

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

SOUTHWESTERN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER



THURSDAY, MAY 18

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

SEVEN P.M.

TOM AND LULA GOOCH AUDITORIUM

DALLAS, TEXAS

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Presiding Andrew R. Zinn, M.D., Ph.D.
*Dean
Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences*

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Deans and Marshals
Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Deirdre L. Brekken, Ph.D.
Maralice Conacci-Sorrell, Ph.D.
Arnaldo Díaz Vázquez, Ph.D.
Rueyling Lin, Ph.D.
Joyce J. Repa, Ph.D.

*The audience is requested to stand as the procession enters and
remain standing for the National Anthem.*

Introduction of Speaker Andrew R. Zinn, M.D., Ph.D.

Commencement Address..... Joan W. Conaway, Ph.D.
*Vice Provost and Dean of Basic Research
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*

Conferring of Degrees Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.
*President
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND HOODING

The audience is requested to delay applause until all candidates have received diplomas.

Closing Remarks..... Andrew R. Zinn, M.D., Ph.D.

RECESSIONAL

*The audience is requested to stand during the Recessional and to remain standing in place until the
graduates have exited.*

BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY

Program Director: Benjamin P. Tu, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Albert Budhipramono

B.S., 2014, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Confirming Chemical Biology and Forward Genetics to Identify the Target of Anticancer Small Molecules*”

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Deepak Nijhawan, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Avash Das

M.D., 2014, Calcutta University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Proteasome-Mediated Degradation of PNPLA3*”

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Jonathan C. Cohen, Ph.D., Mentor

Anne Marie Devlin

B.S., 2017, University of Dallas

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*The PNUITS-PP1 Complex Acts as an Intrinsic Barrier to Kaposi's Sarcoma Associated Herpesvirus Gene Expression and Replication*”

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Nicholas K. Conrad, Ph.D., Mentor

Anderson Ross Frank, IV

B.S., 2014, Tulane University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Identifying Metabolic Liabilities in Hurthle Cell Thyroid Carcinoma*”

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

David G. McFadden, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Rupam Ghosh

B.S., 2015, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

M.S., 2015, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Structural Biology in Cellular Environment Using Sensitivity Enhanced NMR*”

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Kendra K. Frederick, Ph.D., Mentor

Brittany Monique Johnson

B.S., 2013, San Francisco State University

M.S., 2015, San Francisco State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Regulation of HMG COA Reductase ER-Associated Degradation by the Vitamin K2 Synthetic Enzyme UBIAD1”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Russell A. Debose-Boyd, Ph.D., Mentor

Martyna Kosno

M.S., 2014, Medical University of Lodz

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Molecular Features of Brd4-Nut and p300 that Contribute to Condensate Formation and Transcriptional Regulation”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Michael K. Rosen, Ph.D., Mentor

James Henry McGinnis, III

B.S., 2017, Bucknell University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Identifying CDK8/19 as a Novel Regulator of EWS-FLI1 Function in Ewing Sarcoma”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

David G. McFadden, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Madeline Milligan McGinnis

B.S., 2017, Bucknell University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“RNA Exonuclease Xrn1 Regulates TORC1 Signaling and Autophagy in Response to SAM Availability”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Benjamin P. Tu, Ph.D., Mentor

Jugal Mohapatra

M.Tech., 2018, Indian Institute of Technology

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Histone Serine ADP-ribosylation Coordinates ALC1 Activity at DNA Strand Break Sites”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Glen P. Liszczak, Ph.D., Mentor

Thu Pham Thanh Nguyen

B.S., 2014, Eastern Washington University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Small Molecule Target Identification Using Medicinal Chemistry and Forward Genetics”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Deepak Nijhawan, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Ryan P. Reynolds

B.S., 2012, The University of Texas at Dallas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Melanocortin Peptides Coordinate Metabolic and Immune Responses”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Joel K. Elmquist, D.V.M., Ph.D., Mentor

Cody Ryan Ruhl

B.S., 2016, Texas A&M University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Cell Wall Lipids Activate Nociceptive Neurons and Induce Cough”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Michael U. Shiloh, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Anam Fatima Shaikh

B.S., 2013, University of Illinois, Chicago

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Integration of Information Rich High Throughput Screens for Characterization of Natural Products”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

John B. MacMillan, Ph.D., Mentor

Kyuto Tashiro

B.A., 2015, Kenyon College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Development and Application of Chemoenzymatic Tools to Investigate Site-Specific Protein ADP-Ribosylation”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Glen P. Liszczak, Ph.D., Mentor

Floortje Paulien Van De Poll

B.S., 2012, Vrije Universiteit

M.S., 2014, Maastricht University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Yeast Ataxin2, a Protein with Many Friends: Identification of a Novel Role for Pbp1 in Mitochondrial Biogenesis”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Benjamin P. Tu, Ph.D., Mentor

Han Wu

B.S., 2016, University of Science & Technology of China

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Study of Glycan-Mediated Interactions by Photo Crosslinking GlcNAc and GalNAc Analogs”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Jennifer J. Kohler, Ph.D., Mentor

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Paul Roberts

B.S., 2020, Utah State University

Master’s Thesis: *“Elucidating the Mechanism of Enhanced Processing of Clustered MicroRNA”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Yunsun Nam, Ph.D., Mentor

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Program Director: W. Matthew Petroll, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Joshuah Gagan

B.S., 2018, California State University, Long Beach

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Role of Soluble Alpha-Klotho in the Alleviation of Acute Lung Injury”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Connie C. W. Hsia, M.D., Mentor

Jace Edward Grandinetti

B.S., 2015, The University of Texas at Arlington

M.S., 2018, Vanderbilt University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Development of a Novel MRI System for Preclinical Small Animal Radiation Experiments”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Steve B. Jiang, Ph.D. and Jie Deng, Ph.D., Mentors

Lindsay Taylor Johnson

B.S., 2017, The University of Texas at Austin

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Impact of Lipid Nanoparticle Chemistry on RNA Delivery and Therapeutic Outcomes”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Daniel J. Siegwart, Ph.D., Mentor

Sina Khorsandi

B.S., 2018, The University of Texas at Dallas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Microbubble-Assisted Ultrasound Guided Immunotherapy of Cancer: Using MUSIC to Activate the SING Pathway”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Jacques Lux, Ph.D., Mentor

Xiao Liang

B.S., 2013, Jilin University

M.S., 2015, The University of Texas at Dallas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Improving Cone Beam Computed Tomography Based Adaptive Radiation Therapy with Deep Learning”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Steve B. Jiang, Ph.D., Mentor

Cooper James Mellema

B.A., 2015, University of Washington

B.S., 2015, University of Washington

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Predicting Neurologic Disease Progression Using Machine Learning and Causal Inference”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Albert A. Montillo, Ph.D., Mentor

Kevin Phan Nguyen

B.S., 2016, Yale University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Overcoming Vulnerabilities of Machine Learning in Neuroimaging Applications”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Albert A. Montillo, Ph.D., Mentor

Chandreshkumar Vishnubhai Patel

B.S., 2013, Texas A&M University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“A Novel Role for HAPLN1 in Skeletal Development”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Carol A. Wise, Ph.D., Mentor

Varun Sadaphal

B.S., 2017, Southeast Missouri State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Engineering Considerations for Treatment of Prosthetic Joint Infections Using Alternating Magnetic Fields (AMF)”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Rajiv Chopra, Ph.D., Mentor

Jiwon Song

B.S., 2015, Washington University, St. Louis

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Investigation of Divergent Metabolic Programs in the Tumor Microenvironment”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Jinming Gao, Ph.D., Mentor

Kai Wang

B.E., 2015, Xian Jiaotong University

M.S., 2018, Xian Jiaotong University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Deep Learning and Radiomics Based Outcome Prediction for Cancer Patients”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Jing Wang, Ph.D., Mentor

Jonathan Louis Wilhelm

B.S., 2017, Texas Tech University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Cooperativity - Physiologic Cornerstone and Emerging Therapeutic Design Principle*”

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Jinming Gao, Ph.D., Mentor

Zi Yang

B.E., 2016, Xian Jiaotong University

M.S., 2018, Duke University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Advancing Radiotherapy Treatment through Artificial Intelligence-driven Approaches*”

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Xuejun Gu, Ph.D., Mentor

Xinyi Zhang

B.S., 2016, Tsinghua University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Deep Learning-Based Comprehensive Pathology Image Analysis*”

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Yang Xie, Ph.D., Mentor

Yun Zhang

B.S., 2017, Colorado State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*High-Performance Software Development for Genomic Sequence Alignment and Analysis*”

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Daehwan Kim, Ph.D., Mentor

CANCER BIOLOGY

Program Director: Rolf A. Brekken, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Divya Bezwada

B.S., 2012, University of Virginia

M.S., 2013, Johns Hopkins University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Mitochondrial Metabolism of Primary and Metastatic Human Kidney Cancers”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Ralph J. DeBerardinis, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Eliot Benjamin Blatt

B.S., 2016, Rhodes College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Antioxidant Programs are Essential for Enzalutamide-Resistant Prostate Cancer”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Ganesh V. Raj, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Simanti Das

B.S., 2017, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

M.S., 2017, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Transcriptional and Post-transcriptional Regulation of Retroelements”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

John M. Abrams, Ph.D., Mentor

Debolina Ganguly

M.S., 2017, Saint Xavier’s College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Pleiotrophin and Midkine Confer Metastatic Ability to Disseminated Breast Cancer Cells”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Rolf A. Brekken, Ph.D., Mentor

Yuemeng Jia

B.S., 2016, University of Virginia

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Regulation of Regeneration and Clonal Fitness in Normal and Diseased Liver”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Hao Zhu, M.D., Mentor

Aiden Nguyen

B.S., 2015, Temple University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Histone Lysine Demethylase KDM4A as a Therapeutic Target for Small Cell Lung Cancer”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Elisabeth D. Martinez, Ph.D. and John D. Minna, M.D., Mentors

McKenzie Taylor Patrick

B.S., 2017, James Madison University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Branched Chain Amino Acid Metabolism in Development and Disease”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Jian Xu, Ph.D., Mentor

CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Program Director: Angelique W. Whitehurst, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Luming Chen

B.S., 2014, Yale University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Discovery and Characterization of VPA1328, a Novel T3SS2 Bacterial Effector Kinase in Vibrio Parahaemolyticus”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Kim Orth, Ph.D., Mentor

Rui Chen

B.S., 2017, Wuhan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*A Nonribosomal Peptide Pheromone Controls Male-Induced Female Sexual Development in Schistosoma Mansoni*”

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

James J. Collins, III, Ph.D., Mentor

Andrew Cox

B.S., 2014, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

M.S., 2016, Baylor University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Machine Learning Techniques for Augmenting Hematological Malignancy Diagnosis*”

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Daehwan Kim, Ph.D., Mentor

Subhajit Das Gupta

B.S., 2016, Indian Institute of Science

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*The Transcription Factor TFEB Protects Against Cardiac Hypertrophy by Increasing Lysosomal Capacity and Activating AMPK*”

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Joseph A. Hill, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Magdalena Grazyna Grzemska

B.E., 2017, Silerian University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Bioinformatic and Chemical Screen to Understand WNK and ERK Signaling Pathways*”

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Melanie H. Cobb, Ph.D., Mentor

Byron Gabriel Weiss

B.S., 2015, Columbia University of New York

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Lamellipodia as Proliferation Machines: How Branched Actin Based Feedback Loops Allow Melanoma to Evade Growth Inhibition*”

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Gaudenz Danuser, Ph.D., Mentor

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Emma Harrell

B.S., 2019, University of Arizona

Master's Thesis: "*Exploration into the Molecular Basis of Pheromone-Induced Sexual Maturation of Female Schistosomes*"

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

James J. Collins, III, Ph.D., Mentor

Sarah Ana Henriquez

B.S., 2020, University of Dallas

Master's Thesis: "*An Investigation of Host and Parasite Factors as Potential Contributors to the Non-Random Invasion of Toxoplasma Gondii in Culture and in Vivo*"

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Angelique W. Whitehurst, Ph.D., Mentor

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Program Director (interim): Richard C. Robinson, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Sandra Ahmed

B.A., 2015 University of North Texas

M.S., 2017, The University of Texas at Tyler

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*The Role of Dispositional Optimism in Interdisciplinary Chronic Pain Management*"

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Richard C. Robinson, Ph.D., Mentor

Eva Catherine Baker

B.A., 2018, Montclair State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Exploring the Experiences of Caregivers of Black Autistic Children: Barriers and Underrepresentation in Care*"

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Katherine Bellone Mount, Ph.D., Mentor

Dennis Delaine Burchette, Jr.

B.A., 2015, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Feasibility and Acceptability of a Single Session Problem-Solving Intervention with Caregivers of Pediatric Patients Receiving Chronic Transfusion to Treat Sickle Cell Disease”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Jenna N. Oppenheim, Psy.D., Mentor

Jeethu K. Joseph

B.S., 2016, The University of Texas at Dallas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Toward a Better Understanding of Racial and Ethnic Differences in Cognitive Function in MDD”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Tracy L. Greer, Ph.D., M.S.C.S., Mentor

Talha Khan

B.A., 2015, The University of Texas at Arlington

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Role of Acculturation in Patient-Child Relationships for Adolescent/Young Adult Patients' Adjustment to Cancer”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Julie N. Germann, Ph.D., Mentor

William Blake Martin

B.A., 2013, The University of Texas at Austin

M.A., 2018, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Examining Moral Injury in Legal-Involved Veterans”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

James P. LePage, Ph.D., Mentor

Victoria Denise Mckenzie

B.S., 2007, The University of Texas at Tyler

M.A., 2013, The City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Resiliency and Posttraumatic Growth Following Sexual Trauma in Women Veterans”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Geetha Shivakumar, M.D., Mentor

Alexandra Paige Moorehead

B.S., 2016, Spring Hill College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Developing an Intervention to Promote Lethal Means Safety in Suicidal Adolescents”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Beth D. Kennard, Psy.D., ABPP, Mentor

Chase Reid Presley

B.A., 2012, Harding University, Main Campus

M.S., 2015, University of Memphis

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Development and Validation of a New Naming Task: The Southwestern Item Fluency Test (SWIFT)”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

C. Munro Cullum, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentor

Katherine Rial

B.S., 2013, Texas Christian University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Mental Health Screening and Promoting Positive Identity Development Among Youth who are Refugees: Program Development”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Sunita M. Stewart, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentor

GENETICS, DEVELOPMENT, AND DISEASE

Program Director: Ondine B. Cleaver, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Haley Rose Barlow

B.S., 2017, University of Notre Dame

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Rab11 Regulates Lumen Formation and Morphogenesis in the Developing Pancreas”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Ondine B. Cleaver, Ph.D., Mentor

Giovanni Angelo Botten

B.S., 2012, University of California, Irvine

M.S., 2013, Johns Hopkins University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Uncovering Molecular Determinants of Pathogenic Non-coding Structural Variation in Leukemia Genomes*”

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Jian Xu, Ph.D., Mentor

Anne Lynn Zhou Cooley

B.B.A., 2011, The University of Texas at Austin

B.S., 2016, The University of Texas at Austin

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Single-Cell Functional Genomics of Cervical Remodeling*”

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Gary C. Hon, Ph.D., Mentor

Dileep Reddy Karri

B.A., 2015, William Marsh Rice University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Durability and Longevity of Gene Edited DMD Skeletal Muscle*”

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Eric N. Olson, Ph.D., Mentor

Sherwin Hiren Kelekar

B.S., 2015, University of Illinois, Urbana

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Glucose-6-Phosphatase Deficiency in Metabolic Disease & Cancer*”

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Ralph J. DeBerardinis, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Yu-Hsuan Lin

B.S., 2014, National Tsing Hua University

M.S., 2016, National Taiwan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Regulation of Liver Homeostasis and Regeneration*”

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Hao Zhu, M.D., Mentor

Isabel Alejandra López-García

B.A., 2014, William Marsh Rice University

B.S., 2014, William Marsh Rice University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Epithelial Tubular Fusion, Measuring Interconnection, and the Quest for Solving the Continuity Problem”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Denise K. Marciano, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Akansha Mahavir Shah

B.S., 2014, University of Hong Kong

M.S., 2017, University of Hong Kong

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Gene Regulatory Networks in Striated Muscle Pathologies”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Eric N. Olson, Ph.D., Mentor

Bethany Kristina Smith

B.S., 2016, Texas A&M University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Role of PROTOCADHERIN 7 in Lung Adenocarcinoma”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Kathryn A. O’Donnell, Ph.D., Mentor

Edem Jean De Dieu Tchegnon

B.S., 2015, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Role of Krox20 Transcription Factor and Krox20+ Stem Cells in Epithelial Tissue Development and Homeostasis”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Lu Q. Le, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Tezin A. Walji

B.A., 2012, Agnes Scott College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Investigating the Function of an Actin Nucleation-Promoting Factor N-WASP in Mammalian Myoblast Fusion”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Elizabeth H. Chen, Ph.D., Mentor

Li Wang

B.S., 2012, Sun Yat Sen University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Multiphase Coalescence Mediates Hippo Pathway Activation”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Lora V. Hooper, Ph.D., Mentor

Abigail Watterson

B.S., 2018, University of Richmond

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Intracellular Lipid Surveillance Through Interplay Between a Nuclear Receptor and Rab GTPases”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Peter M. Douglas, Ph.D., Mentor

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Yuki Inaba

B.S., 2017, Brown University

Master’s Thesis: *“Circadian Regulation of Sex Steroid Synthesis in the Sebaceous Gland”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Tamia Harris-Tryon, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

HEALTH INFORMATICS

Program Director: Christoph U. Lehmann, M.D.

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Elizabeth Lauren Gonzalez

B.A., 2019, Texas Christian University

Capstone Project: *“Reducing Nursing Documentation and Empowering Patients through the use of Patient Entered Questionnaires”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Robert W. Turer, M.D., Mentor

Marcus Anthony Hurt

B.B.A., 2011, Texas State University

Capstone Project: *“Improving Patient Portal Enrollment in a Primary Care Setting Serving Underserved Populations”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Robert W. Turer, M.D., Mentor

Sahajveer Mann

B.S., 2021, The University of Texas at Dallas

Capstone Project: *“Head and Neck Cancer Care Pathway”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Andrew T. Day, M.D., M.P.H. and Christoph U. Lehmann, M.D., Mentors

Divya Vankayalapati Prasad

B.A., 2021, University of California, Los Angeles

Capstone Project: *Data-driven Identification of Malfunctioning Clinical Decision Support in the Emergency Department”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Samuel McDonald, M.D., Mentor

Alicia Munoz Russell

B.S., 1984, The University of Texas at Austin

Capstone Project: *“Improving Pharmacy Workflow for Surgery Procedures Involving Intrathecal Delivery Device Systems (IDDS)”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Christoph U. Lehmann, M.D., Mentor

Shannon Lee Shiffer

B.S., 2018, Vanderbilt University

M.B.A., 2023, Southern Methodist University

Capstone Project: *“Worth the Weight: Improving Insight into Surgical Weight Loss”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Mujeeb A. Basit, M.D., Mentor

IMMUNOLOGY

Program Director: Anne B. Satterthwaite, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Yongbin Choi

B.S., 2015, Sogang University

M.P.H., 2017, Seoul National University

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Immune Checkpoint Blockade Induces Gut Microbiota Translation that Augments Extraintestinal Anti-Tumor Immunity*"

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Andrew Y. Koh, M.D., Mentor

Christina Marie Zarek

B.A., 2016, Hastings College

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Impaired Control of Chronic Herpesvirus Infection in Tissue Resident Macrophages During Co-infection with Intestinal Parasite and Other Cell-intrinsic Herpesvirus Interactions*"

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Tiffany A. Reese, Ph.D., Mentor

MOLECULAR BIOPHYSICS

Program Director: Luke M. Rice, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Dailu Chen

B.S., 2016, University of Arizona

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Mechanistic Investigation into the Regulation of Amyloid Motifs in Tau Aggregation and Disease*"

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Lukasz A. Joachimiak, Ph.D., Mentor

Abner Josue Gonzalez Castro

B.S., 2016, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedra

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Kap Beta-2 Recognition of Cargoes Involved in Neurodegenerative/Neurodevelopmental Diseases*”

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Yuh Min Chook, Ph.D., Mentor

Jenny Jiou

B.S., 2016, The University of Texas at Dallas

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Shield and Shuttle: Importins as Protective Chaperones and the Nuclear Transport Mechanism of H2A-H2B*”

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Yuh Min Chook, Ph.D., Mentor

Michael Shane LaCroix

B.S., 2015, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Tau Seeding in Health and Disease*”

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Marc I. Diamond, M.D., Mentor

Yang Liu

B.S., 2018 Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Structural Investigations of Porcupine and Dispatched-1 in Wnt and Hedgehog Morphogen Biogenesis*”

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Xiaochun Li, Ph.D., Mentor

Leigh Jessica Manley

B.S., 2012, Union College

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Kinetic and Thermodynamic Allostery in the Ras Protein Family*”

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Milo M. Lin, Ph.D., Mentor

Adam Krzysztof Osinski

B.A.S.C., 2016, Technical University of Lodz

M.S., 2017, Technical University of Lodz

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Biochemical and Structural Characterization of Divergent Members of the Kinase Family”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Vincent S. Tagliabracci, Ph.D., Mentor

Valerie Ann Perez

B.S., 2017, Stanford University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Role of DnaJc7 in Modulating Tau Seeding in the Cell”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Lukasz A. Joachimiak, Ph.D. and Marc I. Diamond, M.D., Mentors

Bryan David Ryder

B.S., 2015, Rutgers University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Architecture and Function of the J-Domain Chaperone DNAJB8”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Lukasz A. Joachimiak, Ph.D., Mentor

Kamil Sekulski

B.S., 2014, Medical University of Lodz

M.S., 2018, University of Warsaw

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Structural Studies of Early Eukaryotic Ribosome Biogenesis”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Jan P. Erzberger, Ph.D., Mentor

Alex H. Treacher

B.S., 2014 University of North Texas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Correcting Biases in Multi-module Neural Networks, through Efficient Hyperparameter Optimization and Statistically Meaningful Uncertainty Quantification, with Applications to Neurological Disorders”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Albert A. Montillo, Ph.D., Mentor

MOLECULAR MICROBIOLOGY

Program Director: John W. Schoggins, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Umaru Barrie

B.S., 2014, State University of New York, Albany

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*ERK 1/2 Activation in Macrophages is Necessary for Efficient Leishmania Amazonensis Internalization and Pathogenesis*"

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Dawn M. Wetzel, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Alexander Ethan Lafrance

B.S., 2016, Haverford College

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Characterization of Virulence Mechanisms in V. Parahaemolyticus*"

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Kim Orth, Ph.D., Mentor

Savannah Joy Taylor

B.S., 2015, Tennessee Technological University

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Epithelial-Derived Lactate Promotes E. coli fitness in Non-Infectious Colitis*"

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Sebastian E. Winter, Ph.D., Mentor

NEUROSCIENCE

Program Director: Genevieve Konopka, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Robert M. Altamirano

B.A., 2016, California State University, San Marcos

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Investigating Atypical Signaling of N-methyl-D-aspartate Receptors*"

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Lisa M. Monteggia, Ph.D., Mentor

Marcus N. Berndt

B.A., 2013, Wichita State University

B.A., 2016, Wichita State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Identifying Consequences of In Vivo Neural Activity on Hippocampal Synaptic Function”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Brad E. Pfeiffer, Ph.D. and Lenora J. Volk, Ph.D., Mentors

Thomas Leigh Dunham

B.S., 2016, Texas A&M University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“WWC2 is a Novel Regulator of GABA AR Expression, Synaptic Function, and Dendritic Morphology in Excitatory Hippocampal Neurons”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Lenora J. Volk, Ph.D., Mentor

Filip Piotr Dybowski

M.S., 2016, Medical University of Gdansk

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Pharmacological Intervention Reduces Hippocampal Hyperactivity in a Mouse Model of Psychosis”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Carol A. Tamminga, M.D., Mentor

Jennifer Gibson

B.A., 2014, Wheaton College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“A Cerebellar Role in the Development and Regulation of Autism-Relevant Behavior in Neurodevelopmental Disorders”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Peter T. Tsai, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

I-Mei Liao

B.S., 2013, Chang Gung Medical College

M.S., 2014, Chang Gung Medical College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Circadian Timekeeping of Body Temperature by the Mammalian Suprachiasmatic Nucleus”*

Degree Awarded: December 9, 2022

Joseph S. Takahashi, Ph.D., Mentor

Seon Hye Park

B.A., 2011, City University of New York, Queens

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Investigating the Role of FOXP1 in the Developing Human Cortex”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Genevieve Konopka, Ph.D., Mentor

Lilyana Dream Quigley

B.S., 2015, The University of Texas at Dallas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Investigating the Role of KIBRA-Dependent Synaptic Function on Hippocampal and Cortical Network Mechanisms Underlying Complex Cognition”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Lenora J. Volk, Ph.D., Mentor

Jennifer Marie Smith

B.A., 2016, Bradley University

B.S., 2016, Bradley University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Experience Induced Shift in CA1 Firing Dynamics and Replay Content to the Slow Gamma Oscillation During Sharp Wave-Ripples”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Brad E. Pfeiffer, Ph.D., Mentor

Islam Oguz Tuncay

B.S., 2015, Bilkent University

M.S., 2017, Bilkent University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Investigation of Rare Genetic Variation in Autism Spectrum Disorder by Genomic Screens”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Maria H. Chahrour, Ph.D., Mentor

Jaime Vaquer-Alicea

B.S., 2013, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedra

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“On the Structure and Function of TAU Assemblies in Neurodegenerative Disease”*

Degree Awarded: May 5, 2023

Marc I. Diamond, M.D., Mentor

Connie Hua Wong

B.S., 2015, University of Missouri

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease through NHE6 Depletion”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Joachim Herz, M.D., Mentor

Kelsey Elizabeth Zuk

B.S., 2017, Eastern Michigan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Investigation of Accessory Olfactory Interneuron Physiology and Function after Experience-Dependent Plasticity”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Julian P. Meeks, Ph.D., Mentor

Amy Nicole Zwierzchowski-Zarate

B.S., 2013, The University of Texas at Dallas

M.S., 2015, The University of Texas at Dallas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“RNA Drives Pathogenicity and Diversity of Tau Strains”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Marc I. Diamond, M.D., Mentor

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Program Director: Uttam K. Tambar, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Colton Randall Davis

B.S., 2017, Texas Tech University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Iridium-Catalyzed Enantioselective Allylation of Alkenyl Boronates”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Joseph M. Ready, Ph.D., Mentor

Annie Yang Heble

B.S., 2017, The University of Texas at Dallas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Hybrid Enzyme-loaded Silica Nanoparticles for Potential Therapeutic Applications”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Jacques Lux, Ph.D., Mentor

Sang Min Lee

B.S., 2017, University of Georgia

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Systematic Design Synthesis and Evaluation of Ionizable Lipids for Lipid Nanoparticles Delivering mRNA”*

Degree Awarded: August 5, 2022

Daniel J. Siegwart, Ph.D., Mentor

**HONORS AND AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND
SERVICE RECEIVED BY 2022-2023 GRADUATES
SOUTHWESTERN GRADUATE SCHOOL**

American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship

Giovanni Angelo Botten (2021)

Dean's Discretionary Award

Yang Liu (2023)

Jugal Mohapatra (2023)

Abigail Watterson (2022)

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellowship

Brittany Monique Johnson (2019)

Ida M. Green Award

Divya Bezwada (2020)

Akansha Mahavir Shah (2022)

Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship for Community Service

Umaru Barrie (2018)

Martyna Kosno (2023)

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Haley Rose Barlow (2019)

Annie Yang Heble (2019)

Sarah Ana Henriquez (2021)

Anam Fatima Shaikh (2017)

NIH Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award

Lilyana Dream Quigley (2021)

NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Divya Bezwada (2019)

Eliot Benjamin Blatt (2020)

Abner Josue Gonzalez Castro (2020)

Sherwin Hiren Kelekar (2022)

Isabel Alejandra López-García (2022)

Cooper James Mellema (2019)

Connie Hua Wong (2020)

Kelsey Elizabeth Zuk (2019)

Nominata Award

Divya Bezwada (2023)

Rui Chen (2022)

**Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation
Predoctoral Fellowship**

Lindsay Taylor Johnson (2022)

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATE DEGREES MEDICAL SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM

The Medical Scientist Training Program is a program leading to both the M.D. and the Ph.D. degrees. The University is pleased to note this significant achievement.

August 5, 2022

Albert Budhipramono (2023)

Dileep Reddy Karri (2024)

Michael Shane LaCroix (2024)

Cooper James Mellema (2024)

Kevin Phan Nguyen (2024)

Savannah Joy Taylor (2024)

December 9, 2022

Umaru Barrie (2024)

Giovanni Angelo Botten (2024)

Luming Chen (2024)

Sherwin Hiren Kelekar (2024)

May 5, 2023

Isabel Alejandra Lopez-Garcia (2024)

Byron Gabriel Weiss (2024)

ACADEMIC HERALDRY AND REGALIA

Although the people, the places and the styles have changed, you are about to participate in a reenactment of a ceremony, which has existed for nearly nine centuries: the recognition of academic achievement.

The tradition of recognizing academic accomplishment with ceremony, bright color and distinctive dress is an exercise that has existed through the ages. Although the commencement ceremony and academic costume of most colleges and universities in the United States are guided by a twentieth century standard, their roots are found in the development of the universities during the Middle Ages. The medieval universities of Western Europe, such as Paris, Bologna, Cambridge and Oxford, have provided us with an institutional format -- the university structure; a measure of progress -- degrees; and a ceremony of achievement -- commencement.

The academic hood is derived from the cloak, which in medieval times was worn over the gown. Attached to the cloak, at the back of the neck, was a cowl hood that hung down or could be pulled over the head for warmth. After time, this hood became a separate article, worn over the shoulders and hanging down the wearer's back. With the coming into fashion of caps and hats during the fifteenth century, the hoods soon became more ornamental than functional.

Whereas it is generally understood that in Europe gowns were necessary for warmth and hoods covered the academic clerics' tonsured heads, today the American tradition has evolved toward individual expression of the institution. Although the style of the hood is not unique to each institution, the combinations of colors and chevrons have been standardized in the United States for nearly 100 years. The satin colors of the hood lining represent the institution conferring the degree. The academic colors for all components of The University of Texas System are orange and white. The color of the academic hood's velvet trim is distinctive of the degree earned, as is the tassel on the cap. Historical associations of color continue to signify the various faculties and generally carry the traditions established by their early English counterparts. The green of medicinal herbs immediately identifies a medical degree. Philosophy is signified by dark blue, the traditional color of truth and wisdom. The wealth of information earned through research in science is represented by golden yellow. The arts, letters and humanity are represented by the purity of white.

Cords worn with academic regalia:

Green and gold - Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

Red, white, and blue - US Armed Forces, Active Duty and Veterans

Solid color - Medical School Academic College

Light blue stoles - Southwestern Academy of Teachers

Medals - The University of Texas Academy of Health Science Educators and

UT System Regents' Outstanding Teacher Award

Degrees will be officially conferred to Candidates for Graduation identified in this Commencement Booklet who have met all requirements on the recommendation of the Faculty of the Graduate School for Biomedical Sciences and by virtue of the authority vested in the Faculty and Dean by the Regents of The University of Texas.