

medicine minute

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

announcements

PROMOTION & TENURE

Forty-two Faculty Members Promoted



Each year the Department's Promotion & Tenure Committee meets to consider nominations for faculty promotions, and then makes recommendations to the Chair. The Chair then forwards those nominations to the Dean, who decides which nominees to submit to the UT System Board of Regents for final approval.

This year, 42 faculty members were promoted. All of them participated in a lengthy and rigorous process, demonstrating accomplishments that warranted their promotion. Eight faculty members received promotions to Professor, one to Clinical Professor, and one to Professor with tenure. Thirty-two others were promoted to Associate Professor or Clinical Associate Professor.

The Department celebrates their achievements and also recognizes the many people behind the scenes who supported them throughout the process.

To learn more about this year's faculty promotions, [read the article in Medicine Matters](#).

kudos

HONORS

Cutrell, Aday and Child Recognized by GME Office



The Graduate Medical Education Office has honored **James "Brad" Cutrell, M.D.**, as Program Director of the Year, **Ariel Aday, M.D.**, as Program Director Rising Star, and **Traci Child, C-TAGME**, as Program Coordinator of the Year. Selections were made based on peer nominations from about 194 Program Directors and about 100 Primary Program Coordinators at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Cutrell, left, an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, has been Program Director of the Infectious Diseases Fellowship since 2018.

Dr. Aday, center, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, became Director of the Gastroenterology Fellowship in 2023, expanding the program to the largest GI fellowship in North America.

Ms. Child, right, is GME Program Coordinator III for three fellowships: Geriatric Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, and General Internal Medicine.

GLOBAL HEALTH

Rashdan Receives Faculty Seed Grant



Sawsan Rashdan, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, has received a \$10,000 Faculty Seed grant from the Office of Global Health to support her project: “Lung Cancer Screening Program in a War-torn, Resource-limited Country.”

“Dr. Rashdan is doing some really great, impactful work in this area,” says **David Gerber, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology who is mentoring her on the project.

Dr. Rashdan earned her medical degree at the Faculty of Medicine of Damascus University in Syria. She performed her residency in internal medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine, where she also completed advanced fellowship training in hematology and oncology.

Dr. Rashdan joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2016.

RECENT JOB CHANGES

Staff Members Take on New Roles



We congratulate the following staff members who recently took on new positions within the Department:

- **Jesus Alvarez** – Research Assistant I, Nephrology
- **Illeana Cuevas** – Clinical Research Coordinator II, Endocrinology
- **Chioma Elendu** – Clinical Research Coordinator I, Endocrinology
- **Tea Huseinbegovic** – Clinical Lab Assistant, Endocrinology
- **Vishal Khivansara** – Senior Research Scientist, Hematology

& Oncology

- **Natalie Tran** – Accountant II, Department Administration
- **Francisco Vera** – Financial Analyst II, Department Administration

research roundup

GRANTS

Suleiman, Colleagues Receive R01 Grant to Study Kidney Disease



Hani Suleiman, M.D., Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology, and colleagues at Washington University in St. Louis have received a five-year, \$4 million grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to study the mechanobiology of podocytes, key kidney cancer cells that are damaged in Alport syndrome and other forms of kidney disease.

Podocytes are specialized cells in the kidney that help filter blood. In Alport syndrome, these cells are injured, leading to impaired kidney function that does not heal. The researchers hypothesize that injury and the potential for healing are closely

associated with disruption by mechanical forces of the podocyte cytoskeleton, the structural scaffolding inside these cells, causing them to lose their normal architecture and detach from the kidney's filtration barrier.

Dr. Suleiman brings expertise in advanced imaging techniques and cell biology to the project. **Jeffrey Miner, Ph.D.**, a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology at the Washington University School of Medicine, will provide knowledge of kidney biology, while **Guy Genin, Ph.D.**, a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science in the McKelvey School of Engineering, will contribute knowledge of mechanical forces in living systems.

The team will use advanced imaging, including super-resolution microscopy, to visualize the podocyte cytoskeleton in detail. They will also employ techniques to measure and manipulate the mechanical forces on cells. Their basic science findings could lay the groundwork for translational studies to develop new therapies for Alport syndrome and potentially other kidney diseases.

Originally from Syria, Dr. Suleiman received his medical education at Damascus University. He earned a doctoral degree in molecular and cellular biology at the University of Regensburg in Germany. He then obtained postdoctoral training in pathology and immunology at Washington University.

Dr. Suleiman joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2024.



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

in case you missed it

MEDBLOG

Almandoz Weighs in on Anti-Obesity Medications



With the increasing recognition and prescription of anti-obesity medications like semaglutide (Ozempic, Wegovy) and tirzepatide (Mounjaro, Zepbound), these drugs are being hailed as revolutionary solutions for managing chronic overweight and obesity.

“Anti-obesity medications work by signaling the brain that we have eaten and the stomach is full, so patients feel satisfied with less food for longer, and cravings are diminished. These powerful mechanisms can result in an average of 15 to 20 percent body weight loss, which can be lifechanging for many people,” says **Jaime Almandoz, M.D.**, an Associate Professor

in the Division of Endocrinology, in [his latest MedBlog post](#). “But one common misconception about these

medications is that they're a magic bullet for better health, and it doesn't necessarily matter what you eat when you're taking them. Nothing could be further from the truth."

Articles and Videos Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Nutrition Know-How for Patients Taking Anti-Obesity Medication](#) (via *MedBlog*, with **Jaime Almandoz, M.D.**)

need to know

INITIATIVES

Faculty Videos Support Recruitment Efforts

Ten faculty members recently participated in the making of two videos to support recruitment efforts across the Department.

Participants were identified by the Health Equity Committee to demonstrate the Department's commitment to fulfilling the spirit of community and equal opportunity. Those who were interviewed reflect the many cultures and perspectives that enable the Department to reach its full potential while leveraging each faculty member's individuality to deliver excellence in health care, education, and research.

To view a video focusing on why these faculty members chose to live in Dallas-Fort Worth and build their careers at UT Southwestern, visit the [Internal Medicine Faculty Careers page](#).

To view a video focusing on how UT Southwestern provides an ideal environment for pursuing research interests, visit the [Internal Medicine Research landing page](#).

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Colorado's Kuhn to Discuss Inflammatory Arthritis on Sept. 6



Kristi Kuhn, M.D., Ph.D., a Professor of Medicine and Head of Rheumatology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, Sept. 6, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. Her topic: "Harnessing the Microbiome for Understanding Inflammatory Arthritis."

Dr. Kuhn holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas and a doctoral degree in immunology from the University of Colorado. She earned her medical degree from the University of Colorado Denver Health Sciences Center and completed internal medicine residency training at Barnes-

Jewish Hospital and Washington University in St. Louis, where she served as Chief Resident and remained to obtain advanced training through a fellowship in rheumatology.

In 2013, Dr. Kuhn returned to the University of Colorado to establish her independent research program focused on specific intestinal microbe-mucosal interactions that influence the generation of systemic inflammation and the development of spondyloarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Wednesday, Sept. 4, 7 a.m.:** [Surgery Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Robert Montgomery** (NYU Langone Transplant Institute) – "The Story of an Unlikely Personal and Professional Transplant Odyssey"

- **Wednesday, Sept. 4, Noon:** [Psychiatry Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Victoria Udezi** (Family & Community Medicine) – “Human Trafficking: The Role of the Clinician”
- **Thursday, Sept. 5, Noon:** [Moss Heart Center Seminar Series](#) with **Dr. Nikhil Munshi** (Cardiology) – “Keeping the Beat: Decoding Transcriptional Control of Cardiac Synchrony”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

special events

WOMEN IN MEDICINE

Annual Observance to Include Weeklong Activities



To celebrate **Women in Medicine Month**, the SWAG (Supporting Women Achieving Greatness) Committee invites you to the following events:

- **Monday, Sept. 16:** “[Pathway from Burnout to Engagement and Retention](#),” with **Dr. Shivani Desai** (General Internal Medicine)
- **Tuesday, Sept. 17:** “[Updates in Laws Affecting Women’s Health](#),” with **Annie Lai Howard** (Legal Affairs) and **Dr. Jamie Morgan** (Obstetrics & Gynecology)
- **Wednesday, Sept. 18:** “[Academic Contributions and Salary: Is There a Gender Difference?](#)” with **Drs. Rachel Bonnema** (General Internal Medicine) and **Dr. Hetal Patel** (Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine)

• **Thursday, Sept. 19:** “[Reproductive Health for Internal Medicine Patients](#),” with **Dr. Bonnie Bermas**, (Rheumatic Diseases)

• **Friday, Sept. 20:** [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Julie Phillely** (UT Tyler) – “Public-Private Partnerships in Academic Medicine: Sense or Cents?”

noteworthy

AWARENESS

Suicide Prevention Month Focuses on Healing and Hope



September is National Suicide Prevention Month, a time for learning about the issues related to suicide and mental health. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is working to change the conversation from suicide to suicide prevention and promote actions that can bring healing, help, and hope for individuals at risk.

Research shows people who are having thoughts of suicide feel relief when someone asks after them in a caring way. Findings suggest acknowledging and talking about suicide may reduce rather than increase suicidal ideation.

To access a free toolkit with recommendations for supporting suicidal individuals, click [here](#). To learn more about suicide prevention, visit [BeThe1To.com](#).

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.**

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

Recently appointed Assistant Professors representing 11 departments and two schools 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).

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

one last thing

FAMILY HEART FOUNDATION

Annual Summit to Honor Brown and Goldstein



The Family Heart Foundation, an organization focused on familial hypercholesterolemia and elevated lipoprotein a, is having its Annual Summit at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown Dallas, Sept. 22-24. This year's theme: "The Golden Age of Lipid Lowering: From Innovation to Impact."

"The meeting brings in top names in the field and covers many relevant topics for all cardiologists in addition to FH/lipid management including addressing disparities, applications of population health strategies and AI technologies, etc.," says **Amit Khera, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology.

"This year's meeting will honor Drs. Brown and Goldstein from

UTSW and will feature a keynote by Dr. Helen Hobbs."

The organization has created a special registration discount for UTSW participants – \$100 to attend when using the registration code **FHGS2024UTSW**. For more details and to register, click [here](#).

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024.**

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

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