

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS



Pictured above: Amyloid beta plaques and tau in the brain. [AUT Southwestern study](#) led by Joachim Herz, M.D., found that changing the biochemistry of parts of brain cells abolished the formation of amyloid beta plaques in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease. The finding might eventually lead to treatments that prevent the memory-robbing condition in humans. Credit: National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health

Special Grant Incentive Program FY21 Results

The [Special Grant Incentive \(SGI\) Program](#), launched in September 2019, encourages faculty to further pursue federal research awards to advance scientific discoveries and benefit our patients.

Under the SGI program, faculty members who are awarded a second or third federally funded research grant receive an incentive of \$10,000 either as personal compensation or as discretionary academic or laboratory development funds. Eligible grants are two or more years in duration, provide at least \$100,000 of direct cost per year, and convey full indirect costs.

Federal grants validate the quality of our science, allow us to expand early investigation research projects, bring indirect cost recovery, and enhance our entire research enterprise.

For the second fiscal year in a row, the SGI has exceeded expectations. In total, 107 federal grants by our faculty were awarded the special incentive in FY21, a 91% increase over the previous fiscal year.

Almost 78% of the federal grants – including from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and National Science Foundation – that were awarded SGIs were new grants, while the remainder were competitive renewals. The Departments of Internal Medicine, Neuroscience, Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Molecular Biology received the highest number of SGIs, and two Investigators were awarded the maximum three SGIs!

This impressive growth, paired with the high-quality research standards at UT Southwestern, illustrate the skill and dedication of our Investigators, as well as the mentorship and supportive venues provided by our department chairs and center directors.

Faculty Announcements



Dr. Achilefu Elected to National Academy of Medicine

Samuel Achilefu, Ph.D., the incoming [Inaugural Chair of our new Department of Biomedical Engineering](#), is among 100 new members elected to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine this year.

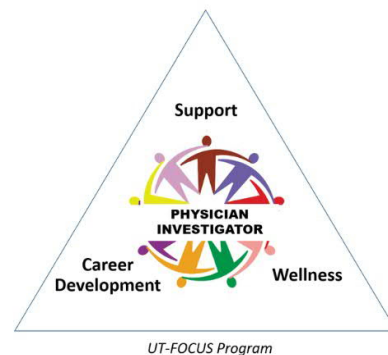
A world-renowned expert in molecular imaging and its application in treating human diseases, Dr. Achilefu's election recognizes his trailblazing contributions to cancer imaging and valuable guidance for surgeons to ensure more complete removal of cancerous tissue.

Read more on UTSW's [Newsroom](#).

COVID-19 Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists

We are delighted to announce the new UT Southwestern Funds to Retain Clinical Scientists (UT-FOCUS) Program, funded by a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation/American Heart Association and support from the UT Southwestern Dean's Office, that will provide financial, career development, and wellness support to meet the goal of retaining early career physician-scientists with a clear need for additional assistance due to caregiving responsibilities exacerbated by COVID-19.

Awardees will receive \$50,000 in supplemental flexible funds. Additionally, they will get access to a personal wellness coach for confidential guidance and support specific to caregiving responsibilities; networking opportunities and group coaching around work-life balance; and additional resources to support their research program.



Eligibility Criteria:

- Physician-scientist with an M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. or equivalent medical degree.
- Early career faculty, defined as having a full-time, post-training Instructor or Assistant Professor faculty appointment or Associate Professors at rank for one year or less.
- Engaged in research with $\geq 50\%$ effort allocation at the time of application.
- Conduct research with high potential to improve human health.
- Demonstrate a compelling, time-sensitive need for the supplement to regain research momentum because of increased caregiving responsibilities caused by COVID-19.
- Have an intramural or extramural career development award or research project grant with annual direct costs sufficient to provide both research and salary support.

Applications are due Dec. 1. For more information, visit the [program's webpage](#) or contact Dr. [Susan Hedayati](#) (program PI/PD), Dr. [Susan Matulevicius](#) (program co-director), or [Bridgette Larkin-Perkins](#) (program manager).

Revised Tip Sheet for Conflict of Interest Disclosures

The Conflict of Interest Office recently revised their [Tip Sheet](#) disclosing financial interests in manuscripts, including when a conflict of interest (COI) managed by a COI Management Plan (MP) exists. The revisions provide more detail to ensure that conflicts of interest that are relevant to a publication and presentation are properly disclosed.

Appropriate and accurate disclosures are imperative to promote trust in science and medical research. Additionally, financial interests of faculty and other covered individuals are publicly available on the UT Southwestern website, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services publicly reports payments and gifts made to physicians and advanced practice providers.

As the author or co-author of any paper, you must always follow a journal's guidelines for disclosures. UT Southwestern strongly recommends that all financial interests and activities be disclosed, unless otherwise prohibited by journal guidelines.

Upcoming Events

2021 UT Southwestern Pitch Competition

The Office for Technology Development's Pitch Competition provides professional guidance on commercialization-focused strategies and milestones.

- Tuesday, Nov. 2, at 3 p.m. Join via [Zoom](#), meeting ID: 990 0295 1980; password: zx670Z. [Learn more](#).

Tenure-Accruing/Tenure Track Promotion Workshop

- Thursday, Nov. 4, at noon. [Register](#) to attend.



Health Equity Discussion Group

Join a conversation about the book *This is How it Always Is* by Laurie Frankel.

- Wednesday, Nov. 3, at 5 p.m. [Register](#) to attend.
- Friday, Nov. 5, at noon. [Register](#) to attend.

Leadership Emerging in Academic Departments (LEAD) Program Poster Session

- Thursday, Nov. 11, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. [Review the list and links](#) to poster sessions.

Compliance Week

UT Southwestern's confidential Annual Compliance Survey promotes ethical conduct and compliance awareness to foster a culture of honesty and integrity.

- Take the [Annual Compliance Survey](#) by Friday, Nov. 12.

Successfully Obtaining an R (SOAR) Grant Writers Workshop

Junior faculty conducting basic, translational, or clinical research have the opportunity to work with a senior grantsmanship coach to craft a fundable proposal.

- [Applications are due](#) Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022. [Learn more](#).

Medical District PK-8 Biomedical School

Enrollment is open for Dallas ISD schools, including the Medical District PK-8 Biomedical School, a proud partnership between the school district and UTSW.

- [Apply](#) through January 2022 for grade levels prekindergarten through first grade. [Learn more](#).

2021 Texas State Employee Charitable Campaign



From now through Nov. 30, we encourage faculty members to participate in the 2021 State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) – the only authorized workplace charitable giving campaign for state agency and higher education employees in Texas.

There are [several hundred state-vetted charities](#) to select from, so you can give to the causes and organizations that speak to you.

UT Southwestern is aiming to raise \$350,000 this year. To learn how to donate, visit the [SECC page on MyUTSW](#).

Staying Connected, Informed, and Involved

Use our social media channels to connect with colleagues and stay in the know about happenings across campus. Visit our [archive](#) to review past editions. Submit feedback through our [RedCap form](#).

