

# medicine minute

December 9, 2025

## kudos



### Kazmi Receives Dean's Award for LEAD Capstone Project

Syed Mohammad 'Ali' Kazmi, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, received a LEAD Capstone Dean's Award for his project, "Developing and Implementing a Referring Order in EPIC for Phase 1 Oncology Referral."

Each Leadership Emerging in Academic Departments (LEAD) participant develops an individual Capstone project that identifies and proposes to address a current challenge of immediate relevance to their own professional practice, to research, and/or to education. The projects are presented in a poster session, with five participants recognized with a Capstone award. For his project, Dr. Kazmi built a clinical operations solution inside Epic that standardized Phase 1 Oncology referral ordering, ensuring clinicians could follow a clear, repeatable ordering sequence for complex cancer referrals.

A native of Pakistan, Dr. Kazmi received his medical degree from Aga Khan University and his master's degree in biological and biomedical sciences from the University of Glasgow. He completed internal medicine residency training at UT Health Science Center in Houston, then completed advanced training through a fellowship in hematology and oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he was Chief Fellow for hematology and received the Young Investigator Award from the ASCO Conquer Cancer Foundation.

At UT Southwestern, Dr. Kazmi co-leads the Gastrointestinal Oncology DOT and the Phase 1 Solid Tumor program. ■



### Lussier Honored for Excellence in Clinical Ethics

**Bethany Lussier, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Medical Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Parkland Health, has received the Excellence in Clinical Ethics Award. The award is presented to a physician practicing at Parkland who exemplifies excellence in education and communication about ethical challenges in patient care; develops strategies for education and communication about the impact on healthcare workers when facing ethical challenges in patient care; and advocates for supporting resilient healthcare teams through education and communication about the impact of ethical challenges in patient care on healthcare workers.

Originally from Norwich, Connecticut, Dr. Lussier holds a bachelor's degree in neuroscience and cell biology from Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey. She earned her medical degree at Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine in Piscataway and completed internal medicine residency training at Columbia University in Stamford, Connecticut. She then received advanced training through fellowships in pulmonary and critical care medicine at Boston Medical Center and in neurocritical care at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Lussier joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2016. ■

---



### Crisologo, Koolwal Are Runners Up for Physician of the Year Award

**Peter Crisologo, D.P.M.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, and **Pooja Koolwal, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology, were runners up for Parkland Health's Employed Physician Committee Physician of the Year Award for Inpatient and Specialties.

Other nominees included **Kartik Agusala, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Medical Director of Nuclear Cardiology; **Robert Arias, M.D.**, a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine; **Shanup Dalal, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Palliative Medicine Section of Division of General Internal Medicine; **Iram Hussain, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Endocrinology; **Christian Mayorga, M.D.**, a Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases; **Hina Mehta, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine; **Satyam Nayak, M.D.**, a Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine; **Nam Pham, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Endocrinology; **Gail Peterson, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology; **Fiona Strasserking, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology; **Melanie Sulistio, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of Cardiology; and **Jaini Sutaria, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine. ■



## Engelking Named Co-Medical Director of Cancer Genetics Program

**Luke Engelking, M.D., Ph.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases and a member of the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center Cellular Networks in Cancer Research Program, has been named Co-Medical Director of the Cancer Genetics Program, serving alongside **Rachel Wooldridge, M.D.**, an Associate Professor of Surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Engelking has expertise in hereditary gastrointestinal cancer syndromes and leads the Genetic Cancer Prevention Clinic, focused on genetic cancer risk assessment and prevention. His research background focuses on how lipid metabolism drives intestinal cancers, with the goal of identifying new targets for colorectal cancer treatment and prevention. He joins the program's efforts to help patients manage their inherited cancer risk through counseling, testing, long-term guidance, and access to cutting-edge clinical investigation. ■

## Staff Members Take on New Roles

We congratulate the following staff members who recently took on new positions within the Department:

- **Jason Allen** – Information Technology Services Manager, Department Administration
- **Doris Clark** – Administrative Coordinator, Hospital Medicine
- **Lydia Flores** – Research Associate, Cardiology
- **Keysha Hale** – Administrative Associate, Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine
- **Laura Henry** – Sr. Program Coordinator, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
- **Regina McGary** – Administrative Coordinator, Hospital Medicine
- **Audrey Moxley** – Program Coordinator, Hematology & Oncology
- **Adzona Rugovac** – Clinical Research Coordinator I, Nephrology
- **Leslie Rutherford** – Administrative Associate, Nephrology
- **Roseann Sheomangal** – Accountant I, Department Administration
- **Michael Staton** – Sr. Administrative Assistant II, Nephrology

## education and training

### Residents Match Into Fellowship Programs



CONGRATULATIONS!

# Fellowship Matches

**UT Southwestern**  
Medical Center  
Internal Medicine

ADDICTION MED.	CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE											
 Emily Hoff Johns Hopkins	 Sophia Canga Baylor – Texas Heart Institute	 Austin Deets Aurora Health	 Pedro del Rivero Morfin UT Southwestern	 Paige Della-Penna UT Southwestern	 Aditya Dewanjee Montefiore Medical Center	 Rondalyn Dickens Washington University	 Jonathan Gordon NYP - Colombia	 Ananya Gorrai Mount Sinai – New York	 Brittany Hopkins Emory University	 Le "Joy" Huang Loyola University	 Seamus Hughes Duke University	 Seamus Hughes Duke University
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE												
 Jimin Hwang Stanford University	 Jessika Iwanski UT Southwestern	 Khush Kharidia UC San Diego	 Justin Lagbo Virginia Tech Gillian	 Dimitri Maamari Stanford University	 Aneel Maini Montefiore Medical Center	 Mansi Maini Montefiore Medical Center	 Pratyusha Manthena University of Iowa	 Benjamin Nelson UT Southwestern	 Rohan Shah Houston Methodist	 Garrett Smith U. South Florida Morsani	 Nicholas Talbot Cleveland Clinic	
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE			ENDOCRINOLOGY			FORENSIC PSYCH		GASTROENTEROLOGY				
 Darren Tsang Cleveland Clinic	 Jameson Wilbur Duke University	 Willis Wong University of North Carolina	 Jingwen Zhang BUMC	 Andrew Horvit UT Southwestern	 Alison Jin Cleveland Clinic	 Angela Pham UCLA	 Areej Ali Yale University	 John Deng Washington University	 Clark Kennedy UT Southwestern	 Krystal Lai UCLA	 Michelle Ng University of Michigan	
GASTROENTEROLOGY						HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY						
 Lorenzo Olive UC San Diego	 Akash Patel Montefiore Medical Center	 Tomas Rodriguez UT Southwestern	 Michael Rohr UT Southwestern	 Sonali Srivastava Ohio State University	 Fem Thimphithaya University of Utah	 R. Casey Turner Ohio State University	 Zane Gray Johns Hopkins University	 Marisa Kometas University of S. Florida Morsani	 Alberto Maldonado New York University	 Aman Narayan UT Southwestern	 Nicolas Sayegh MD Anderson Cancer Center	
INFECTIOUS DISEASE		NEPHROLOGY			PULMONARY & CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE							
 Adrian Pena UT Southwestern	 Blake Lackey UT Southwestern	 Nour Younis UT Southwestern	 Fredy Calderon UT Southwestern	 Ayla Cash University of Pennsylvania	 Joshua Derbort University of Alabama	 Daniel Feuer University of Miami	 Mary Gwin University of Washington	 Anishka Kappalayil Indiana University	 Harmanpreet Kaur UT Southwestern	 Chandler Mitchell UT Southwestern	 Sanghoon Park Johns Hopkins University	
PULMONARY & CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE												
 Marissa Peyer University of Michigan	 Donald Richards Cedars-Sinai	 Hannah Smith Washington University	 Carlos Tovar Brigham & Womens Hospital	 Tyler Wall Washington University								

[Internal Medicine News Portal](#)

in case you missed it

## News and Digital Media Featuring Internal Medicine Colleagues

- [GLP-1RAs Shown to Reduce Risk of Cardiovascular Death](#) (via UTSW Newsroom, with Ambarish Pandey, M.D., M.S.C.S.)
- [A Breath of New Life for Rare Lung Disease Patient](#) (via *CenterTimes+*, with Sonia Bartolome, M.D.)

this week



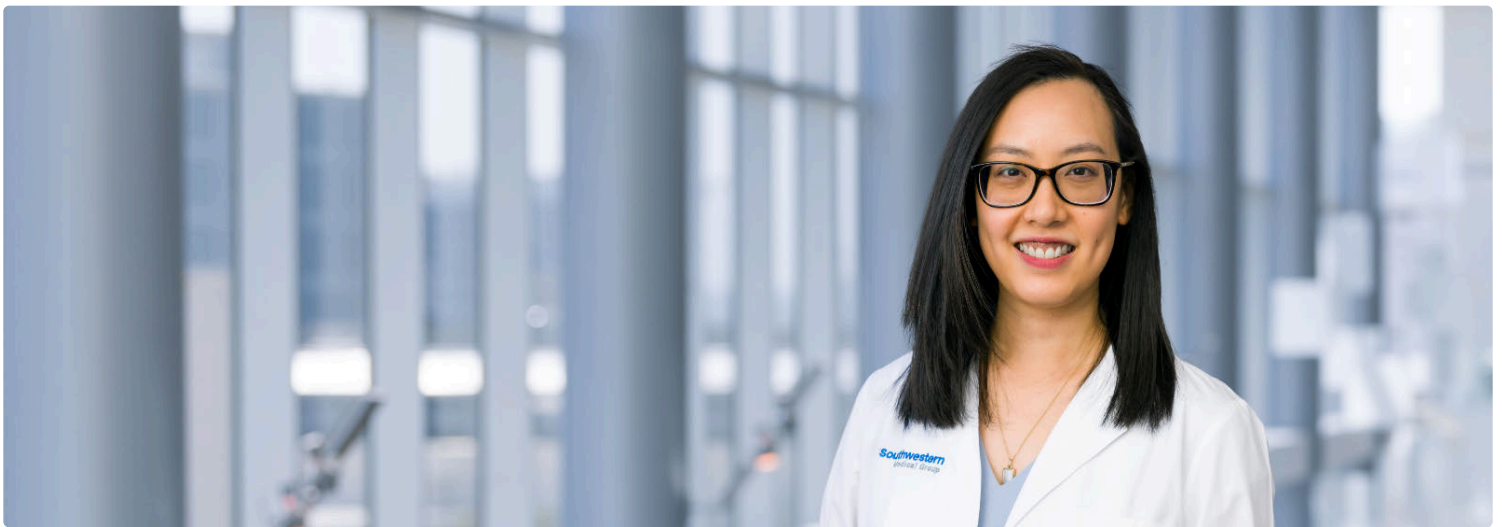
### UTHSC Houston's Jun Wang to Present Moss Heart Center Seminar on Dec. 11

Jun Wang, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Pediatric Research Center at UT Health Science Center at Houston, will present the [Moss Heart Center Seminar](#) on Thursday, Dec. 11, at noon in NA6.212. Her topic: "Beat or Not to Beat: A Hippo in the Sinoatrial Node."

Dr. Wang earned her doctorate from Texas A&M Health Science Center and completed postdoctoral training at Baylor College of Medicine. Her research spans cardiovascular science, craniofacial biology, stem cells, and regenerative medicine.

She has received numerous honors, including the American Heart Association (AHA) Established Investigator Award, Lawrence Bone Research Award, and the Breakthrough in Science Award. Her work has been published in leading journals such as *Circulation*, *Development*, *Developmental Cell*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, *Nature*, *Science*, and *Science Signaling*. She has secured multiple National Institutes of Health and AHA grants as a principal investigator.

Beyond research, Dr. Wang actively contributes to academic service through national and international grant review panels and leadership roles in professional societies. She is a frequently invited speaker and session chair at global conferences and plays a key role in graduate education and seminar organization across institutions. ■



### Chu to Discuss Delirium at Grand Rounds on Dec. 12

Erica Chu, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, will present the [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#) lecture on Friday, Dec. 12, at 8 a.m. in D1.502. Her topic: "Delirium Dilemmas: The Patients Are Not the Only Ones Confused."

Dr. Chu holds a bachelor's degree in molecular biophysics and biochemistry from Yale University. She earned her medical degree with honors at Baylor College of Medicine and completed internal medicine residency training at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. She then obtained fellowship training in geriatric medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City.

She was a member of the faculty at Weill Cornell Medicine before joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2022. ■



### Huen to Discuss Metabolism as a Defense Mechanism at Research Conference

Sarah Huen, M.D., Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology, will present the [Internal Medicine Research Conference](#) on Friday, Dec. 12, at noon in D1.502. Her topic: "Exploring Metabolism as a Defense Mechanism."

Dr. Huen earned her undergraduate and medical degrees at Northwestern University. She then completed internal medicine residency training at New York University, followed by a fellowship in nephrology at Yale University, where she obtained her doctorate in investigative medicine in the laboratory of Lloyd Cantley, M.D., studying the role of macrophages in ischemic kidney injury. As a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Ruslan Medzhitov, Ph.D., she studied the mechanisms of tissue tolerance and changes in metabolism in systemic inflammation.

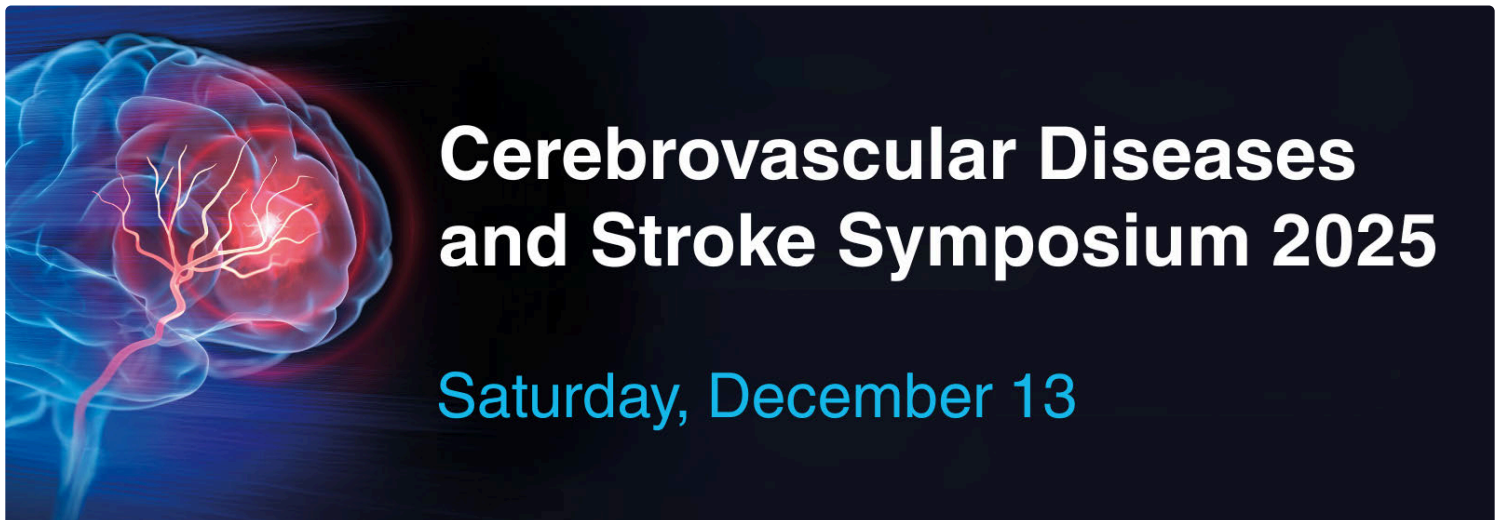
She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2017.

[Her laboratory](#) investigates how ketogenesis and mitochondrial metabolism in the kidney and liver adapt to fasting, inflammation, and ischemic injury, focusing on intercellular metabolite transfer and lipid droplet dynamics. ■

## Other Upcoming Lectures & Conferences of Note

- Tuesday, Dec. 9, Noon: [Pathology Seminar](#) with Dr. Biagio Ricciuti (Harvard University) – “Genomic and Immunophenotypic Landscape of Primary and Acquired Resistance to PD-(L)1 Blockade in Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer”
- Tuesday, Dec. 9, Noon: [Daniel W. Foster, M.D., Visiting Lecture](#) with Dr. Allan Brandt (Harvard University) – “The Historical Relationship of Medicine and Public Health: Friends? Enemies? Frenemies?”
- Wednesday, Dec. 10, 8 a.m.: [Geriatrics Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Naim Maalouf (Endocrinology) – “Osteoporosis Care in the Elderly Patient”
- Thursday, Dec. 11, 8 a.m.: [Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Elise O’Connell (National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases) – “Subarachnoid Neurocysticercosis: Diagnosis and Management Pearls and Pitfalls”
- Friday, Dec. 12, Noon: [Hematology & Oncology Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Sanjeeva Kalva (Radiology) – “Locoregional Therapy for HCC”
- Friday, Dec. 12, 12:15 p.m.: [Endocrine Grand Rounds](#) with Dr. Theodore Price (University of Texas at Dallas) – “Insight into Pain Mechanisms from Studies of Human DRG and Spinal Cord”
- Monday, Dec. 15, Noon: [Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center Lecture](#) with Dr. Elizabeth Bouchard (Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center) – “Improving Cancer Care Delivery to Support Cancer Caregivers: The Case of Pediatric Cancer Caregivers and Home-based Medication”

## reminders



### Cerebrovascular Diseases and Stroke Symposium Set for Dec. 13

Markey McNutt, M.D., Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Clinical Genetics; Dharam Kumbhani, M.D., a Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Director of Interventional Cardiology; and Ibrahim Ibrahim, M.D., an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Director of the Blood Disorders Clinic, will be among the presenters at the [Cerebrovascular Diseases and Stroke Symposium](#) on Saturday, Dec. 13., in NG3.112.

Sponsored by the O’Donnell Brain Institute, the symposium will provide timely updates on cerebrovascular disease and stroke care, including emerging interventions, use of devices, and practical reviews of complex cases. Speakers will examine the impact of the recent landmark stroke trial with direct relevance to patient management. ■

Register for the Stroke Symposium

---



**Jon Garinn**  
*Medicine Minute* Editor

Look for the next *Medicine Minute* on **Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025**.

Want to access an item in a previous edition of the newsletter? [Check our \*Medicine Minute\* archive.](#)

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

Copyright 2025 UT Southwestern Medical Center. All rights reserved.

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