T he immune system is what fight and protects us from infections, ranging from the common cold to when you accidently step on a rusted nail. My lab studies how the immune system is what fights and protects us from infections, ranging from the common cold to throat cancer.

In April we will celebrate our 18th Tea and Toddies.

BRASS Scholarship Positions

Our alternate will participate in all activities with the Scholars. This year we allowed to present written requests to the Research Awards Committee, along with a budget, for these discretionary funds. Quarterly they are allowed to present written requests to the Research Awards Committee, along with a budget, for these discretionary funds. Additionally these funds have provided for six trips for scientific meetings including air fare, registration, lodging and food. They will also fund the upcoming Washington, DC trip that Dr. Brinkley leads for four scholars. With these monies, the Scholars have perfected the art of the “ask.”

Save The Date

Tuesday, April 2nd – Tea & Toddlies

“Art Event at The Oak Block”

The Corner Table Restaurant

BRASS Holiday Party

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, has generously offered to underwrite a Dual Art Crowd Membership for BRASS scholars. Art Crowd is a vibrant group of young MFAH Members, primarily in their 20s and 30s, interested in expanding their experiences at the MFAH. It’s the perfect atmosphere for connecting with other young individuals involved in Houston’s dynamic arts scene. In addition to the MFAH Membership benefits associated with this membership, Art Crowd provides these perks:

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It can be found using the Pubmed ID 23396206

Also in this past year, I helped our collaborators in analyzing the immune response of patients with cancer (lymphoma) (nasopharyngeal carcinoma). Using this result, we developed a phase I clinical trial treating patients with lymphoma called GRALE, and it has since enrolled 5 patients. Another clinical trial for a lightly different cancer (lymphoma) (nasopharyngeal carcinoma) has been approved by the FDA.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

FIVE ARTS + SCIENTISTS = A FORMULA FOR FUN

BRASS Officers 2013-2014

Founder Myra Wilson
President Diane Brown
President Pro Tem Elise Eckert
Event/Membership Chair Linda Kay Kendall
Secretary Nancy Shawell
Treasurer Nancy Shawell

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Another clinical trial called CIDATEL is awaiting approval from the FDA. Another clinical trial targeting lymphoid (RELENT) is currently in the planning process. These trials can be found at ClinicalTrials.gov.

Also in this past year, I helped our collaborators in analyzing the immune response of patients with cancer (lymphoma) to treat liver cancer. We found that injecting this virus into liver cancer can prolong these end-stage patients’ lives for more than a year. We published the results in the Nature Medicine Journal, and it can be found using the Pubmed ID 23396206.

The Element

BRASS Scholars and Members

The immunosuppressive effect of an anti-CD20 antibody was demonstrated by our study in a phase II clinical trial treating patients with relapsed treatment-resistant lymphoma.
Emily grew up in Boise, Idaho, and achieved academic success early as valedictorian of her high school class. After graduation Amy joined the M.D./Ph.D. program at Baylor College of Medicine and has completed the first two years of medical school. She is currently a first year Ph.D. student in the neuroscience graduate program.

Amy is a native Texan. She grew up near Austin, Texas, and attended high school in Houston. She has been fascinated by the brain since a very young age which prompted her early study neurobiology at UT University of Texas at Austin.

She graduated summa cum laude in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in biology and received departmental honors in biology for her honors thesis work which explored how learning and memory can physically change the structure of the brain. After graduation Amy joined the M.D./Ph.D. program at Baylor College of Medicine and has completed the first two years of medical school. She is currently a first year Ph.D. student in the neuroscience graduate program.

In her spare time Amy enjoys rock climbing, learning to perform on the aerial silks, and camping. She is delighted to have the privilege of being a BRASS scholar and looks forward to the chance to give back to the BRASS community as a part of this outstanding organization.

Emily is an avid college football fan and loves the outdoors. Last summer she completed a 100-mile hike through Scotland. Emily is honored to share her passion for research with the BRASS community and is looking forward to volunteering at Squirrel Creek Ranch through BRASS.

Emily Packard

Kathleen Seger Manning

Kathleen grew up in Boise, Idaho, and achieved academic success early as valedictorian of her high school class. Kathleen attended Trinity University in San Antonio where she served as captain of Trinity’s collegiate women’s tennis team. Her summer research experience at UT Southwestern inspired her to pursue a Ph.D. in molecular biology. Kathleen graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in biology and a double major in Spanish in 2012. She is currently a first-year student in the genetics graduate program at Baylor College of Medicine and has completed a 100-mile hike through Scotland. Emily is extremely excited for the opportunity to explore the city of Houston. In her spare time, she enjoys trying new restaurants and museum going. She is very impressed by the breadth of high impact research in which she can now take part.

Emily is a native Texan. She grew up near Austin, Texas, and attended high school in Houston. She has been fascinated by the brain since a very young age which prompted her early study neurobiology at UT University of Texas at Austin.

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Emily Packard

Kathleen Seger Manning

BRASS Welcomes Four New 2012-2013 Scholars

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BRASS Scholar Spotlight

BRASS Welcomes Four New 2012-2013 Scholars

Emily Packard

Kathleen Seger Manning

1. Jack Johnson, Jo Ann Petersen
2. Lisa Chandler, Les Eckert and Juli Johnson
3. Paul and Robin Simon and Peter VanDerlofske
4. Steve and Tim Fitzpatrick and Dr. Gayle Slaughter
5. Marty Wilson, Emily Packard, Kathleen Seger, Diana Brown, and Dr. Ted Gilbert
6. Mary Maxey and Debby Leighton
7. Al Trofellenque and Bill McDonald
8. Norma Johnson, Ed Smith, Carl and Linda Kuykendall
9. Dr. Kathy Frazar, Judi Johnson
10. Peter VanDerlofske and Dr. Gayle Slaughter

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BRASS Welcomes Four New 2012-2013 Scholars

Emily Packard

Emily grew up in Boise, Idaho and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in the biological sciences. Over the course of her undergraduate career, Emily engaged in a wide variety of research projects, ranging from studies of neurodevelopmental disorders at UC Davis to doing field work involving native Californian fish. She also devoted significant amounts of time to community work, serving as a peer mentor for NIH programs and working with children to encourage interest in science through events like the Science Olympiad.

Emily is extremely excited for the opportunity to explore the city of Houston. In her spare time, she enjoys trying new restaurants and museum going. She is very impressed by the Texas Medical Center because of the outstanding research taking place at the Texas Medical Center.

In her free time, Emily enjoys baking, rock climbing, and other outdoor activities. She recently ran the Chevron Houston Marathon. Emily is thrilled to be a BRASS scholar and honored to share her passion for research with the BRASS community.

Amy Pohodich

Amy is a native Texan. She grew up near Austin, Texas, and attended high school in Houston. She has been fascinated by the brain since a very young age which prompted her to study neuroscience at UT Austin.

She graduated summa cum laude in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in biology with a focus on neurobiology. She is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa and received departmental honors in biology for her honors thesis work which explored how learning and memory can physically change the structure of the brain.

After graduation Amy joined the M.D./Ph.D. program at Baylor College of Medicine and has completed the first two years of medical school. She is currently a first year Ph.D. student in the neuroscience graduate program.

In her spare time Amy enjoys rock climbing, learning to perform on the aerial silks, and camping. She is delighted to have the privilege of being a BRASS scholar and looks forward to the chance to give back to her community as a part of this outstanding organization.

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Kathleen grew up in Bosque, Idaho and achieved academic success early as a valedictorian of her high school class.

Kassie attended college at Trinity University in San Antonio where she served as captain of Trinity’s collegiate women’s tennis team. Her summer research experience at UT Southwestern inspired her to pursue a Ph.D. in molecular biology. Kassie graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in biology and a double major in Spanish.

Kassie pursued her passion for molecular biology by joining Baylor College of Medicine's Interdepartmental Cell and Molecular Biology Program. She is excited to be part of the collaborative and cutting-edge research taking place at the Texas Medical Center.

In her free time, Kassie enjoys baking, rock climbing, and other outdoor activities. She recently ran the Chevron Houston Marathon. Kassie is thrilled to be a BRASS scholar and honored to share her passion for research with the BRASS community.

Charlene Emerson

Charlene is extremely excited for the opportunity to explore the city of Houston. In her spare time, she enjoys trying new restaurants and museum going. She is very impressed by the Texas Medical Center because of the outstanding research taking place at the Texas Medical Center.

Charlene chose to join the research community in the Texas Medical Center because of the outstanding neurodevelopmental and epigenetic work being done by the members of Baylor College of Medicine. She is a first-year student in the genetics graduate program and continues to be astounded by the breadth of high impact research in which she can now take part.

Charlene is originally from the San Francisco Bay Area of California. She attended the California State University at Stanislaus and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in the biological sciences. Over the course of her undergraduate career, Charlene engaged in a wide variety of research projects, ranging from studies of neurodevelopmental disorders at UC Davis to doing field work involving native Californian fish. She also devoted significant amounts of time to community work, serving as a peer mentor for NIH programs and working with children to encourage interest in science through events like the Science Olympiad.

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BRASS Scholar Spotlight

Charlene Emerson

Emily Packard

Amy Pohodich

Kathleen Seger Manning
The immune system is what fights and protects us from infections, ranging from the common cold to when you step on a rusted nail. My lab studies how we can use our own immune system to fight cancer, an approach called immunotherapy. Because cancer comes in all shapes and forms, we need to target them with the most effective tools. In this past year I completed the optimization of an immunotherapy to treat a blood cancer (lymphoma) as well as a throat cancer (nasopharyngeal carcinoma). Using this result, we developed a phase II clinical trial treating patients with lymphoma and GRALE, and it has since enrolled 5 patients. Another clinical trial for a lightly different type of lymphoma (CITADEL) is awaiting approval from the FDA. Another clinical trial targeting throat cancer (RELENT) is currently in the planning process. These trials can be found at ClinicalTrials.gov.

In this past year, I helped our collaborators in analyzing the immune response of patients receiving a cancer-lysing virus to treat liver cancer. We found that injecting this virus to liver cancer can prolong these end-stage patient’s lives for more than a year. We published the results in the Nature Medicine Journal, and it can be found using the Pubmed ID 23396206.

In Memory of Ronald Merrett
In Memory of Louise Jacobs
In Memory of Emil Gold
In Honor of Elsie and Les Eckert
Lenny Matuszewski
In Honor of Elsie and Les Eckert
Diane and Harry H. Gendel

Also in this past year, I helped our collaborators in analyzing the immune response of patients receiving a cancer-lysing virus to treat liver cancer. We found that injecting this virus to liver cancer can prolong these end-stage patient’s lives for more than a year. We published the results in the Nature Medicine Journal, and it can be found using the Pubmed ID 23396206.

I am currently working to enhance the clinical efficacy of this virus by combining it with immunotherapy. So far, the result from testing in animal model has been promising, with mice bearing an aggressive form of melanoma cured after treatment. I hope to translate this approach into a human clinical trial before I go back to medical school at the end of this year.

FINE ARTS + SCIENTISTS = A FORMULA FOR FUN

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- Free admission to ArtCrowd events, with complimentary cocktails and bites, music, and more.
- Discounts and offers limited to ArtCrowd members only.
- Exclusive to the price of tickets to the events serviced to the members.

A Big THANK YOU to the MFA and Linda Kay Kendall for making this happen!!!
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The Wintermann Foundation Research Awards funded $3,000.00 to each eligible scholar for discretionary spending for research supplies, lab equipment and other needed agents to perfect the research process.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo granted $50,000 which to date has funded five projects for lab equipment, research supplies and laboratory reagents. Additionally these funds have provided for six trips for scientific meetings including air fare, registration, lodging and food. They will also fund the upcoming Washington, DC trip that Dr. Brinkley leads for four scholars. With these monies, the Scholars have perfected the art of the “ask.” Quarterly they are allowed to present written requests to the Research Awards Committee, along with a budget, for these discretionary funds.

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