



New Initiatives Shaped by the COVID-19 2020 Faculty Survey

In September 2020, the Office of Faculty Wellness and the Office of Women's Careers surveyed faculty about [the impact of COVID-19 on their perceived work-life balance](#). The survey results helped shape and implement initiatives to address the major themes that emerged from faculty responses.

- Wellness and Benefits enhanced their [child care options](#).
- Faculty [group coaching](#) and individual [professional wellness coaching](#) programs launched.
- Faculty has access to confidential [Interactive Screening Program](#) for mental health and follow-up resources.
- The [Faculty Wellness Room](#) at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital opened.
- The [Support for Working Parents](#) webpage launched.
- Two private groups – [UTSW Faculty Wellness](#) and [UTSW Working Parents](#) – were created.
- A [faculty transition back-to-work program](#) rolled out to assist parents as they transition back to work after bringing a new child into their lives.
- The [UT-FOCUS Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists](#) welcomed its inaugural class.

Your participation in faculty surveys is essential to helping leadership develop programming and advocate for resources to support you as you support our missions. Thank you for sharing your voice and perspective.

Upcoming Faculty Wellness Survey

UT SOUTHWESTERN



UT Southwestern is committed to supporting the well-being of our faculty, learners, and staff. To objectively assess burnout and professional fulfillment, we invite you to take the UT Southwestern Thrive Survey between Feb. 15 and March 29.

The survey contains validated and benchmarked measures used in the Healthcare Professional Well-being Academic Consortium (Healthcare PWAC), a national collaborative with over 20 participating academic medical schools that work to ensure that academic medical centers are great places to work.

To get meaningful data that will help us broaden programming, advocate for change, and provide specific, meaningful, and actionable information for leadership, we need a response rate greater than 70%.

Faculty Announcements



Welcome, Dr. Achilefu

[Samuel Achilefu, Ph.D.](#), is the Inaugural Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME). He joins us from the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

An expert in molecular imaging and its application in treating human diseases, Dr. Achilefu's research interests include image-guided cancer surgery, portable imaging devices, and nanotechnology.

An inventor of 65 U.S. patents, he developed a wearable cancer-imaging goggle system that highlights cancer cells, providing real-time guidance to surgeons in the operating room to ensure the complete removal of cancerous tissue.

As inaugural BME Chair, Dr. Achilefu's immediate priority is to strategically recruit faculty while leveraging a pool of exceptionally talented engineers and scientists on campus. He is looking forward to empowering faculty members in the Department to transform ideas into technology-driven biomedical and clinical solutions. [Read more.](#)



New role for Dr. Towler

[Dwight Towler, M.D., Ph.D.](#), is the Inaugural Associate Dean of Resident Research.

An internationally recognized physician-scientist, his research focuses on the endocrine physiology of bone and vascular disease. As a clinician, he specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of bone and mineral disorders.

Dr. Towler has been a dedicated mentor of young physicians. He developed and directs the UT Southwestern TARDIS Program: Training Resident Doctors as Innovators in Science, which is funded by Burroughs-Wellcome.

To expand physician-scientist development, he will support M.D.-based investigators who want to pursue research as a significant component of their professional activity.

His decadeslong experience securing and managing extramural grants from the National Institutes of Health, among others, will drive interdisciplinary training programs to assist young investigators in their scientific journey.

Scientific Writing Workshops for Faculty

A new series of career development workshops, funded by the UT Southwestern CTSA Program, focuses on the foundational skill of scientific writing by addressing common challenges faculty members face: mastering writing skills,

finding time to write, and getting feedback.

K Grant Writing Workshop is designed to increase the likelihood of funding as you write or resubmit your K award. Deadline to apply is Feb. 4.



Writing Accountability Groups Bootcamp for Increasing Scholarly Activity tackles the obstacles in finding time to write and the intimidation of getting started. March 2 through April 13.

High-Impact Science Writing will help you become a great scientific communicator by writing with clarity and brevity. March 10.

Effective NIH Grant Writing covers grant structure, the grant review process, and key elements of grantsmanship. April 7.

How to Write a Science Manuscript will guide you through the full process of writing a scientific manuscript. May 12.

[Read more](#) and register to participate in these workshops, free of cost.

Upcoming Events

60th Annual Medical Student Research Forum

Join UTSW Medical School in celebration of 60 years of excellence in student research. Sponsored by Rene Galindo, M.D., Ph.D., the [Medical Student Research Forum](#) features four student research projects followed by a keynote address delivered by Eric Peterson, M.D., M.P.H.

- Tuesday, Feb. 1, from 3 to 5 p.m., followed by a poster session from 5 to 6 p.m. Join the Microsoft Teams [meeting](#)



Health Equity Discussion Group

Join a conversation about the book "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson.

- Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 5 p.m. [Register](#) to attend.
- Friday, Feb. 11 at noon. [Register](#) to attend.

Promotion and Tenure (P&T) Workshop for Research Track

P&T Committee is hosting a workshop to ensure that faculty members understand the academic advancement timeline and criteria for the Research Track.

- Thursday, Feb. 17, at noon. [Register](#) to attend.

Annual COI Statement of Financial Interests

Faculty members, researchers, medical students, and certain other individuals must complete and submit a [Conflict of Interest \(COI\) Statement of Financial Interests](#). All covered individuals will receive reminder emails.

- Through March 1.

Starting University Clinical Careers Effectively, Scholarly, and Successfully (SUCCESS)

The [SUCCESS program](#) helps clinician faculty thrive at UT Southwestern by providing training in the domains of excellence required for academic promotion: clinical excellence, educational effectiveness, scholarly productivity, and institutional citizenship.

- Part 1: Tuesday, March 1, at 8 a.m. [Register](#) to attend.
- Part 2: Tuesday, March 8 at 12:30 p.m. [Register](#) to attend.

Which content do you find most valuable? (Poll may be taken more than once)

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