



Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Celebration



Paying tribute to a civil rights icon

The entire UTSW community is invited to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the annual Commemorative Celebration on Thursday, Jan. 23.

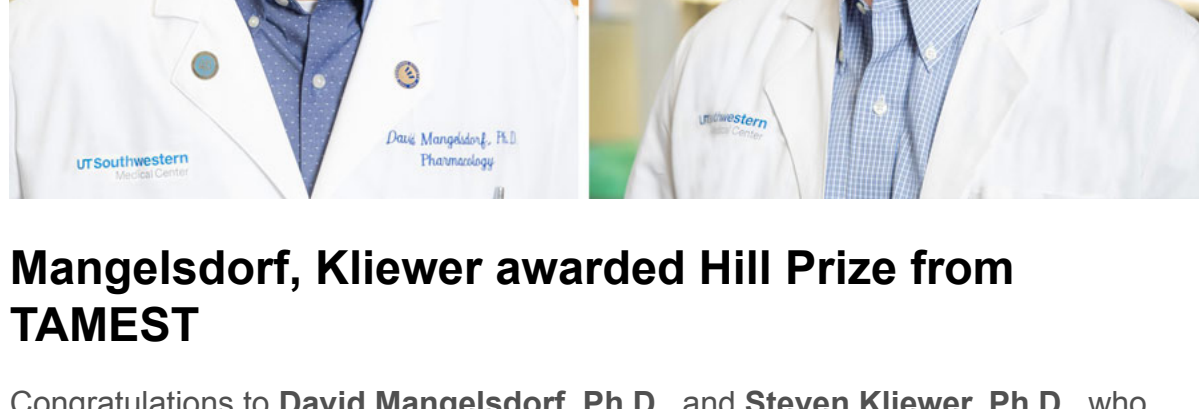
This hybrid event will be held on South Campus and will begin with a lunch reception at 11:30 a.m. The ceremony will take place at noon in D1.700. Ambassador **Ron Kirk**, Senior of Counsel at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, will deliver the keynote. Amb. Kirk's public service career spans more than 25 years, including roles as the 56th mayor of Dallas and the U.S. Trade Representative from 2009-2013 within President Barack Obama's administration.

Hosted by the Office for Institutional Opportunity, the celebration will include remarks from UTSW President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, a musical performance by students from Biomedical Preparatory at UT Southwestern, and an award ceremony honoring UTSW's student recipients of the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarships for Community Service.

Registration is required. Sign up through the link below to attend either in person or virtually.

As a reminder, UTSW clinics and nonhospital operations will be closed Monday, Jan. 20, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

[Details](#)



Mangelsdorf, Kliewer awarded Hill Prize from TAMEST

Congratulations to **David Mangelsdorf, Ph.D.**, and **Steven Kliewer, Ph.D.**, who have been awarded the Hill Prize in Biological Sciences from the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology (TAMEST).

The Hill Prize, which TAMEST launched last year, is designed to accelerate high-risk, high-reward research ideas in Texas with significant potential for real-world impact. Funded by Lyda Hill Philanthropies, Hill Prizes are awarded in six categories: Medicine, Engineering, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Technology, and Public Health. Recipients in each category receive \$500,000 as seed funding to advance their research.

Drs. Mangelsdorf and Kliewer are planning a new line of study that aims to characterize the pathway used by larvae of a parasitic nematode known as the soybean cyst nematode (SCN), which can infect soybeans. They hypothesize that SCN infection is mediated through a signaling cascade that involves an orphan nuclear receptor. By understanding this process, they hope to find a way to protect soybean plants from these parasites.

The pair will be honored, along with the other Hill Prize recipients, on Feb. 4 at the opening reception of the TAMEST 2025 Annual Conference: Transformational Breakthroughs, which will be held at the Westin Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas in Irving.

[Read the news release](#)

Survey Says!

In a previous issue of *UTSW Insider*, we asked how many of you achieved the New Year's resolution you set in 2024. Of those who responded to our poll question, here's what you told us.



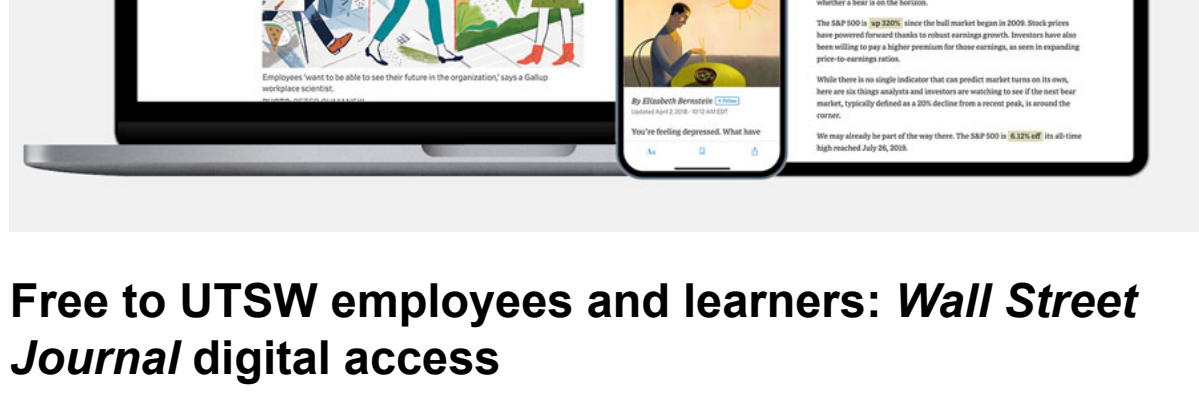
Peanut allergy study named top medical breakthrough

Congratulations to our colleagues in the Department of Pediatrics whose work on the OUtMATCH Team clinical trial – which explored using omalizumab to lower the risk of allergic reactions to peanuts and other foods – has been recognized as *Scientific Discovery's* No. 2 medical breakthrough of 2024. In addition, *National Geographic* also listed the study among its top “7 medical breakthroughs that gave us hope in 2024.”

The FDA has approved omalizumab for use in people aged 1 year and older to reduce the risk of allergic reactions to peanuts and other foods – a relief to many parents. More than one in 10 people in the U.S. have a food allergy, and it is more common in children, especially toddlers and infants.

The OUtMATCH Team is composed of several organizations, including UT Southwestern and Children's Health. **Drew Bird, M.D.**, Interim Chief for the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology in the Departments of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, and **Christopher Parrish, M.D.**, an Associate Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, served as team members on the study.

Learn more about the discovery from [National Geographic](#) (a subscription is required to view the full article).



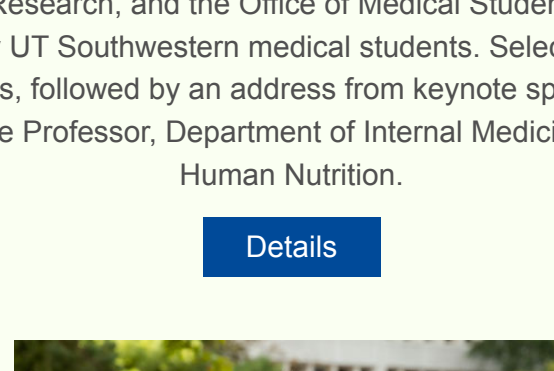
Free to UTSW employees and learners: Wall Street Journal digital access

Among UT Southwestern Library's many valuable offerings is a subscription to the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) – providing free digital access to anyone with a “utsouthwestern.edu” email address. [Create an account](#), then log in with your WSJ account credentials on the *Wall Street Journal* website or with the WSJ mobile app.

The Library also provides free *New York Times* digital access on campus without an account or off-campus via [simple registration](#). If you have questions, please contact libresources@utsouthwestern.edu.

[University Library](#)

Insider Guide

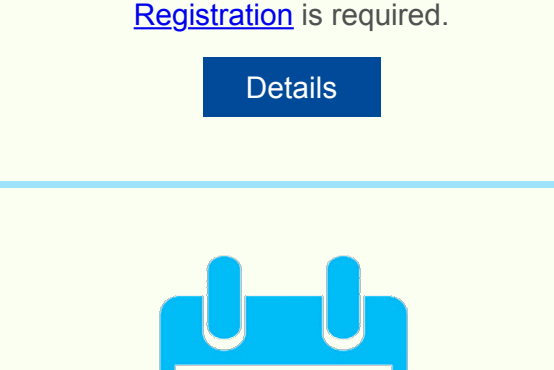


63rd Annual Medical Student Research Forum

3-6 p.m., Jan. 28
Eugene McDermott Plaza and Lecture Halls (D1.700)

This annual event, sponsored by **Luke Engelking, M.D., Ph.D.**, Interim Associate Dean for Medical Student Research, and the Office of Medical Student Research, celebrates research conducted by UT Southwestern medical students. Selected students will present their research projects, followed by an address from keynote speaker **Rodney Infante, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine and in the Center for Human Nutrition.

[Details](#)



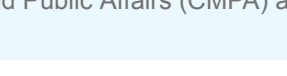
2025 Capra Interdisciplinary Healthcare Symposium

9 a.m.–noon, Feb. 12
Simmons Biomedical Research Building (EEF Auditorium), Virtual

The Capra Symposium provides a venue for yearly scientific exchanges under the theme of Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration. This year's presentation is “Advancements in Health Care and Education AI at UT Southwestern,” by **Eric D. Peterson, M.D., M.P.H.**, Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research.

[Registration](#) is required.

[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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