

UTSW honors COVID-19 Heroes and Memorial Day

"We have emerged stronger in practice and purpose thanks to each of you."

Jonathan Efron, M.D., Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs, shared that sentiment at last Monday's inaugural COVID-19 Heroes and Memorial Day.

UT Southwestern joined hospitals across the state on March 4 to commemorate the sacrifices and teamwork that guided health care workers through the most challenging moments of the pandemic. Dr. Efron recalled the wave of emotions that dominated the early days of the pandemic – fear, anxiety, pressure, and uncertainty – but noted how frontline workers fought through those feelings "to get the job done."

UTSW is forever grateful for the extraordinary collaboration and compassion that helped so many of the Medical Center's patients, providers, and staff during a very challenging period.

A [video](#) recording of the small, in-person ceremony to honor the efforts made by the campus community is now available to view on [Center Times Plus](#), along with a story recap and photos from the event.

[Video and recap](#)

Match Day student spotlights

Friday is Match Day, when fourth-year students from the UT Southwestern Medical School Class of 2024 will gather with family and friends to open envelopes that will reveal the hospitals and programs where they will complete their residencies. Ahead of this highly anticipated day, eight graduating Medical School students shared stories of their inspirations and aspirations.

Each student's story is as unique as the path that led them to UTSW to pursue a career in medicine – from **Vanessa Ramirez-Allen**, who shifted from a job in software development to study anesthesiology to **Dylan Beams**, whose calling was driven by his mother's battle with breast cancer.

On March 15, stop by the Bryan Williams, M.D. Student Center gymnasium at 11 a.m. to celebrate Match Day or [stream](#) the event.

[2024 Spotlights](#)

Treating neurodegenerative conditions with gold nanoparticles

Recent results from phase two clinical trials suggest a suspension of gold nanocrystals taken daily could improve outcomes for patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) and Parkinson's disease.

"We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to prevent or even reverse some neurological disabilities with this strategy," said **Peter Sguigna, M.D.**, who leads the active MS trial and is an Assistant Professor of Neurology and an Investigator in the [Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute](#) at UT Southwestern.

Results from the clinical trial showed that the experimental treatment, known as CNM-Au8 and developed by Clene Nanomedicine, reversed deficits of metabolites linked to energy activity in the brain and resulted in functional improvements. These findings could eventually help bring this treatment to patients with these and other neurodegenerative diseases.

[Read more](#)



CPRIT awards nearly \$19M to Simmons Cancer Center faculty

Nine scientists and physicians at UT Southwestern's [Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) have been awarded nearly \$13 million in grants from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) to support research and prevention efforts on a wide range of cancer issues, plus another \$6 million in CPRIT recruitment grants.

"This latest round of CPRIT funding will lead the way to discoveries that advance our understanding of cancer and to better care for cancer patients in Texas and beyond," said **Carlos L. Arteaga, M.D.**, Professor and Director of Simmons Cancer Center and Associate Dean of Oncology Programs.

These grants bring the total UT Southwestern has been awarded from CPRIT for academic research and prevention to more than \$362 million since 2010.

Read more about the grant recipients in the [UTSW Newsroom](#).

Mobile mammography: 15 minutes could save your life

UT Southwestern's Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center's mobile mammography unit will be on campus offering 3D screening mammograms to all faculty, staff, and learners on Thursday, March 14, and Tuesday, March 19.

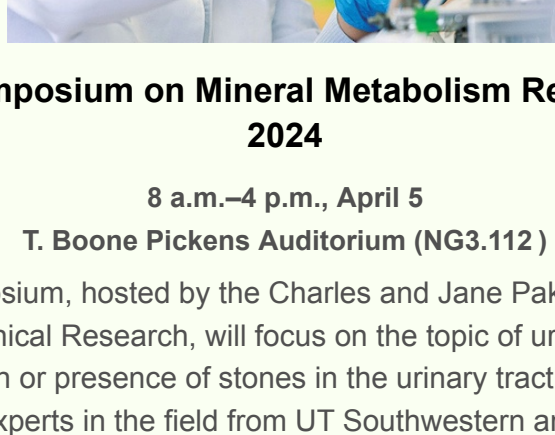
Don't miss the chance to prioritize your health – early detection is key when it comes to breast cancer. Annual screenings are recommended for women beginning at age 40.

You can find the unit parked between the Professional Office Building (POB) parking garage and the Outpatient Building (WA) from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To secure your spot, preregister by calling 214-645-2560.

[Details](#)

Insider Guide

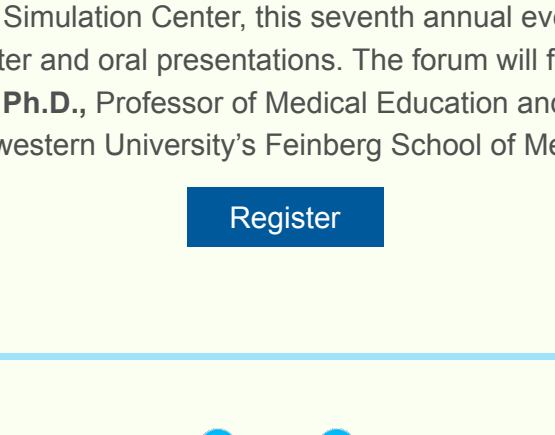


3rd annual Pak Symposium on Mineral Metabolism Research: Urolithiasis 2024

8 a.m.–4 p.m., April 5
 T. Boone Pickens Auditorium (NG3.112)

This year's symposium, hosted by the Charles and Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research, will focus on the topic of urolithiasis, a condition marked by the formation or presence of stones in the urinary tract. Speakers will consist of leading experts in the field from UT Southwestern and beyond.

[More info](#)

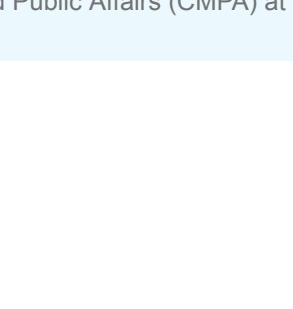


Charles Morris Ginsburg Simulation-Based Quality Improvement and Research Forum

8 a.m.–2:30 p.m., May 8
 Hybrid, McDermott Lecture Halls

Hosted by UTSW's Simulation Center, this seventh annual event will showcase an engaging blend of poster and oral presentations. The forum will feature keynote speaker **William C. McGaghie, Ph.D.**, Professor of Medical Education and Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.

[Register](#)



UTSW Events Calendar

Looking for your daily dose of happenings?
 The UTSW Events Calendar is updated every day.

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