

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

SOUTHWESTERN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER



THURSDAY, MAY 20

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

SEVEN P.M.

EUGENE McDERMOTT PLAZA

DALLAS, TEXAS



ACADEMIC HERALDRY AND REGALIA

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

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

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

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

Cords worn with academic regalia:

Green and gold - Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

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

Solid color - Medical School Academic College

Light blue stoles - Southwestern Academy of Teachers

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

UT System Regents' Outstanding Teacher Award

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Presiding David W. Russell, Ph.D.
Vice Provost and Dean of Research
UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Deans and Marshals

Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Deirdre L. Brekken, Ph.D.

Natalie C. Lundsteen, Ph.D.

Arnaldo Díaz Vázquez, Ph.D.

Stuart E. Ravnik, Ph.D.

Lisa P. Gardner, Ph.D.

Nancy E. Street, Ph.D.

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

Introduction of Speaker David W. Russell, Ph.D.

Commencement Address Lora Hooper, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair of Immunology
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

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

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

Closing Remarks David W. Russell, Ph.D.

Graduates and guests will be dismissed by rows in order to comply with safety protocols.
Please remain seated until otherwise instructed.

BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Curtis Wayne Bacon

B.S., 2014, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*KAP1 is a Chromatin Reader that Couples Steps of RNA Polymerase II Transcription to Sustain Oncogenic Programs*”

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Iván D’Orso, Ph.D., Mentor

Aloysus Kome Lawong

B.S., 2011, Cleveland State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Discovery, Biological Profiling and Mechanistic Studies of Three Novel Antimalarials*”

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Margaret A. Phillips, Ph.D., Mentor

Nikhil Madhusudhan

B.A., 2011, Boston University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Elucidating the Target and Selectivity of a Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Toxin*”

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

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

Tabitha Chung-Yan Ting

B.S., 2011, University of Colorado, Denver

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Characterization of Ubiquitin Ligase Targeting by Anticancer Sulfonamides*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

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

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Busola Ruth Alabi

B.S., 2014, South Carolina State University

M.S., 2019, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Decellularized Normal and Cancer Susceptible Mice Colons to Study the Contribution of the Extracellular Matrix to Cell Behavior and Colon-Cancer Progression”*

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Jerry W. Shay, Ph.D., Mentor

Vamsi Krishna Daliparthi

B.A., 2012, University of Denver

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Transitioning Between Preparatory and Precisely Sequenced Neuronal Activity in Production of a Skilled Motor Behavior”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Todd F. Roberts, Ph.D., Mentor

Alicia Rachel England

B.S., 2011, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

M.A., 2012, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Characterizing Renal Interstitial Heterogeneity and its Role in Nephron Patterning”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Thomas J. Carroll, Ph.D., Mentor

Yesenia Amanda Gonzalez

B.S., 2014, Texas A&M University

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Automated Treatment Planning in High-Dose-Rate Brachytherapy for Cervical Cancer”*

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Xun Jia, Ph.D., Mentor

Devin Sean O’Kelly

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Development of Applications and Quantitative Frameworks for Multispectral Optoacoustic Tomography*”

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

Ralph P. Mason, Ph.D., Mentor

Minzhe Zhang

B.S., 2015, Zhejiang University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Bayesian Spatial Analysis of High Throughput Sequencing Data*”

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Yang Xie, Ph.D. and Guanghua Xiao, Ph.D., Mentors

CANCER BIOLOGY

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Wenting Du

B.S., 2014, Fudan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Validation of AXL as a Therapeutic Target in Pancreatic Cancer*”

Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019

Rolf A. Brekken, Ph.D., Mentor

Matthew Aaron Esparza

B.S., 2012, University of Notre Dame

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Chemical Intervention of Influenza Virus mRNA Nuclear Export*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Beatriz Fontoura, Ph.D., Mentor

Chien-Hsiang Hsu

B.S., 2009, National Taiwan University

M.S., 2011, National Taiwan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Single-Cell Image Analysis Enables High-Throughput Phenotypic Drug Screen and Elucidates Cell-Fate Decision Principles”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Lani Wu, Ph.D. and Steven Altschuler, Ph.D., Mentors

Stacy Yuan Kasitinon

B.A., 2012, Pomona College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“TRPML1 Promotes Protein Homeostasis in Melanoma Cells by Negatively Regulating MAPK and MTORC1 Signaling”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Sean J. Morrison, Ph.D., Mentor

Demetra Patricia Kelenis

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Inhibition of Karyopherin- β 1-Mediated Nuclear Import of Lineage Defining Transcription Factors in Small Cell Lung Cancer”*

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Jane E. Johnson, Ph.D, Mentor

Jin Suk Park

B.S., 2013, University of Toronto

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Mechanical Regulation of Glycolysis via Cytoskeleton Architecture”*

Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019

Gaudenz Danuser, Ph.D., Mentor

I-Hui Wu

B.S., 2008, Kaohsiung Medical University

M.S., 2011, China Medical College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Translational Control by the Ribosome-Associated Complex in the Unfolded Protein Response”*

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

Philip J. Thomas, Ph.D., Mentor

Paul Matthew Yenerall, II

B.S., 2012, University of Pittsburgh

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*The Role of RUVBL1/2 and Their Potential as Therapeutic Targets in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer*”

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

John D. Minna, M.D. and Ralf Kittler, Ph.D., Mentors

Ning Zhang

B.S., 2012, Zhejiang University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*An Imaging Approach to Examine Telomere Dynamics and Regulation of Gene Expression with Aging*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Gaudenz Danuser, Ph.D. and Jerry W. Shay, Ph.D., Mentors

CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Program Chair: Angelique Whitehurst, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Miles Black

B.A., 2014, Washington University, St. Louis

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Novel Activities of Kinase-Fold Enzymes from Legionella pneumophila*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Vincent S. Tagliabracci, Ph.D., Mentor

Sanchari Datta

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

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*A Study in SCAR20 Neurologic Disorder Reveals Defective Cellular Lipid Homeostasis*”

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

W. Michael Henne, Ph.D., Mentor

Zachary Regino Gallegos

B.S., 2015, University of San Francisco

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Investigating the Functional Contributions and Tumorigenic Potential of Cancer/Testis Antigens and Their Interacting Partners”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Angelique Whitehurst, Ph.D., Mentor

Zane Alexander Gibbs

B.S., 2015, University of North Texas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Delineating the Mechanisms through Which ZNF165 Supports Growth and Survival of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer”*

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Angelique Whitehurst, Ph.D., Mentor

Soo Young Kim

B.S., 2014, Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Novel Roles for BET Bromodomain Protein 4 (BRD4) in Cardiac Physiology and Disease”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Joseph A. Hill, M.D., Ph.D. and Thomas G. Gillette, Ph.D., Mentors

Andrew David Mathis

B.S., 2013, Brigham Young University

M.S., 2015, Brigham Young University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“A Tool-Box for Quantifying the Relationship between Gene Expression, Nutrient Conditions and Cellular Growth Rate in Bacteria”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Kimberly A. Reynolds, Ph.D., Mentor

Carlo Giovanni Quintanilla

B.A., 2015, San Diego State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“ER-PM Junction Proteins and their Roles in Regulating Cell Homeostasis and Signaling”*

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Jen Liou, Ph.D., Mentor

George Russel Wendt

B.S., 2011, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Functional Studies of Stem Cells in the Parasitic Flatworm Schistosoma Mansoni*”

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

James J. Collins, Ph.D., Mentor

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Woong Hee Cho

B.S., 2017, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater

Masters by Examination

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

David J. Mangelsdorf, Ph.D. and Steven A. Kliewer, Ph.D., Mentors

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Program Chair: Beth D. Kennard, Psy.D., ABPP

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Joshua Eric Becker

B.S., 2016, Southwestern University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Effects of Alcohol Use on Cognition during Later Adulthood*”

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

E. Sherwood Brown, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Natalie Nicole Benedetto

B.A., 2012, Texas Tech University

M.A., 2015, Texas State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Mental Health Navigation for Depression in a Community Cancer Clinic: Predictors of Navigation Engagement and Response*”

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Laura Howe-Martin, Ph.D. and Robrina Walker, Ph.D., Mentors

Audrey Lorraine Cecil

B.A., 2008, Texas A&M University

M.S., 2015, University of North Texas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Assessing Approach Motivation in Depressed Individuals with a History of Concussion”*

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

C. Munro Cullum, Ph.D., ABPP/ABCN and Madhukar Trivedi, M.D., Mentors

Jeanette Lee Chong

B.A., 2010, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

MSW, 2012, New York University

M.A., 2014, Columbia University of New York

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Predictors of Attrition in an Interdisciplinary Pain Management Program”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Richard C. Robinson, Ph.D. and Robin B. Jarrett, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentors

Nicholas Edmund Curcio

B.S., 2012, Tulane University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Role of Resilience in Cardiovascular Surgery Recovery”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Ann Marie Warren, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentor

Savanna Sablich Duley

B.S., 2013, University of Georgia

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Identifying Autism Spectrum Disorder in a Clinical Sample of Preschool-Aged Children Using the BASC-3 Parent Rating Scales”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Katherine Bellone Mount, Ph.D., BCBA, Mentor

Ana Fey El Behadli Gonzalez

B.A., 2012, Rice University

M.A., 2015, Tufts University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Motivational Interviewing to Improve Oral Chemotherapy Adherence for Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Patients and their Caregivers: A Feasibility, Acceptability, and Preliminary Efficacy Trail”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Melissa A. Faith, Ph.D., ABPP and Sunita M. Stewart, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentors

Daniel Kuroda Elledge

B.A., 2014, Rice University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Examining the Feasibility of a Resilience Mental Health Application in Adolescents”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Jennifer Hughes, Ph.D., MPH, Mentor

Cole David Hague

B.A., 2010, Otterbein College

M.S., 2013, Loyola College, Maryland

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Role of Fatigue, Depression, and Other Clinical Factors in Determining Cognitive Status in Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis and Transverse Myelitis”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Lana L. Harder, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentor

Lora Jane Israelsen

B.S., 2005, Brigham Young University

M.Ed., 2007, Harvard University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Evaluation of Social Stories in Sleep Treatment for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Feasibility Study”*

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

W. David Brown, Ph.D., Mentor

Hayden Mensah Mbroh

B.S., 2016, Furman University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Association between Posttraumatic Growth, Medication Adherence, and Barriers to Adherence in Pediatric Solid Organ Transplant Patients and Their Caregivers”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Kelli Triplett, Ph.D. and Sunita M. Stewart, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentors

Catherine Elizabeth Munro

B.A., 2013, Boston University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Elucidating the Impact of Previous Head Injury on Cognition, Brain Structure, and Pathophysiology in Cognitively Normal Individuals across the Adult Lifespan”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

C. Munro Cullum, Ph.D., ABPP/ABCN and Denise Park, Ph.D., Mentors

Aysha Gabrielle Najjab

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Investigating Personality Factors in Patients with Asthma*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

E. Sherwood Brown, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Sarita Patel

B.A., 2007, Southern Methodist University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*The Influence of Demographic Factors, Resilience and Other Psychological Factors in Predicting Caregiver Burden in Trauma ICU Populations*”

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

Ann Marie Warren, Ph.D., ABPP and Richard C. Robinson, Ph.D., Mentors

Sarah Grace Pennant

B.A., 2014, The University of Texas at Austin

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*The Role of Hope in Adolescent/Young Adult (AYA) Patients Coping with Cancer Treatment*”

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Julie N. Germann, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentor

Jeffrey Michael Schaffert

B.A., 2012, Centenary College of Louisiana

M.S., 2014, Eastern Michigan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Neuropsychological Functioning in Aging National Football League Retirees*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

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

Hunter Boone Small

B.A., 2014, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Identifying Barriers and Solutions to Psychotherapy in Adults with Depression*”

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Tracy L. Greer, Ph.D., MSCS and Shawn McClintock, Ph.D., Mentors

Emily Elaine Smith

B.S., 2013, Rhodes College Southwestern

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Lifestyle Factors Related to Cognitive Aging”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Heidi Rossetti, Ph.D., ABPP and Laura H. Lacritz, Ph.D., ABPP/ABCN, Mentors

Jessica Wiblin

B.A., 2012, New York University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Suicide Cognitions among Veterans: A Construct for Assessment and Intervention”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

James P. LePage, Ph.D. and Alina M. Surís, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentors

Kristin Linette Wolfe

B.A., 2010, University of Houston, University Park

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Examining the Feasibility and Acceptability of a Phone Application for Safety Planning in Youth with Suicidality”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

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

Lucas Peter Salvatore Zullo

B.A., 2013, Swarthmore College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Implementing an Interpersonal Theory of Suicide Treatment Approach to Improve Outcomes in Suicidal Youth”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

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

CLINICAL SCIENCE

Program Chair: Scott Smith, Ph.D.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL SCIENCE

Jessica D. Abramowitz, M.D.

B.A., 2005, Brandeis University

M.D., 2009, Tel Aviv University

Master by Examination

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

Ildiko Lingvay, M.D. and Dwight Towler, M.D., Ph.D., Mentors

Rohan Khera, M.D.

MBBS, 2011, All India Institute of Medical Sciences

Masters by Examination

Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019

James de Lemos, M.D., Mentor

James Patrick MacNamara, M.D.

B.S., 2009, University of Georgia

M.D., 2013, University of Virginia

Masters by Examination

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

Satyam Sarma, M.D. and Benjamin D. Levine, M.D., Mentors

Nirmish Singla, M.D.

B.S., 2009, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

M.D., 2013, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Masters by Examination

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Vitaly Margulis, M.D. and James Brugarolas, M.D., Ph.D., Mentors

Ayesha Noor Zia, M.D.

MBBS, 2002, King Edward Medical College

Masters by Examination

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Ravindra Sarode, M.D., Mentor

GENETICS, DEVELOPMENT, AND DISEASE

Program Chair: Ondine Cleaver, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Sarah Elizabeth Addams

B.A., 2007, Augustana College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Role of CK1 in Necroptosis and Confirmation of Amyloid-Like Fibers in Necroptosis Using 2D SDD-Age”*

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Zhigao Wang, Ph.D., Mentor

Samadrita Bhattacharyya

M.S., 2014, Saint Xavier's College, Kolkata, India

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Defining Cardiac Conduction System Gene Regulatory Networks*"

Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019

Nikhil V. Munshi, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Cemre Celen

B.S., 2014, Bilkent University

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*The Functional Roles SWI/SNF Chromatin Remodeling Complexes in Physiology and Disease*"

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

Hao Zhu, M.D., Mentor

Edward Daniel

B.A., 2012, Harvard University

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*The Organization, Structure, and Role of Endothelial Cells during Organogenesis*"

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Ondine Cleaver, Ph.D., Mentor

Jordan Harrison Driskill

B.A., 2015, University of Pennsylvania

M.S., 2015, University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*The Role of the WWTR1 (TAZ)-CAMTA1 Gene Fusion in Epithelioid Hemangioendothelioma*"

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Duojia Pan, Ph.D., Mentor

Courtney DaVee Goldstein

B.A., 2014, Austin College

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*GCNA Guardian of the Genome*"

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Michael Buszczak, Ph.D., Mentor

Stephen Li

B.S., 2013, McGill University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*The Role of Twist2 in Physiologic and Pathologic Myogenesis*”

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Eric N. Olson, Ph.D., Mentor

Victor Manuel Palacios

B.S., 2011, University of Puerto Rico at Humacao

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Characterization of Beta-Karyopherin Protein Ipo9 during Germ Cell Differentiation*”

Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019

Michael Buszczak, Ph.D., Mentor

Zhaoning Wang

B.S., 2015, Wuhan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Transcriptional Regulation of Neonatal Heart Regeneration and Direct Cardiac Reprogramming*”

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Eric N. Olson, Ph.D., Mentor

Qian Yang

B.S., 2015, Tsinghua University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*The Roles of Codon Usage in Translational and Transcriptional Regulation of Gene Expression*”

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

Yi Liu, Ph.D., Mentor

Yu Zhang

B.S., 2014, University Of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Prevention of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy by CRISPR/CAS Therapeutic Genome Editing*”

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Eric N. Olson, Ph.D., Mentor

IMMUNOLOGY

Program Chair: Anne Satterthwaite, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Yajing Gao

B.S., 2013, University of Science and Technology, China

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Innate and Adaptive Immune Mechanisms of Pathogen-specific T Helper 17 Cell Differentiation”*

Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019

Chandrashekhar Pasare, Ph.D. and Edward K. Wakeland, Ph.D., Mentors

Ricardo A. Irizarry-Caro

B.S., 2015, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Regulation of Reparative Macrophage Transition by the B-cell Adapter for PI3K (BCAP)”*

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Chandrashekhar Pasare, Ph.D., Mentor

Minghao Li

B.A., 2015, Princeton University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Mechanism of cGAS-STING Signaling in Antiviral Immunity”*

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Zhijian Chen, Ph.D., Mentor

Uma Maheswari Selvaraj

B. Tech, 2013, Indian Institute of Technology

M. Tech, 2013, Indian Institute of Technology

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Long-term T Cell Responses in the Ischemic Brain”*

Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019

Ann Stowe, Ph.D., Mentor

Seoyun Yum

B.S., 2014, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Role of the cGAS-STING Pathway in Cancer and Autoimmunity”*

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Zhijian Chen, Ph.D., Mentor

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Byounggyu Yoo

B.S., 2017, Yonsei University

Masters by Examination

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

Chengcheng Zhang, Ph.D., Mentor

INTEGRATIVE MOLECULAR AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Program Chair: Yi Liu, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Alexandra Lee Ghaben

B.S., 2013, Massachusetts Institution of Technology

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Novel Systemic Regulation of Brown Adipose Tissue Thermogenesis”*

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Philipp E. Scherer, Ph.D., Mentor

Haijing Guo

B.S., 2013, Tsinghua University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Dissecting the Mitotic Golgi Membranes Mediated Microtubule Polymerization”*

Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019

Joachim Seemann, Ph.D., Mentor

Evan McAllister Stevens

B.S., 2011, Brigham Young University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Transcription Factor Dynamics Investigated through Single-Molecule Imaging, High-Throughput Sequencing, and Neural Networks”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Rafael C. Casellas, Ph.D., Mentor

Shidan Wang

B.S., 2014, University of Science and Technology, China

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Comprehensive Analysis of Prognostic Factors and Pathology Images in Lung Cancer*”

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Yang Xie, M.D. and Guanghua Xiao, Ph.D., Mentors

Fangzhou Zhao

B.S., 2013, University of Science & Technology, China

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*The Roles of Codon Usage in Translation and Transcription*”

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Yi Liu, Ph.D., Mentor

MOLECULAR BIOPHYSICS

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Jordan Matthew Baumhardt

B.S., 2014, Illinois State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Structure Based Prediction of Nuclear Export Signals and Their Recognition by CRM1 Carrying the Oncogenic E571K Mutation*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Yuh Min Chook, Ph.D., Mentor

Katelyn Ashley Doxtader

B.S., 2014, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Structures and Regulation of the N⁶-Methyladenosine Methyltransferase METTL16*”

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Yunsun Nam, Ph.D., Mentor

Nathan Chandler Egge

B.S., 2012, University of Washington

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Phosphatase Regulation of Mechanical Stress and Aging in C. Elegans*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Peter Douglas, Ph.D., Mentor

Anant Vishwanath Gharpure

B.S., 2014, Brown University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Structure and Function of the Alpha4Beta4 Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor*”

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

Ryan E. Hibbs, Ph.D., Mentor

Tae H. Kim

B.A., 2014, Swarthmore College

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Insight into Microtubule Catastrophe and Growth*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Luke M. Rice, Ph.D., Mentor

Anna Kunyoung Lee

B.A., 2011, University of California, Berkeley

Ph. D. Dissertation: “*Translational Repression of G3BP in Cancer and Germ Cells Suppresses Stress Granules and Enhances Stress Tolerance*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Ryan Potts, Ph.D., Mentor

Alexander Christian Partin

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Understanding Recognition of Primary MicroRNAs by Human Drosha/DGCR8*”

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Yunsun Nam, Ph.D., Mentor

Allyson Rice

B.S., 2014, The University of Texas at Austin

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Composition, Assembly, and Dynamics of PML Nuclear Bodies*”

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Michael K. Rosen, Ph.D., Mentor

Andrew Frank Schober, Jr.

B.A., 2014, Rice University

B.S., 2014, Rice University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Using Evolutionary Statistics to Understand Cellular Systems”*

Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019

Kimberly A. Reynolds, Ph.D., Mentor

Yusuf Talha Tamer

B.S., 2012, Middle East Technical University

M.S., 2014, Sabanci University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Exploiting Evolutionary Tradeoffs to Fight Evolution of Antibiotic Resistance”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Erdal Toprak, Ph.D., Mentor

Sai Rashmi Voleti

B.E., 2013, Indian Institute of Technology

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Dissection of the Roles of Synaptotagmins in Calcium-Dependent Neurotransmitter Release”*

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Jose Rizo-Rey, Ph.D., Mentor

Wenmin Xing

B.S., 2014, Peking University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Quantitative Studies of Composition and Formation of Yeast P Bodies”*

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Michael K. Rosen, Ph.D., Mentor

Jing Zhang

B.S., 2013, Wuhan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Genomics of Butterflies”*

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Nick V. Grishin, Ph.D., Mentor

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Jordan Finnell

B.S., 2015, Brigham Young University
M.S., 2017, Brigham Young University
Masters by Examination
Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019
Marc I. Diamond, M.D., Mentor

Michael Porter

B.S., 2015, Brigham Young University
Masters by Examination
Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019
Hamid Mirzaei, Ph.D., Mentor

Charis Elyse Springhower

B.S., 2018, University of Arizona
Masters by Examination
Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020
Yuh Min Chook, Ph.D., Mentor

MOLECULAR MICROBIOLOGY

Program Chair: John Schoggins, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Michael Edward Abrams

B.S., 2012, San Jose State University
Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Identification of an Interferon Signaling Pathway Linking Membrane Cholesterol Accessibility to Host Defense against Pathogens”*
Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020
Neal M. Alto, Ph.D., Mentor

Peter Michael Burnham

B.S., 2015, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Signal Transduction Pathways That Impact Polar Flagellar Biogenesis*”

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

David R. Hendrixson, Ph.D., Mentor

Kyle Nicholas Goodman

B.A., 2013, North Carolina State University

B.S., 2013, North Carolina State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Butyrate sensing by Campylobacter jejuni impacts bacterial-host interactions*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

David R. Hendrixson, Ph.D., Mentor

Elizabeth Rose Hughes

B.S., 2014, Baylor University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Changes in the Gut Metabolic Landscape Drive Inflammation-Associated Dysbiosis and Host Responses*”

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

Sebastian E. Winter, Ph.D., Mentor

Angel Giovanni Jimenez Lopez

B.S., 2015, University of Puerto Rico, Humacao

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Characterization of Host and Microbiota Derived Signals that Regulate the Locus of Enterocyte Effacement of EHEC*”

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Vanessa Sperandio, Ph.D., Mentor

Aman Kumar

B. Tech., 2015, Indian Institute of Technology

M. Tech., 2015, Indian Institute of Technology

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Interplay Between Tryptophan Metabolites and the Virulence Factors of Enteric Pathogens*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Vanessa Sperandio, Ph.D., Mentor

Breanna Lauren Pasko

B.S., 2012, North Carolina State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Development of a Lipidomics Platform to Discover Enzymatic Activities of Mycobacterial Proteins of Unknown Function”*

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

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

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Virginia Ann Ray

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

Masters by Examination

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Sebastian E. Winter, Ph.D., Mentor

NEUROSCIENCE

Program Chair: Genevieve Konopka, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Ashley Grace Anderson

B.A., 2008, University of Delaware

B.S., 2011, The University of Texas at Dallas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Cell-Type Specific Contributions of the Transcription Factor FOXP1 to Striatal Development and Function”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Genevieve Konopka, Ph.D., Mentor

Marissa Co

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Cell Type-Specific Roles of FoxP Transcription Factors in Vocalization and Cognition”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Genevieve Konopka, Ph.D., Mentor

Brianne Marie Dentel

B.S., 2014, Kansas State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Neural Mechanisms and Behaviors in Models of Conditional Npr12 Loss*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

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

Elyza Hope Kelly

B.A., 2012, Wheaton College

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Regulation of Autism-Relevant Behaviors by Distinct Cerebellar-Prefrontal Cortical Circuits*”

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

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

Pei-Yi Lin

B.S., 2006, Taipei Medical College

M.S., 2009, National Taiwan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*BDNF-TrkB Signaling in Efficacy of CA3-CA1 Synapses and Ketamine-Mediated Antidepressant Effects*”

Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019

Lisa M. Monteggia, Ph.D., Mentor

Matthew Mendoza

B.S., 2014, University of North Texas

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*The Age-Dependent Role of KIBRA in Synaptic Plasticity*”

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Lenora J. Volk, Ph.D., Mentor

Elizabeth Anne Scheuermann

B.S., 2013, Saint Edwards University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*A Novel Role for Odorant Binding Proteins in Deactivation of Drosophila Olfactory Neurons*”

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Dean P. Smith, Ph.D., Mentor

Alex Jay Sonneborn

B.A., 2012, Ohio University

B.S., 2012, Ohio University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Locus Coeruleus-Dependent Dopamine Release in the Dorsal Hippocampus: Mechanisms and Modulation of Synaptic Plasticity”*

Degree Awarded: December 13, 2019

Robert Greene, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Mengni Wang

B.S., 2015, China Agricultural University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Alternating Sequences of Future and Past Behavior Encoded within Individual Hippocampal Theta Oscillations”*

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Brad E. Pfeiffer, Ph.D., Mentor

Wen Mai Wong

B.S., 2016, Saint Mary’s University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Physiology and Circuitry of Bile Acid Detection within the Accessory Olfactory System”*

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Julian Meeks, Ph.D., Mentor

Xingjian Zhang

B.S., 2014, Tsinghua University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Paradoxically Sparse Chemosensory Tuning in Broadly-integrating External Granule Cells in the Mouse Accessory Olfactory Bulb”*

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Julian Meeks, Ph.D., Mentor

Wenchan Zhao

B.S., 2012, China Agricultural University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Inception of Memories That Guide Vocal Learning in the Songbird”*

Degree Awarded: August 9, 2019

Todd F. Roberts, Ph.D., Mentor

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Jacob Lee McClendon

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

Masters by Examination

Degree Awarded: May 1, 2020

Peter M. Douglas, Ph.D., Mentor

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Jackson Andrew Gartman

B.A., 2016, Washington University, St. Louis

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Synthetic Studies of the Rubellin Natural Products*"

Degree Awarded: December 11, 2020

Uttam K. Tambar, Ph.D., Mentor

Junyu Gong

B.S., 2015, Nankai University

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Total Synthesis of the Marine Macrolide Mangrolide D.*"

Degree Awarded: August 7, 2020

Jef De Brabander, Ph.D., Mentor

Mohammed Sharique

B.S., 2014, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

M.S., 2014, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Design and Development of New Catalytic Carbon-Carbon Bond Forming Reactions: I. N-Heterocyclic Carbene Based First Catalytic Platform for Hauser-Kraus Annulations II. Copper-Catalyzed Selective Allylic Alkylation of Allylic Systems Using Grignard Reagents*"

Degree Awarded: May 7, 2021

Uttam K. Tambar, Ph.D., Mentor

**HONORS AND AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND
SERVICE RECEIVED BY 2019-2021 GRADUATES
SOUTHWESTERN GRADUATE SCHOOL**

American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship

Samadrita Bhattacharyya (2017)

Uma Maheswari Selvaraj (2016)

Dean's Discretionary Award

George Russell Wendt (2020)

Green Center Trainee Fellowship

Paul Matthew Yenerall, II (2014)

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellowship

Matthew Mendoza (2017)

Howard Hughes Medical Institute International Fellowship

Sai Rashmi Voleti (2016)

Leita Marsh Pharmacological Award

Samadrita Bhattacharyya (2020)

**National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine
Ford Foundation Fellowship**

Curtis Wayne Bacon (2016)

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Curtis Wayne Bacon (2016)

Zachary Regino Gallegos (2016)

Allyson Rice (2015)

NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Miles Black (2018)

Alicia Rachel England (2019)

Demetra Patricia Kelenis (2018)

Elyza Hope Kelly (2018)

Wen Mai Wong (2018)

Nominata

Jin Suk Park (2020)

**UT Southwestern Department of Pharmacology Gilman Memorial Research
Scholarship**

George Russell Wendt (2018)

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATE DEGREES MEDICAL SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM

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

August 9, 2019

Edward Daniel
Stacy Yuan Kasitinon
Stephen Li
Nikhil Madhusudhan

May 21, 2020

Alexandra Lee Ghaben

August 7, 2020

Miles Black
Brienne Marie Dentel
Nathan Chandler Egge
Kyle Nicholas Goodman
Tae H. Kim
Tabitha Chun-Yan Ting

May 7, 2021

Jordan Harrison Driskill
Demetra Patricia Kelenis
Aloysus Kome Lawong

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

