

2021

UTHealth · The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

HONORING THE GRADUATES OF

UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics

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

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth



UTHealth • The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

HONORS OUR GRADUATES AT TODAY'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Sunday, May 2, 2021

ONE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

Minute Maid Park

501 CRAWFORD STREET • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

AS THEY RECEIVE DEGREES FROM

UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics

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

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth



UTHealth® | The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

LEADERSHIP

UTHEALTH

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 SCHOOLS

Richard J. Andrassy, MD

Executive Dean *ad interim*, McGovern Medical School at UTHealth

Michael Blackburn, PhD

Dean, MD Anderson 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

John A. Valenza, DDS

Dean, UTHealth School of Dentistry

Jiajie Zhang, PhD

Dean, UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

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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
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Executive Vice Chancellor, Health Affairs



the history of **UTHEALTH**

Established in 1972 by The University of Texas System Board of Regents, **The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth)** is Houston's Health University and Texas' resource for health care education, innovation, scientific discovery, and excellence in patient care.

As a comprehensive health science university, the mission of UTHealth 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.

The most comprehensive academic health center in the UT System and the U.S. Gulf Coast region, **UTHealth** is home to six schools:

Jane and Robert Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth

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

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

UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics

UTHealth School of Dentistry

UTHealth School of Public Health



TO OUR GRADUATES

In the midst of so many firsts that we have experienced as a community during the past year, I am honored to be a part of this first for UTHealth – a combined commencement ceremony that celebrates your achievements and the careers of service you are entering.

Bringing together our graduates of UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics, MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and McGovern Medical School at UTHealth 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.

As we face a global health crisis unlike anything we have seen before, 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 almost 50,000 UTHealth 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 PRESIDENT
ALKEK-WILLIAMS DISTINGUISHED CHAIR

UTHEALTH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

UTHealth Commencement Video

Introduction of UTHealth President Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD

Presidential Welcome

GIUSEPPE N. COLASURDO, MD

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

WALTER R. LOWE, MD

Commencement Address

J.J. WATT

Medal Presentation

DR. COLASURDO AND DR. LOWE

UTHealth 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. PISTERS

Diplomas and Hooding

MD ANDERSON UTHEALTH GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES FACULTY

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth

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. COLASURDO

Closing and Congratulations

DR. COLASURDO



| J.J. WATT |

2021 UHealth Commencement Speaker

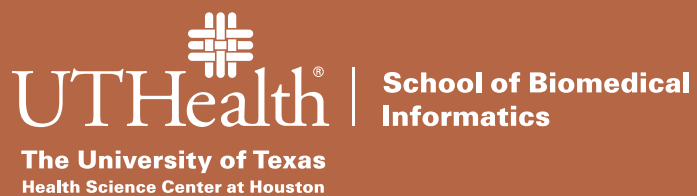
Justin James “J.J.” Watt is a defensive end for the Arizona Cardinals in the National Football League after having spent 10 seasons with the Houston Texans. Watt is a five-time Pro Bowl selection, five-time Associated Press (AP) First-Team All-Pro, and three-time AP Defensive Player of the Year. He set Texans franchise records in sacks, forced fumbles, and other defensive categories.

In 2010, Watt launched the Justin J. Watt Foundation, a charity organization that provides after-school athletic programs for children, giving them opportunities to expand their horizons and learn the valuable life skills of teamwork, perseverance, and community. The foundation’s motto is “Dream Big, Work Hard.” Currently, the foundation has donated more than \$6 million in equipment and uniforms to schools and youth programs across the U.S.

After Hurricane Harvey in 2017, Watt raised more than \$37 million to help with recovery and relief efforts. His foundation partnered with other charitable organizations in Houston to administer the funds—repairing and building housing, supporting food banks, and helping to fund physical and mental health care. For these efforts, he was named Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year and Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year.

Photo credit: Mizzen+Main / J.J. Watt

UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics



As a global academic leader in the areas of artificial intelligence, data science, and informatics, **UTHealth 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

Abdulaziz Alshaikh

Kelsea Auguillard

Thierno S. Ba

Imani Bell

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019

Shreyas P. Bhavsar

Trudie A. Bruno

Mehak S. Budhwani

Megan L. Canny

Laura E. Carter

Ngozi P. Chukwudebe

SBMI Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2020

Vaibhav S. Damle

Dzenad Dedic

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019

Sanmati V. Deshmane

Sayali S. Ethape

Neusoft Certificate Scholarship Fund, Fall 2019

SBMI Scholarship Excellence Fund, Spring 2021

Odinakachukwu Ezeigwe

Tabbitha M. Fagin

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019

Jordan Godfrey-Stovall

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019

Callie Hall

Ethan Harrison

Andrew Hedges

SBMI Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2020

Mark W. Hurd

Victoria O. Kolawole

James Turley Endowed Scholarship for Global Health, Spring 2019

Doris Ross Scholarship, Fall 2020

Rory J. Lettvin

Ryan J. Lewis

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019

Sarath Babu Manikonda

Agnita G. Manoharan

Richard R. Montalvo

Vi T. Nguyen

Academic Dean's Scholarship, Fall 2019

Jessica O. Okunbor

Sjoerd Steunebrink Scholarship, Fall 2019

SBMI Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2020

SBMI Dean's Excellence Scholarship, Spring 2021

Luis C. Oliveira

Neusoft Certificate Scholarship, Fall 2018

James Turley Endowed Scholarship for Global Health, Fall 2019

SBMI Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2020

Chidinma B. Onye

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019

Irene K. Otachi

Frederick W. Pagel

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019

Jorge E. Perez Torres

Irene R. Philip

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019

Yolanda Pizano

Ankita Podichetty

Deep K. Pujara

Doris Ross Scholarship, Spring 2018

Subhiksha Raghuram

New Student Scholarship, Fall 2019

Doris Ross Scholarship, Spring 2021

Alicia Segovia

Neusoft Certificate Scholarship, Fall 2018

SBMI Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2019

SBMI Dean's Excellence Scholarship, Fall 2020

Saliha Sulihem

Bilal Tariq

Jeritt Thayer

Sjoerd Steunebrink Scholarship, Fall 2019

SBMI SGO Scholarship, Fall 2020

Donald G. Thigpen

SBMI Dean's Excellence Scholarship, Spring 2020

Tiffany T.M. Tran

Laura E. Vincent

SBMI Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2020

Blake A. Weido

Sahar Yazdanfard

candidate receiving the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Informatics**

Maryam Y. Garza

SBMI Scholarship Excellence, Spring 2018
Willerson Endowed Scholarship, Spring 2019
SBMI Dean’s Excellence Scholarship, Summer 2020



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

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
**MD Anderson
Cancer Center®**


UTHealth®
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

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)** – 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

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

Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD

Assistant Dean, MD Anderson Cancer Center

candidates receiving the degree of **Master of Science**

Kaitlyn Kelly Amos

Barbara L. Kennedy Memorial Scholarship

Thesis

Influence of Genetic Counselor Personal or Family Medical History on Genetic Counseling Specialization and Practice

Advisor *Claire N. Singletary, MS*

Renee Leigh Bardini

Thesis

Isolated, Absent Cavum Septum Pellucidum: A Single Center's Outcomes and Review of the Literature

Advisor *Blair Stevens, MS*

Caroline Suzanne Bertsch

Genetic Counseling Scholarship

Thesis

The Course of Acute Stress Disorder and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Parents With Infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Advisor *Jennifer L. Czerwinski, MS, CGC*

Wendi Nicole Betting

Barbara L. Kennedy Memorial Scholarship

Genetic Counseling Scholarship

Thesis

Factors that Impact Uptake of Carrier Screening by Male Reproductive Partners of Female Prenatal Patients

Advisor *Meagan E. Choates, MS, CGC*

Grant Bonesteele

Jacqueline T. Hecht Founding Director Scholarship

Thesis

Then the Classification Changed: Assessing Genetic Counselors' Clinical Approach and Practices Regarding Pathogenic/Likely Pathogenic Variant Downgrades

Advisors *Jessica Corredor, MS, CGC, and Grace Tran, MS, CGC*

Bhargavi Brahmendra Barathi

James A. Baker III Transformation and Hope Scholarship

Thesis

Methyltransferase Like-3 (METTL3) in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC) Progression

Advisor *Anirban Maitra, MBBS*

Sarah Ashley Burke

Jacqueline T. Hecht Founding Director Scholarship

Thesis

Genetic Counselors' Approaches to Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing for Hereditary Breast Cancer

Advisor *Maureen E. Mork, MS, CGC*

Scott Howard Casey

Thesis

Determination of Thymic Epithelial Cell Composition and Proliferation During the Perinatal to Adult Transition

Advisor *Ellen R. Richie, PhD*

Cem Dede

L. Newton Thomas Fellowship

Thesis

Identification of TRIM24 Domain Essentiality in Primary TRIM24COE Carcinosarcoma Cell Lines

Advisor *Michelle Barton, PhD*

Lauren Chantel Douglas

Thesis

Disability Awareness Education and Implications for Genetic Counseling Student Curriculum: Perspectives from the Disability Community and Genetic Counselors

Advisor *Chelsea Wagner, MS, CGC*

Emily Louise Ensley

Thesis

Engineering B Cells for use in Immunotherapy and Cancer

Advisor *Katy Rezvani, PhD*

Katlyn R. Frane

Thesis

Insurance Approval Rates of Exome Sequencing and its Effect on Minority Patients' Access to Genetic Care

Advisors *Chelsea Wagner, MS, CGC, and Paul R Hillman, MD/PhD*

Chrystine Marie Gallegos

Thesis

Histological and Functional Characterization of Cervical Spinal Cord Injury after Graded Contusion

Advisor *Qi Lin Cao, MD*

Kaavya Giridhar

Thesis

MCP-1 Release Modulation Through Interaction of Pulmonary Endothelial Cells and Mesenchymal Stromal Cells

Advisor *Sean I. Savitz, MD*

Aranza Gonzalez Cendejas

Genetic Counseling Scholarship

Thesis

Implementation of Genetic Carrier Screening in the OB Population: Healthcare Cost Impact and Recommendation Adherence

Advisors *Rebecca D. Carter, MS, CGC, and Theresa Wittman, MS, CGC*

Shannon Elise Hartzell

Edward Jackson Scholarship

Robert J. Shalek Fellowship

Thesis

Quantifying Uncertainty in a Measurement-Based Assessment of Relative Biological Effectiveness in Carbon Ion Radiotherapy

Advisor *Stephen F. Kry, PhD*

Omar Hasan

Thesis

Investigating Diffusion Tensor Imaging Correlates of Cognitive Impairment in Idiopathic Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus and Alzheimer's Disease

Advisor *Paul E. Schulz, MD*

candidates receiving the degree of **Master of Science**

Oanh Ngoc Hoang

Thesis
Packaging and Secretion of Airway Mucins
Advisor Burton F. Dickey, MD

Katie Huang

The University of Texas Genetic Counseling Program Diversity Scholarship
Texas Society of Genetic Counselors Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Task Force Grant Award

Thesis
Investigating Barriers Experienced by Underrepresented Minority Applicants
in Becoming a Competitive Applicant for Genetic Counseling Programs
Advisor Claire N. Singletary, MS

Jonathan Chuck Jaoude

Thesis
Impact of EPA and DHA Supplementation and 15-LOX-1 Expression
on Colitis and Colitis-Associated Colorectal Cancer
Advisor Imad Shureigi, MD

Addison Quinn Johnson

Genetic Counseling Scholarship
Thesis
Assessing Patient Attitudes Toward Genetic Testing
for Hereditary Hematologic Malignancy
Advisor Sarah A. Bannon, MS, CGC

Lukas Daniel Kruidenier

Thesis
Genetic Testing in Pregnancies with Ultrasound Anomalies:
Exploration of Factors that Influence Uptake
Advisor Blair Stevens, MS

Christopher John LaFargue

Thesis
Identifying and Targeting Adaptive Changes to BET Inhibition in Ovarian Cancer
Advisor Anil K. Sood, MD

Olivia Denise Lara

Thesis
Evaluating the Therapeutic Efficacy of GRB2 Inhibition in Ovarian Malignancies
Advisor Anil K. Sood, MD

Yating Li

Mercedes-Benz of the Woodlands Scholarship
Thesis
Investigating the Role of Quaking in Antigen Uptake and Cross-presentation by Dendritic Cells
Advisor Cassian Yee, MD

Brandon Michael Luckett

Edward Jackson Scholarship
Robert J. Shalek Fellowship
Thesis
Commissioning of Micro-Cube Thermoluminescent Dosimeters for Small Field
Dosimetry Quality Assurance in Radiotherapy
Advisor Paige A. Taylor, MS, CGC

Ayesha Mahmood

Thesis
Mechanistic Insights into Vancomycin Resistance in Clostridioides Difficile
Advisor Charles Darkoh, PhD

Emily Elizabeth Martin

Thesis
Breast Cancer Risk for Female Relatives of Male Breast Cancer Patients
with Negative BRCA1/2 Testing
Advisors Chelsea Wagner, MS, CGC, and Rachel Bluebond, MS

Meaghan Patricia Mones

Thesis
Dermatological Concerns for Women and Girls with Turner Syndrome
Advisor David Rodriguez-Buritica, MD

Megan Pope Morand

Thesis
Exploring Motivational Factors to Pursue Genetic Counseling and Testing in Adolescent
and Young Adult Cancer Patients
Advisor Jessica Corredor, MS, CGC

Ahmed Muhsin

Thesis
BST2 Isoforms: Distribution and Potential Use in Cancer Therapeutics
Advisor Laura Bover, PhD

Mitra Nair

Thesis
Effects of Penfluridol on Integrin-FAK Signaling and Tumor Cell Killing
in Combination with Oncolytic HSV in Glioblastoma
Advisor Balveen Kaur, PhD

Maliha Nusrat

Thesis
Modulation of P13K-AKT Pathway in Colorectal Cancer
Advisor E. Scott Kopetz, MD, PhD

Jose Ortiz-Vitali

Thesis
iPSC-Based Gene Correction and Disease Modeling of a New Class
of LGMD Due to POGlut1 Mutation
Advisor Radbod Darabi, MD, PhD

Sumedha Pareek

Thesis
Bilirubin Nanoparticle as an Anti-Inflammatory Therapy for Graft Versus Host Disease
Advisor Jin Seon Im, MD, PhD

Ky Dong Pham

Thesis
p53R245W Mutation Elicits Metastatic Phenotype in Pten-Deficient Prostate Cancer
Advisor M. James You, MD, PhD

candidates receiving the degree of **Master of Science**

Bradley Philip Power

Jacqueline T. Hecht Founding Director Scholarship

Thesis

Investigating Medical Examiners’ Practices: Genetic Evaluation for Fatal Acute Aortic Dissection

Advisors Krista J. Qualmann, MS, CGC, and Alana Cecchi, MS, CGC

Yutao Qi

Thesis

Assessing the Outcomes of Blocking CCR2+ Myeloid Cell Infiltration on Breast Cancer Brain Metastasis

Advisor Dihua Yu, MD, PhD

Visweswaran Ravikumar

Thesis

Molecular Consequences of High TAZ Expression in Gliomas

Advisors Arvind Rao, PhD, and Krishna P.L. Bhat, PhD

Rosemary P. Rogers

Thesis

Spectrum and Incidence of Hematologic Malignancies in Individuals with BRCA1 and BRCA2 Pathogenic Variants

Advisor Courtney D. DiNardo, MD, MSCE

Vivian Salama

Thesis

Preclinical Studies of a Novel IDH1 Inhibitor in Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)

Advisor Marina Konopleva, MD, PhD

MennatAllah Shaheen

Fulbright Foreign Student Scholarship

Thesis

Investigating the Role of CD109 in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma

Advisor Giulio F. Draetta, MD, PhD

Kathleen Rose Shields

Thesis

Genetics in the NICU: Nurses’ Existing and Desired Knowledge

Advisor Kathryn Gunther, MS

Ruchi Singh

Thesis

Methods to Investigate Hyperthermia Induced by Tumor Treating Fields

Advisor David Grosshans, MD, PhD

Luo Song

Thesis

Development of Computational Tools to Target MicroRNA Structure Motifs

Advisor Shuxing Zhang, PhD

Emily Catherine Stiglich

Genetic Counseling Scholarship

Thesis

Genetic Counselors’ Experiences with and Approaches to Discordant Genotypic and Phenotypic Sex Detected via Non-invasive Prenatal Testing

Advisor Victoria E. Wagner, MS, CGC

Janani Subramaniam

Margolis, Phipps & Wright Charitable Foundation Presidential Scholarship

Thesis

Obscurin Mediates Ankyrin Complex Formation in the Heart

Advisor Shane R. Cunha, PhD

Shraddha Subramanian

Thesis

A Screen for Peptides Targeting Chemoresistant Metastatic Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Advisor Mikhail G. Kolonin, PhD

Amber N. Thomas-Gordon

Thesis

Artificial Intron Technology to Generate Conditional Knock-Out Mice

Advisor Jan Parker-Thornburg, PhD

Sujanitha Umamaheswaran

Thesis

Effect of Sympathetic Nervous System Mediators on the Tumor Microenvironment via Small Extracellular Vesicles in Ovarian Cancer

Advisor Anil K. Sood, MD

Autumn Elizabeth Vara

Genetic Counseling Scholarship

Thesis

Frequency of Copy Number Variants Involving the Sex Chromosomes in a Clinical Setting

Advisor David F. Rodriguez-Buritica, MD

Rolando Antonio Vedia

Thesis

Modulating Avidity of h8F4-CAR by Regulation of Expression via Codon Modification

Advisor Jeffrey Molldrem, MD

Ruoyu Wang

Mercedes-Benz of the Woodlands Scholarship

Eugene Vaughan Endowed Scholarship

Thesis

Dissecting the Roles of Human SMC Complexes in Transcription Regulation and Chromatin Organization

Advisor Wenbo Li, PhD

Clinton Yam

Thesis

Role of c-MET and EGFR in Acquired Resistance to PARP Inhibitors in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Advisor Jeffrey T. Chang, PhD

Victoria Constance Yan

Merck Research Award

Thesis

Great Expectations: Phosph(on)ate Prodrugs in Drug Design - Opportunities and Limitations

Advisor Florian L. Muller, PhD

Jiah Yang

Thesis

The GSK-3 β -FBXL21 Axis Regulates TCAP via Ubiquitin-Mediated Proteasomal Pathway in the Cytoplasm

Advisors Seung-Hee Yoo, PhD, and Mark J. Burish, MD, PhD

candidates receiving the degree of **Master of Science**

Wahaj Ahmed Zuberi

Thesis

A Pharmacological Strategy Against African Sleeping Sickness

Advisor Nayun Kim, PhD

candidates receiving the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy**

Brian Mark Anderson

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship
Society of Interventional Radiology Allied Scientist Grant

Dissertation
Improving Treatments of Local Liver Disease with Biomechanical Modeling and Deep Learning
Advisor Kristy K. Brock, PhD

Erin Atkinson

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research
CPRIT Graduate Scholar

Dissertation
NPSD4: A New Player in the DNA Damage Response
Advisor Bin Wang, PhD

Cavan Bailey

The Schissler Foundation Fellowship
R. W. Butcher Achievement Award
Gigli Family Endowed Scholarship

Dissertation
Targeting Unique Domains of LSD1 Regulates Pediatric Glioma Innate Immunity and NK Cell Metabolism
Advisor Joya Chandra, PhD

Ryan M. Baumert

Dee S. and Patricia Osborne Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences
UTHealth NRC Graduate Student Brain Awareness Outreach Award

Dissertation
A Novel Switch-Like Function of delta-catenin in Dendrite Development
Advisor Pierre D. McCrea, PhD

Lisa Maria Becker

The Antje Wuelfrath Gee and Harry Gee, Jr. Family Legacy Award
Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Endowed Scholarship
Rosalie B. Hite Graduate Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dissertation
Functional Heterogeneity and Metabolic Adaptation of Fibroblasts in Cancer
Advisor Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD

Alem Abebe Belachew

AACR Scholar-in-Training Award

Dissertation
Genetic and Clinical Determinants of Racial/Ethnic Differences in Multiple Myeloma Susceptibility and Outcomes Focusing on Hispanics
Advisor Michelle A.T. Hildebrandt, PhD

Naomi Bier-Reizes

Dissertation
The Influence of the PEP-PTS and Other Metabolic Systems on the Master Virulence Regulator AtxA and Toxin Gene Expression in *Bacillus anthracis*
Advisor Theresa M. Koehler, PhD

Alexandria T. M. Blackburn

Presidents’ Research Scholarship
Schissler Foundation Fellowship
Dean’s Research Award

Dissertation
A Novel Role for DYRK1A in Kidney Development
Advisor Rachel Miller, PhD

Sherille Denaé Bradley

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research
UTHealth Golf Tournament Scholarship

Dissertation
Vestigial-Like 1 Is a Shared Targetable Cancer-Placenta Antigen Expressed by Pancreatic and Basal-Like Breast Cancers
Advisor Gregory A. Lizee, PhD

Daniela Branco

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship
Robert J. Shalek Fellowship

Dissertation
Development of a CT Metal Artifact Reduction Algorithm for Proton Therapy Planning in Head and Neck patients using Gantry Angles Tilts
Advisor David S. Followill, PhD

Margo Patricia Cain

Dissertation
Understanding Intercellular Signaling During Lung-Injury Repair
Advisor Jichao Chen, PhD

Chao-Hsien Chen

Dr. John J. Kopchick Research Award

Dissertation
Reversal of Neurodegeneration by Engineered Monocytes in Alzheimer’s Disease
Advisor Michael Curran, PhD

Jessica Jie Chen

Dean’s Excellence Scholarship

Dissertation
DHHCS Regulates Beta-Adrenergic Signaling in the Heart Through Palmitoylation of G Alpha Proteins
Advisor Darren F. Boehning, PhD

Jianji Chen

Dissertation
Discovery of Novel Ubiquitin-and Methylation-Dependent Interactions using Protein Domain Microarrays
Advisor Mark T. Bedford, PhD

Jiun-Sheng Chen

Dissertation
RareVariant Association Studies in Crohn’s Disease and Colorectal Cancer: Methods and Applications
Advisor Chad Huff, PhD

candidates receiving the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy**

Mei-Kuang Chen

Jesse B. Heath, Jr., Family Legacy Award
Larry Deaven, PhD, Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences
Scholarship for Excellence in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
at MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dissertation

Receptor Tyrosine Kinases-Mediated Acquired PARP Inhibitor Resistance in Breast Cancer

Advisors Dihua Yu, MD, PhD, and Mien-Chie Hung, PhD

Alexandria Patricia Cogdill-Trubelja

MD Anderson Cancer Center CPRIT Graduate Scholar
Fulbright Research Scholar
Dr. John. J. Kopchick Fellowship

Dissertation

Unraveling Host-Gut Microbiota Dialogue and Its Impact on Response
to Immune Checkpoint Blockade

Advisors Jennifer Wargo, MD, and James Allison, PhD

Scott Dale Collum

Dissertation

Role of NUDT21-Mediated Alternative Polyadenylation and Hyaluronan
in the Development of Pulmonary Hypertension

Advisor Harry Karmouty-Quintana, PhD

Caitlin Alane Creasy

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Investigation of the Functional Impact of ANTI-PD-1 on Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocytes (TIL)
and Mapping of Tumor Genomic Features Relevant for Response to TIL Therapy

Advisors Michael Davies, MD, PhD, and Chantale Bernatchez, PhD

Josephine Kebbeh Darpolor

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research
Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship
Rosalie B. Hite Graduate Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Fibroblast Heterogeneity in Pancreatic Cancer Immunity

Advisors Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD, and Timothy McDonnell, MD

Alexander Joseph Davis

Dean's Excellence Scholarship
American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Statistical Methods for Resolving Intratumor Heterogeneity with Single-Cell DNA Sequencing

Advisor Nicholas Navin, PhD

Marimar de la Cruz Bonilla

Charlene Kopchick Fellowship
AACR Scholar-in-Training Award
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Dissertation

Fasting Reduces Intestinal Radiotoxicity Enabling Dose-Escalated
Radiotherapy for Pancreatic Cancer

Advisors Helen Piwnica-Worms, PhD, and Cullen M. Taniguchi, MD, PhD

Merve Dede

Cancer Answers/Sylvan Rodriguez Scholarship
The Schissler Foundation Fellowship

Dissertation

Biases and Blind-Spots in Genome-Wide CRISPR-Cas9 Knockout Screens

Advisor G. Traver Hart, PhD

Barbara Diaz-Rohrer

The Antje Wuelfrath Gee and Harry Gee, Jr. Family Legacy Scholarship
Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship
UTHealth GSBS Outstanding Dissertation Award

Dissertation

The Role of Membrane Domains in Protein and Lipid Sorting During Endocytic Traffic

Advisor Ilya Levental, PhD

George Edwards III

Roberta M. and Jean M. Worsham Endowed Fellowship Award
McGovern Medical School Dean's Research Scholarship Award
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Dissertation

The Effect of Traumatic Brain Injury on tau Pathology by a Potential Seeding Mechanism

Advisors Claudio Soto, PhD, and Ines Moreno-Gonzalez, PhD

Krystal English

Dissertation

Astrocytes Rescue Neuronal Health After Cisplatin Treatment
Through Mitochondrial Transfer

Advisor Jacoba Heijnen, PhD

Aimee Theresa Farria

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Fellowship in Cancer Research
Cure on the Colorado Fellowship

Dissertation

GCN5 Loss Impacts MYC-Driven Cancer in Mice and Human Cells

Advisor Sharon Y. R. Dent, PhD

Kristine Lynn Ferrone

Steve Lasher and Janiece Longoria Graduate Student Research Award
in Cancer Biology

Floyd Haar, MD, Endowed Memorial Research Award in Honor of Freda Haar

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship

Dissertation

Active Magnetic Radiation Shielding for Long-Duration Human Spaceflight

Advisors Stephen F. Kry, PhD, and Charles E. Willis, PhD

David Bruce Flint

AAPM Best in Physics (Therapy)

Dissertation

The Importance of DNA Repair Capacity to (and a model to predict) Cell Radiosensitivity to Ions

Advisor Gabriel Sawakuchi, PhD

Haven R. Garber

Dissertation

Subclonal Evolution of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia after Allogeneic T Cell Therapies

Advisor Jeffrey J. Mouldrem, MD

candidates receiving the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy**

Evan Donald Huckins Gates

NIH National Library of Medicine Fellowship in Biomedical Informatics and Data Science

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Imaging Based Prediction of Glioma Pathology and its Impact on Successful Surgery

Advisors *David T. A. Fuentes, PhD, and Dawid Schellingerhout, MChB*

Mallory Carson Glenn

Rosalie B. Hite Fellowship in Cancer Research

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Characterization of Treatment Planning System Photon Beam Modeling Errors in IROC Houston Phantom Irradiations

Advisor *Stephen F. Kry, PhD*

Jennifer Brooke Goldstein

Dissertation

Tracking Treatment Response and Resistance to PARP Inhibition (Talazoparib) in Hereditary Pancreatic Cancer

Advisor *Andrew Futreal, PhD*

Joshua Philip Gray

City Federation of Women’s Club Endowed Scholarship in the Biomedical Sciences

Dissertation

Directed Evolution of Macrocyclic Peptides for Inhibition of Autophagy

Advisor *Steven Millward, PhD*

Jared Michael Henderson

Dissertation

The Role of PAG1 in ABC-DLBCL

Advisor *Richard Davis, MD*

Shelley Marie Herbrich

Presidents’ Research Scholarship

Cancer Answers Sylvan Rodriguez Scholarship

Dissertation

Putative Roles of CD200 in the Leukemogenesis and Immune Evasion of Leukemia Stem Cells

Advisor *Marina Konopleva, MD, PhD*

Kara Schoenemann Hood

John and Rebekah Harper Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences

Presidents’ Research Scholarship

Dissertation

Mutations Within and Between Early Cell Division Proteins and their Effects on Division Regulation in Escherichia Coli

Advisor *William Margolin, PhD*

Brittany Ellis Jewell

The University of Texas System Student Regent

CPRIT Innovation in Cancer Prevention Research Fellow

Dr. John J. and Charlene Kopchick Fellowships

Dissertation

Increased Oxidative Phosphorylation in an iPSC-derived model of Rothmund-Thomson Syndrome Associated Osteosarcomagenesis

Advisor *Dung-Fang Lee, PhD*

Ayesha Khan

Presidents’ Research Scholarship

McGovern Medical School Dean’s Scholarship Award

IDWeek 2019 Distinguished Researcher Award by the Infectious Diseases Society of America

Dissertation

Molecular Mechanisms of Antibiotic Resistance in Multidrug Resistant Enterococci

Advisor *Cesar A. Arias, MD, PhD*

Minseon Kim

GSBS Endowment Scholarship

Mogam Science Scholarship

Dissertation

Functions of *DCP2* and *SKI7* in mRNA degradation

Advisor *Ambro van Hoof, PhD*

Junsuk Ko

George M. Stancel, PhD Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences

American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship

American Thoracic Society Student Scholar Award

Dissertation

Alternative Polyadenylation Modulates Expression of Pro-Fibrotic Proteins and Contributes to Lung Fibrosis

Advisor *Michael R. Blackburn, PhD*

Estefania Labanca

T. C. Hsu Memorial Scholarship

Floyd Haar, MD, Endowed Memorial Research Award in Memory of Freda Haar

AACR Scholar-in-Training Award

Dissertation

Relevance of FGFR1 and Its Isoforms in Prostate Cancer Bone Metastases

Advisor *Nora M. Navone, MD, PhD*

Walter Frank Lenoir IV

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Investigation of Proliferation Suppressors in Genetic Fitness Screens

Advisor *G. Traver Hart, PhD*

Chieh Yuan Li

Dean’s Excellence Scholarship

Dissertation

Longitudinal Clonal Lineage Dynamics and Functional Characterization of Pancreatic Cancer Chemo-Resistance and Metastasization

Advisors *Giulio F. Draetta, MD, PhD, and Andrea Viale, MD*

Danielle Renae Little

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Presidents’ Research Scholarship

Gigli Family Endowed Scholarship

Dissertation

The Genome-Wide Roles of the Lung Lineage Transcription Factor NKX2-1 in the Regulation of Opposing Cell Fates In Vivo

Advisor *Jichao Chen, PhD*

candidates receiving the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy**

Douglas Bryan Litwin

Dissertation

Investigations of the Structure-Function Relationship in Kainate Receptors Using Förster Resonance Energy Transfer

Advisor Vasanthi Jayaraman, PhD

Jintan Liu

Dissertation

Multiplexed CRISPR Libraries for Cancer Functional Genomics

Advisor Giulio F. Draetta, MD, PhD

Elia Rose Lopez

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA)

Charlene Kopchick Fellowship

Dr. John J. and Charlene Kopchick Fellowships

Dissertation

Investigating Mechanisms in Nociceptors Driving Ongoing Activity and Ongoing Pain

Primary Advisor Edgar T. Walters, PhD; Secondary Advisor Carmen Dessauer, PhD

Krishnan Kulumani Mahadevan

Dissertation

The Functional Contribution of Adaptive Immunity in the Biology of Pancreatic Cancer and Therapeutic Targeting of Oncogenic Kras

Advisor Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD

Lorena Maili

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Linda M. Wells GSBS Outreach Award

Dissertation

Genetic Pathway Analysis of Abnormal Facial Development in Nonsyndromic Cleft Lip and Palate

Advisor Jacqueline Hecht, PhD

Jeanne Marie Dominique P. Manalo

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

Tzu Chi Scholarship Award for Excellence

Dissertation

Elevated Cochlear Adenosine Causes Hearing Loss via ADORA2B Signaling

Advisor Yang Xia, PhD

Roxsan Manshouri

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship

Dissertation

Uncovering the ZEB1 Interactome to Identify Novel Regulators of Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

Advisor Don L. Gibbons, MD, PhD

Sara Katherine Martin

The Pauline Altman-Goldstein Foundation Discovery Fellowship

Dissertation

Disruption of DNA Polymerase Zeta Promotes an Innate Immune Response

Advisor Richard Wood, PhD

Joseph Gabriel Meier

Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Computer and Instrumentation Council Young Investigator Award, Honorable Mention

Dissertation

Assessment of New Innovations in PET/CT for Respiratory Motion Correction

Advisor Osama R. Mawlawi, PhD

Kimiya Memarzadeh

Marilyn and Fredrick R. Lummis, Jr. MD, Fellowship in the Biomedical Sciences

Dee S. and Patricia Osborne Endowed Scholarship in Neuroscience

Roberta M. and Jean M. Worsham Endowed Fellowship

Dissertation

Endocytic Trafficking and Exosomal Secretion of EGFRvIII

Advisor Andrew J. Bean, PhD

Keith Andrew Michel

Dissertation

Hyperpolarized Carbon-13 Magnetic Resonance Measurements of Tissue Perfusion and Metabolism

Advisor James A. Bankson, PhD

Trevor Martin Mitcham

Dissertation

Development of Quantitative Ultrasound-Mediated Molecular Imaging of the Tumor Microenvironment

Advisor Richard Bouchard, PhD

Drew Palmer Mitchell

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Med-Into-Grad Fellowship

Dissertation

An Information Theory Model for Optimizing Quantitative Magnetic Resonance Imaging Acquisitions

Advisor David T. A. Fuentes, PhD

Sydney M. Moyer

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

P53 Drives a Transcriptional Program that Elicits a Non-Cell-Autonomous Response and Alters Cell State in Vivo

Advisor Guillermina Lozano, PhD

Odemaris Narváez del Pilar

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Tzu Chi Scholarship Award for Excellence

Dissertation

Regulation of Lung Mesenchymal Cells by Epithelial Wnt Ligands

Advisor Jichao Chen, PhD

Tucker James Netherton

Larry Deaven PhD Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences

Fadine J. Roquemore Scholarship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

A Fully-Automated, Deep Learning-Based Framework for Computed Tomography-Based Localization, Segmentation, Verification, and Treatment Planning of Metastatic Vertebrae

Advisor Laurence E. Court, PhD

candidates receiving the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy**

Mark Andrew Newpower

Dissertation

Modeling Proton Relative Biological Effectiveness Using Monte Carlo Simulations of Microdosimetry

Advisor Radhe Mohan, PhD

Teresa Tuê-Minh Nguyễn

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship for Cancer Research

Dissertation

Study of the Therapeutic Effects in Solid Tumors of the Combination of Oncolytic Adenoviruses, T-cell Activators, and Blockade of the IDO-Kynurenine-AhR Metabolic Circuitry

Advisors Juan Fueyo, MD, and Candelaria Gomez-Manzano, MD

John O’Malley

Ralph B. Arlinghaus, PhD Scholarship

Dissertation

Cellular and Circuit Properties of Slow Oscillations in the Thalamic Reticular Nucleus

Advisors Michael Beierlein, PhD

Devin Erin Plote

The University of Texas Graduate Archer Fellowship

Dissertation

Inhibition of Urothelial Carcinoma by Type I Interferon Activation of the Innate and Adaptive Immune Response

Advisor Kimberly S. Schluns, PhD

Naveen Ramesh

MD Anderson Cancer Center CPRIT Graduate Scholar

T.C. Hsu Memorial Scholarship

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarship in Cancer Research

Dissertation

Decoding the Evolutionary Response to Prostate Cancer Therapy Using Plasma Genome Sequencing

Primary Advisors Nicholas Navin, PhD, and Amado Zurita, MD; Secondary Advisor Ana Aparicio, MD

Johnathon L. Rose

Pauline Altman-Goldstein Foundation Discovery Fellowship

Dissertation

A Context-Forward in vivo Functional Genomics Platform for Target Discovery and Establishing Vulnerability Context in Pancreatic Cancer

Advisor Giulio F. Draetta, MD, PhD

Iman Sahnouné

CPRIT Graduate Scholar

Cancer Answers/Sylvan Rodriguez Scholarship

Dee S. and Patricia Osborne Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences

Dissertation

Characterization of a novel oncogenic miRNA inhibitor in cancer therapy

Advisor George Calin, MD, PhD

Donald Anastas Sakellariou-Thompson

Dissertation

Bringing TIL Therapy Beyond Melanoma: Advancing the Treatment of Advanced Pancreatic and Ovarian Cancers

Advisors Chantale Bernatchez, PhD, and Patrick Hwu, MD

Travis Cole Salzillo

Investing in Student Futures Scholarship

Caroline Ross Endowed Fellowship in Brain Cancer Research

MD Anderson Cancer Center CPRIT Graduate Scholar

Dissertation

Investigating the Metabolic Progression of Glioblastoma with Hyperpolarized Magnetic Resonance

Advisor Pratip Bhattacharya, PhD

Jeremiah Wayne Sanders

The Pauline Altman-Goldstein Foundation Discovery Fellowship

Dissertation

Development of Fully Balanced SSFP and Computer Vision Applications for MRI-Assisted Radiosurgery (MARS)

Advisor Jingfei Ma, PhD

Rosa M. Santana Carrero

Rosalie B. Hite Graduate Fellowship in Cancer Research

Linda M. Wells GSBS Outreach Award

Dissertation

Elucidating the Roles of IL-15 in the Tumor Microenvironment

Advisors Kimberly S. Schluns, PhD, and Shao-Cong Sun, PhD

Maryam Shariati

Dissertation

Combined Inhibition of DDR1 and CDK4/6 Induces Synergistic Effects in ER-positive, HER2-negative Breast Cancer with PIK3CA/AKT1 Mutations

Advisor Funda Meric-Bernstam, MD

Seula Shin

Presidents’ Research Scholarship

The Russell and Diana Hawkins Family Foundation Discovery Fellowship

Sam Taub and Beatrice Burton Endowed Fellowship in Vision Disease

Dissertation

QKI-mediated Cholesterol Biosynthesis in Eye Lens and Myelin of the Central Nervous System

Advisor Jian Hu, PhD

Sanjana Srinivasan

CPRIT Graduate Scholar

Jesse B. Heath, Jr. Family Legacy Award

Dissertation

Computation Approaches to Delineate Transcriptional and Functional Heterogeneity in Pancreatic Cancer

Advisor Giulio F. Draetta, MD, PhD

Vanja Krneta-Stankic

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

Gigli Family Endowed Scholarship

Dissertation

The Role of DAAM1 in Kidney Development

Advisor Rachel Miller, PhD

Robert Andrew Szczepaniak Sloane

Dissertation

MicroRNAs Associated with Melanoma Inflammation and Response to PD-1 Inhibition

Advisor Jennifer Wargo, MD

Jonika Tannous

Roberta M. and Jean M. Worsham Endowed Fellowship
Dee S. and Patricia Osborne Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences

Dissertation
An Exploration of Neuroanatomical Signatures of Pediatric Bipolar Disorder
Using Structural Neuroimaging
Advisor *Jair C. Soares, MD, PhD*

Jena Leigh Tavormina

Tzu Chi Scholarship Award for Excellence
Ruth L. Kirschstein Training Grant Fellowship
Linda M. Wells GSBS Outreach Award

Dissertation
Identification and Molecular Analysis of DNA in Exosomes
Advisor *Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD*

Ndidi-Ese Eunice Uzor

Dee S. and Patricia Osborne Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences
The Russell and Diana Hawkins Family Foundation Discovery Scholarship

Dissertation
Aging Lowers PEX5 Levels in Cortical Neurons in Male and Female Mouse Brains
Advisor *Andrey Tsvetkov, PhD*

Burak Uzunparmak

Dissertation
Loss of Caspase-8 Function in Combination with SMAC Mimetic Treatment Sensitizes
Head and Neck Squamous Carcinoma to Radiation Through Induction of Necroptosis
Advisor *Curtis R. Pickering, PhD*

Shradha Wali

Wei Yu Family Endowed Scholarship
Dissertation
Inducible Epithelial Resistance Against Acute Viral Pneumonia and Chronic Asthma
Advisor *Scott Evans, MD*

Christopher Paul Walker

Dissertation
The Role of Gamma Oscillations and Cortical Inhibition in the Development
of Working Memory in Adolescence
Advisor *Raymond Y. Cho, MD*

Bryan Wehrenberg

Dissertation
Molecular Drivers of Bladder Cancer Cell Motility
Primary Advisor *David McConkey, PhD*; *Secondary Advisor* *Pierre McCrea, PhD*

Robert Bryan Williams

Dissertation
Alternative Carbon Utilization as a Virulence Determinant for *Candida albicans*
Advisor *Michael C. Lorenz, PhD*

Kerri Wolf-Dennen

Dissertation
Exosomal Communication by Metastatic Osteosarcoma Cells modulates Alveolar Macrophages
to an M2 Tumor-Promoting Phenotype and Inhibits Tumoricidal Functions
Advisor *Eugenie Kleinerman, MD*

Fang Xia

Jesse B. Heath, Jr., Family Legacy Scholarship
Dissertation
A Signature Enrichment Design with Bayesian Adaptive Randomization for Cancer Clinical Trials
Advisor *Xuelin Huang, PhD*

Zhenna Xiao

Rosalie B. Hite Graduate Fellowship in Cancer Research
Gigli Family Endowed Scholarship
Scholarships for Excellence in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Dissertation
Deubiquitinating Enzymes Promote Cancer Progression and Metastasis via Regulating Protein Stability
Advisor *Li Ma, PhD*

Jian Xiong

Roberta M. and Jean M. Worsham Endowed Fellowship
Dissertation
Ionic Mechanism of Lysosomal Function and Cell Metabolism
Advisor *Michael X Zhu, PhD*

Jie Yang

Dissertation
Deconvolute Brain Tumor Genomic Alterations Based on DNA Methylation
Advisor *Eric P. Sulman, MD, PhD*

Ruoji Zhou

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarship in Cancer Research
McGovern Medical School Dean’s Scholarship Award
Fellowship in Innovation for Cancer Prevention Research
Dissertation
Modeling Cancer Using L-Fraumeni Syndrome Patient-Derived Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells
Advisor *Dung-Fang Lee, PhD*

Yanhong Zhou

Investing in Student Futures Fellowship
Dissertation
Bayesian Adaptive Designs and Versatile Software Platform for Early Phase Clinical Trials
Primary Advisor *J. Jack Lee, DDS, PhD*; *Secondary Advisor* *Ying Yuan, PhD*

candidates receiving the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy ~ MD / PhD**

Marisa Janelle Lynne Aitken

Steve Lasher and Janiece Longoria Graduate Student

Research Award in Cancer Biology

Floyd Haar, MD, Endowed Memorial Research Award in Honor of Freda Haar

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship

Dissertation

Heterogeneous Nuclear Ribonucleoprotein K (hnRNP K) Overexpression and Its Interaction with RUNX1 RNA in Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Advisor Sean M. Post, PhD

Maureen Aliru

Nuclear-targeted Gold Nanoparticles Enhance the Effects of Radiation Therapy with and without Liposomal Delivery

Advisors Sunil Krishnan, MD, and Sang Hyun Cho, PhD

Nathaniel Karl Berg

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship

Mercedes Benz of The Woodlands Scholarship

Dissertation

Endogenous Mechanisms Regulating Myeloid Cell Mediated Inflammation During Acute Lung Injuries

Advisor Holger K Eltzschig, MD PhD

Ryan Michael Cassidy

Sam Taub and Beatrice Burton Endowed Fellowship in Vision Disease

Dissertation

Hypothalamic Circuits Mediating Consumption and Anxiety

Advisor Qingchun Tong, PhD, and Edgar T Walters, PhD

Grant Matthew Fischer

Presidents’ Research Scholarship

Schissler Foundation Fellowship

Dissertation

Oxidative Phosphorylation: A Critical Feature and Novel Therapeutic Target in Melanoma Brain Metastases

Advisor Michael A. Davies, MD, PhD

Kiefer James Forseth

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Presidents’ Research Scholarship

Dean’s Research Scholarship

Dissertation

Cortical Dynamics of Language

Advisor Nitin Tandon, MBBS

Nicholas Emanuel Karagas

Dissertation

Calcium Dyshomeostasis in Neurodegeneration

Advisor Kartik Venkatachalam, PhD

Natasha Kharas

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship

The Russell and Diana Hawkins Family Foundation Discovery Scholarship

Dissertation

Impact of Synchrony on Neuronal Coding and Behavior

Advisor Valentin Dragoi, PhD

Cory Wilson

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

The Schissler Foundation Fellowship

Dissertation

Sine Oculis Homeobox Homolog1 (SIX1) Plays a Critical Role in the Progression of Pulmonary Fibrosis

Advisor Harry Karmouty-Quintana, PhD

Jamie Mae Wright

Training Interdisciplinary Pharmacology Scientists Fellowship

Harry S. & Isabel C. Cameron Foundation Fellowship

Dissertation

Smooth Muscle Cell Specific Knock-out of Pcnt Leads to Phenotypic Modulation in vitro and Atherosclerotic Disease in vivo

Advisor Dianna Milewicz, MD, PhD



McGovern Medical School at UTHealth


UTHealth[®]
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

McGovern
Medical School

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth 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. 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 INVIOABLY
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

Patricia Butler, PhD

Vice Dean, Educational Programs

Margaret McNeese, MD

Vice Dean, Admissions and Student Affairs

STUDENT HOODERS

Mark Hormann, MD

Assistant Dean, Medical Student Education

Sheela Lahoti, MD

Associate Dean, Admissions and Student Affairs

Soham Roy, MD

Assistant Dean, Admissions and Student Affairs

Eugene Toy, MD

Assistant Dean, Medical Student Education

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

Taylor Abercrombie

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Anesthesiology

Daniel Aaron Abramson

Residency / Program Match

Wright State University / Wright-Patterson

Air Force Base, Psychiatry

Heba Abdullah Ahmad

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Orthopaedic Surgery

Marisa Janelle Lynne Aitken

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

University of Michigan, Internal Medicine,
Physician Scientist Training Program

Dual Degree Program

PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Travis Alford

Alpha Omega Alpha McGovern

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Excellence in Orthopaedic Surgery

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Orthopaedic Surgery

Scholarly Concentration

Nanomedicine and Biomedical Engineering

Edgar Ali Alvarado-Munoz

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Plastic Surgery

Andrea Amaro

Residency / Program Match

UT Southwestern, Internal Medicine

Albert Amran

Residency / Program Match

The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Neurology

Scholarly Concentration

Neurosciences

Kylie Elizabeth Anthony

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Emory University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Hayden Allen Anz

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Orthopaedic Surgery

Panayotis Apokremiotis

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

University of Washington, Surgery-Preliminary

Maria Jose Araujo

Residency / Program Match

Naval Medical Center San Diego, Emergency Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Makenna Isabella Arca

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

St. Louis Children's Hospital, Pediatrics

Julia Munson Armstrong

Residency / Program Match

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio,

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Michael Armstrong

Residency / Program Match

HCA Medical City Healthcare, Family Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Janet Rose Ashley

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, General Surgery

John-Paul Brocato Bach

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, General Surgery

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Michael Brendan Bagg

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

University of Colorado School of Medicine, Pediatrics

Scholarly Concentration

Advocacy and Child Health

Preston Baker

Residency / Program Match

Loyola University Medical Center, Internal Medicine

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

Steven Balandran

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Surgery-Preliminary
McGovern Medical School, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Lauren Beck

Residency / Program Match

Albany Medical Center, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Rachel Cantu Beck

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

UT Southwestern, Psychiatry

Ashley Bell

Residency / Program Match

Vidant Medical Center/East Carolina University, Pediatrics

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Amber Berumen

Residency / Program Match

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Pathology

Andrew Martin Bhagyam

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Surgery-Preliminary
McGovern Medical School, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Vivek Bhandari

Residency / Program Match

Baylor College of Medicine, Surgery-Preliminary

Madeline Bos

Residency / Program Match

Baylor College of Medicine, Psychiatry

Munir Hassan Buhaya-Hidalgo

Residency / Program Match

UT Southwestern, General Surgery

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Erin Felice Bundock

Residency / Program Match

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Anesthesiology

Shelley Burge

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Internal Medicine

Helen Burks-Mann

Residency / Program Match

Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Child Neurology

Scholarly Concentration

Geriatric and Palliative Medicine

Hayden Faulkner Byrd

Residency / Program Match

The University of Tennessee, Graduate School of Medicine, Transitional Year
Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Radiation Oncology

Frank Cai

Residency / Program Match

Loyola University Medical Center, Internal Medicine

Fanni Barbara Cardenas

Alpha Omega Alpha

Walter G. Sterling Award for Excellence

Residency / Program Match

Denver Health Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

Rachel Elise Carlson

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Justin Carranza

Residency / Program Match

San Antonio Military Medical Center, Internal Medicine

Alejandro Chapa

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

Alexandria Ann Childs

Residency / Program Match

University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, Urology

Sally Jean Choi

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio,
Diagnostic Radiology

Isabella Victoria Ciuffetelli Alamo

Residency / Program Match

Emory University School of Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Amanda Hayley Clorfeine

Residency / Program Match

St. Louis Children's Hospital, Child Neurology

Scholarly Concentration

Advocacy and Child Health

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

Benjamin Mycroft Cohn

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Neurology

Dual Degree Program

MBA, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Cynthia Marie Coots

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

New York Medical College-Westchester/Metropolitan, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Scholarly Concentration

Global Health

Cristian Cruz

Residency / Program Match

Deferred

Maile Elizabeth Curbo

Alpha Omega Alpha

Excellence in Orthopaedic Surgery

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Orthopaedic Surgery

Dual Degree Program

MBA, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Anna Diem Huong Dang

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Joy Marion Davis

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

Johns Hopkins Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Scholarly Concentration

Molecular and Translational Medicine

Jesse Abraham Degani

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

Scripps Clinic/Green Hospital, Internal Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Karen Suzanna Delgado

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

Yesenia Alejandra Delgado

Residency / Program Match

The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, Pediatrics

Zachary Jacob DeZeeuw

Residency / Program Match

The University of Texas Medical Branch, Medicine-Preliminary

The University of Texas Medical Branch/Methodist, Ophthalmology

Vijay Arjun Dharmaraj

Residency / Program Match

Baylor College of Medicine, Surgery-Preliminary

Scholarly Concentration

Neurosciences

Jacqueline Shan Dickey

Residency / Program Match

University of Utah Health, Internal Medicine

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Brett Austin Dillon

Residency / Program Match

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Anesthesiology

Nicholas Alexander Dodd

Residency / Program Match

Memorial Health-University Medical Center, Pediatrics

Min Yi Dong

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Family Medicine

Anamaria Dragan

Residency / Program Match

Emory University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine

Dustin Earl Dudley

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Excellence in Emergency Medicine

Residency / Program Match

Wright State University, Emergency Medicine

Anne Anhthu Duong

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary

McGovern Medical School, Ophthalmology

Andrew Eck

Residency / Program Match

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio,

Orthopaedic Surgery

Margeaux Chiou Epner

Residency / Program Match

UT Southwestern, Anesthesiology

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

Esmeralda Ruby Espinosa

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Anesthesiology

Joe Angel Espinoza, Jr.

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

Sahira Farooq

Residency / Program Match

Presbyterian Hospital, Medicine-Preliminary

McGovern Medical School, Dermatology

Emily Rose Fisher

Alpha Omega Alpha

William E. Pasteur Memorial Scholarship For Excellence in Neurology

Residency / Program Match

University of Virginia, Neurology

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

Scholarly Concentration

Advocacy and Child Health

Karly Flemmons

Residency / Program Match

Medical College of Georgia, Emergency Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Rebecca Alison Foreman

Residency / Program Match

Rush University Medical Center, Pediatrics

Kiefer James Forseth

Residency / Program Match

UC San Diego Medical Center, Neurological Surgery

Dual Degree Program

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

Eric Allen Fris

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Clinical Quality, Safety, and Evidence-Based Medicine

Jason Matthew Fuller

Residency / Program Match

UT Southwestern, Emergency Medicine

Angie Garay

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Emergency Medicine

Margaret Garrett

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry/Child Psychiatry

Bobby James Gerich, Jr.

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Michelle Ghebranious Farag

Residency / Program Match

UT Southwestern, Internal Medicine

Gabriella Go

Residency / Program Match

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Scholarly Concentration

Global Health

Rishi Goel

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

Scholarly Concentration

Clinical Quality, Safety, and Evidence-Based Medicine

Kira Gomez

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

Scholarly Concentration

Neurosciences

Shaina W. Gong

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Otolaryngology

Victor S. Gonzalez, III

Residency / Program Match

Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Internal Medicine

Jessica Michelle Green

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

University of Southern California, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Weston Cole Grove

Residency / Program Match

New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, Emergency Medicine

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

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

Himanshu Gupta

Residency / Program Match

HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston, Emergency Medicine

Jana Charlene Gutierrez

Residency / Program Match

University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Psychiatry

Rigo Gutierrez

Residency / Program Match

Phoenix Children's Hospital, Pediatrics

Maryam Haider

Residency / Program Match

John Peter Smith Hospital, Transitional Year

Baylor College of Medicine, Diagnostic Radiology

MacGregor Nathan Hall

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

University of Florida College of Medicine-Shands Hospital,

Medicine-Preliminary

University of Florida-Gainesville, Ophthalmology

Christopher David Hamad

Residency / Program Match

Deferred

Scholarly Concentration

Molecular and Translational Medicine

Jaime Haro Silerio

Residency / Program Match

Baylor College of Medicine, Internal Medicine

Devonne Harris

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Anesthesiology

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Education

Eden Henry

Residency / Program Match

Carolinas Medical Center, Pediatrics

Monica Herbst

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Neurology

Maria Paulina Hernandez

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University, Internal Medicine

Aaron William Hocher

Residency / Program Match

Baylor College of Medicine, Surgery-Preliminary

Emmalee Bergez Holt

Outstanding Student in Pediatrics

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Pediatrics

Frances Grace Howard

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Medicine-Pediatrics

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

John Joseph Howell

Residency / Program Match

Rush University Medical Center, Interventional Radiology

Skyler Mario Howell

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Urology

Alexander Hunt

Residency / Program Match

John Peter Smith Hospital, Family Medicine

Marina Kristy Ibraheim

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston, Transitional Year

Loma Linda University, Dermatology

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Education

Tasia Shirlene Doretha Isbell

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

Children's Hospital-Boston, Pediatrics, Urban Health Advocacy

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

Aaron Gerard Issac

Residency / Program Match

Emory University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine

John William Jackson

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

St. David's Healthcare, General Surgery

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

Alexandra Lynée Janda

Certificate of Excellence in Diagnostic Imaging & Intervention

Residency / Program Match

HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston, Transitional Year
McGovern Medical School, Diagnostic Radiology

Abhishek Kadiyala

Residency / Program Match

HCA Medical City Healthcare, Internal Medicine

Nicholas Emanuel Karagas

Alpha Omega Alpha

Outstanding Student in Neurology

Residency / Program Match

University of Washington, Neurology

Dual Degree Program

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

Padmavathi V. Karri

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

Baylor College of Medicine, Medicine-Preliminary
McGovern Medical School, Dermatology

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Matthew Kelly

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Cameron Gregory Kerl

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Orthopaedic Surgery

Niki Bharat Khandheria

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

Baylor College of Medicine, Pediatrics/PC Leadership Program

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHHealth School of Public Health

Natasha Kharas

Outstanding Student in Neuroscience

Residency / Program Match

New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center, Neurological Surgery

Dual Degree Program

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

Jessica Lauren Kim

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Surgery-Preliminary

Mark Ignatius Knackstedt

Residency / Program Match

Louisiana State University Health Science Center-Shreveport, Otolaryngology

Scholarly Concentration

Clinical Quality, Safety, and Evidence-Based Medicine

Sahithi Kothamasu

Residency / Program Match

Tulane University School of Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology

John Krapf

Residency / Program Match

University of Illinois College of Medicine, Anesthesiology

Coco Kubicki

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

University of Virginia, Anesthesiology

Sungita Deepti Kumar

Residency / Program Match

New York University School of Medicine, Medicine-Preliminary
New York University School of Medicine, Neurology

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Luke Kupcha

Residency / Program Match

University of North Carolina Hospitals, Neurology

Matthew Lagarde

Residency / Program Match

Tulane University School of Medicine, Psychiatry

Jessilyn Laney

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

Walter Reed Medical Center, Internal Medicine

Kyle Lauck

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary

Adam James Lazarus

Residency / Program Match

University of Florida College of Medicine-Shands Hospital, Family Medicine

Eric Jesse Lee

Residency / Program Match

Temple University Hospital, Psychiatry

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

Frederick Ian LeMaistre

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Johns Hopkins Medicine, Internal Medicine

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

Sarah Elizabeth Linson

Residency / Program Match

University of Utah Health, Internal Medicine

Andrei Loghin

Residency / Program Match

The University of Texas Medical Branch, Internal Medicine

Monica Lu

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Anesthesiology

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Andrea Elizabeth Lugo-Morales

Residency / Program Match

Baylor College of Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Bert Ma

Residency / Program Match

SUNY Upstate Medical University, Medicine-Preliminary

SUNY Upstate Medical University, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Rosalie Macias

Residency / Program Match

University of Colorado School of Medicine, Anesthesiology

Nneka Brittany Madu

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Anesthesiology

Hallie Malone

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Helen and William Guynn Award in Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

Christopher Scott Manis

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Surgery-Preliminary

McGovern Medical School, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Roja Manohar

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary

Antoine Marc

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Cleveland Clinic, Vascular Surgery

Stephanie Martinez Ugarte

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, General Surgery

Corinne Fotso

Residency / Program Match

Deferred

John Montague McCarthy

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Emergency Medicine

Morgan Paige McCormick

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Pediatrics

Annika Lisa Medhus

Residency / Program Match

The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, Neurology

Kyle Kenneth Meissner

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Internal Medicine

Dual Degree Program

MBA, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Nick Merutka

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Surgery-Preliminary

Chase Matthew Miller

Hitoshi C. Nikaidoh, MD Award for Humanism in Medicine

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary

Bishop Andrew Mitchell

Residency / Program Match

UT Southwestern, Family Medicine

David Thaddeus Mitchell

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

University of Washington, Surgery-Preliminary

Nicholas Robert Fisher Moll

Residency / Program Match

University of Michigan, Surgery-Preliminary

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

Brandilyn Kemunto Monene

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

Baylor College of Medicine, Internal Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Global Health

William Alexander Morris

Residency / Program Match

Baylor University Medical Center, Internal Medicine

Isabelle Allison Mulder

Residency / Program Match

UT Southwestern, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Amy Mullikin

Residency / Program Match

Western Michigan University Stryker School of Medicine, Medicine-Pediatrics

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHHealth School of Public Health

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Angela Murira

Residency / Program Match

UT Southwestern, Anesthesiology

Alexandra Bili Newman

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Internal Medicine

Millie Angel Nishikawa

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Family Medicine

Ashley Nicole Notzon

Residency / Program Match

B. I. Deaconess Medical Center, Transitional Year

McGovern Medical School, Diagnostic Radiology

Tyler James Novy

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Pediatrics

Scholarly Concentration

Clinical Quality, Safety, and Evidence-Based Medicine

Tracy Nwanne

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

John Peter Smith Hospital, Emergency Medicine

Ethan Holden Nyein

Residency / Program Match

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
(Morningside/West), Obstetrics & Gynecology

Margaret Sutton O'Brien

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

University of Chicago Medical Center, Psychiatry

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Priscila Olague

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Colleen Alice O'Neill

Residency / Program Match

The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, Internal Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Olivia Raquel Ortiz

Residency / Program Match

Methodist Health System Dallas, Internal Medicine

Stephen Palasi

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Urology

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Education

Anurag L. Panjabi

Residency / Program Match

Baylor College of Medicine, Pediatrics

Viraj Jay Parikh

Residency / Program Match

Swedish Medical Center, Surgery-Preliminary

Benjamin Jinsung Park

Residency / Program Match

Ohio State University Medical Center, Medicine-Preliminary

Ohio State University Medical Center, Ophthalmology

Tayler Dawn Parker

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary

McGovern Medical School, Dermatology

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Education

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

Aashini Rajesh Patel

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary
McGovern Medical School, Diagnostic Radiology

Anthony N. Patrizz

Residency / Program Match

University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, Neurological Surgery

Guillermo Ruben Pechero, Jr.

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Orthopaedic Surgery

Austin Michael Pickrell

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary
University of Arizona College of Medicine, Diagnostic Radiology

Chase Plowman

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Anesthesiology

Alexis Marie Poffenbarger

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Methodist Hospital, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Jordan Colovas Price

Residency / Program Match

HCA Medical City Healthcare-Arlington, Family Medicine

Sarah Rose Price

Residency / Program Match

WellStar Kennestone Regional Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

Regan Lee Puckett

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Blake Jeffrey Purtle

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Colton Reeh

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Medicine-Preliminary
Baylor College of Medicine, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Tailour Monet Roberson

Residency / Program Match

UT Southwestern, Anesthesiology

Michelle Angelique Robinson

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Louisiana State University School of Medicine, Medicine-Preliminary
Johns Hopkins Hospital, Dermatology

Miranda Claire Rogers

Residency / Program Match

University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Psychiatry

Thomas Alexander Rogers

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

CHRISTUS Health, Emergency Medicine

Jacob Joseph Ryall

Residency / Program Match

Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation, Transitional Year
McGaw Medical Center for Northwestern University, Anesthesiology

Aria Sabbagh

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Neurological Surgery

Scholarly Concentration

Molecular and Translational Medicine

Taha Ali Sahrapour

Residency / Program Match

University of Arizona College of Medicine, Psychiatry

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Emilio Ismael Salinas

Residency / Program Match

The University of Texas Health Science Center
at San Antonio, Emergency Medicine

Lara Walid Samarneh

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Emergency Medicine

Servando Sanchez, Jr.

Residency / Program Match

University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Psychiatry

Jessica Yeary Sanders

Residency / Program Match

Duke University Medical Center, Family Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

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

Mario Christopher Sandoval

Residency / Program Match

Emory University School of Medicine, Child Neurology

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Gabrielle Santiago

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Anesthesiology

Joaquin Santoy, IV

Residency / Program Match

Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals

Cleveland Medical Center, Psychiatry

Chandler Sargent

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Child Neurology

Sheridan Schulte

Residency / Program Match

University of Colorado School of Medicine, Pediatrics

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

Fauniel Alicia Self

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Emergency Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Advocacy and Child Health

Angela Sheng

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Kyle Sheppard

Residency / Program Match

University of South Alabama, Surgery-Preliminary

Sara Shirai

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Pathology

Nandita Singh

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

Duke University Medical Center, Internal Medicine

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

Cedar Ann Slovacek

Residency / Program Match

St. Louis University School of Medicine, Plastic Surgery

Richard Henry Smilie

Residency / Program Match

The University of Texas Medical Branch, Anesthesiology

Matthew Stanley Smith

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Anesthesiology

Kevin B. Sok

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston, Transitional Year

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Diagnostic Radiology

Neomary Soriano-Calderon

Residency / Program Match

Deferred

Anthony Soto

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Surgery-Preliminary

Robert Spencer

Residency / Program Match

Albany Medical Center, General Surgery

Caroline Therese Starling

Alpha Omega Alpha

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Outstanding Student in Dermatology

Residency / Program Match

University of North Carolina Hospitals, Medicine-Preliminary

McGovern Medical School, Dermatology

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Sydne Elizabeth Steward

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Child Neurology

Mark B. Suh

Residency / Program Match

Methodist Hospital, Internal Medicine

Shannon Kimberly Swisher

Residency / Program Match

Emory University School of Medicine, General Surgery

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

Isabella Taglialatela

Residency / Program Match

Methodist Hospital, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Zachary Tallackson

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Psychiatry

Brian Tang

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

Cleveland Clinic, General Surgery

Ayana Taylor

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

University of California Irvine Medical Center, Medicine-Preliminary

VA Greater Los Angeles Health, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Keziah Thomas

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Nicole Thomason

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Stanford University, Internal Medicine

Alyssa Leigh Tigner

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

University of Arizona College of Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Dual Degree Program

MBA, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Eric Faiguan Tom

Residency / Program Match

Tower Health/St. Christopher's Hospital, Pediatrics

Justin Tran

Residency / Program Match

HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston, Transitional Year

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio,

Diagnostic Radiology

Lindsey Ulin

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Outstanding Student in Internal Medicine

Residency / Program Match

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Internal Medicine

Scholarly Concentration

Medical Humanities

Jocelyn Derienne Mack Ursua

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Internal Medicine

Jessica Haley Van Sweringen

Residency / Program Match

University of Michigan Medical School, Anesthesiology

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

Marty Sree Maruthi Vemu

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

Methodist Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery

Alex Villarreal

Residency / Program Match

Wake Forest University, Ophthalmology

Kehan Vohra

Residency / Program Match

Baylor University Medical Center, Medicine-Preliminary

Annie Reed Waite

Residency / Program Match

University of Central Florida College of Medicine/GME Consortium,

Surgery-Preliminary

Kayla Walter

Residency / Program Match

University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Pediatrics

Tori Waters

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Harvard South Shore, Psychiatry

Jessica Dymond Williams

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, Family Medicine

Dual Degree Program

MPH, UTHealth School of Public Health

Scholarly Concentration

Primary Care/Family Medicine

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

Cory Wilson

Residency / Program Match

University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Internal Medicine

Dual Degree Program

PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Danielle Frances Wilson

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Jacqueline Woloski

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Residency / Program Match

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso,

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Jamie Mae Wright

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

University of Washington, Neurology

Dual Degree Program

PhD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

William Walker Wroe

Alpha Omega Alpha

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Neurological Surgery

Ge Yan

Residency / Program Match

University of Colorado School of Medicine, Pediatrics

Katherine Yu

Residency / Program Match

Deferred

Chad Zhao

Residency / Program Match

McGovern Medical School, Anesthesiology

UTHealth 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 [**uth.edu/giving/alumni-resources/**](https://uth.edu/giving/alumni-resources/).

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



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



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