

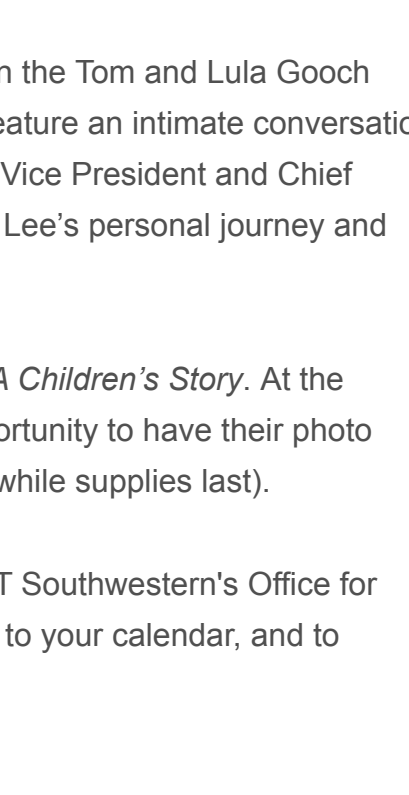
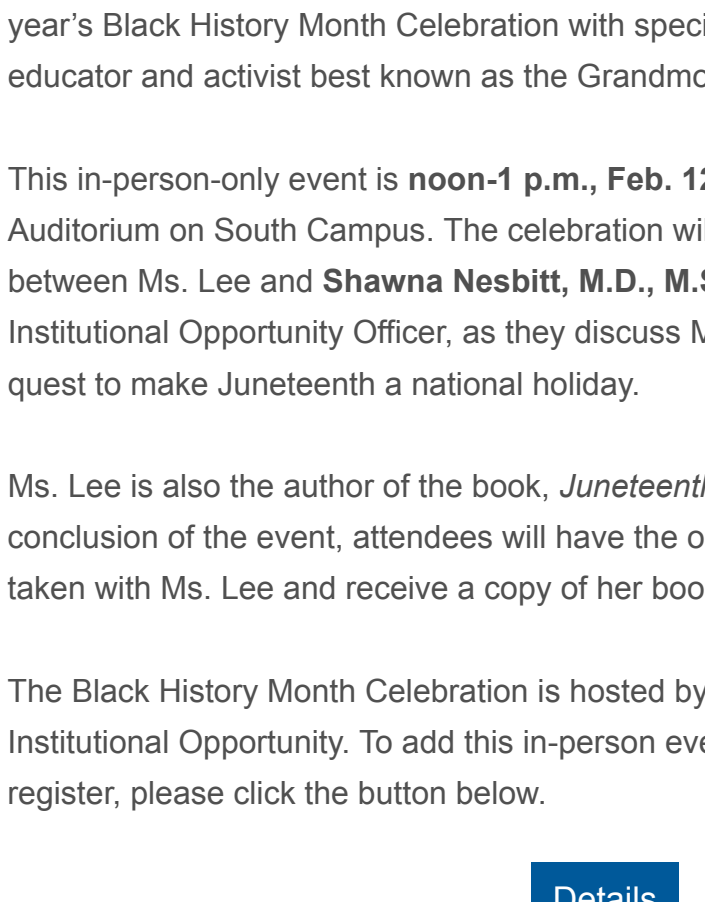
Welcome to Heart Month!

Mark your calendars for this Friday, Feb. 2, for Go Red for Women’s National Wear Red Day. Snap some photos of you and your team rocking red that day and send them to heart@utsouthwestern.edu for a chance to be featured in this year’s video compilation or on our social media channels.

Our cardiovascular team also has a host of other heart-healthy initiatives lined up, including the annual Step-A-Thon team walks on the Katy Trail, and more. Stay tuned for details on how you can do your part to take care of your heart.

For a preview of what is to come, check out the special video message from **Amit Khera, M.D.**, Director of Preventive Cardiology, and **Laura Thielemann, M.P.A.**, Associate Vice President of Heart and Vascular Services.

[Heart Month news and activities](#)



‘Grandmother of Juneteenth’ Opal Lee to keynote Black History Month event

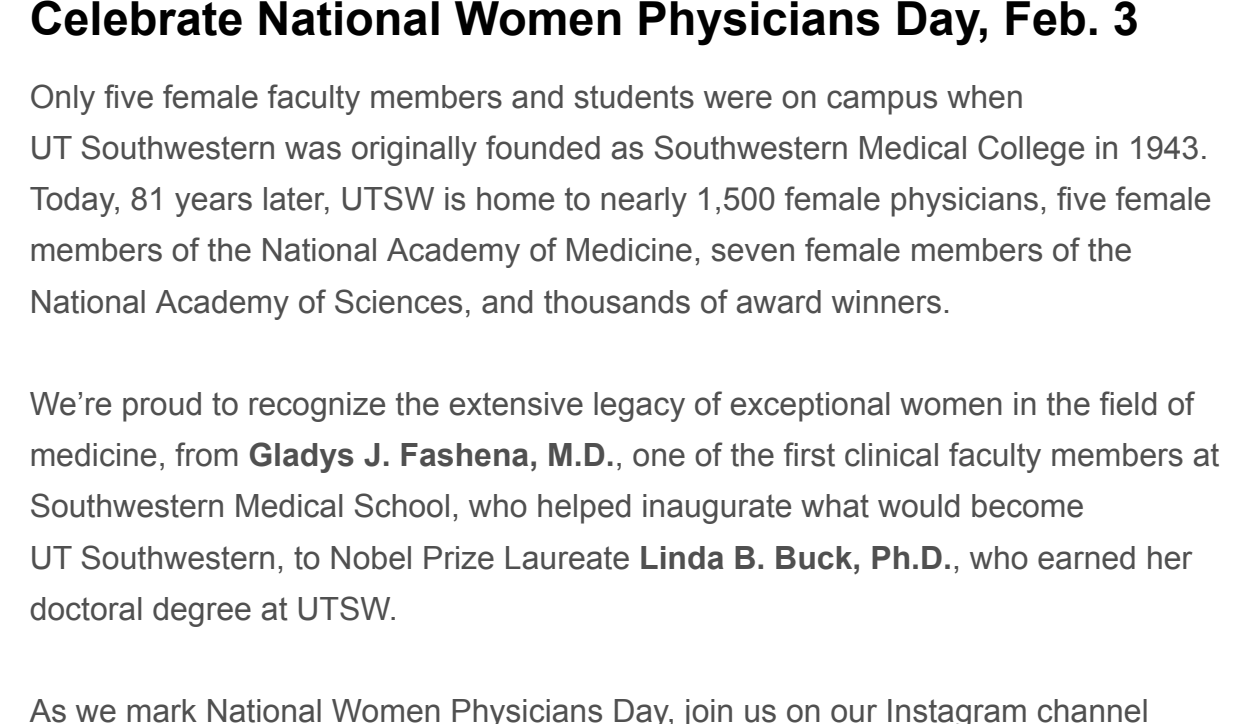
Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy a living history lesson at this year’s Black History Month Celebration with special guest **Opal Lee**, retired educator and activist best known as the Grandmother of Juneteenth.

This in-person-only event is **noon-1 p.m., Feb. 12**, in the Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium on South Campus. The event will feature an intimate conversation between Ms. Lee and **Shawna Nesbitt, M.D., M.S.**, Vice President and Chief Institutional Opportunity Officer, as they discuss Ms. Lee’s personal journey and quest to make Juneteenth a national holiday.

Ms. Lee is also the author of the book, *Juneteenth: A Children’s Story*. At the conclusion of the event, attendees will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with Ms. Lee and receive a copy of her book (while supplies last).

The Black History Month Celebration is hosted by UT Southwestern’s Office for Institutional Opportunity. To add this in-person event to your calendar, and to register, please click the button below.

[Details](#)



Celebrate National Women Physicians Day, Feb. 3

Only five female faculty members and students were on campus when UT Southwestern was originally founded as Southwestern Medical College in 1943. Today, 81 years later, UTSW is home to nearly 1,500 female physicians, five female members of the National Academy of Medicine, seven female members of the National Academy of Sciences, and thousands of award winners.

We’re proud to recognize the extensive legacy of exceptional women in the field of medicine, from **Gladys J. Fashena, M.D.**, one of the first clinical faculty members at Southwestern Medical School, who helped inaugurate what would become UT Southwestern, to Nobel Prize Laureate **Linda B. Buck, Ph.D.**, who earned her doctoral degree at UTSW.

As we mark National Women Physicians Day, join us on our Instagram channel ([@UTSWnews](https://www.instagram.com/UTSWnews)) on Feb. 3 for a tribute to the women who shaped our institution over the past eight decades and those who are currently lighting the path for the next generation of women in medicine.

[Explore the breakthroughs of our faculty](#)

UT Southwestern

Town Hall

State of the Campus Address

Hosted by
President Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

Reminder: Submit questions for the Feb. 8 Town Hall

Join President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, for a virtual Town Hall and State of the Campus Address on Thursday, Feb. 8, from noon-1 p.m. Dr. Podolsky will share updates on FY25 priorities, including the latest wellness initiatives, progress on institutional goals, and upcoming expansion projects.

Following his address, there will be a live Q&A featuring UTSW Executive Vice Presidents. The Town Hall will be accessible via livestream.

If you cannot watch live, a recording will be made available.

Submit your questions in advance to questions@utsouthwestern.edu.

[Register for the Town Hall](#)

Puzzles, pathways, and prestige: Dr. DJ Pan’s scientific journey

Duoja “DJ” Pan, Ph.D., grew up in China in the 1970s, following the Cultural Revolution. As the country opened to the wider world, scientists were revered, and many parents wanted their children to choose careers in science and technology.

Dr. Pan did just that, and his fascinating journey led him to UT Southwestern, where he has worked to unravel the mysteries of the Hippo signaling pathway, which controls how animals grow their organs to just the right size.

“Science is like solving a puzzle,” Dr. Pan said recently, explaining why he switched his research focus upon his arrival to UTSW in 1998. “If I continued my old project, it would be the safest path. I could probably find some missing pieces, but I was not going to have a brand-new puzzle to solve.”

The choice turned out to be the right one, and Dr. Pan and his lab have laid the foundation for their field of study, identifying and characterizing the role the Hippo pathway plays in organ-size control and tissue regeneration. The groundbreaking work, which earned Dr. Pan, Chair of Physiology at UTSW, the 2022 Passano Award and contributed to his election to the National Academy of Sciences in 2023, is chronicled in the *Center Times Plus* story below.

[Read more about Dr. Pan](#)

UTSW in the news

UT Southwestern’s clinical and scientific experts are often featured in the news, with media outlets turning to us for our insights and perspectives.

“UTSW in the News” will highlight some of those stories:

People Magazine
[Parents Were Told Their Baby Born Without a Nose Wouldn’t Survive...28 Surgeries Later, He’s Thriving.](#)

In this week’s issue of *People*, Gray Canales, who defied the odds 22 years ago when he was born without a nose, shares his incredible story of survival. The UT Southwestern plastic surgery team members who performed his total nasal reconstruction, **James Thornton, M.D.**, Professor of Plastic Surgery, and craniofacial surgery fellow **Jessica May, M.D.**, recall the complicated nature of his surgeries in the article.

[Read the full story](#)

Insider Guide

University Lecture Series – Michael Rosen, Ph.D.

4-5 p.m., Feb. 7
Simmons Auditorium (NB2.EEF, North Campus)

Hear **Michael Rosen, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biophysics, present “Cell Organization by Liquid-Liquid Phase Separation.” The event is hosted by **Jose Rizo-Rey, Ph.D.**, Professor of Biophysics, Biochemistry, and Pharmacology and Chair of the Molecular Biophysics graduate program.

[Details](#)

Walk with a Doc

11 a.m.-noon, Feb. 10
Kiest Park – 3080 S. Hampton Road

Please join UT Southwestern’s monthly Walk with a Doc – a national fitness and learning program. Led by physicians in the Department of Family and Community Medicine’s Health Equity, Advocacy, and Research Training (H.E.A.R.T.) track, this activity begins with a brief, enlightening talk on a health topic prior to starting the walk.

[Map and info](#)

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](#)