



Zhijian ‘James’ Chen, Ph.D., honored with Lasker Award and Paul Ehrlich Prize

Congratulations to Zhijian “James” Chen, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular Biology and Director of the Center for Inflammation Research, on being named the recipient of this year’s Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award, regarded as the country’s preeminent biomedical research prize.

Dr. Chen was recognized for his discovery of the cGAS enzyme, which senses invading pathogens and triggers the body’s innate immune system. This breakthrough solved a pivotal biomedical mystery of how DNA stimulates immune and inflammatory responses and holds promise for therapeutic interventions that target many illnesses. He was also honored last week with the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize, Germany’s highest honor in the field of medicine.

“Dr. Chen’s research has elucidated the process by which our bodies fight off invasive pathogens, including viruses, bacteria, and other microbes, through the detection of wayward intracellular nucleic acids. Insights into this signaling pathway provide a foundation for new approaches to the treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases as well as vaccine development,” said UT Southwestern President **Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.**

Dr. Chen, who received the [Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences](#) in 2019, is the fourth UT Southwestern faculty member to earn a Lasker Award, following Nobel Laureates Alfred Gilman, M.D., Ph.D., Michael Brown, M.D., and Joseph Goldstein, M.D.

[Read the news release](#)

Marking one year of UTSW Insider

This month is the one-year anniversary of *UTSW Insider*, your twice weekly campus newsletter. We hope you have been finding the content useful, engaging, and informative.

To mark the occasion, we are unveiling our [digital Insider archive](#), where you’ll find every past issue, stretching back to our inaugural *Insider* on Sept. 6, 2023.

We want to take this milestone moment to solicit your feedback on how we’re doing. We have five quick questions seeking your thoughts on the *Insider*. We’re committed to continuously improving, and your input will help us ensure the newsletter remains a great resource for you.

Thank you for being an active part of the UTSW community!

[Insider survey](#)

WOMEN IN MEDICINE MONTH

Celebrating the impact of UTSW women

This September, UT Southwestern proudly honors Women in Medicine Month and celebrates the remarkable women in our community. Their invaluable contributions have advanced patient care, education, and research. Join us in recognizing and thanking these incredible professionals for their dedication and excellence.

Follow us on Instagram [@utswmedcenter](#) for more updates and celebrations throughout the month.

[Women in Medicine photos](#)

2024 UT Southwestern Medical School New Faculty Research Forum

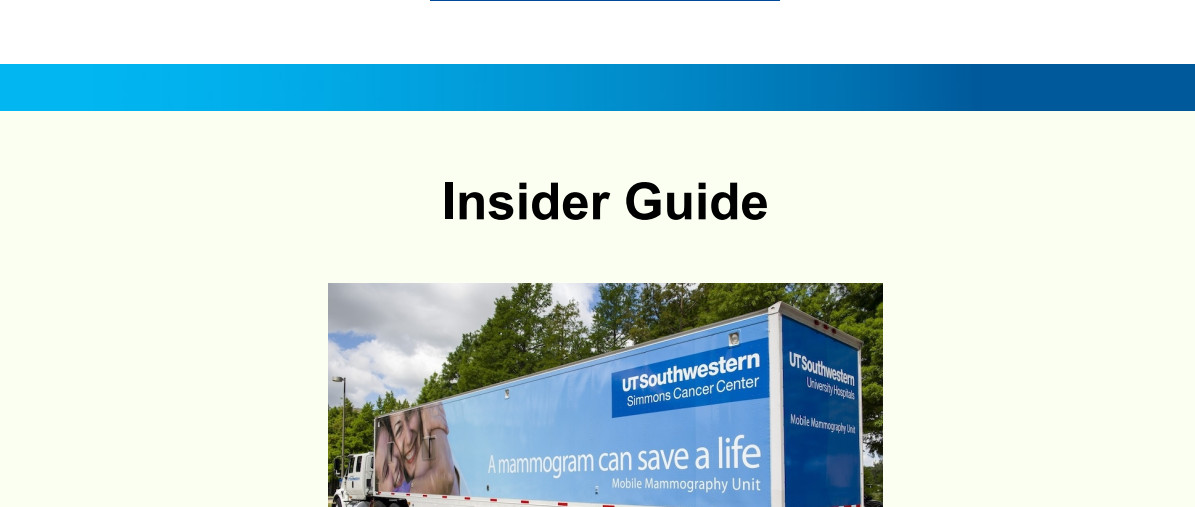
Tomorrow: Connect with UTSW’s new faculty

Don’t miss the chance to expand your network, exchange groundbreaking ideas, and hear from our newly appointed Assistant Professors who are shaping the future of research at UT Southwestern.

All members of the UTSW community are welcome to attend the New Faculty Research Forum on Sept. 24. Fourteen speakers representing 11 departments and two schools will be featured. The event will be held in the T. Boone Pickens Conference Center, NG3.112, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

You can also get to know our new faculty cohort by watching these 1-minute [videos](#).

[Details](#)

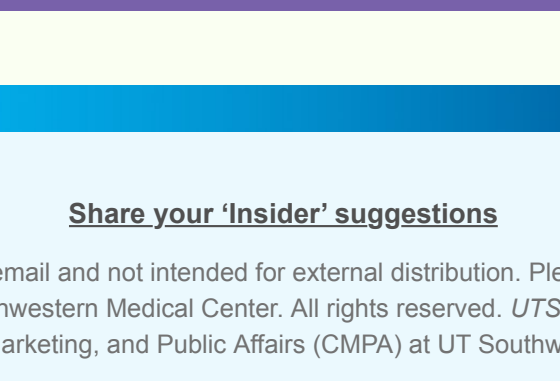


South Campus road closure and new pedestrian routes

UT Southwestern to replace buried utility pipes will require a traffic pattern change to UT Southwestern Drive Oct. 13 through Dec. 7. The section between Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison Drive and Southwestern Medical Avenue will be closed to through traffic during that period. A new pedestrian pathway route to building M/S and K/J will also be added. UTSW shuttles and other UTSW vehicles will still have access to the Facilities Management Administration Building (P) service yard. Access to the loading docks of the Moss Building (J) and the Jonsson Building (K) will be available for deliveries only coming from Southwestern Medical Avenue to the south. For full details on road closures around UT Southwestern, visit [Construction Updates](#).

[Construction Updates](#)

Insider Guide



Mobile mammography: 15 minutes could save your life

8 a.m.-3 p.m., Sept. 27 | UT Southwestern Medical Center at Richardson/Plano
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. 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.

To secure your spot, preregister by calling 214-645-2560 or 866-277-0710.

[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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