

# medicine minute

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

## kudos

### CLINICAL CARE

#### UTSW Structural Heart Team Achieves Milestone



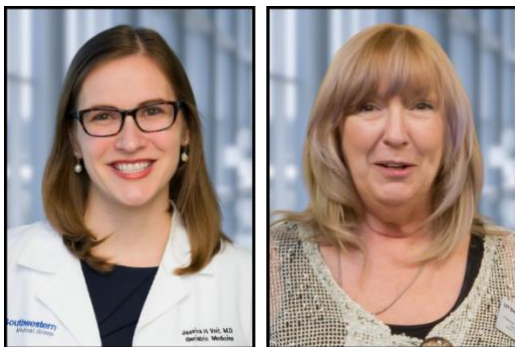
The **UTSW structural heart team** recently achieved a milestone by performing the first trans-catheter tricuspid valve repair using the TriClip G4 Delivery System.

“Clements University Hospital is one of the first in North Texas to perform the TriClip tricuspid valve repair,” says **Anthony Bavy, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Director of the Structural Heart Program. “This innovative technology broadens our range of minimally invasive treatments armamentarium for valvular heart disease.”

The minimally invasive procedure uses a clip, inserted through a catheter, which grasps the valve’s leaflets to reduce blood backflow. It improves quality of life for those with persistent tricuspid regurgitation (TR) who aren’t candidates for open-heart surgery. Patients usually spend one day in the hospital and can resume normal activities within three to four months.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Geriatrics Organization Recognizes UTSW for Elder Care



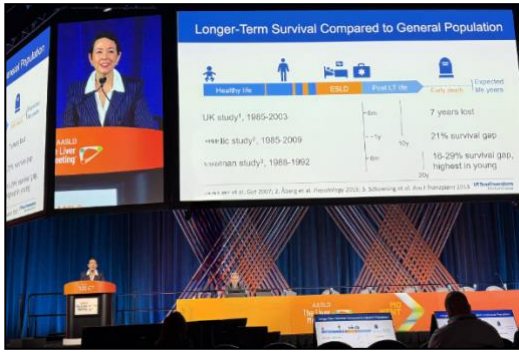
UT Southwestern has been recognized for building and sustaining a successful Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP), an initiative of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS). Site recognition is granted to institutions that have demonstrated a commitment to the program and have excelled in carrying out protocols that improve care for hospitalized older patients.

The program is overseen by Assistant Professor **Jessica Voit, M.D.**, left, and coordinated by Clinical Educator **Patricia Reyher, M.S.N., RN**, both in the Division of Geriatric Medicine. In addition to improving the care of hospitalized older adults, they help educate trainees across the professional spectrum

about the hazards of hospitalization of the elderly and the importance of preventing and recognizing delirium.

### CONFERENCES

#### VanWagner Presents Starzl Lecture at Liver Meeting



**Lisa VanWagner, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases, delivered the Thomas E. Starzl Transplant Surgery State-of-the-Art Lecture at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Liver Meeting. 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.

“It was an honor for Dr. VanWagner to be selected, as this lecture is generally given by a surgeon,” says **Jorge Bezerra, M.D.**, Professor and Chair of Pediatrics. “Lisa’s highly effective presentation was outstanding.”

Dr. VanWagner joined the UT Southwestern Faculty in 2022.



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

## in case you missed it

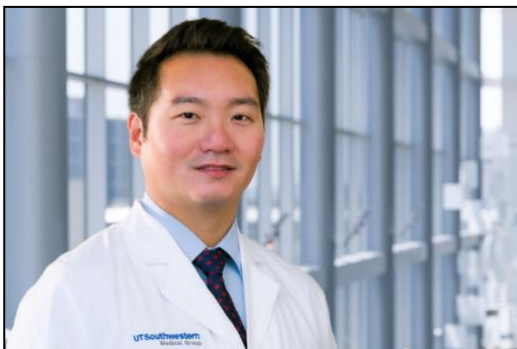
### News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [More Physician Training Proposed in Nutrition, Food Counseling](#) (via *UTSW Newsroom*, with **Jaclyn Albin, M.D.**)
- [Global Health and Pandemic Preparedness at a Crossroads](#) (via *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, with **Krutika Kuppalli, M.D.**)

## this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

### Tan to Lecture About Adult Congenital Heart Disease on Dec. 6



**Weiyi Tan, M.D., M.P.H.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on **Friday, Dec. 6, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. His topic: “ACHD in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Changing Demographics of the Adult Congenital Heart Disease Population and Evolution of the Field.”

Dr. Tan earned his medical degree at Duke University School of Medicine. He completed a residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he also received advanced training through fellowships in adult cardiovascular disease, adult congenital

heart disease, and adult interventional cardiology. He also holds a master’s degree in public health from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Tan joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2021.

## Maya-Ramos to Discuss Endotrophin in Heart Failure on Dec. 6



**Lisandro Maya-Ramos, M.D., Ph.D.**, a PSTP Fellow in the Division of Cardiology, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference](#) on **Friday, Dec. 6, at noon in E6.200**. His topic: “Small Peptide, Large Implications: Endotrophin in HFpEF.”

Dr. Maya-Ramos holds a bachelor’s degree in human biology from the University of California San Diego. He earned his medical degree and his doctorate from the University of California San Francisco. He then received internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern.

Under the mentorship of **Joseph Hill, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Director of the Moss Heart Center, and **Philipp Scherer, Ph.D.**, Professor and Director of the Touchstone Diabetes Center, he is investigating the role of adipose tissue extracellular matrix derived peptides in inflammatory diseases, including heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.

In 2023, Dr. Maya-Ramos was one of only 25 scientists nationwide selected for the prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Hanna H. Gray Fellowship, a program that provides funding through fellowship and into the first years of a faculty position.

*Dr. Hill holds the Frank M. Ryburn Jr. Chair in Heart Research and the James T. Willerson, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Diseases.*

*Dr. Scherer holds the Gifford O. Touchstone, Jr. and Randolph G. Touchstone Distinguished Chair in Diabetes Research and the Touchstone/West Distinguished Chair in Diabetes Research.*

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

## Oncology Year in Review Scheduled for Dec. 7



The Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center will present its annual Oncology Year in Review on **Saturday, Dec. 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the third-floor conference room of the Radiation Oncology Building.

The live, in-person event will provide participants the latest information available as presented at professional and scientific meetings held throughout 2024.

Course Director **Sawsan Rashdan, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, will be joined by 12 other faculty members to discuss the latest

breakthroughs in cancer care, research, and prevention.

*To learn more about the conference, click [here](#).*

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

## Annual Liver Conference Set for Dec. 7



The Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases will host its 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

Registration to attend virtually is open until Thursday, Dec. 5. To learn more about the conference, click [here](#). To register for the conference, click [here](#).

### Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Wednesday, Dec. 4, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Pdraig O'Suilleabhain** (Neurology) – “Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus”
- **Thursday, Dec. 5, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Kaitlyn Cecile Reasoner** (Vanderbilt University) – “Evaluation of Antibiotic Prescribing Practices for and Outcomes of Vertebral Osteomyelitis”
- **Thursday, Dec. 5, Noon.:** [Nephrology Journal Club](#) with **Dr. Naveen Balakrishnan** (Nephrology) – “ESRPIT and BPROAD: Do These Change BP Management For Nephrologists?”
- **Friday, Dec. 6, Noon:** [Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center Distinguished Lecture](#) with **Dr. Michelle Arkin** (University of California San Francisco) – “Modulating Cancer Processes with Non-Degrading Molecular Glues”
- **Friday, Dec. 6, 1 p.m.:** [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Jaime Almandoz** (Endocrinology) – “Gaps in Obesity Care with Incretin-Based Obesity Medications”
- **Friday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m.:** [Pancreatic Cancer Program Meeting](#) with **Dr. Philipp Scherer** (Touchstone Diabetes Center) – “Obesity, Type 2 Diabetes, Fibroinflammation and the Increased Risk for Pancreatic Cancer”
- **Monday, Dec. 11, Noon:** [Hematology & Oncology Faculty Recruitment Seminar](#) with **Dr. Jude Khatib** (University of New Mexico) – “Genomic Advances in Prostate Cancer: From Diagnosis to Treatment”

### on the horizon

#### WORKSHOPS

### Training for Responsible Conduct of Research Available Dec. 9-10



Early career faculty who have recently received a K-Award or who are submitting one can learn tips and best practices for responsible conduct of research at a two-day, in-person workshop led by **Elizabeth Heitman, Ph.D.**, a Professor of Psychiatry, and **Stuart Ravnik, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean of the UT Southwestern Graduate School and the UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, on **Monday, Dec. 9, and Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 1 to 3 p.m. at a location yet to be announced.**

Questions? Contact [Dr. Ravnik](#). To register for the event, click [here](#).



## Internal Medicine Events Calendar

Click to view additional events

### alumni news

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

## Pradeep Kumar Named Physician of the Year by Travis County Group



**Pradeep Kumar, M.D.**, a gastroenterologist with Austin Gastroenterology, has been named Physician of the Year by the Travis County Medical Society (TCMS).

Dr. Kumar holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Rice University. He received his medical degree and internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern. He then completed a fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of California San Diego.

A past President of the TCMS, Dr. Kumar has also made weekly television appearances on KTBC-7, the Fox affiliate in Austin, to educate the public about their health. He joined the Austin Gastroenterology practice in 2004.

In a profile published in the *TCMS Journal*, Dr. Kumar attributes his desire to practice medicine to the late **Daniel Foster, M.D.**, who served as the Department's third Chair, from 1987 to 2003.

Dr. Foster taught him about the "nobility of medicine," he says. "He taught me about being there for other people."

To read the entire profile, click [here](#).

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

Share feedback and news items with us at [IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu](mailto:IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu)

Copyright 2024 UT Southwestern Medical Center. All rights reserved.

*Medicine Minute* is a publication of the Department of Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

