

DEGREES OF DISCOVERY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Advisory Council News

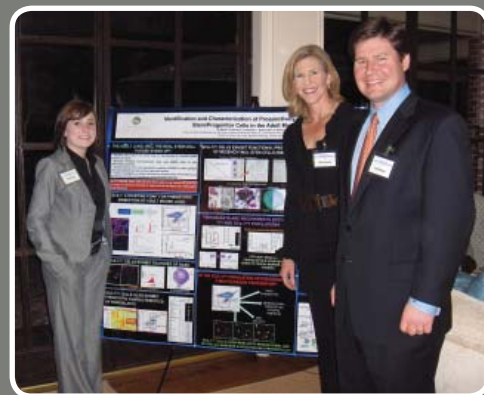
TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWS
- 3 DEAN'S NOTES
- 4 ALUMNI REUNION ADDRESS
DANNY WELCH, PH.D.
- 6 ALUMNI REUNION PHOTOS
- 8 FACULTY MEMBERSHIP
REPORT
- 10 FACULTY NEWS
IN MEMORY
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
- 12 STUDENT AWARDS
- 16 INCOMING STUDENTS
FALL 2008
- 18 VICTORIA KNUTSON, PH.D.
Associate Dean of Admissions
STUDENT NEWS
- 19 SPECIAL THANKS
& GRATITUDE

BACK COVER

Message to the Alumni:
Vicky Estrera, Ph. D.
President 2008-2009
GSBS Alumni Association

In February Britt and Helen Schmidt hosted a GSBS Advisory Council "Evening of Discovery" at their home for Council members to each invite additional community friends to learn more about the Graduate School and its students who earn Degrees of Discovery.™ This terminology Degrees of Discovery was first coined last year at the Discovery event organized by Council Chair, Diana Hawkins, to begin to engage a broader segment of Houston for the Graduate School and its students. These scientists-of-tomorrow must each discover new information to add to the collective body of scientific research before they receive their Ph.D. degrees in the biomedical sciences. Guests are shown here visiting with a few of our award-winning students, but also joining us to hear the Dean's vision for an academy of innovators were Gail and Louis Adler, Leslie and Jack Blanton, Jr., Steve and Nancy Beasley, Jesse and Hetta Heath, Jesse H. Jones II, Lenoir and Susan Josey, Blake Robertson, Susie Seybold, Nina Zilkha, and Betsy Frantz.



Britt and Helen Schmidt are catching up on the latest stem cell research with GSBS student Brandi Baird.



Susan Coulter, J.D., vice president for Institutional Advancement at UTHSC-H (below, left) arrives with **Diana Hawkins**, right. Diana, for her many efforts in Houston, was named one of UT-Houston's "10 Outstanding Community Volunteers" and honored at the National Philanthropy Day Awards Ceremony last November.

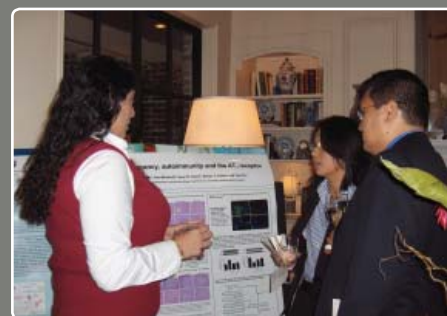


Student **Adam Riegel** (above, left), with **Richard Schissler III** and **Rhett Campbell**, discusses his research devising a lung cancer treatment mechanism which provides a very precise delivery of therapy. This is now in clinical trials in several hospitals.



Harry Gee (above, left) and **Corby Robertson** visit with host, **Britt Schmidt**.

GSBS student and MD/PhD candidate **Roxanna Irani** (below, left) is describing her research about hypertension with **Vicky Estrera, Ph.D.**, GSBS Alumni Association president, and her husband, **Anthony Estrera, M.D.** of UT-Medical School.



FRONT COVER

The Graduate School celebrated its 45th Anniversary in 2008. The original design commemorated the 40th Anniversary and was created by Leslie Holland of the Office of Institutional Advancement in 2004, revised here to mark the occasion.



Storytelling - it's not just for kids anymore

GSBS periodically hosts events to tell the Houston community about our school. I have found that one of the most effective ways to do this is to invite some of our students to speak about their research, and they often use one of their recent posters to help them do so. It is interesting and instructive to watch a typical interchange.

The non-scientist visitor initially approaches the student with a visible interest (often because of a disease or buzzword, e.g., 'stem cell', in the title of the poster), but hesitates to initiate a conversation given so much unfamiliar detail. The student, despite being excited about the work, is also uncertain at the outset, probably because he or she rarely has conversations with non-scientists about research.

Then an interesting dynamic generally takes place - I suspect without either party consciously recognizing it. The student relaxes a bit and, rather than describing the results and methods, begins to put the research in a broader context and explain its possible significance. The visitor becomes less focused on the details of the methodology and terminology as he or she senses the student's excitement, and hears the potential impact of the findings. Afterwards the guests will inevitably say, "That was really fascinating!" and the students will say, "They were really interested!". This exchange between rising scientists and the community has become essential as we distinguish the Graduate School from all the institutions in the Texas Medical Center.

I think it is necessary for all of us at GSBS to recognize what led from an initial hesitancy in the dialogue to an informative and enjoyable interaction. I believe the key is that the student stops simply describing results and begins to tell the story of the research project.

In graduate school we teach students how to describe their methods and results to other scientists and provide many opportunities for them to do so, e.g., in seminars, journal clubs, lab discussions, and

professional meetings. We do not, however, provide nearly as much training or as many opportunities (if any) for them to tell the story of their research to a more diverse audience. I would like to see us change this and believe it is critical if the public is to support biomedical research in the current economic climate with so much increasing competition for resources for many important and worthwhile needs.

In my view it is also important for another reason: As biomedical science becomes more complex and new breakthroughs increasingly require interdisciplinary approaches, we must improve how we tell our individual stories to each other, as well as the lay public. If we fail to do so our aggregate productivity will decrease along with our ability to attract funding for our research and educational missions.

We already know what we're talking about. Let's become better storytellers and help others to be part of the conversation.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George".



GSBS Alumnas **Joy Marshall** and **Molly Bray** with **George and Mary Stancel** at the 2008 Alumni Reunion



I am deeply appreciative to the selection committee and to those who nominated me for the GSBS Distinguished Alumnus award. To be honest, it is hard to believe, among the many graduates of this fine school, that I would receive it. Nonetheless, it is with sincere and humble appreciation that I accept it.

Receiving this award comes at an awkward time because my mother just passed away in September, dying of meta-static lung cancer. To accept an award for my laboratory's research accomplishments, knowing that our progress was too late to help someone whom I love so much, makes accepting it bittersweet. Mom was, as all mothers are, extremely proud of 'her baby.' She shared in whatever successes we have had and will continue to be an inspiration for many years to come. Her illness and fight over the past year were accompanied by three prayers: that she would not suffer greatly, that she would have peace about her situation, and that the last words she would hear from me would be, "I love you." God has granted those three prayers, which were more important than any award.

So, it is in my parents' loving memory that I accept this award. And it is their example that inspires my brief comments this evening. I have entitled this speech 'Getting by with a lot of help from my friends.' For it is apparent to those who know me, I needed a LOT of help from a lot of people to have any success in my professional and personal life.

I decided that I would share with you some vignettes about some special people who have helped me professionally, not by being collaborators (of which some were), nor by lessons learned in the classroom (although there were many of those as well). Rather, I want to share with you



how some special people taught me lessons of character that amplify over the years and form the foundation upon which hard work and perseverance have given my lab mates and I some measure of success.

Garth Nicolson was my doctoral mentor. But I started working in his lab as a sophomore in college. I took an advanced cell biology class from him and, wanting to impress someone from whom I hoped to garner a letter of recommendation or a graduate position, studied extra diligently. On the midterm, I got a grade in the mid-90%. I thought I'd done quite well on one of the hardest tests I'd taken to date. However, his only comment to me in private was, "I thought you could have done better." Deflated and a bit dejected for a few days, I bucked up and scored a perfect score on his final exam, to which he commented simply, "Good job."

Garth taught me that the bar was ever-rising and that the standard was still perfection. While it was not necessarily what I wanted to hear, he said what I needed to hear. From Garth, the character lesson was to never live on my laurels and never to be satisfied with good enough.

Steve Tomasovic served as the junior-most member of my dissertation advisory committee. Whereas the others were chairs, Steve was a beginning Assistant Professor. Our desks were situated next to each other and we had many conversations over my tenure as a graduate student. He offered many bits of sage advice, but I remember him most for being the most organized person I have ever known. More than our in-lab, in-department relationship, Steve and Barbara, his wife, allowed me to ride with them to Kingwood weekly to play in a volleyball league. I stayed at their home. They treated me like family. More than that, Steve treated me like a peer, when I was anything but. During those car rides, we talked about science, life. The topics were deep and some were pedestrian. He even said that I taught him some things – something still hard for me to believe.

Steve taught me to treat everyone with respect. His example is one I try to emulate every day, with other faculty, staff and students. Everyone has something to teach us. We must merely listen to their example.

Luka Milas, also a member of my graduate committee, summoned me to his office on my last day at M. D. Anderson before starting my first independent position.

The call came suddenly, and urgently from his secretary. I showed up and the conversation was more philosophic than I ever imagined. Specifically, Luka was aware that I had interacted with and observed a lot of driven people during my tenure as a graduate student. He wanted to bring something to a conscious level. Luka told me that, on that day, I had a choice to make: I had to choose what type of career path I was to take. It was not the professional career of which he was speaking. Rather, he was referring to how I would interact with colleagues. Would I choose near-blind ambition, where there would be a pile of bodies below me on the ladder to success? Or would I be linked to others with whom we were climbing together? He reminded me that, during his career, he had risen to department chair without creating too many enemies (other than the jealous types). It took him a little longer than others, but the friendships were worth it.

Paul Darlington and Tommy Douglas were regular racquetball and tennis partners. We would hit the courts, often at 6 a.m. in order to beat the heat. Tommy and I even enjoyed some deeply competitive matches. But it was Paul who taught me one of the more enduring (and somewhat endearing as I surpass 50 years on this earth) lessons. Paul used to run me around the racquetball court mercilessly while he could almost stroll to the next shot. He didn't necessarily hit harder, but he was strategic. He reminded me that old age and treachery always overcome youth and enthusiasm.

Brenda Gaughan, staff psychologist at GSBS, heard every student's woes and helped everyone solve those daily crises. She always did so with a gentle spirit, genuine

compassion, professional acumen and a positive attitude. Brenda was (and is) always upbeat. Never Pollyanna, Brenda is an ever-present reminder that just being is reason enough to be happy. The only thing that makes Brenda unhappy is having attention brought to her. So, please look to Brenda and notice how embarrassed she is. But Brenda, in this case, I don't mind making you a little upset. You are a special part of every GSBS student's memory. You have contributed to all of our success and we owe you a huge thanks.

I know that this brief list of friends doesn't even come close to the numbers of people who have been there when times were tough and when times were good. Research can best be characterized as "good days and bad months." Having friends and colleagues who can bolster you during those trying days when things aren't working and with whom you can share successes makes our lives as researchers among the most enviable. Tonight, you have chosen me as someone whose career reflects positively on the training I received at GSBS. All of us received outstanding training and made many life-long friendships. All of us have encountered others whose lessons have shaped our character.

Our character defines who we are and how we behave, scientifically and professionally. I've been blessed with great mentors and friends. As I have shared some of my friends' contributions to my success, I hope that you have reflected upon how you, too, have gotten by with a lot of help from your friends.



A FEW HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT DR. DANNY WELCH

Dr. Welch is an internationally recognized leader in the field of cancer metastasis, and specifically, in breast cancer. His active research support includes three major grants from the National Cancer Institute, two RO1 grants, and grants from the National Foundation of Cancer Research, the Department of Defense, the Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation and Chemokine Therapeutics Corporation.

His record of publications totals 137 peer-reviewed; 226 abstracts; 21 book chapters and editor of 3 books. He is active in study sections for the National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Institute, the USAMRMC Breast and Prostate Cancer panels, the European Union Framework Review and Consensus Panels, as well as chair of the Susan Komen Integration Panel, and breast cancer panels in Canada, Netherlands, Italy, and United Kingdom Cancer Foundations.

Dr. Welch, The Leonard H. Robinson Professor of Pathology, received in 2008 the UAB's award for Excellence in mentoring and the Metastasis Research Society Paget-Ewing award. Dr. Welch and his associate J. -H. Lee, are inventors of, and hold the international patent for, KISS-1, a novel human melanoma metastasis-suppressor gene.



Misty and
Richard
Hajek



Rena D'Souza

Betsy
Frantz



Mabelle
Adams-Mayne

Gary Horn

Michael
Zargarov

Jackie
Peltier-Horn



Jijun
Xu

Michael
McLeod



Tom Goka

Geoffrey
Bartholomeusz

Chandra
Bartholomeusz



Linda and Tom
Douglas



Mary
Riser



Shannon
O'Heron

Michael
Leslie



David
Wildrick



Hannah
Wingate

Rebecca
Hamm
Bigelow

Brenda
Whaley



Stephanie
Miller

Marissa
Schrader



Barbara
and Keith
Williams



Yen-Michael
Hsu

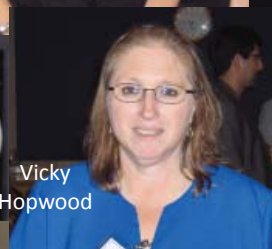
Traci Yin

Lily
D'Agostino

Joy
Lademora

Beng and Daisy
Ho

Bunny
Perez



Vicky
Hopwood



Rena and Richard
D'Souza



Keyi Zhu

Jing
Zhao



Taylor
Cutshall

Joya
Chandra



Danny
Welch

Vicky
Estrera

Paul
Darlington



Molli McGaren Murray
and James Murray



Huamin
Wang

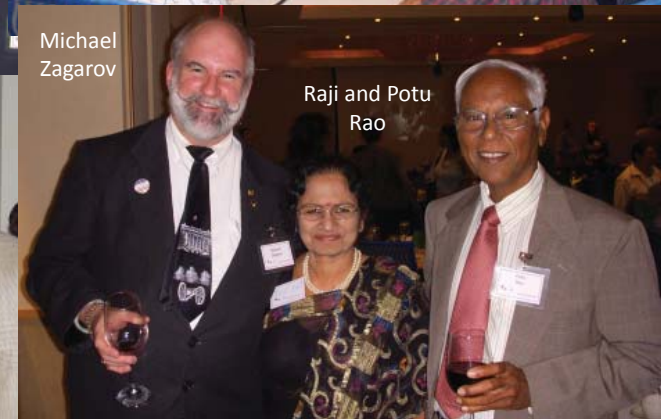
Katarzyna
Cieslik

Hernan
Vasquez



Hui
Gao

Evan
Cohen



Michael
Zargarov

Raji and Potu
Rao

mi Reunion



Suzanne Fuqua
Danny Welch

Matthew Herynk



Molly Bray

Joy Marshall



Lalla Goka

Maureen Goode



Marya and Chris Chaney

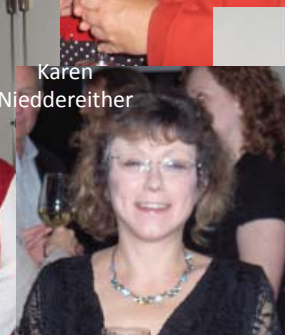


Diane and Ben Thomas



Marty and Milton Marshall

Karen Nieddereither



Nathan Childress

Stephen Kry



Jianhua Yang

Huamin Wang

Rodney Kellems



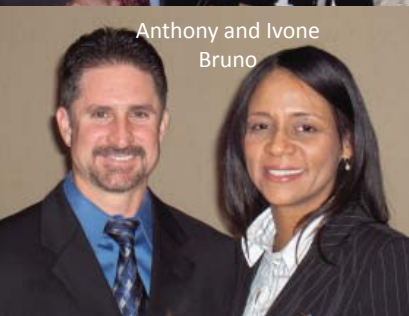
Hariyadarshi Pannu

Victoria and Sol Bobst



Melissa Curlin

James Jabbur



Anthony and Ivone Bruno



Viju Bhadkamkar



Erick Galicia

Leposava Antonovic



Amir Mohsenin

Yen-Michael Hsu



Gretchen and Paul Darlington



Yaas and Amir Mohsenin

Marissa Schrader

Tom Goka



Celia Garcia Prieto

Yumin Hu



Suneeta Mahagaokar

Uday Mahagaokar



Ramal Weragoda

Melissa Adams

Chris Singh

GSBS Faculty Membership Report



Dr. Guillermina Lozano
GSBS Faculty President
2008-2009

MEMBERS REAPPOINTED WITH COMMENDATION

Mark Bedford
John Byrne
Dianna Cody
Kevin Coombes
Yong-Jian Geng
David Hewett-Emmett
William Klein
Rakesh Kumar
M. Neal Waxham

MEMBERS REAPPOINTED WITH HIGHEST COMMENDATION

Andreas Bergmann
Kevin Morano
Stephanie Watowich

NEW REGULAR MEMBERS

Rebecca Berdeaux

Assistant Professor
Integrative Biology and Pharmacology
UT-H Medical School
Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley, 2003
Research interests: skeletal muscle physiology; repair and exercise; protein kinases in signal transduction; gene regulation by cAMP; in vivo imaging

Guangwei Du

Assistant Professor
Integrative Biology and Pharmacology
UT-H Medical School
Ph.D., Peking Union Medical College, 1999
Research interests: phospholipid signaling; signal transduction; breast cancer; membrane trafficking

Raymond N. DuBois, Jr.

Professor
Provost and Executive Vice President
GI Medical Oncology/Cancer Biology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., UTHSC/Dallas, 1981
M.D., UTHSC/San Antonio, 1985
Research interests: cyclooxygenase; prevention; inflammation; bioactive lipid biology; signal transduction; colon cancer

Marina Konopleva

Assistant Professor
Leukemia/Stem Cell Transplantation
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., 1st Pavlov Medical Institute, 1990
Ph.D., Federal Institute of Hematology and Blood

Transfusion, 1998

Research interests: molecular biology; apoptosis; signaling; hematopoietic stem cells; acute and chronic leukemias; microenvironment

John E. Ladbury

Professor
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Greenwich, 1990
Research interests: signal transduction; molecular biophysics

Min Gyu Lee

Assistant Professor
Molecular and Cellular Oncology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, 2004
Research interests: histone modifications; histone-modifying enzymes; gene regulation; epigenetics; tumor suppression and cancer

Paul A. Scheet

Assistant Professor
Epidemiology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Washington, 2006
Research interests: statistical genetics; human population genetics; genetics of common diseases; haplotype inference/modeling

Eva M. Sevick

Professor and Cullen Chair in Molecular Medicine
Center for Molecular Imaging
Institute of Molecular Medicine
Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University, 1989
Research interests: molecular imaging; near-infrared light; cancer detection; small animal models of cancer; gene expression reporters and probes; fluorescence; clinical translation

Yiping Shao

Associate Professor
Imaging Physics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Kent State University, 1994
Research interests: positron emission tomography; single photon emission computed tomography; nuclear imaging instrumentation and system; multi-modality imaging; radionuclide imaging techniques for small animal studies

Xiaobing Shi

Assistant Professor
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2001
Research interests: genomic instability and cancer; epigenetics; histone modifications; protein lysine methylation

Claudio Soto

Professor
Neurology
UT-H Medical School
Ph.D., University of Chile, 1993
Research interests: Alzheimer's disease; prions; protein misfolding disorders; neurodegenerative diseases; neuroscience; drug discovery

Eric J. Wagner

Assistant Professor
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
UT-H Medical School
Ph.D., Duke University, 2002
Research interests: cell cycle regulation of RNA processing, specifically of histone mRNA; biosynthesis of small nuclear RNA including the U1, U4, and U7 snRNAs; developmental regulation of Drosophila histone mRNA and snRNA

Bin Wang

Assistant Professor
Genetics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, 2000
Research interests: DNA damage response; genomic instability and cancer; BRCA1 signaling; ubiquitin signaling

M. James You

Assistant Professor
Hematopathology
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Zhejiang University School of Medicine, 1996
Ph.D., The University of Texas at Austin, 1997
Research interests: mouse models of cancer; tumor suppressors; cancer biology; molecular mechanisms of myeloid and lymphoid neoplasm; translational research, including identification of therapeutic targets

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Eduardo D. Bruera

Professor and F. T. McGraw Chair in the Treatment of Cancer
Palliative Care and Rehabilitative Medicine
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Universidad de Rosario, 1979
Research interests: palliative care; symptom control; pain; clinical trials; symptom evaluation

Nathan S. Bryan

Assistant Professor
Center for Cell Signaling
Institute of Molecular Medicine

Ph.D., Louisiana State University School of Medicine, 2004
Research interests: examination of the role of nitric oxide and related metabolites to cardiovascular physiology; understanding the role of diet in modulating nitric oxide bioavailability; development of new strategies and therapeutics to restore NO homeostasis, nitrite biochemistry

Timothy E. Ellmore

Instructor
Neurosurgery
UT-H Medical School
Ph.D., University of Arizona, 2006
Research interests: learning; memory; consolidation; hippocampus; fMRI, intracranial EEG

Ping Hou

Assistant Professor
Imaging Physics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Utah, 1993
Research interests: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI); MRI pulse sequence design and implementation; perfusion imaging; functional MRI; general clinical application of MRI

Patrick H. Kee

Assistant Professor
Internal Medicine - Cardiology
UT-H Medical School
M.B.B.S., University of Adelaide, 1996
Ph.D., University of Adelaide, 2004
Research interests: molecular markers in atherosclerosis; non-invasive imaging of atherosclerosis; diagnostic contrast agents; translational science

Jeremy C. Polf

Assistant Professor
Radiation Physics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Oklahoma State University, 2002
Research interests: proton radiation therapy; radiation detection and measurement; Monte Carlo simulation of radiation transport; computational physics; spectroscopy and spectral measurements; optical and semiconductor radiation detectors

Cathy M. Sullivan

Genetic Counselor/Clinical Instructor
Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences
UT-H Medical School
M.S., UT-H Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, 2007
Research interest: genetic counseling

Report includes October,
November,
December 2008 and
January and February 2009
Membership Committee
Meetings

T. C. HSU FACULTY RESEARCH AWARD

Angabin Matin, Ph.D., the first T. C. Hsu Research Award recipient and GSBS alumna, was renewed to receive this honor for the second of a possible three-year renewal opportunity. Originally nominated by several GSBS Program directors, Dr. Matin continues to make strides in her cancer research in regard to the *ter* gene.

Margaret Hsu, in a model of 'giving back to society,' has committed to funding a new annual research award of approximately \$10,000 for 10 years in memory of her father, noted researcher T. C. Hsu, Ph.D., and an unnamed early mentor who helped their family. The intention of this gift is to honor and support an exceptional junior faculty member on tenure track but not yet tenured who has the rank of assistant professor at The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston, and whose research is in the area of genetics or cell biology.



In the News...

Dr. Michelle Barton has been awarded the Robert M. Chamberlain Distinguished Mentor Award. A reception was hosted by the M. D. Anderson Postdoctoral Association in February 2009.

Dr. Joya Chandra and graduate student **Claudia Miller** were published in the online issue of *Blood* in January 2009. Their research is directed at the novel proteasome inhibitor, NPI-0052, and the histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitor, vorinostat. They showed that the two drugs share similar functions and, combined, can be five times more effective than either agent alone against leukemia.

Dr. Laurence Cooper collaborated with Dr. Paul Choi to create a device that significantly decreases the time needed to produce genetically manipulated T cells in preclinical tests for leukemia. The device and research supporting it was presented at the annual meeting of the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation in Tampa, FL in February 2009.

In October 2008, **Dr. Mauro Ferrari** was elected into the College of Fellows of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), making him the first faculty member from the UT Health Science Center to be elected.

Dr. Danielle Garsin, **Dr. Jianping Jin** and **Dr. Michael Lorenz** were each presented with the Young Investigator Award in November 2008. Award recipients were selected by Dean Giuseppe Colasurdo, UT Medical School.

Dr. Millicent Goldschmidt has been named the recipient of the 2009 Roche Diagnostics Alice C. Evans Award. This award recognizes the participation and advancement of women in microbiology.

Dr. Chinnaswamy Jagannath was highlighted in the March 1 online publication of *Nature Medicine* for the breakthrough strategy to improve the effectiveness of the only tuberculosis vaccine approved for humans.

In September 2008 **Dr. Lovell Jones** was appointed an Executive Board member of the Patient Advocate Foundation, a national non-profit organization that helps to protect access to care for tens of thousands of patients every year who are unable to obtain health-care due to financial or insurance denials. In addition, **Dr. Jones** was awarded one of two 2008 Health Disparities Excellence Awards in December 2008 at a banquet hosted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The award recognizes pioneers for their contributions toward eliminating health disparities in minority communities.

Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman was first investigator for a new therapy for pediatric patients with non-metastatic, resectable osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer. The immune-based therapy, MEPACT (mifamurtide, L-MTP-PE) has been approved by the European Commission, which oversees legislation and regulation for the European Union. The therapy was granted orphan drug status in the United States in 2001, but has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use in newly diagnosed patients.

Dr. Valerie Lewis' research on a receptor known to be active in bone metastases as a potential therapeutic target in osteosarcoma was published in the March 1 issue of *Cancer Research*.

Dr. Chun Li was highlighted in the February 1 issue of *Clinical Cancer Research* for his research on hollow gold nanospheres equipped with a targeting peptide to find and destroy melanoma cells.

Dr. Marvin Meistrich has been inducted as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society. Dr. Meistrich is the eighth AAAS fellow on M. D. Anderson's faculty.

Dr. Timothy McDonnell established an Undergraduate Collaborative Training Program in Prostate Cancer with Texas Southern University, with funding from the US Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program.

Dr. Ferid Murad has been honored for his work in the fight against disease at the 2008 American Heart Association's (AHA) Scientific Sessions in New Orleans. He was named one of 13 Distinguished Scientists for 2008 by the AHA, an award that was created to honor researchers whose work has advanced the understanding of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

On October 9, 2008, **Dr. Barbara Murray** was honored as the 10th Arthur C. White lecturer in Infectious Diseases at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. Her lecture was titled, "Enterococci: Is There More to Making this Second-Rate Pathogen into a First-Rate Problem than its Antibiotic Resistance?"

Dr. Henry W. Strobel has received the Distinguished Medical Educator Award from the Teacher's Insurance and Annuity Association-

College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF). The association presented him with a check for \$10,000 and will award 20 scholarships in his name to Houston's John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science.

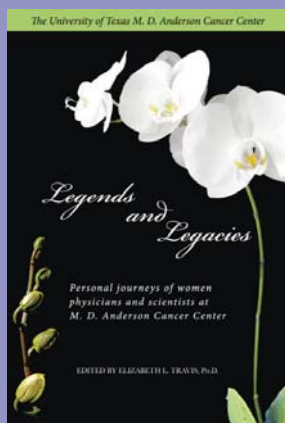
Drs. Harel Shouval and Jack Byrne received one of only seven grants within the UT System for their program at the UT Medical School: Graduate Program Initiative in Theoretical and Computational Neuroscience. **Dr. Gary Gallick** received one of the seven grants for the Cancer Metastasis Research program at UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Each grant is worth \$500,000.

Dr. Stephen Tying was highlighted in *The Dallas Morning News* for his research on chicken pox, which was published in *Archives of Dermatology*. The article ran in September 2008.

In Memory

Dr. Manny Murgola, 1937-2009

Emanuel Joseph "Manny" Murgola, Ph.D., graduate of Yale University, was a longtime GSBS faculty member, an inspired teacher, researcher and professor in the department of molecular genetics at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. For many years Jim Bjork and Manny Murgola played saxophones at the Graduate School's Friday Afternoon Club Gatherings at Grant Fay Park (shown below). Jim and the rest of us will miss Manny and his music.



Legends and Legacies

Describing with sincerity and emotion the struggle and triumphs that have marked their paths to distinguished careers in their fields, 26 of M. D. Anderson's most accomplished women hope to inspire others with a book, "Legends and Legacies: Personal Journeys of Women Physicians and Scientists at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center."

The women profiled in these essays represent diverse ages, backgrounds, cultures and professional roles, from clinicians and physician scientists to basic scientists and veterinarians.



Alumni Spotlight

I am a program official at the National Institute on Drug Abuse. I cultivate neuroimaging research on decision-making and motivation in controls and drug-abusers. I do this by: 1) helping investigators across the nation hone their research ideas into competitive grant applications, 2) monitoring the peer review climate, 3) organizing workshops to bring experts together to identify knowledge gaps, and 4) on rare occasions, making funding recommendations to steer money to understudied or innovative areas.

My GSBS training in human psychopharmacology was critical in training me in clinical research, as well as providing extensive knowledge of impulsivity and drug abuse.



James M. Bjork,
Ph.D. (1999)

Student Awards

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Since 1971 the American Legion Auxiliary has provided scholarships for GSBS students involved in cancer research. The money for this funding is raised through a wide range of Auxiliary activities. To date the Auxiliary has raised over \$1,150,000 to present over 80 renewable scholarships of \$5,000 each. The recipients for 2008-2009 are:



Student

Brandi Baird
Kair Brewer
Amanda Brock
Suzanne Chan
Mylinh Duong

Advisor

Dr. Paul Simmons
Dr. Chun Li
Dr. Michael Galko
Dr. Sandy Chang
Dr. Khandan Keyomarsi

Student

Denise Kellar
Krithi Rao
Sumaiyah Rehman
Joseph Taube
Jillian Wise

Advisor

Dr. Laurence Cooper
Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman
Dr. Dihua Yu
Dr. Michelle Barton
Dr. Felipe Samaniego



THE R. W. (BILL) BUTCHER AWARD

Established in 1997, the R. W. (Bill) Butcher Endowed Fund provides an annual award of \$2,500 for students who demonstrate excellence in research, have a commitment to a career in biomedical research, and make a professional contribution to the community or have faced a particular challenge. This year's recipient is:

Student

K. Leigh Greathouse

Advisor

Dr. Cheryl Walker



THE CITY FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Established in 2005, this \$2,000 scholarship rewards an exceptional GSBS student who is working in an area vital to the biomedical sciences and of particular current significance in that year's national research perspective. For 2008-2009 The City Federation of Women's Clubs Scholarship recognizes research in the area of developmental biology. This year's recipient is:

Student

Jennifer Gonzalez

Advisor

Dr. Vasanthi Jayaraman



HARRY S. & ISABEL C. CAMERON FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

The Cameron Foundation provides a fellowship to an exceptional post-candidacy student working in research fields related to Alzheimer's or cardiovascular diseases. The Foundation gift of \$15,000 is matched by GSBS and Faculty. The 2008-2009 recipient is:

Student

Roxanna Irani

Advisor

Dr. Yang Xia

THE CULLEN TRUST FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PHYSICIAN/SCIENTIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The \$1.15 million grant from the Cullen Trust for Higher Education provides dramatic growth opportunities for M.D./Ph.D. students at UT-Houston, UT-M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and Baylor College of Medicine. The 2008-2009 recipients are:

Vida Chitsazzadeh of UT Health Science Center
Jonathan Lin, Baylor College of Medicine



GIGLI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

This \$1,000 endowed scholarship was created by Dr. Irma Gigli, GSBS faculty member, to honor her parents. The scholarship is intended to help exceptional graduate students who are making excellent progress towards their degree, particularly those who are first generation in their family to enroll in graduate school. First award recipient:

| Student | Advisor |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Mesias Pedroza | Dr. Michael Blackburn |



FLOYD HAAR, M.D., ENDOWED MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD IN MEMORY OF FREDA HAAR

This \$1,500 Award is provided to recognize an exceptional GSBS degree student conducting critical research in stem cells. Research should be in the area of stem cells as it applies to leukemia or the study of stem cells and their use in treatment of human disease. The first recipient is:

| Student | Advisor |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Hussein Abbas | Dr. Guillermina Lozano |



THE T. C. HSU ENDOWED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

To remember Dr. Hsu and his remarkable research work, his daughter Margaret, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Foundation, colleagues, faculty, friends and former students of Dr. Hsu established this memorial scholarship in 2003. The endowment is a living testimony and serves to acknowledge the stellar research accomplishments of graduate students focusing on Dr. Hsu's areas of research, genetics and cell biology. The 2008-2009 recipient is:

| Student | Advisor |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Sharon Way | Dr. Michael Galko |



BARBARA L. KENNEDY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This \$1,000 scholarship was established in 2002 for a student in the Specialized Masters Program in Genetic Counseling. The winner is selected by a review committee appointed by the WINGS Chapter of the American Business Women's Association. The recipient for 2008-2009 is:

| Student | Advisor |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Rebecca Sample Carter | Ms. Marianna Horz Raia |



Student Awards



WILLIAM W. AND PEARL WALLIS KNOX FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2007, this is the second year to award a scholarship from the Knox Foundation, whose interests are research in the areas of AIDS and other infectious diseases in humans. This \$2,000 award was presented to:

Student

Amanda Clark

Advisor

Dr. Ambro van Hoof



MARILYN & FREDERICK R. LUMMIS, JR., M.D., FELLOWSHIP IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Dr. and Mrs. Lummis have made a generous gift to GSBS to create this award given for scientific excellence and innovation in any area of biomedical research. A \$25,000 stipend given each year is intended to encourage novel research with a high potential to impact the particular field of study and ultimately human health. The 2008-2009 recipient:

Student

Nam Ky Tonthat

Advisor

Dr. Maria Schumacher



THE RALPH H. AND RUTH J. MCCULLOUGH FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship has been made possible by a \$15,000 gift from the Ralph H. and Ruth J. McCullough Foundation. The endowment in part supports a stipend for a student whose scientific excellence and novel research will have a high potential to impact biomedical science. The 2008-2009 recipient is:

Student

Danielle Fontenot

Advisor

Dr. Jagannadha Sastry



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. In 2006, the Ralph H. and Ruth J. McCullough Foundation made an additional generous gift in support of this award. Through the endowment an award of \$1,000 is provided to the winning presenter in the graduate student category at the Annual Neuroscience Scientific Poster Session, and an additional \$500 allotment is given for travel to a scientific meeting. This award is announced during Brain Awareness Week. A tie this year, the recipients are:

Students

Wade Kothmann
Chirago Patel

Advisors

Dr. John O'Brien
Dr. Ponnada Narayana



WILLIAM AND MADELINE WELDER SMITH FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

The William and Madeline Welder Smith Foundation's gift of \$15,000 has allowed us to continue a fellowship to encourage and strengthen student interest in the field of stem cell research that has the potential to ultimately impact human health in a significant way. This year's scholar is renewed for a second year:

Student

Brandi Baird

Advisor

Dr. Paul Simmons

Student Awards

PRESIDENTS' RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Through generous funding from President Larry R. Kaiser, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and President John Mendelsohn, The University of Texas 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 past, present and future presidents of the GSBS Faculty. This year's Presidents' Research Scholars each received a cash award of \$5,000 and are shown here, left to right:

Students

Patrick Gibney
Diego Gutnisky
Claudia Miller
Adam Riegel

Advisors

Dr. Kevin Morano
Dr. Valentin Dragoi
Dr. Joya Chandra
Dr. Tinsu Pan



THE SCHISLER FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS

This dynamic family foundation has been a major benefactor to the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences for over ten years and has a sincere commitment to graduate education. The Schissler Foundation Fellowships foster collaboration with the emphasis on basic science projects with the greatest likelihood of translational application to human health. The Fellowship requires that all students receive a broad exposure to the biomedical sciences and ethical concepts that underlie their research. These prestigious awards give significant help to research studies that will seek to make major contributions to the therapies and cures of common human disease through genetics. In 2008-2009 The Schissler Foundation provides \$25,000 stipend funding for four Schissler Foundation Fellowships with at least one expressly designated for a student working on cancer research with faculty at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. The 2008-2009 recipients are:

Student

Kedryn Baskin
K. Leigh Greathouse
Gustavo Martinez
Sharon Way

Advisor

Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier
Dr. Cheryl Walker
Dr. Chen Dong
Dr. Michael J. Gambello



ROBERTA M. & JEAN M. WORSHAM ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE BEHAVIORAL AND NEUROSCIENCES

Formally presented during Brain Awareness Week this endowed scholarship of \$1,000 fosters exceptional students working in the fields of the behavioral sciences or neurosciences particularly in the areas of addiction or obsessive/compulsive behavior. The recipient for 2008-2009 is:

Student

Cameron Jeter

Advisor

Dr. Anne Sereno



SAM TAUB AND BEATRICE BURTON FELLOWSHIP IN VISION DISEASE

Mary Wright and her sister, Joanna Ross, established this \$2,000 endowed fellowship in 2004. The Sam Taub and Beatrice Burton Fellowship in Vision Disease honors their grandfather and great aunt and supports excellence in the research of eye and sight-related problems, and the potential therapies. The 2008-2009 recipient is:

Student

Proleta Datta

Advisor

Dr. Ruth Heidelberg



FALL 2008

- A** **Abel, Lindsey** - M.S., Biomathematics and Biostatistics, B.A., 5/1/2007, Southwestern University
Ai, Hua - Ph.D., Medical Physics, B.S., 6/1/2008, Peking University
Akdemir, Kadir Caner - Ph.D., Biomathematics and Biostatistics, B.S., 12/1/2007, Yeditepe University
Anfossi, Simone - Ph.D., Immunology, B.S., 4/1/1998, University of Genoa
- B** **Bakhru, Pearl** - Ph.D., Immunology, M.S., 5/1/2008, Pune University
Bircher, Chad - Ph.D., Medical Physics, M.S., 5/1/2007, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Bolner, Michelle - Ph.D., Molecular Carcinogenesis, B.S., 5/1/2008, Baylor University
Bosca, Ryan - Ph.D., Medical Physics, M.S., 8/1/2008, University of North Texas
Braeuer, Russell - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, B.S., 12/1/2007, University of Texas at San Antonio
Broaded, Laura - Ph.D., Medical Physics, B.S., 5/1/2007, Butler University
Broadway, Melissa - Ph.D., Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 12/1/2007, University of Texas at San Antonio
Busiek, Kimberly - Ph.D., Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 5/1/2005, Truman State University
- C** **Chen, Jiandong** - Ph.D., Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, M.S., 6/1/2008, Nanjing Agricultural University
Cheng, Tiewei - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, M.S., 6/1/2008, Fudan University
Cooper, Justine - S.M.S., Genetic Counseling, B.A., 5/1/2007, Miami University
Crain, Carrie - S.M.S., Genetic Counseling, B.S., 5/1/2007, University of Florida
Crosby, Jacy - Ph.D., Biomathematics and Biostatistics, M.S., 5/1/2008, University of North Florida
- D** **Darkoh, Charles** - Ph.D., Biochemistry, M.S., 5/1/2008, Stephen F. Austin State University
Darnes, Deanna - S.M.S., Genetic Counseling, B.S., 12/1/2007, University of New Mexico
DeBose, LaKiesha - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, B.S., 5/1/2008, Southern University-A&M College
Deniger, Drew - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, M.S., 8/1/2008, University of Texas HSC-Houston GSBS
Dick, Joseph - S.M.S., Medical Physics, B.S., 5/1/2008, University of Florida
Duncan, Aundrietta - M.S., Molecular Biology, B.S., 5/1/2008, Howard University
- F** **Ferrati, Silvia** - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, M.S., 12/1/2007, Civen Interuniversity
- G** **Gomez, Karen** - M.S., Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, B.A., 5/1/2007, University of Texas - Pan American
Gonzalez, Gabriel - Ph.D., Genes and Development, M.S., 5/1/2008, University of Texas HSC-Houston GSBS
Goodjoint, Jasmine - M.S., Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 5/1/2008, Howard University
Guma, Sergei - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, B.S., 5/1/2004, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- H** **Hidalgo, Tila** - M.S., Neuroscience, B.S., 5/1/1999, Texas A&M University-College Station
Huang, Kai-Lieh - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, M.S., 6/1/2003, National Sun Yat-Sen University
Huang, Le - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, M.S., 4/1/2008, Technical University of Denmark
Huang, Yaling - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, M.S., 6/1/2009, Nanjing University
Hui, David - M.S., Cancer Biology, M.D., 5/1/2003, University of British Columbia
- J** **Jabbour, Natalie** - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, B.A., 5/1/2008, University of St. Thomas
Jin, Chunlei - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, M.B.B.S. and M.S., 6/1/2006, Zhejiang University
Jin, Jung-Kang - Ph.D., Physiology, M.S., 12/1/2007, San Diego State University
- K** **Kerns, James** - S.M.S., Medical Physics, B.S., 5/1/2008, Point Loma Nazarene College
Kim, Sangbae - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, B.S., 2/1/1998, Kanwon National University
Kinjo, Sayano - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, B.S., 5/1/2008, Washington State University
Kisling, Kelly - S.M.S., Medical Physics, B.S., 5/1/2008, Georgia Institute of Technology
Krishnamurthy, Janani - Ph.D., Molecular Pathology, M.S., 12/1/2007, University of Texas at San Antonio
Kwartler, Callie - Ph.D., Genes and Development, B.A., 5/1/2007, Amherst College
- L** **Lee, Moon Sup** - Ph.D., Genes and Development, M.S., 2/1/2002, Korea University
Li, Ming - Ph.D., Virology and Gene Therapy, M.S., 7/1/2008, Tsinghua University

Liao, Hsin-Wei - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, Ph.D., 2/1/2007, National Taiwan University
Linan, Monica - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, B.S., 12/1/2005, University of South Florida
Liu, Changlu - Ph.D., Biomathematics and Biostatistics, M.P.H., 5/1/2008, Georgia State University
Liu, Jinyun - Ph.D., Biomathematics and Biostatistics, M.S., 12/1/2006, University of Texas at San Antonio
Lofton, Bradley - S.M.S., Medical Physics, B.S., 12/1/2002, Texas A&M University-College Station
Lu, Haiquan - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, M.S., 5/1/2008, Fordham University

M **Matney, Jason** - Ph.D., Medical Physics, M.S., 5/1/2008, Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge
Mittendorf, Elizabeth - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, M.D., 5/1/1996, Case Western Reserve University
Morris, Christopher - Ph.D., Physiology, B.A., 5/1/2008, Trinity University

N **Newman, Leslie** - S.M.S., Genetic Counseling, B.S., 5/1/2008, Texas A&M University-College Station
Nguyen, Vuvi - M.S., Neuroscience, B.A., 5/1/2006, University of San Diego
Ni, Haiying - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, M.S., 6/1/2004, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Nuccio, Regina - S.M.S., Genetic Counseling, B.S., 12/1/2007, Clemson University
Nunnally, Lindsey - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, B.A. and B.S., 5/1/2007, Lamar University-Beaumont

P **Park, Min Sung** - M.S., Cancer Biology, M.D., 5/1/2003, University of Pennsylvania
Park, Peter - Ph.D., Medical Physics, B.S., 12/1/2007, University of California at San Diego
Peng, Yang - Ph.D., Immunology, M.S., 5/1/2008, Eastern New Mexico University

R **Rambhadran, Anu** - Ph.D., Biochemistry, M.S., 7/1/2004, Birla Institute of Technology and Science
Reyes, Steve - Ph.D., Molecular Biology, B.S., 8/1/2008, University of Houston - Main
Riaz Ahmed, Kausar Begam - Ph.D., Pharmacology, M.S., 5/1/2008, University of Utah
Robertson, Daniel - Ph.D., Medical Physics, B.S., 4/1/2008, Brigham Young University

S **Sahin, Vildan** - Ph.D., Human and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 12/1/2006, University of Houston - Main
Scarboro, Sarah - Ph.D., Medical Physics, M.S., 5/1/2008, Georgia Institute of Technology
Shih, I Hong - Ph.D., Pharmacology, M.S., 6/1/2005, National Chiao Tung University
Shroff, Rachna - M.S., Cancer Biology, M.D., 6/1/2004, Thomas Jefferson University
Sirisaengtaksin, Natalie - M.S., Neuroscience, B.S., 12/1/2005, University of Texas at Austin
Sommer, Amy - S.M.S., Genetic Counseling, B.S., 6/1/2008, University of California at Los Angeles
Stone, Rebecca - M.S., Cancer Biology, M.D., 5/1/2004, University of Virginia

T **Teo, Albert** - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, B.S., 5/1/2008, Winona State University
Thirumurthi, Umadevi - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, M.S., 8/1/2008, Wayne State University
Tong, Pan - Ph.D., Biomathematics and Biostatistics, B.E., 7/1/2007, Huazhong University of Science and Technology

V **Vaksman, Zalman** - Ph.D., Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, M.A., 8/1/2001, University of Minnesota-Minneapolis/St Paul
Vattathil, Selina - Ph.D., Human and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 5/1/2005, University of Texas at Austin

W **Wang, Edward** - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, B.S., 6/1/2004, University of California at Santa Cruz
Wang, Feng - Ph.D., Molecular Pathology, M.D., 7/1/2008, Sun Yat-Sen University
Wetzel, Michael - Ph.D., Cell Biology, M.S., 5/1/2006, University of Texas HSC-San Antonio
Wilkinson, Heather - M.S., Immunology, B.S., 5/1/2008, Texas A&M University-College Station

Y **Yaldo, Derek** - S.M.S., Medical Physics, B.S., 12/1/2006, Wayne State University
Yiu, Ting Ting - Ph.D., Cancer Biology, B.S., 5/1/2008, University of Houston - Main
Yousefzadeh, Matthew - Ph.D., Molecular Carcinogenesis, M.S., 5/1/2008, University of South Carolina
Yu, Zhiqian - Ph.D., Medical Physics, B.S., 5/1/2006, University of Texas at Austin
Yuan, Daniel - M.S., Molecular Pathology, B.S., 8/1/2005, University of Texas at Austin

Z **Zamora, David** - S.M.S., Medical Physics, B.S., 5/1/2004, University of Texas at Austin
Zhou, Zhicheng - Ph.D., Immunology, M.S., 12/1/2006, Sun Yat-Sen University

This is the mantra of the Admissions-team (aka A-Team) of GSBS. Gina, Karen, Ty and I have very focused goals: Identify top-notch students with an interest in biomedical sciences, encourage them to submit an application for admission to GSBS, facilitate the review of the application by the Admissions Committee, and coordinate the interview weekends.

Over the past couple of years, we have added new initiatives to these processes with the intent to improve the number and quality of our incoming students. I would like to tell you about some of them.

The GSBS Summer Undergraduate Research Program was launched in the summer of 2008 to recruit more and better students. GSBS funded ten undergraduate students last summer, who visited us from local schools (Rice University), other Texas schools (UT-Austin, Southwestern University), national schools (Brigham Young University) and international institutions (Peking University Health Science Center). We also partnered with two other programs last summer: the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer grant, bringing in four students from Texas Southern University, and the University of Houston-Downtown Minority Access to Research Career (MARC) program, adding an additional four students to the mix. All of these students worked



GSBS Admissions: Karen Weinberg, Gina Chappell, Ty Williams and Dr. Victoria Knutson, Associate Dean of Admissions

the lab of a GSBS faculty member, participated in weekly seminars, and listened to various presentations. They also presented their own work in an abstract and oral presentation at the end of the summer. These students were able to experience the rich research and

training environment of GSBS. Of the ten students aligned with the GSBS program, eight were rising seniors and five of these eight have submitted applications for admission for Fall 2009. I fully anticipate that we will repeat or better this positive track record in 2009 as we continue to bring in highly qualified undergrads for summer research.

In addition to enlisting students, we recognized the importance of identifying and building pipelines to faculty at undergraduate institutions. The premise is that once the faculty at undergrad schools recognize our outstanding training resources, they will encourage their students to consider GSBS for advanced degrees. To build on this idea, we instituted the GSBS [College] Advisory Board. The first visit of the Board to GSBS was in January 2008. The members of the Board are faculty members who advise and mentor undergraduates. They come from large state schools, small private schools, and minority institutions from Texas, and across the U.S. The Board members speak with the Deans (it took 3 hours for Dr. Stancel to describe how GSBS operates!), faculty and students, and tour the Texas Medical Center. Not only were we highlighting GSBS, we were also soliciting their advice on new approaches to use in undergraduate teaching, and best practices for the recruitment of students. Their advice has proven to be practical and valuable. Their recommendations to undergrad students at their home institutions have already resulted in applications to GSBS for the PhD program and the Summer Research Program. I look forward to meeting with them again in 2010.

You may have noticed a new wrinkle in our Visitation Weekend format – interviews! We are now offering admission to PhD applicants only after the faculty has interviewed them and endorsed them for admission. The consequences of this new system are proving to be very interesting: 1) To date, over 80% of those applicants invited to interview have booked a visit. This is an increase over previous years' participation rate of approximately 50%. This increase bodes well for our ability to matriculate the top caliber applicants – once they visit us, they are likely to come! 2) The applicants, told that they are visiting for interviews, arrive for the Friday interview fully engaged and excited. They are also wearing suits and skirts – not jeans and flip-flops! 3) Following the interviews, I email the faculty who did the interviewing, and ask them to rate the applicants. I have been amazed, and gratified, by the nearly 100% response rate from the faculty. Thank you, faculty, for your participation and engagement in the interview process!

To all of our readers, I value your input on ways we can recruit more and more highly qualified students to GSBS. If you have recommendations on how we can improve our current efforts, or ideas for new initiatives, please don't hesitate to give me a phone call, or drop me an email at Victoria.P.Knutson@uth.tmc.edu.

Regards,

Student News continued...

GSBS Students **Mandy Geryk-Hall, Qingtang Lin, Nancy Nabils, Karina Falbo, Aimme N. Iberg,** and **Shannon Kidd** received the Rosalie B. Hite Fellowship in 2008. In 1946 Houston citizen Rosalie B. Hite left her entire estate to establish a fellowship program for cancer research.

In 2008-2009 this award includes a stipend of \$25,000 per year, tuition and fees, and a single travel allowance up to \$850 for each student to present his or her research at a national meeting.

Hsu-Ping Kuo, Alpa Nick, Ming Sung Park, Angela Bhalla and **Angela Alexander** won Trainee Excellence Awards. These awards were given by the M. D. Anderson Alumni & Faculty Association for presentations given

during medical or scientific meetings of professional societies between March 1, 2008 - July 21, 2008. Each award is worth \$500.00.

Rhys Adams is part of the team of researchers that crafted a gene circuit that permits precise tuning of a gene's expression in a cell.

GSBS Student **Josh Gowin** and alumna **Jade Hatley** lead the way for new recycling efforts in the Medical School Building. Environmental Health and Safety provided the containers that are now located by the vending machines in the basement and ground floor; outside lecture halls on the first, second and third floor.

"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." - Warren Buffett

—so it is with graduate education. Thank you to those who have invested in the intellectual capital of tomorrow.

Special Thanks and Gratitude

September 2008 - February 2009

Our Benefactors

Blackwell Foundation
Cancer Answers, Inc.
Deborah L. Croft
William H. Drushel, Jr.*
S. Stacy Eastland*
Vicky and Anthony Estrera
Kerry B. Gunning
Diana M. Hawkins*
Stephen M. Hewitt
Robert W. & Pearl W. Knox Foundation
John J. Kopchick
Anand Lagoo
Sandhya A. Lagoo-Deenadayalan
Saul M. Levy
Milton V. Marshall
Michael E. McClure
Ralph H. and Ruth J. McCullough
John P. McGovern Foundation
Peggy O'Neill
Dee Osborne
John M. Powers
Doris L. Ross
William A. and Madeline Welder Smith
Douglas F. Stickle
Karen A. Storthz
Ralph B. Thomas*
Stephen P. Tomasovic
Deidre L. Vedder
Danny R. Welch
Mary Ruth and Thomas Williams
Roberta and Jean M. Worsham
Wei Yu

Our Contributors

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Francis E. Arrighi | Jen-Tzaw Huang | Erik J. Plautz |
| Carol A. Blanchard | Vicki Huff | Heidemarie S. Porter |
| Oliver Bogler | Mien-Chie Hung | Janet E. Price |
| Paul E. Borchardt | Gary L. Johanning | Potu N. Rao |
| Yanis A. Boumber | Daniel M. Jones | Ellen R. Richie |
| Valentine G. Boving | Edward W. Karbon | Thomas R. Roesel |
| Richard G. Brennan | Karen C. Kennedy | Jeffrey B. Safran |
| Joan Breuer-McHam | Eugenie S. Kleinerman | Barbara M. Sanborn |
| Foundation | Joanna G. Koch | Priscilla Sanders |
| Carol A. Brooks | Theresa M. Koehler | Elizabeth L. Schubert |
| Leslie Cagle | Gary P. Kurzban | Robert J. Shalek |
| Linda M. Carter | Ajay Kwatra | Lance M. Shaner |
| Robert M. Chamberlain | Dolores J. Lamb | Bartlett M. Sheinberg |
| Stacey L. Champion | Matthew B. Lawrenz | Donna S. Shewach |
| Joya Chandra | Cheng C. Lee | Ann-Bin Shyu |
| Shine Chang | George S. Leventon | Sarah M. Smith |
| Gilbert J. Cote | Xin Lin | Anil K. Sood |
| Monica C. Cronin | Xinming Liu | Cheryl P. Spitzenberger |
| Stephen P. Daiger | Kathryn Louie | George Starkschall |
| Peter J. Davies | Manley Mandel | Michael H. Stern |
| Herbert DuPont | William W. Mattox | Helen B. Stone |
| Cindee R. Ewell | Pierre D. McCrea | James E. Strong |
| Susan L. Fitzpatrick-Brown | Kapil Mehta | Heinrich Taegtmeier |
| Betsy M. Frantz | Marvin L. Meistrich | Ming Tan |
| Yasuhide Furuta | Mercedes K. Meyer | Ba-Bie Teng |
| Gary E. Gallick and Jan Liang | Raymond E. Meyn | Bon Q. Trinh |
| Thomas P. Gegeny | Shirlette G. Milton | Ah-Lim Tsai |
| Armand Glassman | Radhe Mohan | Yining Wang |
| Millicent E. Goldschmidt | Kevin A. Morano | P. Anthony Weil |
| Jason R. Goldsmith | Shahla Nader-Eftekhari | David R. Weisinger |
| E. Joe Grant | Steven G. Nadler | Rick A. Wetsel |
| Alex M. Hashemi | Steven J. Norris | Ann E. Wright |
| Carol E. Helton | Jeffrey M. Palmer | Edward T. Yeh |
| Beng and Dahsi T. Ho | Gabrielle A. Pate | Dihua Yu |
| Kenneth Hogstrom | Sen Pathak | Wei Zhang |
| Glenn T. Housholder | Deborah A. Pearson | Wenzheng Zhang |

***Advisory Council members**

SABIC Americas
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Shell Oil Company Foundation

Bristol-Myers Squibb
Fayez Sarofim & Co.
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Mainland Allergy Clinic
Wyeth Ayerst Company Foundation

All gifts at any scale and to any category:

Will be acknowledged.

Are tax deductible.

May be accomplished through an estate plan or will.

May be matched by a corporation to enhance the value of your gift.

May be used for memorial gifts to honor a favorite faculty, family member or friend. A notice will be sent to inform the family of the honor (not the amount) of your gift, and you will be acknowledged individually.

The University of Texas
Graduate School of Biomedical
Sciences at Houston

PO Box 20334
Houston, Texas 77225-0334

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Deadline for news to be included in the next newsletter is July 1, 2009

Hello Alumni,

Spring is here in Houston with bluebonnets popping up and the rodeo has rounded up! It is my pleasure and privilege to serve as your president, and I bring you some news. Dr. Dan Welch (1984/Nicholson)--some of you may know him as *Danny*--is our 13th Distinguished Alumni out of 1,887 total alumni in the Graduate School's 45th year of existence. Dr. Welch provided a scientific seminar on his research, *Mechanisms of BRMS-1 Metastasis Suppressor Function*, a talk to GSBS students about his career path and life: *ACADEME TO INDUSTRY TO ACADEME AGAIN*, and finally at the reunion he gave a wonderful ode to the importance of mentoring, which you may read inside this newsletter. Dr. Welch, congratulations again. Along with the other awardees, you have raised the bar for future alumni.

I am delighted to note that Dr. Joy Marshall (2003) has been elected Alumni Association vice president, and to thank my partners on the Steering Committee for their many efforts on our behalf. Special dates to mark on your calendar include: Graduation Celebration, May 7 (5-7 p.m., GSBS building foyer) to honor our new graduates and their families. Existing alumni are invited to welcome our soon-to-be colleagues. May 9 is Commencement, and on May 30 we will hold the alumni-sponsored Career Day at the School for current graduate students (some of you will be called upon soon to be our stars and share your secrets of success).



While there might not be enough time or resources right now to establish permanent local UT-GSBS chapters, periodic adventures in reconnecting have been met with enthusiasm, so we are hoping to plan another out-of-state reunion in June in the San Diego area—let's hear from all you southern California fans! These traveling reunions have resulted in increased financial and philosophical support for the School and its mission. While it has been promised before, we really hope to have a new Alumni website in place by fall with all the *accoutrements* of an online community—interactive, updatable, password protected and with potential for virtual career development capability, as well as calendar postings for Texas Medical Center seminars. In the meantime, please visit the GSBS Facebook page on Facebook <<http://www.facebook.com/pages/University-of-Texas-Graduate-School-of-Biomedical-Sciences-at-Houston/62636165646>>. I look forward to visiting with earlier friends while getting to know new ones.

Have a great summer!

Vicky Estrera, Ph.D. (2001)
GSBS Alumni Association President
2008-2009