

# GSBS NEWS

Spring  
2005

The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
MD ANDERSON  
CANCER CENTER  
*Making Cancer History®*

# Benefactor News

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### Back Cover:

Message to the Alumni  
Steve Lott, Ph.D.  
President 2004-2005  
GSBS Alumni Association



The Schissler Foundation Board of Directors: left to right family members Richard (Rick) Schissler III, Laura Jenkins, Nan Schissler, Richard (Dick) Schissler, Jr., Lynn Red, and accountant, Steve Cordill.

"I enjoy the people," notes Dick Schissler, patriarch of the Schissler family as well as the family foundation, and the person his family calls 'The Catalyst.' Mr. Schissler, his wife Nan, son Rick, and daughters Lynn and Laura, have always chosen to do things personally with a special warmth and awareness as to what is important in life. "We want to help others grow," were his words, and to that end, The Schissler Foundation has provided remarkable support to The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston.

It was important to the family to make a meaningful contribution to the community, and because of their good fortune in life, they chose to start funding full stipend fellowships annually in the Graduate School. These fellowships are for exceptional students whose research studies are in the human genetics of common diseases. Recently, however, the Schissler Foundation committed a second \$100,000 pledge to support those graduate students at UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. This pledge runs concurrently with a previous \$100,000 gift that continues to provide two yearly fellowships to GSBS students whose research studies are in the genetics of common human disease. Over the last ten years of support, The Schissler Foundation has contributed to students whose focus has included heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, asthma, and vision. Now, additional support will be provided specifically for the battle against cancer.

GSBS Dean George Stancel, particularly aware of the cutting-edge research this generous gift enables through a student in a professor's lab, and how it hastens the solutions of the future, speaks of this visionary partnership with much praise: "The Schissler Foundation is a mainstay of extraordinary student support. Much in the way that the Schissler Fellowships currently do for many chronic diseases, this new opportunity will further the cause at a very grassroots level, and enable a depth and continuity in the area of research for cancer cures."

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**Cover photo:** George and Cynthia Mitchell Basic Sciences Research Building, new home for The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in the June and Virgil Waggoner Academic Hall.

**Inadvertently omitted:** Dr. Joy Marshall's name, degree and dissertation title from the Previous list of 2004 graduates receiving their degrees.

**Joy Marshall, Ph.D. (Samuel Kaplan, Ph.D.)**

*Regulation and Transcript Analysis of the cer Operon Responsible for Quorum Sensing in Rhodobacter sphaeroides 2.4.1*

# Dean's Notes

On the occasion of moving into our new home in the George and Cynthia Mitchell Basic Sciences Research Building I extended open-ended invitations to Presidents Mendelsohn and Willerson to contribute their thoughts about the future of the graduate school to this issue of *GSBS News*. Their full comments are on following pages, but I was struck by the similarity of the messages that they sent independently. Both focused on “collaboration,” especially between our parent organizations, emphasizing the interdisciplinary and intra-institutional nature of GSBS. Clearly, both Presidents highly value our collaborative interactions and encourage us to expand them in the future.

This in turn prompted me to think about what is necessary for an institution like GSBS to be successful in interdisciplinary and intra-institutional efforts. Management and organizational experts could write volumes on this topic, but I believe three things are absolutely essential. First, we must have very strong programs in the core biomedical disciplines. Interdisciplinary programs are certainly built upon the premise (to which I ascribe) that the whole is greater than the sum of parts, but a strong foundation of individual programs is an essential starting point. Second, we must retain and recruit faculty who are outstanding in their individual areas and want to work in interdisciplinary teams; we must learn how to do a better job of supporting and rewarding collaborative efforts if we want to excel at them. Third, within the context of our overall institutional missions, specific collaborations must be largely faculty driven to be successful. One can foster, but not force, productive collaborations between creative scientists.

GSBS has a long history of interdisciplinary research training, but what should we do in the future to continue and enhance productive collaborations? Certainly we should continue to require that students demonstrate depth and breadth of knowledge in the biomedical sciences, but we must increase our efforts to evaluate how effectively we achieve these twin goals and use outcomes assessment to guide our planning efforts. These planning efforts must include provision of financial resources to support excellence in our educational mission. We should also do all we can to make it easy for people to initiate and maintain collaborative research training activities. GSBS has developed extensive databases on applicants, programs, and graduates so that this information can be provided in a user-friendly fashion to support faculty members who prepare training grants or individual fellowship applications. Most importantly, we must provide a forum that continually encourages open, serious discussion by the faculty about how to improve our already strong programs. We will initiate an extensive planning effort within the coming academic year to insure that GSBS remains a leader in interdisciplinary educational programs that effectively train the scientific workforce of the future. Achieving this aim will require collaboration above all else.



*George*

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
Office of the President



*Collaboration is the Key*

Collaboration is the key to the future of the Texas Medical Center. Competition may have powered its early growth, but collaboration will be the vehicle that carries the world's largest medical center to the new frontiers of health and wellness. All of us who live and work in this remarkable place must be committed to the principles of collaboration in education, research and clinical care. Excellence above all must become our watchword.

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences is one of the crown jewels of collaboration in the Texas Medical Center. Mandated by the state legislature, and jointly operated by The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, the GSBS is uniquely interdisciplinary and intra-institutional in its nature and function. Faculty members are drawn primarily from UT Health Science Center, M. D. Anderson and the Texas A&M Institute of Biosciences and Technology. Moreover, GSBS maintains community partnerships throughout the Houston area. These partners include

Baylor College of Medicine  
Rice University  
University of Houston  
NASA-Johnson Space Center  
Prairie View A&M University  
Texas Women's University  
Texas Southern University  
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston  
Houston Independent School District  
Fort Bend Independent School District  
Spring Branch Independent School District

I firmly believe that the best days in scientific inquiry are before us. This is truly a new age of discovery. The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, utilizing the distinctive capabilities of its six schools and the Institute of Molecular Medicine, seeks to become an acknowledged leader in the quest to conquer the human diseases of our time. If we are successful, however, it will be due to our commitment to collaboration—bringing the rich talents of all our researchers in medicine, nursing, dentistry, health information systems, public health and biomedical sciences—to bear on the problem.

I commend the GSBS for leading the way in modeling collaboration. It is one of our finest examples and a benchmark for all of us who are working to make collaboration the trademark of the Texas Medical Center. It is an honor to work within the collaborative environment that GSBS demonstrates.

James Willerson, M.D.

The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Office of the President

Collaboration



Last year M. D. Anderson issued our Strategic Vision: 2005 – 2010, which outlines seven ambitious goals we have set for the future. These goals reflect our top priorities. Four concern our mission areas: patient care, research, education and prevention. Two others address stewardship of resources and our commitment to creating a supportive environment for all who work here. The seventh focuses on “collaboration.”

Why is collaboration such an important part of our Strategic Vision? Because as strong and successful as M. D. Anderson has become, we can only achieve our mission of eliminating cancer by collaborating with others. Advances in the early diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease require application of sophisticated new technologies and discoveries in all fields of science. We can best leverage the expertise of our faculty by drawing on the skills and knowledge of other outstanding investigators whose ideas complement and challenge our own.

While we collaborate with major universities and research institutes worldwide, our focus has been on working with institutions in the greater Houston area. One excellent mechanism for this is the Gulf Coast Consortia, consisting of Rice University, Baylor College of Medicine, University of Houston, UT Medical Branch-Galveston, UT Health Science Center-Houston and UT M. D. Anderson. This alliance has been fruitful in creating research programs in structural biology, biostatistics and informatics, and nanotechnology, all of which have direct relevance to cancer.

Among all collaborations, however, our strongest is with the UT Health Science Center. Dr. James Willerson and I have “linked arms” in agreement to expand the outstanding programs of the two UT components in the Texas Medical Center. Perhaps the most important of these collaborations is our joint Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, which provides training for our 500 students preparing for careers in biomedical research.

For many years the GSBS was housed in space south of Holcombe Boulevard. When plans were being developed for the new George and Cynthia Mitchell Basic Sciences Research Building, there was general agreement that the best location for this important educational program would be in this fine new facility. Its state-of-the-art research laboratories and vivarium complement the two floors of classrooms and administrative offices set aside for the GSBS.

Dean George Stancel, who reports to both Dr. Willerson and me, has been instrumental in strengthening the quality of our teaching program and our students. Today, biotechnology, nanotechnology, bioengineering, genomics, proteomics, informatics and other new disciplines are adding to the richness of the research opportunities in classical areas such as molecular genetics, experimental therapeutics, biology, immunology and chemistry. There have never been more exciting opportunities for graduate students to pursue careers in academia or in the growing biotechnology and pharmaceutical research industry.

The new GSBS facility says something else that is very important. It is, I think, a strong symbol for current and prospective students that the University of Texas is serious about providing the highest-caliber graduate education. It tells the present faculty, and those we will recruit to join them, that this university is prepared to invest significant resources in the infrastructure they need for teaching and research. And it reflects the fact that we are well prepared to actively participate in the most productive and exciting period in the history of biomedical research.

John Mendelsohn, M.D.



# GSBS Open House

Six years and many, many meetings and footsteps later, classrooms and administrative offices of The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston finally reside in the June and Virgil Waggoner Academic Hall, on the third floor of the George and Cynthia Mitchell Basic Sciences Research Building (Mitchell BSRB), and just down the way from the state-of-the-art, 223-seat, Onstead Auditorium. GSBS occupies approximately 15,500 square feet of the 505,000 square foot Mitchell building, and the Graduate School is most appreciative of this 'ready for the future' basic sciences research facility.



Dr. John Mendelsohn  
President UTM/DACC

Dr. George Stancel, Dean GSBS

Dr. James Willerson  
President UTHSCH



Drs. Tom Matney, Manley Mandel, Ray Meyn  
GSBS Faculty



Dr. Ted Pate  
GSBS Faculty

Dr. Doris Ross  
Dean Emeritus SHIS



Drs. Beng Ho, Nachum Dafny  
GSBS Faculty



Dr. Pat Stark, Dean  
UT School of Nursing

Mrs. Gladys O'Neal

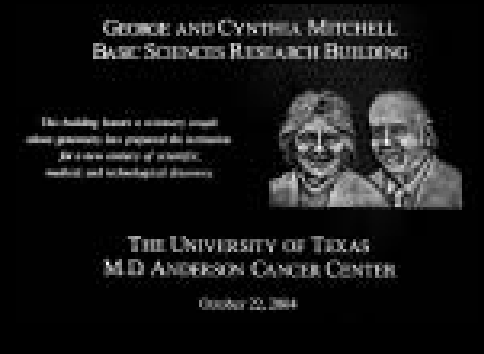


Dr. Guy Parcel, Dean  
UT School of Public Health

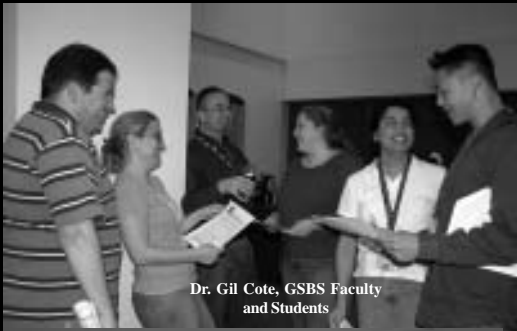
Mr. Charles Figari  
VP Auxiliary Enterprises  
UTHSCH



Drs. Dah-Hsi Ho, Grady Saunders  
GSBS Faculty



# Celebration in the BSRB



Dr. Gil Cote, GSBS Faculty and Students



Drs. Gil Cote, Jagan Sastry, Ambro van Hoof  
GSBS Faculty



Dr. Susan Fisher-Hoch, Deah Stancel, Dr. Doris Ross



Dean Stancel



Mrs. Ann Mendelsohn

President Mendelsohn

Dr. Max Buja  
EVP Academic Affairs  
UTHSCH



Mrs. & Dr. Mendelsohn

Mrs. Diana Hawkins



GSBS Students



Drs. Peggy O'Neil, George Stancel, Kendra Woods



Ms. Jeannice Theriot

Ms. Joann Sowell



Ms. Cheryl Spitzberger

Dr. Paul Darlington  
Associate Dean, GSBS

Ms. Georgeanne Moore



Dean Stancel, Ms. Shernaz Boga, Ms. Lisa Christison



Ms. Joann Sowell

Dean Stancel

Dr. Neal Pellis  
GSBS Faculty



Ms. Rose Mary Valencia

Chief William Adcox  
UT Police

Jerry Fuller



Dr. Steve Tomasovic  
VP for Academic Affairs  
UTMDACC

Dean Stancel

Mrs. Marilyn Lummis



Dr. Thomas Goka  
Assistant Dean, GSBS

Dr. Ron Johnson  
VP for Strategic Affairs  
UTHSCH

The Mitchell BSRB will have six floors of dedicated research space, and office space on twelve floors. A vivarium will occupy the basement and first floor. Programs scheduled to be housed in the establishment are epidemiology; molecular genetics; biochemistry and molecular biology; and neuro-oncology, neuropathology and neurosurgery which comprise the Brain Program. Many of the photos displayed are from the February 18, 2005, Open House hosted by the GSBS for friends, faculty, students and staff. An invitation is extended to all of you to visit.

# Entering Students

April Abbott <b>Indiana University</b>	Daneen Grossman <b>Cedar Crest College</b>	Gabriel Lazarin <b>Stanford University</b>
Richard Aguilar <b>University of Texas-El Paso</b>	Dongmin Gu <b>Nanjing Medical University</b>	Pei-Chun Lin <b>National Taiwan University</b>
Angela Alexander <b>University of Delaware</b>	Diego Gutnisky <b>University of Buenos Aires</b>	Dorothy Long <b>University of Texas-Austin</b>
Guillermo Armaiz Pena <b>University of Puerto Rico</b>	Yasmine Haddad <b>University of Texas Dental School</b>	Jun Lu <b>Nanjing University</b>
Kristal Atkins <b>Xavier University</b>	Brian Hammann <b>University of Missouri</b>	Kimberly Mankiewicz <b>Marquette University</b>
Faiza Baameur <b>University of Oran</b>	Susan Harms <b>University of Texas-Austin</b>	James Meadows <b>University of Texas at Arlington</b>
Brandi Baird <b>Stephen F Austin State University</b>	Jade Hatley <b>Southwestern University</b>	Stacey Miller <b>Rockhurst University</b>
Christopher Bekie <b>Long Island University</b>	Ryan Hecox <b>Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge</b>	Xi Mo <b>University of Science/Technology-China</b>
Michael Bligh <b>Southern Methodist University</b>	Jay Herman <b>University of Alabama</b>	Venkata Mogatadakala <b>University of Kentucky-Lexington</b>
Margarita Bonilla-Claudio <b>University of Puerto Rico</b>	Joseph Hernandez <b>University of New Mexico</b>	Jennifer Molina <b>Columbia University</b>
Tylithia Burks <b>Xavier University</b>	Marianna Horz <b>Texas A&amp;M University-College Station</b>	Angela Nanos <b>Texas A&amp;M University-College Station</b>
Kendra Carmon <b>Clarkson University</b>	Jung-Mao Hsu <b>National Cheng Kung University</b>	Angela Nanos <b>Texas A&amp;M University-College Station</b>
Richard Castillo <b>Trinity University</b>	Yen-Michael Hsu <b>University of California-Berkeley</b>	Stephanie Napier <b>University of South Carolina</b>
Zhe Chang <b>Nanhua University</b>	Albert Huang <b>University of California-Berkeley</b>	Joshua Neunuebel <b>Texas A&amp;M University-College Station</b>
Chantale Charo <b>American University of Beirut</b>	Miao Huang <b>Suzhou Medical College</b>	Lich Thi Nguyen <b>Queensland University of Technology</b>
Yi Chun Chen <b>National Cheng Kung University</b>	Ly Huynh <b>University of St. Thomas</b>	Thang Van Nguyen <b>Institute of International Education</b>
Pai-Chun Chi <b>McMaster University</b>	Lori Jackson <b>Abilene Christian University</b>	Haiying Pang <b>Peking University</b>
Megan Clair <b>Knox College</b>	Kathleen Jensen <b>Sam Houston State University</b>	Eunmi Park <b>The University of Texas-Austin</b>
Leigh Curtis <b>University of Houston-Clear Lake</b>	Jooha Jeong <b>Marshall University</b>	Serk In Park <b>Korea University Graduate School</b>
Nina Das <b>University of Calcutta</b>	Cameron Jeter <b>Kansas State University</b>	Adam Pettway <b>University of Arkansas</b>
Rebecca Davis <b>Rice University</b>	Humam Kadara <b>American University of Beirut</b>	Kathryn Pflughoeft <b>University of North Carolina-Greensboro</b>
Binbin Deng <b>Chinese Academy of Science</b>	Georgios Kalantzis <b>University of Athens</b>	Cornel Phillip <b>The University of the Virgin Islands</b>
Ivey Denham <b>Texas A&amp;M University-College Station</b>	Brian Kalmbach <b>Western Washington University</b>	Ashley Pierre <b>Dillard University</b>
Wenli Dong <b>University of Houston</b>	Aparna Kamat <b>Seth G. S. Medical College</b>	Lilliam Pinzon <b>University of Antioquia</b>
Audrey Ester <b>Texas A&amp;M University-College Station</b>	Jennifer Kerr <b>Wesleyan College</b>	Maria Ramirez <b>University of Puerto Rico</b>
Karina Falbo <b>University of Buenos Aires</b>	Shannon Kidd <b>University of Texas-Austin</b>	Can Ross <b>Texas A&amp;M University-Commerce</b>
Danielle Fontenot <b>Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge</b>	William Kothmann <b>Southwestern University</b>	Leticia Sansores <b>University of Veracruz</b>
Kristina Fox <b>Central Michigan University</b>	Famourou Kourouma <b>EMA University</b>	Gopal Sapparapu <b>University of Florida</b>
Xyanthine Gilmore <b>Prairie View A&amp;M University</b>	Hsu-Ping Kuo <b>National Taiwan University</b>	Alicia Sherrell <b>Delaware State University</b>
Toni Greene <b>University of Houston-Downtown</b>	Svitlana Kurinna <b>Taras Shevchenko Kyiv University</b>	



# Student News

Jennifer Sherrill  
University of Texas-Austin

Jiali Si  
Wuhan University

Catherine Spellicy  
Texas Lutheran College

William Stevenson  
University of Texas-San Antonio

Jiyuan Sun  
Shanghai Second Medical University

Matthew Swulius  
Baylor University

Hugo Tapia  
University of Texas-El Paso

Bahareh Tavana  
University of Washington

Scott Teakell  
Southwestern University

Bon Quy Trinh  
Hanoi University of Science

Cheng-Yu Tsai  
National Taiwan University

Wen-Wei Tsai  
National Taiwan University

Hui-Ping Tseng  
National Cheng Kung University

Jen-Te Tseng  
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Ying Wang  
Nanjing University

Yongxing Wang  
University of California-Santa Cruz

Jay Wathen  
Texas A&M University-College Station

Kaylene Whetstone  
University of Colorado-Boulder

Julia Wynn  
McAlester College

Qianghua Xia  
University of Houston-Main

Cheng-Chieh Yang  
National Yang-Ming University

Jer-Yen Yang  
National Taiwan Ocean University

Xiaofeng Ye  
Xiamen University

Xiaodong Zhai  
Tongji Medical College

Dinghai Zheng  
University of Science/Technology-  
China

John Zullo  
University of Charleston



**Graduate Student  
Association officers  
2004-2005**

Dawn Cavanaugh, Lance Shaner  
and Nick Koch



**Students, faculty,  
and staff** partici-  
pated in a pick-up  
game of baseball.  
A good time was  
had by all!

**This Friday Afternoon Club** coincided with the end of Orientation Week for our new incoming students. Everyone relaxed and visited on the pool deck of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in the Texas Medical Center.



## Members Reappointed with Commendation

Dr. Richard R. Behringer  
 Dr. Laurence D. Etkin  
 Dr. Dale Hereld  
 Dr. Theresa M. Koehler  
 Dr. Randy J. Legerski  
 Dr. Timothy J. McDonnell  
 Dr. Hope Northrup  
 Dr. Ann-Bin Shyu  
 Dr. Bing Su  
 Dr. Stephanie S. Watowich  
 Dr. Miles F. Wilkinson

## New Regular Members

### Constance T. Albarracin

Assistant Professor  
 Pathology  
 M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
 M.D., University of Santo Tomas, 1984  
 Ph.D., University of Illinois, 1993  
 Research interests: hormone-regulated proteins; development of breast and ovarian cancer; annexin 1; annexin 2; 17 beta hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase; 20 alpha hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, gonadotropin releasing hormone receptor

### Peter R. Almond

Research Professor  
 Radiation Physics  
 M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
 Ph.D., Rice University, 1965  
 Research interests: radiation physics; radiation biology; radiation oncology

### Carlos E. Bueso-Ramos

Associate Professor  
 Hematopathology  
 M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
 M.D., Ph.D., Universidad Autonoma/  
 Emory University School of Medicine,  
 1982, 1988  
 Research interests: regulation of Nfkappa B activity in hematologic malignancies; gene expression; cell cycle; protein phosphorylation; tumorigenesis; hematopoiesis and molecular genetics of leukemias

### Kent W. Christopherson II

Assistant Professor

UT-Houston Institute of Molecular  
 Medicine  
 Ph.D., Indiana University School of  
 Medicine, 2001

Research interests: stem cell biology; mobilization of hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells; hematopoietic stem cell homing and engraftment during transplantation; umbilical cord blood stem cell; mobilized stem cell; bone marrow stem cell biology; transplant immunology; chemokine biology

### Chen Dong

Associate Professor  
 Immunology  
 M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
 Ph.D., University of Alabama at  
 Birmingham, 1996  
 Research interests: immune tolerance and autoimmune mechanisms; signal transduction in the immune system and mammalian physiology; cytokines and inflammation; tumor immunology

### Valentin Dragoi

Assistant Professor  
 Neurobiology and Anatomy  
 UT-Houston Medical School  
 Ph.D., Duke University, 1997  
 Research interests: cortical mechanisms of visual behavior; cortical plasticity; neural coding; real-time models of learning and adaptive behavior; network models of cortical function

### Scott M. Drouin

Assistant Professor  
 Institute of Molecular Medicine  
 UT-Houston Medical School  
 Ph.D., University of Alabama at  
 Birmingham, 1997  
 Research interests: regulation of airway epithelial cells by mediators of the innate immune system; lung; asthma; COPD; complement system; immunology; cell biology; molecular biology

### Pauline Jackie Duke

Professor  
 Orthodontics  
 UT-Houston Dental Branch  
 Ph.D., Emory University, 1977  
 Research interests: tissue engineering; gravitational effects on development; craniofacial development; skeletal growth, space biology

### Francisco J. Esteva

Associate Professor  
 Breast Medical Oncology

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
 M.D., Ph.D., University of Zaragoza  
 (Spain), 1988, 2001  
 Research interests: breast cancer; targeted therapy; tumor markers; signal transduction; drug resistance; apoptosis

### Carol J. Etzel

Assistant Professor  
 Epidemiology  
 M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
 Ph.D., Southern Methodist University,  
 1999  
 Research interests: genetic linkage; statistical genetics; meta analysis; cancer epidemiology; genetic epidemiology; multiple imputation; risk assessment models; tree models; recursive partitioning; Bayesian analyses

### Elsa Flores

Assistant Professor  
 Molecular and Cellular Oncology  
 M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
 Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison,  
 1999  
 Research interests: tumor suppressor genes, DNA damage, apoptosis, gene expression, transcriptional regulation, mouse genetics

### Guillermo Garcia-Manero

Assistant Professor  
 Leukemia  
 M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
 M.D., Faculty of Medicine, University of  
 Zaragoza, 1991  
 Research interests: molecular biology of leukemia, DNA methylation, epigenetic therapy, epigenetic profiling of leukemia, drug development

### Juri G. Gelovani

Professor and Chairman  
 Experimental Diagnostic Imaging  
 M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
 M.D., Ph.D., Tartu University (Estonia),  
 1986, 1989  
 Research interests: molecular-genetic imaging; cellular imaging; innovative diagnostics; imaging technologies that allow for early detection of cancer; monitoring anticancer genetic and cellular therapies; translational research

### Michael Z. Gilcrease

Associate Professor  
 Pathology  
 M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
 M.D., Ph.D., Vanderbilt Medical School/  
 Vanderbilt Graduate School, 1991, 1989

# embership Report

Research interests: breast cancer; cell adhesion molecules; integrins; signal transduction; molecular markers

## **W. Keith Hoots**

Professor  
UT-Houston Pediatrics  
M.D., University of North Carolina, 1975

Research interests: mechanisms of disseminated intravascular coagulation; (DIC); immune response and inhibitor development in Hemophilia A; thrombin generation and thromboelastography in women with von Willebrand's disease

## **Patrick Hwu**

Professor and Chairman  
Melanoma Medical Oncology  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
M.D., Medical College of Pennsylvania, 1987

Research interests: immunology; tumor immunotherapy; cancer vaccines; adoptive immunotherapy; dendritic cells

## **Gary L. Johanning**

Associate Professor  
Veterinary Sciences  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., University of Missouri (Columbia), 1978

Research interests: vitamins and resistance to cancer chemotherapy; cancer chemoprevention; nutrition and cancer; nutrition and gene expression; viral etiology of cancer; human endogenous retrovirus; human papillomavirus

## **Alexander J. F. Lazar**

Assistant Professor  
Pathology  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
M.D., Ph.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center, 2000

Research interests: cutaneous neoplasia and stem cells; skin adnexal tumors; cutaneous lymphoma and melanoma; sarcoma tumor biology

## **Cheng Chi Lee**

Associate Professor  
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
UT-Houston Medical School  
Ph.D., University of Otago (New Zealand), 1986

Research interests: genetics of mammalian circadian rhythm; circadian regulation of cell cycle and cancer; therapeutic molecules for circadian rhythm; gene targeting in mice

## **Ho-Young Lee**

Assistant Professor  
Thoracic Head and Neck Medical Oncology  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., Ewha Womans University (Korea), 1992

Research interests: signaling mechanism; chemoprevention and chemo- or gene therapy in aerodigestive cancer; transgenic mice; pharmacogenetics

## **Shiaw-Yih Lin**

Assistant Professor  
Molecular Therapeutics  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston, 1999  
Research interests: cellular immortalization; genomic instability; cancer metastasis; mammalian genetic screens

## **Xin Lin**

Associate Professor  
Molecular and Cellular Oncology  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston, 1995  
Research interests: signal transduction; activation of NF- $\kappa$ B family of transcription factors; protein phosphorylation; lymphocyte activation, development, and differentiation; cell proliferation and tumorigenesis

## **Joseph B. McCormick**

Professor  
Epidemiology  
UT-Houston School of Public Health  
M.D., Duke University, 1971  
Research interests: tuberculosis; early immunologic and microbiologic events in infection; molecular epidemiology (MDR TB); HIV glycoprotein chemistry and immunology; genetic susceptibility to infectious diseases

## **Laura Mitchell**

Associate Professor  
Center for Environmental and Genetic Medicine  
Texas A&M University - Institute of Biosciences and Technology  
Ph.D., Yale University, 1991  
Research interests: genetic determination of congenital malformations; maternal genetic effects; gene-environment interactions; statistical genetics

## **Alanna C. Morrison**

Assistant Professor  
Human Genetics Center

UT-Houston School of Public Health  
Ph.D., UT-Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, 2001  
Research interests: human genetics; genetic epidemiology; cardiovascular disease; statistical methodology

## **Yasuhiro Nishiyama**

Associate Professor  
Pathology & Laboratory Medicine  
UT-Houston Medical School  
Ph.D., Kobe Gakuin University, 1995  
Research interests: artificial immunogens to promote peptidolytic antibody production; selective inhibitors of pathogenic antibodies; peptide and protein chemistry

## **Tinsu Pan**

Associate Professor  
Imaging Physics  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1991  
Research interests: 4D PET/CT imaging; image guided radiation therapy; cardiac CT and cardiac PET; perfusion imaging

## **Prahlad T. Ram**

Assistant Professor  
Molecular Therapeutics  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., Tulane University, 1997  
Research interests: signal transduction; signaling networks; computational modeling; targeted molecular therapeutics; proteomics; cancer biology

## **Andrei S. Rodin**

Assistant Professor  
Human Genetics Center  
UT-Houston School of Public Health  
Ph.D., UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston, 1999  
Research interests: genetic epidemiology; computational biology; data mining; machine learning; artificial intelligence; molecular evolution

## **Kimberly S. Schluns**

Assistant Professor  
Immunology  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., Loyola University (Chicago), 1997  
Research interests: regulation of T cell homeostasis; CD8 T cell responses to infections; generation and maintenance of memory CD8 T cells; development of intestinal lymphocyte populations

# 2004-2005 Faculty Membership Report

## **Ilya Shmulevich**

Assistant Professor  
Pathology  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., Purdue University, 1997  
Research interests: systems biology; computational biology; genomics; signal and image processing; machine learning

## **R. Jason Stafford**

Assistant Professor  
Imaging Physics  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., UT-Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, 2001  
Research interests: image guided therapy; thermal therapy; hyperthermia; magnetic resonance imaging; interventional imaging; ultrasound quality assurance and contrast

## **Steven W. Wang**

Assistant Professor  
Ophthalmology and Visual Science  
UT-Houston Medical School  
Ph.D., University of California (Davis), 1995  
Research interests: retina; stem cells; retinal ganglion cells; neural differentiation; eye development genetics; cell biology; mouse

## **Charles E. Willis**

Associate Professor  
Imaging Physics  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., University of Houston, 1984  
Research interests: computed radiography; digital radiography; direct digital radiography; storage phosphor radiography; stimulable phosphor radiography

## **Martin E. Young**

Assistant Professor  
UT-Houston Institute of Molecular Medicine  
D.Phil., University of Oxford, 1998  
Research interests: cardiovascular disease; diabetes; insulin resistance; cardiac and skeletal muscle metabolism; cardiac and skeletal muscle gene expression; circadian clocks

## **New Associate Members**

### **Peter Balter**

Assistant Professor  
Radiation Physics  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., UT Graduate School of

Biomedical Sciences, 2003  
Research interests: Respiratory correlated imaging (4DCT); 4D treatment planning for radiation therapy; image guided radiation therapy

## **D. Michael Hallman**

Assistant Professor  
Human Genetics Center  
UT-Houston School of Public Health  
Ph.D., UT-Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, 1994  
Research interests: genetic epidemiology; genetics of chronic diseases; cardiovascular disease; diabetes

## **Lisa M. Hollier**

Assistant Professor  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
UT-Houston Medical School  
M.D., Tulane University School of Medicine, 1991  
Research interests: syphilis; herpes simplex virus type II; preterm labor; maternal immune response; prenatal diagnosis

## **Eric Jonasch**

Assistant Professor  
Genitourinary Medical Oncology  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
M.D., McGill University, 1992  
Research interests: renal cell carcinoma; pathology; carcinogenesis; tissue microarray; molecular biology; protein phosphorylation

## **Rajat J. Kudchadker**

Assistant Professor  
Radiation Physics  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., University of Missouri, 1996  
Research interests: radiation dosimetry, imaging and image fusion, clinical development, treatment machines

## **Thomas C. Prager**

Professor  
Ophthalmology and Visual Science  
UT-Houston Medical School  
Ph.D., Tulane University, 1978  
Research interests: clinical electrophysiology, vision development in infants, quality of care in medicine

## **N. Venkat Prasad**

Assistant Professor  
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
UT-Houston Medical School  
Ph.D., University of Madras, 1992  
Research interests: immunology of tuberculosis; murine model and human

tuberculosis; vaccine and immunotherapeutic modalities in tuberculosis

## **Rajagopal Ramesh**

Assistant Professor  
Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., All India Institute of Medical Sciences, 1994  
Research interests: non-viral mediated gene delivery; tumor-suppressor genes; angiogenesis; apoptosis; inflammation; molecular signaling

## **Narayan Sahoo**

Associate Professor  
Radiation Physics  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., State University of New York at Albany, 1986  
Research interests: radiation dosimetry; Monte Carlo simulations; biophysical aspects of radiation therapy; radiation therapy treatment plan optimization and evaluation; structure and properties of bio-molecules

## **Rosemarie E. Scmhandt**

Assistant Professor  
Gynecologic Oncology  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., University of Toronto, 1996  
Research interests: protein kinases; signal transduction, molecular biology of ovarian cancer, therapeutic targets

## **Jihong Wang**

Associate Professor  
Imaging Physics  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., University of Colorado (Boulder), 1994  
Research interests: human perception and human-computer interaction in medical imaging; functional MR imaging; softcopy image display

## **Guosheng Yin**

Assistant Professor  
Biostatistics and Applied Mathematics  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2003  
Research interests: survival analysis; longitudinal data and random effect models; nonparametric and semi-parametric methods; clinical trials; Bayesian computation and inference; microarray data in genetic statistics and bioinformatics

# Faculty News



Dean **George Stancel** acknowledges **Jack Waymire, Ph.D.**, outgoing GSBS Faculty President, with an honoring plaque for his efforts on behalf of graduate education.

## *Congratulations!*

To **Roger Barber, Ph.D.**, upon his retirement.

To **William Dowhan, Ph.D.**, for winning The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Avanti Award in Lipids in San Diego, CA.



Thanks to a gift from a previous GSBS staff member, **Melva S. Ramsay**, and matched by the GSBS to honor her years of serving with loyalty and energy, GSBS Dean, George Stancel established the Melva S. Ramsay Award. This endowed award honors exemplary service by a GSBS staff member to faculty, students and the GSBS. Year 2005 marks the first time the Ramsay Award was presented, and the first recipient was **Cheryl Spitzenberger**, director of faculty affairs for the Graduate School. Shown here, **Pierre McCrea**, Faculty President, left, with 'Spitz' and Ms. Melva Ramsay.



## **Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Texas Southern University Undergraduate Collaborative Training Program in Prostate Cancer**

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences has established a unique and innovative collaboration with Texas Southern University (TSU), a historically black university, to define a relationship that will lead to attracting talented undergraduate students into careers that focus on prostate cancer research. This collaboration is funded for three years by a grant from the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program, with a leader in prostate cancer research and long time GSBS faculty member, Timothy J. McDonnell, M.D., Ph.D, serving as P.I. Drs. George Stancel, GSBS Dean, and Thomas J. Goka, GSBS Assistant Dean, initiated the Collaborative and will coordinate the efforts and provide administrative support for it.

The design of this collaboration includes the creation of a mini-course on prostate cancer to be taught on the TSU campus by GSBS faculty; a summer research and education program for four TSU undergraduates (sophomores or juniors) who will work with GSBS faculty who conduct research in prostate cancer; the further exposure of these students to the community and career of prostate cancer research including seminars, journal clubs, and a national meeting; sponsoring a visit and seminar at the TSU campus of a nationally recognized leader in prostate cancer research; and the training of a young TSU faculty member in prostate cancer research. All these efforts are designed to add significantly to the understanding of prostate cancer through education, research, and exposing selected undergraduate students to prostate cancer research.

Already underway is the mini-course with over 50 TSU students and a dozen TSU faculty attending the first two seminars. Four TSU students will be selected in a competitive process to receive a \$4,000 stipend for 12 weeks this summer. They will register as non-degree students in a GSBS Special Projects course on biomedical research and prostate cancer where they will not only receive information on procedures and perspectives of prostate cancer research but also instructions on careers, applying to medical and graduate schools. In addition, they will attend seminars on current topics in prostate cancer. During their following academic year at TSU, these students will continue their relationship with the summer mentor and the GSBS, and will have the opportunity to attend a national scientific meeting with a major focus on prostate cancer research. Further, Dr. Palur Gunaseka, an assistant professor in biology at TSU, is already involved in this collaboration and will be working this summer in Dr. McDonnell's laboratory. He will also be on campus to mentor the students from the summer program.

—Thomas Goka, Ph.D., Assistant Dean for Outreach and Minority Affairs

# Alumni Reu

## Alumni

Sharon Beresford  
Vijaya Bhadkamkar  
Sol Bobst  
Valentine Boving  
Molly Bray  
Joan Breuer McHam  
Eva Caudell  
Jimmy Caudell  
Dawn Chandler  
Joya Chandra  
Sangeeta Cheema  
Rong Chen  
Rob Copenhaver  
Sandeep Dayal  
Kevin Spurgers  
Belisa Diaz  
Ron Duman  
Vicki Estrera  
Richard Foulk  
Suzanne Fuqua  
Thomas Gegeny  
Tom Goka  
Manuel Gonzalez-Garay  
Maureen Goode  
Rick Hajek  
Anne Hodgson  
Peng Huang  
Faye Johnson  
Ralf Krahe  
Dorrie Lamb  
Pierrette Lo  
Steve Lott  
Suneeta Mahagaokar  
Milton Marshall  
Shirlette Milton  
Jennifer Newcomb  
Karen Niederreither  
Peggy O'Neill  
Kathryn Peek  
Mark Pershouse  
Madhu Purewal  
Yuhua Qi  
Maribelis Ruiz  
Alex Sandoval  
Bart Sheinberg  
Carmen Tellez  
Ben Thomas  
Ping Tian  
Laura Valentine  
Brenda Whaley  
Barbara Williams  
David Wildrick  
Hui Xu  
Hong Nathan Xu  
Zhong Xie  
Jianhua Yang  
Dihua Yu  
Wei Zhang

## *In Memory*

Jim Hokanson, Ph.D.





# Union 2004



# Alumni News



**Undergraduate Research Competition** presenters, L-R, **Gloria Li, Anadita Pal, Todd Triplett, Imene Bokhetache** and **Allison Hall**, were each recipients of \$200 awards honoring their top scientific posters exhibited during the 10<sup>th</sup> annual UT Health Science Center Research Day. The Undergrad Research Competition was originated and chaired by Kendra Woods, Ph.D. (1995) and co-chaired by Brenda Whaley, Ph.D. (1995). GSBS Alumni hosted 25 presenters from Texas and across the country as well as 35 undergrad visitors many of whom served as peer reviewers for the competition. Alumni and current GSBS students also served as judges. A breakfast was sponsored by M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, with an awards banquet at the GSBS.

## Alumni Kudos

**Sharon Beresford, Ph.D. (2001)**  
New patent attorney in Austin, TX

**Manu V. Chakravarthy, M.D., Ph.D. (2000)**  
Fellow, Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, MO

**Esther Cheung, Ph.D. (1985), MBA**  
now in the New Product Planning Division at  
GlaxoSmithKline, Philadelphia, PA

**Lee Ann Garrett-Sinha, Ph.D. (1996)**  
appointed assistant professor at  
State University of New York at Buffalo, NY

**Erin Lagow, Ph.D. (2002)**  
Fellow, Ordway Research Institute Cancer Center  
Albany, NY

**Madhu Purewal, Ph.D. (1990), J.D.**  
New associate legal officer  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

**Brenda Whaley, Ph.D. (1995)**  
Selected as Houston Baptist University Minnie Stevens  
Piper Foundation Professor honoree 2004-2005, and will  
represent HBU in the statewide selection process,  
Houston, TX

## Introducing our Alumni In-Reach Mentors

The invaluable Alumni In-Reach Mentor Program, sponsored by the GSBS Alumni Association, provides electronic information to GSBS students who ask about various career paths in the biomedical sciences. What follows is a very informal update about two of our In-Reach mentors, with the thought that all will be introduced as time goes by. To volunteer to serve as a mentor contact [bwhaley@hbu.org](mailto:bwhaley@hbu.org)

### Introducing Chris Friedrich, Ph.D., (1986)

*I am currently a faculty member in the Division of Medical Genetics at The University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. My main research interests have been in the area of adult-onset genetic diseases, especially lipid disorders. I previously developed an adult genetics clinic at Penn, and have been expanding that here. We provide diagnostic testing and interpretations and counseling for hereditary cancers, neurogenetic diseases, and premature coronary artery disease. My newest project is to try to develop an educational tool to make sophisticated genetic concepts understood by those who are illiterate.*



*For those who want to make a career of generating new ideas and knowledge, which means upsetting the status quo on a regular basis, I offer this quote from George Bernard Shaw:*

*"Reasonable people adapt themselves to the world. Unreasonable people attempt to adapt the world to themselves. All progress, therefore, depends on unreasonable people."*

### Introducing Hector Garcia, Ph.D., (1979)

*As my current employment, I have been a Senior Scientist (Toxicologist) at Johnson Space Center since 1990, working for Wyle Laboratories Life Sciences Systems and Services, a contractor to NASA. My duties include establishing safe exposure limits for levels of contaminants in spacecraft air and water and assessing the toxicity hazard levels of chemicals that fly on manned spacecraft missions.*



*One of my favorite quotes is taken from a country song, but applies equally well to career plans: "Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers." Best regards.*

**If you would like to submit a kudo for the next Alumni News, please send your submission to:**  
[Linda.M.Carter@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Linda.M.Carter@uth.tmc.edu)

# GSBS Awards

## American Legion Auxiliary Fellowships



This year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), Department of Texas, hit the \$1,000,000 milestone in raising support for GSBS fellowships in cancer research. Over 90 individuals attended the fall awards presentation, with both national and statewide Auxiliary officers coming in for the event. Since 1971 this phenomenal accomplishment has been achieved through the work of women across the state of Texas, and the only such project of its kind in the country. On behalf of the GSBS they have contributed to graduate students doing the highest quality work in their research studies in all kinds of cancer. Seen here are scholars and representatives from the American Legion Auxiliary including officers immediate past president, Ms. Lynda Horton, left of Dean Stancel center front row, and current president, Ms. Vicki Pollard and current Department commander, Mr. Dellano Simmons, to the right.

### Student

Gregory Aune  
Jennifer Carew  
Jennifer Carter  
Jennifer Cook  
Geoffrey Kannan  
Shreya Kant  
Sanaz Khanbolooki

### Supervisory Professor

Dr. Zahid Siddik  
Dr. Peng Huang  
Dr. Subrata Sen  
Dr. Cheryl Walker  
Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman  
Dr. Jeffrey Mollidrem  
Dr. David McConkey

### Student

Joanna Koch  
Jon Lyons  
Jason Mitchell  
Steffan Nawrocki  
Jennifer O'Daniel  
Athanasia Panopoulos

### Supervisory Professor

Dr. Guillermina Lozano  
Dr. Pierre McCrea  
Dr. Bradley McIntyre  
Dr. David McConkey  
Dr. Lei Dong  
Dr. Stephanie Watowich

## Aaron Blanchard Research Award in Medical Physics

Named in memory of Aaron M. Blanchard, a GSBS student in the Medical Physics Program who succumbed to brain cancer in 1998, this \$300 cash award recognizes a Medical Physics graduate (M.S. or Ph.D.) for completion of an outstanding thesis or dissertation judged to make a significant contribution to cancer therapy or diagnosis. Award Recipient for 2005-2006 is:

### Student

Kent Gifford

### Supervisory Professor

Dr. John Horton

## R. W. (Bill) Butcher Achievement Award 2004

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. Meghan Minard is this year's recipient of the R. W. (Bill) Butcher Achievement Award for her exemplary efforts in community outreach.



### Student

Meghan Minard

### Supervisory Professor

Dr. Gary Gallick

# GSBS Awards



## **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 diseases. The \$10,000 gift is matched by GSBS in 2004-2005, giving a total of \$20,000 stipend support to the student. The 2004-2005 recipient Maglie Leduc, whose studies are focused on Alzheimer's disease, is shown here with Ms. Diane Guiberteau, a representative from the Harry S. & Isabel C. Cameron Foundation and trust officer for Bank of America.

### **Student**

Maglie Leduc

### **Supervisory Professor**

Dr. James Hixson

## **T. C. Hsu Endowed Memorial Scholarship**

In 2004, the first T. C. Hsu Endowed Memorial Scholar was named, thanks to the generosity of many: his former students, faculty colleagues, his daughter Margaret, and M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Foundation. The scholarship is a living testimony to Dr. Hsu's memory, and serves to acknowledge the stellar research accomplishments of graduate students focusing on genetics or cell biology. The inaugural T. C. Hsu Memorial Scholar is Meghan Minard, whose research studies are in the field of colon cancer, and receives this \$4,000 endowed scholarship. Shown here center, with Ms. Margaret Hsu left, and Dr. Gary Gallick, right.



### **Student**

Meghan Minard

### **Supervisory Professor**

Dr. Gary Gallick

## **Barbara L. Kennedy Endowed Memorial Scholar**

Established by the WINGS Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) 2004-2005 marks the third 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, Tamara Soloman is this year's recipient:



### **Student**

Tamara Soloman

### **Supervisory Professors**

Ms. Cathy Wicklund and Ms. Aimee Williams

# GSBS Awards

## Alfred G. Knudson, Jr., Outstanding Dissertation

Named for the distinguished individual known for his record 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 2004-2005 honoree:



**Student**

Dr. Sandeep Dayal

**Supervisory Professor**

Dr. William Klein

## John P. McGovern GSBS Scientific Poster Competition 2004-2005

In its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, the McGovern Scientific Poster Competition 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. Subrata Sen, Seiji Kondo, Kapil Mehta, Keh-Ruan, Thomas Goka, Mandri Obeyesekere, Anil Kulkarni, Shrikanth Reddy, Victoria Knutson, Rajagopal Ramesh, Kevin Morano, Nachum Dafny, and Jeffrey Gershenwald. The 2004-2005 poster recipients in each category receive \$400, \$300, and \$200 for First Place, Second Place and Third Place, respectively.

	<b><u>Student</u></b>	<b><u>Award</u></b>	<b><u>Supervisory Professor</u></b>
<b>M.S. Category</b>	Cana Ross	1 <sup>st</sup>	Dr. Theresa Koehler
	Jay Herman	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dr. Kapil Mehta
<b>Ph.D. Pre-candidacy Category</b>	Laura Nolden	1 <sup>st</sup>	Dr. Gordon Mills
	Julie Robertson	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dr. Yahuan Lou
	Joseph Taube	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dr. Michelle Barton
<b>Ph.D. Post-candidacy Category</b>	Jing Zhao	1 <sup>st</sup>	Dr. Pramod Dash

## Minority Faculty Association Awards

### Minority Faculty Association Scholarship

**Student**

Amber Johnson

**Supervisory Professor**

Dr. Michelle Barton

### Jones/Wharton Scholarship for Cancer Research

**Student**

Stacey Ruiz

**Supervisory Professor**

Dr. David McConkey

# GSBS Awards



## **Dee S. & Patricia Osborne** **Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences**

Established by the Linda and Ronny Finger Foundation in 2001-2002, this endowed scholarship honors former University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Development Board president, Dee Osborne and his wife Patricia. Through the endowment an award of \$500 is provided to the winning presenter in the graduate student category at the Annual Neuroscience Scientific Poster Session. This award is given during Brain Awareness Week. The 2004-2005 Osborne Scholar is

### **Student**

Diego Gutnisky

### **Supervisory Professor**

Dr. Valentin Dragoi



## **Presidents' Merit Scholars 2004-2005**

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, including this year, Dr. Stephen Daiger, Dr. William Dowhan, Dr. William Plunkett, Dr. Grady Saunders and Dr. George Weinstock. This year's Scholars each received a cash award of \$5,000. Shown here left to right: Pamela Yang, Auinash Kalsotra, Jennifer Carew, Steffan Nawrocki, and April Hebert.

### **Student**

April Hebert  
Auinash Kalsotra  
Jennifer Carew  
Pamela Yang  
Steffan Nawrocki

### **Supervisory Professor**

Dr. Pramod Dash  
Dr. Henry Strobel  
Dr. Peng Huang  
Dr. Alan Swann and Dr. Nachum Dafny  
Dr. David McConkey

## **The Schissler Foundation Fellowships 2004-2005**

The Schissler Foundation is a major benefactor of the Graduate School. Now in its tenth year, the Foundation has chosen to continue to support excellence through its awards to top students involved in research in the human genetics of common diseases. In addition, this year a new Schissler Foundation Fellowship is also being awarded to graduate students working in the area of cancer research and cures, specifically at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Each of these Schissler Foundation Fellows receives a \$20,800 stipend. Shown here left to right are Yasmine Valentin, Catherine Moya and Lisa Vincent.



### **Student**

Yasmine Valentin  
Lisa Vincent  
Catherine Moya

### **Supervisory Professor**

Dr. Guillermina Lozano  
Dr. Dianna Milewicz  
Dr. Renata Pasqualini



# GSBS Awards

## Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Endowed Scholars and The Cancer Answers/Sylvan Rodriguez Scholar



Joann Sowell and Marcia Huggins Jahncke established the Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Endowed Scholarship in 1991 at The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston to celebrate the successful recovery of their sons from cancer. Through personal donations and those of family and friends, support for their mission of 'finding cancer answers' through innovative research and educational training of GSBS students, continued to grow. In 1996 they created Cancer Answers, a charitable organization, which acts as the fund raising arm of the Sowell-Huggins Endowment. In 1999 the Sylvan Rodriguez Foundation

partnered with Cancer Answers to share in the effort of support for one \$2,000 scholarship, The Cancer Answers/Sylvan Rodriguez Scholarship, honors the memory of Sylvan Rodriguez, a local newscaster who died of pancreatic cancer in 2001. Today, as many as five Sowell-Huggins \$2,000 scholarships are offered annually, along with a three year renewable \$20,000 stipend for the recipient of the Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Professor/Fellow Award. Photo left to right, 2004-2005 awards recipients are:

### Students

Stacey Ruiz, Cancer Answers/Sylvan Rodriguez Scholar  
Meghan Minard, Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholar  
Aditi Hazra, Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholar  
Ilyssa Okrent Gordon, Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholar  
Jennifer Carew, Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholar

### Supervisory Professor

Dr. David McConkey  
Dr. Gary Gallick  
Dr. Xifeng Wu  
Dr. Ralph Freedman  
Dr. Peng Huang

## Sam Taub/Beatrice Burton Endowed Fellowship

Thanks to the increased generosity of sisters Mary Wright and Joanna Ross, the first Sam Taub and Beatrice Burton Endowed Fellowship was presented for the 2004-2005 academic year. Established to honor their grandfather and great aunt, when completed the Taub/Burton Fellowship will serve to provide an award in perpetuity of at least \$2,000 towards tuition for graduate students working in the area of sight-related vision problems, and the genetics and potential therapies involved. The inaugural recipient, Nicholas Koch, whose research studies are related to therapy-delivery mechanism for cancer of the eye, is shown here second from left, with GSBS Dean, George Stancel, Ms. Mary Wright, and Dr. Wayne Newhauser.



### Student

Nicholas Koch

### Supervisory Professor

Dr. Wayne Newhauser

## Roberta M. & Jean M. Worsham Endowed Scholarship In the Behavioral and Neurosciences



This endowed award fosters exceptional students working in the fields of the behavioral or neurosciences with focus on the areas of addiction or obsessive/compulsive behavior. This unique scholarship is for \$1,000, and will be formally presented during Brain Awareness Week. The 2004-2005 scholar is:

### Student

Sylvain Nouvion

### Supervisory Professor

Dr. Don Cherek

# Community Awards

## P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Scholar Award for 2005

**Raegan Hunt**, (Advisor, C.S. Raman, Ph.D.) continues a history of GSBS recipients of this highly competitive, prestigious and valuable (\$10,000) national award. Previously, Ruth Ann Barkley and Pamela Yang were named to this award in 2003, 2004 respectively. In 1991 the P.E.O. National Scholarship Awards were established. They are one-time honors for women of the United States and Canada who are pursuing a graduate degree, undertaking advanced study or research. Since that time over 900 women have become P.E.O. Scholars selected, in part, for their potential to excel. Raegan Hunt was the nominee of Chapter AC of the P.E.O. in Houston.

## 2005 Lewis Hine Award for Service to Youth

GSBS student, **Chirag Patel**, is one of 10 national recipients of this award administered by the National Child Labor Committee. Each recipient receives \$1,000 and a trip to the awards ceremony. Patel is designating his monetary award to the Indian Ocean tsunami relief efforts. Previous recipients include Harry Belafonte, Michael Bolton, Hillary Clinton and Oprah Winfrey. The award is named after photographer Lewis Wickes Hine, a photographer whose efforts helped enact laws to protect the rights of children. (*Scoop*, 1/21/05.)

## Medical School Dean's Awards to Graduate Students

### Student

Sonya Blum  
April Hebert  
Auinash Kalsotra  
Bao Nguyen  
Amy Trot  
Pamela Yang

### Supervisory Professor

Dr. Pramod Dash  
Dr. Pramod Dash  
Dr. Henry Strobel  
Dr. Carmen Dessauer  
Dr. Kevin Morano  
Dr. Alan Swann  
and Dr. Nachum Dafny

## NIAID Travel Award

**Jaime Estrella**, GSBS student of Dr. Susan Fisher-Hoch, in Brownsville, TX, received the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Science Research Award from NIH. For her research studies in tuberculosis, this award totals \$160,000 over five years.

## Community Awards

**Colin Lathrop**, a first-year student in the D.D.S/Ph.D. program won the award for the most outstanding basic science presentation at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hinman Student Research Symposium, Memphis, TN.

## Sigma Xi Annual Thesis Prize

The Rice-Texas Medical Center Chapter of Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society made its 2004-2005 awards in the biological sciences and medicine to two GSBS students: First and second Place \$350, \$150 respectively.

**Sally Kim** (Advising Professor, M. Neal Waxham, Ph.D.) 1<sup>st</sup> Place

“The Dynamics of Calmodulin Signaling Revealed using Optical Methods”

**Sayeepriyadarshini Anakk** (Advising Professor, Henry Strobel, Ph.D.) 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

“Female-specific Regulation of Cytochrome P450 3As and their Response to Xenobiotic Stress

# Special Thanks and Gratitude

## Special Thanks to our Benefactors

Steven J. Allen	Jefferson-Pilot Foundation	Schissler Foundation
Harry S. & Isabel C. Cameron Foundation	John P. McGovern Foundation	Douglas Stickle
Cancer Answers Inc.	Kevin Morano	Charles & Judy Tate
Robert Greer	Peggy O'Neill	Mary Ruth & Tom Williams
Elizabeth Grimm	Janet Price	WINGS Chapter, ABWA
Diana Hawkins	Melva Ramsay	Jean & Roberta Worsham
Geoffrey Ibbott	Doris Ross	Wei Yu

## With Gratitude to our Donors

Sandeep Agarwal	Gregory Fuller	Mark Kunkel	Potu Rao
Melissa Aldrich	Yasuhide Furuta	Tien Kuo	Ellen Richie
John Antolak	Gary Gallick	John Kurland	Isaac Rosen
Marilyn Arnott	Varsha Gandhi	Lawrence Lachman	Jeffrey Safran
Donna Badgwell	Brenda Gaughan	Anand & Sandhya Lagoo	Barbara Sanborn
Lois Baker	Alberta Glassman	Erin Lagow	Grady & Priscilla Saunders
Michele Barton	Siew-Ging Gong	Jack Lee	Jack Schull
Sonia Bergh	Joe Grant	George Leventon	Stan Schultz
Roger Bick	Robert Greer	Yun Lin	Bart Sheinberg
Carol Blanchard	Erin Grothey	Pu Liu	Donna Shewach
Valentine Boving	Yi-Zhong Gu	Karin Loftin	Ann-Bin Shyu
Bill and Joan Butcher	Elizabeth Gum	Kathryn Louie	Michael Siciliano
Dan Carson	Dianne Hammond	Katherine Loveland	Malcolm Skolnick
Betsy Chadderdon-Frantz	John Herman	Gailen Marshall	Cheryl Spitzenberger
Zhoufeng Chen	Walter Hittelman	Jeanelle Martinez	George Starkschall
Esther Cheung	Dah Hsi & Beng Ho	Tom and Nancy Matney	Gulnar Surveyor
Paul Cizdziel	Jacqueline Peltier Horn	Pierre McCrea	Lixuan Tackett
Gil Cote'	Glenn Housholder	David Mellenberg	Henrich Taetmeyer
Deborah Croft	Jen-Tzaw Huang	Mercedes Meyer	Filemon Tan
Stephen Daiger	Vicki Huff	Raymond Meyn	Ming Tan
Peter Davies	Mien-Chie Hung	Shirlette Milton	Dean Tang
Donna DiPaolo	Gary Johanning	Debra Moss	Jane Tew
Kimberly Dodge	Faye Johnson	JoAnn Moulds	Stephen Tomasovic
Herbert DuPont	Jeffrey Johnson	Steven Nadler	Janet Travis
Anuradha Dutt	Quita Cruciger	Wayne Newhauser	Ah-Lim Tsai
Julie Ellerhorst	Dan Jones	Sarah Noblin	Ifeoma Umeh
Cindee Ewell	Kathleen Jones	Kathy O'Keefe	Deidre Vedder
Frank Fasullo	Rodney Kellems	Jeffrey Palmer	Degang Wang
Isaiah Fidler	Sally Kim	Nickolas Papadopoulos	Kishor Wasan
Susan Fitzpatrick	Robert Kirken	Steven Patierno	Deborah Woodhouse
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Emil Freireich	Daisy Kone	Thomas Poorman	Dihua Yu
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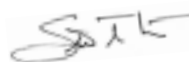
**Dear Alumni and other friends,**

What an amazing year! The GSBS has moved from the far reaches of the Texas Medical Center to its very core, and as you may imagine, is loving their new home in the concrete and marble George and Cynthia Mitchell Basic Sciences Research Building, June and Virgil Waggoner Academic Hall.

Thank you for the honor of being your Alumni Association president. Two of the most significant events that took place last fall included the first ever, alumni sponsored, Undergraduate Research Competition, and the 2004-2005 Alumni Reunion. The Undergraduate Research Competition was well supported by the GSBS, and attended by 40 students from across Texas and the United States. Nineteen undergrads presented scientific posters and 21 others were peer reviewers. The Competition was a featured part of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Day, and the students were hosted at a breakfast in The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Special thanks go to the very able chairpersons, Kendra Woods, Ph.D. (1995) and Brenda Whaley, Ph.D. (1995), to Joya Chandra, Ph.D. (1998) for heading the poster selection, to Maureen Goode, Ph.D. (1985) who wrote the abstract template, to Dorrie Lamb, Ph.D. (1980) for shepherding the undergrad advisors, and to Ben Thomas, Ph.D. (1973) who headed the panel of alumni judges. (Photos of the top five poster creators are inside this newsletter.) I had the fun of guiding a very enthusiastic group of peer reviewers.

The 2004-2005 Reunion reception and dinner were a wonderful success with a record turnout of 135 people. Trevisio Restaurant, looking out over the Texas Medical Center was the setting, and Dr. Ron Duman, our GSBS Distinguished Alumnus from Yale (look him up on the website at [http://gsbs.uth.tmc.edu/alumni/distinguished\\_alum.html](http://gsbs.uth.tmc.edu/alumni/distinguished_alum.html)) regaled us with 'Lessons of Life and Research.' Joya Chandra, Ph.D., was elected vice-president/treasurer, which means she will have the thrill of serving as your president next year. The plan for the 2005-2006 Reunion is to give you an opportunity to see the Graduate School, up close and personal, in its exhilarating (and permanent) location. This will be a great chance to visit with colleagues and faculty, so I look forward to seeing you there. Molly Bray, Ph.D. (1998), Vicki Estrera, Ph.D. (2001) and Mustafa Ozen, Ph.D. (1999) will be on hand as the newest Alumni Steering Committee members. Not to be forgotten is outgoing president, Dorrie Lamb, Ph.D., who handed me the 'presidential brick' and finished presiding over this busy group—everyone applauded her many efforts.

I invite you to become involved; the experience is priceless.



Steven Lott, Ph.D. (1997)  
President, 2004-2005  
GSBS Alumni Association



**Newsletter**

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