



Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Quarterly Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2011-2012

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

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(Pharm 1977)

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Director of Postdoctoral and Postgraduate Affairs

Let Us Hear From You

GSBS Alumni Newsletter is published quarterly by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. Inquiries or comments may be directed to Joanna Bremer, editor, by:

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- writing to 301 University Boulevard, Galveston, TX 77555-1050,
- fax to (409) 772-5420, or
- email to jobremer@utmb.edu.



Guests fill the room at the Awards and Scholarships Luncheon.

GSBS Awards and Scholarships Luncheon Recognizes 79 Exceptional Scholars

On November 4, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences held its annual Awards and Scholarship Luncheon, designed to recognize the achievements of the exceptional people who study science, conduct research and contribute to the success of research at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Ninety-two awards and scholarships worth \$153,265 went to 79 GSBS students and postdoctoral fellows.

Dr. Cary Cooper, dean of the Graduate School and interim executive vice president and provost, welcomed nearly 200 students and family, UTMB benefactors, faculty and staff to the event at the San Luis Resort and Conference Center in Galveston. While the feature of the program was the presentation of the awards by Drs. Dorian Coppenhaver, senior associate dean for student affairs, and Norbert Herzog,

associate dean for recruiting, UTMB President David Callender, MD, addressed the audience.

"For 120 years UTMB has continually defined the future, in large measure because of our students and their commitment to improving the health of society in our state, nation and world," he said. Dr. Callender

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Graduate School Selects 2 for Teaching Excellence Professorships

Ashok Chopra, PhD, CSc, professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and Pomila Singh, PhD, professor in the Departments of Neuroscience & Cell Biology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Internal Medicine, recently accepted appointments to professorships for teaching excellence in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Chopra will hold the Dr. Leon Bromberg Professorship for Excellence in Teaching for academic years 2012 and 2013. Singh is the Mary and J. Palmer Saunders Professor for Excellence

in Teaching for the same term. The endowments provide funding for special teaching projects the professors choose to undertake.

These are the highest honors the Graduate School bestows in recognizing outstanding faculty for extraordinary efforts in teaching and mentoring students.

After earning bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in microbiology from Kurukshetra University in India, Chopra went to the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague from 1982 to 1984 as a UNESCO Fellow at the Institute of Microbiology and earned candidate of science degree



Dr. Chopra

Dr. Singh

(CSc in molecular and cellular biology). He came to UTMB in 1984, and in 1985 was awarded a McLaughlin Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Microbiology. He has worked

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GSBS Alumni News

Meeting Notes from GSBS Associates Executive Committee

The GSBS Associates Executive Committee met August 23 at Fisherman's Wharf in Galveston.

Following are highlights of the meeting:

Dr. Joan Nichols, associate director, research & operations, Galveston National Laboratory (GNL) at UTMB, gave an extensive presentation about the GNL. She demonstrated protective clothing, distributed literature and answered questions.

Dr. Barbara Sasser, in her last act as president, presented the slate of officers and new members elected for 2011-2012. They were seated by acclamation. Dr. Sasser received a round of applause and a gift for her service.

Ms. Dixie Mullins, assistant vice president, alumni relations and annual giving, presented updated information about dues income for the GSBS Associates, and discussed gift appeals, the cost of raising money, scholarships, and the growth in alumni membership. She also said her office is getting ready to launch a new UTMB Alumni website, and asked the board to visit the site and give feedback to help improve it. She advised them to create an ID and password to fully log-in and be able to see all of the features. Ms. Mullins also called attention to 2012 UTMB Homecoming Weekend, March 8-10, and invited the officers and board to attend as many events as possible.

Dr. Cary Cooper, GSBS dean and executive vice president and provost, *ad interim*, reviewed the impact of the state budget on GSBS operations. While state funds for UTMB have seemingly increased over that of earlier this year, in general, state funding for public education is decreasing steadily. In the not-too-distant future, he said university administration is anticipating state funding at 10% of the total UTMB budget, such that we will no longer be state supported, but rather state assisted. Dr. Cooper said the good news is that funding from philanthropy, clinical income and research income continues. Further good news is that the state did not cut us off completely – the State Legislature authorized tuition revenue bonds for the proposed replacement Jennie Sealy Hospital and matching money for FEMA funds for post-Ike reconstruction. Thus, while we have suffered some cuts, much good is happening.

Ms. Jo Bremer, director of postgraduate affairs, asked the committee to authorize use of dues income to pay for the student portraits in their caps and gowns at commencement, which it did.

Dr. James Templer, newly seated as president, asked for volunteers to review and revise the bylaws. Ms. Bremer said absent board member Dr. Jacques Baillargeon, Jr. might serve, and three volunteers who responded to the appeal on the election ballot also might be willing. Dr. Ralph Henderson also volunteered. Dr. Templer said he would follow up.

Participants at the Career Forum in March 2011, suggested periodic meetings of students with alumni, to talk about career opportunities and related matters. The board suggested a committee to plan and implement round table discussions, and perhaps live chats on-line. Dr. Templer asked for volunteers to help get this project organized. He will follow up.

The next meeting will be during Homecoming, after the Dean's Breakfast on Saturday, March 10, 2012. The gathering will be in the GSBS Conference Room, 4.438 Levin Hall, at 10:30 a.m. All alumni at Homecoming are invited to attend.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ralph Henderson, Jr., Ph.D., Recording Secretary

GSBS Associates Officers and Board Members 2011-12

Name	Office	Location	Program	Year
James Templer	President	League City	IMH	2002
Bob Fader	President-Elect	Temple	M&I	1980
Ralph Henderson	Recording Secretary	Shreveport, La.	HBC&G	1970
Barbara Sasser	Past President	Galveston	HBC&G	1983
Jacques Baillargeon Jr.	Board Member	Galveston	PMCH	1997
Tony DiNuzzo	Board Member	Galveston	PMCH	2004
John Garvish	Board Member	Austin	M&I	1999
Lexi Nolen	Board Member	Galveston	IMH	2002
Vicente Santa Cruz	Board Member	Houston	Ex Path	2001
H. David Shine	Board Member	Houston	CPMB	1980
Kathryn Stream	Board Member	Denton, Tx.	PMCH	1982
Lee Woodson	Board Member	Galveston	MD, PhD – PHTO	1977

Nominations Open for GSBS Distinguished Alumnus Award

The Graduate School annually presents the Distinguished Alumnus Award during Commencement ceremonies to a graduate who has achieved special recognition in his or her professional career. This year, the award will be presented at 4 p.m. Friday, May 4, at William C. Levin Hall. The recipient must be able to attend.

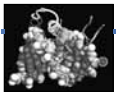
The nominee should have received a masters or doctoral degree from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at UTMB. His or her contributions might include research, teaching, science or academic administration, consulting, editing, leading scientific societies, participating in symposia, and the like.

To nominate a graduate, send a letter of recommendation and a current CV of the person you're nominating no later than March 1 to the attention of the Dean, UTMB Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, 301 University Boulevard, Galveston, TX 77555-1050, or by email to atropea@utmb.edu.

Previous Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients are:

Joe Wood, PhD	1976
Melvin Hess, PhD	1977
Leroy Olson, PhD	1978
Gilbert Castro, PhD	1979
William B. Stavinoha, PhD	1980
Sam Kolmen, PhD	1981
Erle Adrian, PhD	1982
Johannes Van Lier, PhD	1983
Matthew LaVail, PhD	1984
Daniel Traber, PhD	1985
Martin Wasserman, PhD	1986

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GSBS Alumni News

Save the Date: Homecoming March 8–10

Friday, March 9, 2012

Morning activities for all alumni will take place at the Conference Center of the San Luis Resort, 5222 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston. Map and directions: <http://www.sanluisresort.com/maps-directions/index.cfm>. Events include welcomes by officers of the alumni associations and the State of the University address by President David L. Callender, the UTMB Cyber Café and Info Mart and Old Red “Fauxtos.” A popular feature is continuing education, which will focus on: **The Impact of Health Care Reform—Questions Everyone Is Thinking but Afraid to Ask.**

GSBS Events

All the activities specific to the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences will be Friday afternoon at William C. Levin Hall, Market at 11th, Galveston:

2:30–3:30 p.m. – UTMB Campus Tour, to be led by officers and members of the Graduate Student Organization

4–5 p.m. – The annual GSBS Dean’s Lecture, by Dr. B. Montgomery Pettitt, incoming director of the Sealy Center for Structural Biology and professor in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

5–6 p.m. – The annual Dean’s Reception and group photo of GSBS alumni

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Morning activities for all the alumni are scheduled at Levin Hall.

7:30–9 a.m. Breakfast with the deans of the four schools

9–10 a.m. School Updates by each of the deans:

- Cary W. Cooper, PhD
Interim Executive Vice President, Provost and Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- Elizabeth Protas, PT, PhD, FACS, FAPTA
Vice President and Dean, School of Health Professions
- Donald S. Prough, MD
Interim Vice President and Dean, School of Medicine
- Pamela G. Watson, RN, ScD
Vice President for Education and Dean, School of Nursing

10 a.m.–Noon UTMB College:

- 10-11am: “Research in Inflammation and the Promise It Holds for Chronic Diseases”
Featuring: David N. Herndon, MD, FACS, Director of Burn Services, Professor of Surgery & Pediatrics, Jesse H. Jones Distinguished Chair in Surgery, Chief of Staff & Director of Research, Shriners Burns Hospital for Children
- 11-12 noon: “How to be 80... Secrets of Successful Aging”
Featuring: James S. Goodwin, MD, Director, Sealy Center on Aging, George & Cynthia Mitchell Distinguished Chair in Geriatric Medicine

10 a.m.–2 p.m. The UTMB Bookstore, Moody Medical Library, ground floor, will be open.

Invitations, with detailed agenda and costs, will be mailed in February. Register online at www.utmb.edu/homecoming.



A briefing in the Galveston National Laboratory will be a feature of the GSBS Campus Tour on Friday afternoon of Homecoming.

GSBS Distinguished Alumni

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Thomas M. Crisp, PhD	1987
Jerry Daniels, MD, PhD	1990
J. Arly Nelson, PhD	1991
J. Paul Heible, PhD.	1993
Mary T. Moslen, PhD	1994
Susan Lynn Naylor, PhD	1995
T. C. Hsu, PhD	1996
Richard Drummond, PhD	1997
Burhan Ghanayem, PhD	1998
Kenneth Carter, PhD	1999
Fernando M. Trevino, PhD,MPH	2000
Mary E. Guinan, PhD, MD	2001
Evelyn Tiffany Castiglioni, PhD	2002
Ben G. Raimer, MD	2003
Robert Urban, PhD	2004
Harvey Bunce III, PhD	2005
Cynthia Robbins Roth, PhD	2006
James H. Jorgensen, MD.	2007
John M. Nickerson, PhD	2008
Faith McLellan, PhD	2009
Gailen D. Marshall, Jr., MD, PhD	2010
George R. Jackson, MD, PhD	2011



At left: Awards are lined up ready to be distributed. At right: Donna Vickers, left, administrative coordinator for the Medical Humanities Program, receives her award from Christina van Lier, GSO president.



GSBS Awards and Scholarships Luncheon Recognizes 79 Exceptional Scholars

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also offered congratulations to the students and thanks to the benefactors who endowed the awards.

Each year the Graduate Student Organization (GSO), after considering feedback from the graduate students, selects one person to honor in each of three categories. Christina van Lier, GSO president, presented the GSO Student Award, sponsored by the University Federal Credit Union, to Christof Straub, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, for his valuable contributions to graduate student interests; the GSO Program Coordinator Award to Donna Vickers, Administrative Coordinator, Medical Humanities, for efforts beyond her duties to insure students' best chance for advancement; and the GSO Faculty Award for Student Advocacy to Herzog, professor in the Department of Pathology and UT System Distinguished Teaching Professor, for his repeated concern for student rights and issues, and for acting on behalf of the student body.



Kristen Peek, PhD, center, with Drs. Cary Cooper, left, and David Callender.

Faculty Receive Graduate Program Teaching Awards

The ceremony also allows students to recognize and thank faculty members who most inspired them throughout their program experience. Six faculty members who received Graduate Program Teaching Awards were: Jose Barral, MD, PhD, Neuroscience & Cell Biology; Ann Hudson Jones, PhD, Medical Humanities; Rolf Konig, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology; Volker Neugebauer, MD, PhD, Neuroscience & Cell Biology; M. Kristen Peek, PhD, Preventive Medicine & Community Health, and Vsevolod L. Popov, PhD, Experimental Pathology.



Award-winning students in the Pathology Department gather with faculty and staff to celebrate the occasion.

GSBS Awards and Scholarships and the Students Receiving Them

Marie and Talbert Aulds Scholarship Award

Abiola E. Williams
Nursing

James E. Beall II Memorial Scholarship

Christof Straub
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

James E. Beall II Memorial Award in Anatomy and Neurosciences

Emily S. Stieren
Neuroscience

William Bennett Bean Scholarship in the Medical Humanities

Andrew M. Childress
Medical Humanities

Robert Bennett Tuition Scholarship

Eric D. Carlsen
Microbiology and Immunology
Olga A. Kolokoltsova
Experimental Pathology

Biological Chemistry Student Organization (BCSO) Award

Hung Q. Doan
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Marianne Blum, PhD Endowed Scholarship

Paige S. Spencer
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Barbara Bowman Memorial Award for Research Excellence

Abhijnan Chattopadhyay
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Levani Zandarashvili
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Dennis Bowman Memorial Scholarship

Alexey V. Seregin
Experimental Pathology

Chester R. Burns Institute for the Medical Humanities Alumni Award

Alina M. Bennett
Medical Humanities

Zelda Zinn Casper Endowed Scholarship



Tiffany M. Mott

Tiffany M. Mott
Microbiology and Immunology

Kay and Cary W. Cooper, PhD Scholarship

Hung Q. Doan
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Emily E. Dupree Endowed Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation Science

Rafael Samper-Ternent
Clinical Science

Dr. David C. Eiland, Jr. Scholarship Award in Health Care and Humanities

Rimma Osipov
Medical Humanities

Seymour Fisher Academic Excellence Award in Neuroscience

John F. Anderson
Neuroscience

Lindsay C. Reese
Neuroscience
Jason R. Thonhoff
Neuroscience

GSBS Associates Scholarship

Mathieu F.W. Bakhoum
Neuroscience
Catherine M. Rondelli
Cell Biology

GSBS Associates Travel Award Presented in Memory of Christina Fleischmann

Rafael Samper-Ternent
Clinical Science
Christof Straub
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Mason Guest Scholar Award



Mathieu Bakhoum, MD, PhD student, escorts his fiancée, Christine Younan, to the lunch.

Adam Boretsky
Human Pathophysiology and Translational Medicine

Ann and John Hamilton Endowed Scholarship

Keerthi Gottipati
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Robert Harrison, MD, Memorial MD/PhD Endowment

Emily S. Stieren
Neuroscience

Elias Hochman Research Award

Anita L. Reno
Cell Biology

James A. Hokanson, PhD Endowed Scholarship

Jazmin Ruiz
Population Health Sciences

Jen Chieh and Katherine Huang Scholarship

Mathieu F.W. Bakhoum
Neuroscience

Dr. Mary Faggard Kanz Travel Award for Environmental Toxicology

Catherine M. Rondelli
Cell Biology

Curtis W. Lambert Scholarship

Larry J. Bellot
Cell Biology

Medical Humanities Endowed Scholarship

Alina M. Bennett
Medical Humanities

James W. McLaughlin Fellowships

Julia K. Bohannon
Postdoctoral Critical Research Skills
Kimberlee Burckart
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Veronica E. Calderon
Experimental Pathology
Anthony Cao
Microbiology and Immunology
Erika Caro Gomez



Jazmin Ruiz



GSBS Awards and Scholarships and the Students Receiving Them

Experimental Pathology
 Keerthi Gottipati
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
 Ashley M. Grant
Experimental Pathology
 Zuliang Jie
Microbiology and Immunology
 Birte K. Kalveram
Postdoctoral Critical Research Skills
 Katalin Modis
Postdoctoral Translational Research
 Shin Murakami
Postdoctoral Critical Research Skills
 Omar Saldarriaga
Postdoctoral Critical Research Skills
 Bruno M. Teixeira
Postdoctoral Critical Research Skills
 Frances D. Valencia
Experimental Pathology
 Jingya Xia
Microbiology and Immunology

Irma Mendoza Scholarship

Christof Straub
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Regina R. and Alfonso J. Mercatante Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Jacqueline S. Stout
Nursing Education



Jacqueline S. Stout

Don W. Micks Scholarship in Preventive Medicine and Community Health

Jazmin Ruiz
Population Health Sciences
 Rafael Samper-Ternent
Clinical Science

Bohdan R. Nechay Scholarship

Muayad F. Almahariq
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Elaine L. Nicholson, RN Fund for Graduate Nursing Education

Roy L. Trahan
Nursing Education

Lois E. Nickerson, RN Endowed Scholarship

Nitha Mathew
Nursing Education

David and Janet Niesel Scholarship

Taslima T. Lina
Microbiology and Immunology
 Sandra S. McNeely
Nursing

Leroy Olson, PhD Endowed Scholarship

Sarah E. Swinford
Neurosciences

Charles F. Otis Endowed Award for Clinical Research

Kirk L. English
Rehabilitation Sciences

Shirley Patricia Parker Scholarship

Larry J. Bellot
Cell Biology

Jason E. Perlman Research Award

ThuyQuynh N. Do
Population Health Sciences

Edward S. Reynolds Jr., MD Experimental Pathology Graduate Scholarship

Jeeba A. Kuriakose
Experimental Pathology

George Palmer Saunders II Memorial Scholarship

Tod A. Harper
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Margaret Saunders Travel Award

Mathieu F.W. Bakhoun
Neuroscience
 Emily S. Stieren
Neuroscience

Peyton and Lydia Schapper Endowed Scholarship

Jordan B. Jahrling
Neuroscience
 Amit Kumar
Population Health Sciences

Michael Tacheeni Scott Endowed Scholarship

Abhisek Mukherjee
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

George Sealy Research Award in Neurology

Adrienne De La Cruz
Neuroscience

Sealy Center on Aging Graduate Student Award

Paul T. Reidy
Rehabilitation Sciences

Sealy Center for Vaccine Development Graduate Student Award



Kenneth S. Plante

Kenneth S. Plante
Experimental Pathology

Robert Shope PhD Endowed Scholarship

Alexey V. Seregin
Experimental Pathology
 Evandro R. Winkelmann
Experimental Pathology

Sjoerd Steunebrink Scholarship Endowment

Veronica E. Calderon
Experimental Pathology
 Luis E. Espinoza
Cell Biology
 Kimberly K. Gray
Medical Humanities
 Julie E. Kutac
Medical Humanities
 Robert D. Malmstrom
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

William R. Miller
Neuroscience
 Michelle Poe
Nursing
 Sara E. Woodson
Experimental Pathology

Katherina Siebert Award for Excellence in Oncologic Research



Carla Kantara

Carla Kantara
Cell Biology

Stephen C. Silverthorne Memorial Award

Shelly R. Wilson
Cell Biology

Puri-Singh Scholarship for Excellence in Cancer Cell Biology

Serena L. Clark
Cell Biology
 Carla Kantara
Cell Biology

Arthur V. Simmag Scholarship Fund

ThuyQuynh N. Do
Population Health Sciences
 David Gundermann
Rehabilitation Sciences
 Carla Kantara
Cell Biology
 Jeeba A. Kuriakose
Experimental Pathology
 Abhisek Mukherjee
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology



Abhisek Mukherjee

John Stanton Scholarship

Tiffany M. Mott
Microbiology and Immunology

University Federal Credit Union Dean's Award for Service

Ashley Purgason
Population Health Sciences

University Federal Credit Union Scholarship

Allison R. McMullen
Experimental Pathology

UTMB Retirees Scholarship Award

Latham H.L. Fink
Experimental Pathology

Rose and Harry Walk Research Award

Abhijnan Chattopadhyay
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Robert A. Welch Award for Excellence in Graduate Research in Chemistry

Alexandre Esadze
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Jane Welsh Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Research

Hung Q. Doan
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

GSBS Awards and Scholarships

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Betty Williams Scholarship

Kenneth S. Plante
Experimental Pathology
Emily S. Stieren
Neuroscience

WHO Collaborating Center for Tropical Diseases Graduate Student Award

Thomas R. Shelite
Experimental Pathology

Zhou Sisters Great Expectations Scholarship

David Gundermann
Rehabilitation Sciences
Olga A. Kolokoltsova
Experimental Pathology
Michael Patterson
Experimental Pathology



**Edith and Robert Zinn
Presidential Scholarship**
Levani Zandarashvili
Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology

Levani Zandarashvili

Shirley and Albert E. Sanders, MD Presidential Scholarship Fund

Krisann E. Muskiewicz
Medical Humanities
Jiin-Yu Chen
Medical Humanities

University Federal Credit Union Graduate Student Organization Award

Christof Straub
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology



Students who received awards for their poster presentations at the Forum on Aging are, from left, Sang N. Nam, Lawrence J. Panas, Jaime Benarroch-Gampel, Jennifer Coben, Dr. James Goodwin (director, Sealy Center on Aging), Scott Schechter, David Gundermann, Dustin Dwiggins and Mathieu Bakkoum.

Aging Poster Session Features 78 Projects

Eight graduate and medical students received awards for their poster presentations at the 15th Annual UTMB Forum on Aging in Levin Hall on November 17.

More than 150 students, postdocs, faculty and staff attended the popular campus event, designed to inform the campus about aging research taking place at UTMB and of the resources available from the Sealy Center on Aging and Research Services.

The posters, representing five different research categories, were judged by UTMB postdoctoral fellows and faculty members. Awards were based on a scoring system with several layers of criteria including how well the research project was carried out and expressed in the poster presentation, plus the level of expertise demonstrated by the student when asked by judges to describe and explain the significance of results, ideas for future studies, and the study strengths and weaknesses. Overall, the poster evaluation is designed as a positive learning experience for the students, according to Dr. Anthony DiNuzzo, assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine-Geriatrics, who organized the Forum.

The categories, titles, winners and co-authors are:

MSTAR (Medical Student Training in Aging Research) Research:

ESSENTIAL AMINO ACID INGESTION AFTER EXERCISE ENHANCES AMINO ACID TRANSPORTER EXPRESSION IN HUMAN SKELETAL MUSCLE

Student winner: **Jennifer Coben**, UTMB School of Medicine
Mentors: J.M. Dickinson and B.B. Rasmussen, UTMB Department of Nutrition and Metabolism.

Comparative Effectiveness Research: **COLONOSCOPIST AND PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN SUPPLY AND DISPARITIES IN COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING**

Student winner: **Jamie Benarroch-Gampel**, UTMB Department of Surgery
Mentors: K.M. Sheffield and T.S. Riall, UTMB Department of Surgery.

Clinical Epidemiology: **SINGLE AND MULTI-DECREMENT LIFE TABLES FOR NON-HISPANIC WHITES AND HISPANICS IN THE SOUTHWEST UNITED STATES**

Student winner: **Lawrence J. Panas**, UTMB Division of Rehabilitation Sciences;
Mentor: K.A. Eschbach, Geriatrics, Internal Medicine.

WAIST CIRCUMFERENCE, BODY MASS INDEX, AND DISABILITY AMONG OLDER ADULTS IN LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN

Student winner: **Sang N. Nam**, UTMB Division of Rehabilitation Sciences
Mentors: K.M. Markides, UTMB Department of Preventive Medicine & Community Health and S. Al Snih, UTMB Division of Rehabilitation Sciences.

Clinical Physiology:

SKELETAL MUSCLE SIGNALING RESPONSES IN ADULT MALES FOLLOWING MEALS CONTAINING ANIMAL OR PLANT BASED PROTEIN

Student winner: **Scott Schechter**, UTMB School of Medicine
Mentors: W. Durham and M. Sheffield-Moore, UTMB Department of Internal Medicine-Endocrinology.

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The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences wishes to thank all of our alumni and friends whose generous contributions made these awards and scholarships possible.

Postdoctoral News

OPS Puts on Second Postdokterfest

About 150 postdocs and graduate students devoured a virtual ton of brats, hot dogs and veggie dogs cooked for them by GSBS vice dean, Dr. David Niesel, at the second annual Postdokterfest, sponsored by the Organization of Postdoctoral Scientists (OPS) and the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) in mid-October.

Dr. Douglas Botkin, president of the OPS, and for another year dressed in traditional lederhosen for the occasion, was impressed with the turnout and the wonderful weather. He also thanked the GSO and its officers, Christina van Lier and Brian Mann, for their assistance with decorations and logistics. The graduate students pulled together to help deck the windy outdoor space with the traditional blue and white colors of the festival along with tables sprinkled with German candies. The GSO also bought and served a German chocolate cake for dessert. "The graduate students were happy to support and recognize the postdocs that they will one day become," said van Lier.

GSBS Dean Dr. Cary Cooper helped Niesel with shopping the morning of the event. In addition to the meat items, they purchased buns, sauerkraut, pickles and chips for the crowd. Niesel stood at the grill into the small hours of the night, cooking 200 bratwurst sausages to serve. He got a hand setting up, cooking and serving hot dogs and veggie dogs from Dr. Bruce Neibuhr, associate professor of physician assistant studies in the School of Health Professions, and Dr. Istvan Boldogh, professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology.

Dr. Melissa Markofski, OPS vice president, managed door prizes, which were donated by the UTMB Bookstore, the MD/PhD Program and the Graduate School. Students and children played the games on the Moody Medical Library plaza after eating. Several small conversational groups lingered long after the GSO stowed all the tables and chairs, the grill cooled off and the empty beer kegs returned.

Drs. Shane Massey, OPS project manager, and Chad Mire, whose badges identified them as the official liquid refreshment distributors, said they had a steady stream of customers for the Shiner Oktoberfest beer on tap.



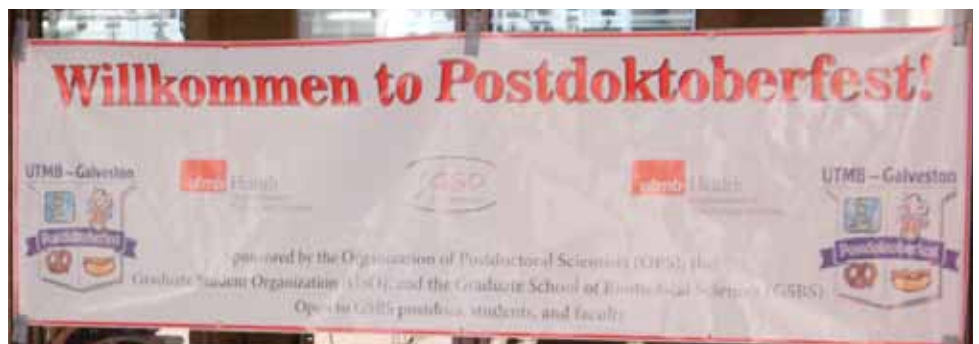
Dr. David Niesel, right, was the grillmeister at the Postdokterfest. But he received help from Drs. Bruce Neibuhr, left, and Cary Cooper, interim executive vice president and provost.



Drs. Shane Massey, Doug Botkin and Chad Mire were the official liquid refreshment distributors, for which they had to tap several kegs of Oktoberfest beer to meet the demand.



Christina van Lier, left, and Brian Mann, GSO president and vice president, handed out German chocolate cake.





Two GSBS Faculty Elected to Academy of Master Teachers

Two Graduate School faculty members are among eight inducted recently into the UTMB Academy of Master Teachers (AMT), bringing to 65 the number of past and present members. The academy was established in 2007 as a service organization to recognize and honor the university's best teachers, advance innovation, promote educational scholarship, and serve the diverse needs of the UTMB community of educators.

The new members for the current academic year are Yolanda Davila, PhD, RN, Associate Professor (SON); Mark D. Holden, MD, FACP, Associate Professor, Internal Medicine (SOM); Caroline W. Stegink-Jansen, PT, PhD, CHT, Associate Professor, Physical Therapy (SHP); Helen M. Jordan, EdD, RN, CNE, Assistant Professor (SON); Rolf Konig, PhD, Professor, Microbiology and Immunology (GSBS); Michelle Sierpina, PhD, Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (Office Of Health Policy & Legislative Affairs); Cheryl J. Vaiani, PhD, Assistant Professor, Institute for the Medical Humanities (GSBS); and Charlotte A. Wisniewski, PhD, RN, BC, CDE, CNE, Associate Professor (SON).

The AMT provides such faculty development opportunities as a Faculty Development Day, Education Symposium, education grand rounds, journal club, innovation grants, mentoring and consultations. Members, selected after a rigorous review process, serve three-year terms and may be designated as University of Texas System Distinguished Teaching Professors.

The new master teachers from the GSBS are:

Rolf Konig, PhD, professor and director of the graduate program in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology (M&I), senior scientist in the Sealy Center for Molecular Medicine, and scientist in the Sealy Center for Vaccine Development. He is a member of the Institute for Human Infections and Immunity and the NIEHS Center in Environmental Toxicology, where he is coordinator for the collaborative research teams and director of Graduate and Health Professions Education. In addition, Dr. Konig is director of the UTMB-wide Tissue Culture Core Facility in M&I.



Dr. Rolf Konig

Dr. Konig received his undergraduate and graduate education at the University of Bern in Switzerland, where he earned his MS and PhD degrees in biology. He pursued research in insect biochemistry and physiology for an additional two years at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and at the University of Bern. In 1987, he joined the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Laboratory of Biochemistry and Metabolism as a postdoctoral fellow. In 1989, he continued his research at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Laboratory of Immunology.

Dr. Konig joined the UTMB faculty in 1993. He currently collaborates with faculty in several departments to study early changes in the transcriptome following exposure to environmental halogenated alkenes, and the potential of these gene expression patterns as biomarkers for chronic inflammation and autoimmunity. In the School of Medicine, Dr. Konig is co-director of the second-year course in Dermatology, Hematology and Musculoskeletal Diseases and as director of the Longitudinal Theme in Evidence-Based Medicine. In 2010, he was Faculty Marshal during the School of Medicine Commencement.

Cheryl J. Vaiani, PhD, a GSBS alumna, is an assistant professor in the Institute for the Medical Humanities and clinical ethicist and director of the Ethics Consultation Service. She is involved in clinical consultation and teaching, and is co-chair of the UTMB Institutional Ethics Committee. Dr. Vaiani co-directs the Practice of Medicine 2 Course in the School of Medicine. Her current research interests include ethical issues involving infants and children and end-of-life care. She is also an instructor in the American Medical Association's program Education for Physicians in End-of-Life Care.



Dr. Cheryl Vaiani

Dr. Vaiani earned a BSN degree in Nursing from the University of Virginia in 1972 and a MSN degree in Maternal-Child Health Nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 1978. She earned her PhD degree in Medical Humanities at UTMB in 1998 and was recognized with the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence. Thereafter, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical ethics at UTMB.

Dr. Vaiani, a clinical nurse specialist and administrator for many years, retired from the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in 1990 as a lieutenant colonel. While in the military, she served as consultant in obstetrical nursing to the Surgeon General of the Army and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Over the last several years, she has been a faculty sponsor for the Military Medical Student Association at UTMB.

In her free time, Dr. Vaiani is active in the Galveston community. She is immediate past president of the Galveston Historical Foundation and a member of the Galveston County Historical Commission. She also chairs the City of Galveston Ethics Commission.

Other Faculty News

Kathryn Fiandt, PhD, professor in the GSBS Nursing Doctoral Program and associate dean for clinical affairs in the School of Nursing, is one of 142 nurse leaders selected as Fellows by American Academy of Nursing. "Membership in the Academy is one of the most prestigious honors in the field of nursing," said Academy President Catherine L. Gillis. Their selection is based on their influence on health policy and health care delivery that benefits a broad population. "Kathryn Fiandt is a national leader in nurse-managed primary health care, a vital and developing component of health care delivery and a leading model for patient-centered health care services," said Pamela G. Watson, dean of the School of Nursing at UTMB.

Fiandt is director of the St. Vincent's House nurse-managed clinic in Galveston, one of five nurse-led innovative primary care programs cited in "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change Advancing Health" report issued by the Institute of Medicine and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Initially established with funding from the UTMB Office of Health Policy and Legislative Affairs, the clinic provides primary care and wellness services for the underserved and serves as a clinical training site for interdisciplinary primary care and community health students.

Meet New GSBS Associates Executive Committee Members

Following are brief profiles of the new members of the GSBS Associates Executive Committee, seated in August. Highlights of the meeting are on Page 2.

Anthony DiNuzzo, PhD, executive committee member, 2011-2013

Name (what do you prefer to be called?):

Tony DiNuzzo

Degree/year/program:

MS, 1993, GSBS, Health Promotion and Gerontology;

PhD, 2003, GSBS, Preventive Medicine and Community Health.

Current employer and title:

Associate Director of Research, Sealy Center on Aging and Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine, Division of Geriatrics

What do you really do?

Associate director for Education for the Sealy Center on Aging, director of the East Texas Geriatric Education Center-Consortium, Director of the Medical Student Training in Aging Research Program, associate director of the UTMB Pepper Older Americans Independence Center, coordinate the Dissemination Core for the Comparative Effectiveness, Research on Cancer in Texas program.

What route did you take to get there?

Began working at UTMB in 1981 in clinical microbiology after finishing a MS degree in biology from Texas A&M. Became interested in aging in 1988 after reading an IMPACT article on the "Graying of America." Enrolled part-time in the Health Promotion & Gerontology MS program in 1989. After completing the program, began working for the Sealy Center on Aging in 1994 as a coordinator of special programs, assisting in several population-based research projects, coordinating the geriatrics grand rounds lecture series, the geriatric fellowship program, and the Forum on Aging (which I still do). In 2002, I wrote the grant proposal for the East Texas Geriatric Education Center funded by HRSA in 2003. We were funded again in the next two cycles (2007 and 2010), doubling the annual allocation from \$200,000/year to \$400,000, when we expanded the East Texas Geriatric Education Center to consortium status.



What would you be doing right now if money were no object?

I play guitar, sing, and write songs. I would be traveling throughout Texas looking for small venues to perform original music where the audience listens, where you can tell your story or the story behind the song, and maybe inspire others to play music. I love being in front of an audience when I can know by the look on their faces that the message or story behind the song is getting through and having an impact. Being in a songwriters-in-the-round can be the most inspiring, awesome experience, with true camaraderie.

Ralph Henderson, Jr., PhD, recording secretary, 2011-2012

Name (what do you prefer to be called?):

Ralph

Degree/year/program:

PhD, August 1970, Biochemistry

Current employer and title:

Retired in November 2005 after 34 years with LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport, La. Was a member of biochemistry faculty 1971-1990 & taught biochemistry to medical students for 30 years. Was professor of medicine from approx. 1992 until retirement. And, served as assistant dean for student affairs from 1991 until I retired.

What do you really do?

I work at staying as healthy as possible as I age, and I return to Galveston Island, place of my birth, as often as possible, to enjoy the island, visit with friends and do volunteer work with GSBS at UTMB.

What route did you take to get there?

Raised by nurturing maternal grandparents, I attended St. John's Lutheran (Elementary) Day School in Galveston, which had a strong science program, Lovenberg Jr. High, and Ball High School, (playing trumpet in the band in junior and senior high) in Galveston. In my youth prior to high school, worked paper routes and as a Western Union boy and played in what was then very competitive Little League Baseball. Earned a BS in chemistry at UT-Austin. Worked for two years as a research chemist at Jefferson Chemical in Austin before entering the PhD program in Biochemistry at UTMB in 1966.



Postdoc at UT Southwestern Medical School and the Veterans Administration in Dallas, for one year before joining the biochemistry faculty at LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport in October, 1971.

What would you be doing right now if money were no object?

I would move back to the isle of my birth and youth, Galveston, and spend at least half of my time helping the GSBS at UTMB with alumni work. Being a Galveston native (BOI), I love the island and I love UTMB and the hallowed halls of this wonderful place of learning in the biological and health sciences.

Vicente Santa Cruz, PhD, executive committee member, 2011-2013

Name (what do you prefer to be called?):

Vicente Santa Cruz

Degree/year/program:

PhD, 2001, Experimental Pathology

Current employer and title:

Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP, The Woodlands, Texas, Project Director

What do you really do?

I work at our corporate headquarters supporting capital projects within the specialty chemicals business unit. I'm responsible for managing development and scale-up of new products from the lab to market production. I also evaluate capital reinvestment at some of our chemical facilities. My work involves leading multidisciplinary groups of experts in chemistry, engineering, toxicology/regulatory, business administration, logistics, and finance to continuously evaluate the risks and keep projects moving to meet commercial timelines.

What route did you take to get there?

I was hired by Chevron Phillips in 2001 as a staff toxicologist, and supported over 600 products that included drilling, mining, polymers, and many other specialty petrochemicals. I was heavily involved in company-specific and industry-wide efforts to assess hazard, exposure, and risks of target chemistries to humans and the environment. In 2007, I was blessed with the opportunity to move my family (wife Raquel, 7-year-old daughter Andrea, 3-year-old son Aaron, yet to be born daughter Ariana, and dog Elmo)



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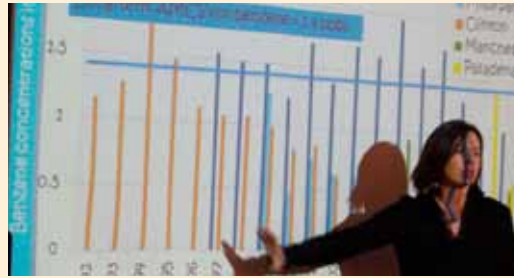
Student News

Alina Bennett, Medical Humanities, received a \$500 travel scholarship from the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) to their Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, October 13-16, 2011.

Erica Fletcher, Medical Humanities, screened her film "Pack and Deliver" in September at the Vox Culture Warehouse in Houston. Pack and Deliver explores the roles and collaborative practices of local social service agencies aiding survivors of human trafficking.

Susan McCammon, MD, Medical Humanities, and assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology, presented "Implementing a Code for Interactions with Industry" at the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Foundation annual meeting in San Francisco in September.

Karon Wynne, Neuroscience and Cell Biology, is participating in research at the Mars Desert Research Station in Hanksville,



Alumna Returns for Presentation to CCD

Quality in Houston, said she spends a large portion of her time meeting with and presenting to community groups around the region. She learned lessons and developed skills for these types of risk communications, as a result of her successes and failures. She shared her experiences with the graduate students and postdoctoral fellows at the seminar.

Carla J. Kinslow, PhD (2008, Pharmacology & Toxicology), returned to the Graduate School December 1 at the request of the Committee for Career Development (CCD). Her presentation was "Communicating Science: Meaningful conversations with communities." Kinslow, senior toxicologist at the Texas Commission on Environmental

Utah, December 16-31. The Mars Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the exploration and settlement of the red planet, initiated the project. Academic backgrounds and proposed research projects are among the criteria the society uses in selecting volunteers. Wynne has been an intern at NASA since 2011. Her research has

investigated ways to protect against space radiation. For the Utah mission, her project will be about how the living situation in the habitat affects crew morale. Wynne's grandfather was a senior systems engineer on the lunar landing module for the Apollo 11 mission.

Meet New GSBS Associates Executive Committee Members

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to Brussels, Belgium. This 3.5 year project was focused on leading our company and industry to establish a working framework that would enable compliance with a new and very stringent European regulation known as REACH. During this time, I served as a hazard and exposure expert to work with regulators and define guidance documents to assist industry in complying with the regulation. My other objective was to establish a new regulatory office in Belgium that would serve Chevron Phillips and all its global affiliates. This was my first true experience managing several multi-million dollar efforts, both for my company and for our industry. As I completed all my project milestones in mid-2010, my executive leadership asked that I return to The Woodlands and take on a different role within the business. From their perspective my science-derived toolset and newly developed skills could be employed to further grow the company. I accepted the opportunity and have been engaged within the business for the last 1.5 years. It has been a great experience, as I have learned about engineering, tax laws, and driving to achieve something economically favorable. It is great to be able to learn something new and overcome challenges, but this has definitely been a humbling experience. On the whole,

I've learned that our training can take us in many directions. We'll see what I really do in two years' time!

What would you be doing right now if money were no object?

I would definitely speed-up a life goal of teaching and establishing a middle school or high school science program in an economically disadvantaged area. I would love to help inspire those children that are thirsty for direction. I would also spend many hours on the soccer field, coaching kids and following my own children around with all of their extramural activities without fail. I would also continue to travel with my family and explore more places around the world. And most importantly, I would remember and finish all the things that my wife and kids have been wanting to do!

Kathryn Stream, PhD, executive committee member, 2011-2013

Name (what do you prefer to be called?):

Kathryn Stream

Degree/year/program:

PhD, 1982, Preventive Medicine and Community Health



Current employer and title:

Retired, since March 2008, as senior vice president, and director, National Center for Human Performance, Texas Medical Center, Houston.

What do you really do?

Appointed in 2008 to the board of the Denton Housing Authority by the Mayor of Denton, Mark Burroughs, and in 2009, to the board of Child Protective Services by County Commissioner, Andy Eads. Currently the Stephen Ministry Leader for First United Methodist Church in Denton and volunteer for Our Daily Bread on a weekly basis.

What route did you take to get there?

In 1998, successfully completed a certificate program at the Wharton College of Business, University of Pennsylvania. Before joining the Texas Medical Center, was vice provost for health affairs, Texas Woman's University, and chief operating officer, Texas Woman's University Institute of Health Sciences in Houston.

What would you be doing right now if money were no object?

What I'm doing right now.

Graduate School Recognizes 2 Faculty Members with Teaching Excellence Professorships

continued from page 1

up the academic ladder to his appointment as tenured professor of microbiology and immunology in 2000 as a result of his continuous research funding, teaching, and involvement in other missions of UTMB. During that time, he trained 13 graduate students and many postdoctoral fellows and published more than 160 peer-reviewed articles.

Chopra also is a senior scientist in the Center for Tropical Diseases, the Sealy Center for Vaccine Development, the Center for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases, the Institute for Human Infections and Immunity, and associate director of the Aerobiology Division, Galveston National Laboratory. Among his many appointments, he chairs the McLaughlin Fellowship Committee, which has significantly increased the number of fellowships available to graduate students and postdoctoral scientists.

One nomination said that Chopra “has been extremely active in teaching, particularly the pathogenic bacteriology course and problem based learning in the medical school. ... He consistently excels as a lecturer, always trying to be innovative.” A former student remembers him spending two hours one evening “explaining the difference between the types of bacterial secretion systems.” And he continues to collaborate and consult and bounce around ideas with students and colleagues. From another Chopra alum: “His mentoring is not limited to ... the laboratory; he has continued to be a tremendous source of support and encouragement to me after leaving UTMB.” His former trainees have settled in academia, the federal government, and the private sector.

Singh earned her bachelor and master of science degrees in zoology at Delhi University in India and her doctor of philosophy degree in reproductive biology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, also in Delhi. She arrived in the United States in 1979 as a postdoctoral research associate at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. In 1983, Singh came to UTMB as assistant professor of surgery, and became an associate professor in 1985 in the Department of Human Biological Chemistry & Genetics (now Biochemistry & Molecular Biology or BMB). She was tenured in 1986 and became a full professor in 1990. In addition to her

departmental appointments, she is a member of the Sealy Cancer Center.

In nominating her, one colleague said she has always been “willing to teach and contribute toward the success of all our graduate students at UTMB, and has willingly taught and trained many undergraduate, graduate and medical students. She also has mentored many junior faculty members and helped several to write their grants. [At least two of them] obtained their first K01 and R01 grants with her help.” Among many nominations from Singh’s current and former students, one wrote that her “enthusiasm and confidence in her students’ abilities are a motivating force to excel.” Another said, “She truly cares about her students understanding concepts, and molds them to become future scientists.” Wrote one more: “Although she is not my faculty mentor, she always has time to address my questions and offer support.”

The Bromberg Charitable Trust Fund established the Dr. Leon Bromberg Professorship for Excellence in Teaching in 2001 to honor the late Truman G. Blocker Jr., former UTMB president, gifted teacher, researcher and administrator. The Bromberg Fund, with its primary mission of supporting medical and educational institutions, was created by his will. The fund has been a generous supporter of the university.

J. Palmer Saunders, PhD, dean of the GSBS from 1974 to 1987, and his wife, Mary, endowed the Mary and J. Palmer Saunders Professorship for Excellence in Teaching in 2002. They also have generously supported the Graduate School. Dr. Saunders died in 2006; his widow lives in Maryland.

78 Students Receive Awards for Aging Posters

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PREVIOUSLY SEDENTARY OLDER ADULTS COMPENSATE BY REDUCING THEIR NON-EXERCISE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AFTER STARTING A WALKING PROGRAM

Student winner: **Dustin A. Dwiggins**, UTMB School of Medicine
Mentors: M.M. Markofski, Sealy Center on Aging, K.L. Timmerman, UTMB Department of Nutrition & Metabolism and E. Volpi, UTMB Department of Internal Medicine/Geriatrics.

BFR EXERCISE INCREASES S6K1 PHOSPHORYLATION IN TYPE-I AND TYPE-II SKELETAL MUSCLE FIBERS

Student winner: **David M. Gundermann**, UTMB Department of Nutrition & Metabolism
Mentors: D.K. Walker, and B.B. Rasmussen, UTMB Department of Nutrition & Metabolism.

Neuroscience Research: CALORIC RESTRICTION AND EARLY AUTOPHAGY ACTIVATION SUPPRESS TAU TOXICITY IN A DROSOPHILA MODEL OF TAUOPATHY

Student winner: **Mathieu F. Bakhom**, Mitchell Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology
Mentors: Z. Ding, Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology; S.M. Carlton, Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology; and G.R. Jackson, Mitchell Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Department of Neurology.

Class Notes

2000s

Celeste Finnerty, PhD (2002, Human Biological Chemistry & Genetics), associate professor in the Department of Surgery and at Shriners Hospital for Children, was one of two UTMB faculty members receiving Scholar Abstract Awards at the joint annual meeting recently of the Association for Clinical Research Training, American Federation for Medical Research and the Society for Clinical and Translational Science. The top 5 percent of abstracts were selected for awards from more than 220 poster presentations at the

event in Washington, DC. Selection was based on scientific merit, significance and relevance to translational sciences. Her poster was “Proteomics Improves the Prediction of Burns Mortality.” The other winner was Konrad Pazdrak, MD, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and senior scientist in the Biomolecular Resource Facility, for “Defining Cellular Biomarkers for Predicting Response to Corticosteroid Therapy in Severe Asthma.” The two were among a delegation of members from the Institute for Translational Sciences and six ITS scholars.