

# The CARY COUNCIL

SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL FOUNDATION | UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

## Press Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### THE CARY COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL FOUNDATION, AND UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER ANNOUNCE 2021 EARLY-STAGE RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

*“An Evening with DocStars at Home” Drive-Thru Celebrates Council’s Five Years of  
Community Impact*

DALLAS – May 7, 2021 – The Cary Council, a group of emerging young leaders who support the missions of Southwestern Medical Foundation and UT Southwestern Medical Center, announced grant recipients of funds raised to support early-stage research from their 2021 “An Evening with DocStars at Home” event, held on Saturday, May 1. Thanks to sponsors and supporters of this special drive-thru celebration, The Cary Council was able to provide significant grants to three early-career researchers at UT Southwestern.

This year’s winners, Emily H. Adhikari, M.D., Owoicho Adogwa, M.D., M.P.H., and Samuel John, M.D., were selected by The Cary Council’s Steering Committee from an outstanding group of researchers nominated by David Russell, Ph.D., Vice Provost and Dean of Basic Research, and UT Southwestern leadership.

Dr. Adhikari’s project focuses on COVID-19’s effect on pregnant women and their babies and how vaccination can protect them. Dr. Adogwa is one of few surgeons in the world cross trained in both orthopedic spine surgery and neurosurgery. His project is in improving the treatment of patients with complex spinal conditions. Dr. John’s research project includes immunotherapy and cell therapy in cancer.

“Advancing impactful research has been at the core of UT Southwestern’s mission for decades,” said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, President of UT Southwestern. “Funds raised through The Cary Council have supported our investigators who are early in their careers, enabling them to accelerate the momentum of their innovative research.”

“The connection between our business and medical leadership will continue to thrive in the next generation thanks to the tremendous dedication we have witnessed across The Cary Council,” said Kathleen M. Gibson, President and CEO of Southwestern Medical Foundation. “They are stepping up to lead our region forward during one of the most dynamic periods we have seen, and we are extremely proud to support their mission and their work.”

The interactive nature of the 2021 celebration sustained the distinguishing characteristics of past *An Evening with DocStars* events, while following guidance from public health officials. Stations along the drive-thru route provided guests with several giveaway items, including swag bags, gourmet treats, coloring activities for children, and [take-home science kits](#) designed by former grant recipients and inspired by the research they are conducting in their respective labs.

From a safe distance, guests also had the opportunity to meet this year’s grant recipients and several from previous years, including Dr. David Greenberg, a grant recipient in 2018 and expert on infectious diseases and the global antibiotic resistance crisis. His lab monitors global antibiotic resistance and will study long-term damaging health and societal effects a pandemic has on communities.

“Though our event looked a little different this year, the resilience and generosity of North Texas continue to shine,” said Grace Cook, Event Co-Chair. “We are so grateful for the sponsors and ticket holders who joined us in support of the groundbreaking innovation happening at UT Southwestern.”

“By supporting early-stage research at UT Southwestern, our community is carving out pathways to discovery that will address and solve some of the greatest health challenges we face today,” said Amanda Eagle George, Chair of The Cary Council. “It is a tremendous honor to carry forward our region’s long-standing focus on investing in the top talent, technology, and infrastructure necessary for progress. We are grateful for each change-maker joining us in this worthy mission.”

Since 2017, The Cary Council has awarded 12 grants to emerging research investigators in the fields of breast cancer, genomic technologies, and infectious diseases, among others. Following the initial grants, recipients have leveraged early-stage grants to secure nearly \$7 million in additional funding.

“I am so inspired by the vision of our community,” said Alexandra Kahn, Event Co-Chair. “In five short years, what began as a desire to build awareness of UT Southwestern’s excellence among our generation has grown into an intentional, purpose-filled mission for emerging leaders in Dallas.”

[Learn more about The Cary Council's journey of progress.](#)

## **2021 An Evening with DocStars at Home Sponsors**

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## **About The Cary Council**

The Cary Council is dedicated to carrying on Dr. Edward H. Cary's legacy to "inspire a great citizenship to greater deeds." In September 2015, Southwestern Medical Foundation and UT Southwestern launched The Cary Council, a group of emerging community leaders, whose mission is to support and strengthen the work of the Foundation and Medical Center. The Council was created to educate the next generation about the critical role medical research, education, and patient care plays in improving our health and making Dallas a leading 21<sup>st</sup> century city.

## **About Southwestern Medical Foundation**

Southwestern Medical Foundation, founded in 1939, is a public charitable corporation and registered 501(c)(3) organization inspiring and advancing progress in medicine. The Foundation connects the vision of donors with innovative programs and serves as a sustainable funding source for leading-edge research, medical education, and patient care. In leading the health care mission forward, the Foundation is guided by four building standards: Service to Community, Vision of Excellence, Mindful Stewardship, and Best Outcomes. Each principle is a promise to donors, beneficiaries, and generations to come, assuring that Foundation is positioned to provide sustained funding for medical progress in our community and the world beyond. Southwestern Medical Foundation's significant financial health and dedication to transparency have earned the GuideStar Platinum Seal and a Charity Navigator 100/100 Encompass Rating.

### **About UT Southwestern Medical Center**

UT Southwestern, one of the premier academic medical centers in the nation, integrates pioneering biomedical research with exceptional clinical care and education. The institution's faculty has received six Nobel Prizes, and includes 25 members of the National Academy of Sciences, 16 members of the National Academy of Medicine, and 14 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigators. The full-time faculty of more than 2,800 is responsible for groundbreaking medical advances and is committed to translating science-driven research quickly to new clinical treatments. UT Southwestern physicians provide care in about 80 specialties to more than 117,000 hospitalized patients, more than 360,000 emergency room cases, and oversee nearly 3 million outpatient visits a year.