



The mating power of male zebra finches' songs

To find a mate, female zebra finches rely on their sense of hearing, detecting cues in males' songs that signal reproductive fitness. A UT Southwestern team led by **Todd Roberts, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Neuroscience and the next President's Lecture Series speaker on Sept. 19, used artificial intelligence to study this phenomenon, finding "female songbirds are assessing male fitness in a much more complex way than previously thought."

Dr. Roberts and colleagues found male zebra finches that faithfully imitate the more difficult-to-learn songs of their fathers are more likely to be attractive to females than those crooning simpler, improvised songs.

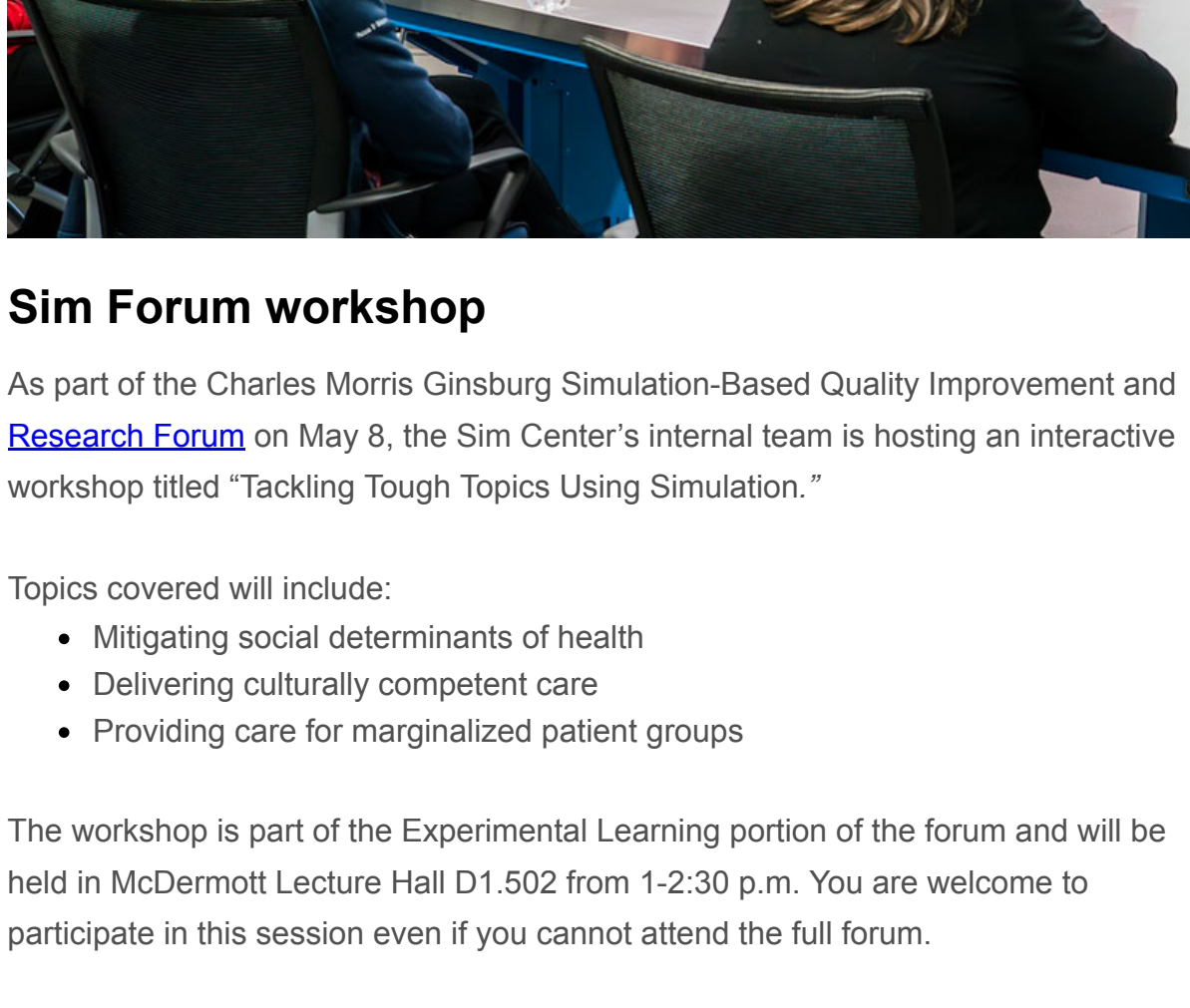
This discovery is the latest in a series of findings from Dr. Roberts' lab, which focuses on understanding how the brain functions during vocal learning. By mapping the neural processes involved as birds learn mating songs, scientists hope to someday use that knowledge to target genes disrupting speech in patients with autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions.

[Read the news release](#)

Flu season officially concludes

Given the steady decline of flu cases across our region over the past month, UT Southwestern has announced the official conclusion of the 2023-2024 flu season. The decision was made in accordance with institutional policy and data from Dallas County Health and Human Services. Please continue to take precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

For more details, you can [view a message](#) from leaders of our Infection Prevention and Control team.



Sim Forum workshop

As part of the Charles Morris Ginsburg Simulation-Based Quality Improvement and [Research Forum](#) on May 8, the Sim Center's internal team is hosting an interactive workshop titled "Tackling Tough Topics Using Simulation."

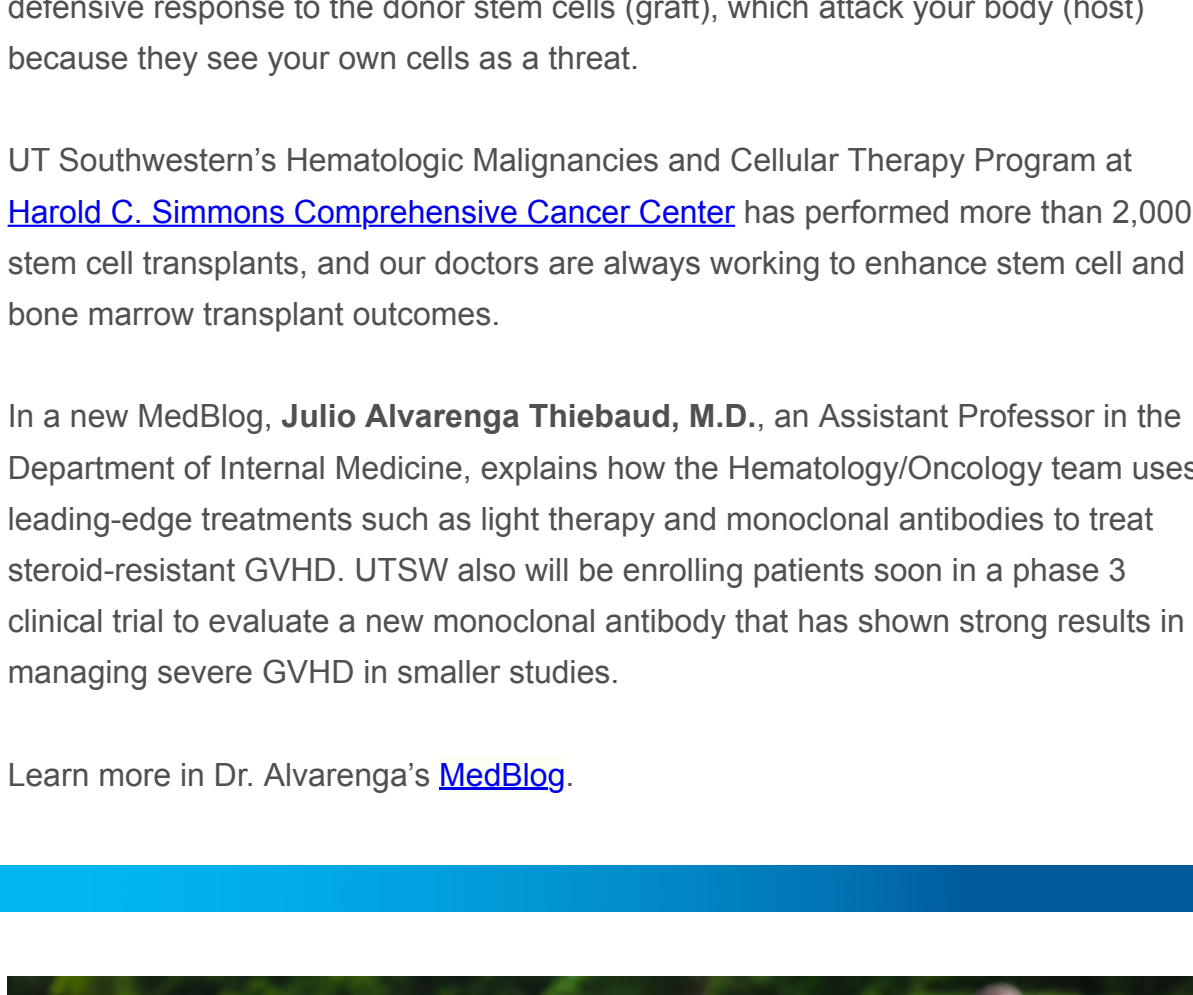
Topics covered will include:

- Mitigating social determinants of health
- Delivering culturally competent care
- Providing care for marginalized patient groups

The workshop is part of the Experimental Learning portion of the forum and will be held in McDermott Lecture Hall D1.502 from 1-2:30 p.m. You are welcome to participate in this session even if you cannot attend the full forum.

To attend, [register](#) for the forum.

[Details](#)



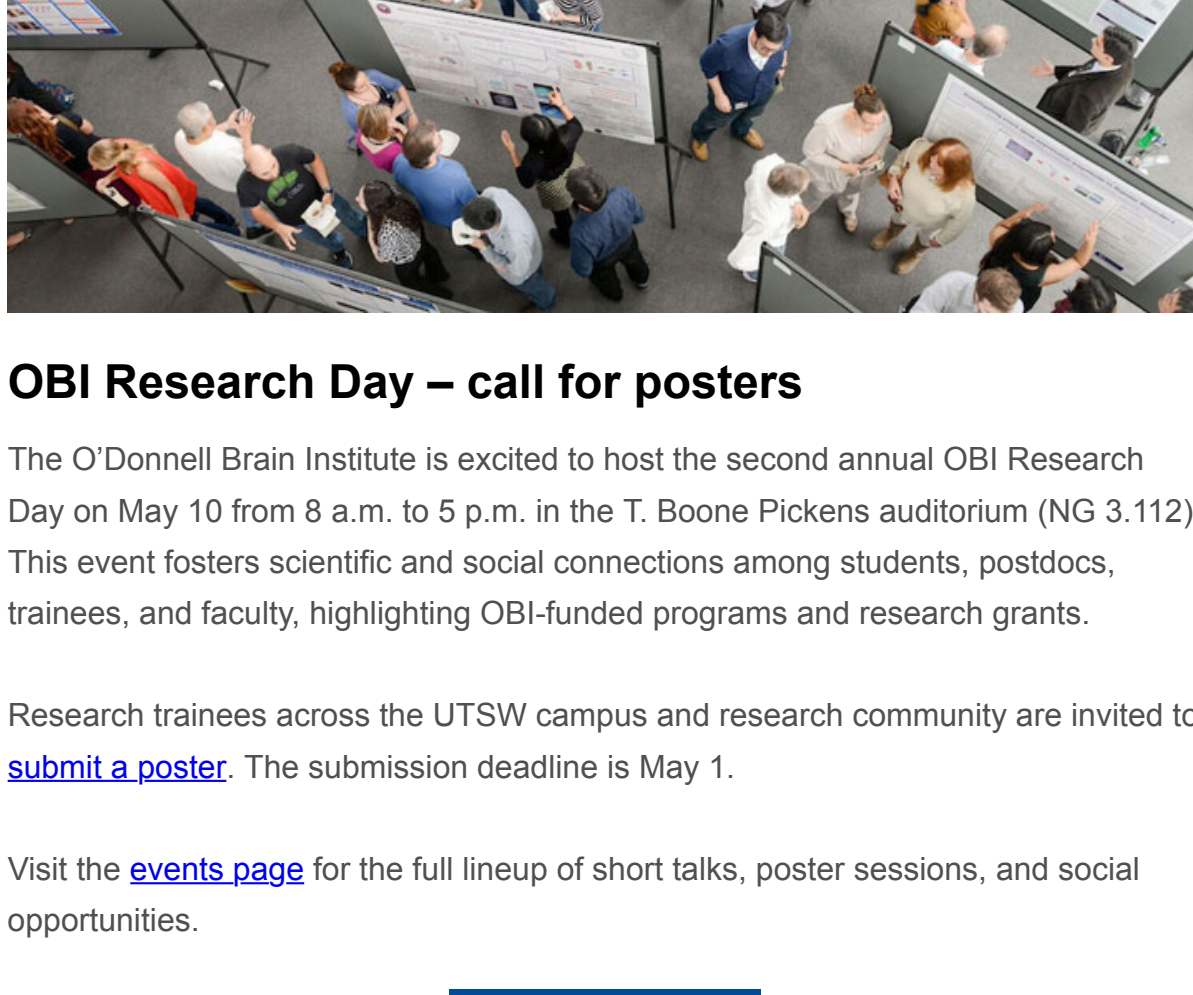
Taking aim at stem cell transplant side effects

Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), a potentially serious complication that can occur after an allogeneic stem cell or bone marrow transplant, is the immune system's defensive response to the donor stem cells (graft), which attack your body (host) because they see your own cells as a threat.

UT Southwestern's Hematologic Malignancies and Cellular Therapy Program at [Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) has performed more than 2,000 stem cell transplants, and our doctors are always working to enhance stem cell and bone marrow transplant outcomes.

In a new MedBlog, **Julio Alvarenga Thiebaud, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, explains how the Hematology/Oncology team uses leading-edge treatments such as light therapy and monoclonal antibodies to treat steroid-resistant GVHD. UTSW also will be enrolling patients soon in a phase 3 clinical trial to evaluate a new monoclonal antibody that has shown strong results in managing severe GVHD in smaller studies.

Learn more in Dr. Alvarenga's [MedBlog](#).



Head for the Cure on May 4

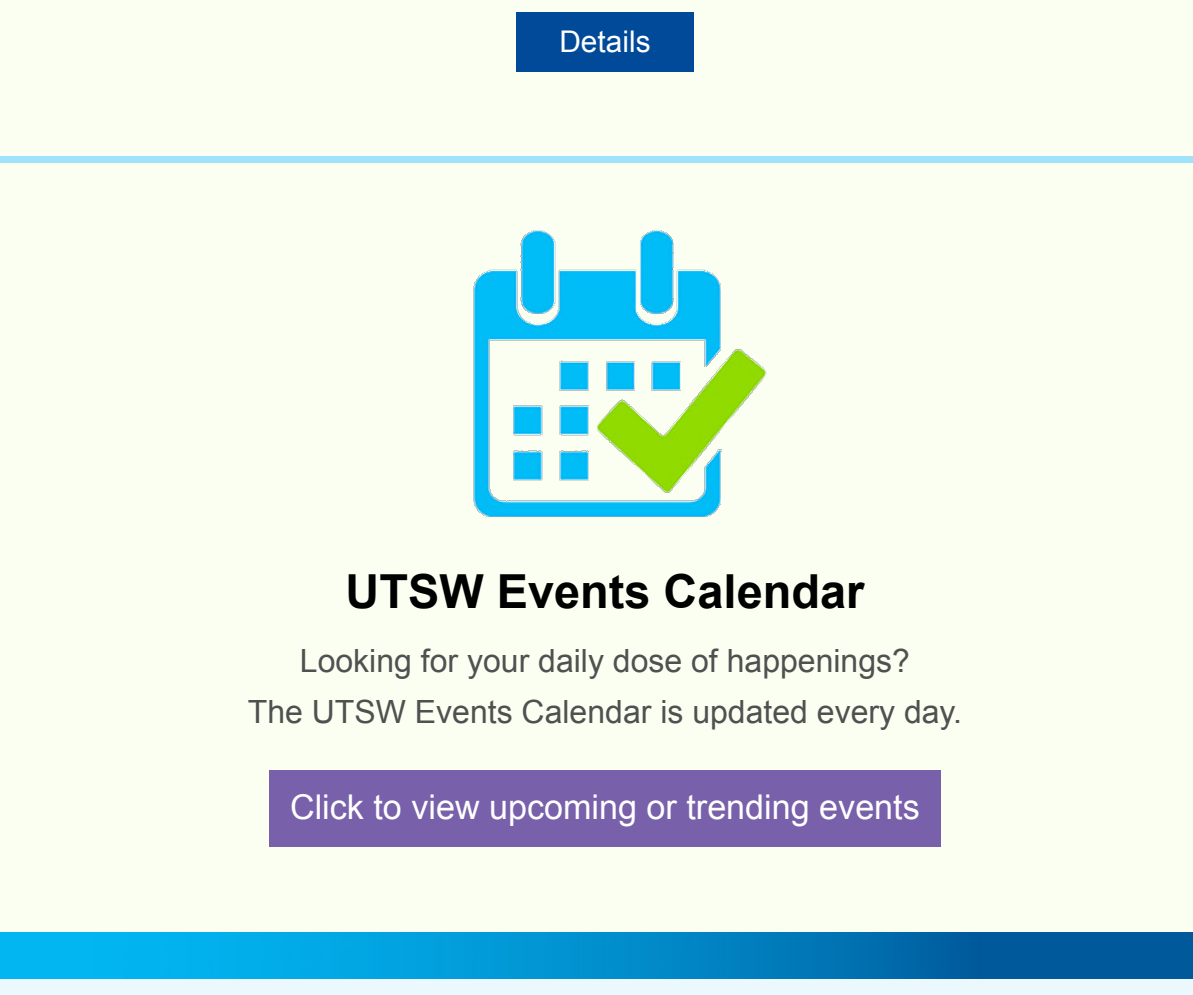
We invite you to walk (or run) alongside the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute (OBI) team at the 14th annual [Head for the Cure 5K](#).

Your participation helps increase awareness of brain cancer and raise funds in support of the Brain Tumor Trials Collaborative, of which UTSW's OBI is a local beneficiary.

Throughout the years, OBI has had an impressive presence at the event, and we'd love to see UTSW's participation in the North Texas race hit No. 1 again this year. For a \$5 registration discount, enter HFTC5.

If you have questions, please contact [Sasha Manouchehrpour](#) or [Byron Carlisle](#).

[Register](#)



OBI Research Day – call for posters

The O'Donnell Brain Institute is excited to host the second annual OBI Research Day on May 10 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the T. Boone Pickens auditorium (NG 3.112). This event fosters scientific and social connections among students, postdocs, trainees, and faculty, highlighting OBI-funded programs and research grants.

Research trainees across the UTSW campus and research community are invited to [submit a poster](#). The submission deadline is May 1.

Visit the [events page](#) for the full lineup of short talks, poster sessions, and social opportunities.

[Register to attend](#)

Insider Guide



UTSW Hansjörg Wyss Orthopaedic Trauma Symposium 2024

8 a.m.–6 p.m., June 1-2 | The Statler Hotel (1914 Commerce St. in Dallas)

Join the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery for its third biennial symposium focusing on orthopaedic trauma case studies presented by guest speakers from around the world. The event will explore the triumphs and areas of opportunity in the field, foster debate on key topics, and introduce novel ideas.

The symposium was made possible by a generous gift from the Hansjörg Wyss Foundation. Register online, and email questions to [Michelle Hughes](#).

[Details](#)



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