



Enhancements to the Office of International Affairs

The [Office of International Affairs \(OIA\)](#) provides expert immigration services to attract highly qualified international faculty, researchers, and students to UT Southwestern. Additionally, it safeguards compliance with government regulations, partners with departments to hire international staff, and ensures international new hires have valid work authorizations.

Over the last year, the OIA has improved its services and processes to better serve our community under the leadership of Director Kirt Thompson, Ed.S., M.B.A. Most customer inquiries are now answered by [expert immigration specialists](#) in less than eight hours. A new satellite office in the NG Building (NG3.109, next to the Human Resources Service Center) receives 20-30 customer visits per week.

In FY25, the OIA will roll out an H-1B visa e-filing pilot to decrease the in-office processing time from eight weeks to less than four weeks and eliminate paper filing and visa check payment requests. It plans to hire a relocation coordinator for early reach of international recruits and deploy a new case management system. The office is also creating initial and refresher visa application training for department administrators and staff.

UT Southwestern is home to a vibrant and thriving international academic community of more than 2,000 international learners from over 40 countries. The OIA has the expertise to facilitate their success. For more information, contact [International Affairs](#).

National Academy of Medicine Recognizes UTSW Faculty

Drs. Arteaga and Mangelsdorf Elected to NAM

[Carlos Arteaga, M.D.](#), and [David Mangelsdorf, Ph.D.](#), were elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), one of the highest honors in health and medicine.

Dr. Arteaga, Director of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and Associate Dean of Oncology Programs, is widely recognized for innovative breast cancer research that has led to the development of molecularly targeted therapies, including PI3K inhibitors for patients with breast cancer.



Dr. Mangelsdorf, Chair of Pharmacology and Professor of Biochemistry, has made significant contributions to lipid biology, with discoveries that could

lead to new therapies for diseases including diabetes, obesity, cancer, and parasitism. Notably, he is also a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

With their elections, UT Southwestern now has 24 NAM members – more than any other institution in Texas. [Read more.](#)

Dr. Siegwart among 2024 NAM Emerging Leaders in Health and Medicine



[Daniel Siegwart, Ph.D.](#), Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Biochemistry, and in the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center is one of only 10 scientists and physicians from across the United States named to the National Academy of Medicine's [2024 class of Emerging Leaders in Health and Medicine Scholars](#).

This honor recognizes early- to mid-career professionals who work to advance science, address persistent challenges in health and medicine, and spark transformative change to improve health for all.

Dr. Siegwart leads a team that studies and implements ways to use materials chemistry to target nanoparticle transport of genomic medicines.

Inaugural Clinical Research Symposium



Scholars pictured from left to right: Matthew Campbell, M.D. (Pediatrics); Jeremy Louissaint, M.D. (Internal Medicine); Lauren Truby, M.D. (Internal Medicine); Sanjay Chandrasekaran, M.D. (Internal Medicine); Bethany Roehm, M.D. (Internal Medicine); Emily Adhikari, M.D. (Obstetrics and Gynecology); Amanda Dann, M.D. (Surgery); James MacNamara, M.D. (Internal Medicine); Betty Yang, M.D. (Emergency Medicine); Priscilla Yu, M.D. (Pediatrics); and Wenjing Zong, M.D. (Pediatrics).

Since 2019, the Dean's Office has made a concerted effort to build UT Southwestern's clinical research program into a powerhouse equal to its long-respected basic science enterprise. The [KL2 Scholar Program](#) and the [Dean's Scholar in Clinical Research program](#) are moving us closer to that goal by supporting junior faculty in the development of a successful clinical and translational research career.

Thus far, 14 newly trained clinicians have taken part in the KL2 program and 12 physician-scientists in the Dean's Scholars program. The Inaugural Future Leaders in Clinical Research Symposium showcased work from past and present scholars (pictured above) studying a broad range of areas including maternal medicine, artificial intelligence, emergency medicine, transplant, and oncology.

The event was an occasion to expand and strengthen our community of multidisciplinary researchers by learning about the work of our early career investigators as they diligently launch their careers. Their projects hold significant potential for advancing clinical practice and improving patient outcomes.

Faculty Announcements

NIH Director's New Innovator Award

[Javier Garcia Bermudez, Ph.D.](#), Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern, is one of 67 scientists awarded a 2024 National Institutes of Health's High-Risk, High-Reward Research grant.

Dr. Garcia Bermudez will use his [NIH Director's New Innovator Award](#) of \$1.47 million across five years to study how highly metastatic cancers manage to overcome both cell-intrinsic and extrinsic oxidative stress to colonize in distant organs. His lab will tackle this by developing technologies to understand how individual organelles allow cancer cells to survive oxidative stress.



Outstanding Teaching Award

[Laura Howe-Martin, Ph.D.](#), Professor of Psychiatry and Director of Behavioral Sciences at the UT Southwestern Moncrief Cancer Institute in Fort Worth, has been recognized with the 2024 Regents Outstanding Teaching Award.

Established in 2008 by the UT System Board of Regents, it honors faculty who demonstrate extraordinary classroom performance and innovative teaching. Each recipient receives a certificate, a medallion, and \$25,000 in appreciation of their positive impact on students and their institutions.

[Read more](#) about this year's awardees.



Operational Announcements

COO for Academic Affairs and Medical Group Appointed



Cameron W. Slocum, M.B.A. has a new and expanded role as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Academic Affairs and the UT Southwestern Medical Group.

In his new position, Cameron will work closely with Medical Group and Health System leadership teams to align strategy, operations, and physician management with our institution's overall operating and financial goals.

Cameron will foster greater alignment and integration among the Medical Group, Academic Departments, and the broader Health System. He will also continue to play an essential role in advancing our education and research missions.

New Associate Vice President of Research Regulatory Affairs



Rhonda Oilepo, M.S., CIP, has been named Associate Vice President of Research Regulatory Affairs. She has served as Assistant Vice President for Human Research Administration since 2021. Earlier this year, Rhonda took on additional responsibilities as Conflict of Interest Official and Research Security Officer.

In her new role, she will continue to oversee the Human Research Protections Program, which includes the Institutional Review Board and the offices of Regulatory Support and Quality Assurance and Monitoring. Additionally, this position is responsible for Research Support and Regulatory Management, which includes the following offices: Conflict of Interest, Export Control, and Research Security Programs.

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.

Writing Useful Narrative Assessments

Learn how to prepare high-quality narrative assessments in this EDU module, featuring [M. Brett Cooper, M.D., M.Ed.](#), Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, where he gives tips for sharing feedback with trainees that may be used for Medical Student Performance Evaluations.

Access the full module on [Taleo Learn](#) by searching for "EDU 2024."



Important Dates and Upcoming Events

YR5 Translational Pilot Award Program*

Investigators with promising clinical and translational research projects are invited to submit a 7-minute "TED Talk-like" video, a one-page abstract, and an NIH biosketch as the first step to apply for a Translational Pilot Program Grant. [Review application criteria](#). For questions, contact [Vicky Gronau](#).

- Virtual Q&A sessions: [Nov. 5](#) and [Nov. 11](#). First application deadline is Nov. 20.



UT System Medical School Deans' Reception

Faculty, alumni, and friends attending the Learn Serve Lead 2024: The Association of American Medical Colleges Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia are invited to attend a networking reception.

- Nov. 9 from 7-10 p.m. ET at the Signia by Hilton Atlanta Georgia World Congress Center (Signia Triumph Ballroom J)

Pilot and Feasibility Grants for Nutrition Obesity Research

Each year, the UT Southwestern Nutrition Obesity Research Center solicits proposals for pilot and feasibility grants to support studies on nutrition, obesity, and obesity-related disorders.

- Application deadline is Nov. 11. [View proposal guidelines](#).

Mass Spectrometry Workshops

Learn about the fundamentals and applications in bioanalytical chemistry. The workshops are free and open to participants at all career stages.

- Nov. 11 and Nov. 18. [Register](#) to attend.

Team FIRST Awards Ceremony

The event will recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions of our [Team FIRST](#) faculty and instructors.

- Nov. 13 from 3:30-5 p.m. in the A.W. Harris Faculty Club (E4.400).

North Texas Biomedical Engineering Symposium

Join members from UT Southwestern's Department of Biomedical Engineering, the University of North Texas, UT Dallas, Southern Methodist University, and UT Arlington for conversations centered around medical technology innovation, commercialization, and clinical translation.

- Nov. 14-15. [View the session agenda](#).

2024 Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards Ceremony

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

- Nov. 14 at 4:30 p.m., Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium. [Register](#) to attend.

Clinical and Translational Science Forum*

Join for weekly presentations with collaborative conversations related to current and important research-

related topics. The next discussion will be about trauma-induced heterotopic ossification.

- Nov. 21. [Register](#) to attend.

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



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