Commencement 2018

Tuesday, May Twenty-ninth
Two Thousand and Eighteen

6:30 p.m.

The Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts
615 Louisiana
Houston, Texas
THE COMMENCEMENT PROCESSION

Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Commencement Speaker
President of the College of Medicine and Honored Guests
Provost
Deans of the College
Associate Provosts
Chairs of Academic Departments and Center Directors

Trustees of the College
Professors of the College
Associate Professors of the College
Assistant Professors of the College
Instructors of the College

Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Faculty Advisors
Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine

+++ Significance of the Colors of the Academic Regalia

The color of the velvet edging of the hood and gown indicates the degree; in the lining of the hood are the college colors of the institution that conferred the degree.

The hood and gown of the Doctor of Philosophy has a blue velvet edging; Doctor of Medicine, green; both Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Theology, scarlet; Doctor of Laws, purple; Doctor of Science, golden yellow; Doctor of Letters and Humanities, white; and Doctor of Dentistry, lilac.
PROGRAM

Processional
Welcome .............................................................. Mr. Fred R. Lummis, Chair, Board of Trustees

Introductions and Remarks ................................. Dr. Paul E. Klotman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Executive Dean

Remarks by the Student Representative
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences .................................................. Dr. Mark Richard Tanner

Remarks by the President of the Graduating Class
School of Medicine ................................................................. Mr. Justin Michael Cardenas

Presentation of Awardees and Conferring of Honorary Degrees ...................... Dr. Paul E. Klotman

Presidential Award for Excellence

Dr. Hugo J. Bellen
Professor of Molecular and Human Genetics
Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute
March of Dimes Chair in Developmental Biology

Doctor of Humanities in Medicine

Dr. David E. Persse
Physician Director, City of Houston Emergency Medical Services

Justin James Watt
Houston Texans, National Football League
National Football League Walter Payton Man of the Year

Doctor of Letters in Medicine

Dr. Alice R. McPherson
Professor of Ophthalmology

Dr. Robert J. Lefkowitz
Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry and Chemistry
Duke University Medical Center
John E. Whitmore Lecture Commencement Address .......................................................Dr. Robert J. Lefkowitz

Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree Doctor of Philosophy

Dr. Adam Kuspa
Interim Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Conferring of Degrees ......................................................................................................Dr. Paul E. Klotman

Administration of the Physician’s Pledge ...............................................................................

Dr. Joseph S. Kass
Associate Dean of Student Affairs
School of Medicine

Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree Doctor of Medicine

Dr. Jennifer Christner
Dean, School of Medicine

Conferring of Degrees ......................................................................................................Dr. Paul E. Klotman

Benediction ..................................................................

Dr. Virgil Fry, Executive Director – Lifeline Chaplaincy

Recessional

Investing Marshals

Dr. Edward Lee Poythress, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, School of Medicine
Dr. Andrea Stolar, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, School of Medicine

The John E. Whitmore
Endowed Lectureship

Mrs. Clara Whitmore established the John E. Whitmore Endowed Lectureship in 1987 as a perpetual tribute to the lifetime accomplishments of her late husband, John E. Whitmore; his service as a Trustee of Baylor College of Medicine; and his interest in medical education, research and healthcare. Mrs. Whitmore further enhanced the endowment in 1993. The College lost a dear friend with her death in 2010.
HUGO BELLEN, PH.D.

Dr. Hugo Bellen is a world-renowned biologist and geneticist who has made seminal advances in the fields of genetics, developmental biology and neuroscience through an active stream of insightful experiments in fruit flies.

He has received numerous honors and awards during his distinguished career and is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator as well as the March of Dimes Chair in Developmental Biology. He has a special interest in neuronal communication and maintenance, the development of tools to control transcript and protein levels in adult neurons to assess which proteins are required for neuronal function and survival, and the creation of genome-wide libraries to manipulate genes in vivo.

Dr. Bellen’s lab has addressed fundamental questions surrounding the genes involved in neuronal development, neurotransmission and the mechanistic basis for neurological diseases such as Huntington’s and Lou Gehrig’s disease. His lab uses the fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster, as a model system because most biological processes are evolutionarily conserved. Fruit flies provide insights into the aging process and human diseases.

Dr. Bellen has been a critical partner in the founding of the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children’s Hospital. He has helped to recruit top faculty and is a valuable mentor and intellectual resource to students and faculty, as well an educator and advocate for the power of fruit fly models in medical research.

He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Brussels in Belgium, his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Ghent in Belgium and his doctorate degree from the University of California, Davis.

DAVID E. PERSSE, M.D.

Dr. David E. Persse is physician director of the City of Houston Emergency Medical Services and professor of emergency medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. As Houston’s public health authority, he is responsible for the medical aspects of clinical care, quality management, disease control and public health preparedness.

Persse completed his undergraduate training at Columbia University in New York and then attended Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his residency training in emergency medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and went on to do a resuscitation research fellowship at Ohio State University. He also was awarded a grant from the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine to complete fellowship training in emergency medical services and resuscitation at Baylor College of Medicine and the City of Houston Emergency Medical Services.

Persse has served as director of emergency medical services for the City of Houston since 1996 and in 2007, he received the Keith Neely Outstanding Contribution to Emergency Medical Services Award from the National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians for his work during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In addition, his public health and emergency medical services activities include responding to the pandemic flu, Tropical Storm Allison, Hurricanes Ike and Harvey and assisting with major sporting events in the city and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, for which he has served as medical director since 1996.

Persse also is a member of the Board of Directors for the Southeast Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council and former chairman of the board for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. In 2015, he received the Emergency Medical Services Top 10 Innovator Award from the Journal of Emergency Medical Services.
Justin James Watt

Justin James Watt is in his eighth season as defensive end for the Houston Texans of the National Football League. Prior to being drafted in the first round by the Texans in the 2011 NFL Draft, he played football at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In his first five seasons in the NFL, Watt received the Associated Press NFL Defensive Player of the Year Award three times. The award has been given annually to the league's most outstanding defensive player since 1971. He started the first 83 games in his career, which was tied for the longest active streak among NFL defensive ends. He became the first player in NFL history to record two 20-plus sack seasons in a career. He holds the Texans' franchise records for both sacks and forced fumbles.

In 2010, Watt founded the Justin J. Watt Foundation, a charity organization that provides after-school opportunities for children in various communities to get involved in athletics in a safe environment. The Foundation also is committed to assisting Houston and surrounding communities with flood relief efforts. Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in 2017, Watt raised more than $37 million to help with recovery, surpassing his original goal of $200,000. He serves as president of the Foundation.

In 2017, Watt was named the Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year along with Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve. He also won the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award for his humanitarian efforts and athletic excellence. In 2018, he was included on the TIME 100 list of most influential people in the world.

Alice McPherson, M.D.

Dr. Alice McPherson, M.D. is a world-renowned ophthalmologist who pioneered endeavors in retina research and surgery. She has received countless honors and awards during her distinguished career of more than 40 years. She has a special interest in blindness caused by the progression of diabetes (diabetic retinopathy). Her work with premature infants was the subject of a television special in 1988, when she was filmed operating on an infant who weighed four pounds.

Dr. McPherson was the first woman in the United States to become a retinal surgeon. She came to Houston in 1960 and was the only retinal specialist in the city. She was among the first to treat diabetic retinopathy with laser therapy.

Dr. McPherson joined the Baylor College of Medicine faculty in 1959, then went into private practice while maintaining voluntary faculty status. From 1967 to 2004, she trained two fellows in vitreoretinal surgery each year and she and her associates were active in teaching in the Department of Ophthalmology. Many of her former fellows are now leaders in vitreoretinal surgery in the United States.

Dr. McPherson founded the Retina Research Foundation in 1969 to support retina research. The mission of the foundation is to reduce blindness due to retinal disease by funding programs in research and education. Dr. McPherson serves as its president and scientific director. The Retina Research Permanent Endowment Fund has total assets of about $35.2 million and donates about $700,000 to the Retina Research Foundation annually.

She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin and medical degree from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine.
The Baylor University College of Medicine moved to Houston in 1943 from Dallas to launch the proposed Texas Medical Center. The building to house Baylor’s medical school was named after Hugh Roy and Lillie Cullen who moved to Houston in 1911 and made their fortune in oil. The Cullen Foundation’s first check was written in 1947 to fund the new medical building. Architects Hedrick and Lindsley designed the building with modern deco elements and Texas cream limestone. A portico was added in 1982 to enhance the main entrance. The Cullen building remains at the heart of the Texas Medical Center.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 2014
Dr. Robert J. Lefkowitz, a Nobel laureate, is the James B. Duke Professor of Medicine and Professor of Biochemistry and Chemistry at the Duke University Medical Center. He has been an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute since 1976.

Originally trained as a physician (internist and cardiologist), Dr. Lefkowitz began his research career in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when there was no clear consensus that receptors even existed. His group spent 15 years developing techniques for radioligand binding, solubilization, purification and reconstitution of the four adrenergic receptors known at the time.

In 1986, Dr. Lefkowitz transformed the understanding of what had become known as G protein coupled receptors, when he and his colleagues cloned the gene and cDNA for the $\beta_2$ adrenergic receptor, and recognized its sequence homology with rhodopsin, thus establishing them as the first members of a new family of proteins, the Seven Transmembrane Receptors. This superfamily is now known to be the largest, most diverse and most therapeutically accessible.

Dr. Lefkowitz's lab also discovered and cloned the G protein coupled receptor kinases and $\beta$-arrestins, which mediate receptor desensitization and discovered “biased” signaling through $\beta$-arrestins or G proteins.

Most recently, he has been applying the tools of structural biology to understand biased signaling at atomic level resolution. He has received numerous awards and honors, including the National Medal of Science, the Shaw Prize, the Albany Prize and the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for studies of G-protein-coupled receptors.

He was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 1988, the Institute of Medicine in 1994 and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1988.
Candidates for the Degree, Doctor of Philosophy

**Nyssa Rae Adams**
B.S., Ohio University Main Campus  
Ph.D., Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine  
Advisor: Francesco J. Demayo, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “WNK Lysine Deficient Protein Kinase 1 Is Required for Human Endometrial Stromal Cell Decidualization and Maintenance of Pregnancy”

**Stefanie Louise Alexander**
B.S., Canisius College  
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences  
Advisor: Brendan H. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Therapeutic Targeting of Matrix-cell Signaling in Osteogenesis Imperfecta”

**Benu Atri**
B.S., Ewing Christian College  
M.S., Banasthali Vidyapith  
Ph.D., Quantitative and Computational Biosciences  
Advisor: Olivier Lichtarge, M.D., Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “A Comprehensive Study of Variations and Co-variations - the Units of Protein Evolution”

**Brittany Marie Barreto**
B.A., Drew University  
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics  
Advisor: Susan M. Rosenberg, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Roles of Small RNAs in Mutagenic DNA Break Repair and Identifying Genomic Locations of R-Loops”

**Onur Birol**
B.S., Bogazici University  
Ph.D., Developmental Biology  
Advisor: Andrew K. Groves, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “The Role of Foxi3 in Posterior Placode Development and Exencephaly”

**Vitaliy V. Bondar**
B.S., University of Minnesota-Twin Cities  
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics  
Advisor: Huda Y. Zoghbi, M.D.  
Dissertation: “Elucidating Therapeutic Entry Points for Spinocerebellar ataxia Type 1”
AMY ELIZABETH BRINEGAR
B.S., Texas A&M University
Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Biology
Advisor: Thomas Cooper, M.D.
Dissertation: “Extensive Alternative Splicing Transitions During Postnatal Skeletal Muscle Development Are Required for Ca2+ Handling Functions”

FELICIA CAO
B.A., SUNY University at Buffalo
B.S., SUNY University at Buffalo
Ph.D., Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine
Advisor: Stephen M.G. Gottschalk, M.D.
Dissertation: “Oncolytic Virotherapy for Osteosarcoma with a CD47-Blocking Oncolytic Vaccinia Virus”

CHUN-AN CHEN
B.S., National Yang Ming University
M.S., National Yang Ming University
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics
Advisor: Christian P. Schaaf, M.D., Ph.D.
Dissertation: “NR2F1 Mutations-Human Phenotypes and Investigation of a Mouse Model”

MUYUAN CHEN
B.S., Southeast University
Ph.D., Quantitative and Computational Biosciences
Advisor: Steven Ludtke, Ph.D.

JINXUAN CHENG
B.S., Beijing Normal University
Ph.D., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Advisor: Kimberley Tolias, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Distinct Roles for the Rac-GEF Tiam1 in Promoting Dentate Gyrus Development and Restricting NMDAR-Dependent Synaptic Plasticity, Memory, and Mood Regulation”

EMILY PACKARD DAWSON
B.S., University of Miami
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
Advisor: Jason D. Heaney, Ph.D.
ANTONIA DE MAIO
B.S., University of Naples Federico II
M.S., University of Naples Federico II
Ph.D., Developmental Biology
Advisor: Huda Y. Zoghbi, M.D.
Dissertation: “Study of the RNA Binding Protein RBM17 Provides Insight into
Regulation of RNA Homeostasis”

GEORGE HILTON DENFIELD, IV
B.S., Tufts University
Ph.D., Neuroscience
Advisor: Andreas S. Tolias, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “The Role of Internal States in Structuring Population Activity in V1”

TIMOTHY LLOYD DOSEY
B.S., University of Washington
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
Advisor: Theodore G. Wensel, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Revealing Allosteric Gating Mechanisms of TRPV Channels with Cryo-EM”

CHARLENE HANNAH EMERSON
B.S., California State University-Stanislaus
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics
Advisor: Alison A. Bertuch, M.D., Ph.D.
Dissertation: “On the Effect of the Ku Heterodimer on Nonhomologous End-Joining
DNA Repair in Saccharomyces Cerevisiae”

CHRISTOPHER JAMES FOLEY
B.S., University of California-San Diego
Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Biology
Advisor: Nicholas Mitsiades, M.D.
Dissertation: “Inhibiting Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer via Targeting Transcriptional Coregulators”

LEAH ASHLEY GATES
B.S., University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
M.P.H., University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Biology
Advisor: Bert W. O’Malley, M.D.
Dissertation: “Acetylation on Histone H3 lysine 9 Mediates a Switch from Transcription Initiation to Elongation”
**Triparna Ghosh-Choudhury**
B.S., St. Mary’s University  
Ph.D., Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine  
Advisor: Matthew L. Anderson, M.D., Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Characterization of miR-148 microRNAs in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer”

**Madelyn Arlene Gillentine**
B.A., Kalamazoo College  
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics  
Advisor: Christian P. Schaaf, M.D., Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Elucidation of the Role of CHRNA7 in 15Q13.3 Copy Number Changes and Neurodevelopmental Disorders”

**Deric Maurice Griffin**
B.S., Louisiana State University and A&M College  
Ph.D., Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine  
Advisor: Robia G. Pautler, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Characterization of a Bioengineered Antioxidant in Mouse Models of Metabolic Diseases”

**Caitlin Lee Grzeskowiak**
B.S., Clarkson University  
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics  
Advisors: Kenneth Scott, Ph.D. and Sharon E. Plon, M.D., Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “In vivo Screening Identifies GATAD2B as a Lung Cancer Metastasis Driver”

**Lindsay Jeanette Harrigal**
B.S., University of Houston-Downtown  
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences  
Advisor: Janet S. Butel, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Persistence of Polyomavirus SV40 in Human Lymphoid Cells”

**Corey Francis Hryc**
B.S., University of Houston  
Ph.D., Quantitative and Computational Biosciences  
Advisor: Wah Chiu, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Optimization and Validation of Near-Atomic Resolution CryoEM Structures”

**Yu-Mei Huang**
B.S., National Yang Ming University  
Ph.D., Neuroscience  
Advisor: Matthew N. Rasband, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “A Periodic alphaII Spectrin-Based Cytoskeleton at the Axon Initial Segment and Node of Ranvier Protects Large Diameter Myelinated Axons From Degeneration”
XIQIAN JIANG  
B.S., Peking University  
Ph.D., Pharmacology  
Advisor: Jin Wang, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Development of Reaction-Based Fluorescent Probes for Biothiol Quantification”

JENNIFER LEIGH JOHNSON  
B.S., The University of Texas at El Paso  
M.S., The University of Texas at El Paso  
Ph.D., Neuroscience  
Advisor: Mauro Costa-Mattioli, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Long Term Memory and Synaptic Plasticity”

ALYSSA NICOLE JOHNSTON  
B.S., Kent State University-Main Campus  
Ph.D., Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine  
Advisors: Yi Li, Ph.D. and Julie R. Nangia, M.D.  
Dissertation: “Pharmaceuticals and Breast Cancer: Discovering the Unknown Link and Providing a Therapeutic Strategy”

JASON KAELBER  
B.A., Cornell University  
Ph.D., Molecular Virology and Microbiology  
Advisor: Wah Chiu, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Fako Virus”

AMY TSU KU  
B.S., National Taiwan University  
M.S., National Taiwan University  
Ph.D., Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine  
Advisor: Hoang Nguyen, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Characterization of Tcf7L1 and Its Regulator Sox11 in Skin Tumorigenesis”

JOHN PRESTON LEACH  
B.A., Florida Atlantic University  
Ph.D., Molecular Physiology and Biophysics  
Advisor: James F. Martin, M.D., Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Hippo Pathway Deficiency Reverses Systolic Heart Failure Post-Infarction”
YI-CHIEN LEE
B.S., National Taiwan University
M.S., George Washington University
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
Advisor: Brendan H. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Mechanism and Therapy for WNT1-Related Osteogenesis Imperfecta”

KELSEY ELIZABETH LESTEBERG
B.S., St. Cloud State University
Ph.D., Immunology
Advisor: George Makedonas, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Recycling Endosomes in Human Cytotoxic T Lymphocytes Constitute an
Auxiliary Trafficking Pathway for Newly Synthesized Perforin”

LELE LI
B.S., Tsinghua University
Ph.D., Cardiovascular Sciences
Advisor: James F. Martin, M.D., Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Loss of PITX2 in Regenerating Cardiomyocytes Leads to Adipose-Like Phenotype”

DAN LIANG
B.S., University of Science and Technology of China
Ph.D., Immunology
Advisor: William K. Decker, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “The Role of Multi-Enzyme Aminoacyl tRNA Synthetase Complex-Interacting
Multifunctional Protein 1 (AIMP1) in T Helper 1 Immune Response”

CHIH-CHUN LIN
B.S., National Taiwan University
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics
Advisor: Meng Wang, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Physiological Regulations by Interactions Between
Environment, Bacteria and Caenorhabditis elegans”

KRITHIKA LINGAPPAN
M.B.B.S., Kilpauk Medical College
M.S., Baylor College of Medicine
Ph.D., Clinical Scientist Training Program
Advisor: Bhagavatula Moorthy, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Sex-Specific Differences in Hyperoxic Lung Injury: Implications
for Adult and Neonatal Lung Injury”
LU LIU
B.S., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Ph.D., Neuroscience
Advisor: Hugo J. Bellen, D.V.M, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Roles and Origins of Lipid Droplet Accumulation in Neurodegeneration”

YUAN-HUNG LO
B.S., China Medical University
M.S., National Tsing Hua University
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
Advisor: Noah F. Shroyer, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Transcription Factors in Intestinal Differentiation and Cancer”

JAMES ANTHONY LOEHR
B.A., Illinois Wesleyan University
M.S., University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Ph.D., Molecular Physiology and Biophysics
Advisor: George G. Rodney, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “The Role of NADPH Oxidase 2 (Nox2) ROS in Mediating Skeletal Muscle Adaptations”

SIMRAN ARUN MADAN
B.S., The University of Texas at Austin
Ph.D., Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine
Advisor: Brendan H. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Urea Cycle Disorders and Regulation of Their Downstream Metabolites”

KATHLEEN SEGER MANNING
B.S., Trinity University
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
Advisor: Thomas Cooper, M.D.
Dissertation: “Antisense Therapy and RNA Toxicity in Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1”

LISA MICHELLE MATZ
B.S., Texas Tech University - Lubbock
Ph.D., Molecular Virology and Microbiology
Advisor: Joseph Petrosino, Ph.D.
Cynthia K. Mcclard  
B.A., The University of Texas at Austin  
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics  
Advisor: Benjamin R. Arenkiel, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “POU6f1 Mediates Neuropeptides-Dependent Plasticity in the Adult Brain”

Andrea Kathleen Nash  
B.S., The University of Texas at Austin  
Ph.D., Molecular Virology and Microbiology  
Advisor: Joseph Petrosino, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “The Human Mycobiome in Health and Disease”

Francis Peter Pankowicz  
B.S., Elizabethtown College  
Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Biology  
Advisor: Karl-Dimiter Bissig, M.D., Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Metabolic Pathway Reprogramming Using CRISPR/Cas9 for Disease Treatment and Modelling”

Jiyoun Park  
B.S., Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology  
M.S., Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology  
Ph.D., Structural and Computational Biology and Molecular Biophysics  
Advisor: Stelios M. Smirnakis, M.D., Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Contribution of Apical and Basal Dendrites of Layer 2/3 Pyramidal Neurons to Orientation Encoding in Mouse V1”

Vivek Rajasekharan  
B.E., Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani  
M.Sc., Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani  
Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Biology  
Advisor: Frederick A. Pereira, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Catch-Slip Behavior Observed Upon Rupturing Membrane-Cytoskeleton Bonds”

Prasanna Venkatesh Ramachandran  
B.S., Fairleigh Dickinson University Teaneck-Hacensack  
M.A., Washington University in St. Louis  
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics  
Advisor: Meng Wang, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Genetic Mechanisms of Lysosome-Mediated Metabolism and Longevity”
SAM JULIAN REGENBOGEN
B.S., Duke University
Ph.D., Pharmacology
Advisor: Olivier Lichtarge, M.D., Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Collaborative Filtering for Precision Medicine”

JASON SCOTT SALVO
B.S., University of Maryland-Baltimore County
M.S., University of Maryland-Baltimore County
Ph.D., Structural and Computational Biology and Molecular Biophysics
Advisor: Rui Chen, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Genomic Analysis of Human Retinal Disease: Data Processing, Storage, and Automation”

ROBERT LIONEL SEILHEIMER
B.S., The University of Texas at Austin
Ph.D., Quantitative and Computational Biosciences
Advisor: Samuel Wu, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Genetic, Pharmacologic, and Physiologic Dissection of Retinal Circuits Underlying Ganglion Cell Function and Dysfunction”

THOMAS CHUNG TONG SHUM
B.S., Purdue University-Main Campus
Ph.D., Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine
Advisor: Cliona M. Rooney, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Constitutive Signaling from an Engineered IL-7 Receptor Promotes Durable Tumor Elimination by Tumor Redirected T-cells”

ZACHRY TORE SOENS
B.S., Rensselear Polytechnic Institute
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics
Advisor: Rui Chen, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Improving the Molecular Diagnosis Rate of Leber Congenital Amaurosis”

PAPIYA SINHA SOMASUNDARAM
B.A., Clark University
Ph.D., Immunology
Advisor: Jordan S. Orange, M.D.
Dissertation: “Lytic Granules of Activated NK Cells Demonstrate Variable Motility After Delivery to the Immunological Synapse and is Highly Regulated by Multi-Component Cytoskeletal Function”
MARAN LEE SPROUSE
B.S., Arizona State University
Ph.D., Immunology
Advisor: Maria Bettini, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “T cell Receptor Parameters of Pathogenic and Regulatory T cells Associated with Autoimmune Diabetes”

AMULYA SREEKUMAR
B.S., University of Pune
M.S., Charite Universitatsmedizin Berlin
Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Biology
Advisor: Jeffrey M. Rosen, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Wnt Pathway-Mediated Regulation of Fox01 Constitutes a Critical Axis Maintaining Mammary Stem Cell Homeostasis”

JENNY JIAJIA SUN
B.A., Rice University
B.S., Rice University
Ph.D., Neuroscience
Advisor: Russell Ray, Ph.D.

MARK RICHARD TANNER
B.A., Augustana College-Rock Island
Ph.D., Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine
Advisor: Christine Beeton, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Potassium Channels as Targets for Rheumatoid Arthritis”

LIN TIAN
B.S., Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Ph.D., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Advisor: Xiang Zhang, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Type 1 Helper Cells Promote Tumor Vessel Normalization and Mitigate Hypoxia”

BAOUYEN TRAN
B.A., San Francisco State University
Ph.D., Neuroscience
Advisor: Edward C. Cooper, M.D.
Dissertation: “KCNQ2 Encephalopathy: Characterization, Mechanisms, and Novel Treatments of Variants of a Potassium Channel Subunit”


**Wei-Chih Tsai**

B.Sc., Chung Shan Medical University  
M.S., National Yang Ming University  
Ph.D., Molecular Virology and Microbiology  
Advisor: Richard E. Lloyd, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Arginine Demethylation of Rasgap-Sh3-Binding Protein 1 (G3bp1) Promotes Stress Granule Assembly”

**Hui-Ying Tung**

B.Sc., Penn State - University Park  
Ph.D., Immunology  
Advisor: David B. Corry, M.D.  
Dissertation: “Fibrinogen Cleaved Products Elicit Allergic Inflammation and Antifungal Defense Through Distinct TLR4-Dependent Signaling Pathways”

**Zer Vue**

B.S., University of California at Merced  
M.S., University of California-Merced  
Ph.D., Developmental Biology  
Advisor: Richard R. Behringer, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Glandular Morphogenesis of the Mouse Uterus”

**Yumeng Wang**

B.E., Huazhong University of Science and Technology  
Ph.D., Quantitative and Computational Biosciences  
Advisor: Han Liang, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Integrated Multidimensional Pan-Cancer Analysis for Precision Cancer Medicine”

**Janson James White**

B.S., University of Washington  
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics  
Advisor: James R. Lupski, M.D., Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Lessons from a Rare Disease: Elucidating the Genetic Heterogeneity of Robinow Syndrome”

**Chun-Ting Wu**

M.D., National Taiwan University  
M.S., University College London  
Ph.D., Neuroscience  
Advisor: Daoyun Ji, Ph.D.  
Dissertation: “Hippocampal Place Cells in Fear Memory Retrieval”
JUN XIA
B.Agronomy, Zhejiang University
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
Advisor: Susan M. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

WEI XIE
B.S., Johns Hopkins University
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
Advisor: Huda Y. Zoghbi, M.D.
Dissertation: “Understanding Atoh1 Phosphoregulation and Protein Interactions in Development”

MINGCHU XU
B.Sc., East China Normal University
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics
Advisor: Rui Chen, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Identifying the Novel Genetic Etiology of Inherited Retinal Dystrophy”

ZENGHUI XUE
B.S., Nankai University
Ph.D., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Advisor: Anna M. Sokac, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Back-to-Back Mechanisms Drive Actomyosin Ring Constriction During Drosophila Embryo Clevage”

LATERICA CHEMISE WILLIAMS YARBROUGH
B.S., The University of Texas at Tyler
M.S., Stephen F. Austin State University
Ph.D., Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine
Advisor: Stephen M.G. Gottschalk, M.D.
Dissertation: “Using Genetically Modified T cells to Target Tumor Endothelial Marker 8”

Szu-Ying Yeh
B.S., National Taiwan University
M.S., National Taiwan University
Ph.D., Developmental Biology
Advisor: Huda Y. Zoghbi, M.D.
Dissertation: “Understanding the Function of Ion Channel Nalcn and Basic Helix-Loop-Helix Transcription Factor Atoh1 in Breathing Control”
SHUO-TING YEN
B.S., National Taiwan University
Ph.D., Developmental Biology
Advisor: Richard Behringer, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Cell Behaviors During Mullerian Duct Elongation”

JIANI YIN
B.S., Fudan University
Ph.D., Molecular and Human Genetics
Advisor: Christian P. Schaaf, M.D., Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Investigation of the Molecular Pathogenesis of 15q13.3 Microdeletion Syndrome”

MINGKUN ZHAO
B.S., Peking University
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
Advisor: Jin Wang, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Development of a Novel Gene Delivery Toolkit Using Star-Shaped Cationic Polymers”

WENYI ZHU
B.S., University of Science and Technology of China
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
Advisor: Benjamin Deneen, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Functional Interrogation of Glial Determinants in Glioma”

WINNIE YIYUN ZOU
B.S., University of South Dakota
Ph.D., Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences
Advisors: Mary K. Estes, Ph.D. and Noah F. Shroyer, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “The Intestinal Stem Cell Responses to Rotavirus Infection”

All degrees to be awarded are contingent upon satisfactory completion of all degree requirements.
SPECIAL AWARDS
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Professor John J. Trentin Scholarship Awards
Chun-An Chen – 2012
George Hilton Denfield IV – 2012
Jennifer Leigh Johnson – 2012
Yuan-Hung Lo – 2015
Kathleen Seger Manning – 2013
Robert Lionel Seilheimer – 2012
Jenny Jiajia Sun – 2013

Beckman Poster Award
Charlene Hannah Emerson – 2014
Xiqian Jiang – 2015, 2016
Jennifer Leigh Johnson – 2013, 2014
Amy Tsu Ku – 2014
John Preston Leach – 2014
Lele Li – 2016
Jenny Jiajia Sun – 2015
Mark Richard Tanner – 2015

Beckman Platform Speaker Award
Corey Francis Hryc – 2014
John Preston Leach – 2015
Chih-Chun Lin – 2015
Lu Liu – 2015

Dean’s Award of Excellence
Stephanie Louise Alexander – 2014
Felicia Cao – 2016
Charlene Hannah Emerson – 2013
Leah Ashley Gates – 2016
Deric Maurice Griffin – 2012
Yuan-Hung Lo – 2016
Cynthia K. McClard – 2015
Jenny Jiajia Sun – 2016
Mark Richard Tanner – 2016
Winnie Yiyun Zou – 2015

Lehmann Outstanding Student Award
Mark Richard Tanner – 2018
Candidates for the Degree, Doctor of Medicine with Highest Honor

Abigail Hook Garbarino
Victoria Mitre
Allison Archer Sellner
Alexander Mitchell Tatara
Emma Hobdy Weiss

Candidates for the Degree, Doctor of Medicine with High Honor

Kausar Ali
Carrie Diana Bennett
Zachary Robert Bennett
Ashley Rose Blanchard
Vincent Alexander Brinker
Trissa McClatchey Connors
Lee Salvador Haruno
Julika Kaplan
Michael Stephen Pohlen
Geneva Rose White

Candidates for the Degree, Doctor of Medicine with Honor

Vivek Bhika Beechar
Alexandra Wagner Buffie
Luis Guillermo Fernandez III
Lucy Chang Gao
Jane Jarjour
Abdul Basit Khan
Allison Meijay Khoo
Alexander Vance Kolkin
Matthew Louis
Michael Scott Murri
Ankita Patro
Ruchit Rajesh Rana
Alexander Baireddy Reddy
Colin Joseph Rog
Sarita Rashmikant Shah
Bibin Thomas Varghese
Jordan Kohler Yoeli
Candidates for the Degree, Doctor of Medicine

**MEGAN JANIECE ABBOTT**
B.S., Texas A&M University  
Residency Program:  
University of Colorado School of Medicine  
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**RUTH LINDA ACKAH**
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Residency Program:  
Ohio State University Medical Center  
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B.A., University of Southern California  
Residency Program:  
Baylor College of Medicine  
(Plastic Surgery), Houston, Texas

**ERIC PER BAKEN**
B.S., Texas A&M University  
Residency Program:  
Emory University School of Medicine  
(Internal Medicine), Atlanta, Georgia

**SOHINI SREE BANDY**
B.A., Yale University  
Residency Program:  
University of Maryland Medical Center  
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**JOHN MICHAEL BECKHAM**
A.B., Harvard University  
Residency Program:  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
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**Vivek Beechar**  
B.S. Bio., The University of Texas at Austin  
Residency Program:  
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
(Internal Medicine), Dallas, Texas

**Carrie Diana Bennett**  
B.B.A., The University of Texas at Austin  
B.A., The University of Texas at Austin  
Residency Program:  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
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B.S., Louisiana State University  
Residency Program:  
Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center  
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B.S., University of Houston  
Residency Program:  
Loma Linda University Medical Center  
(Psychiatry), Redlands, California

**Prateek Bhattacharya**  
B.A., Rice University  
Residency Program:  
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center  
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**Corey Thomas Bindner**  
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Residency Program:  
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**Ashley Rose Blanchard**  
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Residency Program:  
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**María Suzanne Bosley Bloomquist**
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Residency Program:  
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Baylor College of Medicine  
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University of Kansas School of Medicine  
(Radiation Oncology), Kansas City, Kansas (2019-2022)

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Residency Program:  
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Baylor College of Medicine  
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**Tyler Joseph Brenneman**
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Residency Program:  
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Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center  
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Residency Program:
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(Medicine-Preliminary), Houston, Texas (2018-2019)
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
(Radiation Oncology), Houston, Texas (2019-2020)

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Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science
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Residency Program:  
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B.S.R.T.F., The University of Texas at Austin  
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(Dermatology & Cutaneous Oncology), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2019-2023)

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Ph.D., Rice University  
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Residency Program:  
University of Florida  
(Internal Medicine), Gainesville, Florida

Young Min Moon  
B.S., University of Notre Dame  
Residency Program:  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
(Psychiatry), Fort Worth, Texas

Andrew Murphy  
B.S. Bio., The University of Texas at Austin  
Residency Program:  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
(Internal Medicine), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Michael Scott Murri  
B.S., Brigham Young University  
Residency Program:  
University of Utah  
(Medicine-Preliminary), Salt Lake City, Utah (2018-2019)  
University of Utah  
(Ophthalmology), Salt Lake City, Utah (2019-2022)
**Noorhan Nassar**
B.S., The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
Residency Program:  
Christus Health/Santa Rosa  
(Family Medicine), San Antonio, Texas

**Dan Duy Nguyen**
B.S.M.E., The University of Texas at Austin  
Residency Program:  
Baylor College of Medicine  
(Surgery-Preliminary), Houston, Texas (2018-2019)  
Baylor College of Medicine  
(Diagnostic Radiology), Houston, Texas (2019-2022)

**Harrison Phu Nguyen**
B.A., Rice University  
M.B.A., Yale University  
M.P.H., Yale University School of Public Health  
Residency Program:  
Baylor College of Medicine  
(Medicine-Preliminary), Houston, Texas (2018-2019)  
Emory University School of Medicine  
(Dermatology), Atlanta, Georgia (2019-2022)

**Huy Duy Nguyen**
B.S.B.E., The University of Texas at Austin  
Baylor College of Medicine/Rice University M.D./M.B.A. Program:  
M.B.A., Rice University  
Residency Program:  
Brandon Regional Hospital  
(Transitional), Brandon, Florida (2018-2019)  
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
(Ophthalmology), San Antonio, Texas (2019-2022)

**Patrick Si Nhan Nguyen**
B.S., University of Houston  
B.S., University of Houston  
Residency Program:  
Albany Medical Center  
(General Surgery), Albany, New York
SON VIET NGUYEN
B.A., Rice University
Baylor College of Medicine/Rice University M.D./M.B.A. Program:
M.B.A., Rice University
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Internal Medicine), Houston, Texas

THIEN-BAO PETER NGUYEN
B.S. Bio., The University of Texas at Austin
Residency Program:
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
(Internal Medicine), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

OLUWADOLAPO ABBINOLA OYEBADEJO
B.S., Xavier University of Louisiana
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Emergency Medicine), Houston, Texas

RYAN RAUL PALACIOS
B.S., The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Pediatrics), Houston, Texas

AISHWARYA VENKATARAMAN PAREEK
B.M., Berklee College of Music
B.S., Stanford University
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Child Neurology), Houston, Texas

ANDRES SEBASTIAN PARRA
A.B., Washington University in St. Louis
Residency Program:
John Peter Smith Hospital
(Transitional), Fort Worth, Texas (2018-2019)
UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine/UCLA Medical Center
(Ophthalmology), Los Angeles, California (2019-2022)
SAAGAR NILESH PATEL
B.S. Bioch., The University of Texas at Austin
B.A., The University of Texas at Austin
Residency Program:
The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School
(Medicine-Preliminary), Austin, Texas (2018-2019)
Pennsylvania State University-Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
(Ophthalmology), University Park, Pennsylvania (2019-2022)

ANKITA PATRO
B.A., Stanford University
M.S., Stanford University
Residency Program:
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
(Otolaryngology), Nashville, Tennessee

ZACHARY JAMES PETTIGREW
B.S., Emory University
Residency Program:
University of North Carolina Hospitals
(Pediatrics-Primary Care), Chapel Hill, North Carolina

EMILY LAUREN PODANY
A.B., Washington University in St. Louis
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Internal Medicine), Houston, Texas

MICHAEL STEPHEN POHLEN
B.S., Texas A&M University
Residency Program:
Riverside Community Hospital
(Transitional), Riverside, California (2018-2019)
Stanford University
(Diagnostic Radiology), Stanford, California (2019-2022)

GEORGE VATTATHARA POLSON
B.S. Bio., The University of Texas at Austin
Residency Program:
Loyola Medicine MacNeal Hospital
(Transitional), Berwyn, Illinois (2018-2019)
Baylor College of Medicine
(Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation), Houston, Texas (2019-2022)
LUCY MINGYANG POTTER
B.A., Rice University
B.S., Rice University
M.D., Doctor of Medicine*
*degree awarded December 17, 2017

RUCHIT RAJESH RANA
B.A., Rice University
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Internal Medicine), Houston, Texas

MILAN RAVISHANKAR
B.S.B.A., The University of Texas at Austin
B.A., The University of Texas at Austin
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Internal Medicine), Houston, Texas

ALEXANDER BAIREDDY REDDY
B.S., University of Oklahoma
Residency Program:
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
(Medicine-Preliminary), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (2018-2019)
Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine/Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology
(Diagnostic Radiology), St. Louis, Missouri (2019-2022)

XINQI REN
B.S., Southern Methodist University
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Family Medicine), Houston, Texas

PAUL RIZK
B.S., Yale University
Residency Program:
Jackson Memorial Hospital/Jackson Health System
(Surgery-Preliminary), Miami, Florida (2018-2019)
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
(Urology), Miami, Florida (2019-2022)
**Colin Joseph Rog**  
B.S., Duke University  
Residency Program:  
Swedish Medical Center  
(General Surgery), Seattle, Washington

**Jasdeep Sabharwal**  
B.A., University of California, Berkeley  
Baylor College of Medicine M.D./Ph.D. Program:  
Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine  
Residency Program:  
MedStar Harbor Hospital  
(Medicine-Preliminary), Baltimore, Maryland (2018-2019)  
Johns Hopkins Hospital  
(Ophthalmology), Baltimore, Maryland (2019-2022)

**Humberto Salazar III**  
B.S. Bio, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
Residency Program:  
Baylor College of Medicine  
(Medicine-Preliminary), Houston, Texas (2018-2019)  
University of Miami School of Medicine Bascom Palmer Eye Institute  
(Ophthalmology), Miami, Florida (2019-2022)

**Javier Enrique Santiago**  
B.S., Texas A&M University  
Residency Program:  
University of Michigan Health System  
(Surgery-Preliminary), Ann Arbor, Michigan (2018-2019)  
University of Michigan Health System  
(Urology), Ann Arbor, Michigan (2019-2022)

**Apeksha Saxena**  
B.S., The University of Texas at Dallas  
Residency Program:  
Yale-New Haven Medical Center  
(Pediatrics), New Haven, Connecticut

**Jon Hunter Scarborough**  
B.S., Texas Christian University  
Residency Program:  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
(Emergency Medicine), Fort Worth, Texas
ALLISON ARCHER SELLNER
B.A., Baylor University
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Obstetrics & Gynecology), Houston, Texas

MICHELLE LYNN SEYMOUR
B.S., Allegheny College
Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Medicine-Preliminary), Houston, Texas (2018-2019)
Baylor College of Medicine
(Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation), Houston, Texas (2019-2022)

BEENA MANISH SHAH
B.B.A., Baylor University
Residency Program:
The University of Texas Medical Branch Hospitals
(Medicine-Preliminary), Galveston, Texas (2018-2019)
The University of Texas Medical Branch Hospitals/Houston Methodist Hospital
(Ophthalmology), Galveston, Texas (2019-2022)

SARITA RASHMIKANT SHAH
B.S., Trinity University
M.D., Doctor of Medicine*
Baylor College of Medicine M.D./Ph.D. Program:
Ph.D., Rice University
Residency Program:
University of California, San Diego Medical Center
(Psychiatry-Research), San Diego, California
*degree awarded December 31, 2017

ABDULLAH SALIM SHAikh
B.S., University of Houston
B.B.A., University of Houston
Residency Program:
The University of Texas Medical Branch Hospitals
(Internal Medicine), Galveston, Texas
MEGAN MARIE SHEDD
B.S., Texas State University
Baylor College of Medicine/The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
School of Public Health M.D./M.P.H. Program:
M.P.H., The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Residency Program:
University of New Mexico School of Medicine
(Psychiatry), Albuquerque, New Mexico

WALKER DOUGLAS SHORT
B.S., University of Washington
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(General Surgery), Houston, Texas

JOHN WALLACE SHUMWAY
B.M., Brigham Young University
M.D., Doctor of Medicine*
Residency Program:
Sunrise Health Graduate Medical Education Consortium
(Transitional), Las Vegas, Nevada (2018-2019)
University of North Carolina Hospitals
(Radiation Oncology), Chapel Hill, North Carolina (2019-2022)
*degree awarded December 31, 2017

JOHN TUCKER SIGALOS
B.A., Vanderbilt University
Residency Program:
UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine/UCLA Medical Center
(Surgery-Preliminary), Los Angeles, California (2018-2019)
UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine/UCLA Medical Center
(Urology), Los Angeles, California (2019-2022)

MARA ALEJANDRA SIGALOS-RIVERA
B.A., Vanderbilt University
Residency Program:
University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine
(Psychiatry), Los Angeles, California

RYAN LAWRENCE SILLER
B.A., The University of Texas at Austin
Residency Program:
The University of Texas Medical Branch Hospitals
(Orthopaedic Surgery), Galveston, Texas
ANGELA SONG
A.B., Harvard University
Residency Program:
University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals
(Emergency Medicine), Seattle, Washington

JOHN CONNOR STOLL
B.A., Middlebury College
Residency Program:
University of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix
(Medicine-Pediatrics), Phoenix, Arizona

WILLIAM TRAVIS STOLL
B.A., Middlebury College
Residency Program:
George Washington University
(Orthopaedic Surgery), Washington, District of Columbia

EVAN NELSON STROBELT
B.A., Brigham Young University
Residency Program:
Yale-New Haven Medical Center
(Emergency Medicine), New Haven, Connecticut

CAMERON BRADLEY STRONG
B.S., Baylor University
Residency Program:
Duke University Hospital
(Medicine-Psychiatry), Durham, North Carolina

JENNIFER SUN
B.S., Vanderbilt University
Residency Program:
WellStar Kennestone Regional Medical Center
(Transitional), Marietta, Georgia (2018-2019)
Baylor College of Medicine
(Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation), Houston, Texas (2019-2022)
ALEXANDER MITCHELL TATARA
B.S., Washington University in St. Louis
Baylor College of Medicine M.D./Ph.D. Program:
Ph.D., Rice University
Residency Program:
Massachusetts General Hospital
(Internal Medicine), Boston, Massachusetts

JULIANN CHHEN TEA
B.S., University of Houston
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Psychiatry), Houston, Texas

SUDIP DILIP THAKAR
B.S., University of Houston
Residency Program:
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
(Surgery-Preliminary), Chicago, Illinois (2018-2019)
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

ANGELA MARY THOMAS
B.S. Biology, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Anesthesiology), Houston, Texas

DUSTYN PATRICK TOBIN
B.S., University of St. Thomas

MAXWELL TRAN
B.S., University of Michigan
Residency Program:
University of Minnesota Medical School
(Neurological Surgery), Minneapolis, Minnesota

ANNA CHUN-CHIA TSENG
B.S. Bioch., The University of Texas at Austin
Residency Program:
Memorial Hermann Health System
(Family Medicine), Sugar Land, Texas
**JACOB RYAN VAN FLEET**
B.S. Bioch., The University of Texas at Austin  
Residency Program:  
Harrison Medical Center  
(Family Medicine), Bremerton, Washington

**RENAE DENEB VAN WYHE**
B.A., Baylor University  
M.B.A., Christian Brothers University  
Residency Program:  
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine at Holy Cross Hospital  
(Transitional), Fort Lauderdale, Florida (2018-2019)  
University of Miami School of Medicine  
Jackson Memorial Hospital  
(Radiation Oncology), Miami, Florida (2019-2022)

**BIBIN THOMAS VARGHESE**
B.S. Bioch., The University of Texas at Austin  
Residency Program:  
Johns Hopkins Hospital  
(Internal Medicine), Baltimore, Maryland

**BEN ABRAHAM VARUGHES**
B.S., University of Houston  
Residency Program:  
Swedish Medical Center  
(Surgery-Preliminary), Seattle, Washington (2018-2019)  
Baylor College of Medicine  
(Diagnostic Radiology), Houston, Texas (2019-2022)

**TIMOTHY JOSEPH WALL**
B.S., Texas A&M University  
Residency Program:  
Wright-Patterson Medical Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
(Internal Medicine), Dayton, Ohio

**EMMA HOBDY WEISS**
B.B.A., The University of Texas at Austin  
Residency Program:  
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center  
(Transitional), New York, New York (2018-2019)  
Yale-New Haven Medical Center  
(Dermatology), New Haven, Connecticut (2019-2022)
GRACE WEY
B.S.B.A., Washington University in St. Louis
Residency Program:
St. Peter’s University Hospital
(Obstetrics & Gynecology), New Brunswick, New Jersey

GENEVA ROSE WHITE
B.S., Juniata College
Residency Program:
University of Michigan Health System
(Anesthesiology), Ann Arbor, Michigan

SARAH ELIZABETH WILLIAMS
B.A., The University of Texas at Austin
Residency Program:
Brookwood Baptist Health
(Medicine-Preliminary), Birmingham, Alabama (2018-2019)
University of Alabama Medical Center
(Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation), Birmingham, Alabama (2019-2022)

JASON WITMER
B.A., Goshen College
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Psychiatry), Houston, Texas

ANG XU
A.B., Washington University in St. Louis
Residency Program:
Baylor College of Medicine
(Medicine-Primary Care), Houston, Texas

KATHARINE YANG
B.A., Rice University
Residency Program:
University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine
(Internal Medicine), Los Angeles, California

ALLISON GRACE YEH
B.S.H.D.F.S., The University of Texas at Austin
Residency Program:
Swedish Medical Center
(Family Medicine), Seattle, Washington
**Dor Yoeli**
A.B., Washington University in St. Louis  
Residency Program:  
University of Colorado School of Medicine  
(General Surgery), Aurora, Colorado

**Jordan Kohler Yoeli**
B.A., The University of Texas at Austin  
Residency Program:  
University of Colorado School of Medicine  
(Pediatrics), Aurora, Colorado

**Christine Michelle Yost**
B.A.S., Stanford University  
Residency Program:  
Baylor College of Medicine  
(Pediatrics), Houston, Texas

**Sarah Elizabeth Young**
B.S. Bio., The University of Texas at Austin  
Baylor College of Medicine/The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
School of Public Health M.D./M.P.H. Program:  
M.P.H., The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
Residency Program:  
Baylor College of Medicine  
(Pathology), Houston, Texas

**Roya Zamani**
B.S., University of Houston  
Residency Program:  
Memorial Hermann Health System  
(Family Medicine), Sugar Land, Texas

**Amos Robert Zimmermann**
B.S. Bio., The University of Texas at Austin  
Residency Program:  
University of New Mexico School of Medicine  
(General Surgery), Albuquerque, New Mexico

*All degrees awarded are contingent upon satisfactory completion of all degree requirements.*
PERMANENT HONORS
ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA HONOR MEDICAL SOCIETY
School of Medicine

Kausar Ali
Carrie Diana Bennett
Zachary Robert Bennett
Ashley Rose Blanchard
Julianna Bronk
Alexandra Wagner Buffie
Kristen Jean Carroll
Trissa McClatchey Connors
David Christopher Evans
Luis Guillermo Fernandez III
Abigail Hook Garbarino
Anand Veerasakthy Ganapathy
Lee Salvador Haruno
Jane Jarjour
Julia Kaplan
Abdul Basit Khan
Allison Meijay Khoo

Jaden Rachel Schupp Kohn
Taylor Poreet Kohn
Alexander Vance Kolkin
Matthew Louis
Victoria Mitre
Michael Scott Murri
Ankita Patro
Michael Stephen Pohlen
Ruchit Rajesh Rana
Alexander Baireddy Reddy
Allison Archer Sellner
Sarita Rashmikant Shah
Alexander Mitchell Tatara
Bibin Thomas Varghese
Emma Hobdy Weiss
Geneva Rose White

GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY
AT BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
School of Medicine

Ruth Linda Ackah
John Michael Beckham
Hannah Lee Brown
Erin Yee-May Chew
Cameron Levi Clarke
Elizabeth Nichole Cook
Jessica Theresa D’Souza
Sarah Mary Haley
Lindsey Ella Heathcock
Brandon Joseph Ho
Cyrus Ahmad Iqbal
Jane Jarjour
Bradly Alexander Kimbrough
Sarah Krasny

Caroline Watkins McCool
Victoria Mitre
Thien-Bao Peter Nguyen
Aishwarya Venkataraman Pareek
Ankita Patro
George Vattathara Polson
Ruchit Rajesh Rana
John Tucker Sigalos
Mara Alejandra Sigalos-Rivera
Cameron Bradley Strong
Katharine Yang
Allison Grace Yeh
Allison Kohler Yoeli
Christine Michelle Yost
DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

School of Medicine

Baylor College of Medicine
M.D./Ph.D. Program

Baylor College of Medicine is one of 48 institutions awarded a competitive Medical Scientist Training Program grant supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. The program provides integrated scientific and medical training leading to the combined M.D./Ph.D. degree to highly motivated students with outstanding research and academic potential.

M.D./Ph.D. Program
Truston J. Bodine
Tiffany Chantal Fleet
Mark Patrick Hamilton
Robert Layne Kruse
Jonathan Sunwei Lin
Jasdeep Sabharwal
Sarita Rashmikant Shah
Alexander Mitchell Tatara

Baylor College of Medicine / Rice University
M.D./M.B.A. Program

Baylor College of Medicine and Rice University Jones School of Management sponsor jointly a Program in Health Sciences Management, which answers the growing demand for skilled managers in the healthcare industry. The curriculum includes essential skills for the successful manager and an introduction into the body of knowledge that is unique to healthcare systems and operations.

M.D./M.B.A. Program
Annie Hsiao
Ishan Suraj Kamat
Huy Duy Nguyen
Son Viet Nguyen

Baylor College of Medicine/The University of Texas
School of Public Health
M.D./M.P.H. Program

Baylor College of Medicine in partnership with the University of Texas School of Public Health jointly sponsor this five-year program for students who want training in both population health and clinical medicine. Students complete an additional 45-75 hours of credit in: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences, Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, or Management Policy and Community Health to receive the M.P.H. degree.

M.D./M.P.H. Program
Paul David Chamberlain
Trissa McClatchey Connors
Kathryn Mackenzie Hicks
Jaden Rachel Schupp Kohn
Marissa Dee Marolf
Megan Marie Shedd
Sarah Elizabeth Young
EDUCATIONAL CERTIFICATE TRACKS
School of Medicine

Care of the Underserved
Prateek Bhattacharya
Grace Hezi Gao
Sarah Mary Haley
Jane Jarjour
Julika Kaplan
Rida Khan
Katharine Yang

Genetics
Caroline Watkins McCool

Geriatrics
Anna Chun-Chia Tseng
Renae Deneb Van Wyhe

Global Health
John Michael Beckham
Kathryn Mackenzie Hicks
Jane Jarjour
Julika Kaplan
Megan Marie Shedd

Ethics
Megan Janiece Abbott
Ruth Linda Ackah
John Michael Beckham
Kristen Jean Carroll
Danielle Linda Clark
Caitlin Rose Comfort
Elizabeth Nichole Cook
Aravindh Srinivasan Ganapathy
Sarah Mary Haley
Lindsey Ella Heathcock
Julika Kaplan
Kathryn Michelle Kudlary
Ankita Patro
Apeksha Saxena
Allison Archer Sellner
Mara Alejandra Sigalos-Rivera
Angela Song
Cameron Bradley Strong

Healthcare Policy and Management
Michael Scott Murri

Medical Student Research
Vivek Bhika Beechar
Emily Ann Chang
Arina Evgenievna Chesnokova
Anand Veerasakthy Ganapathy
Allison Meijay Khoo

Space Medicine
Annie Hsiao
Huy Duy Nguyen
Patrick Si Nhan Nguyen
Michael Stephen Pohlen
Alexander Bairredy Reddy
Jon Hunter Scarborough
Ben Abraham Varughese

DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE
National School of Tropical Medicine

John Michael Beckham
Hannah Lee Brown
Ariella Candace Marie Derenge
Kathryn Mackenzie Hicks
Julika Kaplan
Bradly Alexander Kimbrough
Harrison Phu Nguyen
Megan Marie Shedd
John Connor Stoll
Sudip Dilip Thakar
### SPECIAL AWARDS

_School of Medicine_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DeBakey Scholar Award</td>
<td>Victoria Mitre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanley W. Olson Award for Academic Excellence and Service</td>
<td>Emma Hobdy Weiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey C. Elkins Memorial Scholarship Award</td>
<td>Julika Kaplan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambert Award for Excellence in Medicine</td>
<td>Geneva Rose White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor College of Medicine Alumni Association Lehmann Outstanding Student Award</td>
<td>Jessica Theresa D’Souza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deans Award for Innovation in Medical Education</td>
<td>Angela Song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard R. Dickason, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., Outstanding Physician-Scientist Award</td>
<td>Alexander Mitchell Tatara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Medical Women’s Association Glasgow-Rubin Certificate of Commendation for Academic Achievement</td>
<td>Kausar Ali, Carrie Diana Bennett, Ashley Rose Blanchard, Trissa McClatchey Connors, Abigail Hook Garbarino, Julika Kaplan, Allison Meijay Khoo, Victoria Mitre, Allison Archer Sellner, Emma Hobdy Weiss, Geneva Rose White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Carl Harvey Memorial Award for Excellence in Gross Anatomy</td>
<td>Kausar Ali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence F. Schumacher Award for Excellence in Anesthesiology</td>
<td>Sarah Elizabeth Lumsden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society of Anesthesiologists Medical Student Recognition Program</td>
<td>Jordan Reyes Krieger, Harrison Phu Nguyen, Angela Mary Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas College of Emergency Physicians Outstanding Medical Student Award</td>
<td>Angela Song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award</td>
<td>Evan Nelson Strobelt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American College of Emergency Physicians Professionalism and Service Award</td>
<td>Oluwadolapo Abimbola Oyebadejo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Emergency Medicine Star Student Award</td>
<td>Alexander Vance Kolkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonard D. Moise Award for Excellence in Family Medicine</td>
<td>Jessica Theresa D’Souza, Rida Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur L. Beaudet Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Genetics</td>
<td>Caroline Watkins McCool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Kenneth L. Burdon Foundational Sciences Curriculum Academic Achievement Award in Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>Michelle S. Lin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Award</td>
<td>Kathryn Mackenzie Hicks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SPECIAL AWARDS**

_School of Medicine_

**The Musher Prize in Adult Infectious Diseases**
Alexander Mitchell Tatara
Katharine Yang

**The Harry and Rose Caplovitz Internal Medicine Award**
Bibin Thomas Varghese

**Excellence in Neurology Award**
Sharon Chiang

**Houston Gynecological and Obstetrics Society Award**
Allison Archer Sellner

**Outstanding Medical Student in Obstetrics and Gynecology**
Alexandra Wagner Buffie

**Outstanding Students in Orthopaedic Surgery**
Corey Thomas Binder
Hallie Rambie Bradley
Justin Michael Cardenas
David Christopher Evans
Anand Veerasakthy Ganapathy
Lee Salvador Haruno
Hiba Maha Ibad
Andrew Blair Kohner
Joshua Taylor Lackey
Ryan Lawrence Siller
William Travis Stoll

**Outstanding Achievement in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery**
Zachary Robert Bennett

**Stuart A. Wallace Award for Excellence in Pathology**
Maria Suzanne Bosley Bloomquist

**The Ralph D. Feigin, M.D., Medical Student Excellence in Pediatrics Award**
Victoria Mitre

**The L. Leighton Hill, M.D., Medical Student Excellence in Pediatrics Award**
Michael Stephen Pohlen

**Kelly R. F. Descoli, M.D., Medical Student Excellence in Pediatrics Award**
Jordan Kohler Yoeli

**Outstanding Medical Student in Plastic Surgery**
Kausar Ali

**The Hilde Bruch Award for Excellence in Psychiatry**
Mara Alejandra Sigalos-Rivera

**The John P. McGovern, M.D., Award for Excellence in Psychiatry**
Arina Evgenievna Chesnokova

**Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery Outstanding Student in Surgery Award**
Walker Douglas Short

**Arnold Award for Excellence in Urology**
John Tucker Sigalos
John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award in the Foundational Sciences
Zaven Sargsyan, M.D.

John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award in the Clinical Sciences
Edward Lee Poythress, M.D.

Marc Dresden Excellence in Graduate Education Award
Jonathan M. Levitt, Ph.D.

The Barbara and Corbin J. Robertson, Jr. Presidential Award for Excellence in Education
Geeta Singhal, M.D., M.Ed.

The Ben and Margaret Love Foundation Bobby Alford Award for Academic Clinical Professionalism
Daryl A. Scott, M.D., Ph.D.

Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence in Education Awards

Teaching and Evaluation

Kiyetta Alade, M.D., R.D.M.S.
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Mahboob Alam, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I.
Assistant Professor, Medicine

Aarti Bavare, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Sarah K. Bezek, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine

Antonio G. Cabrera, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Andrew Caruso, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Medicine

Jonathan Castillo, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Melissa Chladek, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

John Darby, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Carla N. Falco, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Marsha Gragert, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.
Associate Professor, Pediatrics

Aditi Gupta, D.O.
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Hamed Jafar-Nejad, M.D.
Associate Professor, Molecular & Human Genetics

Nicolette Janzen, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Urology

William Kyle, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Young Na Lee-Kim, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

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<td>Development of Enduring Educational Materials</td>
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THE HISTORY AND SUCCESSION
OF THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH

Hippocrates, considered the father of Western medicine, was born in approximately 460 B.C. on the island of Kos in Ancient Greece. He separated medicine from religion, believing that human illness arises from natural rather than divine or spiritual causes. Hippocrates is also famous for the oath that carries his name. Although likely not composed by Hippocrates himself, the Hippocratic Oath is the first known statement of a code of medical ethics and places the wellbeing of patients and the honor of the profession as central principles guiding the practice of medicine.

The first recorded administration of the Hippocratic Oath in a medical school was at the University of Wittenberg, Germany in 1508. However, only after World War II did oath-taking play an important role in U.S. medical school graduation ceremonies. Today, nearly every U.S. medical school administers some type of professional oath at graduation.

In 1948, responding to the role physicians played in violating human rights during World War II, the World Medical Association (WMA) adopted the Declaration of Geneva to serve as a contemporary successor to the Hippocratic Oath. The Declaration of Geneva, most recently revised in 2017 as the Physician’s Pledge, embodies a number of principles fundamental to the ethical practice of medicine in the 21st century, such as respect for patient autonomy, attention to physician self-care, and a commitment to practicing medicine in accordance with appropriate medical standards. Because the core values memorialized in the WMA Physician’s Pledge reflect the core values of contemporary medicine, Baylor College of Medicine medical students, through their Student Senate, adopted the WMA Physician’s Pledge as their “Hippocratic Oath for the 21st Century Physician.”
THE PHYSICIAN’S PLEDGE
HIPPOCRATIC OATH
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY PHYSICIAN

As a physician I solemnly pledge to dedicate my life to the service of humanity;

The health and well-being of my patient will be my first consideration;

I will respect the autonomy and dignity of my patient;

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life;

I will not permit considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing, or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;

I will respect the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;

I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity and in accordance with good medical practice;

I will foster the honor and noble traditions of the medical profession;

I will give to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;

I will share my medical knowledge for the benefit of the patient and the advancement of healthcare;

I will attend to my own health, well-being, and abilities in order to provide care of the highest standard;

I will not use my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;

I make these promises solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.