

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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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 60th anniversary for M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and 2002 is the 30th 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 40th 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

Caná 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

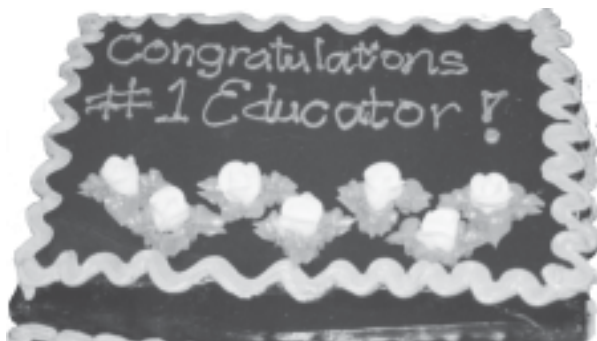
Ph.D. - Microbiology and Molecular
Genetics
B.S./2001/Wuhan University

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 32nd 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	Supervisory Professor
Wendong Huang, Ph.D.	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	Supervisory Professor
Chengyu Liu	Dr. James Martin

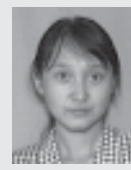
SCHISLER FOUNDATION FELLOWS

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	Supervisory Professor
Sumera Hasham	Dr. Dianna Milewicz
Hongyan Zhong	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	Supervisory Professor
Sarah Nemanic	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	Supervisory Professor
Dawn Marsh	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 st Place	Dr. David Loose-Mitchell
	Shailendra Mundhada	2 nd Place	Dr. Craig Mullen
	Darin Tessier	3 rd Place	Dr. Molly Bray
PRE-CANDIDACY	Hays Young	1 st Place	Dr. Michael Blackburn
	Theodore Steger	2 nd Place	Dr. Edward Jackson
	Joshua Krumenacker	3 rd Place (tie)	Dr. Ferid Murad
	Jarah Meador	3 rd Place (tie)	Dr. David Mitchell
POST-CANDIDACY	Sol Bobst	1 st Place	Dr. Rodney Kellems
	Hui-Wen Lo	2 nd Place	Dr. Francis Ali-Osman
	Hua Wang	3 rd 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.
Marilyn Lummis
Martel Foundation, Inc.

John P. McGovern, M.D.
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Leonard Zwelling

KUDOS



“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.

- Jason Stafford was awarded the first place for the John C. American Young Investigators Competition at the 43rd 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, 1st Place, advised by Dr. Robert Kirken; Joshua Krumenacker, 2nd Place, advised by Dr. Fried Murad; Cherie Butts, 3rd Place, advised by Dr. Ralph Freedman.
- Student Intercouncil (SIC) donated \$400 to the September 11th 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

Alumni Association Web Site: All about the Alumni Association. 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; Telephone: 281-649-3000 ext. 2344).

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; 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 _____

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



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Address Correction Requested