

 UTHealth<sup>®</sup>  
Houston

50  
YEARS

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UTHEALTH HOUSTON COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY | MAY 13TH 2022



2022

• *UTHealth Houston* •

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

HONORING THE GRADUATES OF

UTHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston

 UTHealth<sup>®</sup> Houston



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HONORS OUR GRADUATES AT TODAY'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Friday, May 13, 2022

FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

Minute Maid Park

501 CRAWFORD STREET • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

AS THEY RECEIVE DEGREES FROM

**UTHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics**

**The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

**McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston**

UTHEALTH HOUSTON

**Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD**  
President

**Kevin Dillon, MBA, CPA**  
Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

**Michael Blackburn, PhD**  
Executive Vice President, Chief Academic Officer

**LaTanya Love, MD**  
Executive Vice President, Student Affairs and Diversity

UTHEALTH HOUSTON SCHOOLS

**Richard J. Andrassy, MD**  
Executive Dean *ad interim*, McGovern Medical School  
at UTHealth Houston

**Michael Blackburn, PhD**  
Dean, MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School  
of Biomedical Sciences

**Eric Boerwinkle, PhD**  
Dean, UTHealth School of Public Health

**Diane M. Santa Maria, DrPH, RN**  
Dean, Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth Houston

**John A. Valenza, DDS**  
Dean, UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry

**Jiajie Zhang, PhD**  
Dean, UTHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

**Peter WT Pisters, MD, MHCM**  
President

**Giulio F. Draetta, MD, PhD**  
Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer

**Carin A. Hagberg, MD**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Diane C. Bodurka, MD, MPH**  
Chief Education and Training Officer

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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Regent

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Regent

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Regent

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Student Regent

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**John M. Zerwas, MD**  
Executive Vice Chancellor, Health Affairs

*the history of*  
UTHEALTH HOUSTON

Established in 1972 by The University of Texas System Board of Regents, **UTHealth Houston** is Texas’ resource for health care education, innovation, scientific discovery, and excellence in patient care.

As a comprehensive health science university, the mission of UTHealth Houston is to educate health science professionals, discover and translate advances in the biomedical and social sciences, and model the best practices in clinical care and public health.

We pursue this mission in order to advance the quality of human life by enhancing the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease and injury, as well as promoting individual health and community well-being.

One of the nation's most comprehensive academic health science centers, **UTHealth Houston** is home to six schools:

**Jane and Robert Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth Houston**

**John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston**

**The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

**UTHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics**

**UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry**

**UTHealth School of Public Health**



## TO OUR GRADUATES

This year, UTHealth Houston is celebrating our 50th anniversary as the city's premier health university, and we are deeply honored that you have chosen to be a part of our history and our future.

During today's combined commencement ceremony, we salute your achievements at UTHealth Houston and the careers of service you are entering.

Bringing together our graduates of UTHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics, MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston represents essential teamwork in health care.

And more than anything, it signifies that we are many faces with one mission—to advance the quality of human life by enhancing the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease and injury, as well as promoting individual health and community well-being.

We need each of you—your skills, your experience, your training, your collaborative spirit, and most importantly, your passion for health care and discovery.

On this momentous occasion, you join more than 50,000 UTHealth Houston graduates who have dedicated their lives to service. I commend you all for this decision, and I thank you and your families for trusting us with your education.

To the members of this class, congratulations...I know that you will make us proud.

**Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD**

UTHEALTH HOUSTON PRESIDENT  
ALKEK-WILLIAMS DISTINGUISHED CHAIR





National Anthem of the United States of America:

The Star-Spangled Banner

ELIORA A. TESFAYE, MD, AND JANET NWOKOLO-ANIEKWU, MD  
MCGOVERN MEDICAL SCHOOL AT UTHEALTH HOUSTON

UTHealth Houston Commencement Video

Introduction of UTHealth Houston  
President Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD

Presidential Welcome

GIUSEPPE N. COLASURDO, MD

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

LATANYA LOVE, MD

Commencement Address

BRENÉ BROWN

Medal Presentation

DR. COLASURDO AND DR. LOVE

UTHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics

Dean Remarks

JIAJIE ZHANG, PhD

Conferring of Degrees

DR. COLASURDO AND DR. ZHANG

Diplomas and Hooding

SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS FACULTY

MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Dean Remarks

MICHAEL R. BLACKBURN, PhD

MD Anderson Cancer Center Presidential Remarks

PETER WT PISTERS, MD, MHCM

Conferring of Degrees

DR. COLASURDO AND DR. BLACKBURN

Diplomas and Hooding

MD ANDERSON UTHEALTH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES FACULTY

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston

Dean *ad interim* Remarks

RICHARD J. ANDRASSY, MD, FACS, FAAP, FACN, FICS

Conferring of Degrees

DR. COLASURDO AND DR. ANDRASSY

Diplomas and Hooding

MCGOVERN MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY

The Hippocratic Oath

DR. ANDRASSY

Closing and Congratulations

DR. COLASURDO

ACADEMIC REGALIA HISTORY

The wearing of academic regalia, adopted by American institutions of higher education during the last century, is a tradition preserved from the medieval days of universities. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher, was the dress of a cleric, and originally, gowns were worn for warmth in unheated buildings and hoods were designed to cover the tonsured head. Modern academic dress follows a code of regulations that allow for distinguishing the conferred degree and the degree-awarding institution. The hood lining represents our institution’s colors, while the binding colors of the hoods designate the degree earned.

The gown for the master’s degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist, while the sleeve base hangs down in the traditional manner. The rear part of the master’s degree gown sleeve is oblong in shape and square cut, with the front portion of the sleeve cut away in an arc. The gown for the master’s degree is untrimmed. The cap is a mortarboard with a tassel.

The gown for the doctor’s degree has bell-shaped sleeves. For the doctoral degree, the gown is faced down the front with velvet and with three bars of velvet used across the sleeves. These velvet facings and crossbars are of the color distinctive for the degree. The cap for the doctor’s degree is a multisided velvet tam with a tassel.

REGALIA COLORS

SCIENCE	GOLDEN YELLOW
PHILOSOPHY	DARK BLUE
MEDICINE	GREEN

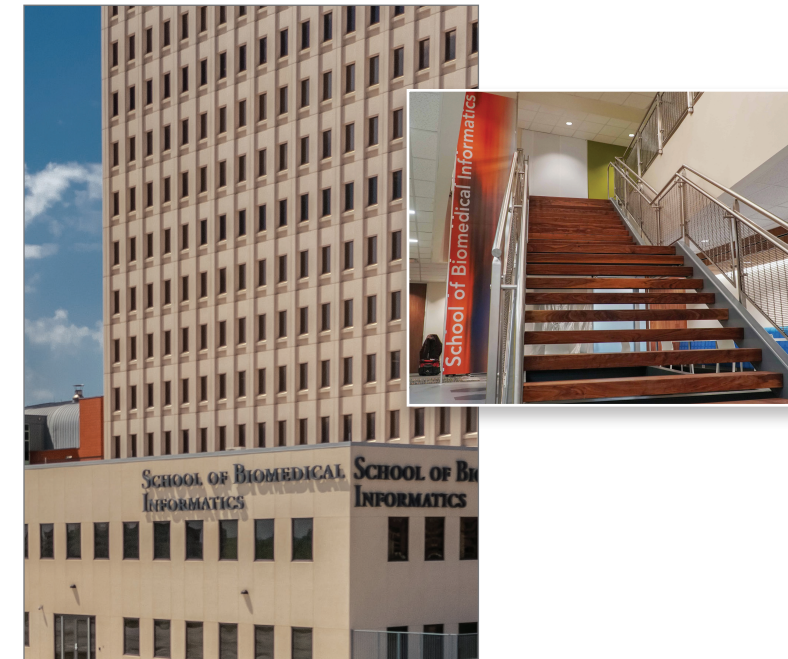


UTHealth Houston

# SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS

As a global academic leader in the areas of artificial intelligence, data science, and informatics, **UTHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics** is helping the world reshape the future of medicine and health care. As the only free-standing school of biomedical informatics in the nation, it is one of the largest programs of its kind internationally.

At the School of Biomedical Informatics, researchers and students collect, process, and convert data – ranging from molecules to populations – into actionable information, knowledge, and intelligence; educate current and future leaders, innovators, and problem solvers across Texas, the nation, and the world; and disrupt, transform, and innovate to elicit biomedical discoveries, improve health care delivery, and aid in disease prevention by conducting outstanding basic and applied research and developing impactful information technology products and solutions.



## SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

### **Jiajie Zhang, PhD**

Dean  
The Glassell Family Foundation Distinguished Chair  
in Informatics Excellence

### **Ryan Bien, MHA**

Associate Dean, Management

### **Elmer Bernstam, MD**

Associate Dean, Research  
The Reynolds and Reynolds Professor in Clinical Informatics

### **Susan Fenton, PhD**

Associate Dean, Academic and Curricular Affairs

### **Amy Franklin, PhD**

Associate Dean, Student, Faculty, and Community Affairs

### **Robert Murphy, MD**

Associate Dean, Applied Informatics

### **Hua Xu, PhD**

Associate Dean, Innovation

**Bolanle Atinuke Adesanya**

*Capstone Paper*  
 CCBHC Measures Dashboard for Tropical Texas Behavioral Health  
*Advisor Licong Cui, PhD*

**Echefula I. Agbara**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Implementation of a Hospital Pharmacy Inventory Management System  
*Advisor Juliana Brisey, PhD, MPH, RN*

**Nour Alex Alia**

**SBMI Dean’s Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2021**  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Generating an Automated Report to Track and Improve ERAS Compliance of Preoperative and Postoperative Nutrition Provision  
*Advisor Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, PhD*

**Venice Krystel Anana**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Enhancements to Kamana Health’s Job Marketplace Using the System Development Life Cycle (SDLC): To Increase Usability  
*Advisor Angela Ross, DNP, MPH*

**Karen Ann Dulay Ang**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Increasing User Engagement Through Community and Network Development  
*Advisor Juliana Brisey, PhD, MPH, RN*

**Maria Fernanda Astrain**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Streamlining Communication and Data Capture by Method of Google Forms  
*Advisor Debora Simmons, PhD, RN*

**Malak A. Awad**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Consumer Engagement in Digital Media Channel: A Mixed-Methods Study of Content Features Related to COVID-19 Vaccines  
*Advisor Sahiti Myneni, PhD, MSE*

**Mason Bartels**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Automizing the Filtering of Gene Lists for Identifying Biomarkers, Drug Targets, and Tumor Subtypes  
*Advisor Wenjin Zheng, PhD*

**Kristin Michelle Beck**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Comprehensive Stroke Certification: Ensuring Use of the Modified Rankin Scale  
*Advisor Robert E. Murphy, MD*

**Kyleigh Buckley**

**New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019**  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Patient Attitudes Toward Receiving Test Results Prior to Physician Review  
*Advisor Susan Fenton, PhD*

**Clifford Newton Chen**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Ontology Enrichment Towards a Patient-Centric Medication Knowledge Base for a Geriatric Consumer Population  
*Advisor Muhammad Amith, MS, PhD*

**Suguna Rani Chinapuvvula**

**Doris Ross Scholarship, Fall 2020**  
**SBMI Scholarship Excellence Fund, Fall 2021**  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Assessing Gaps in Imaging Study Referrals in the Radiology Department  
*Advisor Kimberly Smith, PhD*

**Adolphis Cleveland**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Bar Code Medication Administration Workflow Analysis for Lyndon B. Johnson Emergency Center  
*Advisor Angela Ross, DNP, MPH*

**Vyas Naresh Dake**

**New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019**  
**SBMI Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2020**  
**SBMI Dean’s Excellence Scholarship, Spring 2021**  
*Capstone Paper*

Feasibility Study for Remote Patient Monitoring for Pilot Implementation in a Multispecialty Group Practice  
*Advisor Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, PhD*

**Daniela Rochelle Dally**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Exploring the Conceptualization of Social Determinants of Health for an Ontology Artifact Model  
*Advisor Amy Franklin, PhD*

**Ashish Damania**

*Capstone Paper*  
 The Impact of Giardia on the Intestinal Microbiome and Vitamin B12 Related Genes in Ecuadorian Children Using Whole-Genome Sequencing  
*Advisor Arif Harmanci, PhD, MS*

**Zulfiia Karimkulovna Ditto**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Use of Process Mining in Defining Clinical Inertia in Hypertension Management  
*Advisor Deevakar Rogiib, PhD*

**Drew Aric Dylewski**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Provider Productivity Visualization for a Behavioral Health Clinic  
*Advisor Amy Franklin, PhD*

**Daniel Uchenna Enwere**

**SBMI Student Governance Scholarship Fund, Spring 2018**  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Clinical Decision Support System Governance Structure in a Large Health Care System and Analysis of Medication Warning Alerts in Relation to Provider Overrides  
*Advisor Amy Franklin, PhD*

**Emuobonuvie Emmanuel Eshareturi**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Relationships Between US Government Policy, Capital Market Investment, and Technology Innovation in Health Care; The View from Within a Healthcare Technology Investment Firm  
*Advisor Amy Franklin, PhD*

**Margaret Fitzgerald**

**New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019**  
*Capstone Paper*  
 ICD-O-3 Recode and Comorbidity Index Algorithm Evaluation  
*Advisor Asaaf Gottlieb, PhD*

**Andrea Foster**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Post Clean-Up Relocation in a Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) Lab Workflow  
*Advisor Angela Ross, DNP, MPH*

**Henry Glade**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Building a Data Set for Geospatial Visualization Tools to Improve Cancer Screening Rates for Federally Qualified Community Health Centers in Texas  
*Advisor Robert Murphy, MD*

**Bhanumathi Gopal**

**SBMI Dean’s Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2021**  
**SBMI Dean’s Excellence Scholarship, Spring 2022**  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Applying Informatics and Visualization Methods within the Houston Emergency Opioid Engagement System at UTHealth Houston  
*Advisor Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, PhD*

**Hai Gu**

*Capstone Paper*  
 A Project for Information Extraction from Tables in Biomedical Literature  
*Advisor Licong Cui, PhD*

**Meghana Gudala**

**SBMI Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2020**  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Assessing the Impact of Telemedicine Among Providers Along the Texas-Mexico Border  
*Advisor Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, PhD*

**Robert Guevara**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Balancing Safety, Regulatory Requirements, Provider Concerns, and Patient Rights for Patient Portal Implementation in a Mental Health Setting  
*Advisor Robert Murphy, MD*

**Allison Hadjis**

**Dr. Jingchun Sun Memorial Scholarship, Summer 2020**  
**Dr. Jingchun Sun Memorial Scholarship, Fall 2021**  
**SBMI Dean’s Excellence Scholarship, Spring 2022**  
*Capstone Paper*  
 ACHoo: Leveraging Illumina Paired-End Sequencing to Identify and Remove Sequencer-Based Errors  
*Advisor Arif Harmanci, PhD, MS*

**Samir Mohamed Haq**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Data Visualization for Productivity at Accent Care  
*Advisor Todd Johnson, PhD*

**Gabriela Hernandez**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Workflow Analysis in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
*Advisor Yang Gong, MD, PhD*

**Hui Shuang Hsu**

**New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019**  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Literatures Mining for Drugs Combination’s Effectiveness in Alzheimer Disease  
*Advisor Xiaoqian Jiang, PhD*

**Zairah Imran**

*Capstone Paper*  
 An Analysis of Workforce Trends in Health Information Management  
*Advisor Susan Fenton, PhD*

**Patience Jackson**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Nursing Workflow and Its Impact on Case Analysis and Cost Savings: The Path Towards Scalability Through Automation for 2nd.MD  
*Advisor Angela Ross, DNP, MPH*

**Casey J. Kappenman**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Improving a Research Contract Management Process Through Qualitative Process Mapping  
*Advisor Angela Ross, DNP, MPH*

**Melesh Kristofer**

*Capstone Paper*  
 Requirements Analysis of the Epic EHR at Healthcare for the Homeless Houston to Identify Patient Demographics and Social Determinants of Health  
*Advisor Angela Ross, DNP, MPH*

**Joseph Krocker**

**James Turley Endowed Scholarship for Global Health, Spring 2021**  
**Lex Frieden Scholarship for Disability and Health Informatics, Summer 2021**  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Factor V Leiden and Traumatic Hemorrhage  
*Advisor Amy Franklin, PhD*



Meghan Marie Lee

*Capstone Paper*  
 Planning for Implementation of a Universal MRSA Decolonization Process at a Large Healthcare System in Houston, Texas  
*Advisor Robert E. Murphy, MD*

Yang Liu

James Turley Endowed Scholarship for Global Health, Spring 2019  
 Paul C. Boyle Award for Excellence in Research, Spring 2021

*Capstone Paper*  
 Oncogene Addiction in Colorectal Cancer Patients with Atypical BRAF Mutation  
*Advisor Susan Fenton, PhD*

Hengwei Lu

*Capstone Paper*  
 Data Preparation for COVID-19 Knowledge Graph and Evaluations of Literature Recommendation Pipelines  
*Advisor Cui Tao, PhD*

Vikas Mandadi

*Capstone Paper*  
 Assessment of Patient Violence Towards Healthcare Staff at Memorial Hermann Hospital and Implementation of a Proactive Violence Assessment and Behavioral Emergency Response  
*Advisor Robert Murphy, MD*

Vanessa Dawn McElroy

*Capstone Paper*  
 The Use of Data Visualization and Analysis in a Telehealth Outreach Program  
*Advisor Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, PhD*

Brad Justin McGavock

SBMI Scholarship Excellence Fund, Fall 2019  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Readmission Risk Reduction in a Pediatric Medical Center  
*Advisor Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, PhD*

Karen Nunez

*Capstone Paper*  
 Infrastructure Assessment for Telemedicine and Health Technologies in Cameron County  
*Advisor Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, PhD*

Laura A. Ocasio

*Capstone Paper*  
 Constructing Structured Datasets  
*Advisor Luca Giancardo, PhD*

Sofia Olivares De La Mora

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Expressed Breast Milk and Medication Management: Medical Error Reduction and Process Optimization Opportunities  
*Advisor Todd Johnson, PhD*

Alonzo Javier Olivarez

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Dashboard Applications for Public Health Administration Reporting  
*Advisor Debora Simmons, PhD, RN*

Neha Patel

*Capstone Paper*  
 Strategic Public Health Marketing in Response to Opioid Use Crisis  
*Advisor Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, PhD*

Romil Patel

*Capstone Paper*  
 Computable Phenotypes Using Electronic Health Record Data: A Review  
*Advisor Robert Murphy, MD*

Kavita Karishma Ramnath

Academic Dean's Scholarship, Fall 2021  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Workflow Analysis and Improvement of the Rooming Process at a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), Healthcare for the Homeless – Houston (HHH)  
*Advisor Angela Ross, DNP, MPH*

Mario Rodriguez Jr.

*Capstone Paper*  
 Evaluation of a Predictive Model for Improving the Quality of Allocation and Distribution of Laboratory Inventory  
*Advisor Kimberly Smith, PhD*

Ta’Mara Smith

*Capstone Paper*  
 Applying the Swim Lane Diagram Method to Improve Organizational Workflow  
*Advisor Juliana Brixey, PhD, MPH, RN*

Kelly Rae Snider

*Capstone Paper*  
 Appropriation of Technology for Opioid Use Disorder: Can Telehealth Facilitate Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Treatment  
*Advisor Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, PhD*

Andrea Stone

*Capstone Paper*  
 Exploring Market Trends in Health Information Technology Finance  
*Advisor James Langabeer II, PhD, EdD, MBA*

Michael William Swank

*Capstone Paper*  
 Telemedicine in the Rio Grande Valley: An Assessment of Acceptance and Use  
*Advisor Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, PhD*

Capt. James Thompson, U.S. Army

*Capstone Paper*  
 Sickbay Alarm Management System Modification at Houston Methodist: Addressing Alarm Fatigue and Meaningfulness of Alarms  
*Advisor Angela Ross, DNP, MPH*

Gustavo Villarreal

Doris Ross Scholarship, Fall 2020  
 SBMI Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2020  
 SBMI Scholarship Excellence Fund, Fall 2021

*Capstone Paper*  
 Continuous Improvement of Community Medical Adherence Through Evidence-based Reporting: A Visual Analytics Implementation  
*Advisor Robert Murphy, MD*

Mengting Yu

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Analysis of Human Errors and Association of Perioperative Communication in Incident Reports Using Clinical BERT  
*Advisor Yang Gong, PhD*

Meng Zhang

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Dashboard design for comparing program performance at Tropical Texas Behavioral Health  
*Advisor Todd Johnson, PhD*

Jing Zhang

SBMI Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2020  
*Capstone Paper*  
 Facilitating Health Information Exchange for the COVID-19 Pandemic  
*Advisor Amy Franklin, PhD*

Yi Zheng

*Capstone Paper*  
 Preliminary Analysis for Clinical Entity Extraction and Normalization from Eligibility Criteria in Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Trials  
*Advisor Cui Tao, PhD*

Xiao Dong

Doris Ross Scholarship, Fall 2017

Dissertation

Standardizing New Diagnostic Tests to Facilitate Rapid Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Doctoral Committee

Chair: Hua Xu, PhD; Amy Franklin, PhD; Yang Gong, MD, PhD; Cui Tao, PhD

Laila Rasmy Gindy Bekhet

Star Motor Cars Scholarship, Fall 2019
Doris Ross Scholarship, Spring 2016, 2017, 2019, Fall 2017
Willerson Endowed Scholarship, Fall 2020

Dissertation

Secondary Use of Structured Electronic Health Records Data: From Observational Studies to Deep Learning-Based Predictive Modeling

Doctoral Committee

Chair: Degui Zhi, PhD, MS; Hua Xu, PhD; Angela Ross, DNP, MPH

Roni Matin

Bridges Family Doctoral Fellowship, Fall 2015, 2016
SBMI Scholarship Excellence Fund, Fall 2018
Claire Loe Memorial Scholarship, Fall 2020

Dissertation

Identifying Risk Factors for Anchoring Bias in Clinical Decision Making During Emergency Medicine of Transitions of Care

Doctoral Committee

Chair: Susan Fenton, PhD; Amy Franklin, PhD; Robert Murphy, MD; Amit Mehta, MD

Yuqi Si

James A. Baker Transformation and Hope Scholarship, Fall 2017
Star Motor Cars Scholarship, Fall 2018
SBMI Dean’s Excellence Fund, Summer 2020

Dissertation

Enhancing Representation Learning of Clinical Narrative with Neural Networks for Clinical Predictive Modeling

Doctoral Committee

Chair: Kirk Roberts, PhD; Xiaolian Jiang, PhD; Elmer V. Bernstam, MD, MSE; Timothy Miller, PhD

Xinyuan Zhang

Bridges Family Doctoral Fellowship, Fall 2016
SBMI Student Governance Organization Scholarship, Spring 2020
Doris Ross Scholarship, Fall 2021

Dissertation

Computer-Aided Supporting Algorithm for Skin Diseases Diagnosis

Doctoral Committee

Chair: Cui Tao, PhD; Luca Giancardo, PhD; Kirk Roberts, PhD, MS; Xiaolian Jiang, PhD

Joe Mack Bridges

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019

Translational Project

Implementation of a Computerized Diagnostic Decision Support System in Primary Practice

Doctoral Committee

Chair: Robert Murphy, MD; Amy Franklin, PhD; Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH



The University of Texas  
MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth

# GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Established in 1963, **The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences** offers students the opportunity to prepare for careers in research and graduate education in the biomedical sciences.

MD Anderson UTHealth Graduate School was formed by a partnership between two powerhouse institutions: The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center – the nation’s leading cancer hospital – and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston) – Texas’ resource for health care education, innovation, scientific discovery, and excellence in patient care. At its inception, the graduate school adopted an interdisciplinary approach to biomedical sciences education. Its flexible program is on the leading edge of educational philosophy in biomedical science training. As a result, the graduate school has attracted a large number of outstanding faculty and students, and is ready to equip the researchers of tomorrow with the education and training to turn discovery into lifesaving solutions.



## SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

### **Michael R. Blackburn, PhD**

Dean

William S. Kilroy, Sr. Distinguished University Chair  
in Pulmonary Disease

John P. McGovern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Endowed Distinguished Professor

### **Sharon Y.R. Dent, PhD**

Dean *ad interim*

### **William Mattox, PhD**

Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Education

### **Cherilynn R. Shadding, PhD**

Associate Dean of Diversity, Career Development,  
and Alumni Affairs

### **Patricia Cruz Bruesch, MPA**

Associate Dean of Management

### **Jeffrey Frost, PhD**

Assistant Dean of Graduate Education

### **Diane Bodurka, MD, MPH**

Assistant Dean, MD Anderson Cancer Center

### **Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD**

Assistant Dean, MD Anderson Cancer Center

Michelle Maureen Appel

Thesis  
 Prenatal Testing Decisions and Motivations in Pregnancies Conceived via IVF  
 Advisors Aarti Ramdaney, MS (primary); Lauren Murphy, MS (secondary)

Anik Banerjee

Thesis  
 MicroRNAs as a Therapeutic Target to Regulate Microglial Activation in Post Stroke Isolation in Aged Male Mile  
 Advisor Louise McCullough, MD, PhD

Emilyn Constance Banfield

Thesis  
 Analysis of Huntington’s Disease Caregiver Quality of Life Using the Enroll-HD Population  
 Advisor Leslie Dunnington, MS

Ruth Barros De Paula

Thesis  
 Unveiling Global Roles of G-Quadruplexes and G4-22 in Human Genetics  
 Advisor John Tainer, PhD

Katie Marie Baudoin

Thesis  
 Investigating the Attitudes of the Deaf Community Towards Genetic Counseling and Utilization of Genetic Services  
 Advisors Jennifer Czerwinski, MS (primary); Chelsea Wagner, MS (secondary)

Shuaitong Chen

Thesis  
 Dissecting the Mechanisms of Venetoclax Resistance in Myelodysplastic Syndromes  
 Advisor Simona Colla, PhD

Xiaoyun Cheng

Thesis  
 Efficacy of Dual CD19-CD79b CAR in B-cell Malignancies  
 Advisor Sattva S. Neelapu, MD

Shane A. Cristy

Thesis  
 Virulence and Biofilm Formation in *Candida albicans* are Inhibited by Short Peptide Subunits of EntV  
 Advisor Michael Lorenz, PhD

Han T Cun

Thesis  
 The Role of IFITM3 in the Immune Response of BRCA-Deficient High Grade Serous Ovarian Carcinoma  
 Advisor Samuel Mok, PhD

Rebecca Rose Feuer DiTusa

Thesis  
 Investigation of Trophon®2 for High Level Disinfection of Rigid Endorectal MRI Coils  
 Advisor James Bankson, PhD

Jenny Thanh Do

Barbara L. Kennedy Memorial Scholarship  
 Thesis  
 Parental Stress in Tuberous Sclerosis Complex  
 Advisor Kate Mowrey, MS

Ahmed Atef Emam

Thesis  
 Investigating the Role of Abro1 in DNA Damage-Induced Immune Response  
 Advisor Bin Wang, PhD

Ángel Adrián Garcés

American Association for Cancer Research Minority Scholar in Cancer Research  
 Sylvan Rodriguez Foundation Scholarship Honoring George M. Stancel, PhD  
 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Scholar-In-Training Award:  
 Radiation Science and Medicine

Thesis  
 ATRX Inactivation and IDH1-R132H Drive Preferential Sensitivity to Proton vs. X-Ray Radiotherapy in Glioma Stem Cells  
 Advisor David Grasshans, MD, PhD

Deanna Glassman

Linda K. Manning Fellowship in Ovarian Cancer  
 Cancer Answers/Sylvan Rodriguez Scholarship  
 Thesis  
 Targeting Metabolic Adaptations to Anti-Angiogenic Therapy in Ovarian Cancer  
 Advisor Anil Sood, MD

Aashish Chandra Gupta

Thesis  
 Advancement of a 3D Computational Phantom and Its Age Scaling Methodologies for Retrospective Dose Reconstruction Studies  
 Advisor Rebecca Howell, PhD

Jeffrey Andrew How

Thesis  
 The Microsatellite Instability High Endometrial Tumor Microenvironment and Identifying Predictive Biomarkers of Response to Pembrolizumab  
 Advisor Amir Jazaeri, MD

Sara Kelley

Helmuth and Mary Fuchs and James R. Waterston Endowed Scholarship  
 Thesis  
 Cross-Seeding Potential of Misfolded Amyloid-beta Strains on TAU Protein: Examining the Puzzle Pieces of Alzheimer’s Disease  
 Advisor Rodrigo Morales, PhD

Jenna Kay Lea

Thesis  
 Investigating the Impact of Fetal Sex Disclosure by Non-Invasive Prenatal Screening on Low-Risk Patients’ Informed Decision Making and Motivations for Testing  
 Advisors Meagan Choates, MS (primary); Claire Singletary, MS (secondary)

Zian Liao

Thesis  
 Manipulating Enhancer RNA Activity to Study Their Roles in Gene Regulation and Cancer  
 Advisor Wenbo Li, PhD

Shucheng Miao

Thesis  
 Trim24 Promotes Mammary Tumor Development by Upregulating Metabolic Reducing Power  
 Advisor Michelle Barton, PhD

Émile Moura Coelho da Silva

Thesis  
 Experiences of Racial and Ethnic Minority Patients with Genetic Counseling  
 Advisors Myla Ashfaq, MS (primary); Brittanie Morris, MS (secondary)

Phuoc Thi-My Nguyen

Thesis  
 Understanding the Role of ARGLU1 in Interferon Signaling Activation in Breast Cancer  
 Advisor Wenbo Li, PhD

Tressie Alexandra Capri Posey

Thesis  
 LGR5 Regulation of STAT3 Signaling and Drug Resistance in Colorectal Cancer  
 Advisor Kendra Carmon, PhD

Hind Rafei

Thesis  
 Modulating Immunometabolism to Improve the Activity of CAR-NK Cells Targeting CD70 in Renal Cell Carcinoma  
 Advisor Katy Rezvani, MBBS, PhD

Gina Sally Sanchez

Thesis  
 Status of Abortion Curriculum in Genetic Counseling: Survey of Graduate Programs and Recent Graduates in the U.S.  
 Advisors Aarti Ramdaney, MS (primary); Claire Singletary, MS (secondary)

Nicholas Short

Thesis  
 Clinical Impact of a Highly Sensitive Next-Generation Sequencing Measurable Residual Disease Assay in Patients with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia  
 Advisor Marina Konopleva, MD, PhD

Nicole P. Stephens

Women’s Overseas Service League Scholarship  
 The Army Women’s Foundation Legacy Scholarship  
 UTHealth Houston Student InterCouncil Disaster Relief/Positive Impact Scholarship  
 Thesis  
 The Effect of Cognitive Status and Residency on Oral Health in Patients with Dementia  
 Advisor Cameron B. Jeter, PhD

Natalie Elizabeth Stoner

Thesis  
 Invisible Diversities, Academic Capital and Competitiveness of Genetic Counseling Applicants  
 Advisor Claire Singletary, MS

Carlos C. Vera Recio

Thesis  
 Identification and Characterization of De Novo Germline TP53 Mutation Carriers in Families with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome  
 Advisor Wenyi Wang, PhD

Seenya Vincent

Thesis  
 Characterizing the Role of UCHL5 in Metastatic Melanoma  
 Advisor Kunal Rai, PhD

Michelle Nicole Zelnick

Thesis  
 Assessing the Impact of Camp PHEver on Serum Phenylalanine Levels  
 Advisor Kate Mowrey, MS

Ran Zhao

Thesis  
 Mitochondrial Unfolded Protein Response Regulator ATF5 in Mitochondrial Targeted Therapies in AML  
 Advisors Michael Andreeff, MD, PhD (primary); Jo Ishizawa, MD, PhD (secondary)



**Amelie Albrecht**

Dr. John J. Kopchick Research Award  
Terry and Janet Klebe Fellowships

*Dissertation*  
The Functional Analysis of a Major Tyrosine Phosphorylation Site on Actin  
*Advisor Xuetong Shen, PhD*

**Dominik Awad**

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research

*Dissertation*  
Regulation of Systemic and Cellular Metabolism in Prostate Cancer by CAMKK2 and Elucidation of ATGL's Role in Disease Progression  
*Advisor Daniel Frigo, PhD*

**Rachel Lauren Babcock**

CPRIT Graduate Research Scholar

*Dissertation*  
The Role and Regulation of Id2 in Dendritic Cells  
*Advisor Stephanie Watowich, PhD*

**Rakhee Bajaj**

T.C. Hsu Memorial Scholarship  
CPRIT Predoctoral Fellowship

*Dissertation*  
Novel Regulators of Cellular Secretion Alter the Tumor Microenvironment to Drive Metastasis  
*Advisor Don L. Gibbons, MD, PhD*

**Alexandra Noel Berroyer**

Dean's Research Scholarship Award

*Dissertation*  
Investigation of Genomic Instability Induced by G-Quadruplexes in the Absence of Functional Topoisomerase 1 in Yeast  
*Advisor Nayun Kim, PhD*

**Taylor T. Chrisikos**

*Dissertation*  
STAT3 Inhibits Type I Interferon Signaling in Type I Conventional Dendritic Cells  
*Advisor Stephanie Watowich, PhD*

**Medina Colic**

R.W. Butcher Achievement Award  
The Pauline Altman-Goldstein Foundation Discovery Fellowship  
Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship

*Dissertation*  
Exploiting Chemogenetic and Genetic Interactions in Human Cells as an Avenue for New Therapeutic Opportunities  
*Advisor Traver Hart, PhD*

**Darlan Conterno Minussi**

The Schissler Foundation Fellowship  
Presidents' Research Scholarship

*Dissertation*  
Decoding Copy Number Substructure and Evolution from Single Cell Genomics  
*Advisor Nicholas Navin, PhD*

**Ileana D. Corsi**

The George M. Stancel, PhD Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences  
Student InterCouncil (SIC) Academic Achievement Award  
Best Presentation Award International Bacillus ACT Meeting

*Dissertation*  
Roles of Small RNAs and Paralogous Proteins in *Bacillus Anthracis* Virulence Gene Regulation  
*Advisor Theresa Koehler, PhD*

**Samantha R. Debes**

Roberta M. and Jean M. Worsham Endowed Fellowship  
Wei Yu Family Endowed Scholarship  
NIH Individual NRSA Predoctoral (F31) Fellowship

*Dissertation*  
The Functional Role of Anatomical Feedback Connections in Visual Attention  
*Advisor Valentin Dragoi, PhD*

**Rachel Louise Dittmar**

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship  
Marilyn and Frederick R. Lummis, Jr., MD, Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences  
Sylvan Rodriguez Foundation Scholarship Honoring George M. Stancel, PhD

*Dissertation*  
Mutant *KRAS* Alters Extracellular Vesicle Microrna Sorting in Pancreatic Cystic Neoplas  
*Advisors Subrata Sen, PhD (primary); Ann Killary, PhD (secondary)*

**Ryan Durham**

The Russell and Diana Hawkins Family Foundation Discovery Fellowship  
Dean's Research Scholarship Award

*Dissertation*  
Agonist-Induced Conformational Changes in the NMDA Receptor  
*Advisor Vasanthi Jayaraman, PhD*

**Farah Hasan**

*Dissertation*  
Hypoxia Acts as an Environmental Cue for the Human Tissue-Resident Memory T-cell Differentiation Program  
*Advisor Cassian Yee, MD*

**I-Lin Ho**

The Pauline Altman-Goldstein Foundation Discovery  
T.C. Hsu Memorial Scholarship

*Dissertation*  
Epithelial Memory of Resolved Inflammation Limits Tissue Damage While Promoting Pancreatic Tumorigenesis  
*Advisors Giulio Draetta, MD, PhD (primary); Andrea Viale, MD (secondary)*

**Cheng-En Hsieh**

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Fellowship in Cancer Research  
Ralph B. Arlinghaus, PhD Scholarship

*Dissertation*  
ATR-Mediated CD47 and PD-L1 Upregulation Restricts Radiotherapy-Induced Immune Priming and Abscopal Responses in Colorectal Cancer  
*Advisor Michael A. Curran, PhD*

**Kyle R. Jackson**

*Dissertation*  
Conserved Non-Pocket Interactions Drive the Diversity of Peptide Presentation of MHC Class I Molecules  
*Advisor Gregory Lizee, PhD*

**Walaa Essam Kattan**

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Fellowship and Faculty Mentor Recognition Awards  
Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship

*Dissertation*  
Targeting Plasma Membrane Phosphatidylserine Content to Inhibit Oncogenic KRAS Function  
*Advisor John Hancock, PhD*

**Sunada Khadka**

Larry Deaven, PhD, Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences  
CPRIT Predoctoral Fellowship  
R.W. Butcher Achievement Award

*Dissertation*  
The TCA Cycle as a NEXUS of Metabolic Vulnerabilities in Cancer  
*Advisors Ronald DePinho, MD (primary); Florian Muller, PhD (secondary)*

**Naeh Lyron Klages-Mundt**

Dean's Excellence Scholarship

*Dissertation*  
Development of the ARK Assay for Quantitating DNA-Protein Crosslink Accumulation and Fanconi Anemia Pathway Involvement in the Repair Process  
*Advisors Bin Wang, PhD (primary); Lei Li, PhD (secondary)*

**Pranavi Koppula**

Dr. John J. Kopchick Research Award  
CPRIT Predoctoral Fellowship

*Dissertation*  
Investigating Therapeutic Strategies to Target Metabolic Vulnerabilities of NSCLC Tumors with Mutant *KEAP1* Gene  
*Advisor Boyi Gan, PhD*

**Tapsi Kumar**

Rosalie B. Hite Graduate Fellowship in Cancer Research  
Thomas F. Burks Scholarship for Academic Merit  
NCI Predoctoral Fellowship in Translational Genomics and Precision Medicine

*Dissertation*  
Investigating the Ecology and Evolution of Normal Breast Tissues and Breast Cancer with Single Cell Genomics  
*Advisors Nicholas Navin, PhD (primary); Andrew Futreal, PhD (secondary)*

**Rumi Lee**

*Dissertation*  
Synthetic Essentiality of TDO2 in APC-Mutated Colorectal Cancer  
*Advisor Ronald DePinho, MD*

**Chenchu Lin**

The Antje Wuelfrath Gee and Harry Gee, Jr. Family Legacy Award

*Dissertation*  
Identification and Targeting of Downstream AR-CAMKK2-Mediated Mechanisms for the Treatment of Advanced Prostate Cancer  
*Advisor Daniel Frigo, PhD*

**Benjamin Paul Lopez**

*Dissertation*  
Absolute Quantification of <sup>99m</sup>Tc Activity Distributions Using a Planar Molecular Breast Imaging Commercial System  
*Advisor S. Cheenu Kappadath, PhD*

**Blake McAlpin**

*Dissertation*  
HDAC6 Inhibition Reverses Long-Term Doxorubicin-Induced Cognitive Dysfunction by Restoring Microglia Homeostasis  
*Advisor Cobi Heijnen, PhD*

**Brigid A. McDonald**

Presidents' Research Scholarship  
Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship  
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

*Dissertation*  
Development of Advanced MR-Guided Adaptive Radiation Therapy Workflows for Head and Neck Cancers on the 1.5T MR-Linac  
*Advisor: Valentin Dragoi, PhD*

**Russell Milton**

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award  
GSBS Endowment Scholarship  
Dean's Research Scholarship Award

*Dissertation*  
Impact of Brain State on Visual and Prefrontal Population Coding in Behaving Animals  
*Advisor Valentin Dragoi, PhD*

**Akash Mitra**

CPRIT Graduate Research Scholar  
AACR Scholar in Training  
SITC Young Investigator Award

*Dissertation*  
Impact of Intratumor Heterogeneity and the Tumor Microenvironment in Shaping Tumor Evolution and Response to Therapy  
*Advisor Andrew Futreal, PhD*

**Alexis Shauntaye Mobley**

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship  
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award  
UTHealth Houston Student InterCouncil Disaster Relief/Positive Impact Scholarship

*Dissertation*  
Innate Lymphoid Cell Characterization and ILC2s in Neuroinflammation in Aging and Sex Differences  
*Advisors Jaroslaw Aronowski, MD, PhD (primary); Louise McCullough, MD, PhD (secondary)*

Abdallah Sherif Radwan Mohamed

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Integration of Biomedical Imaging and Translational Approaches for Management of Head and Neck Cancer

Advisors Clifton Fuller, MD, PhD (primary); Stephen Y. Lai, MD, PhD (secondary)

Benjamin C. Musall

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Quantitative Magnetic Resonance Imaging for the Early Prediction of Treatment Response in Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Advisor Jingfei Ma, PhD

Vinay V. Nair

R.W. Butcher Achievement Award

CPRIT Predoctoral Fellowship

Dissertation

Modulation of KRAS Structure and Dynamics of KRAS Ubiquitination and Membrane Depolarization

Advisors Alemayehu Gorfe, PhD (primary); John Hancock, MD Chir, PhD (secondary)

Aparna Padhye

Dissertation

Dissecting Tumor Heterogeneity in Lung Cancer

Advisor Don L. Gibbons, MD, PhD

Nabina Paudyal

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship

Dean’s Research Scholarship Award

Houston Area Molecular Biophysics Program Award

Dissertation

Modulation of the Receptor Gating Mechanism and Allosteric Communication in Ionotropic Glutamate Receptors

Advisor Vasanthi Jayaraman, PhD

Lexy Plumer

Dean’s Excellence Scholarship

Dissertation

4D Ex Vivo CRISPR/Cas9 Whole-Genome Screen to Identify Genes Regulating Lung Cancer Metastasis

Advisor Prahlad Ram, PhD

Dong Joo Rhee

Ellen Taylor Goldin Legacy Award

Dissertation

Automation of Radiation Treatment Planning for Cervical Cancer

Advisor Laurence E. Court, PhD

Aislyn Schalck

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Decoding the Tumor and Immune Microenvironment in PDAC and Breast Cancer by Single Cell Sequencing

Advisor Nicholas Navin, PhD

Sahil Seth

Dean’s Excellence Scholarship

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarship in Cancer Research

AACR Scholar in Training

Dissertation

Computational Approaches to Understand Chemoresistance and Tumor Evolution via Longitudinal Clinical Data and Lineage Tracing in Animal Models

Advisors Giulio Draetta, MD, PhD (primary); Andrew Futreal, PhD (secondary)

Parin Shah

Steve Lasher and Janiece Longoria Graduate Student Research Award

Dissertation

Enhancing Adoptive Cell Therapy by Augmenting Fitness and Anti-Tumor Function of Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocytes

Advisor Anirban Maitra, MBBS

Gloria Galván Sierra

Dissertation

Intranasal HPV Peptide Vaccine Formulation Induces Potent Cytotoxic CD8 T Cell Immunity for the Treatment of Genital HPV Tumors

Advisor Jagannadha Sastry, PhD

Melinda Soeung

Excellence in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at MD Anderson Cancer Center  
The Center for Cancer Epigenetics Fellowship

Dissertation

Understanding the Pathogenesis of Renal Medullary Carcinoma

Advisors Giulio Draetta, MD, PhD (primary); Giannicola Genovese, MD, PhD (secondary)

Ashabari Sprenger

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Dissertation

The Src- and Abl-Dependent Regulation of Net1A in Breast Cancer

Advisor Jeffrey A. Frost, PhD

Tristen Victoria Tellman

Larry Deaven, PhD, Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship

UTHHealth Houston-CPRIT Innovation in Cancer Prevention Predoctoral Fellowship

Dissertation

Tissue-Specific Matrix Control of Cell Cohesion and Migration Signaling Complexes

Advisor Mary C. Farach-Carson, PhD

Emily Ann Thompson

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research

CPRIT Predoctoral Fellowship

The Society of Interventional Radiology Foundation Allied Scientist Grant

Dissertation

Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) Image-Guided Intervention: Quantitative Characterization of Thermochemical Ablation

Advisors Erik Cressman, MD, PhD (primary); Mark Pagel, PhD (secondary)

Hieu Thuan Van

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Plant Homeodomain Finger Protein 20 (PHF20) and its Homolog PHF20 Like 1 (PHF20L1) Define Two Distinct Non-Specific Lethal (NSL) Complexes

Advisor Margarida Albuquerque Almeida Santos, PhD

Ziqiao Wang

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Mixture Model Approaches to Integrative Analysis of Multi-Omics Data and Spatially Correlated Genomic Data

Advisor Peng Wei, PhD

Shikun Wang

The Antje Wuelfrath Gee and Harry Gee, Jr. Family Legacy Award

Dissertation

Statistical Modeling of Longitudinal Medical Cost Data

Advisors Liang Li, PhD (primary); Yu Shen, PhD (secondary)

Cayla Axelia Wood

Floyd Haar, MD, Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Memory of Freda Haar  
First Place, MD Anderson DI Trainee Research Symposium

Dissertation

Development of Quantitative Molecular Photoacoustic Imaging for Noninvasive Cancer Diagnostics

Advisor Richard Bouchard, PhD

Unekwu Maimuna Yakubu

Presidents’ Research Scholarship

Russell and Diana Hawkins Family Foundation Discovery Fellowship

Dissertation

Deciphering the Role of Hsp110 Chaperones in Diseases of Protein Misfolding

Advisor Kevin Morano, PhD

Daniel B. Zamler

Hesse B. Heath Jr. Family Legacy Award

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Modeling of Central Nervous System Cancers with a Focus on the Immune Component

Advisors Giulio F. Draetta, MD, PhD (primary); Juan Hu, PhD (secondary)

**Scot Carson Callahan, Jr.**

*Dissertation*  
An Investigation of Epigenetic Mechanisms Driving the Biology of Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma  
*Advisors* Jeffrey N. Myers, MD, PhD (primary); Kunal Rai, PhD (secondary)

**Sarah Elizabeth Glazer**  
**Sylvan Rodriguez Foundation Scholarship Honoring George M. Stancel, PhD**

*Dissertation*  
Development and Characterization of B7-H3-Targeted Radioimmunotherapies for the Treatment of Solid Tumors  
*Advisor* David Piwnicka-Worms, MD, PhD

**Pedram Honarpisheh**

*Dissertation*  
Pheripheral Regulation of Neuroinflammation in Aging and Stroke (The Microbiota-Gut-Brain Axis)  
*Advisor* Louise McCullough, MD, PhD

**Kaveeta Kaw**  
**Training Interdisciplinary Pharmacology Scientists (TIPS) Fellowship**

*Dissertation*  
ACTA2 R149C Mutation Increases Coronary Artery Disease Risk by Augmenting Smooth Muscle Cell Phenotypic Modulation  
*Advisor* Dianna Milewicz, MD, PhD

**Joseph BK Kim**  
**Nanoparticles for Biomedical Applications**  
*Advisors* Sunil Krishnan, MD (primary); Sang Hyun Cho, PhD (secondary)



# McGOVERN MEDICAL SCHOOL

at UTHealth Houston

**McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston** was established in 1969 to utilize untapped resources and address a nationwide shortage of physicians. Over the past five decades, McGovern Medical School has moved to the forefront of medical education, clinical care, and research, becoming one of the largest and most diverse medical schools in the nation. The school is consistently rated as one of the best values in medical education, offers an incredible breadth of clinical training programs, and collaborates with leading medical and research entities across the Texas Medical Center, the state, and the nation.

In 2015, the John P. McGovern Foundation made a transformational gift to bolster medical training, provide full scholarships, and support scientific discovery and innovation at UTHealth Houston. In honor of the largest gift in the university's history, the school was renamed John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Medical School, placing a renewed emphasis on humanism, ethics, research, and scholarship.



## SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

### **Richard Andrassy, MD**

Executive Dean *ad interim*

Jack H. Mayfield, MD, Distinguished University Chair in Surgery

Denton A. Cooley, MD, Chair in Surgery

H. Wayne Hightower Distinguished Professor  
in the Medical Sciences

### **Michael R. Blackburn, PhD**

Dean *ad interim* of Research

Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, UTHealth

William S. Kilroy, Sr. Distinguished University Chair

in Pulmonary Disease

John P. McGovern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Endowed Distinguished Professor

### **LaTanya Love, MD**

Dean *ad interim* of Education

Executive Vice President, Student Affairs

and Diversity, UTHealth

THE OATH OF HIPPOCRATES

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR,  
BY WHATEVER I HOLD MOST SACRED:

THAT I WILL BE LOYAL TO THE PROFESSION  
OF MEDICINE AND JUST AND GENEROUS  
TO ITS MEMBERS;

THAT I WILL LEAD MY LIFE AND PRACTICE  
MY PROFESSION IN UPRIGHTNESS AND HONOR;

THAT INTO WHATSOEVER HOUSE I SHALL ENTER,  
IT SHALL BE FOR THE GOOD OF THE SICK  
TO THE UTMOST OF MY POWER, HOLDING MYSELF  
FAR ALOOF FROM WRONG, FROM CORRUPTION,  
FROM THE TEMPTING OF OTHERS TO VICE;

THAT I WILL EXERCISE MY PROFESSION SOLELY  
FOR THE CURE OF MY PATIENTS, AND WILL  
GIVE NO DRUG, PERFORM NO OPERATION, FOR A  
CRIMINAL PURPOSE, EVEN IF SOLICITED,  
FAR LESS SUGGEST IT;

THAT WHATSOEVER I SHALL SEE OR HEAR  
OF THE LIVES OF MEN WHICH IS NOT FITTING  
TO BE SPOKEN, I WILL KEEP INVIOLABLY  
SECRET. THESE THINGS DO I SWEAR.

AND NOW, SHOULD I BE TRUE TO THIS, MY OATH,  
MAY PROSPERITY AND GOOD REPUTE BE EVER MINE;  
THE OPPOSITE, SHOULD I PROVE MYSELF FORSWORN.

*The Oath of Hippocrates, a brief statement of principles, has come down through history as a living statement of ideals to be cherished by the physician. This Oath was conceived some time during the period of Grecian greatness, probably in the fifth century B.C. It is the earliest expression of medical ethics in the Western world, establishing such principles as medical confidentiality and holistic consideration of the patient. Other civilizations subsequently developed written principles, but a version the Oath of Hippocrates has remained as an expression of ideal conduct for the physician.*

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

*continued*

**Mark Hormann, MD**  
Vice Dean, Medical Student Education/Educational Programs

**Margaret McNeese, MD**  
Vice Dean, Admissions and Student Affairs

GRADUATE HOODERS AND CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

**Hilary Fairbrother, MD, MPH**  
Vice Chair, Education

**Jonathan C. Findley, MD**  
Assistant Dean, Accreditation and Educational Quality Improvement

**Sandra McKay, MD**  
Associate Professor, Pediatrics

**Eugene Toy, MD**  
Assistant Dean, Medical Student Education/Educational Programs

candidates receiving the degree of **Doctor of Medicine**

**Clydell “Tré” Adams III**  
Gold Humanism Honor Society  
*Residency/Program Match*  
George Washington University, General Surgery

**Sarah Ahmed**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Methodist Health System Dallas, Family Medicine

**Abraham Sherif AlFarra**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Anesthesiology

**Breanna Alyce Alonzo**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Baylor College of Medicine, Anesthesiology

**Andrew Joseph Troyer Alutius**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
John Peter Smith Hospitals, Emergency Medicine

**Erik Anthony Alvarado**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Emergency Medicine

**Brady Anderson**  
Alpha Omega Alpha  
Gold Humanism Honor Society  
*Residency/Program Match*  
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Otolaryngology  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Medical Humanities*

**Raleigh Anderson**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Surgery-Preliminary

**Caroline Anding**  
Alpha Omega Alpha  
*Residency/Program Match*  
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Pediatrics

**Matthew Antonioli**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Baylor College of Medicine, Internal Medicine

**Samantha Antonioli**  
Alpha Omega Alpha  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Obstetrics & Gynecology

**Naszrin Arani**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Baylor College of Medicine, Internal Medicine

**Abraham Arenas**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary  
Baylor College of Medicine, Radiation Oncology

**Robert Athey, Jr.**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

**Moez Karim Aziz**  
Alpha Omega Alpha  
Gold Humanism Honor Society  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Baylor College of Medicine, Internal Medicine  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Clinical Quality, Safety, and Evidence-Based Medicine*

**Rickard Bagott**  
Alpha Omega Alpha  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Duke University Medical Center, Anesthesiology

**Katherine Alexis Banner**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Orthopedic Surgery

**Matthew Reed Barke**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Deferred

**Jonathan Bass**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Anesthesiology  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Medical Humanities*

**John Beetz**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

**Nathaniel Berg**  
Alpha Omega Alpha  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Internal Medicine/ABIM  
Research Path  
*Dual Degree Program*  
*MD/PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences*



Andrea Biaggi-Ondina

Alpha Omega Alpha

*Residency/Program Match*

Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Plastic Surgery

Christopher Kyle Edwards Black

*Residency/Program Match*

Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Internal Medicine

Mariaelena Boyle

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award Presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation - The Truman G. Blocker, Jr., MD Gold Headed Cane Award

*Residency/Program Match*

University of Michigan Hospitals, General Surgery

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Humanities*

Kristen Brehm

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Surgery-Preliminary

Sydnee Brown

*Residency/Program Match*

Baylor College of Medicine, Surgery-Preliminary

Avi Bukhbinder

Alpha Omega Alpha

*Residency/Program Match*

Massachusetts General Hospital, Child Neurology

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Humanities*

Bethany Bundrant

Alpha Omega Alpha

*Residency/Program Match*

Baylor College of Medicine, Internal Medicine

Delfina Bur

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, Transitional Year

The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, Dermatology

Scot Carson Callahan, Jr.

*Residency/Program Match*

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Medicine-Preliminary

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Radiation Oncology

*Dual Degree Program*

MD/PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Jonathan Scott Carroll

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston, Psychiatry

Santiago Ceron

*Residency/Program Match*

Rush University Medical Center, General Surgery

Aditi Chalise

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, Pediatrics

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Humanities*

Jeffrey Chau

*Residency/Program Match*

Lahey Clinic, Anesthesiology

Max Azim Chehadi

*Residency/Program Match*

Deferred

Dalbert Chen

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

Loma Linda University, Medicine Preliminary

Loma Linda University, Ophthalmology

Jonathan Chen

*Residency/Program Match*

University of Chicago Medical Center, Family Medicine

*Dual Degree Program*

MD/MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

Amber Chen-Goodspeed

*Residency/Program Match*

New York-Presbyterian/Queens, General Surgery

Luis Enrique Chinaea

Alpha Omega Alpha

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Natasha Cigarroa

*Residency/Program Match*

Yale-New Haven Hospital, Internal Medicine

James Clynes

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston, Psychiatry

Kendall Coleman

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Dermatology

Suzanne Marie Coles

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, Pediatrics

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Advocacy and Child Health*

Joseph Corey

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

Alyssa Kathleen Crain

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Pediatrics

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Humanities*

Ellen Holderman Crowe

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Karen Natasha Cuartas Jimenez

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Christina Danna

Helen and William Guynn Award in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Humanities*

Harsha Sai Dannapaneni

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary

New York University Grossman School of Medicine, Anesthesiology

Nicholas Oscar Davidson

Alpha Omega Alpha

*Residency/Program Match*

Memorial Hermann, Family Medicine

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Humanities*

Susie De la Torre

*Residency/Program Match*

University of Illinois College of Medicine, Medicine-Pediatrics

Karanvir Dhothar

*Residency/Program Match*

Methodist Hospital, Anesthesiology

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Humanities*

Edward Diaz

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, General Surgery

*Dual Degree Program*

MD/MBA, University of Houston-Clear Lake

John Bradley DiFebo

*Residency/Program Match*

University of Central Florida/HCA Healthcare, Emergency Medicine

Helene DiGregorio

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

Methodist Hospital, Internal Medicine

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Advocacy and Child Health*

Kelly Ditter

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

Methodist Hospital, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Marco Antonio Dominguez

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Madeline Drake

*Residency/Program Match*

Methodist Hospital, Vascular Surgery

Bradley Due

Alpha Omega Alpha

*Residency/Program Match*

Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Anesthesiology

Pannel Chike Egboh

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

**Kelly Erickson**  
 Alpha Omega Alpha  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 University of Oklahoma, Pediatrics

**Samuel Erickson**  
 Alpha Omega Alpha  
 Gold Humanism Honor Society  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 University of Oklahoma, Otolaryngology

**Gabriel Diego Valmoria Espinosa**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 The University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston, Pediatrics

**Gillian Crawford Evans**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 Baylor College of Medicine, Pediatrics

**Kasra Nick Fallah**  
 Alpha Omega Alpha  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 Indiana University School of Medicine, Plastic Surgery

**James Fan**  
 Alpha Omega Alpha  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Ophthalmology  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Global Health*

**Alexis Farmer**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Medical Education*

**Triana Fernandez**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 OBH Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center, Surgery-Preliminary

**Alan Flores**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, Anesthesiology

**Victor Garcia**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 Baylor College of Medicine, Anesthesiology

**Timothy Philip George**  
 Alpha Omega Alpha  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, Emergency Medicine

**Thamana Ghani**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville, Emergency Medicine

**Sarah Glazer**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 Oregon Health & Science University, Internal Medicine  
*Dual Degree Program*  
*MD/PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences*

**Stephen Eric Glombicki**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Medical Humanities*  
*Dual Degree Program*  
*MD/MBA, University of Houston-Clear Lake*

**Jonathan Goldberg**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 University of Alabama Medical Center-Birmingham, Internal Medicine

**Colin Goodman**  
 Alpha Omega Alpha  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Psychiatry  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Medical Humanities*

**Amier Haidar**  
 Gold Humanism Honor Society  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center, Internal Medicine  
*Dual Degree Program*  
*MD/MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health*

**Sarah Hallbauer**  
 Alpha Omega Alpha  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 Memorial Hermann, Family Medicine

**Anam Haque**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, Child Neurology  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Medical Humanities*

**Hannah Harvey**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, Emergency Medicine

**Avery Michelle Hebert**  
 Alpha Omega Alpha  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 University of Miami/Jackson Health System, General Surgery  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Medical Humanities*

**Andrea Emily Hernandez**  
 Gold Humanism Honor Society  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 Baylor College of Medicine, Anesthesiology

**Vanessa Hernandez**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, Anesthesiology  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Medical Humanities*  
  
**Elizabeth Herrin**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Pediatrics

**Madeleine Mary Hines Salge**  
 Alpha Omega Alpha  
 Gold Humanism Honor Society  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 Baylor College of Medicine, Internal Medicine

**Ezekiel Hinojosa**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

**Bryan Hoang**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston, Transitional Year

**Zachary Chase Hoelscher**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, Orthopedic Surgery

**Emma Holmes**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 Baptist Health, Transitional Year  
 Zucker School of Medicine-Northwell NS/LIJ, Radiology-Diagnostic

**Nicholas Faulkner Holton**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Family Medicine

**Charlotte Hunt**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Internal Medicine

**Bisma Ikram**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Pediatrics  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Medical Humanities*

**Amrutha Immadi**  
 Gold Humanism Honor Society  
*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
*Dual Degree Program*  
*MD/MBA, University of Houston-Clear Lake*

**Anthony Jennings**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 Deferred

**Robin Jeong**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine, Internal Medicine

**Jeff Jin**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Psychiatry

**Kaitlin Elisabeth Joest**  
 Gold Humanism Honor Society  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 Methodist Hospital, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
*Dual Degree Program*  
*MD/MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health*

**Arjun Venkat Jogimahanti**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

**Nicholas Johnson**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, General Surgery

**Naveen Kalavar**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
 McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine



Pranali Sandip Kamat

Residency/Program Match

Lehigh Valley Hospital, Surgery-Preliminary

Charani Kamath

Residency/Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Neurosciences

Sam Karimaghaei

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency/Program Match

University of Arkansas, Ophthalmology

Scholarly Concentration

Global Health

Kaveeta Kaw

Residency/Program Match

Emory University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine/Research

Dual Degree Program

MD/PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Monika Faye Keiser

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency/Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary

McGovern Medical School, Dermatology

Bard Kennady

Residency/Program Match

Deferred

Neik Khansari

Residency/Program Match

Tulane University School of Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Kirsten Killough

Residency/Program Match

Methodist Hospital, Internal Medicine

Joseph BK Kim

Residency/Program Match

Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, Internal Medicine

Dual Degree Program

MD/PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Katherine Klein

Residency/Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Krishna Kosigi

Residency/Program Match

The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Anesthesiology

Rebecca Kow

Residency/Program Match

Deferred

Jasper Kuhn

Residency/Program Match

Loyola University Medical Center, Pediatrics

Michael Kutzler

Residency/Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Orthopedic Surgery

Blake Lackey

Residency/Program Match

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Laura Landis

Walter G. Sterling Award for Excellence

Residency/Program Match

HCA Las Palmas del Sol Healthcare, Transitional Year

Camille Le Gardeur de Tilly

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency/Program Match

Oregon Health & Science University, General Surgery

Kevin Lee

Residency/Program Match

Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional Year

McGovern Medical School, Dermatology

Jesse Li

Residency/Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Harry Yihai Liu

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency/Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary

Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Lucy Liu

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency/Program Match

Louisiana State University Health Science Center-Shreveport, Otolaryngology

Yoshimi Lu

Residency/Program Match

Deferred

Megan Lutchman

Residency/Program Match

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Family Medicine

Dual Degree Program

MD/MPH, UTHHealth School of Public Health

Komal Luthra

Outstanding Student in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Residency/Program Match

HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston, Transitional Year

Johns Hopkins Hospitals, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Morgan Kathleen Lynch

Residency/Program Match

University of Tennessee Health Science Center, General Surgery

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Ashlyn Manley

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency/Program Match

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Medical Education, Emergency Medicine

Victoria A. Mañón

Residency/Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Dual Degree Program

MD/OMFS, UTHHealth Houston School of Dentistry

Manon Masson

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency/Program Match

The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, Pediatrics

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Bradley McClintic

Residency/Program Match

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

Natalie McGinnis

Residency/Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Pediatrics

Allison Courtney Medina

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency/Program Match

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Neurological Surgery

Madison Meek

Residency/Program Match

Kaiser Permanente-San Jose, Family Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Grant Meeks

William E. Pasteur Memorial Scholarship For Excellence in Neurology

Residency/Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Neurology

Gabriel Millare

Residency/Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Emergency Medicine

Ava Mirtsching

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency/Program Match

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Radiology-Diagnostic

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Wylie Masterson Moody

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Outstanding Student in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Residency/Program Match

HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston, Transitional Year

McGovern Medical School, Dermatology

Veronica Carol Morgan

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency/Program Match

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Emergency Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Trisha Mulamreddy

Residency/Program Match

University of California, Davis Medical Center, Pediatrics

Dual Degree Program

MD/MPH, UTHHealth School of Public Health

Cole Murbach

Residency/Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Dual Degree Program

MD/OMFS, UTHHealth Houston School of Dentistry

<b>Niharika Neela</b> <b>Alpha Omega Alpha</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Internal Medicine
<b>Thomas Nguyen</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry
<b>Ali Abraham Noorbaksh</b> <b>Gold Humanism Honor Society</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Internal Medicine <i>Scholarly Concentration</i> <i>Medical Humanities</i>
<b>Janet Nwokolo-Aniekwu</b> <b>Gold Humanism Honor Society</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Obstetrics and Gynecology <i>Scholarly Concentration</i> <i>Global Health</i>
<b>Rachel Obimah</b> <b>Gold Humanism Honor Society</b> <b>Outstanding Student in Internal Medicine</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Duke University Medical Center, Internal Medicine <i>Scholarly Concentration</i> <i>Geriatric and Palliative Medicine</i>
<b>Jamal Ojeaga</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Methodist Hospital, Anesthesiology
<b>Kaleigh Olmsted</b> <b>Alpha Omega Alpha</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Medical University of South Carolina, Obstetrics and Gynecology
<b>Erin Irene Orozco</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Methodist Hospital, Orthopedic Surgery <i>Dual Degree Program</i> <i>MD/MPH, UTHHealth School of Public Health</i>
<b>Hannah Maria Ortiz</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Baylor College of Medicine, Internal Medicine

<b>Sreelekha Paladugu</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Rush University Medical Center, Surgery-Preliminary University of Chicago Medical Center, Anesthesiology <i>Scholarly Concentration</i> <i>Neurosciences</i>
<b>Dev Patel</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Case Western Reserve University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Internal Medicine, Leadership in Medical Education
<b>Lalit Patel</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Deferred <i>Dual Degree Program</i> <i>MD/PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences</i>
<b>Mayur Patel</b> <b>Gold Humanism Honor Society</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> John Peter Smith Hospital, Psychiatry
<b>Romil D. Patel</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine <i>Scholarly Concentration</i> <i>Medical Humanities</i> <i>Dual Degree Program</i> <i>MD/MS, UTHHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics</i>
<b>Shailen Patel</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Zucker School of Medicine-Northwell Mather Hospital, Psychiatry
<b>Erinn Pemberton</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Memorial Hermann, Family Medicine
<b>Andrew P. Perry</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery <i>Dual Degree Program</i> <i>MD/OMFS, UTHHealth Houston School of Dentistry</i>
<b>Kylie Peterson</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Anesthesiology

<b>Carolyn Lee Petr</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Surgery-Preliminary
<b>Anh Thu Pham</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Memorial Hermann, Family Medicine
<b>Kay Pham</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, Psychiatry <i>Scholarly Concentration</i> <i>Molecular and Translational Medicine</i>
<b>Rachel Pham</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Urology
<b>Luan Phan</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine
<b>Katie Phung</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Anesthesiology <i>Scholarly Concentration</i> <i>Medical Humanities</i>
<b>John Placide</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Oregon Health & Science University, Ophthalmology <i>Dual Degree Program</i> <i>MD/MPH, UTHHealth School of Public Health</i>
<b>Vinathi Polamraju</b> <b>Alpha Omega Alpha</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Internal Medicine <i>Scholarly Concentration</i> <i>Molecular and Translational Medicine</i>
<b>Nicole Poling</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Orthopedic Surgery <i>Scholarly Concentration</i> <i>Medical Humanities</i>
<b>Luciano Posada</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> University of Florida College of Medicine-Shands Hospital, Obstetrics and Gynecology

<b>Azim Pothiwala</b> <b>Alpha Omega Alpha</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> CHRISTUS Health, Emergency Medicine
<b>Sydney Power</b> <b>Alpha Omega Alpha</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> University of North Carolina Hospitals, Internal Medicine
<b>Farrah Enayet Rahim</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Internal Medicine
<b>Srivathsan Ramesh</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Orthopedic Surgery
<b>Ayeshum Rasool</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Pediatrics
<b>Nisha Reddy</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary
<b>Theja Reddy</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University/NMH/VA, Medicine-Preliminary McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University/NMH/VA, Neurology <i>Scholarly Concentration</i> <i>Medical Humanities</i>
<b>William Rieger</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> McGovern Medical School, General Surgery
<b>Jessica Rivas</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center, Obstetrics and Gynecology
<b>Ibis Rojas</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Creighton University, Obstetrics and Gynecology
<b>Alexis Piccoli Rondon</b> <i>Residency/Program Match</i> Memorial Healthcare System, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Erika Salarda

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

Maurine Sam

Alpha Omega Alpha

Outstanding Student in Pediatrics

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Pediatrics

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Education*

Chloe Sarfatis

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine-  
Little Rock, Medicine-Pediatrics

Gregory Sattler

*Residency/Program Match*

Waco Family Medicine Institute, Family Medicine

Carson Savrick

*Residency/Program Match*

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine-  
Little Rock, Pediatrics

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Humanities*

Matthew Brion Sawyer

Alpha Omega Alpha

*Residency/Program Match*

Baylor College of Medicine, Internal Medicine

Shayak Sen

*Residency/Program Match*

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Medicine-Preliminary

Cedars-Sinai Med Center, Neurology

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Molecular and Translational Medicine*

Evan Shegog

*Residency/Program Match*

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Internal Medicine

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Emergency Preparedness and Response*

Jasper Shei

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

Jordan Shive

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Outstanding Student in Surgery

*Residency/Program Match*

Baylor University Medical Center-Dallas, Internal Medicine

Karen Lynn Slater

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Psychiatry

Lauren Elizabeth Smith

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Pediatrics

Travis Hampton Smith

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

Loyola University Medical Center, General Surgery

Diandra Liselle Socha

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Katherine Elaine Stebbins

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

The State University of New York Upstate Medical University,  
Obstetrics and Gynecology

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Humanities*

Sarah Syed

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Internal Medicine

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Education*

Michael Stefan Tang

*Residency/Program Match*

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Beth Israel, Psychiatry

Will Tanigaki

Outstanding Student in Neurology

*Residency/Program Match*

Methodist Hospital, Neurology

Telavive Taye

*Residency/Program Match*

Presbyterian Hospital, Internal Medicine

Mubeen Muradali Tejani

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Anesthesiology

Eliora Tesfaye

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Plastic Surgery

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Medical Humanities*

Daniel Brent Thomas

Alpha Omega Alpha

*Residency/Program Match*

University of Alabama Medical Center-Birmingham, Anesthesiology

Joel Thomas

*Residency/Program Match*

University of California, Davis Medical Center, Surgery-Preliminary

University of Miami/Jackson Health System, Radiology-Interventional

Andrew Thomson

*Residency/Program Match*

Nassau University Medical Center, Medicine-Preliminary

Nassau University Medical Center, Ophthalmology

Robert Thomson

*Residency/Program Match*

Albany Medical College, Medicine-Preliminary

Albany Medical College, Ophthalmology

Ashley Robyn Tom

*Residency/Program Match*

Harbor-University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center,

Medicine-Preliminary

Harbor-University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center,

Radiology-Diagnostic

Carlos Tovar

Alpha Omega Alpha

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Angelique Turner

*Residency/Program Match*

Baylor College of Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Uma Vaidyanathan

*Residency/Program Match*

Emory University School of Medicine, Anesthesiology

Sheiva Vakili

*Residency/Program Match*

HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston, Transitional Year

McGovern Medical School, Radiology-Diagnostic

Laura Olivia Van Buskirk

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Mallory Vial

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Obstetrics and Gynecology

*Dual Degree Program*

*MD/MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health*

Andrew Wang

*Residency/Program Match*

HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston, Transitional Year

McGovern Medical School, Radiology-Diagnostic

Courtney Wang

*Residency/Program Match*

Baylor College of Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Jerry Wang

Alpha Omega Alpha

*Residency/Program Match*

McGovern Medical School, Surgery-Preliminary

Jevons Wang

*Residency/Program Match*

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine-Little Rock,  
Emergency Medicine

Jacob Watson

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

*Residency/Program Match*

Methodist Hospital, Vascular Surgery

*Scholarly Concentration*

*Molecular and Translational Medicine*

Julianna Rose West

Alpha Omega Alpha

*Residency/Program Match*

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Internal Medicine

**Joseph Wilder**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary  
McGovern Medical School, Radiology-Diagnostic

**Lindsay Anne Wilken**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
The University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston,  
Obstetrics and Gynecology

**Taylor John Willenbring**  
**Alpha Omega Alpha**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
The State University of New York Upstate Medical University,  
Orthopedic Surgery  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Clinical Quality, Safety, and Evidence-Based Medicine*

**William Won**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary  
The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, Physical Medicine  
and Rehabilitation

**Yared Wondemagegn**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
John Peter Smith Hospital, Family Medicine

**Jeffrey Woods**  
**Hitoshi C. Nikaidoh, MD Award for Humanism in Medicine**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Medical Humanities*

**Jun Yan**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
University of Maryland Medical Center, Internal Medicine

**Abby Caroline Ybarra**  
**Alpha Omega Alpha**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Deferred  
*Dual Degree Program*  
*MD/MPH, UTHHealth School of Public Health*

**Cristian Ybarra**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
John Peter Smith Hospital, Orthopedic Surgery

**Joseph Young**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
St. Louis University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine

**Sheila Zare**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Family Medicine

**Jesse Zeng**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston, Transitional Year

**Greg Zhang**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Texas Health Resources, General Surgery  
*Dual Degree Program*  
*MD/MBE, Rice University*

**Ning Olivia Zhao**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

**Stephanie Zhao**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
McGovern Medical School, Pediatrics  
*Dual Degree Program*  
*MD/MPH, UTHHealth School of Public Health*

**Denise Zheng**  
*Residency/Program Match*  
Case Western Reserve University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center,  
Psychiatry  
*Scholarly Concentration*  
*Medical Humanities*

**UTHealth Houston alumni** have established careers across the nation and across the world. Our extraordinary students have graduated to become doctors, dentists, dental hygienists, nurses, medical researchers, public health experts, health informatics system analysts, professors, educators, and leaders in the health care community.

Through the Office of Alumni Engagement, alumni may attend Joint Alumni Mixers and other events, receive printed and electronic communications, and get involved in various programs.

To learn more, visit **uthealthhoustonalumni.org**.

**Congratulations graduates!** We can’t wait to welcome you into the **UTHealth Houston Alumni Community!**



Today, we have the opportunity to celebrate the **Class of 2022** in a special way.

At the heart of the UTHealth Houston mission is the quest to educate compassionate health leaders. Together, with the generosity of people like you, we pursue this goal by preparing exceptional students to improve the well-being of our communities.

As we celebrate commencement and all that this year's graduates have achieved, a gift in honor of your student will help unlock new opportunities for future classes at UTHealth Houston.

**Scan the QR code** below to learn how your commitment will make a difference.

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