

medicine **minute**

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

kudos

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

Mathis Becomes Deputy Editor of Physiology Journal



Keisa Mathis, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Rheumatic Diseases, has become the Deputy Editor of the *American Journal of Physiology–Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology*.

Dr. Mathis holds a bachelor's degree in physics with a minor in math from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge. She also holds a master's degree in applied physics from Purdue University in Indiana. In addition, she earned a master's degree in physiology, followed by a doctorate in physiology, both from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. She received post-doctoral

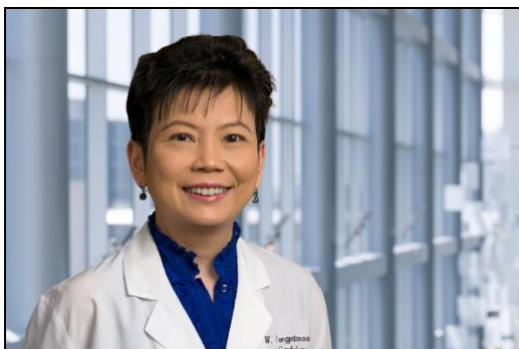
training through a physiology and biophysics fellowship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Mathis's primary research is focused on the interplay between the autonomic nervous system and inflammation as it relates to autoimmune pathophysiology.

Dr. Mathis joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2023.

SERVICE

Vongpatanasin Serves as Clinical Chair of Hypertension Meeting



Wanpen Vongpatanasin, M.D., a Professor in the Hypertension Section of the Division of Cardiology, served as the Clinical Chair of the American Heart Association's annual Hypertension Scientific Sessions last week in Chicago.

Dr. Vongpatanasin directs the Hypertension Fellowship program. She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1999.

To view a video of Dr. Vongpatanasin describing program highlights, click [here](#).

education and training

MEDICAL SCHOOL

Distinction in Aging Pathway Approved for Medical Students

Medical students with an interest in learning more about how to better care for older adults, regardless of their future specialty, can now set themselves apart by earning a Distinction in Aging, making UT Southwestern one of the few medical schools in the nation to offer such a pathway.

“The Distinction in Aging is designed to help medical students develop an expertise in caring for older adults and promote scholarly work within the field of aging,” says **Debbie Freeland, M.D.**, a co-director of the four-year pathway with **Jessica Voit, M.D.**, both Assistant Professors in the Division of Geriatric Medicine.

The pathway includes 24 weeks of experiences in aging, including pre-clerkship, clinical, community, and scholarly experiences. Those pursuing a Distinction in Aging will need to complete their Scholarly Activity in Aging and write a thesis on an aging topic in their final year.

“This concentration has broad applications across clinical care, research skills, and policy/advocacy work that goes beyond a Distinction in Aging,” Dr. Freeland says. “We’re hoping this pathway will spark passion among students interested in gaining expertise in aging and will position UT Southwestern as a leading institution that supports medical students in gaining the knowledge, skills, and frameworks for addressing the unique healthcare needs of older adults.”



Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

in case you missed it

Articles and Videos Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [Widespread Disparities Exist in Treating Advanced Cancers](#) (via UTSW Newsroom, with **Tian Zhang, M.D., M.H.S.**, and **Suzanne Cole, M.D.**)
- [Quality Improvement Boot Camp Teaches Participants the Value of Collaboration to Advance Patient Care](#) (via *CenterTimes Plus*, with **Gary Reed, M.D.**)
- [North Texas Heart Walk Segment](#) (via WFAA-TV, with **Sandeep Das, M.D., M.P.H.**)
- [Bariatric Surgery, Weight-Loss Medication, or Both? Navigating Your Options](#) (via *MedBlog*, with **Tonia Vinton, M.D.**)
- [Medical Students Honor Internal Medicine Faculty, Fellows They Aspire to Emulate](#) (via *Center Times Plus*, with **Reeni Abraham, M.D.**, **Suzanne Cole, M.D.**, **Lanna Felde, M.D.**, **Tiffany Lee, M.D.**, **Srijna Nandivada, M.D.**, **Charles “Chad” Owens M.D.**, **Melanie Sulistio, M.D.**, **Libay Woldeyes, M.D.**, **Omowunmi Adedeji, M.D.**, and **Alexandra Sykes, M.D.**)

need to know

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Flu Vaccinations Available Beginning Sept. 16



UT Southwestern is committed to the safety of its patients, employees, students, and community and is working hard to minimize the spread of influenza. UT Southwestern employees will have access to the annual vaccine from Sept. 16 through Nov. 1, by appointment, as scheduled through Occupational Health's [ReadySet](#) platform. Scheduling is available now.

See the [flu vaccination webpage](#) for more details.

All faculty, staff, house staff, and students working or training within our University Hospital and clinics or at any UTSW or affiliated clinical research sites or locations [are required](#) to

receive an influenza vaccination or provide written notice to Occupational Health that they decline to be vaccinated for medical, religious, or personal reasons on or before Nov. 15.

For more information, visit UTSW's [flu vaccination webpage](#).

IMMUNIZATIONS

Updated COVID-19 Vaccines Available Now



Employees, students, and UTSW patients may receive the new formulation of the COVID-19 vaccine at our retail pharmacies by appointment through [MyChart](#). Location details are [available online](#). Immunizations are **not available at our specialty pharmacies**.

If you would like to receive your flu and COVID-19 vaccinations simultaneously, you may schedule both through MyChart.

Since the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services withdrew its COVID-19 mandate for healthcare workers, COVID-19 vaccination is now optional for members of our Health System.

personnel updates

DIVISION NEWS

Azard Appointed Administrator of GIM, Med-Peds



Allisha Azard, M.B.A., has accepted a position as Division Administrator in the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine, and in the Division of Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.

Ms. Azard holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from the University of South Florida, where she also received a master's degree in training and development. She earned her M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Dallas, with concentrations in strategic management, and innovation and entrepreneurship.

Since joining UT Southwestern in 2019, Ms. Azard has served as a GME Program Coordinator and Administrative Associate in the Department of Pediatrics, and as a Development Coordinator in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

this week

Department Forum Scheduled for Sept. 13



Thomas Wang, M.D., Professor and Chair of Internal Medicine, will conduct a Department Forum on **Friday, Sept. 13, at 8 a.m. in D1.502 and at designated viewing locations.**

All faculty, staff, and trainees are invited to participate in the in-person event. Breakfast pastries, coffee, and juices will be available to in-person attendees.

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](#).

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Tuesday, Sept. 10, Noon:** [Ethics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Michelle Mellow** (Stanford University) – “Understanding Liability Risk from AI Tools”
- **Tuesday, Sept. 10, Noon:** [Reproduction, Development & Cancer Seminar](#) with **Dr. Rugang Zhang** (MD Anderson Cancer Center) – “Epigenetic Approaches to Gynecological Cancers”
- **Wednesday, Sept. 11, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Namirah Jamshed** (Geriatric Medicine) – “Care Beyond Cure: Palliative Strategies for Chronic Illnesses in Home-Based Care”
- **Thursday, Sept. 12, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Kevin Forsberg** (Microbiology) – “Genes Unseen: The Hidden World of Phage-bacterial Conflicts”
- **Friday, Sept. 13, 2 p.m.:** [Pancreatic Cancer Program Meeting](#) with **Dr. Jin He** (Johns Hopkins Medicine) – “Building a Robotic Pancreatectomy Program at Johns Hopkins”



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

special events

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 Tuesday Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Julie Philley** (UT Tyler) – “Public-Private Partnerships in Academic Medicine: Sense or Cents?”

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Hispanic Heritage Month Begins on Sept. 15



Hispanic Heritage Month runs from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, with UT Southwestern’s official celebration scheduled for **Wednesday, Oct. 9**.

The observation began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week and was expanded in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on Sept. 15 and ending on Oct. 15.

This year’s theme, “Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together,” celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dallas Heart Walk Set for Sept. 21



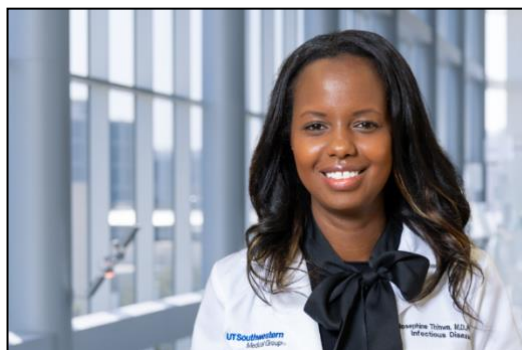
Join other UT Southwestern teams for the Dallas Heart Walk, an annual event that supports lifesaving cardiovascular research and heightens awareness of heart disease and stroke.

The event begins in Downtown Dallas with an Executive Meet & Greet at 8 a.m. on **Saturday, Sept. 21**, followed by the opening ceremony and UTSW group photo at 8:30 a.m. The 1-mile or 3-mile walk begins at 9 a.m.

To join a UTSW team, click [here](#). To sign up as an individual walker, click [here](#). After registering, fill out the form to receive a custom T-shirt. The last day to order a T-shirt is Sept. 17. No T-shirts will be available at the event. For more details, click [here](#).

save the date

Monthly Conference Resumes on Sept. 23



The **Internal Medicine Research Conference** will resume on Monday, Sept. 23, with a presentation by **Josephine Thinwa, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine. Her topic: “CDKL5: Commanding the Cellular ‘Clean-up Crew’ in Antiviral Disease.”

Conferences are presented every month at noon. Lunch will be provided to those who register in advance.

Originally from Kenya, Dr. Thinwa holds a bachelor’s degree in biology with a chemistry minor from Southwestern University in Georgetown. She earned her combined medical and doctoral degrees, with doctoral studies in microbiology and immunology, from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She then completed residency training in internal medicine at UT Southwestern, followed by fellowship training in infectious diseases as part of the Physician Scientist Training Program.

Dr. Thinwa joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021.

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

LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES

Smith to Speak About Emotional Intelligence on Oct. 2



The Leadership Lecture Series resumes on **Monday, Oct. 2, at noon** with a presentation by Lauren Smith, B.B.A., Senior Organizational Development Consultant. Her topic: “Emotional Intelligence.”

All lectures are virtual, informal, and brown bag. Faculty, APPs, administrators, and trainees are welcome to attend.

To attend the virtual event, click [here](#). Meeting ID: 921 7162 3737

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Annual Liver Conference Set for Dec. 7



The Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases will host its 8th Annual Update on Liver Diseases on **Saturday, Dec. 7**, at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel.

The annual course, co-directed by **Amit Singal, M.D.**, and **Indira Bhavsar-Burke, M.D.**, will update providers on a diverse range of topics including evaluation of liver tests, non-invasive markers of fibrosis, viral hepatitis, autoimmune liver disease, alcohol and metabolic associated fatty liver disease, cirrhosis, portal hypertension, primary liver cancer and liver transplantation. The conference focuses on recent advances, publications and expert opinions. In addition to didactic

lectures, case presentations are included to make the activity interactive and practical.

Virtual Town Hall Focusing on Incentive Plan Scheduled for Sept. 12

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. During the event, 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

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](#).

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

