



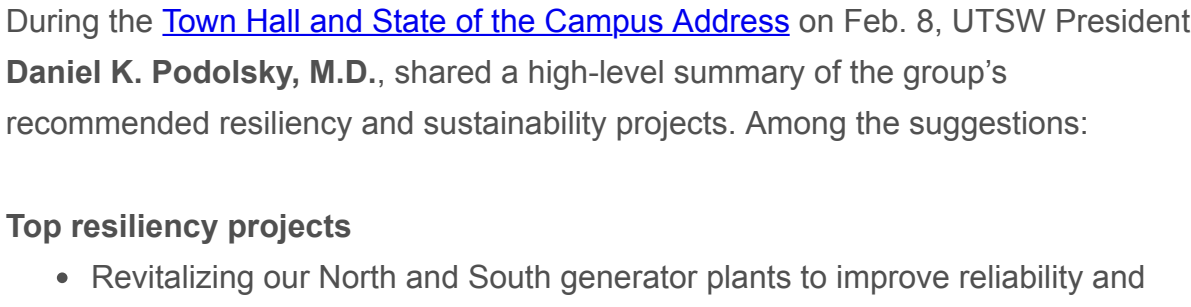
**In Memoriam**  
**Jonathan W. Uhr, M.D., renowned immunologist and longtime Chair of Microbiology**

The UT Southwestern community was saddened to learn of the passing last week of **Jonathan W. Uhr, M.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Immunology and longtime Chair of Microbiology. He was 96.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Uhr discovered how antibodies are produced, and he developed a technique that led to the early detection of cancer cells. He was recruited to UTSW in 1972 by **Donald Seldin, M.D.**, then Chairman of Internal Medicine, to be Chair and Professor of Microbiology, a department he led to international renown for its immunology research. Dr. Uhr became Professor at UTSW's Cancer Immunobiology Center in 1997 and was named Professor Emeritus in October 2010.

"Dr. Uhr's legacy and history of impactful science, service, and leadership will live on, particularly in the Department of Microbiology at UT Southwestern," said **Julie Pfeiffer, Ph.D.**, Interim Chair and Professor of Microbiology.

[Read his tribute](#)



**Campus resiliency and sustainability: What's happening at UTSW?**

Last year, 17 experts from across the Medical Center came together to formulate a multiyear strategy to minimize UT Southwestern's environmental impact, enhance campus resiliency, and address changing conditions. This included conducting a comprehensive resiliency and vulnerability assessment and greenhouse gas emissions analysis.

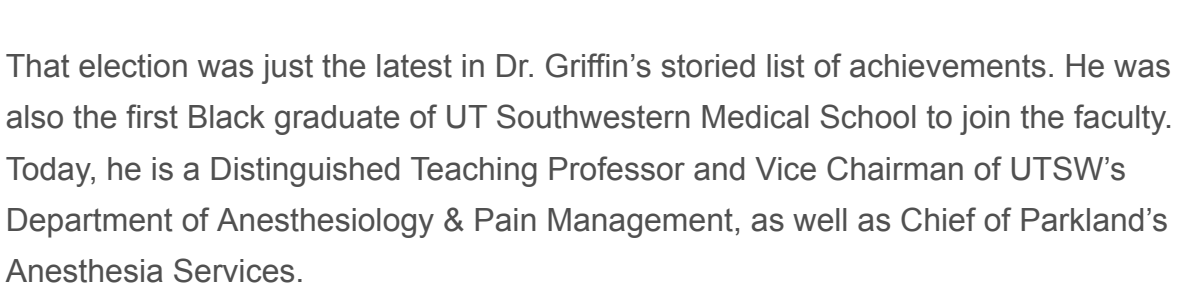
During the [Town Hall and State of the Campus Address](#) on Feb. 8, UTSW President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, shared a high-level summary of the group's recommended resiliency and sustainability projects. Among the suggestions:

- Top resiliency projects**
- Revitalizing our North and South generator plants to improve reliability and operability
  - Adding thermal storage to district thermal systems to improve resiliency and savings
  - Interconnecting district chilled water systems and replacing the aging pipes in the distribution systems
- Top sustainability projects**
- Maximizing efficiency of outside air brought into campus buildings
  - Implementing a campuswide metering and digital monitoring strategy
  - Undertaking a district hot water system to improve efficiency and reliability
  - Completing energy improvements of all HVAC equipment

More information on these projects is available below.

[Proposed initiatives](#)

*On-campus network connection or VPN required.*



**An inspiring career of service to UTSW, Parkland**

**James Griffin, M.D.**, was born at Parkland Memorial Hospital when the labor and delivery ward was still segregated. More than six decades later, his Parkland Health colleagues elected him President of the medical staff – the first Black physician to earn that honor.

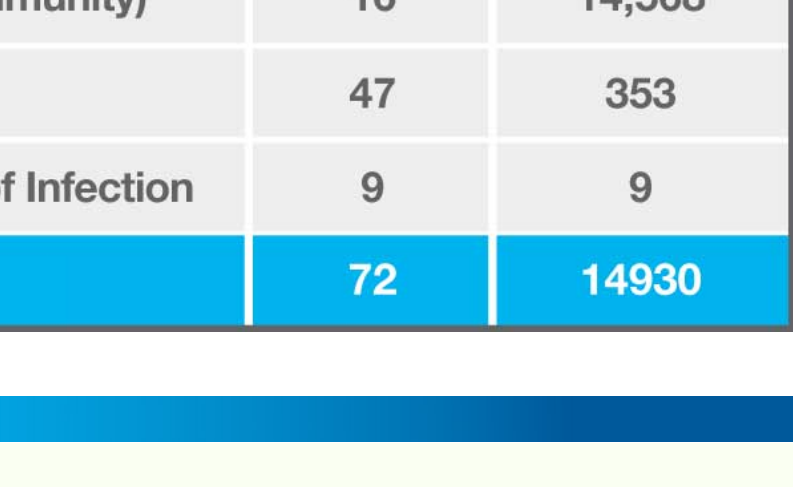
That election was just the latest in Dr. Griffin's storied list of achievements. He was also the first Black graduate of UT Southwestern Medical School to join the faculty. Today, he is a Distinguished Teaching Professor and Vice Chairman of UTSW's Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Management, as well as Chief of Parkland's Anesthesia Services.

Born to passionate educators – his mother attended graduate school with Martin Luther King Jr. – Dr. Griffin speaks poetically of how his path was charted early.

"Service is in my genes," Dr. Griffin said. "Teaching is in our blood, which is probably one reason I stayed on the faculty at UT Southwestern. Teaching in medicine is a never-ending quest to construct bridges over chasms of the unknown or misunderstood."

A new [story on Center Times Plus](#) reveals more about Dr. Griffin's remarkable career in medicine and mentorship, along with meaningful mileposts along the way.

**UTSW COVID-19 Census Update**

February 20, 2024		COVID-19 Hospitalizations March 2020 – Present
Non-ICU	18	
ICU	1	
<b>Total in CUH</b>	<b>19</b>	

**COVID-19: Latest CUH and campus numbers**

As the DFW region has experienced a fluctuation in COVID-19 cases, several of you have expressed interest in better understanding transmission levels. We will begin running COVID-19 graphics in each Wednesday issue of the *UTSW Insider*.

The graphic above depicts the total cases at Clements University Hospital as of Feb. 20, along with the historical data graph that began in March 2020.

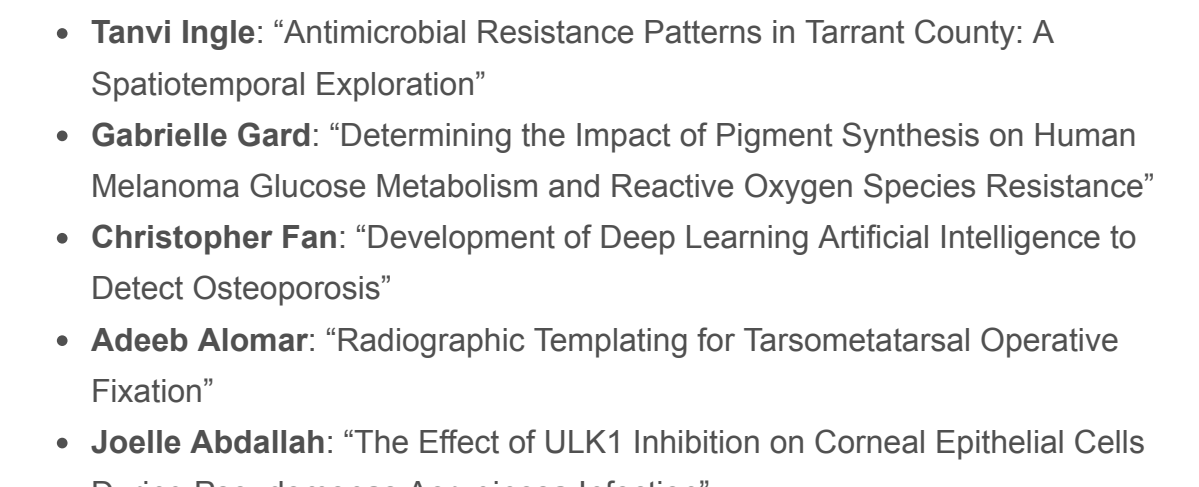
The graphic below is a chart listing the most recent and cumulative totals of campus COVID-19 cases (among employees and students).

**UTSW COVID-19 Census Update**

Source of Infection	Week of 2/9 - 2/15	Cumulative Total 3/1/20 - 2/20/24
Off Campus (Community)	16	14,568
Campus	47	353
Pending Source of Infection	9	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>14930</b>

**#ICYMI: 'Battle of the Bottle: Discovery of a Hormone Ally'**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

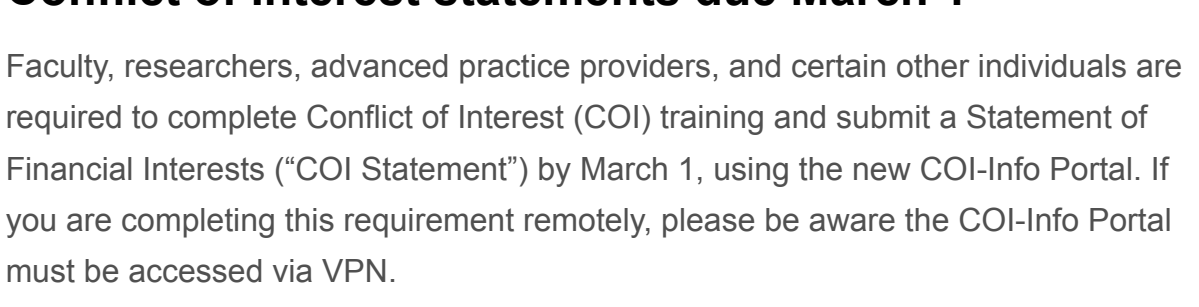


Surprisingly little is known about how alcohol exerts its effects on the body. But if you were able to watch the most recent President's Lecture by **Steven Kliewer, Ph.D.**, on Feb. 8, you got to learn more about how he and his longtime collaborator, **David Mangelsdorf, Ph.D.**, are working to uncover the mysteries.

If you missed it, you can now watch a recording of Dr. Kliewer's presentation, which dives into his fascinating research on FGF2, a hormone that has the potential to treat alcohol poisoning and addiction.

[Watch the lecture](#)

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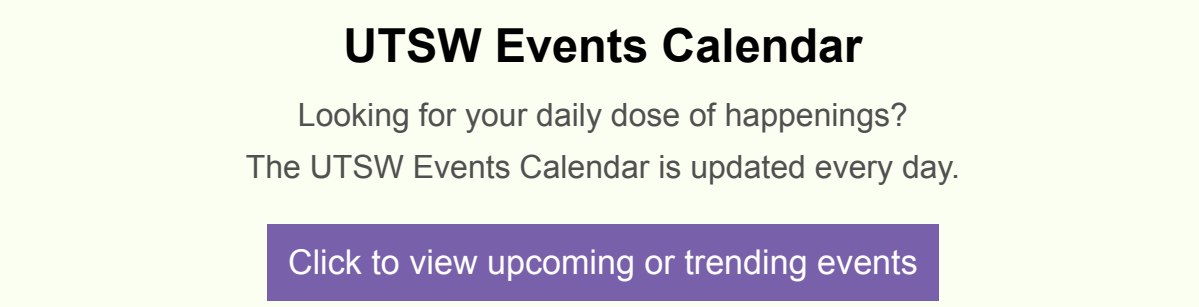
**Student research forum inspires careers in academic medicine**

On Jan. 30, UT Southwestern's 62nd Medical Student Research Forum provided a platform for future doctors to showcase their research, emphasizing the unique opportunities available on campus. The event featured oral presentations by **Madysen Hunter, Heba Zakaria, Victoria Garfinkel, and Peter Chan** and a keynote address by **Denise Marciano, M.D., Ph.D.**

Out of 131 applicants, 56 students were selected to present posters on their research projects. Twenty-one faculty judges evaluated the poster presentations and chose six winners:

- **Tanvi Ingle**: "Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns in Tarrant County: A Spatiotemporal Exploration"
- **Gabrielle Gard**: "Determining the Impact of Pigment Synthesis on Human Melanoma Glucose Metabolism and Reactive Oxygen Species Resistance"
- **Christopher Fan**: "Development of Deep Learning Artificial Intelligence to Detect Osteoporosis"
- **Adeeb Alomar**: "Radiographic Templating for Tarsometatarsal Operative Fixation"
- **Joelle Abdallah**: "The Effect of ULK1 Inhibition on Corneal Epithelial Cells During Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Infection"
- **Sara Papp**: "Systematic Review of the Global Literature on Uncomplicated Recurrent Urinary Tract Infections: Underscoring Major Heterogeneity"

Congratulations to all the winners for their outstanding contributions to medical research!



**Conflict of Interest statements due March 1**

Faculty, researchers, advanced practice providers, and certain other individuals are required to complete Conflict of Interest (COI) training and submit a Statement of Financial Interests ("COI Statement") by March 1, using the new COI-Info Portal. If you are completing this requirement remotely, please be aware the COI-Info Portal must be accessed via VPN.

If you did not receive an email to submit a COI Statement, no action is required.

If you have questions, please [email the COI Office](#) or visit the [COI page \(VPN required\)](#).

[Full details](#)

**Research Highlights**

**Experimental compound extends life in ALS mouse model**

UTSW researchers discovered a molecule that enhanced survival in cellular and mouse models of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a fatal neurodegenerative disease, and has the potential be used to develop new ALS treatments.

**Studies examine different responses to SARS-CoV-2 variants**

Findings from two new studies show the effects different SARS-CoV-2 variants have on lung tissue, revealing what may cause some COVID-19 infections to be more severe than others and offering new perspectives that could advance treatments for COVID-19.



**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](#)

**Share your 'Insider' suggestions**

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