

Your voice is valued: Please complete the VIP survey

Yesterday, nonfaculty UTSW employees received two communications about this year's Values in Practice (VIP) employee engagement survey: [a message](#) from Holly Crawford, M.B.A., Executive Vice President for Business Affairs, and Jeremy Falke, M.B.A., Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer, encouraging you to take the survey and an email from Glint, our third-party vendor, which contains your unique survey link.

The confidential, online survey runs through Sunday, Nov. 5. As mentioned in Tuesday's campus message, this investment of an estimated 3-5 minutes of your time makes an enormous difference in helping the organization understand what is working well and what we can do better to ensure that UT Southwestern is a place where each of us feels engaged, supported, and respected.

The most recent VIP survey, conducted in October 2022, saw an all-time high response rate of 76%. Hopes are for even greater participation this year.

If you have questions about your personal survey, contact support@glintinc.com. You can also contact the [Employee Engagement team](#) for assistance.

[VIP survey message](#)

Piper Professor Award goes to UTSW pediatric surgeon

Congratulations to **Joseph T. Murphy, M.D.**, Professor of Surgery, who was recently recognized with the prestigious Piper Professor Award for his dedication to educating the next generation of physicians. Dr. Murphy is a general surgeon at UT Southwestern and also a pediatric surgeon at Children's Health.

Expressing his gratitude for the prize, Dr. Murphy said: "During my education, I received great mentoring, and a lot of people took the time to teach me. I feel like it would be almost unethical to not help those who came after me."

The elite honor, bestowed by The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation, honors outstanding college professors in Texas. Dr. Murphy is the 18th current or former UTSW faculty member to receive the award since its establishment in 1958. His selection marks the second year in a row that a UTSW surgeon has been named a Piper Professor, following **Brett Arnoldo, M.D.**, Professor of Surgery, in 2022.

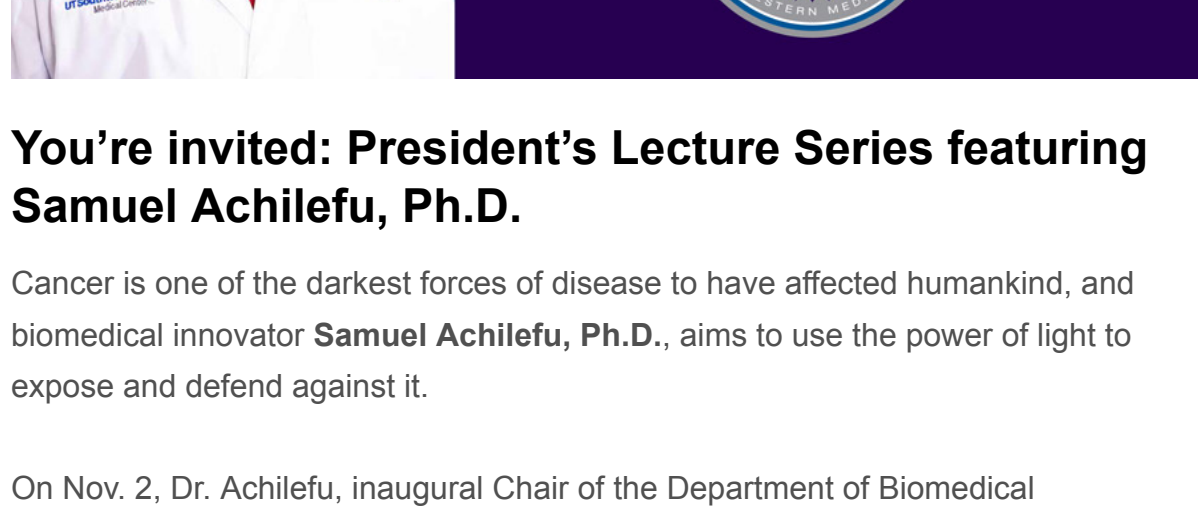
[Read more](#)

Reminder: SECC Fair is today

Check out the annual State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) Fair on McDermott Plaza today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Representatives from participating charities are eager to answer questions and discuss their organizations' objectives. Employees can also enjoy giveaways, hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks (while supplies last), as well as make on-the-spot online contributions.

The SECC offers a simple way for UTSW employees to collectively make a significant difference by directing contributions to broad and diverse causes – from human rights and animal welfare to environmental cleanup and health care. The campaign continues through Oct. 31.

[SECC \(VPN required\)](#)



You're invited: President's Lecture Series featuring Samuel Achilefu, Ph.D.

Cancer is one of the darkest forces of disease to have affected humankind, and biomedical innovator **Samuel Achilefu, Ph.D.**, aims to use the power of light to expose and defend against it.

On Nov. 2, Dr. Achilefu, inaugural Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, will take the stage as the final speaker in this year's President's Lecture Series. His talk will highlight the history of promising fluorescence imaging technology, discuss its current state, and provide a glimpse of what future applications and opportunities may look like.

The entire campus community is invited to attend the lecture, titled "Harnessing the Power of Light to Image and Treat Cancer," at 4 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 2, in the Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium on South Campus. There is a virtual attendance option as well.

The President's Lecture Series is offered in appreciation for the dedication of UT Southwestern staff, whose contributions enable our researchers to excel in education, research, and patient care.

Learn more on [Center Times Plus](#).

[PLS registration](#)

How ticks are taking a bite out of meat lovers

Alpha-gal syndrome may sound like something out of a sci-fi movie or TV sitcom – a bite from a lone star tick can make you allergic to red meat – but it is emerging as a legitimate public health concern, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The condition affects at least 450,000 people in the U.S. every year, said **Lauren Franzblau, M.D.**, an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine in the Division of Allergy and Immunology. That number is rising as warmer temperatures create a favorable environment for the lone star tick, which is not native to Texas. (It's named for the marking on its back.)

When they bite, lone star ticks transmit a sugar (galactose-alpha-1,3-galactose) present in the meat of most mammals, and some patients' immune systems develop allergic antibodies to the sugar. It's not unusual for people to go months or years before being diagnosed with alpha-gal syndrome, a recently recognized condition that Dr. Franzblau explores in her [new MedBlog](#).

Food trucks and cultural well-being: Hispanic Heritage Month revisited

We hope you got to enjoy several of the campus events during September and October in honor of Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month. The monthlong observation kicked off with Festival de Comida, a culinary lunchtime celebration featuring food trucks that parked on West Campus. Get a flavor of the happening in [this photo gallery](#).

Additionally, if you missed UTSW's Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month Signature Event, a [recording is now available](#) of the keynote presentation by architect Gustavo Hinojosa. He advocated for "cultural wellness," in which people learn as much as possible about their own heritage and appreciate how others are shaped by their culture.

Both events were sponsored by the Office for Institutional Opportunity, the Office for Access & Title IX, and the Hispanic-Latino Business Resource Group.

Put the power of data in your future

Health informatics is helping to shape the direction of health care, and UT Southwestern offers the chance to be a part of that forward motion. The [Master of Science in Health Informatics](#) in the School of Health Professions is now accepting applications for the fall 2024 cohort. This in-person program offers full-time and part-time formats, with evening classes to accommodate the busy schedules of working professionals.

Christoph Lehmann, M.D., and other leaders in clinical informatics serve as faculty for this program, which is designed to equip and prepare students for an exciting career at the interface of health care and technology.

Whether you're already working with health data or interested in exploring this new field, you can [visit the website](#) or reach out to the [MSHI team](#) to learn more.

'Painting feels like peace inside'

Postdoctoral researcher **Qi Liu, Ph.D.**, won Best in Show, the People's Choice Award, and first place in the Amateur Works on Paper category in UT Southwestern's annual On My Own Time employee art competition.

In a story on [Center Times Plus](#), Dr. Liu touches on her journey as an artist and a UTSW researcher, in which she draws a poetic comparison between the two disciplines she loves.

"Science is trying to find the answers to the ultimate mysteries and elegance in life," she said. "Painting is trying to find the ultimate beauty in nature. There are no boundaries."

The story also includes a list of this year's winners and those who received honorable mentions in the Visual contest, along with the first-, second-, and third-place honorees in the Literary competition. Those employees, learners, and faculty were recognized at a Sept. 7 reception hosted by UT Southwestern.

On My Own Time is a program of the North Texas Business Council for the Arts.

[OMOT winner](#)



UTSW Events Calendar

Looking for your daily dose of happenings? Check out the UTSW Events Calendar, which is updated every day.

[Click to view upcoming or trending events](#)

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