medicine minute

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

kudos

RECOGNITION

Paulk Elected to Medical Honor Society

Elizabeth Paulk, M.D., a Professor in the Palliative Medicine section of the William T. and Gay F. Solomon Division of General Internal Medicine and Associate Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency, has been elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society for demonstrating the “excellence in scholarship, high professionalism, leadership, and gifted teaching.”

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Paulk holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. She earned her medical degree at Emory University in Atlanta and completed internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern. She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1999.

Dr. Paulk is credited with establishing the palliative medicine program at UT Southwestern and Parkland Health. Additionally, she was the inaugural Program Director for the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship. In 2018, she received UT Southwestern’s President’s Award for Diversity and Humanism in Clinical Care.

Dr. Paulk will be recognized at the Alpha Omega Alpha banquet on **Thursday, March 20,** in the A.W. Harris Faculty Club.

Dr. Paulk holds the Distinguished Professorship in Palliative Care, in Honor of Steven Leach, M.D.

research roundup

PUBLICATIONS

Abreu, Colleagues Review and Analyze Glucose Control Trials

Marconi Abreu, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, and colleagues conducted a review and meta-analysis of six randomized controlled trials comparing continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) plus point-of-care (POC) glucose testing to POC testing alone in non-pregnant, non-critically ill hospitalized adults with diabetes. Their findings, published in *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice*, suggest using CGM alongside point-of-care POC glucose testing for insulin dosing led to better glycemic control,

improved safety, and better clinical outcomes compared to using POC glucose testing alone.

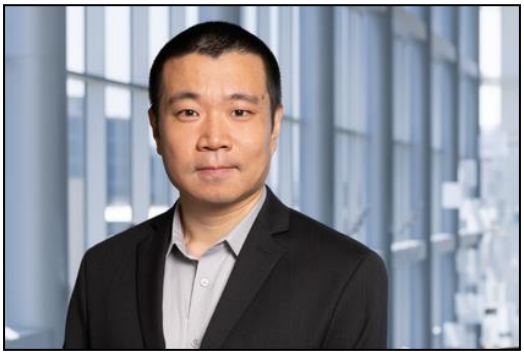
“Several studies evaluated the benefits of CGM in hospitalized patients, but its efficacy in controlling blood glucose and improving patient outcomes has been variable,” the authors say. “Our findings significantly expand on these earlier studies by providing a more comprehensive analysis with higher statistical power, detecting meaningful differences in key glycemic metrics.”

Internal Medicine News Portal
Click for more Department news and updates

in case you missed it

FROM THE NEWSROOM

Liu, Colleagues Publish Study Implicating Genetic Cause for Obesity



Chen Liu, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Center for Hypothalamic Research, and colleagues have discovered that mutations in the OTP gene contribute to obesity by regulating the activity of another gene already targeted by an anti-obesity drug. Published in *Science Translational Medicine*, their findings could pave the way for new treatments for certain types of obesity, a significant health issue affecting over a billion people globally.

The hypothalamus largely controls the drive to eat – or not eat. Within this area of the brain, a protein called melanocortin 4 receptor (MC4R) on the surface of certain hypothalamic neurons interacts with various proteins to either suppress or stimulate hunger. Previous research has indicated that mutations causing a loss of MC4R function can lead to severe childhood-onset obesity, while mutations that enhance MC4R activity are linked to protection against obesity. Yet surprisingly little is known about how neurons control the amount of MC4R – which in turn affects how much this protein guards against obesity.

“Our study uncovers the molecular basis of severe obesity in a group of patients and suggests a potential treatment,” says Dr. Liu.

*Other Internal Medicine researchers who contributed to the study are co-first authors **Baijie Xu, Ph.D.**, a postdoctoral researcher in the Liu Lab and recipient of the Seldin Symposium Basic Science Award, and **Steven C. Wyler, Ph.D.**, Instructor of Internal Medicine; **Joel Elmquist, D.V.M., Ph.D.**, Professor of Internal Medicine, Vice Chair of Research, and Director of the Center for Hypothalamic Research; **Li Li, Ph.D.**, Instructor of Internal Medicine; and **FNU Swati, M.S.**, and **Rong Wan, M.S.**, research associates.*

To read the complete press release, click here. To learn more about Dr. Liu’s research, visit the Liu Lab site.

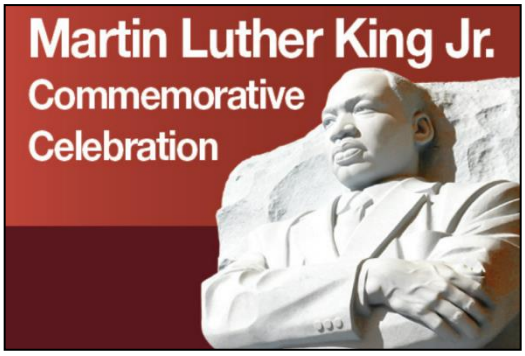
News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

● Premature-aging Syndrome Named after Garg, Mishra for Discovering Gene Variant (via *CenterTimes Plus*, with **Abhimanyu Garg, M.D.**)

events

COMMEMORATIONS

University’s MLK Celebration Set for Jan. 23



UT Southwestern will honor the life and legacy on Martin Luther King Jr. during a commemorative celebration on **Thursday, Jan. 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in D1.700**.

Ambassador **Ron Kirk**, Senior Counsel at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, will deliver the keynote address. Amb. Kirk served as the 56th Mayor of Dallas and the U.S. Trade Representative in the administration of President Barack Obama.

The hybrid celebration will also include remarks from UTSW President **Daniel Podolsky, M.D.**, a musical performance, and an award ceremony.

For more information, and to register for the event, click here.

this week

INTERNAL MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

UCSF's Carolyn Calfee to Discuss Molecular Phenotyping of Critical Illness

Carolyn Calfee, M.D., M.A.S., a Professor of Internal Medicine and Anesthesia in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, Allergy and Sleep Medicine at the University of California San Francisco, will present the Internal Medicine Grand Rounds lecture on **Friday, Jan. 24, at 8 a.m. in D1.502**. Her topic: "Molecular Phenotyping of Critical Illness: Moving Towards Precision Clinical Care."

Dr. Calfee holds a bachelor's degree from Yale University and received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She completed internal medicine residency training at the University of California San Francisco, where she served as Chief Resident, and where she also received advanced training through a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine. She also earned a master's degree in clinical research at UCSF, training with Drs. Mark Matthay and Mark Eisner.

Dr. Calfee's primary academic focus is the prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of the acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Current research projects include: (1) molecular phenotyping of ARDS and precision medicine in the ICU; (2) the role of cigarette smoke exposure and exposure to novel tobacco products in acute lung injury; and (3) novel treatments for ARDS.

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

DeBerardinis to Speak About Metabolic Outliers in Human Disease

Ralph DeBerardinis, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Director of the Genetic and Metabolic Disease Program and the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development, will deliver the Internal Medicine Research Conference on **Friday, Jan. 22, at noon in D1.502**. His topic: "Metabolic Outliers in Human Disease."

Dr. DeBerardinis holds a bachelor's degree in biology from St. Joseph's University. He then earned his doctorate in cell and molecular biology, followed by his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He was the first trainee in the combined residency program in pediatrics and medical genetics at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and received several awards for teaching and

clinical care. He ultimately achieved board certification in pediatrics, medical genetics, and clinical biochemical genetics.

His research interests include the role of altered metabolic states in human diseases, particularly pediatric inborn errors of metabolism and cancer. His research is tightly integrated with clinical activities in medical genetics, oncology, and radiology, providing seamless opportunities to examine the relevance of findings in patients.

Dr. DeBerardinis holds the Eugene McDermott Distinguished Chair for the Study of Human Growth and Development; the Philip O'Bryan Montgomery Jr., M.D., Distinguished Chair in Developmental Biology; and the Sowell Family Scholar in Medical Research.

Noteworthy Lectures & Conferences

● **Wednesday, Jan. 22, 6:30 a.m.:** Anesthesiology Grand Rounds with **Dr. Lynn Kirk** (Geriatric Medicine) – "Professionalism and Physician Well-being"

● **Wednesday, Jan. 22, 8 a.m.:** Geriatrics Grand Rounds with **Dr. Vivek Sant** (Endocrine Surgery) – "Shared Decision Making in Primary Hyperparathyroidism"

● **Wednesday, Jan. 22, 9 a.m.:** Hematology & Oncology Recruitment Seminar with **Dr. Phyu Thin Naing** (Northwell Health) – "Health Disparities in Myeloma"

● **Wednesday, Jan. 22, Noon:** Cardiometabolic Lecture Series with **Dr. Naveed Sattar** (University of Glasgow) – "Obesity and Cardiometabolic Disease: New Ways to Look at the Fast-moving Evidence"

● **Thursday, Jan. 23, 8 a.m.:** Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds with **Dr. Kevin Lutz** (Biostatistics & Data Science Core) – "Biostatistical Support at UTSW: How to Find It and Make the Most of It"

● **Thursday, Jan. 23, Noon:** Nephrology Journal Club with **Dr. Mustafa Tajkhanji** (Nephrology) – "Cyclophosphamide: A Game Changer in Vasculitis Treatment"

● **Thursday, Jan. 23, 1 p.m.:** BME Seminar Series with **Dr. Carole Baas** (National Cancer Institute) – "AI in Healthcare: The Intersection of Patient-Driven Advocacy and Biomedical Engineering Innovation"

● **Friday, Jan. 24, 1 p.m.:** Endocrine Grand Rounds with **Dr. Oksana Hamidi** (Endocrinology) – "Glucocorticoid-Induced Adrenal Insufficiency: Review of the ESE-ENDO Guidelines"

save the date

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Annual CME Conference Scheduled for May 3

The annual Update in Internal Medicine CME Conference is scheduled for **Saturday, May 3, from 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the T. Boone Pickens Auditorium**. The course, under the direction of **Brad Cutrell, M.D**., and **Vlad Zaha, M.D., Ph.D.**, will offer state-of-the-art, practical advice on issues identified as frequent items for consultation and second opinions, as well as advances in applying new scientific techniques and technologies in translational medicine.

The one-day live event will again be offered as a hybrid learning experience, with synchronous in-person and online presentations in addition to pre-recorded on-demand content. The presentations will be available for up to one year after the conference, totaling 15 units of CME credit and the opportunity to apply for MOC within the timing requirements of the ABIM rules.

"The conference is ideal for trainees who may be preparing for their boards, hospitalists who want up-to-date guidelines, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and specialists in internal medicine and family

practice," Dr. Zaha says. "The diversity of topics, expertise of presenters, and content availability for up to one year make this a valuable learning experience."

To learn more or to register for the event, click here.

Internal Medicine Events Calendar
Click to view additional events

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025**.
Share feedback and news items with us at IMNews@UTSouthwestern.edu

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