



Temple Howell-Stampley, M.D., M.B.A., MACP, Chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies stands for a picture with two students.

Physician Assistant Program Marks 50th Anniversary

The [Department of Physician Assistant \(PA\) Studies](#) in the UT Southwestern School of Health Professions is celebrating 50 years since its first accreditation. Launched in 1972 as a bachelor's program with seven students, it was initially accredited in November 1973. Over the years, the program matured into a full department focused on evidence-based medicine, quality improvement, and patient safety that currently confers a master's degree to about 60 graduates each December. In five decades, it has graduated 1,472 students and gained national recognition.

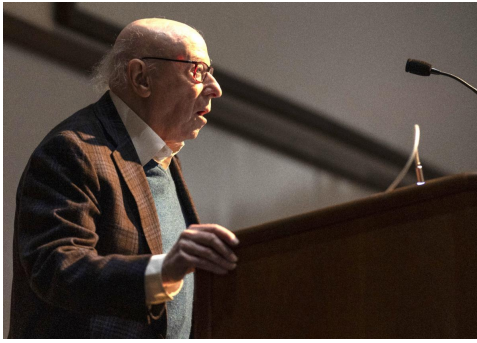
The Department is committed to excellence in PA education and to meeting the health care needs of an increasingly diverse and dynamic patient population. It consistently attracts applicants from backgrounds that are underrepresented in medicine (URiM) and its current student body is 42% URiM.

Under the leadership of Chair [Temple Howell-Stampley, M.D., M.B.A., MACP](#), the Department of PA Studies developed the Primary Care Preceptorship to increase exposure to primary care, with an emphasis on working in medically underserved communities upon graduation, and to meet growing demands. Employment for PAs is expected to grow 27% from 2022-2032, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projections – a much faster pace than the average for all occupations. [Read more.](#)

New Faculty Research Forum Recap

Each year, the New Faculty Research Forum introduces recently appointed Assistant Professors to the UT Southwestern research community by providing them the opportunity to give brief presentations about their research. The forum brings together established investigators and those

who are commencing their research journey to foster interdisciplinary collaborations and cultivate an environment where innovation flourishes.



[Joseph L. Goldstein, M.D.](#), Chair and Professor of Molecular Genetics opened this year's event by offering advice on how to become a successful scientist and urging young investigators to have "technical courage." Dr. Goldstein and his scientific partner and fellow Nobel Laureate, [Michael S. Brown, M.D.](#), use that term to describe "a confidence and sense of adventure that emerges from sound training in basic or clinical research, the courage to think big and to use new approaches and techniques to solve novel problems."

The 2023 New Faculty Research Forum featured 18 speakers representing 11 departments. [Visit the Forum's webpage](#) to learn more about these promising researchers. Full presentations will be uploaded to the page in the upcoming weeks.

Grant Incentive Programs: FY23 Update

Between FY20 and FY23, the [Special Grant Incentive](#) (SGI) and the [Collaborative Research Grant Incentive](#) (CRGI) have collectively granted 352 incentive awards—surpassing \$3.5 million—to faculty who are successful in obtaining federal grants that meet the programs' criteria.

In FY23, a total of 97 SGIs and CRGIs were allocated to 81 faculty members. The Department of Internal Medicine led with 22 incentives, followed by Molecular Biology and Neuroscience (seven each), and Biochemistry, Neurological Surgery, Pharmacology, and Radiology (five each).

As announced over the summer, starting in FY24, awards from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will be eligible for the SGI and CRGI programs. This expanded eligibility criteria will allow us to further recognize faculty pursuing clinical outcome research awards supported by federal funding to advance scientific discoveries that will ultimately benefit our patients.

SGI Program

Began in FY20, the SGI provides an incentive of \$10,000 – either as personal compensation or as discretionary academic or laboratory development funds – to faculty who are awarded a second or third federally funded research grant. [SGI eligibility criteria](#).

CRGI Program

Launched in FY23, the CRGI awards between \$15,000 and \$40,000 in incentives to faculty who are overall PIs, co-PIs/MPIs, or project leaders of NIH program projects (P), cooperative research agreements (U), or collaborative program grants for multidisciplinary teams (RM). [CRGI eligibility criteria and payment tiers](#).

Faculty Announcements

Dr. Spong Elected to the National Academy of Medicine



[Catherine Spong, M.D.](#), Chair and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) in recognition of her contributions to the field of maternal-fetal medicine, her leadership in women's health research, and her dedication to advancing health care for mothers and babies.

Dr. Spong has contributed to multiple landmark clinical trials in obstetrics, gynecology, and fetal surgery that have defined the standard of care in the fields of maternal and fetal medicine and best practices in obstetrics and gynecology. She also has served as a staunch advocate for improving the inclusion of pregnant and lactating women in vital clinical research.

With her election, UT Southwestern now has 20 NAM members on its faculty – more than any other institution in Texas. [Read more](#).

Dr. Mihalic Receives 2023 Exemplary Service Award

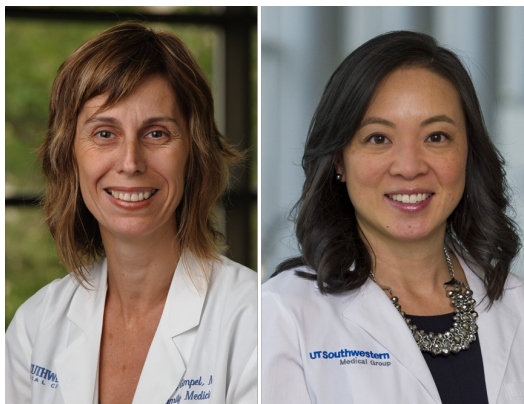
[Angela Mihalic, M.D.](#), Professor of Pediatrics, Dean of Medical Students, and Associate Dean for Student Affairs, received the [2023 Exemplary Service Award](#) from the Association of American Medical Colleges' Group on Student Affairs (GSA).

The award recognizes Dr. Mihalic's "extraordinary record of accomplishment, collaborative leadership, resourcefulness, dedication, mentoring of GSA colleagues, and commitment to the mission of the GSA."

The purpose of the GSA is to advance medical education and, specifically, to represent the interests of medical schools and medical students in the areas of admissions, student affairs, financial aid, student diversity, and student records.



Drs. Gimpel and Sulistio Recognized as Outstanding Educators



[Nora Gimpel, M.D.](#), Professor of Family and Community Medicine, and [Melanie Sulistio, M.D.](#), Professor of Internal Medicine, received the UT System's highest honor for an educator – the Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award (ROTA) – in recognition of their exceptional teaching, mentoring, and personal commitment to students and the learning process.

Established in 2008 by the UT System Board of Regents, the ROTA program selection is based on rigorous evaluations by peer faculty, students, and external reviewers. This year, 14 honorees were selected from faculty across UT System academic and health institutions. [Read more.](#)

Texas Instruments Biomedical Engineering and Sciences Building



State, regional, and business leaders joined leaders, researchers and students from UT Southwestern Medical Center and The University of Texas at Dallas for the dedication of the Texas Instruments Biomedical Engineering and Sciences Building. The facility will support the work of dozens of faculty and their teams with both wet and dry laboratory space, areas designated specifically to promote multidisciplinary interactions, and a Biodesign Center that will feature a large assembly/design studio, a metal fabrication shop, and rooms for 3D printing. [Read more.](#)

Important Dates and Upcoming Events

FIRST Future Faculty Symposium

Outstanding postdoctoral fellows from all over the country deliver 10-minute presentations during [this symposium](#) hosted by the NIH Medical District UTSW-UTD FIRST [research program](#).

- Today, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., at the T. Boone Pickens Biomedical Building (ND14)

2023 Leaders in Clinical Excellence Ceremony

Celebrate the exceptional contributions of our clinical faculty to patient care, education and training, and the advancement of UTSW overall.

- [Nov. 9 at 4:30 p.m.](#), Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium.



Leadership Emerging in Academic Departments (LEAD) Poster Session and Graduation

[The LEAD program](#) will host a poster session featuring the work of 32 faculty members who are part of its 2023 cohort followed by the graduation ceremony.

- Nov. 13, 4–6 p.m., D1.602. [RSVP](#).

Community Engagement Grand Rounds*

Join to learn about *The Intersection of Community Health and the Environment: A Qualitative Pilot Study to Aid the Transformation of Public Spaces in the Medical District*.

- Nov. 14 at noon. [Register to attend](#).

Inspiring Inquiry and Preparing Lifelong Learners

This online course sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development in partnership with the Association of College and University Educators is [part of a new initiative](#) that offers our faculty research-backed practices to enhance their teaching skills.

- [Apply by Nov. 16](#).

YR4 Translational Pilot Program Grant*

Investigators with promising clinical and translational research projects are invited to submit a 7-minute “TED Talk” video, a one-page abstract, and an NIH biosketch as the first step to apply for a [Translational Pilot Program Grant](#).

- Submit materials by Nov. 20 to ctsaprogram@utsouthwestern.edu.

Applications open: UTSW Coach Certificate Program

Over the course of 10 months, [this rigorous training program](#) will prepare you to become a certified Peer Coach within UT Southwestern Medical Center.

- [Apply by Dec. 1](#). Program starts in March 2024.

Grant Writing Library*

UT Southwestern faculty members have free access to a [grant writing library](#) designed to help researchers in the process of securing National Institutes of Health funding.

- Contact the [CTSA Program](#) to [request free access](#).

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