

medicine minute

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

announcements

TRANSITIONS

Reimold to Focus on Faculty Development



Sharon Reimold, M.D., will be stepping down from her role as Vice Chair of Clinical Operations later this year, while remaining in a leadership role as Vice Chair of Faculty Development.

Dr. Reimold, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and holder of the Gail Griffiths Hill Chair in Cardiology, joined UT Southwestern 24 years ago. After serving as Clinical Chief of the Cardiology Division for 10 years, she became Vice Chair of Clinical Operations in 2016. Among her numerous responsibilities, she oversaw the Department's outpatient operation, which includes approximately 400,000 outpatient

visits annually at UT Southwestern facilities and partner hospitals and clinics. Not only has the ambulatory enterprise in the Department grown several-fold during her tenure, but it has also maintained outstanding outcomes, expanded access to the broader D-FW region, and complemented the rapidly expanding inpatient programs. Dr. Reimold worked closely with the division chiefs, health system leaders, medical directors, and clinic managers to implement processes that have optimized workflows, promoted quality and safety, and improved patient satisfaction.

With Dr. Reimold's transition, nominations are being accepted for the role of Vice Chair of Clinical Operations. The position involves active engagement with the clinical faculty, medical directors, and clinical practice managers. The Vice Chair of Clinical Operations will also work closely with others in departmental, Medical Group, and health system leadership, to ensure the highest-quality care and excellent access.

kudos

SERVICE

Williams Elected Leader of International Hypothalamus Conference



Kevin Williams, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Center for Hypothalamic Research, has been elected Co-Vice Chair for 2026 and Co-Chair for 2028 of the Hypothalamus Gordon Research Conference (HypoGRC).

The HypoGRC, established in 2022, is an international event dedicated to cutting-edge, unpublished research on the hypothalamus. Over five days in a remote location, the conference fosters deep discussions, networking, and collaborations among scientists of all career stages. The program covers various aspects of hypothalamic function, including behaviors like eating, metabolism, sleep, stress, and

neuroendocrine regulation. The associated Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) offers additional presentation opportunities for early-career researchers. Diversity, inclusion, and the presentation of new findings are key priorities of the conference.

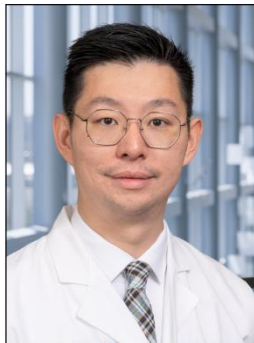
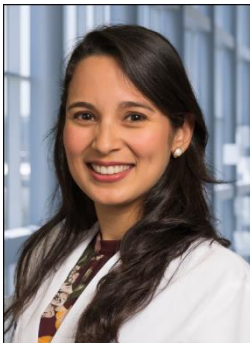
“I am excited to contribute to and lead the HypoGRC in the coming years,” Dr. Williams says. “It has been exciting to see the conference grow, and I look forward to building on the success of the past two HypoGRCs to establish this conference as a leading scientific event in our field.”

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

research roundup

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Delgado Ramos, Jiang Receive Winn Career Development Awards



Glenda Delgado Ramos, M.D., and **Charles Jiang, M.D., M.P.H.**, both Assistant Professors in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, have each received a Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials: Career Development Award in support of their development as clinical investigators advancing health equity through their research and mentoring.

Sponsored by the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, the two-year award of \$120,000 per year is aimed toward strengthening partnerships between clinical investigators and communities, increasing the diversity of patients enrolled in clinical trials, and enhancing the development of therapeutics

for all populations.

Originally from Ecuador, Dr. Delgado Ramos earned her medical degree with honors at the Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil. She completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, and then gained advanced training in hematology and oncology through a fellowship at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago, where she served as Chief Fellow.

Dr. Delgado Ramos joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2022.

Dr. Jiang earned his medical degree at the Medical College of Soochow University in Suzhou, China. He completed an internal medicine residency at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York and received advanced training through a fellowship in medical oncology and hematology at the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and the University at Buffalo. He also holds a master’s degree in chronic disease epidemiology from Yale University.

Dr. Jiang joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2023.

GRANTS

Babb and Colleagues Receive \$2.8M to Study Childhood Obesity



Tony Babb, Ph.D., a Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and colleagues have received a \$2.8 million R01 HLB grant from the National Institutes of Health to further their study of childhood obesity.

“We are mainly looking at the respiratory effects of obesity in children: the longitudinal consequences after six years of aging regarding body composition, pulmonary function, exercise capacity, and dyspnea on exertion,” Dr. Babb says.

Joining him as co-investigators are Professor **Sarah Barlow, M.D.**, and Associate Professor **Tanya Martinez Fernandez, M.D.**, both from the Department of Pediatrics; Assistant Instructor **Bryce Balmain, Ph.D.**, and Associate Professor **Andrew Tomlinson, M.D.**, both from the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine; and Assistant Professor **Yu-Lun Liu, Ph.D.**, from the School of Public Health.

To learn more about the Pulmonary Physiology Lab at the Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine, click [here](#).

AWARDS

Conzen, Zechner Teams Receive Pak Grants



Suzanne Conzen, M.D., a Professor of Internal Medicine and Chair of Hematology and Oncology, and **Christoph Zechner, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, have received a Charles Pak Family Cancer and Bone Initiative Grant Award to support their investigations' various aspects of skeletal metastasis and bone metabolic disease due to cancer or resulting from therapy.

Dr. Conzen and her team will receive \$125,000 to support her study of mechanisms underlying lobular breast cancer metastasis to bone, as they investigate whether tumor glucocorticoid receptor activity contributes to increased ILC metastatic bone burden. She is joined in her research by co-investigator **Kevin Dean, Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics, and postdoctoral researcher **Baylee Porter, Ph.D.**

Dr. Zechner and his team will receive \$75,000 to support their research into proteostasis and phosphate sensing as regulators of the phosphate transporter SLC20A1PiT1 in lung adenocarcinoma. He is joined in his investigation by co-investigators **John Minna, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Director of the Hamon Center for Therapeutic Oncology Research, and **Ralph DeBerardinis, M.D., Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Children's Medical Center Research Institute and Division Chief of Pediatric Genetics and Metabolism.

The Charles Pak Family Cancer and Bone Initiative Grant Awards are supported by the Dean's Office, the Charles Y.C. and Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research, and the Department of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Conzen holds the Andrea L. Simmons Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research. To learn more about her research, visit the [Conzen Lab site](#).

Dr. Minna holds the Max L. Thomas Distinguished Chair in Molecular Pulmonary Oncology, and the Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research.

Dr. DeBerardinis holds the Joel B. Steinberg, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Pediatrics; Sowell Family Scholar in Medical Research.

PUBLICATIONS

Kusminski and Colleagues Review State of Weight-Loss Drugs



Christine Kusminski, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Touchstone Diabetes Center, and colleagues recently reviewed drugs that change clinical practice in the area of cardiorenal and hepatic diseases. The study, published in the journal *Cell*, summarizes the state of knowledge in the clinical and preclinical space of the incretin combination drugs now widely used for weight loss.

“The major challenge in obesity management is the system’s intrinsic drive to preserve energy to defend the higher body weight,” the authors wrote. “A reduction in caloric intake is therefore often accompanied by a decrease in energy

expenditure, along with enhanced sensitivity to factors that stimulate food intake. Combined, these responses hinder weight loss and promote weight gain.”

Until recently, bariatric surgery had been the most effective treatment for maintaining a reduction in body weight. But a closer look at newer therapeutic agents reveal they are effective at reducing the burden of Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, chronic kidney disease, cancer, osteoarthritis, pain, and other conditions for which excess weight is a risk factor.

alumni news

ACHIEVEMENTS

Richard Kibbey Named Ensign Professor of Medicine at Yale



Richard Kibbey, M.D., Ph.D., who has discovered how mitochondria sense metabolism, was recently appointed the Ensign Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology and Metabolism) and Professor of Cellular & Molecular Physiology at Yale School of Medicine. He also serves as Associate Chief for Research in the Section of Endocrinology and Associate Director of the Yale Program for Translational Biomedicine, and he is the newly appointed Director of the Yale Program in Mitochondrial Biology & Intermediary Metabolism (MBIM).

Dr. Kibbey holds bachelor’s degrees in music and in biochemistry from Trinity University in San Antonio. He received his combined M.D. and Ph.D. at UT Southwestern, with his doctoral degree in cellular and molecular biophysics. He then received internal medicine residency training at Yale, in addition to fellowship training in endocrinology. He joined the Yale faculty in 2008.

To access Dr. Kibbey’s faculty profile, click [here](#). To learn more about his research, visit the [Kibbey Lab site](#).



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

in case you missed it

Articles and Videos Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Breaking Barriers: How a First-Generation Student Became a Doctor](#) (Via Dallas College Blog, with **An Lu, M.D.**)
- [Study Identifies Weight-Loss Drug Target in the Brain](#) (Via UTSW Newsroom, with **Kevin Williams, Ph.D.**)

need to know

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

IM Grand Rounds to Become In-Person Only Event Beginning Sept. 1

In efforts to promote more meaningful interactions, improve networking opportunities, and enhance the learning experience for all participants, Internal Medicine Grand Rounds will transition to an in-person only event, beginning Sept. 1.

Lectures will continue to be held in D1.502, with satellite viewing locations to accommodate participants who cannot attend on South Campus. All faculty whose primary site is off the main campus or not adjacent to a satellite viewing location will receive access to the live stream.

Lectures will continue to be recorded and made available through MediaSite and Ethos for later viewing and credit.

QUALITY, SAFETY & OUTCOMES EDUCATION

Quality Improvement Course Offered



The office of Quality, Safety & Outcomes Education is offering a course about the basics of quality improvement. The Performance Excellence and Quality Management (PExQM) course provides healthcare professionals and staff with the skills and knowledge they need to lead quality improvement (QI) projects and change initiatives.

The course emphasizes using a systematic process to assess the current process/state; determine the root causes of problems; and explore, test, and deploy solutions to make sustainable improvements. Participants are required to work on a QI project during the course. Presentation of their

completed project/poster will be scheduled approximately six months after the beginning of the course. Attendance for all classes and project completion including presentation/poster are required for completion. Continuing Medical Education (CME) or Nursing Education Credit will be awarded.

The four-session course begins on **Wednesday, Sept. 25, in E3.302.**

Application deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 11. To apply, click [here](#). Questions? Contact [Mary Baldwin](#).

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Katherine Tuttle to Discuss GLP-1 Agonists and CKD on Aug. 16



Katherine Tuttle, M.D., a Clinical Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology at the University of Washington, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, Aug. 16, at 8 a.m.** in D1.502. Her topic: “Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 Receptor Agonists for Chronic Kidney Disease.”

Dr. Tuttle earned her medical degree at Northwestern University School of Medicine in Chicago, where she also completed her internal medicine residency training. She received fellowship training in metabolism and endocrinology at Washington University in St. Louis, and fellowship training in nephrology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in

San Antonio.

Dr. Tuttle’s clinical practice is at Providence Medical Research Center in Spokane, Washington. Her research interests are in clinical and translational science for diabetes and chronic kidney disease.

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Thursday, Aug. 15, Noon:** [Renal Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Katherine Tuttle** (University of Washington) – “Frameshifting to Kidney Health for CKD in Diabetes and Beyond”

on the horizon

HEALTH EQUITY SPEAKER SERIES

Nguyen to Speak about Refugee Healthcare on Aug. 21



The [Internal Medicine Health Equity Committee summer lecture series](#) concludes on **Wednesday, Aug. 21, at noon**, with a presentation by **Stephanie Nguyen, D.O.**, a Family Medicine Staff Physician at Parkland Health. Her topic: “Refugee Healthcare at Parkland.”

Dr. Nguyen holds a bachelor's degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Michigan, where she also earned a master's degree in hospital and molecular epidemiology. She received her medical degree at UNT Health Science Center and completed family medicine residency training at UT Southwestern, where she also served as Chief

Resident.

She focuses on serving underserved and marginalized populations, with a goal of not only treating and managing health conditions but also addressing the social determinants of health to improve health outcomes and health equity.

Dr. Nguyen joined the physician staff at Parkland Hospital in 2021.

To join the lecture via Zoom, click [here](#). Meeting ID: 992 7383 1059 Meeting Code: 277098



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

save the date

New Faculty Research Forum Scheduled for Sept. 24



Frankie Heyward, Ph.D., and **Kartik Rajagopalan, M.D., Ph.D.,** are among 14 recently appointed Assistant Professors representing 11 departments and two schools who will present an overview of their work at the [New Faculty Research Forum](#) on **Tuesday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** in the T. Boone Pickens Conference Center (NG3.112).

Dr. Heyward, an Assistant Professor in the Center for Hypothalamic Research, and Dr. Rajagopalan, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, are scheduled to speak during Session 4, from 2:20 to 3:20 p.m.

To view the complete program, click [here](#). Lunch will be provided for early registrants. To register for the event, click [here](#).

correction

An announcement in the Aug. 6 edition listing co-authors of a study highlighting trends in screening of primary aldosteronism in at-risk patients incorrectly identified John Giancona, Ph.D., PA-C. as an Assistant Professor in the O'Donnell School of Public Health. He is an Assistant Professor in the School of Health Professions.

When we learn of a mistake, we acknowledge it with a correction. If you spot an error, please let us know at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu.

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024.**
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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