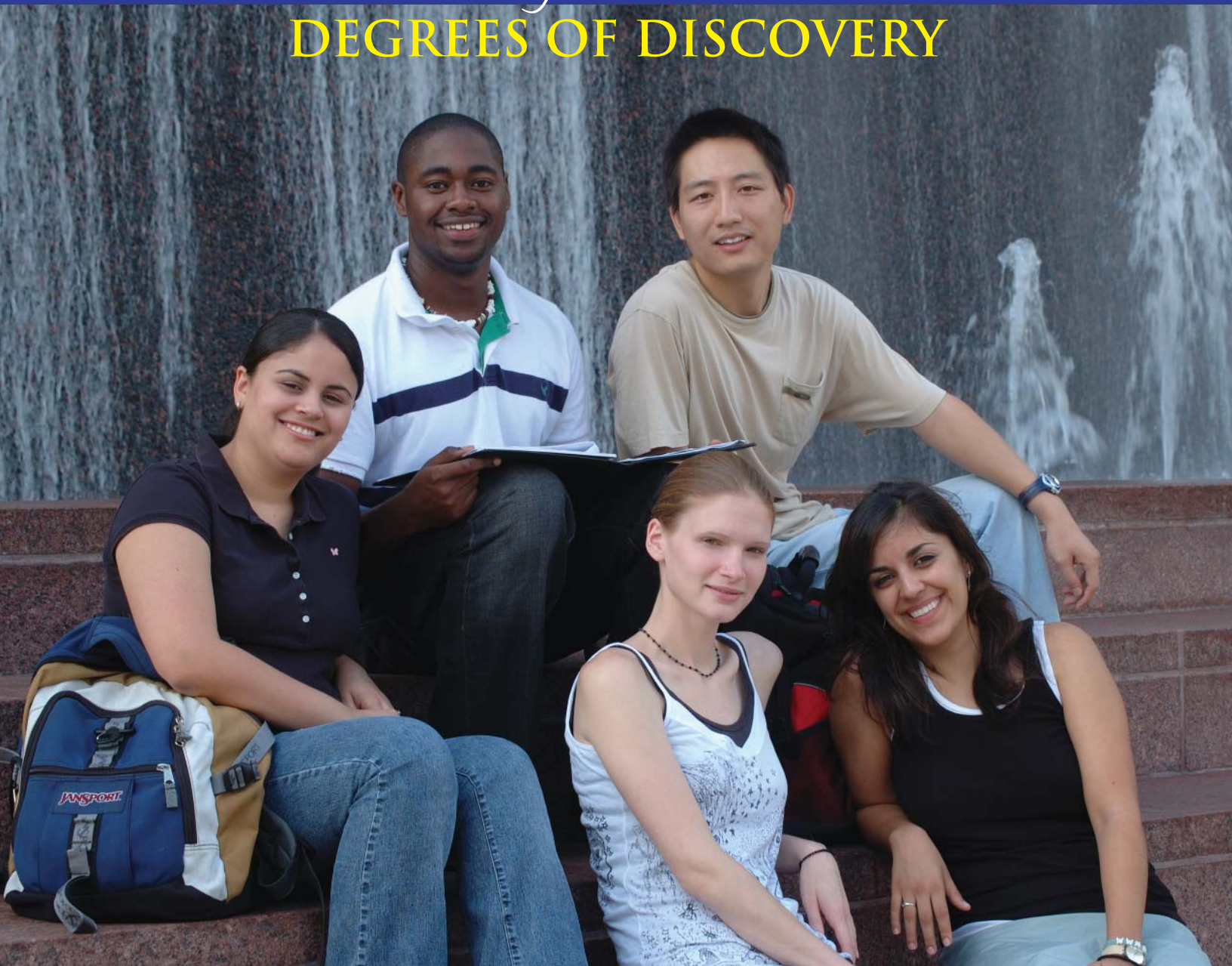


Winter 2008

GSBS NEWS

The University of Texas
GRADUATE SCHOOL of BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES *at Houston*

Attracting the best to achieve
DEGREES OF DISCOVERY



The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center



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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PAUL DARLINGTON FAREWELL

BACK COVER

Message to the Alumni:

Ben Thomas, Ph. D.
President 2007-2008
GSBS Alumni Association



Mr. Corbin (Corby) Robertson, Jr. and his wife Barbara are shown here with the first two Cullen Trust for Higher Education MD/PhD Fellowship recipients at the 2008 Cullen Trust for Higher Education Symposium on Translational Research. Mr. Robertson shared words of encouragement and

philosophy (he quoted his UT-football coach, Darrell Royal) with a rapt audience of 22 top-achieving undergraduates from around the country as well as UT-Health Science Center, UT-M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine faculty and Symposium guest speakers. He noted the great spirit of energy and philanthropy alive in Houston, and with hard work and a little luck you will be able to accomplish your dreams no matter what your interest.

Cullen Trust for Higher Education, under Mr. Robertson's chairmanship, made a gift of \$1.115M over five years to support, strengthen, augment and grow the MD/PhD program at The University of Texas Health Science Center and M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine. Organized by GSBS this collaborative effort enables both Baylor College of Medicine and UT to admit one additional exceptional student annually, providing their full stipend for five years, plus giving students the opportunity to achieve the PhD portion of their degrees with faculty experts at any of these three institutions. This level of collaborative effort accomplished through Cullen Trust for Higher Education support is unlike anything heretofore organized in the Texas Medical Center, and guarantees an unprecedented level of intellectual resource at the fingertips of those students selected as Cullen Trust for Higher Education Fellows.

To attract top caliber undergraduates to the MD/PhD programs and to Houston, each year a research symposium will be organized jointly to feature the brightest minds in translational medicine and research speaking to potential applicants from across the country. In this first year speakers from Rice University, University of Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, UT-Houston and M. D. Anderson Cancer Center were highlighted to showcase the renowned physician/scientists in the Texas Medical Center.

The first two Cullen Trust for Higher Education Fellows are Ryan Ash, from Baylor College of Medicine who is interested in the neuroscience of intelligence which will provide help for neurological disorders, and Maren Yvnge at UT-Health Science Center whose research focus is the emerging field of neuroimmunology which may ultimately lead to treatments for diseases such as multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

*With deepest appreciation to
The Cullen Trust for Higher Education.*

DEGREES OF DISCOVERY and the Candidacy Exam



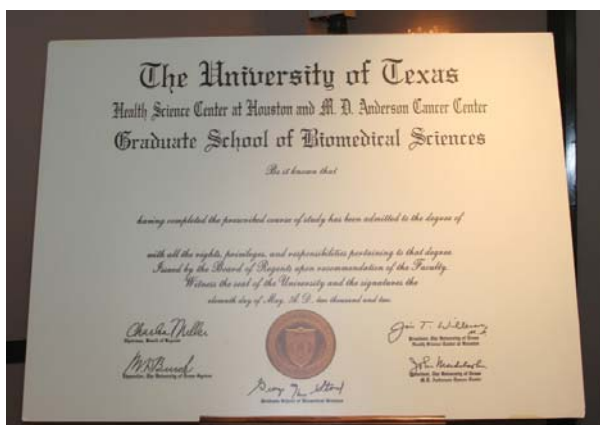
Two key milestones in obtaining the Ph.D. are the final defense and the candidacy examination. The final oral defense and original dissertation research findings are the *sine qua non* (indispensable elements) of the Ph.D., a degree of discovery that requires a student to make an independent, unique contribution to the biomedical sciences. The candidacy exam occurs first in the process and determines if the student is *prepared* to be a “candidate”, i.e., to *begin* his or her independent dissertation research project.

There is a unanimous consensus that the candidacy examination be given by a faculty committee; be based on a research proposal; and involve an oral component in which the student has an opportunity to display his/her critical thinking and problem solving skills, and the examining faculty have an opportunity to assess them. There are, however, several other issues that are less clear.

When is the appropriate time to take the candidacy exam, i.e., how long does it take to develop the background, skills, and judgment to *begin* an independent research study? Two opposing concepts factor into this decision: (1) students mature at different rates so some who might eventually develop into excellent scientists may fail if examined too early, and (2) a small percentage of students, no matter how carefully selected or how hard they work, will never become effective independent researchers no matter how long they are given to prepare, and it is a great disservice to them and the institution to delay this difficult decision.

How do we balance these two realities?

I am not aware of any definitive studies, but most experienced faculty members with whom I have spoken, at GSBS and elsewhere, feel that we err by waiting too long to make a decision about a student who is unlikely to succeed far more often



than examining too soon and making a wrong decision about a student likely to develop into a good scientist if given more time. For everyone's benefit we need a timeline, and many faculty members and students I have spoken to feel that two years might be the best target for taking the candidacy exam if we allow appropriate requests for exceptions (e.g., health, prior experience, family issues, etc.). Based on my 36 years of experience in graduate education, I agree with the general opinion as well as the two year timeline.

A second major issue is *how best* to evaluate a student's readiness to begin an independent project? What should be the topic(s) and format of the exam? How much flexibility should there be in constructing the exam and allowing the exam committee to

administer it? Should there be a written as well as oral portion? These are challenging questions, but it is important that we periodically assess them. It has been five years since we last did so, and the time is right to revisit these issues. I have asked the appropriate standing committees to begin this process in preparation for a general Faculty discussion. It is essential that we discuss these issues with a shared understanding of the purpose of the candidacy exam and focus our arguments on how best to achieve that purpose.

Finally, there are two other key responsibilities: graduate students have to accept the primary responsibility for their own education; and faculty members have the obligation to mentor, guide, and help prepare them for success. Accepting both responsibilities is essential for GSBS to achieve its goal of “Degrees of Discovery” - no matter what we decide about exam specifics.

Best regards,

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

CORE TENETS OF GRADUATE TRAINING

GSBS Commitment

The mission of The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) at Houston is to train scientists, to generate new knowledge in the biomedical sciences, and to increase public understanding of science. The GSBS is committed to maintaining the highest standards of training and to providing a program for the graduate student to learn to function independently as a scientific professional. GSBS Office of Academic Affairs provides oversight for terms of appointment, grievance procedures, and other matters relevant to the support of its graduate students.

Quality Training

Individuals should be trained to independently formulate meaningful hypotheses, design and conduct interpretable experiments, adhere to good laboratory practices, analyze results critically, understand the broad significance of their research findings, and uphold the highest ethical standards in research. The development of additional skills—including oral and written communication, grant writing, and laboratory management—are considered integral to this training.

Importance of Mentoring

Effective mentoring is critical for graduate education and requires that the primary mentor dedicate time to ensure personal and professional development. A good mentor builds a relationship with the student that is characterized by mutual respect and understanding. Attributes of a good mentor include being approachable, available, and willing to share his/her knowledge; listening effectively; providing encouragement and constructive criticism; and offering expertise and guidance.

Commitments of Faculty Advisors

I acknowledge that the training and educating of graduate students is intended for them to develop the skills needed to become an independent research scientist and/or scientist educator.

I will ensure that a mutually agreed upon set of expectations and goals are in place at the outset of the training period and assessed periodically, and I will work with the graduate student to create an individual project and training plan.

I will strive to maintain a relationship with the graduate student that is based on trust and mutual respect.

I acknowledge that open communication and periodic formal performance reviews, conducted at least semi-annually, will help provide that expectations of both parties are met.

I will promote all ethical standards for conducting research including compliance with all institutional and federal regulations as they relate to responsible conduct in research, privacy and human subjects research, animal care and use, laboratory safety, and use of radioisotopes. I will clearly define expectations for conduct of research in my lab and make myself available to discuss ethical concerns as they arise.

I will ensure that the graduate student has sufficient opportunities to acquire the skills necessary to become an expert in an agreed upon area of investigation.

I will provide the graduate student with the required guidance and mentoring and will seek the assistance of other faculty and GSBS resources when necessary to support the student's career development.

I will provide a training environment that is suited to the individual needs of the graduate student for his/her personal and professional growth. I will encourage a progressive increase in the level of responsibility and independence to facilitate the completion of their degree.

I will encourage the interaction of the graduate student with fellow scientists both intra- and extramurally and provide the student the opportunity to present research findings.

I will acknowledge appropriately the contributions that the graduate student may make in intellectual developments, research, and scholarship. If I deem the graduate student's research as meriting publishing, I will work with the student to publish the student's work in a timely manner to support their career development.

FACULTY | NEWS

UT Health Science Center Faculty Honors Convocation

President's Scholar Award for Excellence in Research

Dianna M. Milewicz, M.D., Ph.D.

President's Scholar Award for Excellence in Teaching

Norman W. Weisbrodt, Ph.D.

International or National Honors in Research

Barry D. Kahan M.D., Ph.D.

Ferid Murad, M.D., Ph.D.

Steven J. Norris, Ph.D.

Stanley G. Schultz, M.D.

John L. Spudich, Ph.D.

International or National Honors in Teaching

Herbert L. DuPont, M.D.

Yong-Jian Geng, M.D., Ph.D.

Millicent Goldschmidt, Ph.D.

Joseph B. McCormick, M.D.

UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Faculty Honors Convocation

Faculty Scholar Awards

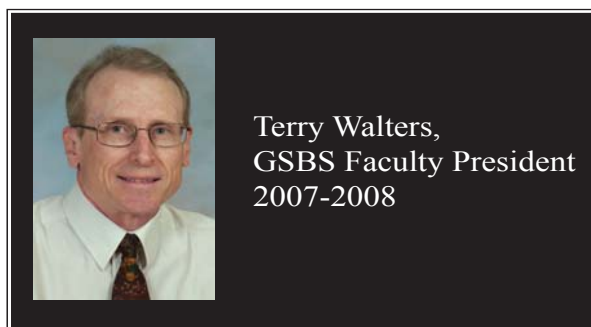
Sandy Chang, M.D., Ph.D.

Chen Dong, Ph.D.

Maria Schumacher, Ph.D.

Faculty Achievement Award

Edward F. Jackson, Ph.D.



CONGRATULATIONS

Michael Andreeff, M.D., Ph.D., and **Jorge Cortes, M.D.,** authored a study that was included in the January 29 edition of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. The study highlighted a drug used to treat kidney cancer that also targets a genetic mutation in patients with acute myeloid leukemia.

John Byrne, Ph.D., has received the Association for Neuroscience Departments and Programs (ANDP) Award for Neuroscience Education.

Raymond DuBois, M.D., Ph.D., provost and executive vice president of UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, has been voted president-elect of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).

Isaiah Fidler, D.V.M., Ph. D., and **Jack Roth, M.D.,** were both nominated as American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellows.

Samuel Kaplan, Ph. D., has been elected a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Guillermina (Gigi) Lozano, Ph.D., has been appointed chair *ad interim* of the Molecular Genetics department at UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Beng Ho, Ph.D., has been praised by the *Houston Chronicle* for his dedication to helping senior citizens. **Ho** is involved in several programs, including the Health Education for the Asians League of Houston, Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, and Houston Mayor's Seniors Advisory Group.

Hope Northrup, Ph.D., co-authored the study, "Genes in Glucose Metabolism and Association with Spina Bifida," that was published in the January 2008 issue of the journal *Reproductive Sciences*.

Maria Schumacher, Ph. D., led a team that solved the structure of a DNA-protein complex that is crucial in the spread of antibiotic resistance among bacteria. In addition, **Schumacher** has been highlighted in the *Houston Chronicle* for her new detailed images which capture a key step in the process of cell division.

Anil Sood, M.D., Menashe Bar-Eli, Ph.D., and **Gabriel Lopez-Berestein, M.D., Ph.D.,** led a research team responsible for identifying a protein that stimulates blood vessel growth and slows ovarian cancer. A report on their research was published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Dihua Yu, M.D., Ph.D., co-authored a paper on FOXO3a and MDM2 that was published in the February 10 issue of *Nature Cell Biology*.

MEMBERS REAPPOINTED
WITH COMMENDATION

Ralph Arlinghaus
Varsha Gandhi
Roger Janz
David Johnson
Lovell Jones
Heidi Kaplan
Rodney Kellems
Mong-Hong Lee
Jill Schumacher
R. Jason Stafford
Rick Wetsel

NEW REGULAR MEMBERS

Michael Beierlein

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Neurobiology and Anatomy
Ph.D., Brown University, 2000
Research interests: short-term synaptic plasticity; regulation of synaptic strength by endocannabinoids; structure and function of neocortical circuits; neuro-glia interactions

George A. Calin

Associate Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Experimental Therapeutics
M.D., Ph.D., "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy (Romania), 1992 and 2000
Research interests: the roles of non-coding RNAs in human diseases; cancer genetics; oncology

Candelaria Gomez-Manzano

Assistant Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Neuro-Oncology
M.D., Central University of Barcelona, 1988
Research interests: cancer stem cells; brain tumors; Tie2-multi-compartmental role; E2F pathway

Chung How Kau

Associate Professor
UT-Houston Dental Branch
Orthodontics
D.D.S., National University of Singapore, 1998
Ph.D., Cardiff University, 2006
Research interests: 3D facial imaging; orthodontic applications; growth and development; randomized controlled trials

Nobuhide Kobori

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Neurosurgery
M.D., Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, 1985
Ph.D., Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, 1994
Research interests: working memory deficit; cognitive function deficit; traumatic brain injury; neurochemical mechanism; neurotransmitter; intracellular signaling; treatment

Ju-Seog Lee

Assistant Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Systems Biology
Ph.D., The University of Texas at Dallas, 1999
Research interests: systems biology; gene expression profile; cancer genomics; integromics; DNA microarray

Jun Liu

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Ph.D., Chinese Academy of Sciences, 1998
Research interests: 3-D structure/function of macromolecular assemblies, intact bacteria and enveloped viruses; AIDS virus; viral entry and antibody neutralization; signal transduction; muscle motility

Yin Liu

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Neurobiology & Anatomy
Ph.D., Yale University, 2007
Research interests: computational biology; protein interaction; signal transduction; Bayesian methodology in bioinformatics; data analysis and integration

Gregory A. Lizée

Assistant Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Melanoma Medical Oncology & Immunology
Ph.D., University of British Columbia
Research interests: tumor immunology;
immunosuppression; dendritic cells; antigen
cross-presentation; cancer vaccines

Angel M. Paredes

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 1993
Research interests: high resolution electron
cryomicroscopy to explore the biology of
alphavirus replication including assembly and the
host-virus interactions necessary for infection

Garth Powis

Professor and Chair
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Experimental Therapeutics
D.Phil., Oxford University, 1970
Research interests: drug development;
signaling mechanism; hypoxia; redox; cell
survival; translational research

Lajos Pusztai

Associate Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Breast Medical Oncology
M.D., Semmelweis School of Medicine, 1987
D.Phil., University of Oxford, 1993
Research interests: gene expression profiling with
DNA microarrays; molecular biology of breast
cancer; clinical trials with new drugs

Fredika M. Robertson

Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Experimental Therapeutics
Ph.D., State University of New York at Buffalo,
Roswell Cancer Institute, 1986
Research interests: human breast tumor
development, invasion and metastasis; ductal
carcinoma in situ; inflammatory breast cancer;
skin carcinogenesis and inflammation; wound
repair and skin carcinogenesis; tumor-associated
angiogenesis; tumor cell survival; targeted
therapies; proteomics

Shao-Cong Sun

Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Immunology
Ph.D., Stockholm University, 1992
Research interests: signal transduction; protein
ubiquitination and deubiquitination; NF- κ B
activation; lymphocyte development and
activation; autoimmunity and inflammation;
antiviral and antibacterial innate immunity;
cancer biology

Karen S. Uray

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Pediatric Surgery
Ph.D., UT-Houston GSBS, 1997
Research interests: gut; STAT3; cadherin;
intestinal contractile activity

Oleg N. Vassiliev

Assistant Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Radiation Physics
Ph.D., The University of Western Ontario, 2001
Research interests: medical physics; external
beam radiation therapy; dose calculation
methods

Huamin Wang

Assistant Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Pathology
M.D., Tongji Medical University, 1987
Ph.D., UT-Houston GSBS, 1999
Research interests: signal transduction; tumor
markers; molecular genetics and genomics of
pancreatic cancer; therapeutic targets

Wendy A. Woodward

Assistant Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Radiation Oncology
M.D., Ph.D., Thomas Jefferson University, 2000
Research interests: radiation resistance; breast
cancer stem cells; mammosphere;
Wnt/beta-catenin signaling; inflammatory breast
cancer

GSBS Faculty Membership Report

Xiangwei Wu

Associate Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Head and Neck Surgery
Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, 1991
Research interests: mechanisms of p53 and death receptor-mediated apoptosis and applications in chemoprevention and cancer therapy

Shuxing Zhang

Assistant Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Experimental Therapeutics
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2005
Research interests: ligand/structure-based drug design; QSAR; molecular docking; in silico ADME/Toxicity; cheminformatics; protein structure bioinformatics; machine learning and statistical modeling

Wenzheng Zhang

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Internal Medicine
Ph.D., UT-Houston GSBS, 1998
Research interests: regulation of gene expression; renal development and function; action of steroid hormones; tumorigenesis

Lei Zheng

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Ph.D., University of Bern, 2003
Research interests: structural biology of membrane proteins; x-ray crystallography; ion transport and regulation; pathogenic recognition; recombinant antibody technology



College Advisory Board

Faculty visitors from undergraduate institutions in Texas and across the U.S. led by **Vicky Knutson, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean for Admissions.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Jennifer Czerwinski

Clinical Instructor/Genetic Counselor
UT-Houston Medical School
Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences
M.S., UT-Houston GSBS, 2006
Research interests: prenatal genetic counseling

Dongchuan Guo

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Internal Medicine
Ph.D., Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Science, 1993
Research interests: genetic basis of vascular disease, including thoracic aortic aneurysms and aortic dissections; genetic basis of other human disease, including traveler diarrhea and molar oligodontia; medical treatment of cocaine dependence

Marianna Hörz

Genetic Counselor
UT-Houston Medical School
Pediatrics/Medical Genetics
M.S., UT-Houston GSBS, 2006
Research interests: pediatrics; genetic counseling; metabolic genetics; hemophilia; arthrogryposis

S. Cheenu Kappadath

Assistant Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Imaging Physics
Ph.D., University of New Hampshire, 1998
Research interests: Quantitative SPECT/CT; radiopharmaceutical dosimetry and therapy planning; optimization of clinical SPECT/CT protocols; Monte-Carlo simulation studies; iterative reconstruction and volumetric image analysis

Stephen F. Kry

Instructor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Radiation Physics
Ph.D., UT-Houston GSBS, 2007
Research interests: out-of-field dose; peripheral radiation; neutrons; late effects; secondary malignancies; risk models

Charles A. Koller

Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Leukemia
M.D., Ohio State University, 1973
Research interests: acute and chronic leukemia; myelodysplasia; myeloproliferative diseases; aplastic anemia; clinical trials; correlative studies

Valerie C. Moore

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Internal Medicine, Cardiology
Ph.D., Rice University, 2005
Research interests: carbon-based biomedical nanotechnology; targeted delivery of contrast and therapeutic agents; radioprotection agents; tissue engineering; atomic force microscopy

Donna M. Reeve

Senior Medical Physicist
Imaging Physics
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
M.S., Colorado School of Mines, 1986
M.S., UT-Houston GSBS, 1997
Research interests: medical imaging physics; magnetic resonance imaging; mammography; ultrasound; computed radiography

Keri C. Smith

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Ph.D., Montana State University, 2001
Research interests: B cell tolerance induction; mucosal immunization; induction of catalytic antibody response; cellular immunology

Christine M. Stellrecht

Instructor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Experimental Therapeutics
Ph.D., UT-Houston GSBS, 1991
Research interests: transcription inhibition; gene expression; experimental therapeutics; cancer biology; molecular oncology; signal transduction

Scott E. Wenderfer

Assistant Professor
UT-Houston Medical School
Pediatrics
IMM/Center for Immunology and Autoimmune Diseases
M.D., Ph.D., University of Cincinnati, 2001
Research interests: immune complex glomerulonephritis; lupus nephritis; autoimmunity; mouse models of disease; molecular nephrology; confocal microscopy

Lawrence E. Williams

Associate Professor
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Veterinary Sciences
Ph.D., University of Georgia, 1982
Research interests: socialization of neonatal primates; development of the behavioral aspects of animal models; demographic analysis of populations and computer modeling of populations using stochastic techniques

T. C. Hsu Faculty Research Award

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.



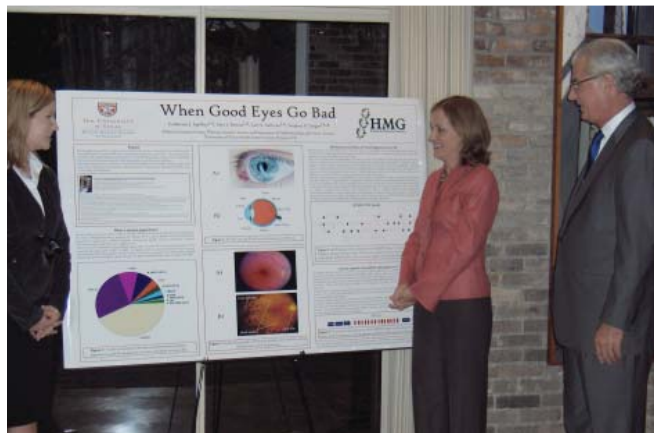
The very first recipient of the T. C. Hsu Research Award is **Angabin Matin, Ph.D.**, nominated by several GSBS Program directors. They noted that her recent publication in the scientific journal *Nature* discussed the importance of her work with the dead-end or *ter* gene, and the discovery that it has an RNA recognition motif is significant and will open many new perspectives in cancer research. This Award is renewable for up to three years, and is to be used to supplement her current research or develop a new area of that research.

GSBS Advisory Council

Update

The GSBS Advisory Council, chaired by Mrs. Diana Hawkins, has been quite active in the last year building new friendships for the Graduate School. Diana and Russell Hawkins, along with the Council, hosted a wonderful Evening of Discovery at their home. Over 30 individuals from the greater Houston community whom Council members personally invited, had the opportunity to meet some of our exceptional graduate students, gather information about the students' latest scientific breakthroughs, and learn about the vision of the Graduate School (i.e., cutting-edge research accomplishments, meeting the ranks of our chief competitors, bringing the best students and faculty to Houston) —and of course, what it will take to accomplish these lofty ambitions. This first Evening of Discovery emphasized that in the Graduate School, no matter how many A's you make and courses you take – “No discovery – No Degree!” Thanks to the Hawkins and the Council for this energetic catalyst to move the School forward.

While following up with these new friends to get to know them better, the plan is to enlist our loyal Council to help us. One example of a GSBS Advisory Council member in action comes through Beth Robertson, who was instrumental in helping us with our MD/PhD program proposal and several others made significant annual gifts (p.11) that help reward excellence and increase top recruitment potential.



Catherine Spellicy discusses her research with Diana and Russell Hawkins.



Above GSBS Alumna **Sarah Dunlap, Ph.D.**, discusses her research with Britt and Helen Schmidt during the Leaders of Tomorrow forum hosted by the Graduate School and the Office of Institutional Advancement on February 21, 2008.

GSBS Advisory Council member Britt Schmidt, as chair of the Leaders of Tomorrow group of Houstonians, arranged for over 20 members to visit the Graduate School and learn firsthand the latest information about breast cancer, brain tumors, vision disease, stem cell research and more through our students' projects.

Council member Harry Gee and his wife Antje provided a wonderful 'first Thanksgiving feast' in their home to ten of our international students. The Gees have been doing this for several years—a very personal show of support.

Special Thanks and Gratitude

September 2007 - February 2008

Our Benefactors

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Cancer Answers, Inc.
Mimi Cho-Rohlfen
William H. Drushel, Jr.*
S. Stacy Eastland*
Margaret M. French
Irma Gigli
Kerry B. Gunning
Diana* and Russell Hawkins
Margaret Hsu
John J. Kopchick
Peggy A. O'Neill
Naruya Saitou
Donna S. Shewach
Ralph B. Thomas*
Nina O. Zilkha*
Wei Yu

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R. W. & Pearl W. Knox Foundation

John P. McGovern Foundation

Robert & Ruth McCullough Foundation

W. A. & Madeline Welder Smith Foundation

* GSBS Advisory Council Members

Our Contributors

Greg Aune	Glenn Housholder	Ellen Richie
Frances Arrighi	Jen-Tzaw Huang	Alice Robinson
Michael Badzioch	Vicki Huff	Thomas Roesel
Fariba Behbod	Howard Hubbell	Doris Ross
Timothy Boone	Robert Hurlbert	Jeffrey Safran
Boston University	Mien-Chie Hung	Narayan Sahoo
Yanis Boumber	Geoffrey Ibbott	Barbara Sanborn
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Robert Chamberlain	Gary Kurzban	Michael Siciliano
Joya Chandra	Ajay Kwatra	Malcolm Skolnick
Shine Chang	Anand & Sandhya Lagoo	Anil Sood
Rong Chen	Dolores Lamb	Cheryl Spitzenger
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Peter Davies	Kathryn Louie	Fumio Tajima
Carmen Dessauer	Maurie Markman	Dean Tang
Kimberly Dodge-Kafka	Mars Family Foundation	Ba-Bie Teng
Lei Dong	Milton Marshall	Lawrence Thompson
Wenli Dong	Angabin Matin	Stephen Tomasovic
Herbert Dupont	William Mattox	Jeffrey Touchman
Shahla Eftekhari	Pierre McCrea	Dunyaporn Trachootham
Julie Ellerhorst		Ah-Lim Tsai
Cindee Ewell	Raymond Meyn	Anjanette Watson
David Followill	Shirlette Milton	P. Anthony Weil
Betsy Frantz	Yuko Miyamoto	Danny Welch
Emil Freireich	Radhe Mohan	Rick Wetsel
Yasuhide Furuta	Kevin Morano	Barbara Williams
Gary Gallick & Jan Liang	Debra Moss	Thomas Williams
Varsha Gandhi	Michael Moyers	Deborah Pearson Woodhouse
Chuan Gao	Ferid Murad	Kendra Woods
Brenda Gaughan	Steven Nadler	Virginia Wray
Thomas Goka	Newcomb Scientific, LLC	Ann Wright
Jason Goldsmith	Kathy O'Keefe	Edward Yeh
Erin Grothey	Ted Pate	Mary Yehle
Steven Haar	Sen Pathak	Dihua Yu
Carol Helton	Betty Petrie	Monica Zamisch
Stephen Hewitt & Mercedes Meyer	Ruby Pieri	Jing-Ren Zhang
David Hewett-Emmett	John Powers	Wei Zhang
Walter Hittelman	Janet Price	Xiaohong Zhang
Beng Ho	Potu Rao	Leonard Zwelling

FALL 2007 INCOMING STUDENTS

Jennifer Abrams- Ph.D. Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 5/1/2007, University of Houston - Downtown
Moiz Ahmad- Ph.D. Medical Physics, B.S., 8/2/2005, University of Texas at Austin
Midan Ai- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 6/1/2004, Central South University
Julie Allen- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 5/1/2007, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Ricardo Alvarez- M.S. Cancer Biology, M.D., 3/1/1990, Universidad Nacional De La Plata
Sarah Alwin- Ph.D. Neuroscience, B.A., 5/1/2007, Ripon College
Laura Amendola- M.S. Genetic Counseling, B.S., 6/1/2006, Queen's University
Jonathan Berrout- Ph.D. Neuroscience, B.S., 5/1/2007, University of Texas at Brownsville
Vinicius Bonato- Ph.D. Biomathematics and Biostatistics, B.S., 5/1/2007, State University of Campinas
Andrea Bordt- Ph.D. Molecular Pathology, M.P.H., 12/1/2006, University of Texas HSC-Houston SPH
Jessica Bowser- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 5/1/2006, Wichita State University
Brandon Brown- M.D./Ph.D. Biochemistry, B.S. Biology, 8/14/2006, University of Texas at Austin
Jacquelin Bui- Ph.D. Human and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 5/1/2007, Trinity University
Lauren Byers- M.S. Cancer Biology, M.D., 5/1/2003, Baylor College of Medicine
Chunyan Cai- Ph.D. Biomathematics and Biostatistics, B.S., 7/1/2007, University of Science and Technology of China
Joseph Caruso- Ph.D. Molecular Pathology, B.S., 5/1/2007, Villanova University
Douglas Caruthers- Ph.D. Medical Physics, B.S., 5/1/2005, Washington University
Deepavali Chakravarti- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 12/1/2006, University of Houston - Clear Lake
Chien-Hung Chen- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 6/1/2001, National Tsing Hua University
Ping-Chieh Chou- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, , 7/1/2002, National Chung Chen University
Sarah Colosimo- M.S. Genetic Counseling, B.S., 12/1/2006, Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge
Adrianne Crawford- M.S. Cancer Biology, M.S., 12/1/2006, Georgia State University
Jennifer Cultrera- M.S. Cancer Biology, M.D., 5/1/2003, University of Miami
Jorge Del-Aguila- Ph.D. Human and Molecular Genetics, M.S., 8/1/2006, Stephen F. Austin State University
John Delmonte- M.S. Cancer Biology, M.D., 6/1/2002, University of California, San Francisco
Alessandra Di Lorenzo- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 7/1/2000, University Federico II
Triston Dougall- M.S. Medical Physics, M.S., 12/1/2006, Southern Methodist University
Isaac Estrada- Ph.D. Biomathematics and Biostatistics, M.S., 1/1/2007, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus
Javier Figueroa- M.D./Ph.D. Biochemistry, M.S., 5/1/2006, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs
Jennifer Fowler- M.S. Genetic Counseling, B.S., 12/1/2004, University of California, Davis
Jessica Galloway-Pena- Ph.D. Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 12/1/2006, Our Lady of the Lake University
Georgi Georgiev- M.S. Medical Physics, M.S., 5/1/2007, Sofia University
Hillary Gibbons- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 5/1/2007, Texas Christian University
Annelise Giebeler- Ph.D. Medical Physics, B.S., 3/1/2000, California State University, San Bernardino
Sara Gorjestani- Ph.D. Immunology, M.S., 12/1/2006, Pittsburgh State University
Timothy Graham- Ph.D. Neuroscience, B.S., 5/1/2007, Texas Christian University
Ryan Grant- M.S. Medical Physics, B.S., 5/1/2007, University of Texas at Austin
Naima Hammoudi- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 9/1/2005, University Des Sciences Et De La Techn Houari Boumedienne
Robin Henry- Ph.D. Human and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 5/1/2002, Louisiana State University & Agricultural & Mechanical
Jessica Hernandez- M.S. Immunology, B.S., 5/1/2007, University of Texas at El Paso
Heather Highland- Ph.D. Human and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 5/1/2007, Trinity University
Julia Hill- Ph.D. Neuroscience, B.A., 5/1/2006, Sarah Lawrence College
Ruozhen Hu- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 6/1/2005, Zhejiang University
Cheukkai Hui- Ph.D. Medical Physics, M.S., 8/1/2007, University of Texas at Austin
Daisy Izaguirre- M.S. Biochemistry, B.S., 5/1/2006, St. Edward's University
Tamara Jatoba- Ph.D. Molecular Pathology, B.S., 8/1/2003, Baylor University
Sarah Jenkins- M.S. Molecular Pathology, B.A., 5/1/2007, Texas A&M International University
Jennifer Juarez- Ph.D. Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 5/1/2007, Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge
Tapan Kadia- M.S. Cancer Biology, M.D., 5/1/2001, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
Denise Kellar- Ph.D. Immunology, B.S., 5/1/2007, Stephen F Austin State University
Diem Kha- M.S. Molecular Carcinogenesis, B.S., 5/1/2005, University of Texas at Austin
Daehoon Kim- Ph.D. Molecular Carcinogenesis, M.S., 2/1/1997, Chonnam National University

FALL 2007 INCOMING STUDENTS

Eun Ah Kim- Ph.D. Genes and Development, M.S., 9/1/2004, Hanyang University
Ana Klauer- Ph.D. Molecular Biology, B.S., 5/1/2007, Texas A&M University-College Station
Irfan Lalani- M.S. Biomathematics and Biostatistics, M.B.B.S., 11/1/1999, Aga Khan University Medical College
Natalia Lazcano- M.S. Neuroscience, B.S., 12/1/2006, University of Texas at El Paso
Heng-Huan Lee- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 6/1/2004, National Taiwan University
Hong-Jen Lee- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 7/1/2004, National Taiwan University
Szu-Wei Lee- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, , 6/1/2005, National Taiwan University
Qin Li- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 5/1/2007, University of Saskatchewan
Yanhui Li- Ph.D. Genes and Development, M.S., 7/1/2007, Peking University Health Science
Jing Lin- Ph.D. Genes and Development, M.S., 3/1/2007, Ningbo University
Gonzalo Lopez- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 8/1/2006, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Li Lu- Ph.D. Genes and Development, M.S., 7/1/2005, Nanjing Medical University
Ming Lu- Ph.D. Genes and Development, M.S., 8/1/2006, University of Texas-Houston GSBS
Marc Macaluso- Ph.D. Molecular Carcinogenesis, B.S., 8/1/2006, Texas Tech University
Lorena Maili- Ph.D. Neuroscience, B.S., 5/1/2007, Baylor University
Jonathan Martinez- Ph.D. Cell Biology, B.S., 5/1/2007, Rice University
Sarah May- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 8/1/2006, University of Texas at Arlington
Justin Mikell- Ph.D. Medical Physics, B.S., 5/1/2002, University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign
Travis Morgan- M.S. Genetic Counseling, B.S., 12/1/2006, Texas A&M University-College Station
William Munoz- Ph.D. Genes and Development, B.S., 5/1/2007, University of Texas at Austin
Lauren Murphy- M.S. Genetic Counseling, B.A., 5/1/2005, Barnard College
Nancy Nabils- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 12/1/2006, University of Texas HSC-Houston GSBS
Alpa Nick- M.S. Cancer Biology, M.D., 5/1/2003, Louisiana State University Medical Center
Petros Nikolinakos- M.S. Immunology, M.D., 9/1/1996, University of Debregen
LaGina Nosavanh- Ph.D. Genes and Development, B.S., 5/1/2007, Delaware State University
Kacie Nyholt- Ph.D. Human and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 12/1/2006, University of Houston - Clear Lake
William O'Brien- M.S. Biochemistry, B.S., 5/1/2007, University of Miami
Steven Olree- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 5/1/2007, Truman State University
Antony Passaro- Ph.D. Neuroscience, B.A., 7/1/2005, Rice University
Mesias Pedroza- Ph.D. Biochemistry, B.S., 5/1/2007, University of Houston - Downtown
Brian Pickering- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, Ph.D., 12/1/2006, George Mason University
Sarina Piha-Paul- M.S. Cancer Biology, M.D., 5/1/2002, Louisiana State University Medical Center
Elizabeth Plimack- M.S. Cancer Biology, M.D., 5/1/2002, New York University
Xia Pu- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 6/1/2007, China Pharmaceutical University
Dharanija Rao- Ph.D. Molecular Carcinogenesis, M.S., 6/1/2006, University of Hyderabad
Krithi Rao- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 5/1/2007, University of North Texas Health Sciences Center at Ft. Worth
Alina Raza- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 5/1/2007, University of Houston - Main
Sumaiyah Rehman- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 5/1/2006, University of Texas at Austin
Rachel Reith- Ph.D. Human and Molecular Genetics, B.S., 5/1/2007, Rice University
Nilsa Rivera Del Valle- Ph.D. Toxicology, M.S., 5/1/2007, University of Texas-Houston GSBS
Marta Rojas- Ph.D. Genes and Development, M.S., 11/1/1988, Pontifica Universidad Javeriana
Chawarat Rotejanaprasert- Ph.D. Biomathematics and Biostatistics, B.S., 3/1/2006, Chiang Mai University
Joshua Rother- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 5/1/2007, University of Texas-Houston GSBS
David Rushworth- M.D./Ph.D. Biochemistry, B.S., 5/1/2006, University of Texas at Austin
Rebecca Sample- M.S. Genetic Counseling, B.A., 5/1/2006, University of Virginia
Laura Sandifer- Ph.D. Molecular Carcinogenesis, B.S., 5/1/2007, Centenary College
Andria Schibler- Ph.D. Genes and Development, B.S., 5/1/2006, Suffolk University
Alison Schwein- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 12/1/2005, University of Florida
Jia Shen- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 6/1/2006, Zhejiang University
Ji-Hyun Shin- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 2/1/2005, Kyung Hee University
Akanksha Singh- Ph.D. Neuroscience, B.A., 5/1/2007, University of St. Thomas
Huijuan Song- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 9/1/2007, Hebei Medical College
Krista Swanson- Ph.D. Molecular Pathology, B.S., 5/1/2006, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

FALL 2007 INCOMING STUDENTS

Ning Tsao- Ph.D. Pharmacology, M.S., 6/1/2002, National Taiwan University
Diogo Veiga- Ph.D. Biomathematics and Biostatistics, M.S., 2/1/2006, Federal University of Pernambuco
Deborah Vela- M.S. Cell Biology, M.D., 6/1/1996, Universidad De Guayaquil
Guermarie Velazquez Torres- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 7/1/2006, University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus
Marisa Vineyard- M.S. Genetic Counseling, B.S., 5/1/2007, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Deeksha Vishwamitra- M.S. Pharmacology, B.S., 6/1/2007, Ohio State University
Yucai Wang- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 8/1/2007, Nanjing University
Katie West- M.S. Medical Physics, B.S., 5/1/2007, Duke University
Matthew White- Ph.D. Toxicology, B.S., 5/1/2007, Texas A&M University-College Station
Jillian Wise- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 5/1/2007, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Cheng-Ju Wu- M.D./Ph.D. Biochemistry, B.S., 1/5/2006, Washington University
Hanjing Wu- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 7/1/2006, Hunan Medical University
Wei-Lei Yang- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, M.S., 6/1/2001, National Tsing Hua University
Sriram Yennurajalingam- M.S. Cancer Biology, M.B.B.S., 4/1/1995, Osmania Medical College
Bingnan Yin- Ph.D. Virology and Gene Therapy, M.S., 7/1/2004, Tianjin Medical College
Maren Yngve- M.D./Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 8/1/2006, University of Texas at Austin
Joshua Yung- Ph.D. Medical Physics, B.E., 5/1/2005, Duke University
Fanmao Zhang- Ph.D. Cancer Biology, B.S., 6/1/2006, Wuhan University-PRC
Rui Zhang- Ph.D. Medical Physics, M.S., 12/1/2006, Rice University
John Zullo- M.S. Medical Physics, Crt., 12/19/2003, University of Texas HSC-Houston MDA
Omid Tavana- Ph.D. Immunology, B.S., 6/1/2007, University of Washington
Mai Tran- Ph.D. Regulatory Biology, B.E., 10/1/2005, University of Agricultural and Forestry

FRIDAY

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CORE TENETS OF GRADUATE TRAINING

Commitments of Graduate Students

I acknowledge that I have the primary responsibility for the completion of my degree. I recognize that I must realistically consider training opportunities and my career goals to help me identify a path that matches my individual skills, values, and interests.

I will develop a mutually defined research project with my mentor that includes well-defined goals and timelines. Ideally, this project should be outlined and agreed upon at the time of the initial appointment.

I will perform my research activities conscientiously, maintain good research records, and catalog and maintain all tangible research materials that result from the research project. This includes ensuring that my advisor and colleagues can readily access and comprehend my research records and materials.

I will respect all ethical standards when conducting my research including compliance with all institutional and governmental regulations as they relate to responsible conduct in research, privacy and human subjects research, animal care and use, laboratory safety, and use of radioisotopes.

I recognize that this commitment includes asking my advisor for guidance when presented with ethical or compliance uncertainties and when reporting on breeches of ethical or compliance standards by me and/or others.

I will show respect for and will work collegially with my coworkers, support staff, and other individuals with whom I interact. I recognize that this includes being a ‘team player’ with all involved in our research group.

I will endeavor to assume progressive responsibility and management of my research project(s) as it matures. I recognize that assuming responsibility for the conduct of research projects is a critical step on the path to independence.

I will seek regular feedback on my performance from my advisor as well as seek a formal evaluation from members of my advisory/supervisory committees.

I recognize that I have embarked on a career requiring “lifelong learning.” To meet this obligation I must stay abreast of the latest developments in my specialized field through reading the literature, regular attendance at relevant seminar series, and attendance at scientific meetings.

I will actively seek opportunities outside the laboratory (e.g. professional development seminars and workshops in oral communication, scientific writing, and teaching) to develop the full set of professional skills necessary to be successful in my graduate training.

At the end of my appointment, in accordance with institutional policy, I will leave behind all original notebooks, computerized files, and tangible research materials so that other individuals can carry on related research.

I will also work with my mentor to submit the research results for publication in a timely manner.

I can make copies of my notebooks and computerized files, and have access to tangible research materials which I helped to generate during my graduate training according to institutional policy.

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 \$1,100,000 to present over 80 renewable scholarships of \$5,000 each. The recipients for 2007-2008 are:

Student	Advisor	Student	Advisor
Kendra S. Carmon	Dr. David S. Loose	Sabine Lange	Dr. Karen Vasquez
Dawn Christianson	Dr. Renata Pasqualini	John Latham	Dr. Sharon Dent
Sarah M. Dunlap	Dr. Wei Zhang	Nicole Pinaire	Dr. Timothy McDonnell
Brian Grabiner	Dr. Xin Lin	Joseph Taube	Dr. Michelle Barton
Shannon Kidd	Dr. Paul Simmons	Regina Weaks	Dr. David Johnson



The R. W. (Bill) Butcher Awards

Established in 1977, the R. W. (Bill) Butcher 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 recipients are:

Student	Advisor
Claudia Miller	Dr. Joya Chandra
Patrick Gibney	Dr. Kevin Morano



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 2007-2008 The City Federation of Women's Clubs Scholarship recognizes research in the area of developmental biology. This year's recipient is:

Student	Advisor
Cameron Jeter	Dr. Anne Sereno

AWARDS

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 2007-2008 recipient is:

Student
Patrick Gibney

Advisor
Dr. Kevin Morano

The Cullen Trust for Higher Education Physician/Scientist Fellowship Program

The \$1.115 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 (see page 2). The first recipients are:

Maren Yngve, UT-GSBS and UT-Medical School at Houston
Ryan Ash, Baylor College of Medicine



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 2007-2008 recipient is:

Student
Brian Grabiner

Advisor
Dr. Xin Lin

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 2007-2008 is:

Student
Lauren Ann McNair

Advisor
Dr. Michael Gambello



Marilyn & Frederick R. Lummis, Jr., M.D., Fellowship in the Biomedical Sciences

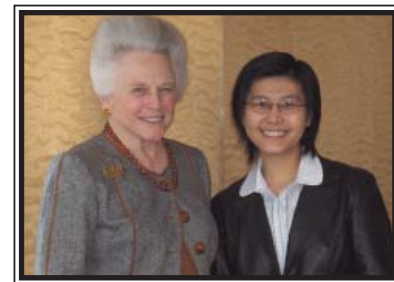
* Dr. and Mrs. Lummis have made a generous gift to GSBS to create this award given for scientific excellence and innovation in any area of biomedical research. A \$25,000 stipend given each year is intended to encourage novel research with a high potential to impact the particular field of study and ultimately human health. The first recipient's outstanding research focuses on developing an innovative treatment strategy that may achieve both therapeutic selectivity and removal of cancer cells that are resistant to conventional drugs.

Student

Dunyaporn Trachootham

Advisor

Dr. Peng Huang



* We are saddened to note that Dr. Lummis died in December 2007. Dr. Lummis was a native Houstonian, with private practice in internal medicine and gastroenterology at Diagnostic Clinic. During his career, he served as president of the Harris County Medical Society, board chair of the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, and was trustee emeritus of the Museum of Natural Science, the Museum of Health and Medical Science and Rice University. Mrs. Lummis, also a native Houstonian and early UT-Houston Development Board member and GSBS supporter, created this award with her husband and joined us for the presentation, above, left.

The Ralph H. and Ruth J. McCullough Foundation Scholarship



This new scholarship has been made possible by a \$10,000 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 2007-2008 recipient is:

Student

Violeta Chavez

Advisor

Dr. Danielle Garsin

Medical School Dean's Research Award

The Dean's Research Award is given to a group of outstanding GSBS students once a year who have progressed to Ph.D. candidacy and whose advisers are faculty at the UT Medical School at Houston. This \$2,500 award is meant to recognize those students who have achieved significant academic distinction during their time as GSBS students. The 2007-2008 winners are left to right:

Student

Xi Mo

Hanyin Cheng

Kim Mankiewicz

Kendra Carmon

Shelly Babin Fontenot

Brian Phillips

Advisor

Dr. Renhao Li

Dr. Robert Kirken and

Dr. Jeffrey Frost

Dr. Vasanthi Jayaraman

Dr. David Loose

Dr. Anne Sereno

Drs. John Spudich



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. 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:

Student

Diego Gutnisky
Jing Zhao

Advisor

Dr. Valentin Dragoi
Dr. Pramod K. Dash

Presidents' Research Scholars

Through generous funding from President James T. Willerson, 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:



Student

Dunyaporn Trachootham
Xi Mo
Dung-Fang Lee
Jing Zhao

Advisor

Dr. Peng Huang
Dr. Renhao Li
Dr. Mien-Chie Hung
Dr. Pramod K. Dash

Research Day Symposium Poster Contest

The UT-Houston Research Day Symposium Poster Contest was split to reflect both clinical and translational research. Six student prizes were awarded from the basic sciences that demonstrated innovative research: First Prize - \$400; Second Prize - \$300; Third Prize - \$200 were presented to the first author of the top three posters in each of the two areas. The winners were all GSBS students:

CLINICAL/TRANSLATIONAL STUDENTS

Award	Student	Advisor
First Place	Roxanna Irani	Dr. Yang Xia
Second Place	Raymund Yong	Dr. Frederick Lang
Third Place	Shannon Kidd	Dr. Paul Simmons

BASIC SCIENCE STUDENTS

Award	Student	Advisor
First Place	Corina Rosales	Dr. Yong-Jian Geng
Second Place	Sharon Way	Dr. Michael Gambello
Third Place (tie)	Elena Barbu	Dr. Magnus Hook
Third Place (tie)	Chris Singh	Dr. Chinnaswamy Jagannath

The Schissler Foundation Fellowships

This dynamic family foundation has been a major benefactor to the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences for over ten years and has 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 2007-2008 The Schissler Foundation provides full tuition and 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 2007-2008 recipients are:

Schissler Foundation Fellows in the Genetics of Common Human Diseases

Student

Catherine Spellicy
Christina Papke

Advisor

Dr. Stephen Daiger
Dr. Dianna Milewicz

Schissler Foundation Fellows in Cancer Research at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

Student

Dong-Joo Cheon
Adam Riegel

Advisor

Dr. Richard Behringer
Dr. Tinsu Pan



William and Madeline Welder Smith Foundation Scholarship

The William and Madeline Welder Smith Foundation's gift of \$10,000 has allowed us to create a new scholarship this year 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:

Student

Brandi Baird

Advisor

Dr. Paul Simmons



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 2007-2008 is:

Student

Katherine Barker

Advisor

Dr. Howard Gutstein



AWARDS

Student Merit Award

This award was given by the Dose Response Speciality Group at the annual meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis. It was presented to Violeta Hennessey based on her abstract on a Bayesian hierarchial nonlinear regression model for dose-response applied to an ovarian cancer research study.

Student

Violeta Hennessey

Advisor

Dr. Gary Rosner



Sam Taub and Beatrice Burton Fellowship in Vision Disease Award



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 2007-2008 recipient is:

Student

Wade Kothmann

Advisor

Dr. John O'Brien

CONGRATULATIONS

Xiaoyun Cheng, Hsu-Ping Kuo, Dung-Fang Lee, and Jer-Yen Yang co-authored a paper on FOXO3a and MDM2 that was published in the February 10 issue of *Nature Cell Biology*.

Mandy Geryk Hall has been given a grant from the Jori Zemel Foundation for her research in cancer biology. Based in Clear Lake, the Foundation was formed in 2001 in memory of Jori Zemel who battled osteosarcoma. (Advisor: Dennis P. H. Hughes, Ph.D.)

Nicole Pinaire received a Department of Defense Predoctoral Prostate Cancer Training Award, which provides full funding for stipend, benefits, fees and travel for up to three years. Her research focuses on identifying novel p53 targets that may have roles in cancer cell migration and/or metastasis. (Advisor: Timothy McDonnell, Ph.D.)

Whitney Spannuth, Ph.D. and **Gabriel Villares** were part of the research team responsible for identifying a protein that stimulates blood vessel growth and weakens ovarian cancer. A report on their research was published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Dunyaporn Trachootham is first author on a significant cover paper in *Cancer Cell* scientific journal. The article is entitled, "Selective killing of oncogenically transformed cells through a ROS-mediated mechanism by β -phenylethyl isothiocyanate." (Advisor: Peng Huang, Ph.D.)

STUDENT OUTREACH

In October 2007, GSBS graduate students **Joshua Gowin** and **Ann Ketek** led a demonstration entitled, "State of Matter" at Northbrook Middle School in Houston. A group of 100 sixth graders participated interactively to learn the science of plasma television. Sigma Xi Research Science Society-Rice University Chapter, Texas Medical Center, initiated the event.



James (Jim) Bjork, Ph.D. (1999) is a new program official in charge of grants in the area of brain imaging and drug abuse at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

Jackie Peltier-Horn, Ph.D. (1981) was awarded a Certificate of Merit in recognition for Outstanding Faculty Advising from the NACADA (National Academic Advising Association). She was also given the Outstanding Faculty Advisor of the Year award for 2007 from Houston Baptist University in Houston, TX where she is a professor in biology.

Nicholas Koch, Ph.D. (2006) and **Joanna Koch, Ph.D. (2006)** announced the birth of their daughter, Amber Renee, in October 2007.

John J. Kopchick, Ph.D. (1980) was awarded the Riland Medal for Research from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine of New York Institute of Technology. The Riland Medal is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the healthcare work force, medical education, health policy or osteopathic philosophy, and who have served as a community advocate.

Gus Pappas, Ph.D. (2006) is a patent agent for Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck, P.C. in Washington, D.C.

Aurora Seminara, Ph.D. (2005) is now a senior scientific director for ProHealth, a division of Draftfcb Healthcare in New York, New York.

Dr. Richard Smalling, M.D., Ph.D. (1977) was honored with a \$1 million permanent endowment to fund the Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine at the UT Medical School at Houston.

Lindsay MacDougall, Ph.D. (1969)



My research experience at GSBS became the backbone of my future professional life, allowing me to work while my husband completed his medical training, attend medical school myself and participate in research before entering pathology residency training. Since completing pathology residency and fellowship, my routine practice has been as a pathologist (AP/CP) in a staff model integrated group practice in Seattle, WA. But, it has been volunteer medical work which has reenergized me and brought fulfillment to my life as a physician and pathologist.

With my husband, I have participated in multiple medical projects under the auspices of several different organizations, traveling to the Marshall Islands, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Many times, especially in disaster situations, I have acted as a clinical physician, providing immediate care to those in need. One such time was during the migration of Somali refugees to Wajir, Kenya, Kosovo refugees into Albania and the 2005 tsunami in Indonesia.

Faces, events and feelings are emblazoned in my heart and mind. The sharing of oneself with another is sometimes not easy, but can be tremendously rewarding and fulfilling. My advice to current graduate students would be to enjoy your work, but share your skills with others.



In Memory

James R. Gum, Jr., Ph.D. 1950-2007

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Gum earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1980. He was a creative and talented researcher and an effective teacher. Earlier Dr. Gum served as an adjunct associate professor of anatomy at the University of California, San Francisco, as well as an associate director of the Gastrointestinal Research Laboratory at the San Francisco VA Medical Center.



Melva S. Ramsay 1929-2007

Melva Ramsay was employed at GSBS for 33 years as an assistant to the dean and chief administrative officer, and assumed many responsibilities during her tenure including financial and personnel management, public affairs and development, and faculty affairs. Beginning in February 1966 she served the administrations of deans Sumter Arnim, Alfred Knudson, R.W. (Bill) Butcher, and George Stancel. Melva was highly respected for her managerial skills, her mentoring and concern for others, and her sense of humor.



Distinguished Alumni

Susan A. W. Fuqua, Ph.D. (1982)



Dr. Suzanne Fuqua, professor at Baylor College of Medicine, is widely recognized for her pioneering work on hormonal resistance in breast cancer, identifying variant estrogen receptors in breast cancer tissue and linking these mutations to hormone resistance and breast cancer progression by demonstrating their consequences in altering estrogen binding and cell responsiveness in model systems. Dr. Fuqua has also made seminal observations of the role of heat shock proteins in breast cancer progression. She has correlated heat shock protein expression with breast cancer outcome and functional consequences on breast cancer cell proliferation and invasiveness, findings that suggest potential new therapeutic directions by adding appropriate modulators of chemotherapy to enhance effectiveness of treatment.

Dr. Fuqua has published over 140 papers in peer-reviewed journals, and has authored over 30 books/chapters. She has served on numerous federal study sections and site visits, and is on the editorial boards of *Cancer Research*, *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*, *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics* and the *Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*.

Dr. Fuqua is project director for a SPORE grant in breast cancer from the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI); Principle Investigator for an R01 Grant from NIH/NCI, Principle Investigator for a T32 Grant from NIH/NCI; Project Director of a P01 Grant from NIH/NCI; Principle Investigator for Grant from the Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center; Principle Investigator on a grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation; and Co-Principle Investigator on a grant from the United States Department of Defense.

GSBS ALUMNI REUNION 2007



Dr. Fuqua addressed alumni and staff at the **Alumni Reunion** that was held in October 2007 at the Cockrell Butterfly Center inside the Houston Museum of Natural Science.





ALUMNI REUNION 2007

Sayee Anakk, Frances Arrighi , Peter Balter, Fariba Behbod, Sol Bobst, Valentine Boving, Ivonne Bruno, Stacey Champion, Joya Ch
Maureen Goode, Richard Hajek, Vicki Hopwood, Nash Kalsotra, Lovely Fotedar Krishen, Ralf Krahe, Stephen Kry, Rakesh Kumar,
Lisa St. John, F. Ben Thomas, Ye Tao, Laura Valentine, Hernan Vasquez, Huamin Wang, Xiaoyan Wang, Ramal Weragoda, Brenda V



andhra, Melinda Chi, Nathan Childress, Janci Chunn-Lindsay, Wenli Dong, Rena D'Souza, Xueyan Duan, Vicky Estrera, Suzanne Fuqua, N. Burr Furlong, Felix Gadi,
 Atonella Long, Suneeta Mahagaokar, Manley Mandel, Tom Matney, Marya McCarty, Tommy O'Neill, Judy Potts, Ron Potts, Madhu Purewal, Potu Rao, Jane Shi,
 Whaley, David Wildrick, Kendra Woods, Yang Xia, Dihua Yu, Ruiying Zhao, and Hongyan Zhong.

Finding my way to GSBS...

There is a traditional Quaker principle that says something like, “have faith and way will open.” I’m not a Quaker, but for me, “way” has opened, including several incredible opportunities that have been presented to me in my vocational life. Most of those opportunities, over nearly two decades, have been right here in the Texas Medical Center.



Eric Solberg,
Associate Dean for
Management

After a short time managing community health programs for the North Dakota State Department of Health, I found my way to Baylor College of Medicine where I served as the executive director of the national, physician-led, health-advocacy organization DOC (Doctors Ought to Care, founded in 1977 by Alan Blum, MD). DOC was best known for its work in engaging physicians and other health professionals in counteracting unhealthy lifestyles, especially tobacco and alcohol use. The decade-long experience was incredible, and involved developing programs, curriculum and educational strategies for medical schools, residency programs and medical societies throughout the country. I had the opportunity to collaborate with faculty and students not just at Baylor, but at sister schools and residency programs throughout the U.S. and abroad where we had established collaborative relationships.

During the 1990’s, I also served as a consultant and expert witness in tobacco litigation, including two landmark cases in Miami, Florida, won by the husband-and-wife legal team of Stanley and Susan Rosenblatt. In August of 2000, at their invitation, I accepted the position (commuting from Houston to Miami) to direct a new \$300 million biomedical institute established through a class-action lawsuit on behalf of 60,000 non-smoking flight attendants who were made ill from their exposure to second-hand smoke on airplanes. The new foundation funds research on diseases caused by tobacco smoke.

I joined M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in 2002 – first as program director in cancer genetics (which provided my first introduction to both faculty and students at GSBS) and later as the administrative director for the cancer center support grant (funded by NCI). The 19 multidisciplinary research programs and the 26 core laboratories funded under the grant make up much of the research infrastructure at M. D. Anderson, and I was privileged to work and collaborate with people across the institution and throughout the Texas Medical Center.

In 2006, I was offered a position with Lexicon Genetics (now Lexicon Pharmaceuticals) as its associate director for business development. It was an opportunity to explore the biopharmaceutical industry and uniquely combine my experience in academic administration with the business sector (part of my role at Lexicon included overseeing academic collaborations, government contracts and sublicensing agreements).

When I was encouraged to apply for the associate dean position at GSBS, I was already familiar with the Graduate School and certainly knew many of its faculty. I have always liked the way the school is organized. The fact that there are both defined programs, and the opportunity for students to forge individual programs (I had done this myself in graduate school) that cross departmental and disciplinary boundaries, is invaluable.

As for any specific aspirations or plans at GSBS, I told Dean George Stancel that my primary goal is to help make sure that the Graduate School – its programs, students, faculty, and resources – do not get lost among the many other challenges facing the University of Texas Health Science Center, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and the academic partners that make up GSBS. I plan to draw on my own experiences and philosophy –to contribute beyond the day-to-day processes and to strive for transparency and accountability. I believe that when more people have more information, chances are better that they will work well together. My experience so far is that it helps to draw people into the conversation and possible resolution.

There are a great many things that the School does well, and I promised Dr. Paul Darlington before he retired that I will not “fix” any of those things. I will do my best to assist the GSBS deans, faculty, students, and parent institutions as we look to the future. I am happy and honored to be here.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric Solberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

NEW GSBS STAFF

Patricia Cruz Bruesch has joined the GSBS staff as grants administrator and works specifically with the Center for Clinical and Translational Science T32 Program. She earned a B.A. in Political Science and Masters in Public Administration from Cal Poly Pomona, California. A certified scuba diver, Patricia enjoys traveling and outdoor activities, especially cycling with her husband. She has adopted Socrates' philosophy, "The unexamined life is not worth living."



Laura Sanders has joined the GSBS team in the Public Affairs and Development office where she assists with alumni and contributor events. She also updates the website and produces graphics for the newsletter. On the weekends she enjoys sailing, hanging out with friends and running. Laura earned a B.A. in Communication and English from Texas A&M University.



Tikeshlia (Ty) Williams has joined the Office of Admissions staff, where she coordinates all recruitment functions and events and is a part of the team that maintains the GSBS website. Ty grew up in Baytown and earned a B.S. in

Hotel and Restaurant Management from the University of Houston. Before joining GSBS, she spent several years in catering and hotel convention management. Ty enjoys spending time with her partner, Paul, their children, concerts, shopping, traveling, sports, movies, cooking and The Onion.



Farewell, Goodbye, Aufweidersein, Adieu....

Best Wishes Go Out to Paul Darlington

Many Health Science Center faculty, students, and employees attended a reception honoring Paul E. Darlington, Ph.D., for twenty-five years of exceptional service as Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston. His unique blend of academic, educational, and business skills brought indelible contributions to all facets of the GSBS. He is especially remembered for his 'open door' policy whereby many students, faculty, staff and colleagues would seek out his advice, direction, and encouragement. As a result, and in his honor, the *Paul E. Darlington Mentor Award for Faculty* has been established. This monetary award will be given each year to a GSBS faculty member to recognize him or her for being a Mentor in the great tradition of Paul Darlington.

Paul, and his wife Gretchen, will soon take up retirement in the foothills of the Rockies near Colorado Springs. They plan to take up biking, hiking, cooking, and lots of traveling. Although his professionalism, effectiveness, and warmth will be greatly missed, we all wish him many years of good health and good times!

Anyone wishing to contribute in his honor to The Paul E. Darlington Mentoring Award for Faculty may do so by responding with the enclosed envelope.

A letter of acknowledgment will be sent to Paul informing him of your recognition.

Paul and Dean Emeritus, Bill Butcher. 3 Associate Deans Tom Matney, Paul E. Darlington, Eric Solberg. GSBS Staff. Paul and Dean Stancel



Hello Alumni,

Greetings from Houston and GSBS! As the current president of the GSBS Alumni Association, I want to take a moment to give you an update about what's going on here, and to ask for your ideas for the future. Let me start by saying that Suzanne Fuqua, Ph.D. (1982) was a terrific choice for our 2007 Distinguished Alumna. As you would expect, she made a sterling technical presentation to our faculty, students, and alumni; then she gave a more personal speech at the reunion dinner in which she acknowledged that the biggest factor in her success has been the unfailing support and encouragement of her family (12 of them came to the reunion to see her receive the award)! I also want to congratulate and thank Vicky Estrera, Ph.D. (2001) who was elected to be the new vice president of the Alumni Association. Well deserved thanks to Linda Carter and my hard-working colleagues on the Steering Committee, and to Beth Lynn Maxwell, Ph.D. (1980) and Deidre Vedder, Ph.D. (1980) for hosting the mini 'happy hour and a half' in Austin.



Several events are now scheduled for 2008. On May 1, the Alumni Association will host a Graduation Celebration (5-7 p.m., GSBS building foyer) for our new graduates and their families. Existing alumni are invited of course, and we hope you will join us in welcoming these newly minted members into our organization. On June 7, we will hold the alumni-sponsored Career Day for current graduate students (some of you will be called upon soon to share your career-path secrets). Finally, we are making plans for another out-of-state reunion on June 21—more about this later.

While much of our focus is on the graduate students at GSBS, one of my goals as your president is to identify ways that the Alumni Association can better serve you and other alumni. Possibilities might include an on-line lecture series via our updated alumni website, or perhaps using such lectures as a theme for organizing regularly scheduled regional get-togethers to mix and discuss "science" at a local restaurant. Should the Alumni Association facilitate the creation of local chapters? I would welcome your thoughts and suggestions as to what you'd like to have from your graduate school, and we'll see what we can do. In the meantime, hope to see you at one of these events in the near future!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ben Thomas, Ph.D. (1973)
GSBS Alumni Association President
2007-2008

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