



## This year at UTSW: Achievement and transformation

For UT Southwestern, 2024 was memorable for outstanding achievement, remarkable growth, and impactful leadership recruitment. In our mission to promote health and a healthy society to enable individuals to achieve their full potential, UTSW raised the bar across all three of our mission areas: education, research, and patient care.

Notable in 2024:

- UT Southwestern and Children’s Health began construction on our \$5 billion, flagship pediatric campus that will serve as a hub for innovation, academic research, and training.
- Two faculty members were elected to the National Academy of Medicine, and another received the prestigious Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award.
- The Medical School welcomed three new Department Chairs and two new Senior Associate Deans.
- Biomedical Preparatory at UT Southwestern recognized its first year of operation.
- The Cecil H. and Ida Green Center for Reproductive Biology Sciences celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital marked its 10-year anniversary, and for the eighth consecutive year was ranked among the nation’s top hospitals.

Read more about these and other 2024 milestones on [Center Times Plus](#).



## MLK Fest community volunteer opportunity

A wonderful way to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. is to volunteer your time. You’re welcome to join the UT Southwestern community for a neighborhood cleanup event on Jan. 11 in the South Dallas/Fair Park area from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers will receive a T-shirt and breakfast and, after the cleanup, are invited to join a lunchtime celebration with food, music, and speakers at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

For additional details and the full schedule, visit [UTSW’s event page](#).

[Volunteer signup](#)



## New security measures for UTSW-branded social media accounts

Are you managing a social media account for your department, division, or team?

As first communicated in the Nov. 11 *Insider*, UT Southwestern is bringing all campus-affiliated accounts into Sprout Social, a tool that will help our social media team track security risks and ensure all communications reflect the integrity and values of UT Southwestern.

This initiative is mandatory and supported by the Office of Compliance and the Office of Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs (CMPA).

### Why the change?

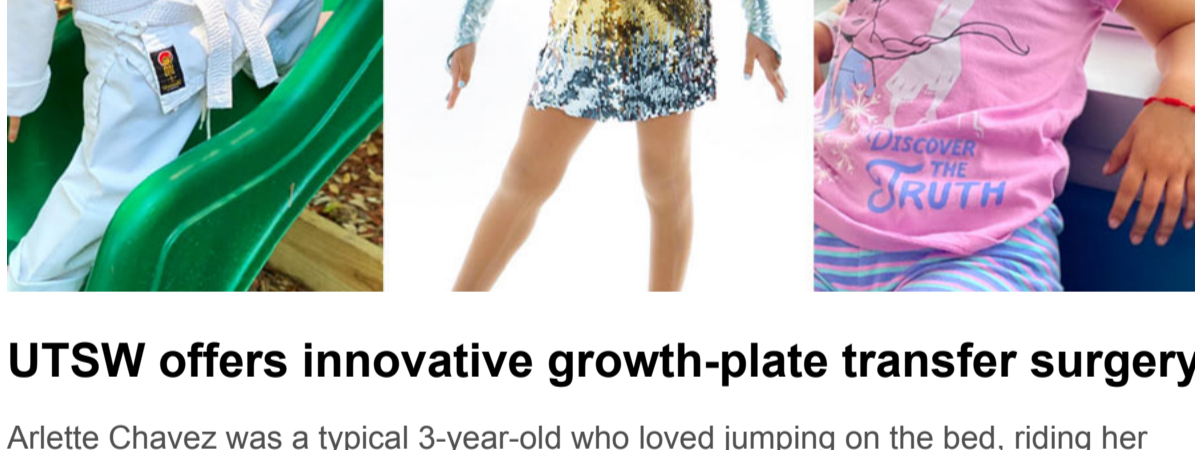
Social media is often the first source of health care information for patients and the public, making it crucial that UTSW-branded accounts are monitored and security risks are identified and addressed quickly.

### What we need from you:

If you manage a UTSW-branded social media account, please fill out the form linked below with your contact information and the accounts you manage. The social media team will connect with you on next steps.

More details will be shared soon. We appreciate your cooperation to help us strengthen our social media security and protect our reputation. If you have questions, please contact [social@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:social@utsouthwestern.edu).

[Fill out the form](#)



## UTSW offers innovative growth-plate transfer surgery

Arlette Chavez was a typical 3-year-old who loved jumping on the bed, riding her bike, and playing tag. Then she was diagnosed with Ewing’s sarcoma, a rare bone and soft tissue cancer found in only about 200 U.S. children and teens each year. Rather than amputate her affected arm or replace the bone with a prosthesis or tissue from a cadaver, Arlette underwent a surgery called vascularized physal transfer offered at UT Southwestern and only a few other places across the country.

Performed jointly by orthopedic and plastic surgeons, the procedure involves harvesting a bone from the leg – including its growth plate – and tailoring it to replace resected bone in the arm. The growth plate ensured that Arlette’s affected arm continued to grow.

“It’s one of the most gratifying procedures that we perform,” said musculoskeletal oncologist **Alexandra Callan, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center and Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon at Children’s Health. “Our No. 1 goal for these children is to get rid of all their cancer. But being able to rebuild their limb in a way that gives them the best function for the rest of their lives is truly rewarding.”

Now at 8 years old, Arlette climbs monkey bars at the playground, puts her own hair in a ponytail, and takes jazz dance classes.

[Read about the procedure](#)



## Off the Clock: UTSW leader turns passion into art

By day, **Cotty Hillman** is the Director of Strategic Planning in the UT Southwestern Health System Strategy group, but during her spare time, she’s a dedicated children’s book author and illustrator.

From her love of storytelling to the joy of seeing children enjoy her book, Mrs. Hillman’s creative spirit shines beyond her role at UTSW. Explore her passion for writing and learn about the inspiration behind her lifelong dream in this [Off the Clock video](#).

If you or a colleague have a hobby you’d like to share, please [email](#) the social media team, and don’t forget to follow [@utswmedcenter](#) to be a part of the conversation!

[Watch the video](#)



## 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](#)

Share your *Insider* suggestions by sending them to [utswinsider@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:utswinsider@utsouthwestern.edu). Looking for an item in a past edition of this newsletter? Check out our [Insider archive](#).

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