



2021

UTHealth · The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

HONORING THE GRADUATES OF

UTHealth School of Dentistry

UTHealth School of Public Health

Houston | Austin | Brownsville | Dallas | El Paso | San Antonio

Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth



UTHealth • The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

HONORS OUR GRADUATES AT TODAY'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Sunday, May 23, 2021

ONE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

Minute Maid Park

501 CRAWFORD STREET • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

AS THEY RECEIVE DEGREES FROM

UTHealth School of Dentistry

UTHealth School of Public Health

Houston | Austin | Brownsville | Dallas | El Paso | San Antonio

Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth

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, MSN, RN, FAAN
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

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

Kevin P. Eltife
Chair

Janiece Longoria
Vice Chair

James C. “Rad” Weaver
Vice Chair

Francie A. Frederick
General Counsel

David J. Beck
Regent

Christina Melton Crain
Regent

R. Steven Hicks
Regent

Jodie Lee Jiles
Regent

Nolan Perez, MD
Regent

Kelcy L. Warren
Regent

Patrick O. Ojeaga II
Student Regent

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

James B. Milliken
Chancellor

Archie L. Holmes Jr., PhD
Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

Scott C. Kelley, EdD
Executive Vice Chancellor, Business Affairs

John M. Zerwas, MD
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 Dentistry, UTHealth School of Public Health, and Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth represents essential teamwork in health care.

And more than anything, it signifies that we are *many faces* with *one mission* – advancing 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

National Anthem of the United States of America:

The Star-Spangled Banner

VICTOR VINH, DDS GRADUATE
OF UTHEALTH SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

UTHealth Commencement Video

Introduction of UTHealth President Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD

Presidential Welcome

GIUSEPPE N. COLASURDO, MD

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

DR. COLASURDO

Commencement Address

JOHN M. ZERWAS, MD

UTHealth School of Dentistry

Dean Remarks

JOHN A. VALENZA, DDS

Conferring of Degrees

DR. COLASURDO AND DR. VALENZA

Diplomas and Hooding

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY FACULTY

The Dentist's Pledge and Dental Hygiene Oath

DR. VALENZA

UTHealth School of Public Health

Dean Remarks

ERIC BOERWINKLE, PhD

Conferring of Degrees

DR. COLASURDO AND DR. BOERWINKLE

Diplomas and Hooding

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH FACULTY

Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth

Dean Remarks

DIANE M. SANTA MARIA, DrPH, MSN, RN, FAAN

Conferring of Degrees

DR. COLASURDO AND DR. SANTA MARIA

Diplomas and Hooding

CIZIK SCHOOL OF NURSING FACULTY

The Nightingale Pledge

DR. SANTA MARIA

Closing and Congratulations

DR. COLASURDO

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 bachelor's degree has squared-off sleeves. 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. Bachelor's and master's degree gowns are 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

DENTISTRY	LILAC
NURSING	APRICOT
PHILOSOPHY	DARK BLUE
PUBLIC HEALTH	SALMON
SCIENCE	GOLDEN YELLOW



JOHN M. ZERWAS, MD

2021 UTHealth Commencement Speaker

John M. Zerwas, MD, joined The University of Texas System as Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs in October 2019. He provides oversight and guidance for the six UT System health institutions, one of the largest networks of academic health institutions in the country.

On March 22, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott appointed Dr. Zerwas to the newly created Supply Chain Strike Force to assist with hospital and health care preparedness relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also serves on the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas.

Prior to joining UT System, he served the citizens of Texas House District 28 (northwestern Fort Bend County) for seven legislative terms in the Texas House of Representatives. As chair of the House Committee on Higher Education, he advocated to increase access to higher education and grow opportunities for graduate medical education. He brought firsthand experience and knowledge of health care systems and policy to the House Committee on Public Health, and he also served as a member of the Legislative Budget Board.

A physician for more than 30 years, Dr. Zerwas is past president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. He co-founded a Houston area group practice in 1996, which became part of U.S. Anesthesia Partners in 2012. He remained active in the practice and operations of the practice until joining UT System. From 2003 to 2008, Dr. Zerwas served as Chief Medical Officer of the Memorial Hermann Health System and as Chief Physician Integration Officer until 2009.

Dr. Zerwas graduated from Bellaire High School in 1973, and in 1978, he married his late wife Cindy Hughes. After graduating from the University of Houston, he earned his MD degree at Baylor College of Medicine in 1980. John, together with his wife Sylvia, have six children and nine grandchildren.

UTHealth School of Dentistry



For more than 100 years, **UTHealth School of Dentistry** has set the standard for oral health excellence by educating outstanding dentists and dental hygienists, advancing research in new fields of science and technology, and caring for the people of Texas, including its most vulnerable populations. The school's mission is to improve human health by providing high-quality education, patient care, service, and research in oral health for Texas, the nation, and the world.

Founded in 1905, UTHealth School of Dentistry was the first dental school in Texas and the first professional school in Houston. The school became part of UT System in 1943, and became part of UTHealth in 1972. The school continues to lead dental education today with the vision of *"Improving Oral Health...Improving Overall Health."*



SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

John A. Valenza, DDS

Dean

The William N. Finnegan III Distinguished Professor
in the Dental Sciences

Joe T. Morrow, BBA

Associate Dean for Management

Sophia G. Saeed, DMD

Associate Dean for Patient Care

Lisa D. Cain, PhD

Associate Dean for Professional Development and Faculty Affairs

Ariadne M. Letra, DDS, MS, PhD

Interim Associate Dean for Research

Arthur H. Jeske, DMD, PhD

Associate Dean for Strategic Planning
and Continuing Dental Education

Robert D. Spears, PhD, MS

Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs

THE DENTIST’S PLEDGE

I, AS A MEMBER OF THE DENTAL PROFESSION,
SHALL KEEP THIS PLEDGE AND THESE STIPULATIONS.

I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT MY PRIMARY
RESPONSIBILITY IS TO MY PATIENTS, AND I SHALL
DEDICATE MYSELF TO RENDER, TO THE BEST
OF MY ABILITY, THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF ORAL
HEALTH CARE AND TO MAINTAIN A RELATIONSHIP
OF RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE. THEREFORE, LET ALL
COME TO ME SAFE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT
THEIR TOTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ARE MY
FIRST CONSIDERATIONS.

I SHALL ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT, AS A
PROFESSIONAL, MY COMPETENCE RESTS ON CONTINUING
THE ATTAINMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL IN THE
ARTS AND SCIENCES OF DENTISTRY.

I ACKNOWLEDGE MY OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT
AND SUSTAIN THE HONOR AND INTEGRITY OF THE
PROFESSION AND TO CONDUCT MYSELF IN ALL
ENDEAVORS SUCH THAT I SHALL MERIT THE RESPECT
OF PATIENTS, COLLEAGUES AND MY COMMUNITY.
I FURTHER COMMIT MYSELF TO THE BETTERMENT
OF MY COMMUNITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL
OF SOCIETY.

I SHALL FAITHFULLY OBSERVE THE PRINCIPLES
OF ETHICS AND CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
SET FORTH BY THE PROFESSION.

ALL THIS I PLEDGE WITH PRIDE IN MY COMMITMENT
TO THE PROFESSION AND THE PUBLIC IT SERVES.

DENTAL HYGIENE OATH

IN MY PRACTICE AS A DENTAL HYGIENIST, I AFFIRM MY
PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE
THE ORAL HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC, TO ADVANCE THE
ART AND SCIENCE OF DENTAL HYGIENE, AND TO PROMOTE
HIGH STANDARDS OF QUALITY CARE.

I PLEDGE CONTINUALLY TO IMPROVE MY PROFESSIONAL
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS, TO RENDER A FULL
MEASURE OF SERVICE TO EACH PATIENT ENTRUSTED
TO MY CARE, AND TO UPHOLD THE HIGHEST
STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND
PERSONAL CONDUCT IN THE INTEREST OF THE DENTAL
HYGIENE PROFESSION AND THE PUBLIC IT SERVES.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP *continued*

Muhammad F. Walji, MS, PhD

Associate Dean for Technology Services and Informatics
Chair in Dental Informatics

Ralph A. Cooley, DDS

Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Services

GRADUATE HOODERS

Juliana A. Barros, DDS, MS

Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Restorative Dentistry
and Prosthodontics

Amity L. Gardner, DDS

Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Education

Cleverick D. Johnson, DDS, MS

Professor and Director of Urgent Care Clinic
Doan-Hunyh-Le Endowed Professor in General Dentistry

Shalizeh A. Patel, DDS, MEd

Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Simulation

Kylie R. Burch

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Austin, Texas

Angelica C. Diaz

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Maria R. Estrada

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Jessica Garcia

Practice Plans

Private Practice, The Woodlands, Texas

Megan A. Gardner

Proctor & Gamble Preventive Dentistry Award

Student Mentor Award

Student Teaching Award

The Greater Houston Dental Hygienists Association

Ushma Ramiya Memorial Scholarship

Sirah May Hall Memorial Scholarship in Dental Hygiene

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Yesenia Gonzalez

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Alexis D. Gray

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Paige N. Hale

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Gabrielle R. Hernandez

UTSD Faculty Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Temika E. Isidore

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Jaliseya D. Jones

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Meena M. Joseph

The University of Texas School of Dentistry Student Award
in Interprofessional Education Award

The Dental Hygiene Class of 2003 Endowment

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Quynh-Nhu T. Le

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Tuong-Vi D. Le

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Jessica Leung

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Aliona Maturan

Carus Dental-Dental Hygiene Endowed Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Elaine M. McQueen

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Samiha K. Momin

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Sugarland, Texas

Irina Nemirovskaya

Sigma Phi Alpha Honor Society Award

Delta Dental Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Phuong T. Nguyen

Academic Achievement Award

Hu-Friedy Clinical Achievement Award-Golden Scaler

Sigma Phi Alpha Honor Society

Gene Stevenson, DDS, Memorial Award in Evidence-Based Dentistry

Academic Achievement Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Sadye J. Peccora

The University of Texas School of Dentistry Simulation Award

The Greater Houston Dental Hygienists Association Scholarship

Ushma Ramiya Memorial Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Astrid V. Petit Vega

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Chau Pham

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Ngoc-Nga T. Pham

American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Diana L. Quintanilla

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Meylin E. Ramirez

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Carolina Rangel

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Tiffany M. Recio

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Lizett Saenz

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Katy, Texas

Alyce Salazar

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Pasadena, Texas

Brooklyn P. Santamaria

Dental Hygiene Excellence Award

The Greater Houston Dental Hygienists Association Scholarship

Ushma Ramiya Memorial Scholarship

Sirah May Hall Memorial Scholarship in Dental Hygiene

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Cheyenne E. Weaver-Shull

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Justice M. Smith

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Christa E. Staub

Colgate Oral Pharmaceutical's Star Award

Sigma Phi Alpha Honor Society

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Marie E. Sullivan

Academic Achievement Award

GHDHA Outstanding Professional Leadership Award

Sigma Phi Alpha Honor Society

Sirah May Hall Memorial Scholarship in Dental Hygiene

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Lihui Sun

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Lilly Truong

The University of Texas Dental Hygienists Alumni Association Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Elizabeth G. Uribe

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Jorge L. Vega

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Melissa Terry

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Xin Yuan Ana Zhao

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Ahmad A Alkanderi, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Prosthodontics, Private Practice

Jordan Wade Ardoin, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Pediatric Dentistry, Private Practice

Moustafa Tarek Badawi, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Pediatric Dentistry, Private Practice

Caroline Bates Mangili, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Orthodontics, Private Practice

Aalia Fatima Farukhi, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Pediatric Dentistry, Private Practice

Caleb Joseph Frick, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Orthodontics, Private Practice

Marcos Enrique Garcia, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Periodontics, Private Practice

John Joseph Garza, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Orthodontics, Private Practice

Maggie Kerper Grissom, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

Orthodontics, Private Practice

Megan Short Hanson, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Orthodontics, Private Practice

Derek Paul Ibarra, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Pediatric Dentistry, Private Practice

Andres Neftali Irizarry, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

Prosthodontics, Private Practice

Travis Dan Ludy, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Endodontics, Private Practice

Nicholas Alexander Pappas, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Endodontics, Private Practice

Huy Luu Pham, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Periodontics, Private Practice

Bailey Zaun Proft, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

Orthodontics, Private Practice

Srinivas Pushpala, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

Endodontics, Private Practice

Zhen Shen, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

Endodontics, Private Practice

Anh Thi-Minh Tran, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Pediatric Dentistry, Private Practice

Chanica Tan Veranunt, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Pediatric Dentistry, Private Practice

Jaclyn Tran Vu, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Pediatric Dentistry, Private Practice

Chelsea Leigh Wehr, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Pediatric Dentistry, Private Practice

Bailey Kate Weightman, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Endodontics, Private Practice

Natalie Gallerano Willis, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Orthodontics, Private Practice

Chung-Yen Wu, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Periodontics, Private Practice

Saeed Yazdianpour, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

Prosthodontics, Private Practice

James Shane Young, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Prosthodontics, Private Practice

candidates receiving a **Postgraduate Certificate**

Salah Al Din Al Azri, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 4 Years, Private Practice

Alaa AlSaffar, BDM

Specialty and Practice Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Private Practice

Brandon Keith Barnett, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

General Practice Residency, Private Practice

Christopher Chhoum Chow, MD, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 6 Years, Private Practice

Alexander John DeBernardo, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Private Practice

Marcelo Durski, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Private Practice

John Guenther, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 4 Years, Private Practice

Jack Hua, MD, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 6 Years, Private Practice

Ellen Jiachen Liang, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

General Dentistry (AEGD), Private Practice

Qingze Lv, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Private Practice

Kiana Rezaei, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry 2 Years, Private Practice

Pensiri Saenthaveesuk, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Private Practice

Komal Shaikh, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

General Practice Residency, Private Practice

Andrew Farrel Thomas, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 4 Years, Private Practice

Benjamin Hammond Thomas, DMD

Specialty and Practice Plans

General Practice Residency, Private Practice

Huy Quoc Tran, MD, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 6 Years, Private Practice

Kyle Ky Tran, DDS

Specialty and Practice Plans

General Practice Residency, Private Practice

Nathalie Abou Khalil

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Chad E. Abrams

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Predoctoral Student Award

American College of Dentists Outstanding Student Leader Award

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology (Horace Wells) Award

The Corina Diaz & Walter Bajsel Endowed Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Mohammad E. Albaba

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Robert M. Anton

Houston Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Award

Residency Plans

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency, UTHealth School of Dentistry

Amanda Barba Rhoades

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Dental Student Award

UTSD Student Award in Applied Basic Science Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Casandra L. Barnes

Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontics

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Ramirez-Rathmell South Texas General Dentistry Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Talal B. Beidas

American Academy of Oral Medicine Certificate of Merit

and Award in Oral Medicine

Walter G. Sterling Award

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Residency Plans

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

Karen M. Beshay

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Missouri City, Texas

Shreena P. Bhakta

American Academy of Periodontology Dental Student Achievement Award

American Equilibration Society

Lola B. and James R. Ballinger, DDS Scholarship

Residency Plans

Periodontics Residency, UTHealth School of Dentistry

Laura J. Binder

International College of Dentists Student Leadership Award

Residency Plans

General Practice Residency, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Tyler J. Bowen

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Austin C. Boyd

American Association of Public Health Dentistry Recognition Award

Edwards C. Hinds Academy Award

Triolo Leadership in Dentistry Scholarship

Residency Plans

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency

University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska

Dale R. Brown

Ninth District Dental Society Ethics and Integrity Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Carver, Minnesota

Rachel T. Buckley

Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Ingrid Chen

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Yu Chen Chien

American Academy of Orofacial Pain Outstanding Senior Award

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Residency Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency

Grady Health System, Atlanta, Georgia

Haley L. Christians

Residency Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency

UTHealth School of Dentistry

Bryan C. Chu

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Victoria, Texas

Brett K. Crell

Academy of Dental Materials Award
Society for Color and Appearance in Dentistry

Residency Plans

Orthodontics Residency, Seton Hill University Center for Orthodontics
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Victoria D. Do

ASDA Award of Excellence
Houston Asian American Dental Society Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Dallas, Texas

Tolu M. Fadipe

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Rachell Favela Castaneda

UTSD Faculty Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, McAllen, Texas

Madison P. Fuston

International Congress of Oral Implantology's/DENTSPLY
Student Achievement Award

W. Kenneth Horwitz Senior Award in Ethics & Professionalism

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Port Arthur, Texas

Sammy Gong

Residency Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency,
Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Bhavya Gurugunti

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Paul M. Gutierrez

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Denver, Colorado

Jared H. Hatch

Carus Dental Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Montrose, Colorado

Katie R. Hauser

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Doralyn Havien

Residency Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency,
NYU Langone Dental Medicine, Waco, Texas

Kent E. Healy

Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Student Award
Dr. Donald Charles Kroeger Student Research Scholarship

Residency Plans

Periodontics Residency, University of Tennessee College of Dentistry
Memphis, Tennessee

Sareilly Hinojosa

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Ariane M. Huet Moss

American Association of Women Dentists - Eleanor J. Bushee Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, The Woodlands, Texas

Luan M. Huynh

Academy of Osseointegration Dental Student in Implant Dentistry Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Jennifer Y. Imani

Academy of General Dentistry Senior Student Dental Award
Erbert William "Danny" D'Anton, DDS, Memorial Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Haider Imran

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Cynthia A. Jackson

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Julia S. Johnson

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Michael A. Jones

American Academy of Implant Dentistry Undergraduate Dental Student Award
Lola B. and James R. Ballinger, DDS Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Ardmore, Oklahoma

Kelly Sohye Joo

Greater Houston Dental Society Community Dentistry Award
The Academy of Dentistry International Student Servant Leadership Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Temilola Joseph

Academy of Operative Dentistry Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Anamika A. Khosla

James P. Ferguson Award for Excellence in Dental Anatomy

Residency Plans

General Practice Residency, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
Chicago, Illinois

Jacqueline Lamar

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Sunny L. Larwood

Special Care Dentistry Association/Academy of Dentistry
for Persons with Disabilities Student Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Anh Le

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Haleigh N. Lemons

American Association of Endodontists Student Achievement Award
Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Tyler, Texas

Yuhong Lin

The Brian D. Stone Memorial Award from Dental Lifeline Network
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Residency Plans

General Practice Residency, Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center
Spokane, Washington

Ashley N. Lindley

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Rinkal A. Mahure

Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Andrew V. Mai

Academy of General Dentistry Senior Student Dental Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Nadiah R. Malik

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Katie M. Matthys

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Samuel H. Mckee

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Marissa C. Medina

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Georgina V. Medina

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Jessica E. Minionis

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Residency Plans

General Practice Residency, Newark Beth Israel
Newark, New Jersey

Clayton Moczygemba

Women of Rotary Club UT Dental Branch Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, New Braunfels, Texas

Rohail R. Momin

Houston Academy of General Dentistry

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Pranjalben R. Munjapara

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Pennsylvania

Tyler R. Munoz

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Zayd M. Najjar

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
Achievement Award

American College of Prosthodontists

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Robert W. Nelson

Residency Plans

Orthodontics Residency, Georgia School of Orthodontics
Atlanta, Georgia

Binh X. Ngo

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Destin S. Nguon

Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality
Lola B. and James R. Ballinger, DDS Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, San Antonio, Texas

Cecile T. Nguyen

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Dallas, Texas

Minh N. Nguyen

Society for Simulation in Healthcare Student Award

Residency / Practice Plans

Military Service, El Paso, Texas

Thu T. Nguyen

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Vanna K. Nguyen

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Fort Worth, Texas

Vinh-Son Nguyen

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Dallas, Texas

Miriam A. Ohakam

T. Bradford Willis Scholarship in Pediatric Dentistry

Residency Plans

Pediatric Dentistry Residency, University of Florida, Naples, Florida

Karen E. Olivares

Lola B. and James R. Ballinger, DDS Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Anthony P. Osborne

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Ikechukwu T. Osemene

Drs. Moritz V. and Judith L. Craven Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Meera V. Patel

Texas Association of Women Dentists

Women of Rotary Club UT Dental Branch Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Sandra C. Perez

Texas Dental Association Outstanding Senior Award

Delta Dental Scholarship

Residency Plans

Pediatric Dentistry Residency, UT Health San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

Alexandra Pham-Nguyen

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Christine T. Pham

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Van K. Phan

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Morrow, Georgia

Daniela P. Pinto

Practice Plans

Private Practice, McAllen, Texas

Christina N. Prak

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Sara A. Rafail

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

David J. Ramirez

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Guillermo Rivacoba

Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry

Lola B. and James R. Ballinger, DDS Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Kristi B. Sparkman

Southwest Academy of Restorative Dentistry Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Melissa C. Sybico

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Nadia N. Tishler

Robert O. Dosch and James L. Rout Award

Residency Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency
Birmingham VA Medical Center, Birmingham, Alabama

Demi Tran

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Zachary J. Tregre

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Pasadena, Texas

Sarah E. Tribble

International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Sugar Land, Texas

Brittany A. Trinh

American Association of Orthodontist Award

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Residency Plans

Orthodontics Residency, UTHealth School of Dentistry

Thuy Nhu L. Truong

Hanau Best of the Best Award for Excellence in Prosthodontics
Houston Chapter of the American Association for Dental Research Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Natania S. Tunggadaja

Residency Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Avery E. Valls

American Association of Orthodontist Award

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Residency Plans

Orthodontics Residency, UTHealth School of Dentistry

Victor Vinh

Quintessence Award for Research Achievement

Residency Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency, NYU Langone
Honolulu, Hawaii

Kristen N. Waheed

Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Quincy R. Walker

Drs. Moritz V. and Judith L. Craven Scholarship
William “Sam” Leifeste, DDS Memorial Scholarship

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Nicholas K. Woehling

UTSD Alumni Senior Award

Practice Plans

Private Practice, Houston, Texas

Emily J. Wright

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Gary S. Leff, DDS, MPH Scholarship

Residency Plans

Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency, NYU Langone
Denver, Colorado

Lejla Zoronjic

Delta Dental Scholarship

Residency Plans

Pediatric Dentistry Residency, UTHealth School of Dentistry

UTHealth School of Public Health

Houston | Austin | Brownsville | Dallas | El Paso | San Antonio



UTHealth School of Public Health provides a top-tier education to future public health professionals and conducts innovative research leading to major breakthroughs in the prevention and treatment of today's most important health problems. The school aims to address the deeply interconnected factors of lifestyles, neighborhoods, relationships, habits, and behaviors that affect the ability to cultivate and maintain good health at the individual and community level.

The school has six campuses across Texas: Houston, Austin, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso, and San Antonio.

At each campus, the school has built relationships with city governments, local communities, academic institutions, and industries – emphasizing collaboration across sectors to support better health outcomes for culturally complex and diverse populations.



SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Eric Boerwinkle, PhD

Dean
M. David Low Chair in Public Health
Kozmetsky Family Chair In Human Genetics

Susan Tortolero Emery, PhD

Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Research Affairs
Allan King Professor in Public Health

Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, Development, and Diversity

Cynthia Bihm, MBA

Interim Associate Dean of Management

Mary Ann Smith, PhD

Assistant Dean of Students

Deanna M. Hoelscher, PhD

Regional Dean, Austin Campus
John P. McGovern Professor in Health Promotion

Belinda M. Reininger, DrPH

Regional Dean, Brownsville Campus

Bijal Balasubramanian, MBBS, PhD

Regional Dean, Dallas Campus

OUR VISION

HEALTH WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

We believe that a world in which there are no caveats or conditions on who can have good health is within our reach.

OUR MISSION

CHANGING THE CULTURE
OF HEALTH THROUGH
EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE
EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
AND ENGAGEMENT

To achieve a world in which health has no boundaries, we must first shift the way people think about, and act on, matters relating to health.

We seek to accomplish our mission by promoting the following values:

• COLLABORATE

A charge to seek out new perspectives, to listen as much as we talk, and to build authentic, sustainable relationships.

• LEAD

A pledge to march on the front lines of progress with passion, tenacity, and a strong sense of direction.

• TRANSFORM

A vow to invest our time, effort, and resources in challenging, improving—and when necessary—the complete rebuilding of programs and systems that do not serve us all.

• DIVERSIFY

A commitment to representation, equity, and accountability in our school, the continuum of health, and our communities.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP *continued*

Kristina D. Mena, PhD

Regional Dean, El Paso Campus

Jack Tsai, PhD

Regional Dean, San Antonio Campus

GRADUATE CALLERS

George Delclos, MD, PhD

Professor, Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences
Marcus M. Key, MD, Shell Occupational and Environmental Health Endowed Chair

Mary Ann Smith, PhD

Assistant Dean of Students

GRADUATE HOODERS

Christine Markham, PhD

Interim Chair, Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

Robert O. Morgan, PhD

Chair, Department of Management, Policy and Community Health

Alanna C. Morrison, PhD

Chair, Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences

Hulin Wu, PhD

Chair, Department of Biostatistics and Data Science
Betty Wheless Trotter Professor

candidates receiving the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health**

Kimberly Ann Aguillard

Dissertation

A Qualitative Inquiry Exploring Help-Seeking Behaviors and Resilience Strategies
Women with Disabilities Utilize When Experiencing Gender-Based Violence in Rural Communities

Advisor and Dissertation Supervisor Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, PhD

Bethany Boggess Alcauter

Dissertation

Regulatory Failure, Precarious Employment, and Workplace Injuries
in the Construction Industry in the Southern U.S.

Advisor George P. Delclos, PhD, MD; Dissertation Supervisor Lisa Pompeii, PhD

Saleh H. Alsarhan

Dissertation

Costs of Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting and Percutaneous Coronary Intervention in Texas

Advisor Trudy Krause, DrPH; Dissertation Supervisor Rigoberto Delgado, PhD

Mariana Del Rosario Arevalo Chavez*

Ronald J. Lorimor Memorial Scholarship Fund in Behaviorial Sciences

Dissertation

Using SEER-CAHPS to Determine Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Patient Experiences
with Care Among Women with Breast Cancer with a Recent History of Clinical Depression

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor Sally W. Vernon, PhD

Parisa Asgarisabet

Dissertation

Predictors of Kidney Transplant Receipt and Medicare Costs for Patients
with End Stage Renal Disease

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor Suja S. Rajan, PhD

Elisabeth R.B. Becker

Ginni and Richard Mithoff Endowed Scholarship
in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

Julius and Suzan Glickman Endowed Scholarship in Innovation

People with AIDS International Public Health Scholarship

Dissertation

Design, Usability and Engagement of a Parent-Focused Cancer Prevention
Digital Behavior Change Intervention: A Mixed Methods Approach

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor Ross Shegog, PhD

Andrea C. Betts

Dissertation

Too Many Meds? Characterizing Polypharmacy and Its Association with Medication
Fill Nonadherence in Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivors

Advisor Marilyn Allcock, PhD; Dissertation Supervisor Christine Markham, PhD

Joseph Chen

Dissertation

A Comparison of Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Teams and Leadership Attitudes
of NCI-Designated and Non-NCI-Designated Cancer Centers in the United States from 2009-2018

Advisor Paige Padgett Wermuth, PhD; Dissertation Supervisor David Hui, MD

Angela Di Paola*

Ginni and Richard Mithoff Endowed Scholarship in Health Promotion
and Behavioral Sciences

L. Kay Bartholomew Eldredge Family Endowed Scholarship
in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

Dissertation

Exploration of Substance Use Overdose Incidences Among Emergency Department Visits
in Harris County and Houston, Texas

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor Johnny M. Wilkerson, PhD

Qianmiao Gao

Keith D. Burau, Ph.D. Scholarship

Reuel A. Stallones Memorial Scholarship Fund

Richard D. Remington Memorial Student Scholarship Fund

Robert H. Bigelow Endowed Scholarship

Dissertation

Hierarchical Penalization Biclustering with Application in Precision Medicine

Advisor and Dissertation Supervisor Hongyu Miao, PhD

Camden James Hallmark*

UTHealth School of Public Health Dean's Scholarship (various donors)

Dissertation

HIV Cluster Identification and Characteristics of Cluster Membership in Houston, Texas

Advisor Blake Hanson, PhD; Dissertation Supervisor Kayo Fujimoto, PhD

Randa Hamden

Dissertation

The Impact of Hurricane Harvey on Maternal Health Outcomes
in FEMA Designated Disaster Areas in Texas

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor Stephen H. Linder, PhD

Lynn Nneamaka Ibekwe*

Dr. Oddis Calvin Turner Endowed Scholarship in Health Promotion
and Behavioral Sciences

Dissertation

The Influence of Perceived Racial Discrimination, Racial Residential Segregation,
and Social Support on Cancer Screening Among African Americans: A Multilevel Analysis
of 2-1-1 Texas Callers

Advisor Maria E. Fernandez-Esquer, PhD; Dissertation Supervisor Maria E. Fernandez, PhD

Jada Monet Idokogi

Dissertation

An Integrated Genetic Propensity Score Approach to Adjust for Population Stratification
in Genetic Association Studies

Advisor Michael Swartz, PhD; Dissertation Supervisor Stacia DeSantis, PhD

Inimfon Nsikak Jackson*

Aurelia Murphy Killian Endowment in Public Health

People with AIDS International Public Health Scholarship

Dissertation

Racial/Ethnic Differences and Trends in Health-Related Quality of Life Among Female
Breast Cancer Survivors: Cross-Sectional Findings from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey

Advisor Lu-Yu Hwang, MD; Dissertation Supervisor Sally W. Vernon, PhD

*Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health

Kalyn Christine Jannace

Dissertation

The Epidemiology of Service-Related Traumatic Brain Injury Among United States Military Service Members of the Millennium Cohort Study

Advisor *David Gimeno, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Lisa Pompeii, PhD*

Youngran Kim

UTHealth School of Public Health Dean's Scholarship (various donors)

Dissertation

Determining the Racial and Ethnic Differences in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Admission Rates

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Cecilia Ganduglia Cazaban, DrPH, MD*

Shudi Li

Dissertation

Causal Analysis Theory and Application to Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and Heart Failure (HF)

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Momiao Xiong, PhD*

Wen Li

Clifford G. Campbell Scholarship in Public Health

UTHealth School of Public Health Dean's Scholarship (various donors)

Dissertation

Semiparametric Methods to Improve Risk Assessment and Dynamic Prediction

Advisor *Ruosha Li, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Jing Ning, PhD*

Daniel Mansfield

Dissertation

Child/Adolescent Sleep Duration and Academic Performance: Trends and What We Know Now in the United States and Around the World

Advisor *Stephen H. Linder, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Christine Markham, PhD*

Dale Scott Mantey

Dissertation

Characterizing Flavors and Tobacco Use Behaviors: A Longitudinal Examination of Youth and Youth Adults in Texas

Advisor *Steven H. Kelder, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Melissa Harrell, PhD*

Krystin Matthews

Dissertation

Breastfeeding and Growth from Birth to 24 Months:
A Secondary Data Analysis of a National Sample of Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children Participants, 2013-2015

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Steven H. Kelder, PhD*

Yuan Mei

Marcus M. Key Scholarship in Occupational and Environmental Health
Southeast Section of the T.W.P.C.A. Endowed Scholarship
(Water Environment Association of Texas)

Susanne M. Savely Environmental Sciences Scholarship

Dissertation

Use of Aerosol Optical Depth-Based Prediction Model to Assess Pm2.5 Exposure and Preterm Birth in Texas, 2008-2013

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *David Gimeno, PhD*

James David Miller

Dissertation

The Direct Primary Care Model: Practice Characteristics and Patient Experience

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Frances Revere, PhD*

Iman Moussa

Dissertation

Nutrition and Risk of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Among US Adults

Advisor *R. Sue Day, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Manal M. Hassan, MD, PhD*

Fadi Imad Sami Musfee*

Dissertation

The Role of X-Linked Genes in Sporadic Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection

Advisor *Laura Mitchell, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Goo Jun, PhD*

Brittni Naylor

Shreela and Vibhu Sharma Endowed Fund for Excellence
in Community Nutrition, Health, and Wellness

Dissertation

Influences on Child Fruit and Vegetable Intake in Low-Income Minority Populations:
The Role of Parent Fruit and Vegetable Intake, Home Nutrition Environment, Fruit/Vegetable Shopping Behavior, and SNAP Participation

Advisor *Eric Brown, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Shreela V. Sharma, PhD*

Nwabunie Nwando Nwana*

Management, Policy and Community Health Department Scholarship
Thien Vu Scholarship

Dissertation

Does Hospital Location Matter? Association of Hospital Neighborhood Socioeconomic Disadvantage with Hospital Characteristics, and Hospital Quality in U.S. Metropolitan Settings

Advisor *Trudy Krause, DrPH*; Dissertation Supervisor *James Langabeer, PhD, EdD*

Temitope Oludayo Oluwadairo

Richard K. Severs Endowed Scholarship Fund

Southeast Section of the T.W.P.C.A. Endowed Scholarship
(Water Environment Association of Texas)

Dissertation

Evaluation of a Low-Cost Particulate Matter Sensor for the Assessment of Community Exposures to Fine Particulate Matter in Houston, Texas

Advisor *Lawrence W. Whitehead, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Inkyu Han, PhD*

Tolu Owadokun

Dissertation

Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program: An Analysis of Performance in U.S. Acute Care Hospitals

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, PhD*

Xinyue Qi*

Julius and Suzan Glickman Endowed Scholarship in Innovation

Dissertation

Bayesian Modeling of Censored Data with Application to Meta-Analysis of Immunotherapy Trials

Advisor *Ruosha Li, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Shouhao Zhou, PhD*

Min Qiao

Dissertation

Methods and Applications of Functional Enrichment and Variable Selection in Genetic Studies

Advisor *Michael Swartz, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Xin He, PhD*

Ryan Ramphul

Dissertation

Using Spatial Methods to Better Understand Food Insecurity and Snap Under-Participation in Texas

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Linda Highfield, PhD*

Kevin Christopher Rix*

Dissertation

Assessing Risk Behaviors, Safety Behaviors, and Behavioral Determinants of Riders of Dockless E-Scooters

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Andrew E. Springer, DrPH*

Michael Christopher Robertson

Dissertation

Developing and Evaluating the Acceptability of an Electronically Delivered Acceptance- and Mindfulness-Based Intervention to Increase Physical Activity in Breast Cancer Survivors

Advisor *Casey Durand, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Christine Markham, PhD*

Melinda Ruth Rushing

Shreela and Vibhu Sharma Endowed Fund for Excellence in Community Nutrition, Health, and Wellness

Dissertation

The Application of Various Multivariate Analytical Techniques to Analyze the Associations Between Patient Characteristics, Adherence Behavior, and Health Outcomes Among Californian Sickle Cell Patients

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Kayo Fujimoto, PhD*

Theresa Cassizzi Sabella*

Dissertation

Silent Members of Marketplace Plans - Demographic Characteristics, Enabling Factors, and Changes in Utilization and Cost Over Time

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, PhD*

William Charles Shropshire

UTHealth School of Public Health Dean's Scholarship (various donors)

Dissertation

Highway to The Mobilome: Characterizing the Microbiological and Clinical Significance of Mobile Genetic Elements in Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacterales in Houston, Texas

Advisor *Blake Hanson, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Cesar Arias, PhD, MD*

Ryan Suk

People with AIDS in the Americas Scholarship

Dissertation

Human Papillomavirus-Associated Cancers in Inflammatory Bowel Disease Patients

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Ashish Deshmukh, PhD*

Robert Dartanian Thomas*

Dissertation

U.S. Gig Economy: Assessing the Effect of Piece Rate Based Income Insecurity on Worker Health

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Rebecca Wells, PhD*

Heather Renee Tooker-Blue*

Dissertation

Climate Patterns and West Nile Virus in Harris County and The City of Houston, Texas 2002–2017

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Eric Brown, PhD*

Lu Wang

Girardi and Keese Scholarship in Biostatistics

UTHealth School of Public Health Dean's Scholarship (various donors)

Dissertation

Covariate-Adaptive and Response-Adaptive Clinical Trial Designs

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Hongjian Zhu, PhD*

Yiping Yang

Dissertation

Clinical Trial Designs and Monitoring with Fractional Brownian Motion

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Dejian Lai, PhD*

Elifnur Yay Donderici

Dissertation

Hospital Market Analysis Using a Cohort of Privately Insured Patients with Total Hip and Knee Replacement Procedures

Advisor *Ellerie Weber, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Luisa Franzini, PhD*

Lu Zhang

UTHealth School of Public Health Dean's Scholarship (various donors)

Dissertation

Effect of the Expanded Prospective Payment System on Dialysis Initiation, the Usage of Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents, and Medicare Expenditures

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Suja S. Rajan, PhD*

Alejandra Aguilar

Dissertation

Examining Physical Activity Prevalence and Healthy Eating and Unhealthy Eating Patterns of 8th and 11th Grade Students by Economic Disadvantage (ED) in Texas Public Schools

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Andrew E. Springer, DrPH*

Nnabuchi Anikpezie*

Dissertation

Disparities in Patient Safety Events for Hospitalized Patients

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Robert Morgan, PhD*

Alane K. Celeste-Villalvir*

Dissertation

Finding the Missing Millions: An Exploration of Challenges and Facilitators to Hepatitis C (HCV) Screening Among Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Vanessa Schick, PhD*

Deidra Carroll Coleman

Dissertation

Does Attendance at Religious Services Influence Black and Hispanic Parents' Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Decision-Making: Utilizing the Theory of Planned Behavior as a Conceptual Framework

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Wendell Taylor, PhD*

Nancy Post Correa

Dissertation

The Impact of Parental Incarceration on Young Adults: The Identification of Risk and Protective Factors

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Vanessa Schick, PhD*

Wafa Faisal Duhaim

Dissertation

Health-Related Quality of Life, Physical Activity, and Perceived Parental Self-Efficacy Among Low-Income Mothers in the First Year Postpartum

Advisor *Christine Markham, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Shreela V. Sharma, PhD*

K. Michelle Garcia

Dissertation

Assessing the Mediating and Moderating Relationships of Specific Determinants for Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use Among an Urban Adolescent Population

Advisor *Sheryl A. McCurdy, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Johnny M. Wilkerson, PhD*

Kimberly Nicole Geters Wingham

Dissertation

Exploring Factors and Outcomes Related to Repeat Teen Pregnancy

Advisor *Andrew E. Springer, DrPH*; Dissertation Supervisor *Christine Markham, PhD*

Robert Walter Hans Hammarberg*

Dissertation

Rapid Population Growth: Experiences and Responses of Public Health and Urban Planning Departments

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Linda Highfield, PhD*

Carol Ann Huber

Dissertation

An Exploration of Associations Between the Financial Health and Quality of Care for Texas' Safety Net Hospitals

Advisor *Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Frances Revere, PhD*

Otu E. Inyang*

G. Roger Florky Memorial Scholarship Fund

Richard K. Severs Endowed Scholarship Fund

Dissertation

Quantifying the Influence of Designated Laboratory Area as a Proportion of Total Net Assignable Area on Environmental Health and Safety Program Resourcing for Colleges and Universities

Advisor *Lawrence W. Whitehead, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Robert John Emery, DrPH*

Benjamin Lee

Dissertation

Attitudes Towards Computer Games for Learning and Player Archetypes: An Exploration of Measures on Pre-Intervention Player Characteristics for Serious Game-Based Interventions

Advisor *Lara Staub Savas, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Ross Shegog, PhD*

Tiffany Elise Patterson

Dissertation

Hurricane Harvey Case Study: An Analysis of Private Emergency Medical Staffing Organizations' Response Efforts

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Paul Rowan, PhD*

Maria Lizette Rangel*

Dissertation

Evaluating the Impact of Project Echo Training on Improving the Outcomes of Community Health Workers and Cancer Survivors

Advisor *Maria E. Fernandez-Esquer, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Maria E. Fernandez, PhD*

Swapna Benjaram Reddy

Dissertation

Physician Burnout: Slowing the Burn Through Positive Deviance Strategies

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Andrew E. Springer, DrPH*

Shehla Mehdi Sadruddin

Dissertation

Parental Factors and Their Relation to Teen Dating Violence Perpetration Among Urban Middle School Students in Southeast, TX

Advisor *Christine Markham, PhD*; Dissertation Supervisor *Melissa Fleschler Peskin, PhD*

Katherine Dawn Sanches

Dissertation

Health Disparities Across Functional Disability Groups

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Deanna M. Hoelscher, PhD*

Julia Nicolette Sundstrom

Dissertation

Descriptive Analysis of Musculoskeletal Injuries Among Air Force Security Forces Enlisted Personnel, 2009-2018

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *David Gimeno, PhD*

Howaida Mohamed Werfelli

Dissertation

The Multilevel Factors Facilitating or Impeding Healthcare Access Among Refugees Residing in Bexar County, Texas

Advisor / Dissertation Supervisor *Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD*

Alison N. Bachellor

Thesis

Association of Intention to Lose Weight with Dietary and Physical Activity Behaviors Among 8th and 11th Grade Students

Advisor R. Sue Day, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Nalini Ranjit, PhD

Allison Bebo*

Thesis

Coronary Heart Disease and Ischemic Stroke Polygenic Risk Scores and Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease in a Diverse, Population-Based Cohort Study

Advisor Anna Wilkinson, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Paul de Vries, PhD

Uan-I Chen

Keith D. Burau, PhD Scholarship

Thesis

Factors Associated with COVID-19 Death in the United States

Advisor Wenyaw Chan, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Xiaoqian Jiang, PhD

Natascha Katarina Del Vecchio

Thesis

Impact of Substance Use in Social Networks on Antiretroviral Therapy Adherence for HIV-Positive Younger Men Who Have Sex with Men

Advisor Wenyaw Chan, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Kayo Fujimoto, PhD

Mengchen Ding

Thesis

Applications of Statistical Methods Studying the Impact of Mobilization Regimes on the Total Collection Yield of Hematologic Stem Cell

Advisor Ashraf Yaseen, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Stacia DeSantis, PhD

Jessica Meighan Herrin

Thesis

Area-Level Landfill Density and Asthma Prevalence in Urban Texas Areas

Advisor Harold Kohl, III, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Mary Ann Smith, PhD

Maryam Jamil

Thesis

Unified Approach to Accommodating Population Stratification in Population and Family-Based Genetic Association Studies Using a Genetic Propensity Score: Application to Alzheimer's Genetic Data from the National Institute of Mental Health

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor Stacia DeSantis, PhD

Hongyin Lai

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph T. Hull Scholarship in Public Health

Thesis

Effects of Racial/Ethnic and Income Disparities on Clinical Outcomes Among Traumatic Brian Injury Patients

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor Vahed Maroufy, PhD

Yiyao Li

Dr. David W. Martin Memorial Scholarship

Thesis

Heat Stress Related Symptoms and Pulmonary Function in Oil Spill Response and Cleanup Workers Following the Deepwater Horizon Disaster

Advisor Ruosha Li, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Kai Zhang, PhD

Maria Luisa Navarro Sanchez

Thesis

Epidemiology of Non-Syndromic, Orofacial Clefts in a Registry-Based, Birth-Cohort in Texas: Differences by Cleft Type and Presence of Additional Defects

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor A.J. Agopian, PhD

Brandon B. O’Grady

Thesis

Survival Analysis of Colorectal Cancer Patients with Liver Metastasis

Advisor Ashraf Yaseen, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Ruosha Li, PhD

Arunangshu Sarkar*

**President James T. Willerson/Nancy Beamer Willerson
Scholarship in the School of Public Health**

Richard D. Remington Memorial Student Scholarship Fund

Thesis

Cognitive Impairment and Hypertension in Hispanic Americans:
Are They Associated? Retrospective Analysis of Prospectively Collected Data
in a Hispanic Cohort of South Texas

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor Jose-Miguel Yamal, PhD

Jacob J. Siahhaan

Thesis

The Impact of Health Literacy on Kidney Transplant Listing
and the Comparison of Their Predictive Models

Advisor Wenyaw Chan, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Luis Leon Novelo, PhD

Christin Nicole Silos

Thesis

Predicting Length of Stay for Ischemic Stroke Patients Using Machine Learning Methods

Advisor Ashraf Yaseen, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Charles Green, PhD

Hong Thoai Nga Tran

Guy and Alissa McDaniels Memorial Scholarship Fund

Keith D. Burau, Ph.D. Scholarship

Thesis

A Deep Learning Approach in Predicting Electronic Health Record Lab Outcomes

Advisor Hulin Wu, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Hongyu Miao, PhD

Qin Wang

Thesis

Seamless Clinical Trials with Urn Model Based Adaptive Randomization

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor Hongjian Zhu, PhD

Caitlyn Alyssa Winter*

Thesis

Asthma-COPD Overlap Syndrome and Disease Progression in the COPDGene Cohort Study

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor David Gimeno, PhD

Lauryn Alexa Winter*

Thesis

Characterization of Age-Associated COPD Progression in the COPDGene Cohort

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor David Gimeno, PhD

Kehe Zhang

Thesis

The Social Determinants of Health in the Effectiveness of Salud Y Vida Program
on Diabetes Management—A Bayesian Multilevel Modeling Approach

Advisor Stacia DeSantis, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Cici Bauer, PhD

Kiana Adams-Baker*

Ginni and Richard Mithoff Endowed Scholarship in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

Advisor Kimberly Baker, DrPH

Adeteju Adefunke Adeniji

Advisor Lara Staub Savas, PhD

Niloufar Aghakasiri

Advisor William Perkison, MD

Ojasvie Agnihotri

Advisor Harold Kohl, III, PhD

Abeer Nusseibeh Ahmad

Advisor Kristina Mena, PhD

Chinonso Onyeuwaoma Ahuchogu*

People with AIDS International Public Health Scholarship

Advisor Johnny M. Wilkerson, PhD

Neena K. Aivazian

Advisor Vanessa Schick, PhD

Fatemeh Sadat Alavi Naini*

Advisor A.J. Agopian, PhD

Shameela Ali

Advisor Steven H. Kelder, PhD

Dolapo Tiffany Aliyu

Advisor Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, PhD

Amber Nicole Allen

Advisor Bijal Balasubramanian, PhD, MBBS

Meagan René Almaguer*

Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio Scholarship

Advisor David Douphrate, PhD

Christopher Henry Alonzo

Advisor John R. Herbold, PhD, DVM

Abiemwense Rabiati Amadin

Advisor Steven H. Kelder, PhD

Rejane Andina Teixeira*

Lauren and Adam Strauss Endowed Scholarship

President James T. Willerson/Nancy Beamer Willerson Scholarship in the School of Public Health

Advisor Laura Aubree Shay, PhD

Daniel Araki*

Advisor Paige Padgett Wermuth, PhD

Ani Aroian

Laura S. Moore and Don Sanders Scholarship

Advisor Laura Moore, MEd

Jacklyn Sarah Asamoah

Advisor Marcia C. de Oliveira Otto, PhD

Elizabeth Onyinye Asonye

Advisor Emmanuel Chavarria, PhD

Sarah Johanna Auerbach*

Advisor Harold Kohl, III, PhD

Tarani Ramya Avala

Southeast Section of the T.W.P.C.A. Endowed Scholarship (Water Environment Association of Texas)

Advisor Mary Ann Smith, PhD

Alejandra Aviles

Advisor Paige Padgett Wermuth, PhD

Leilina Abate Ayalew

Dr. Oddis Calvin Turner Endowed Scholarship in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

Ginni and Richard Mithoff Endowed Scholarship in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

R. Palmer Beasley, MD, and Lu-Yu Hwang, MD, Travel Award in International Research

Advisor Christine Markham, PhD

Alison Serpil Aydin

Advisor Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, PhD

Oluwatowo Helena Babayemi

Advisor Gretchen Walton, JD

Erin Anese Backus

Advisor Melissa Fleschler Peskin, PhD

David Jacob Badillo

Advisor Melissa Harrell, PhD

Natalia T. Ballon

Advisor Paige Padgett Wermuth, PhD

Tiara Symone Banks

Advisor Trudy Krause, DrPH

Thomas Bao

Advisor Catherine L. Troisi, PhD

Juliann Jackson Barksdale

Advisor Anna Wilkinson, PhD

Laura Morgan Bayne*

The D. Jack Kilian Memorial Scholarship

Advisor George P. Delclos, PhD, MD

Michelle Beckett-Ansa

Advisor James E. Hixson, PhD

Chelsea Anna Beningo

Advisor Laura Aubree Shay, PhD

Laura Berardo

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Abby Marissa Bevolo

Thesis

Why We Need Patient and Family Advisory Councils: A Qualitative Analysis of Patient and Family Advisory Members' Experiences During COVID-19

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor Sally W. Vernon, PhD

Larianna Varnado Biles*

Advisor Catherine L. Troisi, PhD

Cylaina Bird

Advisor Bijal Balasubramanian, PhD, MBBS

Geoffrey Blackwell

Advisor Louis Brown, PhD

JoAnn Marie Blais

Advisor Anna Wilkinson, PhD

Hayley Mae Bode

Advisor Laura Moore, MEd

Christopher Orin Bratsman

Advisor Marcia C. de Oliveira Otto, PhD

Kathleen N. Bryant

Advisor Goo Jun, PhD

Mgn Mrinalini Buddha*

Advisor Paul de Vries, PhD

Zachary Sean Burgess

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Hannah Elizabeth Burrows

Advisor Marcia C. de Oliveira Otto, PhD

Amna Asif Butt

Advisor Folefac D. Atem, PhD

Eva Calderon

Advisor Laura Moore, MEd

Jessica Marie Canez

Advisor Laura Moore, MEd

Analisa Ofelia Cantu*

Advisor Alexandra van den Berg, PhD

Alex Dale Cardone*

Advisor Wei-Chung Su, PhD

Brittany Michelle Carroll

Advisor Inkyu Han, PhD

Julissa Renee Castilleja

Advisor David Gimeno, PhD

Farah Chatila

Advisor Frances Revere, PhD

Fatima Isabel Chavez*

**Ginni and Richard Mithoff Endowed Scholarship
in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences**

People with AIDS International Public Health Scholarship

Advisor Christine Markham, PhD

Sukhnandan Cheema

Advisor Luis Leon Novelo, PhD

Ikram Cheref

Advisor Goo Jun, PhD

Nashrah Nashat Chowdhury

Advisor Zhi-Dong Jiang, DrPH, MD

Sarah Classen

Advisor Sheryl A. McCurdy, PhD

Rachel Maria Clear*

UTHealth School of Public Health Dean's Scholarship (various donors)

Advisor Andrew E. Springer, DrPH

Fernanda Karen Contreras

Advisor Yuh-Pey Buu, PhD, PhD

Kimberly Cooper

Aurelia Murphy Killian Endowment in Public Health

Advisor Melissa Harrell, PhD

Alexus Tanise Copes*

Advisor David Gimeno, PhD

Mia Alexandria Corkill

Mercedes-Benz of Sugar Land Scholarship

Advisor Laura Moore, MEd

Chrystial Carina Correa

Advisor Sally W. Vernon, PhD

Kathleen Costello

Advisor Deanna M. Hoelscher, PhD

Casey Cox*

Thesis

Learning Modality and Measures of Quality of Life Among U.S. School-Age Children During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor Gregory Knell, PhD

Kelsey Craker*

Advisor Kymberle Landrum Sterling, DrPH

Claire Crofford

Advisor Harold Kobl, III, PhD

Dima Dandachi*

Polly Sparks Turner, MPH, DrPH, Endowed Scholarship in Community Health

Thesis

Patient Attitude and Preference Toward Long Acting Antiretroviral Formulations for Prevention and Treatment of HIV

Advisor Trudy Krause, DrPH; Thesis Supervisor Thomas P. Giordano, MD

Gloria Y. Daniel

Advisor Michael Cannell, PhD

Brittany Renee Daniels

Advisor Kimberly Baker, DrPH

Alejandro De La Torre

Advisor Katelyn Jetelina, PhD

Melissa Dehaan

Advisor Henry S. Brown III, PhD

Joel Steven DeLeeuw

Advisor Kristina Mena, PhD

Rosemary Pfaff Demet*

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Noemie Demonet

Advisor Jan Bressler, PhD

Diego Diaz

Advisor Harold Kobl, III, PhD

Perla Diaz

Advisor Laura Mitchell, PhD

Jacqueline S. Dickey

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Biai Dominique Elmir Digbeu

Thesis

The Comparative Effect of Automated Reminders/Recalls Interventions on the Appointments Rate of Adolescent Wellness Care Visit

Advisor Ruosha Li, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Vahed Maroufy, PhD

Yutika Diwadkar

Advisor Courtney Erin Byrd-Williams, PhD

Anthony Thuan Do

Advisor Kristina Mena, PhD

Elissa Blanton Dodd-Eaton

Advisor A.J. Agopian, PhD

Jose Rafael Dominguez

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Brian Thomas Doss

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Jessi Breanne Duran

Advisor Harold Kobl, III, PhD

Hannah Kay Eason

Advisor Paige Padgett Wermuth, PhD

Alanna Louise Edwards*

Advisor Courtney Erin Byrd-Williams, PhD

Donald Egan

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Hayden Ericson English

Advisor Harold Kobl, III, PhD

Jesse Anthony Esparza

Advisor David Douphrate, PhD

Matthew Thomas Esposito

Advisor John R. Herbold, PhD, DVM

Shari Esquenazi-Karonika

Advisor Susan Tortolero Emery, PhD

Keyanna Shante’ Evans

Susan G. Sampson Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund

Advisor Henry S. Brown III, PhD

Sandra Chidera Ezigbo

Advisor Robert Morgan, PhD

Fatima Faraz

Advisor Rebecca Wells, PhD

Nashid Farzana

Advisor Xianglin L. Du, PhD, MBBS

Nathan Peter Fernandes

Advisor Nalini Ranjit, PhD

Emily Rose Fisher*

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Elizabeth Freyre

Advisor Frances Revere, PhD

Giovanni Gabriele

Advisor Anna Wilkinson, PhD

Brianna Gaddis

Advisor Katelyn Jetelina, PhD

Emily Gallagher

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Leah Christine Galuban

Aurelia Murphy Killian Endowment in Public Health

Advisor Alexandra van den Berg, PhD

Rajshi Gandhi*

Advisor Laura Mitchell, PhD

Ankitha Gangarapu

Advisor Paige Padgett Wermuth, PhD

Elisa Garcia*

Advisor Linda Highfield, PhD

Esteban Garcia

Advisor Bijal Balasubramanian, PhD, MBBS

Sammar Mohamed Ghannam*

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Nikita Ghosh

Advisor Trudy Krause, DrPH

Riya Ghosh

Advisor Frances Revere, PhD

Rishi Goel

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Soumya Gogia*

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Emily Victoria Gordon

Advisor A.J. Agopian, PhD

Grace Kathryn Goulet*

Advisor Katelyn Jetelina, PhD

Matthew Grimsbo

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Weston Grove

Advisor William Perkison, MD

Leon Gu

Advisor Bijal Balasubramanian, PhD, MBBS

Ricardo Gutierrez

Advisor Paul de Vries, PhD

Layla Haidar*

Advisor Maria E. Fernandez, PhD

Alix Halter

Advisor Paula Cuccaro, PhD

Raneem Hamdan

Advisor Frances Revere, PhD

Rachel Han

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Lauren Elizabeth Harris

Thesis

How to Reduce Preventable Maternal Mortality in Black Women
by Enhanced Social Support Through Doula Care

Advisor Paige Padgett Wermuth, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Kimberly K. Lopez, DrPH

Sarah Elizabeth Harris

Advisor Frances Revere, PhD

Ross Harrison*

Advisor Trudy Krause, DrPH

Olivia Rose Hart

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Katie R. Hauser

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Marlon Haygood

Advisor Anna Wilkinson, PhD

Eduardo Alejandro Hernandez

Advisor Bijal Balasubramanian, PhD, MBBS

Christopher S. Herndon

Advisor Sheryl A. McCurdy, PhD

Veronica Herrera

Advisor Alexandra van den Berg, PhD

Lauren Louise Hinkel

Advisor Andrew E. Springer, DrPH

Frances Grace Howard*

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Tracy Leigh Howard

Advisor Courtney Erin Byrd-Williams, PhD

Safina Hsu

Advisor Kim Waller, PhD

Ryan Huffman

Advisor Steven H. Kelder, PhD

Alauna Mere Hunt

Advisor Blake Hanson, PhD

Jennifer Huynh

Advisor Maria E. Fernandez-Esquer, PhD

Deborah Ogheneyenrowho Idjoko

Advisor John R. Herbold, PhD, DVM

Daniel R. Iken

Advisor Nalini Ranjit, PhD

Sarah Rachelle Irby

Advisor Robert Morgan, PhD

Mary Nicole Jackson

Advisor Steven H. Kelder, PhD

Avery Elizabeth Jeffery

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Georgia Lee Jenkins

Advisor Han Chen, PhD

Evit Rajan John*

Dr. David W. Martin Memorial Scholarship

Advisor Xianglin L. Du, PhD, MBBS

Shelby Victoria Johnson

Advisor Linda Highfield, PhD

David Johnston

Advisor Harold Kohl, III, PhD

Hyun Jung Jung

Advisor Steven H. Kelder, PhD

Ananthalakshmi Jupudy

Aurelia Murphy Killian Endowment in Public Health

Advisor Nalini Ranjit, PhD

Misty Lyn Kelley

Advisor Laura Moore, MEd

Jasmine Z. Khan

Advisor Harold Kohl, III, PhD

Mishell Murtaza Khan

Advisor James Langabeer, PhD, EdD

Niki Khandheria*

Dr. Raymond Chinn MD/MPH Scholarship

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Heran Kidane

Advisor Harold Kohl, III, PhD

Alison Kiley*

Ginni and Richard Mithoff Endowed Scholarship in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

Advisor Paula Cuccaro, PhD

Hyunkyung Kim

Dr. M. Stewart West Memorial Scholarship in Biometry

Thesis

The Practical Guidelines to Imputation of Missing Values in Medicare Claims Data

Advisor Wenyaw Chan, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Yong-Fang Kuo, PhD

Eleanor Olivia Kirkscey

Advisor Bijal Balasubramanian, PhD, MBBS

John Garrison Knight

Advisor David Douphrate, PhD

Mariah Koehler

Leslie A. Chambers Endowed Scholarship Fund

Susanne M. Savely Environmental Sciences Scholarship

Advisor Lawrence W. Whitehead, PhD

Olasunkanmi Abimbola Kolawole

Advisor Marlyn Allicock, PhD

Kimberly Jane Elise Kreitner*

Aurelia Murphy Killian Endowment in Public Health

Thesis

Comparison of Neurotoxin-Producing Cyanobacteria in Two Regions of Central Texas:
A Cross-Sectional Study

Advisor Melissa Harrell, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Brianna Moore, PhD

David Nygard Kronenberger*

**President James T. Willerson/Nancy Beamer Willerson Scholarship
in the School of Public Health**

Advisor Shreela V. Sharma, PhD

Modupeola Kuteyi*

Advisor Vanessa Schick, PhD

Sejal Lahoti*

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Elisha Lalani

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Christoffer Lam

Advisor Steven H. Kelder, PhD

Kelsey Brooke Lancon*

Ronald B. Harrist Scholarship in Public Health

Advisor Anna Wilkinson, PhD

Richa Lavingia

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Andrea Libby Le

Advisor Belinda Flores Hernandez, PhD

Christopher Le

Advisor Bing Yu, PhD

David S. Lee

Advisor Cecilia Ganduglia Cazaban, DrPH, MD

Luke Lehman

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Frederick Ian Lemaistre*

Advisor William Perkison, MD

Roxann Alexis Lerma

Advisor Kristina Mena, PhD

Megan Lewis

Advisor Kelley Pettee Gabriel, PhD

Michelle K. Lewis

Advisor Kai Zhang, PhD

Amanda Chau Li

Reuel A. Stallones Memorial Scholarship Fund

Advisor David Douphrate, PhD

Amy Li

Advisor Folefac D. Atem, PhD

Yuhong Lin

Aurelia Murphy Killian Endowment in Public Health

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

April Lindsay*

Advisor Wei-Chung Su, PhD

Allison S. Lino

Thesis

The Role of Proinflammatory Cytokines in West Nile Virus Infection and Association
with the Development of Depression

Advisor R. Sue Day, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Shannon Ronca, PhD

Liezelle Chua Lopez

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Anh Ly

Thesis

Epidemiological Characteristics of Dengue Cases Detected in 2020 Through the Belize
Acute Febrile Illness Surveillance Network

Advisor Lu-Yu Hwang, MD; Thesis Supervisor Kristy O. Murray, DVM, PhD

Sasha MacLennan

Advisor Melissa Harrell, PhD

Andrew Vinh Mai

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Lisette Esther Marquez

Advisor Frances Revere, PhD

Natasha Annette Marshall*

UTHealth School of Public Health Dean's Scholarship (various donors)

Advisor Johnny M. Wilkerson, PhD

Oscar Parkerson Martinez*

Thesis

The Economic Burden of Rising Measles Rates

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor Paul Rowan, PhD

Jessica Leticia Martinez

Advisor Yun-Xin Fu, PhD

Nancy Martinez Cuevas

Advisor Paige Padgett Wermuth, PhD

Marina Masciale

Advisor Alanna C. Morrison, PhD

Emily Jane Mason

Advisor Melissa Harrell, PhD

Ayesha Z. Masood

Advisor Maria E. Fernandez, PhD

Priya Mary Mathew*

Advisor Bijal Balasubramanian, PhD, MBBS

Cheyenne Nicoel Mattes

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Christina Charsie Maxey

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Izaak Maxfield

G. Roger Florky Memorial Scholarship Fund

Advisor Lawrence W. Whitehead, PhD

Jordan McMaster

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Courtney Michelle McNeely

Advisor Bijal Balasubramanian, PhD, MBBS

Katharine Hope Fullerton McNiel

Advisor Steven H. Kelder, PhD

Riya Atul Mehta*

Advisor Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, PhD

Claudia Martina Mejia

Advisor Eric C. Jones, PhD

Jordan Jennifer Mendez

Advisor Belinda Flores Hernandez, PhD

David Kenneth Mendonca

Advisor R. Sue Day, PhD

Margaret Rose Mercer

Advisor Folefac D. Atem, PhD

Valeria Merla

Advisor Harold Kohl, III, PhD

Adrian G. Mihalcea

Advisor A.J. Agopian, PhD

Bobbi Jo Miller

Richard M. Grimes Scholarship in Public Health

UTHealth School of Public Health Dean's Scholarship (various donors)

Advisor David Douphrate, PhD

Mikaela Grace Miller

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Rachel Louise Miller

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Usman Sajid Mir*

Advisor James Langabeer, PhD, EdD

Rakiya Mohamed

Advisor Marlyn Allicock, PhD

Justin McDonnell Moher

Advisor Catherine L. Troisi, PhD

Ruben Molina

Advisor Laura Aubree Shay, PhD

Ariel Morales

Advisor John R. Herbold, PhD, DVM

Jeremie Paul Morris

Advisor Anna Wilkinson, PhD

Lena Mueller

Aurelia Murphy Killian Endowment in Public Health

**President James T. Willerson/Nancy Beamer Willerson
Scholarship in the School of Public Health**

Advisor Andrew E. Springer, DrPH

Justin Daniel Muller

Advisor Paul de Vries, PhD

Amy Melissa Mullikin

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Premakumari Murali Duraisami

Advisor Anna Wilkinson, PhD

Jose Antonio Negrete

Advisor Mark Phelps, JD

Theresa H. Nguyen Wenker*

Thesis

**External Validation of a Model Determining Risk of Neoplastic Progression of Barrett's Esophagus
in a Cohort of United States Veterans**

Advisor Xianglin L. Du, PhD, MBBS; Thesis Supervisor Hashem B. El-Serag, MD

Sonia Elizabeth Ninan*

Advisor A.J. Agopian, PhD

Roni Nitecki

Advisor Kim Waller, PhD

Oluchi Iris Nwaobia*

Advisor Catherine L. Troisi, PhD

Barnabas Odeyomi

Advisor Anna Wilkinson, PhD

Amaris Ojeda

Advisor Rebecca Wells, PhD

Chinelo Yvette Oji

Advisor Sheryl A. McCurdy, PhD

Ebubechukwu Toluwani Okeke

Advisor James E. Hixson, PhD

Chidi Felix Okoro*

Advisor Jan Bressler, PhD

Nnedinma Isabel Okpala

Advisor David Douphrate, PhD

Caitlin Oliver

Advisor Harold Kohl, III, PhD

Allison Olmsted

Lauren and Adam Strauss Endowed Scholarship

Thesis

Feasibility and Acceptability of Technology-Supported Sexual Health Education Among Adolescents Receiving Inpatient Psychiatric Care

Advisor Craig L. Hanis, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Christine Markham, PhD

Pablo Ulises Olvera

Advisor Miryoung Lee, PhD

Sieda Omar*

Advisor Shreela V. Sharma, PhD

Jeff Ondocsin*

Advisor James E. Hixson, PhD

Miracle Orji

Polly Sparks Turner, MPH, DrPH Endowed Scholarship in Community Health

Advisor Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, PhD

Lauren Alexandra Osborne

Advisor Melissa Harrell, PhD

Eno Oshin

Advisor Frances Revere, PhD

Timothy William Overton

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Oyinlola Abosede Owolabi

Advisor Paula Cuccaro, PhD

Deborah T. Oyedapo

Advisor Folefac D. Atem, PhD

Christian Grace Paleracio*

Advisor John R. Herbold, PhD, DVM

Maria Irene Palma

Advisor Belinda Flores Hernandez, PhD

Megin Mercy Parayil

Advisor Marlyn Allicock, PhD

Christine Park

Advisor Bijal Balasubramanian, PhD, MBBS

Kunal Nitinkumar Patel*

Clifford G. Campbell Scholarship in Public Health

Advisor Zhi-Dong Jiang, DrPH, MD

Chris Pearl Nath

Advisor George P. Delclos, PhD, MD

Jasmine Alina Pena

Advisor Christine Markham, PhD

Miguel Isaac Pena

Advisor Steven H. Kelder, PhD

Emily Pendleton*

Advisor Robert Morgan, PhD

Elena Penedo

Thesis

Evaluating Associations Between Nicotine Exposure and Frequency of Use Among Cigarette and E-Cigarette Users Using the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Study Wave 1 (2013-2014) Data

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor Adriana Perez, PhD

Sandra Camila Perez

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Nova Claire Elizabeth Phillips*

Thesis
The Role of Pharmacists as Antibiotic Stewards in Developing Countries
Advisor Melissa Harrell, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Charles Darkoh, PhD

Danielle Leigh Pierce

Advisor James Langabeer, PhD, EdD

Elizabeth Marie Piron

Advisor James E. Hixson, PhD

Edda Pleitez

Advisor Harold Kobl, III, PhD

Amanda Lynn Pouncy-Ross

Advisor Harold Kobl, III, PhD

Tara Marie Prezioso*

Advisor Blake Hanson, PhD

Mahnoor Qureshi*

Advisor Craig L. Hanis, PhD

Megan Shea Rafferty

Advisor Jose-Miguel Yamal, PhD

Srikar C. Ranga

Advisor Jan Bressler, PhD

Shazia Rangwala

Thesis
Understanding Young Adult Tobacco and Marijuana Use
Advisor / Thesis Supervisor Melissa Harrell, PhD

Addison Elizabeth Ransom*

Thesis
Cross-Sectional Analysis of the Relationship Between Violent Crime and Mental Health Disorders in a Sample of Homeless Adults Recently Released from Jail
Advisor / Thesis Supervisor Marilyn Allicock, PhD

Delaney Rawson

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Adam Harry Reiser

Advisor Steven H. Kelder, PhD

Bethany Rios

Advisor David Gimeno, PhD

Genesis Jasmine Rivas-Ponce

Advisor Vanessa Schick, PhD

Alva Lorraine Rodarte

Mercedes-Benz of Sugar Land Scholarship
Advisor Kristina Mena, PhD

Alejandra Rodriguez

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Omar Rosales

Advisor Craig L. Hanis, PhD

Samantha Rosenberg

Julius and Suzan Glickman Endowed Scholarship in Innovation
Advisor Alexandra van den Berg, PhD

Presley Ann Ruland

Carolyn and Matt Khourie Endowed Scholarship in Nutrition
Mercedes-Benz of Sugar Land Scholarship
Advisor Laura Moore, MEd

Carson Rutter

Advisor Laura Aubree Shay, PhD

Yusuf Salam

Advisor Michael Cannell, PhD

Nimrah Fatima Saleem

Thesis
IBD Qorus: Improving the Quality of Care for Adults with Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Advisor Frances Revere, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Jason Ken Hou, MD

Ruth Sanchez

Advisor Harold Kobl, III, PhD

Danielle Sanders

Dr. Oddis Calvin Turner Endowed Scholarship in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences
Thesis
Perceptions of Vegetables and Home Cooking Recommendations
Advisor Laura Moore, MEd; Thesis Supervisor R. Sue Day, PhD

Sarah Nahzy Sapp*

Advisor Kimberly Baker, DrPH

Sheridan Leigh Schulte

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Sachein Amrit Rattan Sharma

Advisor Shreela V. Sharma, PhD

Alexis Donyelle Shorts

Advisor Paula Cuccaro, PhD

Sofia Siddiq

Advisor Han Chen, PhD

Khaja Siddiqui

Advisor Vanessa Schick, PhD

Nandita Singh*

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Jacob Smith

Advisor Steven H. Kelder, PhD

Hayley Alexandra Snider*

Advisor Paul de Vries, PhD

Kritika Soni

Advisor Maria E. Fernandez-Esquer, PhD

Mackenzie Spaniol

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Evelyn E. Staley

Aurelia Murphy Killian Endowment in Public Health

Thesis

Relationships Between Condom Use, STI Diagnosis, Perceived Risk, and Knowledge Among a Diverse Undergraduate Student Population

Advisor / Thesis Supervisor Kimberly Baker, DrPH

Hillary Denise Howorth Strassner

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Jiali Sun*

Advisor Carol A. Galeener, PhD

Evelyn Syau

Advisor Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, PhD

Ewa Anna Szyzkowska

Advisor John R. Herbold, PhD, DVM

Claudina Tami

Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio Scholarship

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Niat Deana Tekle

Advisor Jan Bressler, PhD

Gopinath Rao Thangada*

Advisor Belinda Flores Hernandez, PhD

Guillermo Alejandro Tortolero

Thesis

Examining Social Vulnerability and Social Distancing and Their Association to COVID-19 Incidence in the Harris County, Texas

Advisor Melissa Fleschler Peskin, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Eric Boerwinkle, PhD

Lindsey Marie Townsend

Advisor Harold Kobl, III, PhD

Montgomery Stormm Turner-Little*

Advisor Marlyn Allicock, PhD

Hannah Katherine Uhlig-Reche

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Chioma Ujari

Advisor Kim Waller, PhD

Jessica Haley Van Sweringen*

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Brooke Vander Hey

Advisor Trudy Krause, DrPH

Rita Maya Villazana

Advisor Catherine L. Troisi, PhD

Mattalin Katherine Vojacek*

Advisor Shreela V. Sharma, PhD

Lynn Vu

Advisor Kristina Mena, PhD

Adrienne Dramanique Walker

Advisor Bijal Balasubramanian, PhD, MBBS

Christopher Xavier Walker

Advisor Kymberle Landrum Sterling, DrPH

Alvina Waqar*

Advisor Anna Wilkinson, PhD

Matthew Jordan Weber

Advisor John R. Herbold, PhD, DVM

Elise Weisert

Advisor Kim Waller, PhD

Matthew Burns White

Advisor Marlyn Allicock, PhD

Jared Gerard Wiegand*

Thesis

Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury: Health Care Utilization, Outcomes, and Long-Term Costs

Advisor Michael Cannell, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Sarah Messiah, PhD

Amy Elizabeth Willa

Thesis

Breastfeeding Duration and Reasons Given for Early Cessation
of Breastfeeding Among WIC Mothers

Advisor Susan Tortolero Emery, PhD; Thesis Supervisor Paige Padgett Wermuth, PhD

Jessica Dymond Williams*

Advisor William Perkison, MD

Roger Bradley Williams

Aurelia Murphy Killian Endowment in Public Health

Advisor Marcia C. de Oliveira Otto, PhD

Naomi Winick

Advisor Christine Markham, PhD

Anna Witte

G. Roger Florky Memorial Scholarship Fund

Advisor Lawrence W. Whitehead, PhD

Tanner Danielle Workman*

Advisor Trudy Krause, DrPH

Joseph Wozny

Advisor Suja S. Rajan, PhD

Emily June Wright

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Quentaxia Zeniqua Wrighting

Advisor James Langabeer, PhD, EdD

Dirk Wristers

Advisor Melissa Valerio-Shewmaker, PhD

Nidhi Wunnav

Advisor Lawrence W. Whitehead, PhD

Bindu Yarlagadda

Polly Sparks Turner, MPH, DrPH Endowed Scholarship in Community Health

Advisor Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, PhD

Anirudh Yerrapragada

Advisor Steven H. Kelder, PhD

Stephanie Grace Yi*

Advisor John M. Swint, PhD

Mary Younan

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Sara Kathryn Young

Laura S. Moore and Don Sanders Scholarship

Advisor Laura Moore, MEd

Sarah Lynn Young

Advisor Kim Waller, PhD

Victoria Jin Yu

Advisor Harold Kohl, III, PhD

Peter Sangeyup Yun*

Advisor Linda B. Piller, MD

Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth



Since its founding in 1972, **Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth** has been recognized as a place where exceptional faculty members help high-achieving students learn, discover, and practice the art and science of nursing. The school provides rigorous educational, clinical, and research opportunities, including state-of-the-art facilities for training in patient care and for testing new technologies for aging populations. Its broad range of academic programs are routinely recognized as among the best in the state and the nation.

In 2017, Jane and Robert Cizik made a landmark gift to the nursing school, giving the school the resources and capacity to shape the future of nursing education and health care delivery. In recognition of this transformative gift, the school was renamed the Jane and Robert Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth.



SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Diane M. Santa Maria, DrPH, MSN, RN, FAAN

Dean

The Jane and Robert Cizik Distinguished Chair
Huffington Foundation Endowed Chair
in Nursing Education Leadership

Cathy L. Rozmus, PhD, RN, FAAN

Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

PARTNERS Professor

Kevin E. Burnett

Associate Dean for Management

Constance M. Johnson, PhD, MS, RN, FAAN

Associate Dean of Research

Maria C. and Christopher J. Pappas Family Distinguished
Chair in Nursing

Lee and Joseph Jamail Distinguished Professor
in the School of Nursing

Susan D. Ruppert, PhD, RN, FAAN

Associate Dean and Department Chair of Graduate Studies
PARTNERS Endowed Professor in Nursing

THE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE

I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE MYSELF IN THE PRESENCE
OF THIS ASSEMBLY TO FAITHFULLY PRACTICE
MY PROFESSION OF NURSING.

I WILL DO ALL IN MY POWER TO MAKE AND
MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STANDARDS AND PRACTICES
OF MY PROFESSION.

I WILL HOLD IN CONFIDENCE ALL PERSONAL
MATTERS COMMITTED TO MY KEEPING IN THE
PRACTICE OF MY CALLING.

I WILL DEVOTE MYSELF TO THE WELFARE
OF MY PATIENTS, MY FAMILY, AND MY COMMUNITY.

I WILL TAKE MY SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY
IN PROMOTING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE
OF THE COMMUNITY.

I WILL CONSTANTLY ENDEAVOR TO INCREASE
MY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN NURSING AND
TO USE THEM WISELY.

I WILL ZEALOUSLY SEEK TO NURSE THOSE WHO ARE
ILL WHEREVER THEY MAY BE AND WHENEVER
THEY ARE IN NEED.

I WILL BE ACTIVE IN ASSISTING OTHERS
IN SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTING THE HEALTH
AND HAPPINESS OF MANKIND.

Adapted from the original pledge by Lystra E. Gretter, 1893

The Nightingale Pledge, named in honor of Florence Nightingale, is a modified version of the Hippocratic Oath. It is a statement of the ethics and principles of the nursing profession in the United States. More recent revisions reflect an expansion of nursing responsibilities to encompass patient advocacy and public health.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP *continued*

Erica Teng-Yuan Yu, PhD, RN

Associate Dean and Department Chair of Undergraduate Studies
Margaret A. Barnett/PARTNERS Professor in Nursing

Melissa D. Ethington, PhD, MSN, RN

Assistant Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs

Elda G. Ramirez, PhD, RN, FAAN

Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

GRADUATE CALLERS

Kala A. Christopherson, DNP, RN

Assistant Professor, Department of Graduate Studies

Sandra K. Hanneman, PhD, RN, FAAN

Professor, Department of Research
Jerold B. Katz Distinguished Professor for Nursing Research

Mahrokh M. Kobeissi, DNP, RN

Assistant Professor, Department of Graduate Studies

Kristin K. Ownby, PhD, RN

Associate Professor, Department of Undergraduate Studies

GRADUATE HOODERS

Rebecca L. Casarez, PhD, RN

Associate Professor, Department of Graduate Studies

Matthew M. Lewis, PhD, DNP, CRNA

Assistant Professor, Nurse Anesthesia

CIZIK SCHOOL OF NURSING REGALIA CORDS

Those graduating with a bachelor's degree with honors (cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher) will be wearing gold honor cords.

Graduates who have been inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing are wearing orchid and white honor cords depicting their membership in this prestigious society.

Representatives to the Student InterCouncil are wearing white sashes given to them in honor of their contribution to this important student governance organization.

UTHealth Student Nurses Association members who have acquired at least 35 service points throughout their time at UTHealth will be wearing blue cords in honor of their accomplishments and service to the community.

Student Government Organization officers are wearing burnt orange cords signifying their hard work and dedication as representatives of the student body.

BSN graduates serving as Ambassadors in the Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth Ambassador Program are wearing forest green cords to indicate their completion of leadership development activities with the goal of developing confident, competent and empowered nursing leaders who will contribute to improving health and health care.

Patricia Estella Bryan

Dissertation

Molecular Diagnosis of Intestinal Parasites:
Impact on Growth Among Preschool-Age Children in Rural Ecuador

Chair Cathy Rozmus, PhD, RN

Annalyn DeMello

Dissertation

The Impact of Bullying Victimization and Sexual Orientation on the Severity of Suicidal Behavior

Chair Rebecca Casarez, PhD, RN

Jeanette Drake

Dissertation

Development and Preliminary Psychometric Testing
of the Drake Atrial Electrogram Assessment Survey: DAEGAS®.

Chair Sandra K. Hanneman, PhD, RN

Carolyn Tran

Dissertation

Associations of Perceived Overall Health, Psychological Distress, Functional Impairment,
and Alcohol Use among Older Adults of Sexual Minority Status and Heterosexual Peers

Chair Rebecca Casarez, PhD, RN

candidates receiving the degree of **Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Amy Louise Adair

Dissertation

Implementing a Critical Incident Debriefing Team (CIDT) in the Obstetric Care Area:
A Quality Improvement Project

Advisor *Linda Cole, DNP, RN*

Sara Moez Ali

School of Nursing Spirit Award

Dissertation

Improving Intake Process For Incoming Service Requests For The Analytics
And Reporting Department: A Quality Improvement Project

Advisor *Juliana Brixey, PhD, MPH, MSN, RN*

Terri Alvarez

Dissertation

Improving the Quality Measures of Depression Screening
for Adult Patients in a Family Practice Clinic

Advisor *Kathleen Siders, DNP, RN*

Lisa Anderson

Community Health and Service Award

Dissertation

Reducing Stress in Parents of Children Diagnosed with ADHD: A Quality Improvement Project

Advisor *Kelly Kearney, DNP, RN*

Nakeisha McNeill Archer

Dissertation

Combating Incivility and Bullying in Health Care: Effects of a Targeted Evidenced Based Program
in a Perioperative Department

Advisor *Beth Ulrich, EdD, RN*

Bukola S. Azeez

Dissertation

Increasing the Number of Kept Appointments to a Lifestyle Modification Program
for Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Woman with a BMI ≥25

Advisor *Latarsha Cheatham, DNP, RN*

Rachel Bijoh Benjamin

Harris County Medical Society Alliance Clinical Excellence Award

Dissertation

Multicomponent Intervention to Promote Colorectal Screening in a Federally Qualified
Health Center Serving a Homeless Population in the Houston Downtown Area

Advisor *Rebecca Casarez, PhD, RN*

Racheal Elise Bingham

Dissertation

The Impact of a Checklist on Quality Patient Care and the Reduction of Clinic Visit Times
in Pediatric Patients with Neurofibromatosis Type I

Advisor *Carole Mackavey, DNP, MSN, RN*

Candace Varner Cains

Dissertation

Implementation of a Structured Communication Tool to Improve Patient Safety
in Hospitalized Women and Children

Advisor *Nancy Crider, DrPH, RN*

Heather Marie Cherry

Dissertation

Combating Incivility in Health Care: Effects of a Targeted Evidence Based Program in an NICU

Advisor *Beth Ulrich, EdD, RN*

Ndi Chukwumerije

Dissertation

Improving Nephropathy Screening in Prison Inmates with Diabetes at a Primary Care Clinic

Advisor *Rebecca Casarez, PhD, RN*

Dietrich Davis

Dissertation

Using Communication Through Technology to Reduce Wait Times in an Ambulatory Setting:
A Quality Improvement Project

Advisor *Kathleen Siders, DNP, RN*

Cora Leah Dziuk

Program Director's Clinical Scholar Award

Dissertation

Reducing Expense and Improving Outcomes: Identification and Management of Post-Hospital
Depression in the Elderly Using A Depression Severity Screening Tool and Shared Decision-Making
During the Post-Hospital Discharge Outpatient Transition Visit

Advisor *Francine Snow, DrPH, MSN, RN*

Jasmin Ulahannan Eapen

Dissertation

Implementation of an Intraoperative Blood Glucose Management Clinical Decision Support System
in the Electronic Health Record to Promote Adherence to n Intraoperative Blood Glucose Monitoring Protocol

Advisor *Deniz Dishman, PhD*

Erika Yvonee Fisher

Dissertation

Implementing a Structured TeamSTEPPS Tool to Improve Communication in an Ambulatory Clinic Setting

Advisor *Nancy Crider, DrPH, RN*

Bola Olasunkanmi Jaiyeola

Sigma Theta Tau

Dissertation

Improving Time to Antibiotics in Possible Septic Neonates in the Pediatric Emergency Room

Advisor *Vaunette Fay, PhD, RNC*

Bethsheba Johnson

Dissertation

An Initiative to Increase Sexual History Screening & Preexposure Prophylaxis (Prep) for individuals
at-Risk for HIV in Houston, Texas

Advisor *Nancy Crider, DrPH, RN*

Suma Joseph

Dissertation

Implementation of a Checklist enhancing the availability of Anesthesia Supplies for Managing Bleeding Events During Lung Cryoablation in Interventional Radiology

Advisor *Deniz Dishman, PhD*

Kai Elizabeth Lang

Dissertation

Improving the Culture of Safety in a Gynecologic Oncology Center: Implementing an Outcome Based Communication Process

Advisor *Lisa Thomas, DNP, RN*

Benjamin Lockmiller

Dissertation

Improved Controlled Substance Waste Verification

Advisor *Myron Arnaud, DNP*

Adriana Moreno

Sigma Theta Tau

Dissertation

Increasing the Detection of Childhood Obesity: A Quality Improvement Project in a South Texas Family Practice Clinic

Advisor *Latarsha Cheatham, DNP, RN*

Ijeoma Sylvia Nnebedum

Sigma Theta Tau

Dissertation

Improving the User's Experience with Allscripts Nested Forms: A Quality Improvement Project

Advisor *Juliana Brixey, PhD, MPH, MSN, RN*

Munachi N. Okpala

Sigma Theta Tau

Dissertation

Proactive Communication Approach to Increase Compliance with Outpatient Imaging Completion

Advisor *Kathleen Siders, DNP, RN*

Mary C. Christina Sunna

Dissertation

The Use of Telehealth Adjuncts for Preanesthetic Evaluation to Improve Operating Room Efficiency

Advisor *Amy Blok, DNP*

Denise Nichelle Tanner-Brown

Dissertation

Teambuilding in a Pediatric Acute Care Unit and The Perceptual Impact on Psychological Safety

Advisor *Susan Stafford, DNP, MPA, MBA, RN*

Monica Thomas

Dissertation

Implementing Mindfulness-Based Interventions to Reduce Perceived Stress in Correctional Officers Who Work in a Large County Jail

Advisor *Angela Nash, PhD*

Evangeline P. Tomongha

Dissertation

The Use of a Standardized Intubation Checklist to Enhance the Intubation Experience in the Intensive Care Unit

Advisor *Matthew Lewis, PhD, DNP*

Jennifer Marie Vera

Sigma Theta Tau

Dissertation

Case Study: A Community Hospital's Response to a Pandemic

Advisor *Cathy Rozmus, PhD, RN*

Ketrese Michelle White

Dissertation

Nurse Perceptions of Mindfulness Programs in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Advisor *Susan Stafford, DNP, MPA, MBA, RN*

Alesha Cannon Williams

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Dissertation

Implementation of Standardized Text Messaging Technology to Improve Patient Satisfaction, Related to Delays in the Ambulatory Surgery Setting

Advisor *Nancy Crider, DrPH, RN*

Mary Elizabeth Adkisson

Dissertation

Improving Compliance to Massive Transfusion Protocols in the Operating Room

Advisor *Johnny Dang, DNP*

Sherena Brantley

Dissertation

Enhanced Recovery Pathway Focused on Non-Opioid Analgesia for Individuals Undergoing Craniotomy for Tumor Resection

Advisor *Myron Arnaud, DNP*

Kelly Jean Brubakken

Dissertation

Standardization of Blood Ordering Practices

Advisor *Peter Slivinski, DNP*

Laura McIlveene Buckner

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Harris County Medical Society Alliance Clinical Excellence Award

Dissertation

A Bundled Approach to Decreasing Foot Traffic in Orthopedic Operating Rooms

Advisor *Deniz Dishman, PhD*

Gabrielle Alcantara Casilang

Dissertation

Improving Patient Handoffs between the Operating Room and Post-Anesthesia Care Unit

Advisor *Amy Blok, DNP*

Benjamin Anthony Cuevas

Nurse Anesthesia Program Director's Award

Dissertation

Standardizing Anesthesia Management of Percutaneous Tracheostomies in the Intensive Care Unit

Advisor *Peter Slivinski, DNP*

Tina Marie Daughtry

School of Nursing Spirit Award

Dissertation

Evidence-based Guidelines for the Management of Morbidly Obese Patients Undergoing Procedures in Steep Trendelenburg Position

Advisor *Matthew Lewis, PhD, DNP*

Lina Abdulaziz Eisa

Dissertation

Improving Patient Handoffs between the Operating Room and Post-Anesthesia Care Unit

Advisor *Amy Blok, DNP*

Bindhu Gemoy George

Dissertation

Verbal and Written Sugammadex Education for Women of Childbearing Age: A Quality Improvement

Advisor *Matthew Lewis, PhD, DNP*

Christopher Wayne Gonzalez

Dissertation

Preanesthetic Telemedicine Evaluation

Advisor *Myron Arnaud, DNP*

Caroline Pinkey Kessellie

Dissertation

Improving Compliance to Massive Transfusion Protocols in the Operating Room

Advisor *Johnny Dang, DNP*

Jordan Michelle Lacy

Dissertation

A Bundled Approach to Decreasing Foot Traffic in Orthopedic Operating Rooms

Advisor *Deniz Dishman, PhD*

Bria Vidos Leblanc

Dissertation

Standardizing Anesthesia Management of Percutaneous Tracheostomies in the Intensive Care Unit

Advisor *Peter Slivinski, DNP*

Alan Lim

Dissertation

Standardization of Blood Ordering Practices

Advisor *Peter Slivinski, DNP*

Jonathan Bryan Lindstrom

Dissertation

Early Intervention for Patients at Increased Risk of Post-operative Cognitive Dysfunction Using Intraoperative Cerebral Oximetry: A Quality Improvement Initiative

Advisor *Peter Slivinski, DNP*

Chase Markette

Dissertation

Early Intervention for Patients at Increased Risk of Post-operative Cognitive Dysfunction Using Intraoperative Cerebral Oximetry: A Quality Improvement Initiative

Advisor *Peter Slivinski, DNP*

Ifeyinwa Nwachukwu

Dissertation

Preanesthetic Telemedicine Evaluation

Advisor *Myron Arnaud, DNP*

Erica Christina Osgood

Dissertation

Evidence-based Guidelines for the Management of Morbidly Obese Patients Undergoing Procedures in Steep Trendelenburg Position

Advisor *Matthew Lewis, PhD, DNP*

Nicholas Albert Snyder

Dissertation

Improving Patient Handoffs between the Operating Room and Post-Anesthesia Care Unit

Advisor *Amy Blok, DNP*

Gilberto Valenzuela

Dissertation

Standardizing Anesthesia Management of Percutaneous Tracheostomies in the Intensive Care Unit

Advisor *Peter Slivinski, DNP*

Kelsey Acuna Vander Meulen

Dissertation

Standardization of Blood Ordering Practices

Advisor *Peter Slivinski, DNP*

Tracey Lee Williams

Dissertation

Verbal and Written Sugammadex Education for Women of Childbearing Age:
A Quality Improvement

Advisor Matthew Lewis, PhD, DNP

Kasey Rulander Young

Dissertation

A Bundled Approach to Decreasing Foot Traffic in Orthopedic Operating Rooms

Advisor Deniz Dishman, PhD

Carolina Aceves

Sigma Theta Tau

Nataly Adan

Adeola Adebiyi

Alyssa Aikman

Beatrice Akpanumoh

Nasim Akther

Farrah Bano Ali

Maheen Ali

Mark Alonso

Harris County Medical Society Alliance

Community Health and Service Award

Allen Pabilona Alquinto

Valerie Crystal Alvarado

Abiodun Ambali

Maheen Tayab Arastu

Rosa Flor Arredondo

Pauline Avila

Angela Awuku

Eunice Olufunke Ayansola Owoade

Amber Baines

Melanie Barrientos

Sigma Theta Tau

Marissa Danielle Bautista

Christin Clark Bayer

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Richard Vincent Beasley

Gloria Leticia Belew

Emery Bennett

Christina Marie Bermea

Melany Berumen

Abigail Christine Bessire

Madelyn Paige Blair

Bradley Joseph Bomba

Lakshmi Pratyushareddy Bonthu

Lindsay Paige Boyer

Kathryn Elizabeth Brazelton

Courtney Crocker Brown

Nicole Elizabeth Bruey-Pernell

Jennifer Rene Bryan

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

School of Nursing Spirit Award

Sophie Bui

Gustavo Calvillo

Amber Cameron

Karnika Hill Campbell

Laura Canada

Alexandra Caro

Sheryl Chua Castilan

Norma Isabel Castillo

Jessica Kate Cawthon

Pamela Centina

Eva Charo

Joanne Zhuo En Chia

Madison Elise Cierito

Dezeria Lanean Collins

Kaitlin Kristine Congemi

Karli Conn

Vanessa A. Conn

Kelsey Crider

Cody Lawrence Crisman

Daryl Crosby

Vanessa Tene Crosson

Karizza Jardenil Cruz

Sundra Renae Davis

Rachel Windy De Leon

Racheal Wanjiku Deanda

Frances Deaton

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Edith Nkem Declan

Hilda Ana Deen

Community Health and Service Award

Andrea Jeter Dehne

Taylor Demeny

Jacqueline Kay Denzler

Priscilla Diaz

Laura Megan Dixon

Kariana Dominguez

Megan Elizabeth Dorough

Christa Michelle Duarte

Shareese A. Duffy

Jennifer Elaine Dugger

Amanda Dawn Dush

Aleen Wafik Elsaadi

Jennifer Emmenes

Uzochukwu Emukah

Nicole Renee Espurvoa

Jane Ijeoma Onejeme Ezennaya

Jacqueline Guadalupe Farias

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Kimberly Maria Fernandez

Adrian Thomas Ferrari

Gohar Firozgary

Daniel Flores

Leigha Elizabeth Fox

William Francis

Ana Patricia Garza

Molli George

Barsha Ghimire

Sigma Theta Tau

Maegan Evensen Gillis

Eric Atlas Godeaux

Jocelyn Cristina Gomez

Karina Gonzalez

Jill Goodson Campbell

Outstanding Nurse Practitioner Award

Samantha Marie Green

Trenise Griffith

Christina Marie Guarin

MaryJane Ruiz Guerrero

Leela Anita Gupta

Jessica J. Hansen

Tina Hatfield

Lindsey Hall Heath

Tiffany Raye Henderson

Meredith Paige Henry

Brenda Danielle Henson

Celeste Alexis Hernandez

Jessica Loren Hernandez

Tiffany My Hoang

Sigma Theta Tau

Anneliese Gale Hulse

Holly Elizabeth Hundl

Abby Dale Huron

Priya Rachel Jacob

Therese Oconnell James

Chinthana M. Jayan

Linita Selvi John Jeeva Dhas

Abimbola Brittany Johnson

Heather Ann Johnson

Jessica Korin Johnson

Nancy Moore Johnson

Prince Jonas

Kandyce Lynn Jones

Young Jun Ju

Ngozi G. Kalu

Maha Uzma Kamal

Ajoke R. Kazeem

Ryan Paul Kelley
Community Health and Service Award

Dana Joy Kennedy

Shazar Hanif Khan

Onida Ashley Koehler

Caitlin Marie Konwisarz

Stefanie Krejci

Madison Dale Larose

Melanie Alexandra Laurie
Sigma Theta Tau

Tiffany Lawrence

Danielle Nichole Lee

Kyung Lee

Anne Marie Leneave

Lauren Levey

Kiara Lewis

Lillian Li

Hayli Brand Light

Grace Lindwall

Tao Liu

Michael Long

Luis Lucero

Linh Luong

Amanda Jordan Mackowski

Kimberly Ann MacNaul
Sigma Theta Tau

Tatianna Natalia Mai

Amy Mann

Hannah Rose Marlowe

Meghan Ashley Martin
School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence
Harris County Medical Society Alliance

Cheri Nichole Martinez

Damaris Katina Masila

Shaniya Cyril Mathew
School of Nursing Spirit Award

Maggie Matyola

Candace Marie McCarthy

Devin Rachelle McGaughey

Ashley Nicole McGee

Martha Munguia Miles

Meagan Mitchell

Shermin S. Momin

Victor Foley Monterrey

Vladimir Moroz

Karmila Cheng Murphy

Leah Elizabeth Murphy

Nita Alisha Naim

Chinagorom Ndubuisi

Sigma Theta Tau

Nettah Ndungu

Minh Tam Thi Nguyen

Nhu Phi Nguyen

Phuong Dinh Nguyen

Tyfanie Nguyen

Chidinma Ogundu

Funmilayo Okuseinde

Ebere Eileen Opara

Kathryn Rae Ortiz

Barakat Oyenuga

Salimah Sadruddin Panjwani

Amanda Panozzo

Dania Camil Dela Paraan

Shana Parikh

Tyree Noelle Pasini

Nehal Patel

Isaac Keifer Payton

Kiara Lanise Pegues

Nicole Pepito

Kirsten Joanne Perricone

School of Nursing Spirit Award

Jasmin Briana Popillion

Laterica Danielle Pruitt

Andrea Ramirez

Kiley Rae Randall

Ashley Ann Ray

Emmanuel Rex-Nwakamma

John Eric Richardson

Ian Nieco Jacinto Rivera

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

School of Nursing Spirit Award

Cristian Humberto Rivera

Kentoria I'Sharrell Roberson

Rikki Michelle Robinett

Rhonda Kay Robinson

Holly Marie Rodriguez

Thomas James Ruggiero

Kristin Denise Ruud

Aaron Sahle

Christine Olivia Samuel

Jill San Juan

Jenetta Sanchez

Stephanie Michelle Sanchez Valverde

Sigma Theta Tau

Veronica Olvera Sarvi

Ismelda Serna Crump

Molly Ann Shannon

Nicole Fernandez Sheppard

Colson Darryle Slaven

Takela Mokic Smith-Clark

Jenna Snyder

School of Nursing Spirit Award

Kinjal Somaiya

Parwinder Sood

Larissa Marek Spheeris

Anna Steinhauser

Community Health and Service Award

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Hayden Danielle Strobel

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Karsta Lynn Sunne

Hadeel Taha

Kourtney Michelle Tapnio

Roshani Thapa

Sheeja Mathews Tharappel

Ann Zachariah Thomas

Sigma Theta Tau

Sara Thomas

Jaimie Leigh Tien

Paul Tien

Mei Kuen Erica To

Thai Bao Tran

Julie Vuong Tran

Tyler Ray Trosclair

Morgan Nicole Truitt

Angela Tse

Brittany Glynaye Turner

Community Health and Service Award

Tina Ann Varughese

Kathy Villarreal Huebner

Julia Vo

Kristiana Vodo

Van Vu

Brittany Ann Wadsworth

Brittany McBath Waggenspack

Kayla G. Wald

Regina Marie Washington

Sarah Rachel Wesselius

Jeannette Rebbecca White

Tiffany Lorraine Wiles

Alexis Sheree Williams

Chelsea Samantha Witbeck

School of Nursing Spirit Award

Amanda Woltering

Susan Kae Wooden

Caitlin Freeman Zall

Patricia Ann Zamora

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Benjamin Zein - Eldin

Tolulope Awolaja

Eunice Olufunke Ayansola Owoade

Dawn Jeanine Benard

Natalie Bernard

Lindsay Paige Boyer

Christopher Brian Brettl

Gustavo Calvillo

Rachel Marie Cameron

Joseph F. Capucetti

Latarsha Selwyna Cheatham

Kris Colston

Kathleen Dahle

Shazmeen Sikander Dayani

Carla Deflora

Erica Lindsey Dempsey

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Jahiderlyn Diggs

Loretta Loreen Foster

Ana Patricia Garza

Jennifer Guerrero

Brooke Michelle Guilbeaux

Sandy K. Harman

May-Thu Nguyen Hung

Jennifer Isis Lee

Yanet D. Leija

Joye Lewis

Linh Luong

Billy Don Marsh

Meghan Ashley Martin

Josue Omar Munoz

Colleen Neal

Tyfanie Nguyen

Erica Paige

Timothy David Rodriguez

Melissa Castaneda Rodriguez

Sumair Sachwani

Amanda Ann Sanger

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Kimberly Elizabeth Scarber

Lok Yun Louise Sin

Martin Bayode Sule

Leah Katelyn Thomas

Julie Vuong Tran

Odaliz Lizeth Valdez

Allan Valencia

Tina Ann Varughese

Cindy West

School of Nursing Spirit Award

Melissa Kay Wilkin

Doo Won

Joy Assumpta Fobanjong Yango

candidates receiving the degree of **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Precious Onyimowo Abah *magna cum laude*

Sebrin Abdu

Sarah S. Abdul-Mooti *cum laude*

Karissa Anneliese Acosta

Deborah Fikadu Adane

Basirat Olasumbo Adelaja *summa cum laude*

Katherine Emily Adkison *summa cum laude*

Solmaz Fathi Afshar *summa cum laude*

Chisolu Eunice Agulue

Chioma Collincia Ajaero *cum laude*

Stephanie Ayi Akeh

Temitope Akinola

Brooke Ash Alexander *summa cum laude*
School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Shawndra Marie Alexander

Jocelin Alfaro

Nicole Jocelin Alfonso *magna cum laude*

Anna Ali *cum laude*

Maha Salma Awan Ali *cum laude*

Yuliya Aliashkevich *summa cum laude*
School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Omid Alizadeh Gharib *cum laude*

Mackenzie Rae Allison

Daniela Alvarado *cum laude*

Gracia M. Alvarenga *summa cum laude*

Nicolas Alexander Alvarez

Patricia Maria Alvarez Santana

Amarachi Valerie Amako

Victoria Anders

Xiomara De La Paz Andrade *cum laude*

Jamessia Sharnay Anigbogu

Leojay Ernest Palisoc Arbilo

Mackenzie Elise Arrington *cum laude*
School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Asya Ashraf

Tameka Asonye

Allie Astuto

Sara Atkinson *summa cum laude*
Sigma Theta Tau

Leslie Avila

Sholabomi Kikelade Ayoade

Mario Benjamin Baidon

Aamira Firdos Bana *cum laude*

Marilyn K. Bangs *summa cum laude*

Claire Basso *cum laude*

Abigail L. Beauchamp *cum laude*

Basma Belgotte *magna cum laude*

Karla Benavides

Gabriela Bernal

Jessica Berry *cum laude*
Sigma Theta Tau

Penny Gail Beustring

Ambreen A. Bhimji

Abbey Jane Birbeck

Ashlyn Nicole Bishop *magna cum laude*

Amy Lee Blick *cum laude*

Isabel Blow

Rebecca Elizabeth Borstmayer *magna cum laude*
Honors Program

Kourtnee Bosie

Joseph Alexander Boyle *magna cum laude*

candidates receiving the degree of **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Abriel Wilkerson Brandon

Paul William Brewer

Madison E. Brown *summa cum laude*
Dorothy A. Otto Professionalism in Nursing Award

Christian Andrew Brown

Jennifer Thi Thanh Bui

Alexis Caddick *cum laude*

Antonia Nicole Cagan

Margarita Calvo Armijo *summa cum laude*

Makayla D'Lynn Cammack *summa cum laude*

Linda Victoria Canas *magna cum laude*

Arlet Mayela Cantu

Emily Cristal Cantu

Katherine Bauersfeld Carranza *summa cum laude*

Maya Case *magna cum laude*

Celina Castillo *cum laude*

Karen Icela Castillo Hernandez

Kevin Ivan Castillo Sandoval

Alejandra Beatriz Castro *summa cum laude*
School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Lauren Speer Chambers *magna cum laude*

Heleina Joyce Chaplin

Tsz Kwan Chau *cum laude*

Julissa Chavez *cum laude*

Emmanuel Ihedioha Chinyere

Ogechi Chukwu-Obijiofor *summa cum laude*

Andrea Collomp *cum laude*

Angela Shavonne Combs *cum laude*

Renee Nicole Conde *magna cum laude*

Haley Michelle Conley *summa cum laude*

Yashira M. Contreras

Nicholas Cook

Kacie Lynn Courtney

Christina Covenas *summa cum laude*
Community Health and Service Award

Normita Minlay Cruz *cum laude*

Kayla Cummings *cum laude*

Berenice Yvette Cys *summa cum laude*
School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Courtney Nicole Dagostaro

Nga Thi Kim Dang

Cynthia Lizzett Davila Bermudez

Caitlin B. Davis
Sigma Theta Tau

Jewel Dayag

Kathelyn De La Garza *cum laude*

Catherine Ann Nicole Dehaven

Austin Dane Demontigny *cum laude*

Eric Antonio Deras *summa cum laude*

Erin Cheylynne Detrick *summa cum laude*

Norma Diaz *summa cum laude*

Helen Nhi Dinh *magna cum laude*

Harrison Tran-Hoang Do *summa cum laude*

Quynh Quyen Le Do

Krista Dodds-Specht *magna cum laude*

Tiffany Dominguez *summa cum laude*

Bruce Dumlao

Mallory Jade Eilers *magna cum laude*

Gabriela Elizarraraz *magna cum laude*

Leslie Elaine Elsberry *summa cum laude*

Hania Elseewy

Paul Emeonyi

Ragilene Lopez Encarnacion

Azuka Lucky Enubuogidi

Anna Rose Eppinette *summa cum laude*

Jane Cathrine Ezernack

Sarah Ferris *magna cum laude*

Selena Alicia Flores

Sarah Ilana Fradkin

Emily Frazier

Elisa Aundrea Fredella

Alexia Itzayana Fuentes

Stephanie Carolina Galdamez *magna cum laude*

Melissa Jasmin Galvan

Cristina Elizabeth Gamez *cum laude*

Jocelyn Garcia

Vincent Garcia

Kali Michelle Gardner *cum laude*

Elyssa Garza-Urdiales

Vanessa Gasperin *summa cum laude*
School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Grace Lian Gause

Sarah Nicole Gauthier *summa cum laude*

Sara Khaled Ghorab *magna cum laude*

Raya Dawn Ghozeil

Chelsea Goffney *cum laude*

Ashly Itzel Gomez Mendez

Natalia Gonzalez *cum laude*

Berenice Gonzalez Castro

Aime Gonzalez Quintanar

Andrea Del Pilar Gonzalez-Diaz

Catherine Elizabeth Goodwin *magna cum laude*

Jessica Granados

Lee Griffis

Iliana Abigail Guardado *summa cum laude*

Robert Guerrero

Zineb Guezri *magna cum laude*

Jamie Lynn Guijosa

Alaina Guillory

Helen Michelle Gurley

Maria Fernanda Gutierrez De La Parra

Frederick Hansen

Kellye Brooke Hanson *summa cum laude*
School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Reilly Elizabeth Hardey

Allison Dalane Hargraves *summa cum laude*

Hannah Harris *cum laude*

Mary Theresa Heiberger *magna cum laude*

Rodrigo Volker Heidelberg

Fara Hemani

Taylor Henley *magna cum laude*

Mirna Hernandez

Catherine Herrera *summa cum laude*
School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Anthony Tien Hoang

Lan Nhan Vuong Hoang

Kristen Hodges

Lauren Elizabeth Holtzclaw *summa cum laude*
Honors Program
Sigma Theta Tau

Saraah Hossain *cum laude*

Tara M. Hughes *magna cum laude*

candidates receiving the degree of **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Lorena Del Carmen Huguenard *summa cum laude*

Tuyen Huynh

Ote Igwemoh

Ndidiamaka Peace Ihenwe *summa cum laude*

Ann Poage D.A.R Award

Joy Chiamaka Ihenwe

Geraldine Kelechi Ijezie

Chetachi Precious Ikeokwu

Annabel Susan Jacob *cum laude*

Ashley Lauren Jacobs *magna cum laude*

Sigma Theta Tau

Bhawna Jain *magna cum laude*

Maricela Nasrin Janak *summa cum laude*

Community Health and Service Award

Colton Hale Johnson *cum laude*

Kristen Renee Johnson *cum laude*

Marquita Carissa Johnson

Jeslin Johny

Mark Anthony Jones *summa cum laude*

Madyson Brook Jones

Sanah Faisal Kamal *summa cum laude*

Joycelyn Kankam

Krinza R. Karedia

Anishdeep Kaur

Blessing Nchekwube Kekeocha

Amy Rae Kent *cum laude*

Bailey King

Tyler Katarina Kmiecik *cum laude*

Taylor Natasha Kmiecik

Emma Haley Knight

Anastasiya Koneva *cum laude*

Ellen Koo *cum laude*

Maxmillah Chemutai Koskei *magna cum laude*

Soumya S. Kurup *cum laude*

Community Health and Service Award

Chingyi Lam *summa cum laude*

Jennifer Hong Lang

David Edward Lape

Juan Antonio Lara *summa cum laude*

Dorothy A. Otto Professionalism in Nursing Award

Isabella Rose Lara

Sharline Rae Law *magna cum laude*

School of Nursing Spirit Award

Ngan Le *cum laude*

Calvin Le *magna cum laude*

Sigma Theta Tau

Gina Le

Kimmy Ngoc Le

Kyunga Lee Leake *summa cum laude*

School of Nursing Spirit Award

Malou Therese Lebile

Madison Renee Lee *magna cum laude*

Honors Program

Sigma Theta Tau

Min Jae Lee

Valerie Lynn Lewis *summa cum laude*

Jiaxin Liang *summa cum laude*

Esther Lien *cum laude*

Savannah Grace Litton

Sheng Wei Liu *cum laude*

Gabriella Llanez

Kristina Lobo *summa cum laude*

Fatima Guadalupe Lopez

Jonathan Cadiz Luczon *cum laude*

candidates receiving the degree of **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Hoang Duc Luu *summa cum laude*
School of Nursing Spirit Award

Douglas Alexander Machado *summa cum laude*
Ann Poage D.A.R Award

Romana Maknojiya

Konstantina Makris

Maria Mandhai *summa cum laude*
Honors Program
Sigma Theta Tau
Ann Poage D.A.R Award

Mary Danielle Corpuz Manio

Asma Aziz Maredia

Taylor Paige Martin

Deybie Martinez

Lilian Cecibel Martinez

Ruchi Maskey *cum laude*

Jared Wayne Matheson *magna cum laude*

Sheethal Mathew

Lama Mattar

Mercedes Suzanne Maynard

Andrew James McCleary *summa cum laude*

Francisco Medina

Kayla Medina

Alanna Gigden Mejia *magna cum laude*

Miguel Angel Melendez

Vanessa Melo

Kaylor Brooke Mercado

Marie Kabuya Mianda

Angelina Jasmine Mikhaylov *cum laude*

Melisa Miles *cum laude*
Ann Poage D.A.R Award

Michele Lynn Mistretta *summa cum laude*

Charli Anne Mobley

Ashley Marie Molina *magna cum laude*

Briana Moloney

Trisha Daye Reyes Montemayor

Araceli Montemayor-Cobb *magna cum laude*

Elizabeth Renee Morquecho

Abdul Raziq Mubariz *cum laude*

Lisa Marie Mullaney *magna cum laude*

Norma Guadalupe Munoz

Allison Murphy

Asima Music

Marguerite Carole Ngono Epse Ndoko Njah *summa cum laude*

Kay Xuan Nguyen *cum laude*

Tram Bich Nguyen *cum laude*

Anna Nguyen

Johnie Minh-Phuoc Nguyen

Kristina Nguyen

Mai Thi Nguyen

My Xuan Thi Nguyen

Rachel Hoang Nguyen

Lucy Bao Nguyen

Sarah Grace Nix

Taylor Norman *summa cum laude*

Stephen Nowak

Alyssa Nunn

Oluwatosin Seun Odia *summa cum laude*

Tawney Brooke Offutt *magna cum laude*

Prisca Ifeyinwa Oforkansi

Madeline Louise Oglesby

Nicole Oreoluwa Okafor

Emmanuel Chidiebere Okpube

Boma Olade *cum laude*

Julio Cesar Olvera *cum laude*

Doose Jennifer Onarinde *summa cum laude*
School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Kosisochukwu Onwusogbulu

Carla Gracia Cruz Ortiz

Cordelia Osondu

Jennifer Chineyenwa Osuagwu *magna cum laude*

Laura Rosebella Owino

Arthur Pak

Anna Elaine Palazzolo *summa cum laude*

Marc Ace Labastilla Pamisa *cum laude*

Mary Margaret Parco
School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Paula A. Pareja *magna cum laude*

Kelsey Elizabeth Park

Khushbu Patel *cum laude*

Daniella Montserrat Patricio *summa cum laude*

Jessica Nicole Patrick *cum laude*

Ashley B. Patterson

Keileigh Shae Patterson

Anagha Paul

Elizabeth Gabriella Pawelek *summa cum laude*
Honors Program
Sigma Theta Tau

Tiara Penacerrada

Maria Bettina Salcedo Pepito

Nicole Maureen Perez *cum laude*

Ariana Paige Perez

Daisy Perez

Ana Paola Pesqueira Yanez *summa cum laude*

Emma Woodruff Peterson

Carlton L Petties *summa cum laude*

Mie Chau Pham

Gary Ryan Phan

John Hy Phan

Morgan Michelle Phillips

Joanna Stephanie Popovits

Shannon Carly Pruski *cum laude*

Maria Rabadan *cum laude*

Vanessa Amanda Ramirez

Anna Kait Rathbone

Welly Ray *magna cum laude*

Alyssa Ann Reyes *cum laude*

Rudis Reyes *cum laude*

Morgan Kathleen Rhoades

Mary Richards

Scott William Riggs *magna cum laude*
Sigma Theta Tau

Elizabeth Patricia Rivas

Zulema Elizabet Rivera *cum laude*

Annika Jae Ting Roasa

Anna Maria Robb

Britney Elisse Rodriguez *magna cum laude*

Gloritzel Estrada Rodriguez

Juana Manuela Rodriguez

Angela Rosales

Gabriela Rosales-Valdes

Reichel Roxas

Anna Michelle Ruiz Lopez

Porschia Kirkwood Rust

Marie Alyssa Nicole Dy Sabarre

Ana Lucia Salas *cum laude*

Anisha Salex Mathew *cum laude*

Hanna Marie Salmon

Natalie Sandefer

Ciara Alissa Santos

Erika Lynn Santos

Unicia Je’Nay Sayles *summa cum laude*

Caroline Schimmel

Amanda Lyn Schneider *magna cum laude*

Kelsey Scibek

Karoline Sellers *magna cum laude*

Raizel Shapiro *cum laude*

Cameron Shonk *cum laude*

Honors Program

Jordan T. Sidebottom *cum laude*

Jennifer Michelle Sierra

Dawn Simpson

Parampreet Kaur Singh

Monica Sousa Singhanian *summa cum laude*

Alexandra Marie Slivinski

Chloe Leigh Smith

Eldrianna Elaysia Smith

Courtney Elizabeth Spiteri

Ryan Elise Stickney *summa cum laude*

Anusha Karim Sunasara

Saniza Sunesara

Megan Crimi Swanson *summa cum laude*

Sheila Marie Palencia Tabac

Crysta Venice Tapoc *summa cum laude*

Heath Tatsch

Yannis Alexandros Teas

Ellaine Milan Tee

Julie Tessenyi

Jennifer Than

Steven Son Ton

Tam Kim Tong

Christina Anne Torres *summa cum laude*

Randall Scott Tousley

Mindy Nhulan Tran

Thanh Trieu Thi Tran

Deisy Trejo

Ana Clarissa Trevino *cum laude*

Haley Marie Trexler

Lindsay Taylor Truitt

Leon Truong

Gracelyn Ong Tubal

Madison Taylor Tugwell *cum laude*

Chijioke Celestine Uchendu

Vivian Chidera Ugwu

Onyinye Silhouette Uzoka

Alexandra Nicole Valencia *magna cum laude*

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

Allen Varghese

Marilyn Rachel Varghese

Ana Lucia Varon Ocampo *magna cum laude*

Eliana Marie Vazquez

Joanne Christie Villanueva

candidates receiving the degree of **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Daniel Villarreal *cum laude*

Elizabeth Ly Vu *cum laude*

Lauren Elizabeth Wagner

Elise Mae Wang *summa cum laude*

Grace Michelle Warren *cum laude*

Community Health and Service Award

Joshua Austin Weaver *magna cum laude*

Alyssa Alexandra Webb *cum laude*

Alexander Luke Wehbe *magna cum laude*

Briza Jordan Westrope *cum laude*

Madison Lee Whitehead *magna cum laude*

Desiree Lauren Woolard

Rochelle Georgette Marie Wright *cum laude*

Benjamin Wu *cum laude*

Tiffany Wu *magna cum laude*

Andy Wu

Jocelyn Guadalupe Yanez

Juan Miguel Zapanta *summa cum laude*

School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence

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!**





Join the UTHealth Alumni Community
uthealthalumni.org