A world of options in graduate biomedical sciences education
The T. C. Hsu Memorial Scholarship Endowment as of this publication date totals $86,527.

Special thanks go to benefactors Margaret Hsu and M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. We are deeply grateful to lead gift donors Larry Deaven, Sen Pathak, and Tadashi Utakoji as well as Yun-Fai (Chris) and Suet-Yim (Diana) Lau, Eugene Gerner, Millicent Goldschmidt, Howard Hubbell, James Mascalero, Michael McClure, and Elton Stubblefield.


This overwhelming support is an indication of the importance of the cellular studies and cancer research accomplished by Dr. Hsu, a man of humor and humility. To excerpt words from his memorial service…

Dr. Hsu’s research on the mapping of salivary gland chromosomes and the cytotomy of Drosophila virilis groups is still considered a landmark in the field. Eventually, his hypotonic procedure was adopted and led to the accurate identification of 23 pairs of chromosomes. His laboratory quickly became a mecca for mammalian cytogenetists. He collaborated with colleagues to develop the C-banding technique of staining chromosomes, and on electron microscopy studies that advanced understanding of nuclear component ultrastructure. He was one of the first to serve as faculty president of the Graduate School.

Shortly after Dr. Hsu’s memorial service in December, Mrs. Jeanette Hsu, T. C.’s wife, died unexpectedly. Our thoughts at this difficult time remain with his daughter, Margaret. It is her hope and ours that the first T. C. Hsu Fellows will be named sometime in the fall of 2004.

Cover photo: Texas Medical Center—home to 41 medical institutions, countless individual employees, and the 465 Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences students who because of their GSBS status have classrooms and laboratories located throughout.

Addition: In the issue of GSBSNEWS Summer 2003 Catherine Papasakelariou should be noted as receiving her Master of Science degree.
I recently submitted an inter-institutional training grant as part of a Gulf Coast Consortium (GCC) effort to increase programs that merge the strengths of the major Houston area institutions in traditional biomedical sciences with emerging areas of computational biology and informatics. It was hectic and stressful, and could not have been done without the help of many people. However, it was exciting and stimulating as well, because it made me realize the tremendous opportunities we have to capitalize on the new National Institutes of Health (NIH) Roadmap initiatives for interdisciplinary training and research. (Some would also say it is beneficial for a dean to get direct exposure to problems faced by faculty, e.g., short notice and even shorter deadlines from granting agencies!)

NIH is very clear about what it means, and does not mean, by “interdisciplinary.” As stated in the RFA to which I was responding, “…a multidisciplinary approach brings experts together from diverse disciplines to address collectively a common complex problem, each from his or her unique perspective. By contrast, an interdisciplinary approach is what results from the melding of two or more disciplines to create a new science. . . . the Roadmap is focused on developing new interdisciplinary approaches, and therefore the necessary interdisciplinary workforce.” (Italics are mine.) Parenthetically, this also made me wonder whether our current GSBS programs would be considered multi- or interdisciplinary by these definitions.

Whether or not one agrees with the Roadmap, its initiatives will be a critical source of support in the coming decade, and institutions that cannot compete successfully for these funds will almost certainly falter. At the same time, interdisciplinary programs pose very real organizational and administrative difficulties, especially for health-related institutions that are organized along disciplinary lines for valid reasons. In terms of training programs, the GSBS provides a unique and valuable means to compete for interdisciplinary training funds without limiting opportunities for traditional support or disrupting the organizational structures of our parent institutions. We have a significant advantage over many institutions in this regard, and it seems both logical and wise to try to capitalize on it.

What is required is a modest level of institutional support for interdisciplinary programs, primarily to support the organizational and operational efforts of the faculty organizers and leaders, plus a modest safety net, if needed, for trainees during the occasional funding hiatus. This support is essential, but it would be self-defeating to take the needed funds from existing programs (that may themselves be under-funded these days) since strong interdisciplinary programs are built upon quality disciplinary ones. To be successful, interdisciplinary training programs must also be chosen to mirror the interdisciplinary research priorities of our parent institutions. This ‘mirror’ creates the synergy that is essential, if either is to succeed in the current financial climate. Seeking support and mechanisms (both internally and externally) to build strong interdisciplinary programs has become one of my priorities as Dean, and I hope many of you will join this effort in the near future.

Best regards,

George
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<td>Nancy Seibert</td>
<td>Ph.D. Immunology</td>
<td>B.S. 12/19/98 Texas A&amp;M University- College Station</td>
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<td>Jingmin Shu</td>
<td>Ph.D. Cancer Biology</td>
<td>M.S. 07/01/98 Beijing Medical University</td>
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<td>Tamara Solomon</td>
<td>S.M.S. Genetic Counseling</td>
<td>B.S. 01/01/01 University of New Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hye Won Song</td>
<td>Ph.D. Genes and Development</td>
<td>M.S. 02/01/01 Yonsei University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sankara Narayanan Srinivasan</td>
<td>Ph.D. Biochemistry</td>
<td>B.S. 06/01/03 Anna University</td>
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<td>Robert Chess Stetson</td>
<td>Ph.D. Neuroscience</td>
<td>B.A. 06/01/01 Harvard University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Sundberg</td>
<td>Ph.D. Neuroscience</td>
<td>B.S. 12/21/02 Baylor University</td>
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<td>Dunyaporn Trachootham</td>
<td>Ph.D. Molecular Pathology</td>
<td>D.D.S. 03/08/01 Mahidol University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cynthia Trotter</td>
<td>S.M.S. Genetic Counseling</td>
<td>B.S. 05/01/03 University of Arizona</td>
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<td>Jui-chuan Tseng</td>
<td>M.S. Pharmacology</td>
<td>B.S. 08/01/02 Baylor University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanessa Vazquez</td>
<td>Ph.D. Virology and Gene Therapy</td>
<td>B.S. 05/01/03 University of Central Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabriel Villares</td>
<td>Ph.D. Cancer Biology</td>
<td>B.S. 05/01/99 St. Michael’s College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Li Wang</td>
<td>Ph.D. Molecular Pathology</td>
<td>M.S. 07/01/03 Tongji Medical College</td>
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<td>Yuan Wang</td>
<td>Ph.D. Biochemistry</td>
<td>B.S. 07/01/03 Fudan University</td>
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<td>Regina Weakes</td>
<td>Ph.D. Cell and Regulatory Biology</td>
<td>M.S. 08/13/99 Texas A&amp;M University-College Station</td>
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<td>Dongbin Xu</td>
<td>Ph.D. Cancer Biology</td>
<td>B.S. 07/01/03 Fudan University</td>
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<td>Yiyi Yan</td>
<td>M.S. Virology and Gene Therapy</td>
<td>B.S. 06/01/00 Shanghai Second Medical University</td>
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<td>Jun Yang</td>
<td>Ph.D. Cancer Biology</td>
<td>B.S. 07/01/01 Fudan University</td>
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<td>Rui Zhu</td>
<td>Ph.D. Genes and Development</td>
<td>M.S. 07/01/02 Xiamen University</td>
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GSA Officers for 2003-2004

(Pictured left to right)
Aileen Frayna, President
Katie Roeder, Vice President
Rose Reisenauer, Secretary
Orientation Friday Afternoon Club
Scenes atop the Hilton Hotel for Orientation Week’s finale for incoming students, 2003-2004

Student-Faculty softball and Volleyball games: Annual jocks’ rush for faculty and students alike—a was the score 17-3 or 3-17? It depends to whom you’re talking... dugout, volleyball court, or home plate hitters.

GSBS Adopt-A-Block Crew honoring the Graduate School with their labors: left to right, Susan Ritter, Marissa Shrader, Geoff Kannan, Amy Whitetree, Meghan Minard, and Hannah Wingate. Thank you students!

New Face at the Graduate School
We welcome new staff assistant, Gloria “Lily” D’Agostino, to the front desk at the GSBS. Originally from the Philippines, she received her B.S. in Marketing from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila. Most recently she comes to us from Eubanks Group Architects, and previously from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in the Office of International Affairs.
I started my graduate training at the GSBS in the fall of 1971, the same year that Richard Nixon signed the legislation declaring “The War on Cancer.” Having come from the University of Wisconsin at Madison with a major in physics, my intention was to obtain a doctoral degree in medical physics and work in radiotherapy physics. In 1971, cancer research was heavily oriented toward cancer treatment research.

During my visit, Ray Meyn reminded me that I was very focused on my intention to pursue a career in medical physics when I first arrived at GSBS. GSBS policy mandated that students do at least one research rotation in an area other than their declared major. I decided to get this requirement behind me as soon as possible, and “bluntly” approached Ray and his former postdoctoral mentor Ron Humphrey, in whose lab Ray was beginning to establish his own independent career, with my intentions. Ron politely suggested I seek to do the “required rotation” with one of Ron’s former post-docs, Sam Barranco, who had recently set up a lab in the surgery section headed by Marv Romsdahl. During this rotation, I had the opportunity to work with human melanoma cell lines, which had been established by Romsdahl and learn cell cycle synchronization techniques. (It was a surprise and a pleasure to speak with Marv again at my research seminar during my recent visit to Houston.) I had some difficulty with the human melanoma cells, so Barranco put me to work evaluating the effects of a new drug from Italy (Adriamycin). By the end of the rotation, I was hooked on cancer biology. Alfred Knudson was Dean of the GSBS during that time, and lectured in our cell biology course on his pioneering work on the genetic basis of retinoblastomas, which lead to his “2-hit model” of carcinogenesis. Except for one subsequent and previously-scheduled research rotation, I never went back to medical physics.

Ron Humphrey finally agreed to take me on as a rotation student and I continued in his lab for my dissertation. My work focused on the effects of ionizing radiation on DNA replication and nonhistone chromatin protein synthesis. Life in the Humphrey lab was both enjoyable and productive. The experience provided the foundation for one of Ron’s many truisms, that “science is not a job, science is a way of life.” I am now hearing this from my own students! It was an honor to have several of my former supervisory committee members present at the alumni dinner, including Ron Humphrey, Ray Meyn, Roger Hewitt, and Allen Ansevin.

My “evolution” continued in 1974, when I joined the then six year old College of Medicine at The University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, as an assistant professor in the Department of Radiology. I was extremely fortunate to obtain NIH funding within my first year in Arizona to continue my research on the effects of x-rays on the mammalian cell cycle. I turned most of my attention to studies of normal cell cycle controls. This decision resulted in studies that ultimately led into our current work investigating the mechanisms by which genetic risk factors influence intestinal carcinogenesis. However, from 1974-1985, most of my research activities were devoted to efforts to develop novel strategies of cancer treatment.

Discouraged by exceedingly slow progress in this area, I seriously reassessed the direction of my research. As depicted in the cartoon (and with all credit to the creators of the Wizard of ID), when you’re in a race and discover you’re all alone, you’re “…either leading or …lost.”
I decided to think about alternate ways of addressing the cancer problem, and decided to focus more of my efforts on ways to prevent cancers, especially the most common types of cancer. Several groups were beginning to make significant progress on the genetic basis of colon cancer, one of the four numerically most important types of cancer in the United States. Beginning in the late 1980s, my colleagues and I began applying some of our research findings to clinical trials of prevention of especially colon and other cancers of the gastrointestinal tract.

In 2001, our group at the Arizona Cancer Center was awarded a grant from the US National Cancer Institute to support a Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) in Gastrointestinal Cancer. The goal of our SPORE is to prevent or cure gastrointestinal cancers in the foreseeable future. Information about our program is available on the internet at http://www.azcc.arizona.edu/gi_spore/. Our research efforts focus on developing methods to prevent gastrointestinal cancers, such as colon cancer, or detect them at very early stages when they are most treatable. These efforts include attempts to use conventional approaches, such as colonoscopy, more widely. Our efforts include studies to more effectively assess risk, using genetic testing approaches, and both biological and physical methods to enhance screening and surveillance procedures.

We are also developing novel methods of cancer treatment for those cancers that we don’t prevent or detect early. Finally, we are working with cancer survivors and lay advocates for cancer survivorship to accomplish several goals.

Andrew von Eschenbach, the Director of the National Cancer Institute and a former M.D. Anderson staff member, has outlined a “vision, not a dream” for the national cancer program in the future. That vision is to “eliminate suffering and death due to cancer” by the year 2015. The realistic side of this vision is that it does not promise a cure to cancer. Rather, it outlines a more realistic approach to cancer in 2003 that takes advantage of advances in basic cancer biology and clinical oncology. Methods to enhance detection of cancer risk or precancers need to be further developed and widely applied. This strategy has reduced incidence and mortality due to cancers of the uterine/cervix. Methods of cancer prevention have the potential of reducing or delaying development in individuals with elevated risk of invasive cancers. Finally, cytotoxic therapies are effective in controlling several epithelial cancers, including colon cancers. A current challenge is developing effective treatments for those patients with advanced cancers that do not respond to currently available therapies. A coordinated program of risk assessment, screening and surveillance, prevention (which includes the concept of “treating” not yet invasive intraepithelial neoplasia), treatment of invasive cancer and then management of patients after therapy has the potential of achieving the goal put forth by von Eschenbach. I am optimistic that we may be able to achieve this goal for colon cancer.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge collaborations with many colleagues since I joined the faculty at The University of Arizona, especially Tim Bowden, Anne Cress and Jesse Martinez, and recognize the many graduate students and postdoctoral trainees that have contributed to the lab since 1974.

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<th><strong>Ph.D. Graduates</strong></th>
<th><strong>Postdoctoral Fellows</strong></th>
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<td>Anne Cress</td>
<td>David Wu</td>
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<td>Michele Vinocour</td>
<td>Margaret Tome</td>
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<td>Gary Sertich</td>
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<td>James Glass</td>
<td>Kathryn Lawson</td>
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<td>Randall Wideltiz</td>
<td>Michele Parker</td>
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<td>Robert Donaldson</td>
<td>Kimberly Fultz</td>
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<td>Roberta Murphey</td>
<td>Naveen Babbar</td>
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<td>Xiaozhen Xie</td>
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<td><strong>Max Costa</strong></td>
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<th><strong>M.S. Graduates</strong></th>
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<td>Jungren Chen</td>
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<td>Kikki Klomp</td>
<td>Margaret Tome</td>
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<td>Richard Shassetz</td>
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<td><strong>Steven Erdman</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Terry Kurtts</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Natalia Ignatenko</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tom Tsang</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ning Qu</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Nick Hatton</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Hagit Yerushalmi</strong></td>
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**Trainees: 1974 – 2003**
GSBS
40th Anniversary

Valentine Goodrich-Boving
Joan Breuer-McHam
Patricia Castro
Joya Chandra
Paul Chiao
Candice Clements
Mike Cook
Rena D'Souza
Mark Emmett
Suzanne Fuqua
Thomas Gegeny
Gene Gerner
Thomas Goka
Maureen Goode
Rick Hajek
Dianne Hammond
Peng Huang
Ann Killary
Dorrie Lamb
Steve Lott
Kathryn Louie
Suneeta Mahagaokar
Jennifer Newcomb-Fernandez
Mustafa Ozen
Jackie Peltier Horn
Peter Seferian
Ben Thomas
Ling Tian
Brenda Whaley
Barbara Williams
Kendra Woods
Chundong Yu
Dihua Yu
Mike Yuan

In Memory
Alfonso Zermenno, Ph.D.
Bradley Schwab, Ph.D.
Members Reappointed
With Commendation

Dr. H. N. Ananthaswamy
Dr. Jocelyne Bachevalier
Dr. John H. Byrne
Dr. Claudio J. Conti
Dr. Benoit de Crombrugghe
Dr. David Hewett-Emmett
Dr. William H. Klein
Dr. Kevin A. Morano
Dr. John L. Spudich
Dr. M. Neal Waxham
Dr. Wei Zhang

New Regular Members

Kenneth Aldape
Associate Professor
Pathology
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., University of California-San Francisco, 1991
Research interests: role of oncogenes in behavior of human cancer; primary human brain tumors; molecular genetic aberrations in cancer; molecular marker studies

Ananth V. Annapragada
Associate Professor
UT-Houston School of Health Information Sciences
Ph.D., University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), 1989
Research interests: targeted drug delivery; respiratory drug delivery; computational methods in biomedicine; targeted delivery of contrast agents for various imaging modalities

Keith A. Baggerly
Assistant Professor
Biostatistics
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Rice University, 1994
Research interests: proteomics (mass spectrometry); microarrays; serial analysis of gene expression

Rajesh Balkrishnan
Associate Professor
Management, Policy and Community Health
UT-Houston School of Public Health
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1999
Research interests: health services research; health outcomes evaluation and assessment; applied statistical methodology; quality of care; prevention effectiveness research

James A. Bankson
Assistant Professor
Imaging Physics
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2001
Research interests: magnetic resonance imaging; fast imaging; quantitative imaging; parallel imaging; system engineering; receiver coil and phased array detector design; signal processing

Michael C. Braun
Assistant Professor
Institute of Molecular Medicine
UT Health Science Center at Houston
M.D., University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, 1990
Research interests: immune mediated renal disease; glomerulonephritis; complement biology; anaphylatoxins; adaptive immunity; factor H deficiency; lupus nephritis

Scott B. Cantor
Associate Professor
Biostatistics
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Harvard University, 1991
Research interests: medical decision making; clinical decision analysis; cost-effectiveness analysis; psychology of decision making; technology assessment; cancer prevention

David M. Eagleman
Assistant Professor
Neurobiology and Anatomy
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, 1998
Research interests: perception of time and the timing of neural signals; neural basis of consciousness; computational properties of human decision making

Linda S. Elting
Associate Professor
Biostatistics
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Dr.P.H., UT-Houston School of Public Health, 1988
Research interests: outcomes and costs of cancer screening, treatment and supportive care; access to cancer care; disparities in cancer care; health policy; health care quality

Michael E. Fant
Associate Professor
Pediatrics
UT-Houston Medical School
M.D., Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 1980
Research interests: cellular mechanisms regulating placental development; mesenchymal-trophoblast signaling interactions important in placental growth and function; peptide growth factors regulating placental growth; trophoblast-specific genes in placental development

Danielle A. Garsin
Assistant Professor
Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Harvard University, 1999
Research interests: host/pathogen interactions; virulence determinants of E. faecalis, C. elegans immune response

Raymond J. Grill
Assistant Professor
Neurosurgery
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., University of Cincinnati, 1995
Research interests: spinal cord injury; trauma; vascular repair; inflammation; axonal regeneration; extracellular matrix; growth factors; gene therapy; functional recovery

Seiji Kondo
Associate Professor
Neurosurgery
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Ph.D., Kyoto University, 1984, 1992
Research interests: translational research; glioma; apoptosis; autophagy; molecular targeting; telomerase; gene therapy

Scott D. Lane
Assistant Professor
Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Auburn University, 1995
Research interests: human psychopharmacology; decision theory; impulsive and aggressive behavior; substance abuse; conduct/antisocial personality disorders

Renhao Li
Assistant Professor
Center for Membrane Biology
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 1999
Research interests: membrane-protein structure and function; protein-protein interaction; receptor oligomerization; molecular mechanism of signal transduction
Yong-Jun Liu
Professor and Chairman
Immunology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Norman Bethune University, 1984
Ph.D., Birmingham University, School of Medicine, 1989
Research interests: innate immunity; dendritic cell biology; T cell biology; cytokine biology; vaccine for cancers and viral infectious diseases

Michael Lorenz
Assistant Professor
Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Duke University, 1997
Research interests: host-pathogen interactions; medical mycology; fungal genetics and biology; infectious diseases

Zhimin (James) Lu
Assistant Professor
Neuro-Oncology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Ph.D., The City University of New York, 1998
Research interests: signal transduction; oncogenesis; tumor cell invasion and metastasis; ubiquitination

Qing Ma
Assistant Professor
Blood and Marrow Transplantation
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Thomas Jefferson University, 1995
Research interests: chemokine and cytokine biology; transplant immunity; cancer biology; hematopoiesis; stem cell biology

Li Mao
Associate Professor
Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Nanjing Medical University, 1982
Research interests: molecular alterations in multistep tumorigenesis; regulation of DNA methylation; regulation of alternative RNA splicing; clinical applications of molecular alterations in cancer risk assessment, diagnosis, classification, and treatment

Bartlett D. Moore
Associate Professor
Pediatrics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Houston, 1985
Research interests: neuropsychology; neurofibromatosis; pediatric cancer

Firas Mourtada
Assistant Professor
Radiation Physics

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, 1997
Research interests: brachytherapy; image-guided radiation therapy; Monte Carlo modeling; intravascular radiation therapy; intraoperative high dose rate brachytherapy; beta-ray source dosimetry

F. Xiao-Feng Qin
Assistant Professor
Immunology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., The Rockefeller University, 1998
Research interests: immune signaling; gene regulation; RNA interference; hematopoietic stem cell biology

Blanca I. Restrepo
Assistant Professor
Biological Sciences
UT-Houston School of Public Health (Brownsville)
Ph.D., UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, 1990
Research interests: tuberculosis pathogenesis; human tuberculosis; guinea pig pathogenesis; early infection; gene expression; cytokine expression; disease transmission; translational research

Stephen H. Safe
Professor
Center for Environmental and Genetic Medicine
Texas A&M University-Institute for Biosciences and Technology
D.Phil, Oxford University, 1965
Research interests: regulation of nuclear hormone receptors; anticancer drug action; PPARg agonists; selective Ah receptor modulators; gene expression; molecular mechanisms of action

Ya-Chen Tina Shih
Associate Professor
Biostatistics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Stanford University, 1997
Research interests: statistical/econometric methods in health services research; Bayesian methods in economic evaluations; health inequality in health care access and utilization

Harel Shouval
Assistant Professor
Neurobiology and Anatomy
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Brown University, 1994
Research interests: theoretical studies of molecular, cellular, and system level substrates of learning memory and development

Jack W. Smith
Professor and Interim Dean
UT-School of Health Information Sciences
M.D., West Virginia University Medical School, 1977
Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1986
Research interests: artificial intelligence; computer security systems; health informatics; HIPPA; human-computer interaction; medical decision-support; cybernetics; computer and information sciences; informatics; pathology

Anil K. Sood
Associate Professor
Gynecologic Oncology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 1991
Research interests: regulation of vascular development in cancer; receptor tyrosine kinase regulation; invasion; metastasis

James M. Stark
Associate Professor
Pediatrics
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, 1983, 1982
Research interests: virus-induced airway injury; airway inflammation; respiratory infection; molecular virology; pulmonary defenses; pulmonary immunology; transcriptional regulation

Uwe Titt
Assistant Professor
Radiation Physics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, 1994
Research interests: nuclear physics; neutron/proton physics; Monte Carlo simulations

Jonathan C. Trent, II
Assistant Professor
Sarcoma Medical Oncology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, 1994
Research interests: nuclear physics; neutron/proton physics; Monte Carlo simulations

Srdan Verstovsek
Assistant Professor
Leukemia
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Zagreb School of Medicine/University of Zagreb Faculty of Sciences, 1992, 1994
Research interests: experimental therapeutics; drug development; mechanism of drug activity; cancer biology; molecular pathology; pharmacology

Zhengxin Wang
Assistant Professor
Cancer Biology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Peking University, 1990
Research interests: mechanisms of action of androgen receptor in the regulation of prostate-specific gene expression with an emphasis on how deregulation leads to prostate cancer

Feng Wang-Johanning
Associate Professor
Veterinary Sciences
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Ph.D., Tianjin Medical College, 1983, 1987
Research interests: human endogenous retroviruses; human papillomavirus; early detection diagnosis and immunotherapy of solid tumors including breast, prostate, ovarian cancers and cervical cancer; tumor vaccines; viral vectors

Judith K. Wolf
Associate Professor
Gynecologic Oncology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, 1986
Research interests: gynecologic cancer; gene therapy; translational research; targeted therapy

Laura L. Worth
Assistant Professor
Pediatrics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Ph.D., UT-Houston GSBS, 1990
Research interests: IL-12; gene therapy; angiogenesis

Willy R. Wriggers
Assistant Professor
UT-Houston School of Health Information Sciences
Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1998
Research interests: molecular modeling; electron microscopy; image processing; biophysics; structural bioinformatics

Kenneth K. Wu
Internal Medicine–Hematology
UT-Houston Medical School
M.D., National Taiwan University Medical School, 1966
Ph.D., University of London, 1997
Research interests: gene expression; signal transduction; eicosanoid biosynthesis; nitric oxide biosynthesis; molecular genetics of thrombosis

New Associate Members

Xuelin Huang
Assistant Professor
Biostatistics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Michigan, 2002
Research interests: survival analysis; longitudinal studies; statistical genetics; bioinformatics; clinical trial design

Yuan Ji
Assistant Professor
Biostatistics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2003
Research interests: microarrays; Bayesian inference; mixture models

Eugenia Mileykovskaya
Assistant Professor
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
UT-Houston Medical School
Ph.D., Moscow State University, 1976
Research interests: mitochondrial and bacterial membrane structure and function; bioenergetics; lipid-protein interaction; membrane dynamics; membrane domains; red-ox supercomplexes; bacterial division machinery; amphitropic proteins; phospholipids

Pramod N. Nehete
Assistant Professor
Veterinary Sciences
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Pune (India), 1989
Research interests: virology; immunology; carcinogen-mediated modulation of cellular immune responses

Sarah Jane Noblin
Clinical Instructor
Obstetrics and Gynecology - Genetics
UT-Houston Medical School
M.S., UT-Houston GSBS, 1999
Research interests: genetic counseling; prenatal

Susan K. Peterson
Assistant Professor
Behavioral Science
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., UT-Houston School of Public Health, 2001
Research interests: psychosocial and behavioral aspects of genetic counseling and testing for hereditary cancer syndromes; cancer screening and early detection behaviors in high-risk populations
Faculty Honors

U. T. Health Science Center Faculty Honors Convocation

President’s Scholar Award for Excellence in Research
Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D.
John Spudich, Ph.D.

2002-2003 Recipients of International and National Honors in Research
Rajesh Balkrishnan, Ph.D.
Andrew Bean, Ph.D.
L. Maximilian Buja, M.D.
John Byrne, Ph.D.
Gilbert Castro, Ph.D.
Richard Clark, Ph.D.
Rena D’Souza, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Pramod Dash, Ph.D.
Ruth Heiderberger, M.D., Ph.D.
Diane Hickson-Bick, Ph.D.
Theresa Koehler, Ph.D.
Bruce Kone, M.D.
Katherine Loveland, Ph.D.
Kevin Morano, Ph.D.
Andrew Morris, Ph.D.

Ferid Murad, M.D., Ph.D.
Steven Norris, Ph.D.
Stanley Schultz, M.D.
John Spudich, Ph.D.
Ambro van Hoof, Ph.D.
Willy Wriggers, Ph.D.

2002-2003 Recipients of International and National Honors in Teaching
Jeffrey Actor, Ph.D.
Hope Northrup, M.D.
Gary Rosenfeld, Ph.D.
Mark Wong, D.D.S.

2002-2003 Recipients of International and National Honors in Clinical Service
Gailen Marshall, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Hope Northrup, M.D.
Frank Yatsu, M.D.

2002-2003 Recipients of International and National Honors in Community Service
Millicent Goldschmidt, Ph.D.
Ted Pate, Ph.D.
John Powers, Ph.D.
Peter Triolo, D.D.S.

2002-2003 Outstanding Achievements in Teaching
Norman Weisbridt, Ph.D.

John P. McGovern Teaching Award 2002
Henry Strobel, Ph.D.

John P. McGovern Teaching Award 2003
Michelle Barton, Ph.D.

Appointments to Endowed Positions
Sharon Dent, Ph.D.
Steven Norris, Ph.D.

Faculty Scholar Awards
Kim-Anh Do, Ph.D.
Razelle Kurzrock, M.D.

Faculty Achievement Awards
Miles Wilkinson, Ph.D.
Richard Behringer, Ph.D.

Endowed Distinguished University Chairs
Stanley Hamilton, M.D.

Endowed Chairs
Ralph Arlinghaus, Ph.D.
Donald Berry, Ph.D.
Benoit de Crombrugghe, M.D.
John DiGiovanni, Ph.D.
Emil J Freireich, M.D.
Ellen Gritz, Ph.D.
Mien-Chie Hung, Ph.D.
Reuben Lotan, Ph.D.
Gordon Mills, M.D., Ph.D.
Louise Strong, M.D.
W. K. Alfred Yung, M.D.

Endowed Distinguished Professorships
Richard Behringer, Ph.D.
Laurence Etkin, Ph.D.
Walter Hittelman, Ph.D.
Kenneth Hogstrom, Ph.D.
Rakesh Kumar, Ph.D.
Robert Newman, Ph.D.

Endowed Professorships
Christopher Amos, Ph.D.
Honnavar Ananthaswamy, Ph.D.
Michael Andreeff, M.D., Ph.D.
Robert Chamberlain, Ph.D.
Claudio Conti, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Susan Fischer, Ph.D.
Eugenie Kleinerman, M.D.
Marcus Kuo, Ph.D.
Sue-Hwa Lin, Ph.D.
Guillermina Lozano, Ph.D.
Marvin Meistrich, Ph.D.
Raymond Meyn, Jr., Ph.D.
Luka Milas, M.D., Ph.D.
Radhe Mohan, Ph.D.
Alan Schroit, Ph.D.
Michael Siciliano, Ph.D.
Elizabeth Travis, Ph.D.
Cheryl Walker, Ph.D.
Edward Yeh, M.D.

Distinguished Service Awards
Dennis Johnston, Ph.D.
Jerald Killion, Ph.D.
J. Arly Nelson, Ph.D.
School Awards and Other Honors

Outstanding Faculty Awards as Commended by the GSBS Membership Committee

Ralph Arlinghaus, Ph.D.
Jocelyne Bachevalier, Ph.D.
Claudio Conti, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Jacqueline Hecht, Ph.D.
Edward Jackson, Ph.D.
Rodney Kellems, Ph.D.
Sue-Hwa Lin, Ph.D.
William Margolin, Ph.D.
David McConkey, Ph.D.
Pierre McCrea, Ph.D.
Ralph Freedman, M.D., Ph.D.
Emil J Freireich, M.D., D.Sc. (Hon.)

Dean’s Excellence Awards

Jeffrey Actor, Ph.D.
Honnavara Ananthaswamy, Ph.D.
Ralph Arlinghaus, Ph.D.
Jocelyne Bachevalier, Ph.D.
Richard Behringer, Ph.D.
Michael Blackburn, Ph.D.
Louvenia Carter-Dawson, Ph.D.
Robert Chamberlain, Ph.D.

Pierre D. McCrea, Ph.D.
President-Elect of the Graduate School Faculty

Pierre McCrea, Ph.D., accepted his election to the presidency with energy and enthusiasm, continuing a path of service to graduate education through this important role. In 2004-2005, as the 34th president-elect of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Faculty, he will succeed current faculty president, Jack Waymire, Ph.D. Dr. McCrea is the chairman of the GSBS Executive Committee for 2003-2004. He is the past director of the Program in Genes and Development (2001-2003), and past chairman of the Academic Standards and Program Coordinating Committees.

In 1993 Dr. McCrea was named Assistant Professor and in 1999 Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. McCrea held the American Heart Association, Established Investigator Award 1999-2002, and the Kleberg Foundation Award 1996-2001. Dr. McCrea's academic credentials include A.B. in Biochemistry from Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME; M.Phil and Ph.D. in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale University, New Haven CT; and postdoctoral studies at the University of California at San Francisco and Sloan-Kettering Institute (NY). During that time he received fellowships from Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc., the NIH (Individual National Research Award), and the American Heart Association, California Affiliate.

Dr. McCrea is Principle Investigator for a National Institutes of Health RO1 Grant addressing novel developmental functions of the P120 and ARVCF catenins, and has additional interests in b-catenin and kidney tubule morphogenesis.

Rodney Kellems, Ph.D.
Robert Kirken, Ph.D.
William Klein, Ph.D.
Eugenie Kleinerman, M.D.
Razelle Kurzrock, M.D.
Lawrence Lachman, Ph.D.
Randy Legerstski, Ph.D.
Chun Li, Ph.D.
Sue-Hwa Lin, Ph.D.
David Loose-Mitchell, Ph.D.
Gabriel Lopez-Berestein, M.D.
Reuben Lotan, Ph.D.
Stevan Marcus, Ph.D.
William Margolin, Ph.D.
Gailen Marshall, M.D., Ph.D.
James Martin, M.D., Ph.D.
Stephen Massey, Ph.D.
Joan Mastroiannetta, M.D.
William Mattoox, Ph.D.
David McConkey, Ph.D.
Pierre D. McCrea, Ph.D.
Timothy McDonnell, M.D., Ph.D.
Wallace McKeehan, Ph.D.
Jeanie McMillin, Ph.D.
Kapil Mehta, Ph.D.
Marvin Meistrich, Ph.D.
Raymond Meyn, Ph.D.
Dianna Milewicz, M.D., Ph.D.
Gordon Mills, M.D., Ph.D.
David Mitchell, Ph.D.
Manju Monga, M.D.
Craig Mullen, M.D., Ph.D.
Jeffrey Myers, M.D., Ph.D.
Lalitha Nagarajan, Ph.D.
J. Arly Nelson, Ph.D.
Wayne Newhauser, Ph.D.
Robert Newman, Ph.D.
Steven Norris, Ph.D.
Hope Northrup, M.D.
Catherine O’Brien, Ph.D.
Charles Patrick, Ph.D.
William Plunkett, Ph.D.
John Powers, Ph.D.
George Starkwaller, Ph.D.
Stephen Ullrich, Ph.D.
Michael Van Dyke, Ph.D.
Cheryl Walker, Ph.D.
Audrey Wanger, Ph.D.
Stephanie Watowich, Ph.D.
Mark Waxham, Ph.D.
Jack Waymire, Ph.D.
George Weinstock, Ph.D.
Rick Wetzel, Ph.D.
Miles Wilkinson, Ph.D.
Keping Xie, M.D., Ph.D.
Dihua Yu, M.D., Ph.D.
Wei Zhang, Ph.D.
X. Joe Zhou, Ph.D.
Z. Hong Zhou, Ph.D.
American Legion Auxiliary Fellows

Since 1971 the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Texas, has contributed more than $985,000 in support of students doing cancer research. The money for this funding is raised through grass roots efforts across the state, and this special project, on behalf of The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston is the only one of its kind in the country. The awards are renewable to individuals throughout their doctoral process, and hence provide continuous funding for their research. Each American Legion Auxiliary Fellow was presented with $5,000. Seen here, scholars and the representatives from the American Legion Auxiliary, with ALA officers including Ms. Lynda Horton, president, front row third from left; Mr. Bob Walls, Department of Texas Commander, fourth from left; GSBS Dean, George Stancel, fifth from left; Ms. Nina Swink, immediate past-president next to Dr. Stancel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Supervisory Professor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Aune</td>
<td>Dr. Zahid Siddik</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Carew</td>
<td>Dr. Peng Huang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Childress</td>
<td>Dr. Isaac Rosen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Cook</td>
<td>Dr. Cheryl Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geoffrey Kannan</td>
<td>Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shreya Kant</td>
<td>Dr. Jeffrey Moldrem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joanna Koch</td>
<td>Jon Lyons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Mitchell</td>
<td>Katherine Roeder</td>
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<td>Steffan Nawrocki</td>
<td>Kevin Spurgers</td>
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R. W. (Bill) Butcher Achievement Award

The R. W. (Bill) Butcher Fund was established in 1977 and provides for these annual awards of $2,000 each. The award is presented to a student who demonstrates excellence in research, has a commitment to a career in biomedical research and makes a professional contribution to the community or has faced a particular challenge. Shown here left to right, Dr. Butcher, 2003-2004 scholarship recipient, Greg Aune, Mrs. Joan Butcher, and Dr. Thomas Goka, Assistant Dean for Outreach and Minority Affairs.

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<td>Greg Aune</td>
<td>Dr. Zahid Siddik</td>
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Harry S. & Isabel C. Cameron Foundation Fellowship

The Cameron Foundation Fellowship provides $10,000 to an exceptional GSBS student working in research fields related to Alzheimer’s or cardiovascular disease. The $10,000 gift is matched by GSBS in 2003-2004, giving total stipend support. The 2003-2004 recipient, Catherine Moya, left, is shown here with Ms. Diane Guiberteau, representative of the Cameron Foundation.

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<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Supervisory Professor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Moya</td>
<td>Dr. Renata Pasqualini</td>
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Barbara L. Kennedy Endowed Memorial Scholar

Established by the WINGS Chapter of the American Business Women’s Association (ABWA), in 2003-2004, marks the second anniversary of the award named for the deceased member and sister, Barbara Kennedy, whose interest in the field of genetic counseling provided the focus for this honor. Here, GSBS student, Jamie Chance, front, with Ms. Rosemary Behrens, chapter president, second from left; Ms. Anne Kennedy, member and sister, third from left; Ms. Aimee Williams, and Ms. Cathy Wicklund, genetics counseling faculty.

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<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Supervisory Professor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jamie Chance</td>
<td>Dr. Jacqueline Hecht</td>
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</table>
Alfred G. Knudson, Jr.
Outstanding Dissertation Award

Named for the distinguished individual known for his landmark contributions to the field of genetics, Dr. Knudson was Dean and Professor of Medical Genetics at the GSBS from 1969-1976 as well as Associate Director of Education at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Established by the Faculty Senate, the $1,000 award recognizes original research conducted by a student working toward a doctor of philosophy degree at The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston. The award also acknowledges the important scientific supervision that M. D. Anderson faculty members provide for GSBS students. Shown here, GSBS Dean, George Stancel presents the award to the 2003-2004 honoree:

Student: Dr. John Kurland
Supervisory Professor: Dr. Raymond Meyn

John P. McGovern GSBS Scientific Poster Competition

In its 22nd year, the McGovern Scientific Poster Competition now plays an integral part in The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Research Day. Awards are based on research excellence and presentation and were selected this year by a GSBS Faculty committee including Drs. Michael Braun, Joya Chandra, Francois X. Claret, Seth Corey, Qing Ma, Gailen Marshall, John Powers, Shrikanth Reddy, Subrata Sen, Ratna Vadlamudi, Kishore Wary, Duen-Hwa Yan. Top posters in each category receive $400, $300, and $200 for First Place, Second Place and Third Place, respectively.

**Master’s**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Supervisory Professor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jason Runyan</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Dr. Pramod Dash</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Lahad</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Dr. Gordon Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehdi Esmaeilian</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Dr. Heidi Kaplan</td>
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</tbody>
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**Ph.D. Degree Pre-Candidacy Category**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Supervisory Professor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raegan Hunt</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Dr. C. S. Raman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Long</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Dr. Jonathan Ivins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Johnson</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Dr. Francois X. Claret</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ph.D. Degree Post-Candidacy Category**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Supervisory Professor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hays Young</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Blackburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Lyons</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Dr. Pierre McCrea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Roeder</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Dr. Jill Schumacher</td>
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Presidents’ Merit Scholars

Through generous funding from President James T. Willerson, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and President John Mendelsohn, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, recognition is given to advanced GSBS students who have demonstrated excellence in research. The applications are reviewed by a committee consisting of five past, present and future presidents of the Graduate Faculty. The 2003-2004 Presidents’ Research Scholars who will each receive a cash award of $5,000 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Supervisory Professor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sayeepriyadarshini Anakk</td>
<td>Dr. Henry Strobel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Si Wan Kim</td>
<td>Dr. Pierre McCrea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat Nghiem</td>
<td>Dr. Stephen Ullrich</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mei Zhang</td>
<td>Dr. William Dowhan</td>
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Minority Faculty Association Awards

**Minority Faculty Association Scholarship**

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<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Supervisory Professor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marenda Wilson</td>
<td>Ambro van Hoof</td>
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</table>

**Jones/Wharton Scholarship for Cancer Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Supervisory Professor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malcolm Heard</td>
<td>Geoffrey Ibbott</td>
</tr>
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</table>
“Finishing the Degree: Problems at the End” by Jon Wiener, Ph.D.

The imminent graduation of a graduate student should be a celebratory occasion, marking the significant achievement of receiving a graduate degree in Biomedical Sciences. It will be celebratory for both parties when the student walks in Commencement later in the academic year. However, the last few months prior to completion of the defense and dissertation is often a time of intense stresses for both the faculty mentor and student alike. These stresses often result in increased tension and a more confrontational relationship. Planning a degree defense forces two anxious, worried, mentally fatigued, and impatient parties to work intimately together during these final months to complete a complex research project, prepare a thesis/dissertation, participate in a public defense of the work, and part company in a manner acceptable to both.

During this time period, both the student and mentor should strive to understand the stresses perceived by each other. Faculty mentors must not trivialize the stresses that the student feels, and should continue to mentor, teaching the student how to handle stresses that will become normal in their next steps up the career ladder. Students must realize that the situation they are experiencing is normal, and that remaining focused on the goal of finishing their degree while under pressure to complete experiments and write is a lesson in learning to function productively under conditions they will face in future employment. Students must also conquer their fear of performance through an understanding that mentors and faculty committees only allow a student to defend if the student is likely to pass. At this point in their training, the student is a well-informed expert in their research area, and should display the confidence of their knowledge while also displaying an open mind for learning.

The resolution of this situation is based on bringing each party to an understanding of the fundamental stresses of the other party. Both parties wish to achieve success, and the large majority of the students and their mentors reach an agreement about tying up loose ends, cataloging their research materials for easy access, and preparing manuscripts for publication. Students should remember that the faculty mentor has a vital professional, if not personal, interest in ensuring that the student performs superlatively in their oral public defense and written thesis/dissertation. This vital interest ensures that the faculty mentor will attempt to assist the student in reaching their goal. The solution to the mentor/student situation at the end of the training is not complex: listening to the other party with an open mind.
Dear Alumni and other friends,

I want to thank you for the honor of being your president, and give you information about the latest news from your Alumni Association Steering Committee. Currently, we are working on the development of an undergraduate scientific poster competition to be hosted by the GSBS and the Alumni Association next fall. This science day was proposed by the Alumni Association in an effort to fulfill our mission to broaden the visibility of GSBS in the community, promote an educational event in the biological sciences, and give the college student-participants one of their first opportunities to present their research projects in a professional, user-friendly forum. With a little luck, it will encourage the recruitment potential for the Graduate School, as well.

This newsletter displays some of the many photos from the alumni “Retro Reunion” hosted in November. It was a lot of fun, complete with costumes on a few guest “celebrities,” and a great talk by Distinguished Alumnus, Gene Gerner, Ph.D. (1974). Dr. Gerner (who presented a brilliant seminar in conjunction with grand rounds on Friday) spoke extemporaneously and entertainingly Saturday evening about the challenges for a cancer researcher working on the gastrointestinal system. The new John P. McGovern Commons in the heart of the Texas Medical Center was the site for the event, and as it turned out, was quite fabulous. If you were not able to join us for this year’s reunion, I hope you will plan to do so next fall.

Steven Lott, Ph.D., (1997) was elected vice-president/treasurer (and hence president next year). Thank you, Steve, for agreeing to serve. Most importantly, I want to thank Brenda Whaley, Ph.D. (1995) for her leadership as immediate past president, and her continued active participation as we go forward with the scientific poster competition. Kendra Woods, Ph.D. (1995) and Joya Chandra, Ph.D. (1998) are two new Steering Committee members (they volunteered!), and we expect Mustafa Ozen, Ph.D. (1999) to join us on this committee before the year is out. Thank you for all your support—please check the website on a regular basis (and see ALL the reunion photos not in this issue) http://gsbs.gs.uth.tmc, and take time to update your contact information. In other words, I hope you will stay in touch, it’s going to be a fascinating year.

Dolores (Dorrie) Lamb, Ph.D. (1980)
President, 2003-2004
GSBS Alumni Association

Dr. Lamb providing an alumni outreach experience at Sylvan Rodriguez Elementary School.

THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS
GRADUATE SCHOOL of BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
at HOUSTON

PO Box 20334
Houston, Texas 77225-0334