

## ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS



### New Software Streamlines Faculty Recruitment

Over the summer, the Office of the Provost successfully launched *Interfolio – Faculty Search* to enhance the experience of prospective faculty applying to positions at UT Southwestern, current faculty serving on search committees, and staff managing the recruitment process.

The cloud-based platform was selected for its many benefits, including:

- **Standardizing processes** – Establish uniformity in workflows to provide applicants with a positive, simple experience comparable to other leading institutions.
- **Search Committee Feature** – The software streamlines academic search management for committees by offering a centralized repository with increased file size limits, facilitating efficient review and feedback on applicant materials.
- **Ensuring Confidentiality** – Users can request and receive reference letters within the system.

The transition from Talent Acquisition Management (TAM) to *Interfolio – Faculty Search* included various live training sessions. User feedback has been consistently positive.

Beginning this month, open faculty positions in TAM will be migrated to *Interfolio – Faculty Search*. Applicants of interest will be required to reapply through the new platform once the positions are moved over. Please note, any position in the final stage of the recruitment process will remain in TAM to completion.

A Microsoft Teams channel has been set up for real-time support, discussions, and updates related to the new software. To ask questions about this change, contact the project team at [oars@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:oars@utsouthwestern.edu).

**Note:** The shift from TAM to *Interfolio – Faculty Search* does not apply to how we hire non-faculty employee positions. Those positions will remain in TAM.

### Provost Website: New Look, Improved Functionality

We are pleased to introduce a new and improved [Office of the Provost website](#). The enhanced layout serves as a map of the office's breadth and depth – including its leadership, structure, and focus areas. It also specifies the various services the office supports and how to access them.

The [Faculty Resources](#) section has been expanded and reimagined as an accessible hub for relevant content from across the institution. The goal is to make it easier for faculty to find information that will help them excel in their professional endeavors and personal lives. A new global navigation menu across [utsouthwestern.edu](https://utsouthwestern.edu) includes a Faculty Resources tab at the top right of all pages, ensuring that finding what you need is just a click away.

We encourage you to bookmark these websites and visit them frequently. Each will be updated as new content is available.



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## Faculty Announcements

### Dr. DeBerardinis Appointed Director of the McDermott Center

[Ralph DeBerardinis, M.D., Ph.D.](#), is the new Director of the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development and the Center for Human Genetics.

An international leader in research on cancer metabolism, Dr. DeBerardinis was named a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Investigator in 2018. In 2020, he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine, and in 2021 he received the Paul Marks Prize for Cancer Research from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. DeBerardinis has been a faculty member at UT Southwestern since 2008, when he was appointed Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and in the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development. In the years since, he has established himself as a highly respected scientist, physician, and leader. In 2011, he joined Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern (CRI), and currently directs CRI's Genetic and Metabolic Disease Program, which he will continue to lead. Dr. DeBerardinis has also served as Division Chief of Genetics and Metabolism in the Department of Pediatrics since 2013, a role he relinquished upon assuming these new responsibilities.



He succeeds [Helen Hobbs, M.D.](#) – one of the world's foremost experts on human genetics – who has capably led McDermott Center since 2000. Dr. Hobbs will remain actively engaged in research.

### Dr. He Joins O'Donnell School of Public Health

[Jiang He, M.D., Ph.D.](#), has been appointed Professor of Epidemiology in the O'Donnell School of Public Health (OSPH), and Director of Implementation Research in the Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. He will be the inaugural Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at OSPH, pending approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Dr. He has led numerous landmark observational studies and clinical trials on the prevention of cardiometabolic disease. His work on hypertension and cardiovascular disease has contributed to our understanding of its basic epidemiology, the nuances of prevention, and the elements that create disparities among populations. In 2023, he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine for his many contributions to the field.

Before joining UT Southwestern, Dr. He spent 20 years at Tulane University, where he was Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and, most recently, Director of the Tulane University Translational Science Institute. As Chair, he expanded the Department of Epidemiology from seven to 27 faculty members, increased annual research funds from \$2 million to more than \$20 million, and augmented the number of faculty peer-reviewed publications from fewer than 20 per year to more than 200.



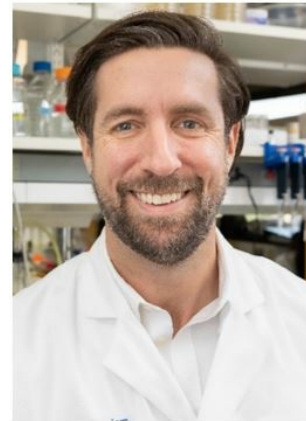
The scientific rigor and leadership record Dr. He brings will help consolidate the epidemiologic expertise that already exists at UT Southwestern to launch a thriving OSPH Department of Epidemiology.

## ASBMB Honors Dr. Tagliabracci with Young Scholar Award

[Vincent Tagliabracci, Ph.D.](#), Associate Professor of Molecular Biology and a HHMI investigator, received the Earl and Thressa Stadtman Young Scholar Award from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), recognizing his promise as an emerging scientist.

Dr. Tagliabracci's [laboratory](#) has discovered diverse and unexpected biochemical activities performed by protein kinases, including AMPylation, polyglutamylation, and messenger RNA capping. These discoveries have provided new insights into the cellular response to oxidative stress and the pathogenic mechanisms used by bacterial and viral pathogens.

The [ASBMB awardees](#) will give talks about their work at the society's 2025 annual meeting slated for next April in Chicago. Dr. Tagliabracci will present "Expanding the Kinome."



## Dr. Alick-Lindstrom Named Faculty Senate President-Elect

[Sasha Alick-Lindstrom, M.D.](#), Associate Professor of Neurology and the UT Southwestern Magnetoencephalography (MEG) Clinical Epilepsy Director in the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute, is the Faculty Senate President-Elect for 2024-2025.

The Faculty Senate, composed of elected members from every department on the UT Southwestern campus, represents the faculty in communicating important matters to and from the administration.

As President-Elect, Dr. Alick-Lindstrom will support the Faculty Senate's presidential line – Helen King, M.D., President, and Jo-Ann Nesiamo, M.D., Past President – and represent the Faculty Senate to the Faculty Council. She will assume the role of Faculty Senate President in the 2025-2026 academic year.



## Announcing UTSW-Parkland Health Equity Scholars



Five early-career faculty members have been selected to the 2024-2026 cohort of the [UT Southwestern-Parkland Health Equity Scholars Program](#) (from left): Zainab Farzal, M.D., Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology; Brittany Karlay, M.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry; Poorni Manohar, M.D., Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine; Puja Umaretiya, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics; and Anezi Uzendu, M.D., Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine.

Starting in October, Scholars will have 20% of protected time for two years to engage in a mentored health equity or community outreach project. At the end of the two-year period, they will continue working with underserved and disadvantaged populations with support from their department and/or grants.

Jointly funded by UT Southwestern and Parkland Health, the program seeks to equip faculty in the Clinician Educator or Clinician Tracks with practical tools to engage the community in activities that promote health and support health equity.

## Employee Engagement Survey Season

As UT Southwestern President Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D., pointed out in [his message to campus](#) earlier this week, we are preparing to launch two employee engagement surveys later this month. Health System faculty, staff, and those who interact closely with them across Academic and Business Affairs will be asked to complete SCORE, a survey that is new to our campus and developed by Vizient, a leading health care performance improvement company. All clinical faculty and clinical researchers will take SCORE. All other staff will take Values in Practice (VIP) through Glint, which UTSW has historically used.

Both surveys ask for candor and your honest assessment of how UT Southwestern performs in areas such as safety, communication, resiliency/burnout, and engagement. Your responses and comments will all be kept confidential and are necessary for our rigorous assessment and annual action plans. We aim to be a High Reliability Organization (HRO) that prioritizes teamwork and consistently achieves safety, quality, and efficiency goals.

## 2024 Texas State Employee Charitable Campaign



The [2024 State Employee Charitable Campaign \(SECC\)](#) – the only authorized workplace charitable giving campaign for state agency and higher education employees in Texas – is underway.

The impact of a single donation cannot be overstated, nor can the combined generosity of the UT Southwestern community. There are several hundred state-vetted charitable organizations to choose from, so you can give to the causes and organizations that resonate with your values and passions.

UT Southwestern is aiming to raise \$300,000 this year. The campaign runs through Oct. 31.

## Professional Development for Educators



The Office of Faculty Development, in partnership with the Southwestern Academy of Teachers (SWAT), is offering an [Educator Development at UTSW \(EDU\) course](#).

The EDU course provides faculty members at all levels with helpful tips to become better educators, scholars, and academic medicine professionals. The course contains 10 modules, with a total duration of less than 2.5 hours. Those who complete all 10 modules will receive a certificate of completion and recognition during the November SWAT meeting.

### Module Spotlight: Successful Scholarship as a Clinician-Educator



Learn how to strategically plan your scholarship in this EDU module, where [Rachel Bonnema, M.D., M.S.](#), Professor of Internal Medicine, guides clinician-educators on leveraging key components to maximize publication impact and expand dissemination opportunities. Access the full module on [Taleo Learn](#) by searching for “EDU 2024.”

## Important Dates and Upcoming Events

### **SUCCESS Program Workshop: Part 1**

This virtual event will focus on educator and wellness development and discuss the promotion and tenure process.

- Sept. 17. [Register](#) to attend.

### **Acknowledging our Humanity**

In alignment with National Physician Suicide Awareness Day, UT Southwestern will be hosting its sixth annual Acknowledging our Humanity event to foster open dialogue about mental health and mental illness and promote an environment that encourages help-seeking and support.

- Sept. 17, at 5:30 p.m., Bryan Williams, M.D. Student Center– Sanders Lounge



### **LEAD Updates**

The Leadership Emerging in Academic Departments (LEAD) program is designed for junior faculty who aspire to develop their leadership skills.

- [Applications to be part of the next cohort](#) close Sept. 20.
- This year's Capstone Poster Session will be held Sept. 26. [Register](#) to attend.

### **UT Southwestern Medical School New Faculty Research Forum**

Members of the Medical School research community are invited to exchange innovative ideas and contribute to shaping the future of research at UT Southwestern. Don't miss this opportunity to meet the newest members of our research community.

- Sept. 24. [Register](#) to attend.

### **Clinical Informatics Fellowship**

A two-year ACGME-accredited training program for physicians who want to become leaders in the development and implementation of clinical information systems that support patient care, research, and quality improvement.

- [Apply](#) by Sept. 30

### **UT Southwestern Research Mentor Training Program**

Research mentors for graduate students, postdocs, and junior faculty are invited to a series of interactive, in-person workshops designed to enhance mentorship skills. The first [training session](#) will be “Aligning Expectations and Maintaining Effective Communications.”

- Oct. 2. [Register](#) to attend. (Attendance limited to 25.)

### **Successfully Earning a K (SEAK) Grant Writing Workshop\***

SEAK weekly workshops will keep you accountable as you write sections of your grant application for review at each session, turn in a completed grant at the conclusion of the program, and take part in a

mock study section as part of the process.

- [Apply](#) by Oct. 11.

**WISMAC/Women’s Careers Fall Faculty Reception**

The event will include a faculty panel. Topics will encompass the theme “Growing into Leadership.”

- Oct. 24. [Save the date](#).

*\*Sponsored by the UT Southwestern Clinical and Translational Science Award Program*

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