

## ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS



**Peter O'Donnell Jr.**  
**School of Public Health**  
Welcoming Our First Class in **2023**

### National Search for Inaugural Dean

A national search will be launched next week for the inaugural Dean of the [Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health](#). Gregory Fitz, M.D., Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, and former Provost and Dean will serve as chair of the search committee. Other members are:

- Kavita Bhavan, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
- Quinn Capers IV, M.D., Associate Dean for Faculty Diversity and Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
- Raymond Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Department of Population and Data Sciences
- Helen Hobbs, M.D., Professor and Director, Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development
- Chris Lehmann, M.D., Director of the Clinical Informatics Center and Professor, Department of Pediatrics
- Angela Mihalic, M.D., Dean of Students and Professor, Department of Pediatrics
- Trish Perl, M.D., Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
- Eric Peterson, M.D., M.P.H., Vice Provost for Clinical Research and Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
- Catherine Spong, M.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Thomas Wang, M.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Internal Medicine
- Yang Xie, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Data Sciences and Professor, Department of Population and Data Sciences

The committee will work with the search consultant firm Isaacson, Miller to recruit a leader who will set the strategy to meet the school's goals of translating scientific discoveries into public health solutions and expanding the public health workforce in Texas, needs underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As President Podolsky announced, a \$100 million gift from the O'Donnell Foundation makes UT Southwestern the recipient of the largest gift to a School of Public Health at a public university in the U.S. The Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health will welcome its first class for the Master of Public Health degree in the fall of 2023 and launch its doctoral degree programs in 2024.

Generous supporters of the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health also include Miss Lyda Hill, who has endowed a deanship, and Dr. Richard Hoffman, whose endowed fund will support scholarships for incoming students.

We expect UT Southwestern's unique academic and research opportunities, our region's large and diverse population – and the generous donor support – will serve our national search by attracting candidates committed to providing the highest level of science-based guidance to optimize the health and well-being of all communities.

## Last Call: Department Chair and Center Director Survey

Every year, faculty evaluation of chairs and center directors provides important feedback for the chairs, directors, and institutional leadership regarding priorities, operations, and areas of challenge.

If you haven't done so already, **you will receive a RedCap reminder to complete the survey for your primary department or center no later than this Friday, March 4.** Your feedback is of great value.

Please contact [utswleadershipevaluations@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:utswleadershipevaluations@utsouthwestern.edu) should you have any questions or technical difficulties with the survey.

## Synergy Grants for Collaborative Research Awardees

The Synergy Grants program seeks to stimulate collaborations between basic scientists and clinicians at UT Southwestern by supporting research that is otherwise difficult to fund through conventional sources because of the high risk inherent in its conceptual stage.

Since 2019, the tremendous number of excellent proposals received in this competition has led us to fund 12 grants of \$100,000 each.

The continued generosity of the Circle of Friends, composed of prominent supporters of UT Southwestern, allows us to announce the new class of Synergy Grants awardees for 2021-22:



**Bo Li, Ph.D. (Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics) and Wenxin Zheng, M.D. (Pathology):**  
*Clinical Significance of Separating Risk Levels of Ovarian Breast Cancer for BRCA1 Carriers*

**Chieko Mineo, Ph.D. (Pediatrics) and Elizabeth Solow, M.D., M.S.C.S. (Internal Medicine):**  
*Endothelial Basis of Thrombosis and Atherogenesis in Rheumatoid Arthritis*

**Durga Udayakumar, Ph.D. (Radiology) and Rachel Leon, M.D., Ph.D. (Pediatrics):**  
*Molecular Biomarkers of Placental Dysfunction in Fetal Congenital Heart Disease*

**Masaki Mizuno, Ph.D. (School of Health Professions, Applied Clinical Research) and Wanpen Vongpatanasin, M.D. (Internal Medicine):**  
*The Impact of Amyloid- $\beta$  ( $A\beta$ ) on Blood Pressure Variability (BPV), a Possible Contributor to the Pathogenesis of Alzheimer's Disease (AD)*

**Xiankai Sun, Ph.D. (Radiology) and Praveen Ramakrishnan, M.D. (Internal Medicine):**  
*Developing Theranostic Agents to Target Resistance Mechanisms to CAR T-cell Therapy*

**Xiaowei Zhan, Ph.D. (Population and Data Sciences) and Julie Mirpuri Hathiramani, M.D., MBBS (Pediatrics):**  
*The Role of Diet, Inflammation, and Dietary Metabolites on Group 3 Innate Lymphoid Cells in Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)*

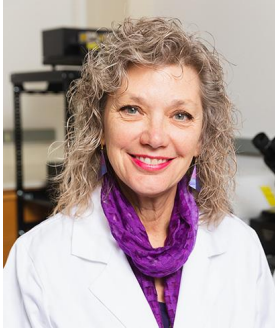
**Zhenyu Zhong, Ph.D. (Immunology) and Salman Bhai, M.D. (Neurology):**  
*Connections Between Autoimmune Myositis and Mitochondrial DNA*

## Faculty Announcements

### Congratulations, Dr. Orth and Dr. Phillips

Kim Orth, Ph.D., and Margaret Phillips, Ph.D., have been selected to the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) Fellows Class of 2022 for their significant contributions to advancing the molecular life sciences.

This honor recognizes ASBMB members who have demonstrated sustained outstanding accomplishments in scientific research,



Kim Orth, Ph.D.



Margaret Phillips, Ph.D.

education, mentorship, commitment to diversity, and service to the scientific community.

## Upcoming Events

### 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.

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



### Faculty Wellness Survey

The UT Southwestern Thrive Survey will help us objectively assess burnout and professional fulfillment. To get meaningful data, we need a response rate greater than 70%.

- Take the survey by March 29.

### Fundamentals of Team Science

These webinars will teach you how to incorporate the concepts of team science into the success of your research team and grant proposals.

- Part 1: Tuesday, March 22, 4-5 p.m. [Register](#) to attend.
- Part 2: Thursday, April 6, 1-4 p.m. Prerequisite is participating in Part 1. [Register](#) to attend.

### Clinician Track: Promotion and Tenure (P&T) Workshop

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

- Thursday, March 24 at noon. [Register](#) to attend.

### Registration Open: Alfred G. Gilman Educational Symposium

Hosted by the Southwestern Academy of Teachers, [this year's symposium](#) offers both in-person and virtual attendance options.

- Friday, April 7, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. [Register](#) to attend.

### Registration Open: Simulation (SIM) Center Forum

This forum brings together individuals from a broad array of backgrounds, all with a common interest in health care simulation, quality improvement, and research.

- Wednesday, May 11, 8 a.m. [Register](#) to attend.

## U.S News & World Report Best Hospitals Survey



The voting period for the *U.S. News & World Report* survey is open through mid-March. Board-certified physicians who are registered users of *Doximity* are eligible to vote by directly logging in to [Doximity.com](#) or using the [Doximity app](#).

We encourage you to take this opportunity to [vote for UT Southwestern](#) and to continue to build national awareness of the outcomes, safety, quality, and service we provide our patients and their families.

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