

# medicine minute

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

## announcements

### FACULTY COMPENSATION

## Virtual Town Halls Focusing on Incentive Plan Set for Sept. 12 and Oct. 10



**Sharon Reimold, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Vice Chair of Clinical Operations and Faculty Development, will host a virtual Town Hall for Department faculty at noon on **Thursday, Sept. 12**, and on **Thursday, Oct. 10**.

During the events, Dr. Reimold will review the FY25 Performance Incentive Plan and discuss common terms such as TPE, the point system, and estimation of future salary.

Department Administrator **Nathan Nikirk, M.S., M.H.A., CPA**, and Assistant Director of Finance **Bart Loewen, M.B.A.**, will also be in attendance to respond to questions.

To ensure accurate, detailed responses, participants are asked to [submit questions anonymously in advance](#).

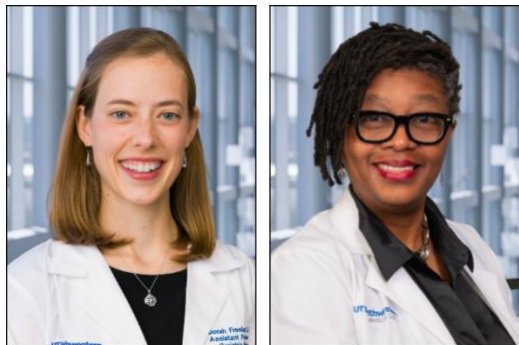
To attend the Sept. 12 event via Zoom, click [here](#). Meeting ID: 976 3973 3287

To attend the Oct. 10 event via Zoom, click [here](#). Meeting ID: 957 7409 8615

## kudos

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

## Division Launches Lecture Series in Support of Service Organizations



**Deborah Freeland, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor, and **Ramona Rhodes, M.D.**, an Associate Professor, both in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, helped launch the Community Ties lecture series last week by moderating a panel discussion with staff members of The Senior Source about navigating the social determinants in geriatric care.

[The Senior Source](#) was founded in 1961 to assist older adults in Dallas County. Today, the nonprofit provides an array of social services and support for senior residents and caregivers in Dallas and Collin counties.

The quarterly lecture series will focus on cultivating relationships with community organizations that support and advocate for older adults and their caregivers, and it will address the social determinants of health that impact older adults who live in Dallas and the surrounding areas.

#### CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### Manohar, Uzendu to Participate in Health Equity Scholars Program



**Poorni Manohar, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, and **Anezi Uzendu, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, have been selected to participate in the two-year UT Southwestern and Parkland Health Equity Scholars Program.

Dr. Manohar's project: "To Build a Multipronged Approach to Increase Mammography Screening and Education to Address Health Disparities in Breast Cancer in the Community Working with the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center."

Dr. Manohar earned her medical degree at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. After completing a residency in internal medicine at the University of Michigan Hospital, she gained advanced training in hematology and oncology through a fellowship at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center at the University of Washington, where she served as Chief Fellow.

Dr. Manohar joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2023.

Dr. Uzendu's project: "Work with Local School District to Mitigate the Disparities in Sudden Cardiac Death Through Sustainable Education and Partnerships."

Dr. Uzendu earned his medical degree at the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Medicine. He completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital and received advanced training through fellowships in cardiovascular medicine at Ohio State University Medical Center and in interventional cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital's Corrigan Minehan Heart Center. He also completed a research fellowship in cardiovascular outcomes at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute.

Dr. Uzendu joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2023.

## research roundup

#### CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

### Courtney Awarded CPRIT Grant to Support Kidney Cancer Research



**Kevin Courtney, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, has received a CPRIT Clinical Investigator Award for \$913,682 to support his research into "Identifying and Exploiting Novel Metabolic Vulnerabilities in the Treatment of Kidney Cancer." Clinical Investigator Awards support mid-career clinician scientists in their efforts to devote more time to clinical cancer research.

In total, the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) approved \$60.6 million in grants to advance the state's cancer-related academic research projects. Overall,

researchers at UT Southwestern received \$11.5 million in funding.

A native of New Hampshire, Dr. Courtney earned his medical degree and a doctorate in molecular cancer biology at Duke University in North Carolina. He completed internal medicine residency training at the University of California-San Francisco, and then received advanced training through a clinical fellowship in medical oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Dana-Farber Harvard Cancer Center and a postdoctoral research fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, both in Boston. He also holds a master's degree in clinical sciences from UT Southwestern.

Dr. Courtney joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2012. His clinical and translational research efforts focus on prostate and kidney cancer, as well as other genitourinary cancers.

## education and training

### UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

## Course on Refugee Health Now Available to Medical Students

Eight medical students have been working with **Sawsan Rashdan, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, to develop an inaugural course in the medical school focused on health disparities among refugee populations.

“The course features a fantastic lineup of speakers and interactive sessions,” Dr. Rashdan says. “It’s a great, innovative course, and the students have put in a tremendous amount of effort to make it happen.”

Refugees face numerous obstacles throughout their journey, including significant challenges in accessing health care. Factors such as limited insurance coverage, financial difficulties, and language barriers contribute to the health disparities seen in refugee populations. It is essential for future health professionals to understand these experiences and the existing health inequities within refugee communities to provide culturally sensitive and appropriate care.

The program aims to enhance knowledge and awareness among medical and health professional students about refugees, their health, and the barriers they face in accessing care; equip students with strategies to improve cultural competence when working with patients from refugee backgrounds; and increase the involvement of medical students in refugee health initiatives.

*The course begins on Sept. 10. Students can register through PeopleSoft under “Manage Classes.”*

*Medical students who developed the course were Ethan Lumongsud, Amber McCranie, Afza Mohammed, Kacie Shannon, Eesha Sohail, Anika Srinath, Giselle Uwera, and Mayuri Vaish.*



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

## in case you missed it

### INFLUENCERS

## Heyward Discusses Value of Community, Importance of Inclusion, in Academia



**Frankie Heyward, Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Center for Hypothalamic Research, was recently featured in a [Nature](#) Q&A series celebrating “people who fight racism in science and who champion inclusion.”

In 2021, Dr. Heyward founded the nonprofit [National Black Postdoctoral Association](#) (NBPA), to create community and offset isolation among Black academics. The organization now includes more than 700 members.

“When socializing and collaborating, my colleagues could tap into their groups of peers with similar identities and experiences, but I had to do without,” Dr. Heyward says. “Realizing that this isolation was hindering my well-being and limiting my career opportunities gave me the idea for the NBPA.”

### Articles and Videos Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Physicians: The Rising Number of Older Patients Requires Expertise on Aging, but Barriers Exist](#) (via the Texas Medical Association, with **Deborah Freeland, M.D.**)
- [Healthy School Lunches? A Culinary Medicine Expert Prescribes Fresh, Tasty Strategies](#) (via MedBlog, with **Jaclyn Albin, M.D.**)
- [TMA Health Beat: Caring for Older Patients](#) (via Texas Medical Association’s Practice Well Podcast, with **Deborah Freeland, M.D.**)

## need to know

DESIGNATED HOLIDAY

### Clinics, Academic Offices, and Labs Closed on Monday, Sept. 2



Labor Day, **Monday, Sept. 2**, is a [designated holiday](#) for UTSW in honor of workers.

All UTSW clinics, central administration, academic offices, and research labs will be closed. Our 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.*

## service opportunities

DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES

### Health Equity Committee Seeks New Members

The Department’s Health Equity Committee is seeking faculty volunteers to serve as members.

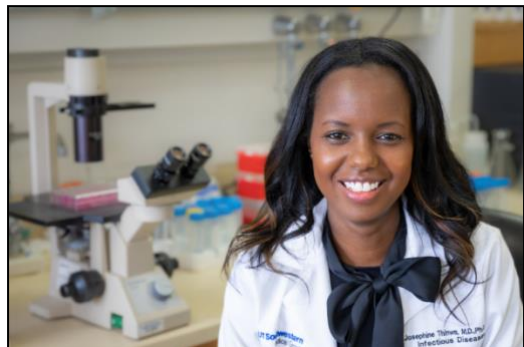
“Advancing health equity and reducing disparities are among the committee’s goals,” says committee founder **Sharon Reimold, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Vice Chair of Faculty Development. “Members will have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our patients, colleagues, and community members. They also develop and implement health equity educational content.”

Interested in joining the Health Equity Committee? Notify [Darinka Pelfrey](#), Program Coordinator, and [Zahid Ahmed, M.D.](#), Committee Chair, and include a brief statement of interest and any relevant experience, as diverse perspectives are essential to the success of the committee's mission.

## this week

INFECTIOUS DISEASES & GEOGRAPHIC MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

### Thinwa to Speak on Activating Autophagy to Fight Viruses on Aug. 29



**Josephine Thinwa, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, will deliver the [Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Thursday, Aug. 29, at 8 a.m. in Y7.316**. Her topic: “Turning on Autophagy to Fight Viruses.”

Dr. Thinwa's research focuses on autophagy, a natural cell-recycling process that helps cells break down and eliminate viruses and other unnecessary components. Her laboratory investigates how autophagy becomes activated by viruses that cause infections of the central nervous system. Her goal is to increase understanding on the role of autophagy in the

immune response to viruses and, ultimately, to use this knowledge to develop new vaccines and treatments for an array of viruses.

Dr. Thinwa joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021.

#### Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Thursday, Aug. 29, 9 a.m.:** [DAPHI Seminar Series](#) with **Dr. Paul Harris** (Vanderbilt University) – “Empowering the Global Research Community – Insights from the REDCap Consortium”
- **Thursday, Aug. 29, Noon:** [Critical Care Lecture](#) with **Dr. Jose Maldonado** (Stanford University) – “SIPAT and Psychosocial Aspects of Transportation”
- **Thursday, Aug. 29, Noon:** [Infectious Diseases Works in Progress](#) with **Kristian Falkon, B.S.** (UT Health San Antonio) – “Microglial Endocytosis of Tau”
- **Friday, Aug. 30, Noon:** [Critical Care Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Jose Maldonado** (Stanford University) – “ICU Delirium”



**Internal Medicine Events Calendar**  
Click to view additional events

## reminders

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Weight Wellness Day Scheduled for Sept. 14

Weight Wellness Day, a free community event sponsored by the UT Southwestern Nutrition and Obesity Research Center, is scheduled for **Saturday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in ND14**.

UT Southwestern physicians, researchers, advanced practice providers, and nurses will lead talks during the event. Attendees also can speak informally with experts at information stations. Numerous medical discoveries and facts will be explored.

The event is open to UT Southwestern employees, patients, family members, and friends.

A free lunch will be provided. To register for the event, click [here](#).

UNIVERSITY EVENTS

## 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](#).

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024**.  
Share feedback and news items with us at [IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu](mailto:IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu)

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