

medicine minute

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

research roundup

FUNDING

Fu Receives \$2M Endowment for Women's Heart Health Lab



Qi Fu, M.D., Ph.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Director of the Women's Heart Health Laboratory at the Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine (IEEM) at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, has received a \$2 million grant from the Harry S. Moss Heart Trust to establish an endowment to support its research on women's heart health and the impact of sex differences on cardiovascular function.

"With this endowment, the lab will be strongly positioned to fill gaps in knowledge and advance findings more quickly, translating into exponential contributions to the medical field,

and ultimately, patient care," says Dr. Fu.

IEEM Founding Director **Benjamin Levine, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology, adds, "With this dependable supply of funding, we can move closer to the goal of impacting clinical practice and reducing heart disparities in women."

The Women's Heart Health Laboratory was established in 2004 with an aim to understand the mechanisms for heart disease in women across the lifespan and seek effective therapies to treat these conditions. Despite continued advancement in medical care, heart disease remains the leading cause of death in women in the U.S.

Dr. Fu earned her medical degree and a master's degree in neurology at the Suzhou University School of Medicine in China. She then earned her doctoral degree in autonomic neuroscience at the Nagoya University School of Medicine in Japan and completed her postdoctoral fellowship under Dr. Levine at the IEEM.

Dr. Fu joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2004.

Dr. Levine holds the Distinguished Professorship in Exercise Sciences.

To learn more about the Women's Heart Health Laboratory, click [here](#).

kudos

RECOGNITION

Sopirala Honored for Advocacy Work



Madhuri Sopirala, M.D., M.P.H., an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine and Director of Infection Prevention at Parkland Health, has been honored by the Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) for outstanding advocacy.

Dr. Sopirala chairs the organization's Burn Infection Interest Group. Additionally, she has been selected to serve on the Infectious Diseases Society of America's Quality Measurement & Improvement Subcommittee.

Dr. Sopirala attended medical school at Sri Venkatesvara Medical College in Andhra Pradesh, India. She received internal medicine residency training at Mount Carmel Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio, and completed advanced training through an infectious diseases fellowship at Ohio State University Medical Center, where she also earned a master's degree in public health for clinical investigation and epidemiology.



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in case you missed it

MEDIA

Elmquist, Scherer Share Diabetes Expertise on Podcast



Joel Elmquist, D.V.M., Ph.D., a Professor in the Center for Hypothalamic Research and Vice Chair of Research, and **Philipp Scherer, M.D.**, a Professor in the Touchstone Center for Diabetes Research, were featured guests on [DiabetesBio](#), the American Diabetes Association's podcast for its flagship research publication, *Diabetes*.

Drs. Elmquist and Scherer discussed the interplay between the brain and adipose tissue.

Dr. Elmquist is the Carl H. Westcott Distinguished Chair in Medical Research and holds the Maclin Family Distinguished Professorship in

Medical Science, in Honor of Dr. Roy A. Brinkley.

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.

To learn more about the Center for Hypothalamic Research, click [here](#). To learn more about the Touchstone Center for Diabetes Research, click [here](#).

News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [End-of-life Care More Aggressive for Cancer Patients with Defibrillators](#) (via UTSW Newsroom, with **Megan Mullins, Ph.D., M.P.H.**; **Melanie Sulistio, M.D.**, **Vlad Zaha, M.D., Ph.D.**; **Rachna Goswami, M.D., M.P.H.**; and **David Gerber, M.D.**)
- [Rheumatology Care Can Age Gracefully if You Focus on the Geriatric 5Ms](#) (via *MedBlog*, with **Una Makris, M.D.**)

need to know

MEDIA

Authorization Required for Release of Image and Likeness

UT Southwestern requires authorization to use an individual's likeness on video, audio, photographic, digital, electronic, or any other medium taken or made on behalf of all UT Southwestern activities. Beginning this year, all faculty, staff, and learners in the Department will be asked to sign and submit an electronic Consent and Release form so that the individual's likeness can be reproduced, exhibited, or distributed for educational, promotional, or advertising purposes, which is considered essential to supporting the university and its various missions. Consent may be withdrawn at any time.

To submit a Consent and Release form, click [here](#).

TECHNOLOGY

Generative AI Tool Available Through the Library

UT Southwestern has acquired Scopus AI, a generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool that searches Scopus' peer-reviewed and vetted content.

The Scopus database includes more than 27,800 peer-reviewed journals and 330,000 books from over 7,000 scholarly publishers, as well as 50,000 open access (OA) publishers and OA repositories, and records from MEDLINE and EMBASE. Scopus AI explains how it searched the database, includes references, indicates its confidence level in the relevancy of the response, and suggests "go deeper" questions.

The UTSW Health Sciences Digital Library and Learning Center will host a virtual introduction to Scopus AI on **Thursday, Jan. 30, at noon**. To register for the event, click [here](#).

of interest

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Funding Available for Postdoc Salary Support

The Jane Coffin Childs (JCC) Memorial Fund for Medical Research provides three years of salary support for up to 30 postdoctoral fellows who are pursuing fundamental biomedical research to advance human health. Funded fellows attend an annual symposium, where they participate in poster sessions, scientific sessions, and career development sessions aimed at enhancing their networking, communication, and scientific skills.

The submission deadline is **Friday, Jan. 31**, but interested principal investigators need to contact UT Southwestern's office of Corporate & Foundations Relations by **Friday, Jan. 17**, to apply.

For more information, click [here](#). To contact the office of Corporate & Foundation Relations, click [here](#).

this week

LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES

Agusala, Albin to Speak About Lifestyle Medicine on Jan. 15



The Leadership Lecture Series continues **Wednesday, Jan. 15, at noon** with a presentation **Bethany Agusala, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Director of the William T. and Gay F. Solomon General Internal Medicine Clinic, and **Jaclyn Albin, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, and Director of the Culinary Medicine Program. Their topic: "Lifestyle Medicine for Healthcare Workers."

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

To register in advance for the virtual event, click [here](#).

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Harvard's Sarah Fortune to Lecture About Tuberculosis on Jan. 17



Sarah Fortune, M.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, will deliver the Internal Medicine Grand Rounds lecture on **Friday, Jan. 17, at 8 a.m. in D1.503**. Her topic:

Originally from Lexington, Kentucky, Dr. Fortune holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Yale University. She earned her medical degree from Columbia and completed internal medicine residency training at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where she also obtained advanced training through a clinical fellowship in infectious diseases. She joined the Harvard

faculty in 2006.

Dr. Fortune's research focuses on the molecular basis of population heterogeneity in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) and the extent to which differences between mycobacterial cells contribute to differences in disease and treatment outcomes. Her lab combines bacterial genetic approaches with high throughput methodologies including population genomics, ssRNAseq and quantitative live cell imaging to define the molecular mechanisms by which Mtb generates diversity and how this diversity enables the bacterium to survive subsequent selective forces including antibiotics and immune selection. She is investigating the impact of host immune responses on the interaction of Mtb with the infected host, again working at both single cell and genomic levels.

In 2019, Dr. Fortune received a contract award to help establish three new Immune Mechanisms of Protection Against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (IMPAC-TB) Centers.

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Turer to Discuss Protein's Role in Intestinal Host Microbe Interactions



Emre Turer, M.D., Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Disease⁷, will present the Internal Medicine Research Conference on **Friday, Jan. 10, at noon in D1.502**. His topic: "Control of Intestinal Host-Microbe Interactions by the Golgi Protein TVP23B."

Originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, Dr. Turer earned his medical degree and doctoral degree in biological sciences at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He completed both his residency in internal medicine and fellowship in digestive and liver diseases at UT Southwestern as part of the Physician-Scientist Training Program.

Dr. Turer's research is focused on discovering new genes involved in maintaining intestinal homeostasis. He has published numerous academic articles in the area of intestinal inflammation, including articles in *Nature Communications* and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. He also serves as a reviewer for several scholarly journals and is a member of the American Gastroenterological Association and the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation.

Dr. Turer joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2015.

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

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

- **Tuesday, Jan. 14, 8 a.m.:** [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Hayden Smith** (University of Washington) – “Difficulties with Diagnosing Mucormycosis and How Targeted Cell-free DNA Assays May Provide the Answers”
- **Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m.:** [Family & Community Medicine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Mahvash Husain** (Family & Community Medicine) – “Kitchen to Bedside: The Role of Food as Medicine in Cancer Survivors”
- **Wednesday, Jan. 15, 8 a.m.:** [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Lynn Kirk** (Geriatric Medicine) – “Impacts of Private Equity Acquisitions in Health Care”
- **Wednesday, Jan. 15, Noon:** [Health Disparities Research Lecture Series](#) with **Dr. Linda Suleiman** (Northwestern University) – “Social Determinants of Health in Total Joint Arthroplasty: Implications for the Future”
- **Thursday, Jan. 16, Noon:** [Nephrology Journal Club](#) with **Dr. Thyl Nguyen** (Nephrology) – “Historical Journal Club: CARRESS-HF”
- **Thursday, Jan. 16, Noon:** [Moss Heart Center Seminar Series](#) with **Dr. Zhi-Ping Liu** (Cardiology) – “Targeting Histone Lysine Demethylases for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy”
- **Friday, Jan. 17, 1 p.m.:** [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with **Dr. Mark Herman** (Baylor College of Medicine) – “Molecular and Clinical Aspects of Fructos-induced Metabolic Disease”

reminders

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Annual GI Symposium Scheduled for Feb. 22



Faculty members from the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases will present their annual “What’s New in GI” symposium on **Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Westin Galleria Dallas**.

The one-day, in-person CME course, directed by **David Fudman, M.D., Neha Patel, M.D., and Tarek Sawas, M.D.**, is designed for gastroenterologists, GI surgeons, internal medicine physicians, family practice providers, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other healthcare providers with an interest in gastroenterology and hepatology. Attendees will be provided with practical information that can

be applied in their clinical practice. Discussions will include the latest updates on recognizing symptoms and using current data to establish diagnoses and formulate appropriate treatment plans for the management of gastrointestinal diseases.

For more information, click [here](#).



Internal Medicine Events Calendar

[Click to view additional events](#)

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025**.
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