

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS



Register for the 2024 Promotion and Tenure Sessions

The 2024 Promotion and Tenure (P&T) season is currently underway and will run through early May. The P&T Committee – chaired by Lance Terada, M.D., and co-chaired by Russell DeBose-Boyd, Ph.D., and Myra Wyckoff, M.D. – is planning to review 214 declared candidates this year: 36 in the Clinician Track, 128 in the Clinician-Educator Track, 16 in the Clinical Scholar Track, 13 in the Research Track, and 21 in the Tenure Track.

To prepare faculty members for future promotion, the Faculty Development Office has created a more efficient and coherent timeline for informational workshops on the promotion process, including the Demystifying the P&T Process Symposium and the P&T Track Workshops from [January through April 2024](#). This adjustment also aligns with the annual academic evaluations conducted by Department Chairs and Division Chiefs.

Demystifying the Promotion & Tenure Process
Jan. 30, at noon. [Register](#) to attend.

Clinical Scholar Track Workshop
Feb. 7, at noon. [Register](#) to attend.

Clinician-Educator/Clinician Track Workshop
Feb. 16, at noon. [Register](#) to attend.

Tenure-Accruing/Tenure Track Workshop
March 6 at noon. [Register](#) to attend.

Research Track Workshop
March 27, at noon. [Register](#) to attend.

Clinician-Educator/Clinician Track Workshop
April 19, at noon. [Register](#) to attend.

Reminder: Electronic Curriculum Vitae Tool



As announced in August, the [Focus on Faculty portal](#) (VPN required) has a new tool that allows faculty members to create their electronic curriculum vitae (CV) and export it to comply with UT Southwestern's Promotion and Tenure template and the National Institutes of Health's biographical sketch format.

This CV engine integrates with sources of truth systems to import organizational data such as education, licensing,

publications, grants, and funding to establish career timelines and keep them up to date.

Another important feature is that it allows faculty to delegate editing privileges, making it possible for staff to take on the task of inputting information that the system can't pull automatically, including administrative and leadership positions, honors and awards, teaching activities, and other categories.

[Learn more](#) about this resource and send questions to focus@utsouthwestern.edu.

Faculty Announcements

Welcome to UT Southwestern, Dr. Efron

Jonathan Efron, M.D., is the new Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs. He joined us from Johns Hopkins where he most recently served as Senior Vice President for Johns Hopkins Medicine's Office of Physicians, President of the Johns Hopkins Clinical Practice Association, and Interim Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs.

He was responsible for overseeing and coordinating all clinical activity for Johns Hopkins Medicine's 4,200 faculty providers, as well as community physicians and a rapidly expanding employed provider group.

An accomplished colorectal surgeon specializing in the treatment of colorectal cancer, Dr. Efron brings to UT Southwestern a deep understanding of academic medicine and extensive experience in strategic planning, clinical program development, and service-related performance.

As the Provost leadership team rolls out the new series of Department visits, Dr. Efron will join the ones to Clinical Departments. [Read more](#).



Drs. Merola and Pomper Appointed Clinical Department Chairs



Joseph F. Merola, M.D., M.M.S., is the new Chair of the Department of Dermatology. He arrived at UT Southwestern from Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, where he was Vice Chair of Department of Dermatology in Clinical Trials and Innovation, and Director of the Center for Skin and Related Musculoskeletal Diseases.

His clinical and research interests have focused on psoriasis/psoriatic arthritis and connective tissue diseases, especially systemic and cutaneous lupus. He has led interventional clinical trials on a broad array of dermatologic diseases, as well as rheumatology studies related to psoriatic arthritis, supported by the National Institutes of Health and the pharmaceutical industry.

Dr. Merola's contributions to the field have been recognized with the Outstanding Educator in Psoriatic Disease Award from the National Psoriasis Foundation, and the Research Leadership Award and the Distinguished Clinician Award presented by Brigham and Women's Hospital. [Read more](#).

Martin G. Pomper, M.D., Ph.D., is the new Chair of the Department of Radiology. He joined us from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he served as Director of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, Associate Dean of Entrepreneurship and Technology Development, and Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Translational Molecular Imaging.

Dr. Pomper is a physician scientist whose research interests focus on the development of imaging agents for positron emission tomography (PET) in cancer and central nervous system diseases and – in relevant cases – the corresponding molecular radiotherapeutics (theranostics).

In 2017, Dr. Pomper was elected to the National Academy of Medicine for his work in imaging sciences, and in 2021 he was elected to the National Academy of Inventors in part for his work leading to FDA approval of PYLARIFY® for imaging prostate cancer.

[Read more](#).



Thank you, Dr. Capers and Dr. Lehmann



Quinn Capers IV, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine and Associate Dean of Faculty Engagement has been appointed Chair of the Department of Medicine at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Capers joined UT Southwestern in 2020. He oversaw the appointment and mentoring of Vice Chairs and leaders of diversity in all 33 Clinical and Basic Science Departments. He co-led the creation of a Health Equity Scholars Program for junior faculty; trained and certified more than 50 faculty members to lead bias mitigation workshops in their respective Departments and Centers; and launched a bi-annual Bias and Equity Grand Rounds series to review, confront, and mitigate instances of bias in clinical care.

We are grateful to Dr. Capers for his contributions and dedication to advancing our patient care, educational, and research missions, and we wish him all the best in his new leadership role.

Christoph U. Lehmann, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Director of the Clinical Informatics Center, and Associate Dean of Clinical Informatics, has elected to retire at the end of the year to spend more time with family.

He joined UT Southwestern in 2019 to direct the Clinical Informatics Center. Under his leadership, the center quickly developed a reputation for innovative research in clinical informatics and related domains. Dr. Lehmann championed the launch of the Master of Science in Health Informatics and the Clinical Informatics Fellowship. As Associate Dean of Clinical Informatics, he supported investigators to leverage the electronic health record and other data sources for research, positioning UT Southwestern to become a national model for data democratization and innovative interventions in the electronic health record.



We wish Dr. Lehmann all the best in this new chapter.

Synergy Grants for Collaborative Research Awardees

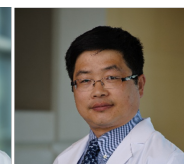
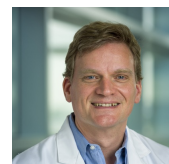
The Synergy Grants for Collaborative Research program seeks to stimulate collaborations between basic scientists and clinicians at UT Southwestern by supporting research that is otherwise difficult to fund through conventional sources because of the high risk inherent in its conceptual stage. Since 2019, the generosity of UT Southwestern's community partners has supported the research of 26 Synergy Grant recipients, including the following seven teams of 2023 awardees.



Anil Agarwal, Ph.D., (Internal Medicine), Abhimanyu Garg, M.D., (Internal Medicine), and Steven Gray, Ph.D., (Pediatrics) *Gene therapy for treating metabolic complications of rare genetic and acquired generalized lipodystrophies*



Kareem Azab, Ph.D., (Biomedical Engineering), Joseph Hill, M.D., Ph.D., (Internal Medicine), and Raiyan Zaman, Ph.D., (Biomedical Engineering) *Precision-targeted theragnostic approach combined with silencing cGAS-StiNG pathway to improve myocardial ischemia*



Prasanna Alluri, M.D., Ph.D.,

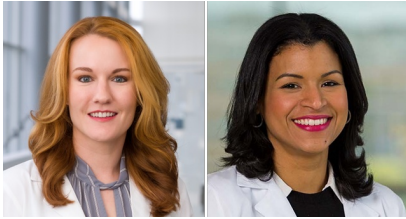
Peter Ly, Ph.D., (Pathology), and

Hans Hammers, M.D., Ph.D.,

(Radiation Oncology), and Jacques Lux, Ph.D., (Radiology) *Therapeutic targeting of DNA mismatch repair in breast cancer to promote systemic anti-tumor immunity*

Ravikanth Maddipati, M.D., (Internal Medicine) *Lateral transfer of extrachromosomal DNA elements in the tumor immune microenvironment*

(Internal Medicine), and Xiankai Sun, Ph.D., (Radiology) *Targeted proinflammatory prodrug conjugates to synergize immunotherapy in cancer*



Elizabeth Davenport, Ph.D., (Radiology), and Sasha Alick-Lindstrom, M.D., (Neurology) *Clinical viability of novel mobile noninvasive functional brain mapping*



Guiyang Hao, Ph.D., (Radiology), Li Liu, Ph.D., (Radiology), and Jue Wang, M.D. (Internal Medicine) *ImmunoPET as a predictive imaging measure for enfortumab vedotin therapy in locally advanced and metastatic bladder cancer*

D Magazine Highlights National Recognition



D Magazine recently featured UT Southwestern's Women in Science and Medicine Advisory Committee (WISMAC) and the Office of Women's Careers (OWC). The publication highlighted WISMAC and OWC being recognized with the 2023 Association of American Medical Colleges Group on Women in Medicine and Science Leadership Award for an Established Program in an Organization – a testament to our institution's decadeslong commitment to developing female leaders in medicine and science. [Click and scroll down to read the full item.](#)

Important Dates and Upcoming Events

Biomedical Engineering Symposium

[This half-day symposium](#) titled "Biomedical Engineering Solutions to Medical Challenges in the 21st Century" features Bruce Tromberg, Ph.D., Director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering at the National Institutes of Health.

- Dec. 8, 1–5 p.m. in the Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium. [Register to attend.](#)



Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) Bootcamp*

Learn how to use [REDCap](#) – a self-managed, secure, web-based solution that supports data collection for studies – to develop databases for gathering and managing data quickly.

- Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m. [Register to attend.](#)

School of Health Professions Commencement

[UT Southwestern's School of Health Professions](#) will confer degrees to [more than 130 graduates](#) during its commencement ceremony.

- Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. in the Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium

Call for Abstracts: 2024 Celebration of Women in Science and Medicine Poster Session

The Women in Science and Medicine Advisory Committee (WISMAC) is [accepting abstracts](#) in basic science, clinical/translational research, and public health/education research for a poster session on March 7, 2024, following the History of Women in Science and Medicine at UT Southwestern Lecture.

- [Submit your abstract](#) by Jan. 1, 2024.

Applications Open: Dean's Scholar in Clinical Research Program

Faculty on the Clinical Scholar Track are invited to apply to [this scholar program](#) designed to support their development as successful clinical investigators.

- [Apply by Jan. 12, 2024.](#)

Successfully Obtaining an R (SOAR) Intensive R Grant Writers Workshop

The [SOAR](#) grantsmanship program provides junior faculty conducting basic, translational, or clinical research who are actively writing their R-series NIH grants the opportunity to work with a coach to craft a fundable proposal.

- [Apply by Jan. 17, 2024.](#)

Applications Open: Southwestern Academy of Teachers (SWAT) Small Grants Program

[The program](#) supports faculty and trainees with a faculty sponsor by providing up to \$3,500 to fund education-research projects related to the teaching priorities of the UT Southwestern schools.

- [Submit your application](#) by May 1, 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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