



TAMEST to honor researcher for work on ‘zombie’ enzymes

Vincent Tagliabracci, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Molecular Biology, will receive the 2024 Edith and Peter O’Donnell Award in Biological Sciences from the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science, and Technology ([TAMEST](#)) for broadening the understanding of pseudokinases, a family of enzymes once thought to be dead. The so-called “zombie” enzymes play a vital role in many physiological and pathological processes.

The Edith and Peter O’Donnell Awards recognize rising star Texas researchers who are addressing the essential roles that science and technology play in society and whose work meets the highest standards of exemplary professional performance, creativity, and resourcefulness.

Dr. Tagliabracci was named a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) investigator in 2021. He and this year’s other award recipients will present their research at the [TAMEST 2024 Annual Conference](#), Feb. 5-7, in Austin.

Read more about the award in today’s [news release](#), and watch Dr. Tagliabracci’s TAMEST video.

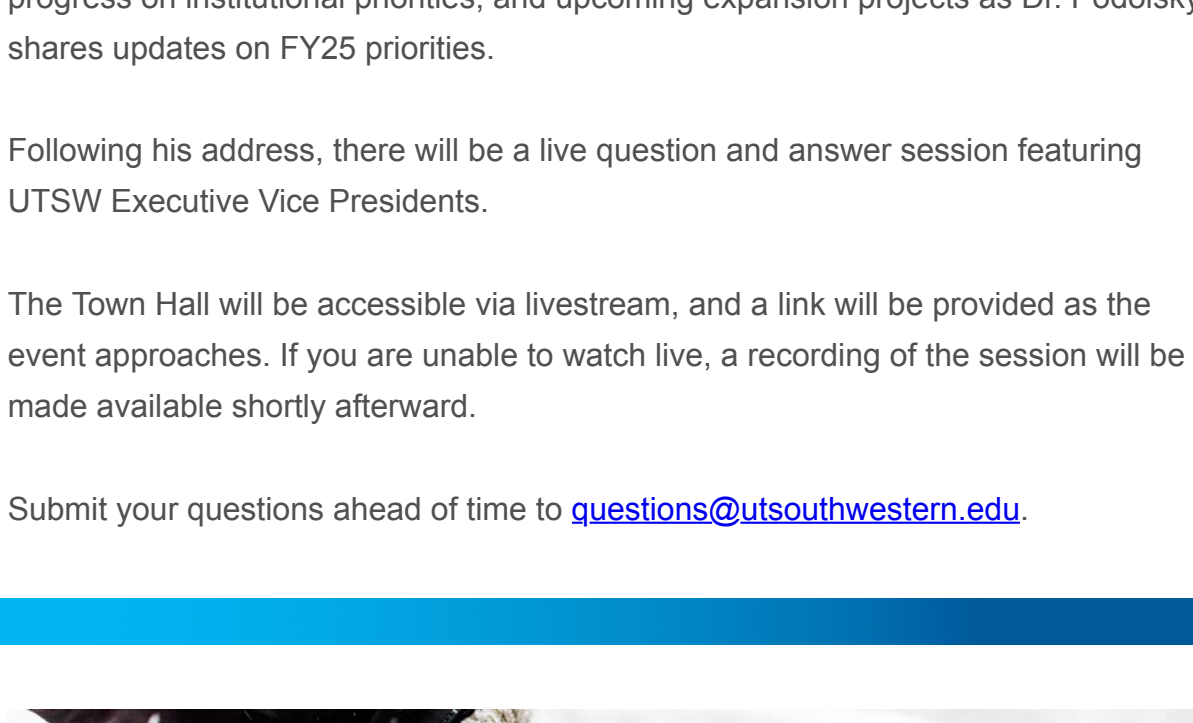
UT Southwestern reaches new transplant milestones

In 2023, for the fourth consecutive year, UT Southwestern performed more transplants than any other North Texas program. With 473 transplants total, our dedicated multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, and many others worked together to make each transplant – each new chance at life – possible.

It all starts, of course, with the generosity of organ donors, both living and deceased. Their collective decision to donate paved the way to new beginnings for a record number of patients and their families.

“As we step into 2024, let’s celebrate the lives saved and transformed through transplant and thank the heroes who made it possible,” said **Scott Bennett, M.S.**, Associate Vice President of Solid Organ Transplant at UT Southwestern. “The impact of these gifts emphasizes the importance of organ donation – an act that can bring hope, healing, and renewed life to those in need.”

[Become a donor](#)



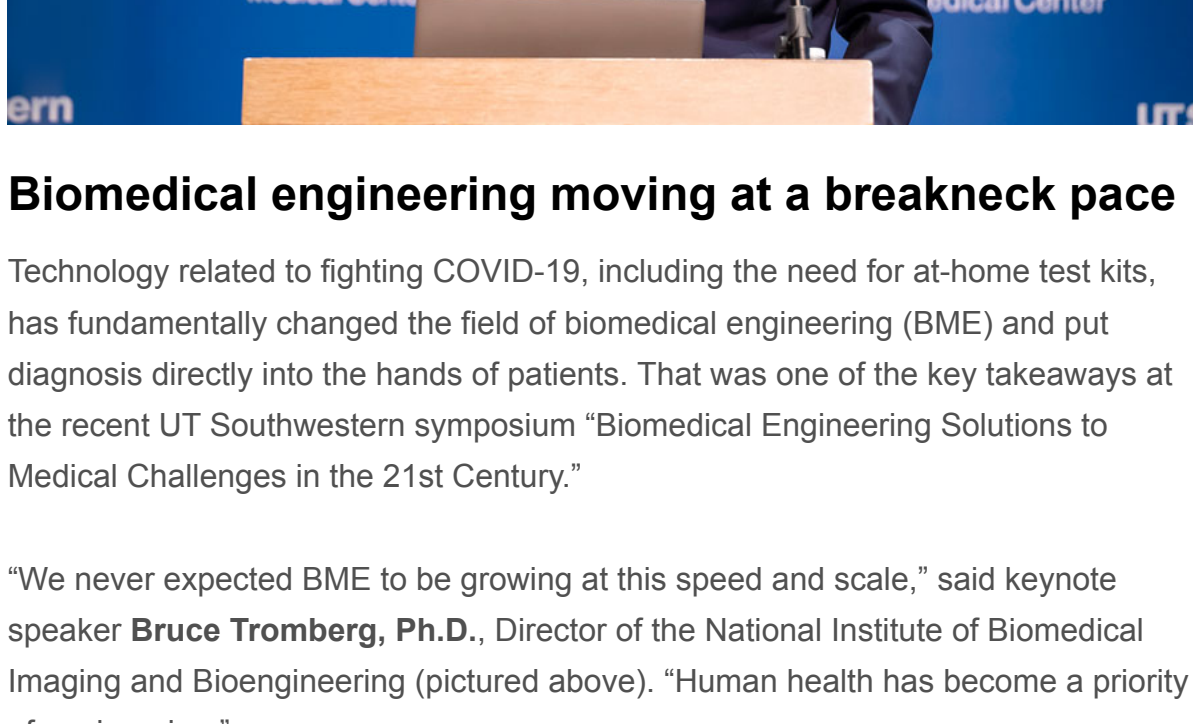
Submit your questions for the Town Hall on Feb. 8

Join UT Southwestern President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, for a virtual Town Hall on Thursday, Feb. 8, from noon-1 p.m. Learn about new wellness initiatives, progress on institutional priorities, and upcoming expansion projects as Dr. Podolsky shares updates on FY25 priorities.

Following his address, there will be a live question and answer session featuring UTSW Executive Vice Presidents.

The Town Hall will be accessible via livestream, and a link will be provided as the event approaches. If you are unable to watch live, a recording of the session will be made available shortly afterward.

Submit your questions ahead of time to questions@utsouthwestern.edu.



Resources to plan for inclement weather

As we brace for the coldest air of the season and the potential for wintry precipitation this weekend, we want to remind you of our institutional policy on inclement weather ([EMP-267](#)). We also want to encourage employees approved for remote work to review the resources available from IR on [working off campus](#).

For more preparedness and safety tips, including driving and traveling on campus, visit [Campus Updates](#). If and when the time arises, you will see a steady flow of communications and guidance.



Biomedical engineering moving at a breakneck pace

Technology related to fighting COVID-19, including the need for at-home test kits, has fundamentally changed the field of biomedical engineering (BME) and put diagnosis directly into the hands of patients. That was one of the key takeaways at the recent UT Southwestern symposium “Biomedical Engineering Solutions to Medical Challenges in the 21st Century.”

“We never expected BME to be growing at this speed and scale,” said keynote speaker **Bruce Tromberg, Ph.D.**, Director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (pictured above). “Human health has become a priority of engineering.”

Dr. Tromberg also spoke about other biomedical engineering advances, including deep brain stimulation technology, AI, and advances in medical imaging systems.

The symposium, which was sponsored by UTSW’s new [Department of Biomedical Engineering](#) and led by inaugural Chair **Samuel Achilefu, Ph.D.**, is featured in a new [Center Times Plus article](#).

Insider Guide



Virtual Lunch & Learn Webinar
Cancer and Nutrition: Myths vs. Facts
Friday, Jan. 19 • Noon - 1 p.m. CST

Join registered dietitians **Shelli Hardy, M.C.N., RD, CSO, LD**, and **Bailey Irvin, RD, LD**, in a webinar hosted by Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center as they discuss the myths versus facts associated with nutrition and choosing the best foods for your health – before, during, and after cancer treatment. Both experts are clinical oncology dietitians who provide care to cancer patients at UT Southwestern.

[Details](#)

UTSW Events Calendar

Looking for your daily dose of happenings?
The UTSW Events Calendar is updated every day.

[Click to view upcoming or trending events](#)

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