

# GSBS NEWS

Winter  
2001/2002

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center/M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

**Educating future Scientists for 39 years**



**ONWARD AND UPWARD**  
**ENTERING STUDENTS 2001-2002**

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### Back Cover

Alumni Association News



### GSBS Admissions Team+

At the Dean's Fall Reception, back row, left, newly appointed Assistant Dean for Admissions Victoria Knutson, Ph.D., with potential future GSBS graduate student; Jon Wiener, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs; seated, left, Anne Baronitis, Director of Admissions; Gina Chappell, Admissions Coordinator.

This Fall saw a strong recruitment "push" at the Texas schools. In addition to successful visits to El Paso, Corpus Christi, Kingsville, Edinburg and Brownsville, we saw a particularly strong turn-out at UT-Austin and Texas A&M. We are now beginning to be more aggressive in recruiting out of state: Mt. Holyoke and Charleston College were added to our recruitment efforts. Thanks to all the GSBS staff, faculty and students who have participated in recruiting! The results of the efforts are already showing in the impressive applicants we are currently reviewing for Fall admission.

**"Thanks to all the GSBS staff, faculty  
and students who have participated in recruiting!"**

We have a new tool at our disposal for recruitment efforts: Through the dedicated efforts of Ms. Jeryl Silverman, we now have a compendium of slides, in PowerPoint format, available on the GSBS web site (<http://gsbs.gs.uth.tmc.edu>). These slides range from spectacular aerial shots of the TMC to flow diagrams of students' progress through the degree process. They are a great resource, and we welcome all Faculty to use them as a regular part of their research presentations.

—Victoria Knutson, Ph.D. Assistant Dean for Admissions.



## Dean's Notes...Anniversaries and Achievements

The 2001-2002 academic year spans several important milestones – 2001 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary for M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and 2002 is the 30<sup>th</sup> for the Health Science Center. Last year, events at M. D. Anderson celebrated important contributions of the institution since its inception, and Health Science Center events will do the same this year. I encourage our faculty, students, staff, and alumni to learn more about the rich history and magnificent accomplishments of both our parent institutions. This can be done by referring to their websites that contain many links to the information. Our turn is coming - 2003 will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GSBS!

Given the nature of anniversaries, it is natural to reflect upon the history of our school and its achievements. Many of these are obvious and will be highlighted throughout 2003, including: over 1,000 degrees awarded in the biomedical sciences; untold discoveries made by 1000+ students doing research under the direction of our faculty; the pending opening of state-of-the-art GSBS offices and classrooms in the middle of the Texas Medical Center in the academic year 2003-2004; over \$1 million in GSBS student stipends and awards for the first time in 2001-02; and many other achievements that we will showcase next year. Our faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends have every right to be enormously proud of these individual accomplishments.

We should also feel justifiably proud of our collective achievements – our institution, our graduate education program, and the manner in which we conduct our academic affairs. Our school has brought together the physical and intellectual resources of a diverse set of components - six individual schools, a cancer center, and an institute of biosciences and technology – to work together to train the next generation of biomedical scientists. Despite honest differences of opinion on a number of issues, we have made this work. Graduate schools across the country, most far older than us, are now trying to do what we have been doing for years.

Our students may select specific Programs or design individualized courses of study. This flexibility is highly appealing to prospective students. In either case, all of our students receive in-depth training in the area of their thesis work, plus an exposure to quantitative thinking, molecules, cells, and higher levels of biological organization. Surely there are differences in the achievement of individual students, but our overall program is increasingly the prototype for training grant proposals submitted to NIH, other government agencies, and private foundations.

The way we conduct our academic affairs is truly the model for a university. Via our school-wide committees, we collectively assume the responsibility for admitting students, providing an educational program, and monitoring their academic progress. Major policy decisions are made by majority vote at open meetings of the entire faculty. The system is far from perfect, and may be bureaucratic, cumbersome, and slow at times. We do not always agree, and at times we argue strenuously – but isn't that the point?

Our faculty, students, and alumni have achieved much in their individual careers, and we are very proud of all of them. We should be equally proud of their collective efforts that have built the GSBS. I'm looking forward to a great anniversary party!

## ENTERING STUDENTS 2001-2002

### **Melissa Adams**

Ph.D. - Cell Biology  
B.S./2001/University of Maryland  
College Park

### **Kendra Allton**

Ph.D. - Genes and Development  
B.S./1999/Truman State University

### **Sachin Apte**

M.S. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./1993/Cornell University  
M.D./1997/Ohio State University

### **MahRukh Aslam**

M.S. - Neuroscience  
B.S./2000/University of Houston-Main

### **Ali Azhdarinia**

Ph.D. - Pharmacology  
B.S./1999/University of Houston-Main  
M.S./2001/University of Texas  
HSC-Houston GSBS

### **Shelly Babin**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./2001/Louisiana Tech University

### **Roger Belizaire**

M.S. - Biochemistry  
B.A./2000/Princeton University

### **Jack Bevers**

Ph.D. - Immunology  
B.S./2000/Texas A&M  
University-College Station

### **Tracy Bishop**

Ph.D. - Virology and Gene Therapy  
B.S./1996/Texas A&M  
University-College Station

### **John Boik**

Ph.D. - Toxicology  
B.S./1984/University of Colorado at  
Boulder  
M.S./1992/Oregon College of Oriental  
Medicine

### **Ashley Cain**

Ph.D. - Neuroscience  
B.S./2000/University of Mississippi

### **Ying Cao**

Ph.D. - Virology and Gene Therapy  
M.S./2002/Nanjing Medical University  
B.S./1999/Nanjing Medical University

### **Peter Cashio**

M.S. - Cancer Biology  
B.A./2000/University of Texas at Austin

### **Dawn Cavanaugh**

Ph.D. - Medical Physics  
B.S./1999/University of Toledo  
M.S./2001/University of Toledo

### **Tai-Lung Cha**

Ph.D. - Molecular Pathology  
M.D./1990/National Defense Medical  
Center

### **Xiaodong Cheng**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./1995/Harbin Medical University  
M.D./1997/Peking Union Medical  
College

### **Pai-Chun Chi**

S.M.S. - Medical Physics  
B.S./1999/McMaster University

### **Jennifer Childress**

Ph.D. - Neuroscience  
B.S./2000/University of Missouri at  
Columbia

### **Nathan Childress**

Ph.D. - Medical Physics  
B.S./2000/University of Missouri at  
Columbia  
M.S./2001/University of Missouri at  
Columbia

### **Charles Choonho Chung**

Ph.D. - Human and Molecular Genetics  
B.S./1997/Kon-Kuk University  
M.S./1999/Kon-Kuk University

### **Janci Chunn**

Ph.D. - Biochemistry  
B.S./1993/University of Houston at  
Downtown

### **Mary Anne Connelly**

Ph.D. - Microbiology and Molecular  
Genetics  
B.S./2001/University of South Carolina

### **Vanessa Crum**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./2001/Purdue University

### **Sandra Darilek**

S.M.S. - Genetic Counseling  
B.S./2000/Texas A&M  
University-College Station

### **John Davis**

Ph.D. - Human and Molecular Genetics  
B.S./2000/Baylor University

### **Jennifer Dembinski**

Ph.D. - Virology and Gene Therapy  
B.S./2000/SUNY College at Buffalo

### **Xiaoli Dong**

Ph.D. - Immunology  
B.S./1999/Shandong Medical  
University  
M.S./2001/Peking Union Medical  
College

### **Rene Elms**

Ph.D. - Biochemistry  
B.S./1998/Texas A&M  
University-College Station  
M.S./2001/Texas A&M  
University-College Station

### **Christine English**

Ph.D. - Neuroscience  
B.S./2000/Houston Baptist University  
A.S./1993/Houston Community College

### **Sharon Fernandez**

M.D./Ph.D. - Human and Molecular  
Genetics  
B.S./2001/University of Texas at El Paso

### **Gary Fisher**

S.M.S. - Medical Physics  
B.S./2000/Washington University

### **Jennifer Frey**

Ph.D. - Human and Molecular Genetics  
B.S./2001/Ohio State University

### **Celia Garcia-Prieto**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./1998/Texas A&M at Kingsville  
M.S./2001/Texas A&M at Kingsville

### **David Gold**

M.S. - Biomathematics and Biostatistics  
B.A./1996/University of Texas at Austin  
M.S./2000/Texas A&M University at  
College Station

### **Tera Guidry**

Ph.D. - Immunology  
B.S./1999/Baylor University

### **Emily Gutter**

S.M.S. - Genetic Counseling  
B.S./2000/Ohio University

### **Maria Hadjifrangiskou**

Ph.D. - Microbiology and Molecular  
Genetics  
B.S./2000/Clarion University

### **Yuhō Hayashi**

Ph.D. - Immunology  
B.A./1997/New York University  
M.S./1998/International Space  
University, France  
M.S./2001/University of Houston at  
Clear Lake

### **Aditi Hazra**

Ph.D. - Biomathematics and Biostatistics  
B.A./1996/University of Texas at Austin  
M.P.H./2000/University of Texas  
HSC-Houston SPH

### **Malcolm Heard**

Ph.D. - Medical Physics  
B.S./2001/Southern University-A&M  
College at Baton Rouge

### **Amy Heck**

Ph.D. - Neuroscience  
B.A./2000/University of Virginia

### **Jay Herman**

M.S. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./1964/University of Alabama

### **David Hernandez**

Ph.D. - Neuroscience  
B.S./1999/University of Texas at Austin

### **Mark Hickman**

Ph.D. - Microbiology and Molecular  
Genetics  
B.S./1986/University of Florida  
M.S./1989/University of Florida

### **Sung Ki Hong**

Ph.D. - Environmental and Molecular  
Carcinogenesis  
B.S./1995/Hallym University  
M.S./2/1/97/Hallym University

### **Helen Huang**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./1995/National Taiwan University  
M.S./1997/National Taiwan University

### **Chris Hymel**

Ph.D. - Neuroscience  
B.S./1980/Texas A&M University at  
College Station  
M.S./1982/Texas A&M University at  
College Station

### **Autumn Jackson**

M.D./Ph.D. - Immunology  
B.S./2001/Vanderbilt University

### **Evan Johnson**

M.S. - Physiology



B.A./2000/College of William & Mary  
in Virginia

**Terry Johnson**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./2001/Kansas State University

**Keith Kline**

Ph.D. - Neuroscience  
B.S./2001/Texas A&M University at  
College Station

**Karen Kortum**

Ph.D. - Human and Molecular Genetics  
B.S./2001/Texas A&M University at  
College Station

**Magalie Leduc**

Ph.D. - Molecular Pathology  
Dipl./1998/University of Marne la Vallee  
B.S./2000/University of Paris XII

**Christine Lee**

M.S. - Cancer Biology  
M.D./1997/Wayne State University  
B.A./1991/Wellesley College

**Tim Lee**

M.S. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./1997/University of Texas at Austin

**Anita Leung**

Ph.D. - Virology and Gene Therapy  
B.S./2000/University of Arkansas

**Mark Lickteig**

Ph.D. - Neuroscience  
B.A./2001/Carleton College

**Xiaoming Liu**

Ph.D. - Biomathematics and Biostatistics  
B.S./1997/Fudan University  
M.S./2000/Fudan University

**Yaobin Liu**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./1997/Norman Bethune University  
of Medical Science  
M.S./1999/Norman Bethune University  
of Medical Science

**Stephen Lopez**

M.S. - Neuroscience  
B.A./2000/University of Chicago

**Jennifer Malone**

S.M.S. - Genetic Counseling  
B.S./2000/Truman State University

**Hilary Marks**

Ph.D. - Reproductive Biology  
B.S./2001/Trinity University

**Morgan McKeller**

Ph.D. - Immunology  
B.S./1997/Texas A&M University at  
Kingsville  
M.S./2000/Texas A&M University at  
Kingsville

**Richard Mendez**

M.S. - Molecular Pathology  
B.S./1999/University of Houston - Main

**Meghan Minard**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./1998/Trinity University  
M.S./2001/University of Texas  
HSC-Houston GSBS

**Banafsheh Mirnikjoo**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.A./1994/Stockholms Universitet  
M.S./1996/Uppsala Universitet

**Rebecca Montgomery**

M.S. - Human and Molecular Genetics  
B.S./1984/Baylor University

**Julio Morales**

Ph.D. - Biochemistry  
B.S./1998/University of Texas at Austin

**Benjamin Mull**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.A./1996/Rice University

**Matthew Murphy**

Ph.D. - Neuroscience  
B.A./2001/University of Kansas

**Athanasia Panopoulos**

Ph.D. - Immunology  
B.S./1997/University of Michigan at  
Ann Arbor  
M.S./2001/University of Texas  
HSC-Houston GSBS

**Lubna Patrawala**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.A./2001/University of Texas at Austin

**Tramanh Pham**

Ph.D. - Genes and Development  
B.A./2001/University of St. Thomas

**Brian Phillips**

Ph.D. - Molecular Pathology  
B.S./2001/University of Houston-Main

**Krishna Reddy**

M.D./Ph.D. - Microbiology and  
Molecular Genetics  
B.S./2001/University of Texas at El Paso

**Erica Richardson**

Ph.D. - Biochemistry  
B.S./1997/University of Texas at Tyler  
M.S./2001/University of Texas at Tyler

**Robert Rodgers**

Ph.D. - Medical Physics  
B.S./1990/University of Alabama at  
Huntsville  
M.S./1992/University of Alabama at  
Huntsville  
M.S./1993/Georgia Institute of  
Technology

**Graciela Rodriguez**

M.S. - Biochemistry  
B.S./2001/St. Edward's University

**Leslie Roeder**

S.M.S. - Oral Biomaterials  
D.D.S./1983/University of North  
Carolina-Chapel Hill  
B.S./1976/University of Iowa

**Corina Rosales**

Ph.D. - Physiology  
B.S./1999/Michigan State University

**Can Ross**

M.S. - Microbiology and Molecular  
Genetics  
B.S./1997/Texas A&M University -  
Commerce

**Jason Runyan**

Ph.D. - Neuroscience  
B.S./2001/Wheaton College

**Jackeline Santiago**

S.M.S. - Medical Physics  
B.S./1996/University of Puerto Rico  
Humacao University College  
M.S./1998/University of Puerto Rico  
Humacao University College

**Lance Shaner**

Ph.D. - Microbiology and Molecular  
Genetics  
B.S./2001/University of  
Illinois/Urbana-Champaign

**Johnny Simmons**

M.S. - Human and Molecular Genetics  
B.S./2001/University of Kansas

**Meenal Sinha**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./1998/All India Institute of  
Medical Sciences  
M.S./2000/All India Institute of  
Medical Sciences

**Debra Smith**

M.D./Ph.D. - Human and Molecular  
Genetics  
B.S./2000/University of Texas at Austin

**Chunying Song**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./1998/Nankai University  
M.S./2001/Peking Union Medical College

**Leslie Spitz**

Ph.D. - Human and Molecular Genetics  
B.S./2001/Louisiana State University at  
Baton Rouge

**Kevin Spurgers**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.A./1993/Texas Tech University  
M.S./2001/University of Texas  
HSC-Houston GSBS

**Darin Tessier**

M.S. - Molecular Biology  
B.A./1999/University of Colorado at  
Boulder

**Yasmine Valentin**

Ph.D. - Cancer Biology  
B.S./2001/University of Puerto Rico  
Mayaguez Campus

**Lisa Vincent**

Ph.D. - Human and Molecular Genetics  
B.S./2001/University of St. Thomas

**Rebecca Weinberg**

Ph.D. - Medical Physics  
B.S./1999/Middle Tennessee State  
University  
M.S./2001/Vanderbilt University

**Carolyn Wilson**

S.M.S. - Genetic Counseling  
B.S./2000/University of California at  
San Diego

**Christopher Wilson**

M.D./Ph.D. - Molecular Biology  
B.S./2001/University of Wyoming

**Christopher Wilson**

Ph.D. - Biochemistry  
B.S./1998/University of California at  
Davis

**Hannah Wingate**

Ph.D. - Immunology  
B.S./1997/University of New Mexico  
M.S./1999/University of Texas  
HSC-Houston GSBS

**Grant Woodard**

Ph.D. - Toxicology  
B.S./2001/Indiana University

**Qi Wu**

Ph.D. - Environmental and Molecular  
Carcinogenesis  
B.S./1998/China Medical University  
M.S./2001/China Medical University

**Hailing Yang**

Ph.D. - Cell and Regulatory Biology  
B.S./1998/China Medical University  
M.S./2001/China Medical University

**Jun Yang**

Ph.D. - Microbiology and Molecular  
Genetics  
B.S./1994/Qingdao Medical College  
M.S./1999/National Institute for Control  
of Pharmaceutical & Biological Products

**Alyson Zeamer**

Ph.D. - Microbiology and Molecular  
Genetics  
B.S./2001/Texas A&M  
University-College Station

**Jing Zhang**

Ph.D. - Pharmacology  
B.S./2000/Beijing Medical University

**Jing Zhao**

Ph.D. - Biochemistry  
B.S./1998/Beijing Medical University  
M.S./2001/Capital University of  
Medical Sciences

**Xi Zhou**

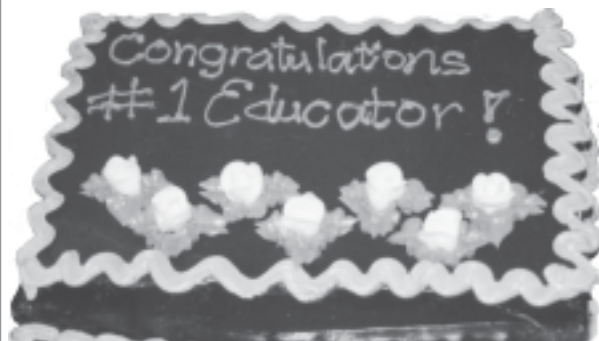
Ph.D. - Microbiology and Molecular  
Genetics  
B.S./2001/Wuhan University

## ***GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION***



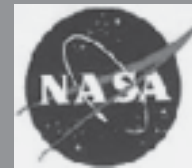
The Graduate Student Association of the GSBS provides a student forum for discussion of common needs, works cooperatively with the faculty and administration, and develops student fellowship and social activities. It performs an important function as the official organization representing the student body. Students recommended by the GSA serve on each of the GSBS Standing Committees. During the year, the GSA sponsors a variety of events including a research symposium in which graduate students describe their current projects.

Graduate Student Association Officers, Jennifer Brannan, President, left, and Secretary, Marissa Shrader, right, greet incoming students at the Dean's Fall Reception. Stacey Ruiz, who is not shown, is Vice President.



Our own dean,  
George Stancel, Ph.D.,  
was named  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center's  
Number One Educator  
for the Month of November.  
Congratulations, Dean Stancel!

# NEWS UPDATE



Students in the GSBS Library attend a Space Life Studies course teleconferenced with the Johnson Space Center at NASA, GSBS, and The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Televised speaker, Dr. Neal Pellis from Johnson Space Center, L-R: Yuko Hayashi, Elizabeth Lafleur, Brian Phillips; seated, L-R, Terry Johnson and Grant Woodard. Classmates not shown, Vanessa Crum and Jarah Meador.



**In a recent open forum** at the Graduate School, James T. Willerson, president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, described the [future home of the GSBS] George and Cynthia Mitchell Basic Science Research Building which is being built on Bertner Avenue, adjacent to M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. This building will be dedicated to biomedical research and will be a collaborative home for both UT-Houston and M. D. Anderson researchers. Dr. Willerson said that he is glad the GSBS will have ‘a new home’ dedicated to supporting the research and discovery process.

## **Science Writing Internship in Communications and Public Affairs, A View from the Inside . . .** **by Kimber Malone, Ph.D.**

Do you love to write? Do you love science? If you answer yes to these questions, then you might want to consider a career in science writing. A science writer crosses the invisible boundaries between programs and departments and delves into the laboratories and minds of top researchers, learning about what they do and what they find most fascinating about their research. A science writer picks up the pen and puts down the pipette, transforming complex ideas into easily understandable sentences as he or she explains science to scientific and nonscientific audiences.

The science writing internship offered by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the Office of Public Affairs at UT-Houston is a way to gain invaluable writing experience, and to see if this type of career is right for you. Just having a doctorate or a master's degree isn't enough to get a job as a science writer; both work experience and “clips” (samples) of your published writing are absolute necessities. The science writing internship offers the opportunity to acquire both of these things, and the good news is, your graduate work doesn't have to be put on hold. Lucky you, you get to write and pipet at the same time.

The UT-Houston Health Science Center Office of Public Affairs, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and the GSBS will offer an Internship in Communications and Public Affairs for the summer session. Contact **Thomas.J.Goka@uth.tmc.edu** for further information.

[A recent GSBS graduate from the program of human genetics, Kimber Malone, Ph.D., is currently employed as a science writer in the UT-Houston Office of Public Affairs.]









## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION 2001

Deborah Anderson  
 Jimmy Caudell, Jr.  
 Hector Garcia  
 Thomas Gegeny  
 Thomas Goka  
 Maureen Goode  
 Richard Hajek  
 Edward Jackson  
 Ann Killary  
 Dolores Lamb  
 Kathryn Louie  
 Suneeta Mahagaokar  
 Jennifer Newcomb Fernandez  
 Karen Niederreither  
 Steven Rosanky  
 Peter Silverman  
 Ben Thomas  
 Brenda Whaley  
 David Wildrick  
 Barbara Williams  
 Jianhua Yang  
 Wei Yu  
 Hong Zhang

...some of my best  
 friends professionally  
 are ones that I met at  
 GSBS and kept in touch  
 with over the years.  
 —Deborah Anderson



Graduate Faculty president for 2001-2002, Jeanie McMillin, Ph.D., receiving gavel from Gary Gallick, Ph.D., president for 2000-2001.

## GSBS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

### Members Reappointed With Commendation

Dr. Stephen P. Daiger

Dr. Sharon Y. R. Dent

Dr. Ann M. Killary

Dr. Pierre D. McCrea

Dr. Michael J. Siciliano

### **NEW REGULAR MEMBERS:**

**Eric L. Brown**, Research Assistant Professor, Extracellular Matrix Biology, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Ph.D., UT-Houston GSBS, 1996, Research interests: immunology; infectious disease; molecular biology

**Susan P. Fisher-Hoch**, Professor, Epidemiology, UT-School of Public Health at Brownsville, M.D., University of London, 1981, Research interests: epidemiology of infectious diseases, particular those diseases most important in developing countries with special interest in the genetics and pathophysiology of disease in Hispanics as compared with other racial groups

**Michael J. Gambello**, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics/Medical Genetics, UT-Houston Medical School, M.D., Ph.D. University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, 1993, Research interests: neurogenetic/development disorders; informatics; mouse models; neurobiology; gene function

**Xiangwei He**, Assistant Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, UT-Houston Medical School, Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, 1997, Research interests: mitosis; chromosome segregation fidelity; kinetochore structure and functions in budding yeast

**Mickey C-T. Hu**, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cellular Oncology, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Ph.D., California Institute of Technology, 1988, Research interests: hormone receptors; signaling pathways; cancer therapy and prevention; biomarkers; proteomics

**Ja Seok (Peter) Koo**, Assistant Professor, Thoracic and Head and Neck Medical Oncology, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1993, Research interests: mucous differentiation of bronchial epithelium; retinoids; nuclear retinoids receptors; inflammation airway secretions; mucin; cytokine

**Rosemary Kozar**, Assistant Professor, Surgery, UT-Houston Medical School, M.D., Temple University School of Medicine, 1986, Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, 1992, Research interests: nutrition; gastrointestinal physiology; energy metabolism; ischemia/reperfusion

**Jingfei Ma**, Assistant Professor, Diagnostic Imaging, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1991, Research interests: magnetic resonance imaging; imaging pulse sequences design; MR image reconstruction algorithm development

**Angabin Matin**, Assistant Professor, Molecular Genetics, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Ph.D., UT-Houston GSBS, 1993, Research interests: identification of genetic loci and genes involved in testicular germ cell tumor development; germ cell biology

**Osama Mawlawi**, Assistant Professor, Diagnostic Radiology/Imaging Physics, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Ph.D., Columbia University, 1999, Research interests: positron emission tomography; kinetic modeling; image acquisition, reconstruction, and quantification; statistical parametric mapping

**C. S. Raman**, Assistant Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, UT-Houston Medical School, Ph.D., UTHSC at San Antonio, 1997, Research interests: signal transduction; axon guidance; gaseous messengers; nitric oxide; heme containing proteins; X-ray crystallography; biophysics

**Mohammad R. Salehpour**, Assistant Professor, Radiation Physics, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Ph.D., University of Missouri-Columbia, 1991, Research interests: intensity modulated radiation therapy; quality assurance in radiation therapy

**Andrew P. Spicer**, Associate Professor, Center for Extracellular Matrix Biology, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Ph.D., University College London, 1993, Research interests: hyaluronan function and biosynthesis during embryogenesis; proteoglycans; mouse development; gene targeting and genetic manipulation in ES cells

#### **NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:**

**Charles E. Butler**, Assistant Professor, Plastic Surgery, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, M.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1990, Research interests: artificial skin; microsurgery; tissue engineering; wound healing; bioimplantable devices; radiation induced tissue injury

**Jeffrey E. Gershenwald**, Assistant Professor, Surgical Oncology, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, M.D., Cornell University Medical College, 1990, Research interests: melanoma; metastasis; gene expression and gene expression profiling; gene regulation; lymphatic metastases; lymphangiogenesis

**Frank C. Marini, III**, Assistant Professor, Blood and Marrow Transplant, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Ph.D., UT Houston-GSBS, 1995, Research interests: viral vectors; modifications to viruses to alter tropism and infectivity; suicide genes; hematopoietic malignancies; stem cells; clinical applications of gene therapies

**Susan M. Ramin**, Associate Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, UT-Houston Medical School, M.D., University of Minnesota, 1984, Research interests: obstetrics and gynecology; maternal-fetal medicine



#### **Kenneth R. Hogstrom, Ph.D. – President-Elect of the Graduate Faculty**

Generous willingness to serve, dedication to our graduate students, and a unanimous vote of confidence transformed Kenneth R. Hogstrom, Ph.D., into the newest president-elect of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences graduate faculty. As the 32<sup>nd</sup> president-elect Dr. Hogstrom will serve as chairman of the Executive Committee for the 2001-2002 academic year, and succeed current faculty president, Dr. Jeanie B. McMillin, in 2002-2003.

Dr. Hogstrom is professor of radiation physics in the Department of Radiation Physics at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. He received his B.S. in physics and M.S. in experimental nuclear physics from the University of Houston, and his Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics from Rice University in 1976. The American Board of Radiology certified Dr. Hogstrom in therapeutic radiological physics in 1992. He chaired the Department of Radiation Physics from 1986 to 2001, and he presently holds the P. H. and Fay Etta Robinson Distinguished Professorship in Cancer Research.

Active in the Graduate School since becoming a faculty member in 1979, Dr. Hogstrom has previously coordinated and taught in numerous medical physics courses and served as a member of several standing committees including the Program Coordinating Committee, Admissions Committee and Specialized Masters Committee. Dr. Hogstrom has supervised ten tutorials, mentored seven students to their M.S. or Ph.D. degrees, and participated on twenty-four advisory/supervisory committees and two examining committees.

Dr. Hogstrom's primary research and clinical interest is to research and develop technology for the radiation oncology clinic at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center so that it offers the best electron beam therapy in the world. As part of that effort he has implemented state-of-the-art tools for optimally planning electron treatments and special techniques for delivering therapeutic irradiation using electron beams. His research in electron-beam transport calculations has also resulted in new and improved methods for measuring and calculating electron dosages.

As director of the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in medical physics in The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Dr. Hogstrom educates students in the clinical and research aspects of Medical Physics, a CAMPEP accredited program. Additionally, he serves as director of education in the Department of Radiation Physics. This includes directing the department's Short Course Program that provides continuing education in medical physics and dosimetry to medical physicists, radiation oncology residents, and medical dosimetrists.

In the last ten years Dr. Hogstrom has received over \$2.7 million in grant funding. Since becoming tenured at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in 1983 Dr. Hogstrom has received the Delaware Valley Chapter Award, AAPM, 1984; Becton-Dickinson Career Achievement Award, Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation, 1988; Robert J. Shalek Award, Southwest Chapter, AAPM, 1991; Faculty Achievement Award in Education, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, 1995; Fellow, AAPM, 1995; Fellow, American College of Medical Physics, 1996; and in 2000 was elected president of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine.



# GSBS AWARDS

## **ALFRED G. KNUDSON OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION**

Named for the distinguished individual known for his landmark contributions to the field of genetics, Dr. Knudson was Dean and Professor of Medical Genetics at the GSBS from 1969-1976 as well as Associate Director of Education at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Established by the Faculty Senate at M. D. Anderson, the \$1,000 award recognizes original research conducted by a student working toward a Ph.D. at the UT-Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. The award also acknowledges the important scientific supervision that M. D. Anderson faculty members provide for GSBS students. The 2001-2002 honoree is:

**Student**

Wendong Huang, Ph.D.

**Supervisory Professor**

Dr. Benoit de Crombrughe

## **HARRY S. & ISABEL C. CAMERON AWARD**

Offered for the first time in 2001-2002, this scholarship provides \$5,000 to an exceptional GSBS student working in research fields relating to Alzheimer's or cardiovascular disease. The \$5,000 gift matched by GSBS in 2001-2002, gives a total of \$10,000 in stipend support. The 2001-2002 winner is:

**Student**

Chengyu Liu

**Supervisory Professor**

Dr. James Martin

## **SCHISLER FOUNDATION FELLOWS**

The Schissler Foundation is a major contributor to the GSBS. For seven years the Foundation has supported students involved in research in the human genetics of common diseases. For the 2001-2002 academic year, The Schissler Foundation is providing funding for two fellowships in the amount of \$22,500 to the following students:



Sumera Hasham

**Student**

Sumera Hasham  
Hongyan Zhong

**Supervisory Professor**

Dr. Dianna Milewicz  
Dr. Michael Blackburn



Hongyan Zhong

## **DEE S. & PATRICIA OSBORNE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE NEUROSCIENCES**

Established in 2001-2002, this award provides \$500 to the winning presenter in the graduate student category at the Annual Neuroscience Poster Session. This award will be formally presented during Brain Awareness Week. The first Osborne Endowed Scholar is:

**Student**

Sarah Nemanic

**Supervisory Professor**

Dr. Jocelyne Bachevalier

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

Established in 2001-2002, this award fosters exceptional students working in the fields of the Behavioral or Neurosciences with areas of addiction or obsessive/compulsive behavior being of foremost interest. The initial value of this scholarship is \$500 to be matched by the GSBS for a total award of \$1,000. This award will be formally presented during Brain Awareness Week. The 2001-2002 scholar is:

**Student**

Dawn Marsh

**Supervisory Professor**

Dr. Donald Dougherty

# GSBS AWARDS

## JOHN P. McGOVERN GSBS SCIENTIFIC POSTER COMPETITION

The nineteenth annual John P. McGovern Scientific Poster Competition for graduate students was held on October 19, 2001. The awards are based on research excellence and presentation, and were selected by a GSBS Faculty committee including Drs. John Clifford, Yong-Jian Geng, Daniel Jones, Kathy O'Keefe, Mandri Obeyesekere, Judith Smith, Kalkunte Srivenugopal, Li-Kuo Su, Ratna Vadlamudi, and Yinhua Yu. Nine awards were made to three categories of students, Master's Degree, Pre-Candidacy Ph.D., and Post-Candidacy Ph.D. First Place, \$400; Second Place, \$300; Third Place \$200. Winners are:

	<u>Student</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Supervisory Professor</u>
MASTER'S	Alan Zarrinnesan	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Dr. David Loose-Mitchell
	Shailendra Mundhada	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Dr. Craig Mullen
	Darin Tessier	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Dr. Molly Bray
PRE-CANDIDACY	Hays Young	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Dr. Michael Blackburn
	Theodore Steger	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Dr. Edward Jackson
	Joshua Krumenacker	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place (tie)	Dr. Ferid Murad
	Jarah Meador	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place (tie)	Dr. David Mitchell
POST-CANDIDACY	Sol Bobst	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Dr. Rodney Kellems
	Hui-Wen Lo	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Dr. Francis Ali-Osman
	Hua Wang	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Dr. Wei Zhang

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FELLOWSHIPS

For 30 years the American Legion Auxiliary has been providing scholarships to exceptional GSBS students involved in cancer research. The money for this funding is raised through fun runs, fashion shows, bake sales, bingo games and other labor-intensive activities. The Auxiliary has raised over \$860,000 to present 79 awards to date, many of which are renewable to individuals throughout their doctoral process, and hence provide continuous funding for their research. Each American Legion Auxiliary Award-winning scholar was presented with \$5,000. They are:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Supervisory Professor</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Supervisory Professor</u>
Cherie Butts	Dr. Ralph Freedman	Elizabeth Nielsen	Dr. Peng Huang
Rebecca Hamm	Dr. Timothy McDonnell	Katherine Roeder	Dr. Jill Schumacher
Joshua Krumenacker	Dr. Ferid Murad	Jamie Russell	Dr. David Johnson
Elizabeth Lafleur	Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman	Aurora Seminara	Dr. Ferid Murad
Leta Nutt	Dr. David McConkey	Susan Toole	Dr. Francis Ali-Osman



American Legion Auxiliary scholarship winners and benefactors. Standing, left to right, Nancye Whitson, ALA; Susan Toole, Rebecca Hamm, Josh Krumenacker, Jamie Russell, Katie Roeder, Cherie Butts, and Elizabeth Oldham, scholars; Irma Sonntag, ALA. Seated ALA members: Katherine Morris, Helen Zann, Carlene Ashworth, Myra Hester; ALA president, Betty Rohan; ALA member Lee Dugenske.

# THANK YOU !

## SPECIAL THANKS

### **Benefactors**

American Legion Auxiliary  
Cancer Answers, Inc.  
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Martel Foundation, Inc.

John P. McGovern, M.D.  
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Linda & Ronny Finger Foundation  
Harry S. & Isabel C. Cameron Foundation  
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## WITH GRATITUDE

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Leonard Zwelling





**“Breakthrough,” the title of a sculpture** given by artist, Dr. Eugene Brams, now resides at the entry of the GSBS.

The mirror-image seabirds, nicknamed ‘Watson and Crick’ after the Nobel Prize winners who discovered DNA, are carved in pink, striated Colorado alabaster. Noted on the sculpture’s base is the message, “touch the birds” for good luck.



Sally Kim, center, GSBS Fulbright Scholarship winner, is updating UT-H Health Science Center public affairs assistant vice president Jane Brust, left, and GSBS Dean George Stancel, right, after nearly a year in Germany at the Max Planck Institute working with noted biophysicist, Petra Schwille. Her advisor is Neal Waxham, Ph.D.

## KUDOS

- Jason Stafford was awarded the first place for the John C. American Young Investigators Competition at the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. His advisor is John Hazle, Ph.D.
- The Cell & Regulatory Biology Program organized the first annual Graduate Student Achievement Awards based on scholarly accomplishment and service to the academic community. Award winners included: Fariba Behbod, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, advised by Dr. Robert Kirken; Joshua Krumenacker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, advised by Dr. Fried Murad; Cherie Butts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, advised by Dr. Ralph Freedman.
- Student Intercouncil (SIC) donated \$400 to the September 11<sup>th</sup> Fund on behalf of all students.
- M. D. Anderson Cancer Center 2001 Faculty Achievement Awards were presented to two GSBS faculty: Sharon Dent, Ph.D., Basic Research; Bradley McIntyre, Ph.D., Education.
- GSBS Men’s Softball Team won the 2001 TMC League Championship. Competing against the 12 best teams from the institutions of the Texas Medical Center, the GSBS men’s softball team won the Men’s Division of the UT Rec Center’s Fall Softball League. For their efforts the GSBS team was awarded a plaque (now on display in the Graduate School offices) and celebratory t-shirts. Members of the team included **Gene Lang, Ted Steger, John Kurland, Josh Krumenacker, Kevin Spurgers, Lawrence Lee, Matt Lawrenz, Jason Mitchell, John Ksar, Nick Koch, and Dillon Phan.** Marissa Shrader served as the team’s official scorekeeper.



Hi, Alumni!

Welcome to another year of the GBBS Alumni Association! I hope that you were able to attend the Reunion in November. If not, please do check out the pictures in this issue of the newsletter to see what you missed. (Especially Dean Stancel in his Texas tux!) We had a great time at St. Arnold's Brewing Company sampling the wares, eating barbecue, and catching up with our friends. Our founding President, Ann Killary (1980), passed the gavel (actually, a brick from the old GSBS building) to me, and as the new President, I am looking forward to another year of working with the GSBS Steering Committee to help alumni keep in touch, assist GSBS students, and inform the community about the importance of science education and research. I hope you will work with us on these things. Remember, this is **YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**. All GSBS graduates are automatic members, and there are no dues. All we ask for is your enthusiasm and participation. See below for information on our web site, on nominating your fellow alumni for the Distinguished Alumni Award, and on participating in our exciting In-Reach Mentoring Program.

Maureen E. Goode, Ph.D. (1985)

President, GSBS Alumni Association

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**Alumni Association Web Site:** All about the Alumni Association. [gsbs.gs.uth.tmc.edu/alumni/index.html](http://gsbs.gs.uth.tmc.edu/alumni/index.html)

**In-Reach Mentoring Program:** GSBS alumni in a wide variety of jobs helping GSBS students with their career decisions. The Alumni Career Advisory Network is an on-line database of alumni who are resources for information on their fields, the Job Shadow Program gives students a realistic look at what it's like to do certain jobs, and the E-Mail Mentors answer students' career questions by e-mail. **Students**, see the Alumni Association web site for a list of participants. **Alumni**, sign up with the form on the web site, or contact Dr. Brenda Whaley (1995) ([bwhaley@hbu.edu](mailto:bwhaley@hbu.edu); Telephone: 281-649-3000 ext. 2344).

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**Nominations for Distinguished Alumni Award:** Nominate your fellow alumni who are nationally recognized as leaders in their fields. Send their names and contact information to Linda Carter ([Linda.M.Carter@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Linda.M.Carter@uth.tmc.edu); Telephone: 713-500-9865; FAX: 713.500.9877) or Alumni Association, The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston, P.O. Box 20334, Houston, Texas 77225-0334. All nominations must be received by March 15.

NOMINATION \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

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**Newsletter**    *Editor: Linda Carter    Graphic Design: Jeannice Theriot*



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Address Correction Requested