

medicine **minute**

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

kudos

CLINICAL CARE

Drazner Leads Effort to Provide Guidance on Managing Myocarditis



Mark Drazner, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Clinical Chief of Cardiology, served as Chair of the American College of Cardiology’s Expert Consensus Decision Pathway writing committee to provide [guidance on the diagnosis and management of myocarditis](#), a rare inflammation of the heart muscle that can lead to heart failure, abnormal heartbeat, and sudden death.

“Given that there have been no recent guidelines and there have been important developments in the field of myocarditis, it was felt that an Expert Consensus Decision Pathway (ECDP) could fill important gaps,” Dr. Drazner says. “We

provided a practical, five-step care pathway that clinicians can use to diagnose and treat patients with myocarditis. Those steps included: Recognition, Triage, Pivotal diagnostic tests, Treatment, and Longitudinal surveillance.”

Dr. Drazner says the ECDP emphasized the need to have follow-up imaging studies performed and to consider genetic counseling/testing for patients with myocarditis.

“We also proposed a novel four-stage classification of myocarditis which included Stages A (At risk); B (Asymptomatic); C (Symptomatic) and D (Advanced,” he says. “We believe this newly proposed four-stage classification will be an impetus for future research, which could lead to advances in the field of myocarditis.”

Dr. Drazner holds the James M. Wooten Chair in Cardiology.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Akins Wins Platform Competition



John Akins, Ph.D., a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine (IEEM) at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas, won the 2024 Trainee Platform Competition at the International Symposium on the Autonomic Nervous System. Dr. Akins discussed the effects of hypertension and chlorthalidone treatment on autonomic-cardiovascular responses to static handgrip exercise in older women.

Dr. Akins holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in kinesiology and health from the University of Texas at Austin.

He received his doctorate in kinesiology from the University of Texas at Arlington.

The IEEM, a joint program between Texas Health Dallas and UT Southwestern, includes faculty, staff, and students who conduct studies in eight research laboratories and provide their expertise on aspects of human physiology and medicine.

research roundup

CLINICAL TRIALS

UTSW Enrolls First Participant in Study of CRISPR-based Treatment

Justin Grodin, M.D., M.P.H., an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Director of the Clinical Trials Unit, reports having enrolled the first randomized research participant into a clinical trial testing a medicine based on CRISPR (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats) gene editing technology to permanently “silence” a gene that makes a protein in the liver called transthyretin (TTR).

The phase 3, multinational, multicenter, randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled study will evaluate the effectiveness and safety of a single-dose investigational treatment for transthyretin cardiac amyloidosis, a rare, progressive, and fatal condition.

Dr. Grodin serves as UT Southwestern’s principal investigator for “MAGNITUDE: A Phase 3, Multinational, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of NTLA-2001 in Participants with Transthyretin Amyloidosis with Cardiomyopathy (ATTR-CM).” The lead study coordinator is Ruth Ikpefan, with additional support provided by Therese Vallina.

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

alumni news

LEADERSHIP

Moran Named Parkland’s Inaugural Chief Health Officer



Brett Moran, M.D., an Adjunct Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, has been named Parkland Health’s inaugural Chief Health Officer (CHO), with a focus on improving the delivery of timely and high-quality care. In his new role, Dr. Moran will lead clinical strategic development and oversee our Center for Value and Innovation, research, digital health and the activities of PCCI at Parkland.

“Dr. Moran’s expertise in clinical informatics is particularly important as we embark upon a new era of incorporating digital technology and AI into our services,” says **Fred Cerise, M.D., M.P.H.**, President and Chief Executive Officer for Parkland

Health. “He has a long history of administrative leadership and patient care at Parkland and is deeply committed to our mission.”

Dr. Moran holds a bachelor’s degree in biomedical science from Texas A&M University, where he graduated summa cum laude. He earned his medical degree from UT Southwestern, where he also completed internal medicine residency training. Since 2009, he has held progressive executive leadership roles at Parkland Health, including service as Chief Medical Information Officer and Associate Chief Medical Officer.



in case you missed it

MEDBLOG

Govind, Modi Explore Link Between Climate Change and Health



As physicians, **Anusha Govind, M.D.**, left, and **Sheila Modi, M.D.**, right, recognize the toll that natural disasters and other climate-related issues are taking on human health.

“Greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and environmental degradation can exacerbate cardiovascular and breathing disorders, induce heat-related illness, and propagate infectious diseases,” they write in *MedBlog*. “It’s worth taking a closer look at a few ways climate change impacts the current and future needs of medicine and health care.”

In their [blog post](#), Dr. Govind, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, and Dr. Modi, an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, discuss how air quality, extreme heat, and climate conditions that contribute to bacterial growth and vector-borne diseases affect human health, particularly in vulnerable populations.

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [How Dallas Oncologists are Treating Breast Cancer with Subzero Temperatures](#) (via *The Dallas Morning News*, with Heather McArthur, M.D.)
- [Severe Malaria: Why it Took so Long to Identify Mystery DRC Illness](#) (via *TRT World*, with **Krutika Kuppalli, M.D.**)
- [Reimbursement Issues Seem to Be Holding Renal Denervation Back](#) (via *TCTMD*, with **Wanpen Vongpatanasin, M.D.**)

need to know

HOLIDAYS

Clinics, Academic Offices, Labs Closed on Dec. 25



Wednesday, Dec. 25, is a [designated holiday](#) for UTSW faculty, employees, and trainees, in observance of Christmas.

All UTSW clinics, central administration, academic offices, and research labs will be closed. Hospitals will be fully operational with appropriate staff in support areas.

There will be no Internal Medicine Grand Rounds or Internal Medicine Research Conference on Friday, Dec. 27.

If you have questions about the holiday policy, contact Human Resources at 214-648-0821.

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

Compliance Update on Personal Social Media Accounts

To maintain a consistent and professional online presence, only approved social media accounts monitored in Sprout Social are permitted on faculty and provider profiles. Linking to personal social media accounts is not allowed.

Questions about which accounts can be used and linked? Contact [Cierra Busby](#).

save the date

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Tenth Annual Seldin Symposium Set for March 28



Abstracts for the 10th annual **Donald W. Seldin Research Symposium** can be submitted now through **Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025**, using the online submission form. Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

The symposium is scheduled for **Friday, March 28, 2025**. It will feature poster presentations ranging from basic science and clinical investigations to quality improvement and medical education, a keynote address by **David Altshuler, M.D., Ph.D.**, executive vice president and chief scientific officer of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and the Seldin-Smith Physician Scientist Lecture by **Benjamin Izar, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant

Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

For more details about the Seldin Symposium, click [here](#).



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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