click [here](#).

CTSA PROGRAM

SPA Presenters to Discuss Multisite Research Support on Aug. 8

Leaders from the Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA) will present a virtual seminar on **Thursday, Aug. 8, from 11 a.m. to noon**. The topic: "[Strengthening the Partnership: Empowering Multisite Research](#)."

The event will feature **Alina Grays, M.P.A.**, Assistant Director of Education and Business Process; **Megan Marks, Ph.D.**, Associate Vice President; and **Julia Spesivtseva, M.B.A.**, Director of Clinical Research Services, and will focus on maximizing support offered by SPA specifically for multisite endeavors.

To register, click [here](#).



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

in case you missed it

CAMPUS NEWS

Dominican Republic Knights Davidson in Honor of His Achievements



Jaime Davidson, M.D., an internationally recognized physician and educator, was honored by the Dominican Republic with a knighthood in the Heraldic Order of Christopher Columbus in recognition of his achievements in endocrinology, diabetes, and nutrition.

Dr. Davidson (pictured center, with his wife Ana and UT Southwestern President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**), an Adjunct Professor of Internal Medicine in UT Southwestern's Touchstone Center for Diabetes Research, expressed gratitude to the Dominican Republic for the distinction and its appreciation of medical education. He also thanked UT

Southwestern for affording him an opportunity to teach in other countries.

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

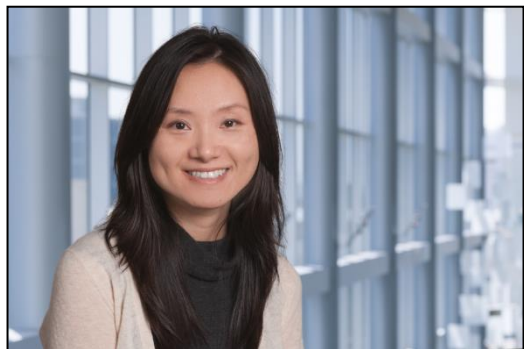
Articles, Videos and Podcasts Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [South Asian Coronary Artery Disease](#) (Via JACC: Asia Pulse Podcast, with **Anand Rohatgi, M.D.**)
- [How to Build Your Niche – Building a South Asian Heart Clinic](#) (Via JACC: Asia Pulse Podcast, with **Anand Rohatgi, M.D.**)
- [Strategies for Caregiver Support and Self-Care](#) (Via the Manchester Living Podcast on Facebook, with **Namirah Jamshed, M.D.**, and **Kayla Clark, LCSW**)

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Tian to Discuss Gastrointestinal Bleeding on July 26



Chenlu Tian, M.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, July 26, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. Her topic: "When it Rains, It Pours: A Guide to Managing Acute Nonvariceal Gastrointestinal Bleeding."

Dr. Tian holds a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and Asian studies from Rice University in Houston, where she graduated *summa cum laude*. She earned her medical degree at UT Southwestern and completed internal medicine residency training at Emory University in Atlanta. She then returned to UT Southwestern to obtain advanced training through a

fellowship in gastroenterology.

Dr. Tian joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2015.

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Thursday, July 25, 10:30 a.m.:** [DAPHI Seminar Series](#) with **Dr. Eliezer Van Allen** (Harvard Medical School) – “Learning the Molecular Logic of Cancer”
- **Thursday, July 25, Noon:** [Renal Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Lise Bankir** (French Institute of Health and Medical Research)



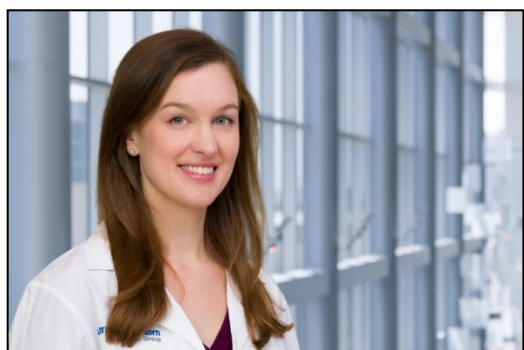
Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

reminders

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](#).

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, July 30**.

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

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