



A new chapter begins for Medical School students

Today at 11 a.m., members of UT Southwestern Medical School's **Class of 2024** will receive their diplomas, recite the Hippocratic oath, and officially become medical doctors. Alongside their family, friends, and mentors, they will gather in the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center for this long-awaited milestone. Upon graduating, some will pursue residencies around the nation, and many others will join our very own residency programs. UT Southwestern students consistently match at some of the top-ranked hospitals and medical programs across the country.

Every year, a handful of UTSW students are recognized for taking an extra step in their medical school journey and are awarded for their academic excellence, community service, and leadership. Read about this year's award recipients [in Center Times Plus](#).

Join us in congratulating graduate student **Heankel Lyons**, a fourth-year student in UTSW's [Genetics, Development and Disease Ph.D. Program](#). Last year, her research made the cover of *Cell* for her discovery that floppy regions of proteins rely on a pattern of electrical charges to carry out their work in activating genes.

As Ms. Lyons continues her studies to determine how this system can be hijacked by cancer, her creative experiments and meticulous efforts have resulted in her receiving [the 2024 Nominata Award](#), the highest honor bestowed on a student of the UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

"Heankel really sets the standard for rigor and creativity in the lab," said her mentor, **Ben Sabari, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor in the Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences and of Molecular Biology and Obstetrics and Gynecology. "She excels at having a big idea and following through."

The Nominata was established in 1980 by the Graduate Student Organization to promote academic excellence and research achievement. The winner receives a monetary prize and presents their research to the UT Southwestern community. [Ms. Lyons' talk](#) is at 4 p.m. today in NL3.120.

[Nominata Award recipient](#)

In 2007, a chronic kidney disease diagnosis led to a challenging journey for Maureen Silvestre. Pregnancy was considered risky due to the disease. Despite losing her first child, Hans, Maureen received exceptional care at UT Southwestern. A successful kidney transplant from an anonymous donor restored her health. A second pregnancy, termed a "rainbow baby," brought joy back into the Silvestres' lives.

To witness that joy – and to get in the spirit of Mother's Day – watch the Silvestres' story on [Center Times Plus](#).

[The gifts of life](#)

Elevate your mind, body, and career during UTSW's Wellness Week

To mark Mental Health Awareness Month, the campus community is invited to attend all or part of our virtual [Wellness Symposium](#) from May 13 to 17, hosted by the Office of Faculty Wellness. The five-day series of webinars will be led by UTSW providers and social workers.

Sessions will center on yoga and gratitude, lifestyle medicine, setting boundaries, parental wellness, and individual and team wellness. Visit the Faculty Wellness [events page](#) to register for the sessions of your choice. All webinars will be held at 2 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS BRIEFING

Get your questions ready!

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 29, at 9 a.m., when UT Southwestern President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**, will host his next quarterly campus briefing.

Employees, faculty, and learners are encouraged to share the topics you would like to hear discussed and help shape the conversation. Let us know what you are interested in learning about, whether that's expansion projects including the new pediatric campus, plans for the budget, the status of institutional priorities as we wrap up FY24 and look ahead to FY25, or anything else. We want to know what's on your mind.

Click the button below to send an email with your questions, and be sure to tune in.

[Ask the President](#)

Graduate and professional training for Clinical investigators

The O'Donnell School of Public Health (OSPH) is now offering a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (M.S.C.I.) and a certification in Clinical Investigation. The master's program was previously offered in the School of Health Professions as the Master of Science in Clinical Science. The curriculum is designed to prepare investigators for academic or industry careers in clinical and translational research.

The ideal candidates have been trained in the medical sciences or have relevant scientific backgrounds and are seeking to deepen their knowledge of research design and methodology.

Scholarships are available, and UT Southwestern has a generous tuition reimbursement policy for employees who meet the minimum requirements. (See [EMP-305](#) – requires on-campus network connection or VPN.)

Academic offerings can be completed in various formats:

- Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (36 semester credit hours)**
 - Part-time degree (18-36 months)
 - Full-time degree (18 months)
- Certificate in Clinical Investigation (15 semester credit hours)**
 - 12-18 months

Apply by June 30 for the fall 2024 cohort.

[Explore the program](#)

COVID-19: Latest Clements University Hospital (CUH) and campus numbers

UTSW COVID-19 Census Update (CUH)	
May 7, 2024	COVID-19 Hospitalizations March 2020 – Present
Non-ICU	2
ICU	1
Total in CUH	3

UTSW COVID-19 Cases (Campus)		
Source of Infection	Week of 4/26 - 5/2	Cumulative Total 3/1/20 - 5/2/24
Off Campus (Community)	9	14,819
Campus	0	355
Pending Source of Infection	2	3
Total	11	15,177

Insider Guide

UTSW/TAMU CTSA Program Collaborative Seminar Speakers on Renal Disease

4 p.m., May 14
Virtual event

Hear **Denise Marciano, M.D., Ph.D.** (UTSW), present "Investigating Mechanisms of Epithelial Cell Shape" and **Mary Nabity, D.V.M., Ph.D.** (TAMU), present "From Dog to Dog Owner (and Back): Advancing Efforts in Translational Nephrology" in this joint virtual event. Please register.

[Info and registration](#)

NAMIWalks North Texas 2024

9–11:30 a.m., May 18
7300 RoughRiders Trail, Frisco

Join the Department of Psychiatry during NAMIWalks North Texas to support mental health. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) North Texas is a grassroots organization that provides aid, advocacy, and public awareness to improve the lives of people with mental health conditions and their family members.

[Register](#)

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](#)