

Show gratitude: COVID-19 Heroes and Memorial Day

Today, UT Southwestern and hospitals across Texas are marking the inaugural COVID-19 Heroes and Memorial Day as designated by the state. The observance honors health care workers, first responders, and essential workers for their tireless efforts during the pandemic.

At UTSW, we will recognize the incredible teamwork that allowed us to carry out our collective mission to educate, discover, and heal. A special commemorative event to pay tribute to your exceptional service throughout the pandemic will be livestreamed at 11:30 a.m. Tune in to the event [via zoom](#).

Members of our campus community have been showing their appreciation by sending short messages of gratitude.

Here is a sampling:

- "I appreciate how hard the COVID teams worked – relentless hours, days, and nights – to help any and all UTSW employees with testing, guidance, compassion, and empathy. There were no textbooks, classes, or life lessons to prepare society for such an aggressive virus, and we are still learning, four years later. The COVID-19 heroes should be praised every day."
- "I am deeply grateful for all the hearts, hands, and minds that pulled us through the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to keep us well. Thank you, COVID-19 heroes, for your perseverance, ingenuity, and compassion for humankind. Our world is blessed by your gifts."
- "I can't thank enough the many teams who worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic for our patients and our community! It is because of you all that we were able to navigate through COVID and save the lives of so many individuals. Many thanks to each and every person who played a role during the pandemic."

Mandatory compliance training begins today

The annual compliance training period opens today and runs through April 17. All employees, faculty members, and applicable contractors must complete compliance training. Those who do not finish the training before the April 17 deadline will have email access restricted and face disciplinary action up to termination. New hires from Jan. 1, 2024, onward are exempt.

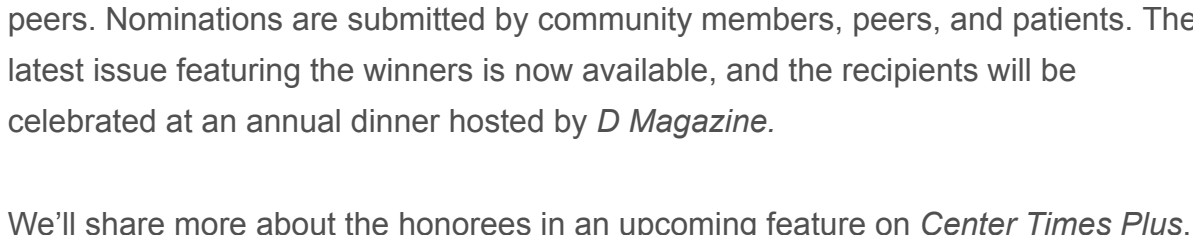
Watch for an email from Taleo Learn with the training link. Additional information is available on the [Office of Institutional Compliance website](#) (VPN or on-campus connection required).

The training is composed of two modules and will take approximately 1 hour to complete.

- Part 1 of 2 – FY 2024 Ethics, Compliance, and Our Organization's Expectations of the Workforce
- Part 2 of 2 – FY 2024 Privacy and Information Security Training

Employees must complete both parts to be 100% compliant. Doing so helps us promote a culture of excellence, safeguard our reputation, and create a safer workplace.

Questions? Email the [Office of Institutional Compliance](#), call 214-648-6134, or visit the [Annual Compliance Training SharePoint site](#).



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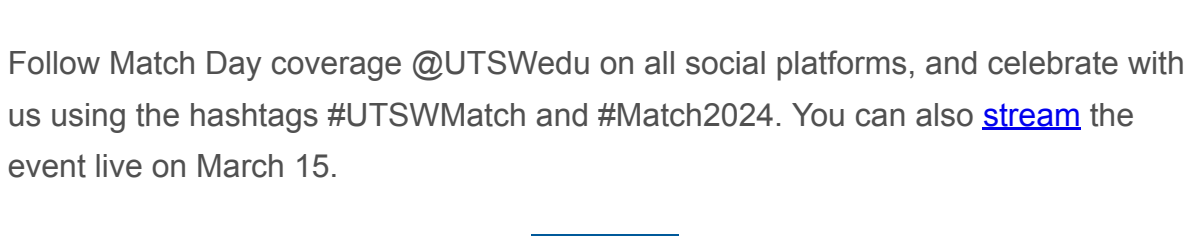
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10 UTSW RNs win D Magazine Excellence in Nursing Awards

This month marks the start of awards season for nurses in North Texas, and UT Southwestern is once again in the spotlight. Ten of our own have been selected to receive *D Magazine's* Excellence in Nursing Awards for 2024.

The magazine honors outstanding nurses in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex each year for their professional accomplishments and positive impact on patients and peers. Nominations are submitted by community members, peers, and patients. The latest issue featuring the winners is now available, and the recipients will be celebrated at an annual dinner hosted by *D Magazine*.

We'll share more about the honorees in an upcoming feature on *Center Times Plus*.

For now, join us in congratulating these inspiring nurses:

- Robert Castillo Jr., D.N.P., M.H.A., RN, CCRN, (R)(T)(ARRT)
- Maria Crain, M.A., APRN, CPNP-PC
- Linda Denke, Ph.D., RN, CCRC
- Bradley Goettl, D.N.P., APRN, FNP-C, AGACNP-BC, ENP-C, FAANP, FAAN
- Gabrielle Gonzales, B.S.N., RN
- Sheena John, B.S.N., RN
- Christi Nguyen, D.N.P., RN, FACHE, NEA-BC, CENP
- Nancy Palacios, D.N.P., APRN, FNP-BC, NE-BC
- Kaitlyn Thomas, B.S.N., RN
- Rhonda White, B.S.N., RN



Mark your calendars for Match Day 2024

On Friday, March 15, fourth-year students from the UT Southwestern Medical School Class of 2024 will find out where they will continue their careers as new physicians. Together with their family and friends, they will gather in the Bryan Williams, M.D. Student Center at 11 a.m. to open envelopes and reveal the hospitals and programs where they will do their residencies. This pivotal moment is the culmination of years of hard work, learning the science and art of caring for patients while exploring various specialties.

Follow Match Day coverage @UTSWedu on all social platforms, and celebrate with us using the hashtags #UTSWmatch and #Match2024. You can also [stream](#) the event live on March 15.

[Details](#)



Source: UTSW Special Collections Library and Archives

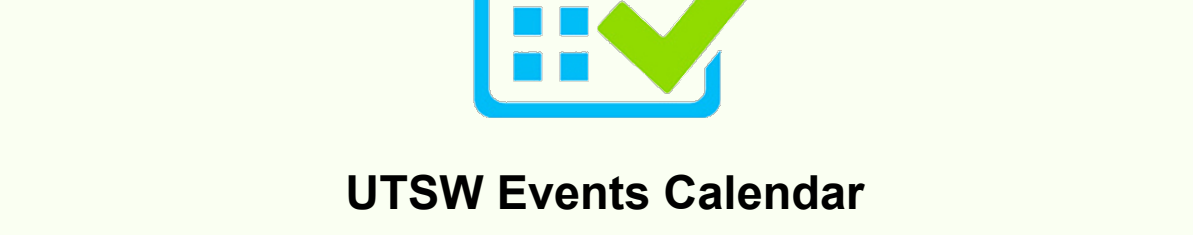
Did you know....

In March 2005, country music icon Willie Nelson and his wife, Annie, created an endowed professorship to support UTSW's stem cell program, launched by a benefit concert that raised \$250,000.

The Annie and Willie Nelson Professorship in Stem Cell Research is held by **Eric Olson, Ph.D.**, who is not only Chairman of Molecular Biology but also an accomplished musician, too. Dr. Olson, who leads a rock, blues, and funk band called The Transactivators, said he gets a kick out of his unusual link to a musical great.

"Since I love Texas and country music and Willie Nelson is an icon of both, being named the Willie Nelson Professor is about as cool as it gets," Dr. Olson said, adding that performing live on stage with Nelson was one of the highlights of his life.

[Learn more](#)



Patient parking for employees

Employees who have an appointment at a UT Southwestern medical facility may get authorization to use patient parking by [emailing Parking Services](#) at least 48 hours before their appointment. Requests must include employee/patient name, location of appointment, license plate number, and date/time of appointment. If authorization is not obtained, employees must use employee parking.

More information can be found below.

[Parking Services](#)



Celebrating leap day miracles

Clements University Hospital welcomed four adorable leap day babies on Thursday, Feb. 29. Chiara, born at 10:04 a.m. and weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces, was the first leaping to arrive. Her mother, Ciarra, is a Sterile Processing Technician at UT Southwestern.

Each of these little ones are extra special, coming into the world on the rarest of days! The chances of being born on leap day are just one in 1,461.

Congratulations to all the proud parents and our amazing health care team. See photos of Chiara and her parents on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Insider survey: Were you or any of your family members born on a leap day?



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