



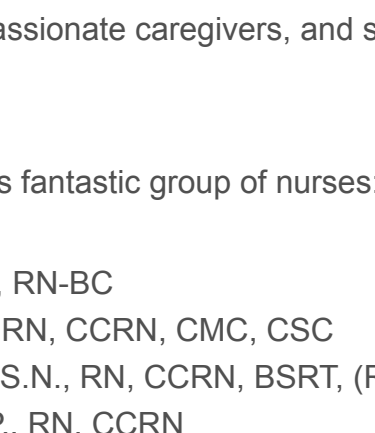
50 years of groundbreaking research in reproductive biology

For **Paul C. MacDonald Jr., M.D.**, the vision was simple – create a health care center at UT Southwestern focused on improving women’s reproductive health.

Today, 50 years later, the Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences is internationally recognized as a leader in the field and is changing the way science is conducted. The clinicians and scientists working in the Center are conducting leading-edge research on gene regulation while integrating basic, translational, and clinical research in reproduction and related areas of biology, including stem cells, immunology, and metabolism. “I think Dr. MacDonald would be pleased about what the Center has become,” said **W. Lee Kraus, Ph.D.**, who was appointed the Center’s Director in 2010.

Since its founding in 1974, the Center has grown by leaps and bounds, expanding from a small group of dedicated individuals to 84 basic researchers, clinician scientists, trainees, and staff, with 10 core faculty members.

To dive into the Center’s rich history and major scientific discoveries, visit [Center Times Plus](#).



THE GREAT 100 NURSES

Dallas • Fort Worth

Fourteen UTSW nurses join the DFW ‘Great 100’

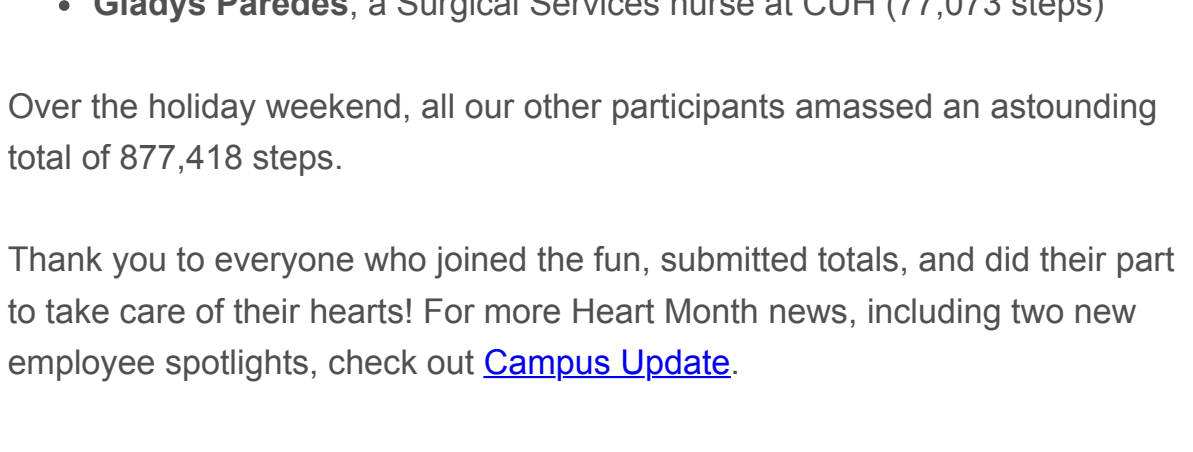
Each spring, the Dallas-Fort Worth Great 100 Nurses organization recognizes the best in nursing in North Texas. This year, 14 UT Southwestern nurses made the list – a milestone moment for our campus.

The nurses were nominated by their peers for being role models, leaders, community servants, compassionate caregivers, and significant contributors to the nursing profession.

Join us in congratulating this fantastic group of nurses:

- Shelley Aleni, M.S.N., RN-BC
- Carlo Carpio, B.S.N., RN, CCRN, CMC, CSC
- Robert Castillo Jr., M.S.N., RN, CCRN, BSRT, (R)(T), ARRT
- Ruben Castillo, D.N.P., RN, CCRN
- Kimberly Collier, B.S.N., RN, CNOR
- Kelsey Davidson, B.S.N., RN
- Kaitlyn Dupriest, B.S.N., RN, CCRN
- Christopher McLarty, D.N.P., APRN, ACNP-BC
- Lisa Smith, B.S.N., RN, CCRN
- Charlene Stein, M.H.A., RN, OCN
- Lija Thomas, M.S.N., RN
- Shinto Thomas, M.S.N., RN, PCCN
- Julie Varkey, M.S.N., RN, CMSRN
- David Wyatt, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, CNOR, FAORN, FAAN

The 2024 Great 100 inductees will be honored at a ceremony May 3 at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. An upcoming story on *Center Times Plus* will provide brief profiles of this year’s Great 14.



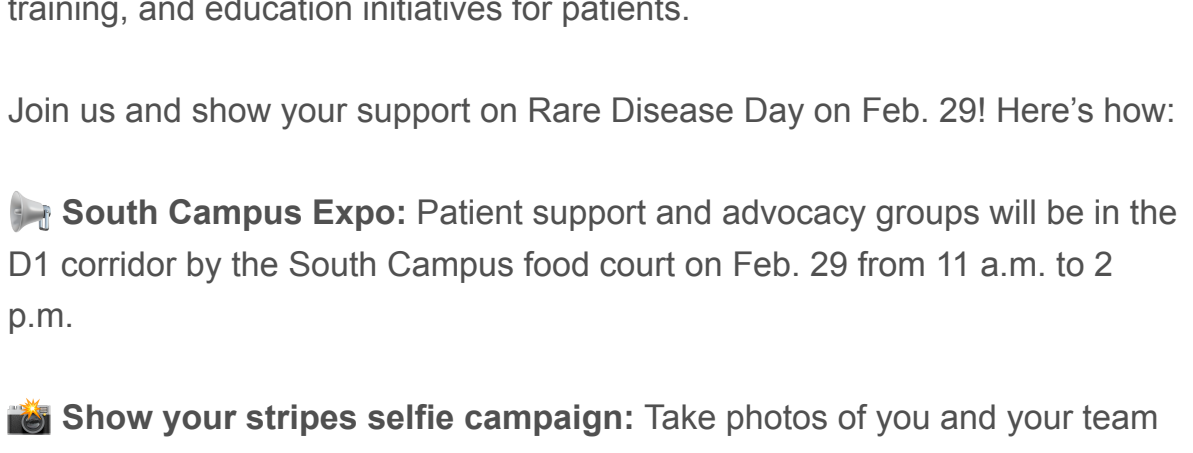
The Step-A-Thon results are in ...

Congratulations to our three top walkers of the annual Step-A-Thon!

- **Thelma Morgan**, a medical transcriptionist for Clinical Laboratory Services (**217,292 steps**)
- **Lavanya Vumma**, a student intern in the Graduate School (115,441 steps)
- **Gladys Paredes**, a Surgical Services nurse at CUH (77,073 steps)

Over the holiday weekend, all our other participants amassed an astounding total of 877,418 steps.

Thank you to everyone who joined the fun, submitted totals, and did their part to take care of their hearts! For more Heart Month news, including two new employee spotlights, check out [Campus Update](#).



Show your stripes, support Rare Disease Day on Feb. 29

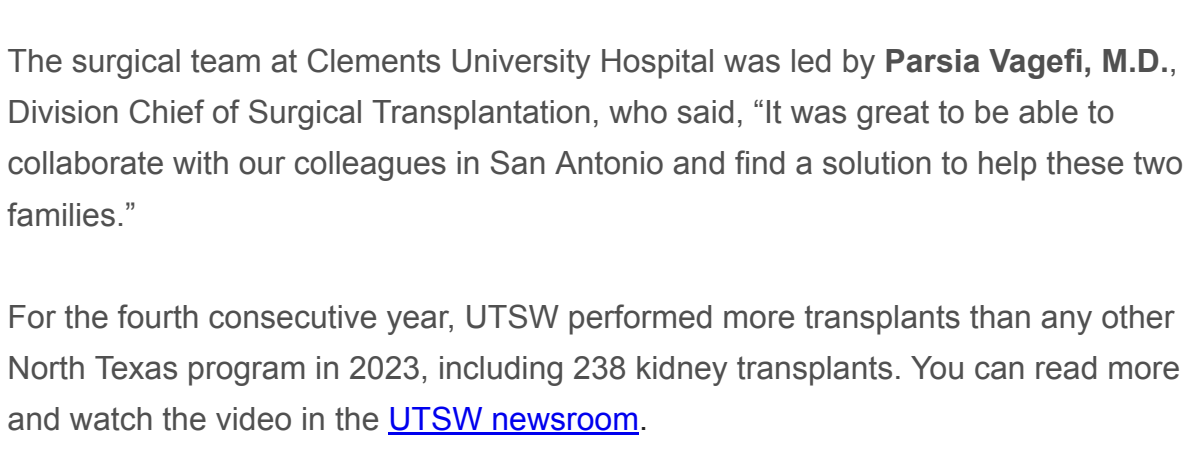
More than 300 million people worldwide are living with a rare disease. We are hosting a trio of events this week to highlight the need for essential research, training, and education initiatives for patients.

Join us and show your support on Rare Disease Day on Feb. 29! Here’s how:

📍 **South Campus Expo:** Patient support and advocacy groups will be in the D1 corridor by the South Campus food court on Feb. 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

📸 **Show your stripes selfie campaign:** Take photos of you and your team wearing stripes Feb. 29 and send them to our Social Media team at social@utsouthwestern.edu.

🦒 **Employee day at the Dallas Zoo:** On March 2, join representatives of the UT Southwestern/Children’s Health Rare Disease Center of Excellence at the Dallas Zoo to show your support, have some fun, and be part of a group photo at the Giraffe Drawbridge at 11 am. UTSW employees, faculty, students, their families, and friends can [purchase tickets for adults at the discounted rate](#) of \$14 per person.



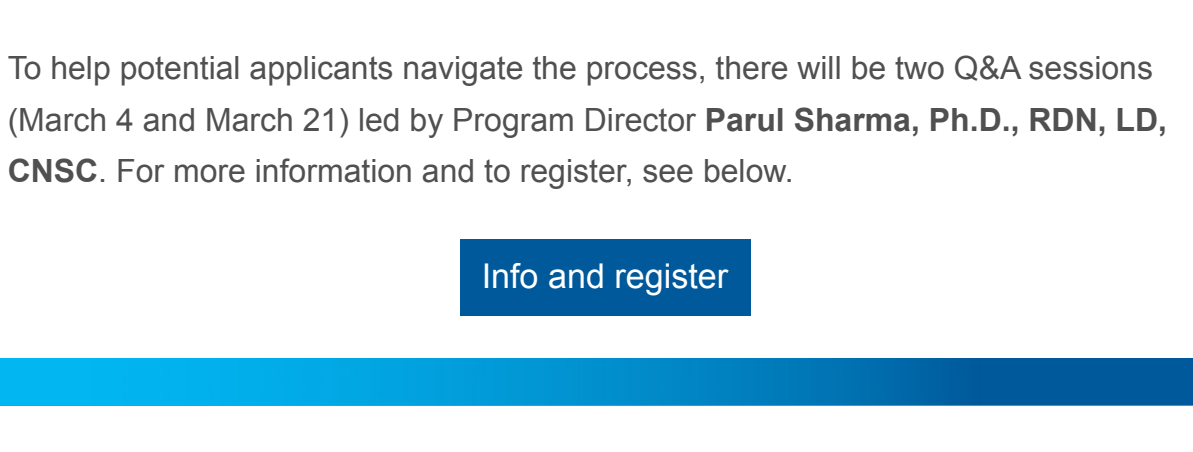
UTSW coordinates kidney swap for transplant patients in Dallas and San Antonio

Congratulations to UT Southwestern’s Solid Organ Transplant Program for successfully collaborating with the University Health Transplant Institute in San Antonio on a donor swap that led to kidney transplants for patients 250 miles apart.

As described in [a moving video](#), the exchange took place after program leaders at the two institutions agreed to search beyond their own networks for kidneys to match the unique needs of two patients: Jorge Mendez, a 48-year-old automotive shop foreman in Dallas, and Ann Winer, a 71-year-old retired nurse anesthetist in San Antonio.

The surgical team at Clements University Hospital was led by **Parsia Vagefi, M.D.**, Division Chief of Surgical Transplantation, who said, “It was great to be able to collaborate with our colleagues in San Antonio and find a solution to help these two families.”

For the fourth consecutive year, UTSW performed more transplants than any other North Texas program in 2023, including 238 kidney transplants. You can read more and watch the video in the [UTSW newsroom](#).

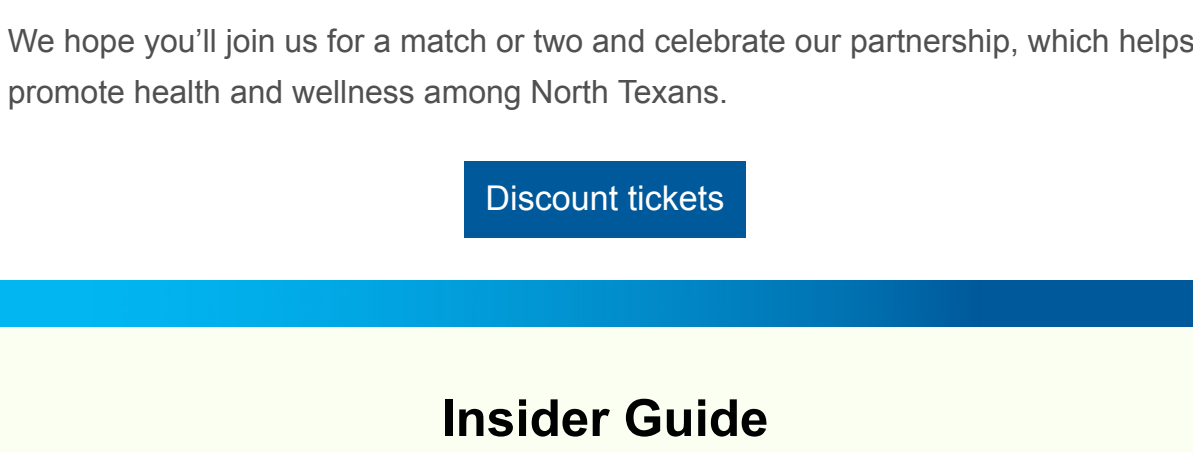


April 1 deadline for online master’s program in Nutrition Science

The School of Health Professions is accepting applications for its [Master of Clinical Nutrition – Nutrition Science](#) program until **April 1**. This fully online course is designed for health professionals and registered dietitians seeking an advanced degree that can be earned remotely through a self-paced curriculum. Students will explore advanced nutrition topics on preventing and managing diseases, which will help patients improve their health through practical dietary strategies.

To help potential applicants navigate the process, there will be two Q&A sessions (March 4 and March 21) led by Program Director **Parul Sharma, Ph.D., RDN, LD, CNSC**. For more information and to register, see below.

[Info and register](#)



Game on: Get your discounted FC Dallas Tickets

UT Southwestern is proud to return to the pitch as the Official Health Care and Front-of-Jersey Partner for FC Dallas alongside Children’s Health.

[Discount tickets](#) are available to all employees for every home game this season. Plus, bring your ID badge to snag 20% off a UTSW jersey or other team gear during the game.

We hope you’ll join us for a match or two and celebrate our partnership, which helps promote health and wellness among North Texans.

[Discount tickets](#)

Insider Guide



29th Annual Texas Forum for Reproductive Sciences

April 18–19 | T. Boone Pickens Medical Education & Conference Center (NG3.112)

This annual forum, hosted by the Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences, fosters collaboration among basic and clinical reproductive scientists from institutions across the region. The program includes short talks and poster presentations from students, fellows, and junior faculty members. Register by March 15.

[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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