

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

SOUTHWESTERN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER



THURSDAY, MAY 19

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

SEVEN P.M.

TOM AND LULA GOOCH AUDITORIUM

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

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Deans and Marshals

Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Deirdre L. Brekken, Ph.D.	Natalie C. Lundsteen, Ph.D.
Arnaldo Díaz Vázquez, Ph.D.	Stuart E. Ravnik, Ph.D.
Lisa P. Gardner, Ph.D.	Joyce J. Repa, Ph.D.

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

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

Commencement Address David W. Russell, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Molecular Genetics

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND HOODING

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

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

RECESSIONAL

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

BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Alberto Bremauntz Enriquez

B.S., 2015, William Marsh Rice University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Identification of EWS-FLI1 Regions Necessary for Ewing Sarcoma Proliferation*”

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

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

Wen Chuan Hsieh

B.S., 2011, National Taiwan University

M.S., 2013, National Taiwan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Carbon Starvation Metabolically Regulates Chromatin for Transcriptome Rewiring*”

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Benjamin P. Tu, Ph.D., Mentor

Zane Miller Johnson

B.S., 2015, Southwestern University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*On Sulfur Sensing in Saccharomyces Cerevisiae*”

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Benjamin P. Tu, Ph.D., Mentor

William Peebles

B.S., 2012, University of Georgia

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Recruitment of Enzyme Cascade to Phase-Separated Biomolecular Condensates Accelerates Reactions Via Concentration-Dependent and Concentration-Independent Mechanisms*”

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Michael K. Rosen, Ph.D. and Joseph L. Goldstein, M.D., Mentors

Anna Maurine Scarborough

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Sam Homeostasis is Regulated by CFI_M-Mediated Splicing of Mat2A*”

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Nicolas K. Conrad, Ph.D., Mentor

DaNae Rochelle Woodard

B.S., 2015, University of Houston, Downtown

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Molecular and Ocular Characterization of Novel Fibulin-3 Mutations Involved in Macular Degeneration*”

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

John D. Hulleman, Ph.D., Mentor

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Elisa Lin

B.A., 2014, Yale University

Master’s Thesis: “*Investigating the Role of Clinically Relevant CHD8 Mutations in Chiari I Malformation*”

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

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

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Anjali Balagopal

B.E., 2013, Birla Institute of Technology

M.E., 2016, William Marsh Rice University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Addressing Label Variability in Deep Learning-Based Segmentation for Radiation Therapy*”

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Steve B. Jiang, Ph.D., Mentor

Lukas J. Farbiak

B.S., 2013, Baylor University

M.S., 2014, University of North Texas Health Science Center

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Re-engineering of Dendrimer-Based Lipid Nanoparticles for Effect and Precise HDR-Mediated Gene Editing”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Daniel J. Siegwart, Ph.D., Mentor

Tianshi Lu

B.S., 2017, Xiamen University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Modeling Tumor Neoantigens for Predicting Patients’ Clinical Outcomes”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Tao Wang, Ph.D. and Guanghua Xiao, Ph.D., Mentors

Junjie Ma

B.S., 2016, Beihang University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Technical Development of Hyperpolarized [1-13C] Pyruvate Imaging for Clinical Translation”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Albert Montillo, Ph.D. and Jae Mo Park, Ph.D., Mentors

Lin Ma

B.S., 2017, Peking University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Efficient and Intelligent Radiotherapy Planning Adaptation”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Weiguo Lu, Ph.D., Mentor

David Hamilton Saucier

B.S., 2014, University of New Mexico

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Fishatlas: Assessment of Organotropism Determination Through Imaging Informatics of Xenografted Zebrafish”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Gaudenz Danuser, Ph.D. and James F. Amatruda, M.D., Ph.D., Mentors

Qi Wang

B.E., 2011, Zhengzhou University

M.E., 2014, Chinese Academy of Science

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Non-Invasive Eradication of Biofilm on Metal Implants Using Alternating Magnetic Fields (AMF) and Antibiotics”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Rajiv Chopra, Ph.D., Mentor

Yiming Wang

B.E., 2013, Tsinghua University

M.E., 2016, Tsinghua University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *Quantitative Non-Contrast Perfusion Imaging using Arterial Spin Labeled MRI”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Ananth J. Madhuranthakam, Ph.D. and Changho Choi, Ph.D., Mentors

Ze Zhang

B.S., 2016, Peking University

Degree awarded posthumously: May 6, 2022

Tao Wang, Ph.D. and Guanghua Xiao, Ph.D., Mentors

MASTER OF SCIENCE**Joel Liou**

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

Master’s Thesis: *“Reprogram-Seq 2.0: An Optimized Method for Finding Candidate Cell Reprogramming Factors”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Gary C. Hon, Ph.D., Mentor

CANCER BIOLOGY

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Emily Nicole Arner

B.A., 2014, Connecticut College

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Deciphering AXL-driven Molecular Mechanisms of EMT*”

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Rolf A. Brekken, Ph.D., Mentor

Huiyu Li

B.S., 2018, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*AXL Targeting Restores PD-1 Blockade Sensitivity of STK11 / LKB1 Mutant NSCLC Through Expansion of TCF1+ CD8 T Cells*”

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Rolf A. Brekken, Ph.D. and John D. Minna, M.D., Mentors

Austin Bradley Moore

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*The Effects of Chromatin Remodeling and Pseudokinase Activity on Liver Pathophysiology*”

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Hao Zhu, M.D., Mentor

Le Qi

B.S., 2013, Nanyang Technological University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Aspartate is Limiting for Hematopoietic Stem Cell Function In Vivo*”

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Sean J. Morrison, Ph.D., Mentor

Tracy Ibarra Rosales

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Glutamine Antagonism and its Utility as a Therapeutic Modality in Cancer*”

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

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

Josiah Malachi Voth Park

B.S., 2016, University of Oklahoma, Norman

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Exploiting Multi-Cell Type Cultures to Elucidate Tumor Cell Features that Impact Macrophage Phenotype”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Rolf A. Brekken, Ph.D. and John D. Minna, M.D., Mentors

Junqiu Zhang

B.S., 2016, Sun Yat Sen University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Crosstalk between DNA Mismatch Repair and Replication”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Guo-Min Li, Ph.D., Mentor

Yuqing Zhang

B.S., 2016, Sun Yat Sen University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Immunosuppressive Function of VEGF Signaling in the Tumor Microenvironment”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Rolf A. Brekken, Ph.D., Mentor

CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Amanda Goldner

B.S., 2015, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Molecular Basis of Tissue Elasticity and Force Balance during Drosophila Gastrulation”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Konstantin Doubrovinski, Ph.D., Mentor

Xuexia Jiang

B.S., 2013, Carnegie Mellon University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*An Optical Flow Based Methodology for Visualizing Dynamic Subcellular Organization Demonstrated through Profilin and RhoGTPase Microdomains*”

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Gaudenz Danuser, Ph.D., Mentor

Isara Laothamatas

B.S., 2014, University of Virginia

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Spatiotemporal Regulation of the NADP(H) Phosphatase Nocturnin*”

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Carla B. Green, Ph.D. and Joseph S. Takahashi, Ph.D., Mentors

Victor Antonio Lopez

B.S., 2015, University of California, San Diego

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Elucidating the Secreted Bacterial Kinome*”

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Vincent S. Tagliabracci, Ph.D., Mentor

Brenden Chul Park

B.S., 2015, University of California, San Diego

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Inactivation of a Molecular Chaperone by a Minimal Kinase*”

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Vincent S. Tagliabracci, Ph.D., Mentor

Carlos Alberto Paz

B.S., 2015, San Diego State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*STK25 and TAO Regulate Muscle-Specific Transcription and Muscle Function in the Parasitic Flatworm Schistosoma Mansoni*”

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

James J. Collins, Ph.D. and Melanie H. Cobb, Ph.D., Mentors

Aracely Alicia Romero

B.S., 2015, University of Arizona

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Nuclear Receptor FTZ-F1 and Downstream Target Gene MEG-8.3 Control Esophageal Gland Function in S. Mansoni”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

David J. Mangelsdorf, Ph.D. and James J. Collins, Ph.D., Mentors

Whitney Leigh Stuard

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Role of Insulin-Like Growth Factor Binding Protein 3 in Mitochondrial Homeostasis”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Danielle M. Robertson, O.D., Ph.D., Mentor

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Katerina Lynn Dague

B.S., 2019, North Park College

Master’s Thesis: *“Investigation of Pancreatic Enzyme Contribution to Pro Tumoral Stroma Formation in Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Matteo Ligorio, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Tahnae Tarkenton Allen

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

MCRC, 2015, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“A Comparison of Post-Injury Symptomatology and Recovery Following Concussion Versus Orthopedic Injury”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

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

Carolyn Kuniko Cassill

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Relationship Between Interdisciplinary Team Cohesion and Burnout in Cognitive Rehabilitation”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Mary C. Anise, Psy.D. and Mona Robbins, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentors

Marielle Heather Collins

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

M.A., 2017, Saint Edwards University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Development and Implementation of a Brief Video-Based Mindful Movement Intervention Prior to Pelvic Exams to Reduce Pain Intensity and State Anxiety”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Tracy L. Greer, Ph.D., MSCS, Mentor

Laura Alexandra Frazee

B.A., 2014, Clemson University

M.S., 2017, Southern Methodist University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Validation of a Scale Measuring Perceived Burdensomeness and Thwarted Belongingness in Adolescents”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Jessica D. Heerschap, Ph.D. and Sunita M. Stewart, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentors

Jessica Anne Harper

B.A., 2013, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Characterizing Interpersonal Perception in Adolescent Eating Disorders”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Carrie J. McAdams, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Saba Saleem Masood

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Transplant as a Medical Trauma: Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms in Pediatric Solid Organ Transplant Patients, a Mixed Methods Approach”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Kelli N. Triplett, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentor

Ashlyn Alyce Parides

B.A., 2014, Austin College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Sibling Relationships in Adolescent Eating Disorder Treatment”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Jasmine Ghannadpour, Ph.D., ABPP, Mentor

Allison Nicol Parker

B.A., 2015, William Marsh Rice University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Neuropsychological Predictors of Time to Conversion from Mild Cognitive Impairment to Alzheimer’s Disease”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

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

Kylie Sligar

B.S., 2015, University of North Texas

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Role of Incarceration in Treatment-Seeking Veterans with PTSD: Evaluating Differences in Trauma Symptoms, Suicidality, and Substance Use”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

James P. LePage, Ph.D., Mentor

GENETICS, DEVELOPMENT, AND DISEASE

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Ningyan Cheng

B.S., 2014, Wuhan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Cohesion Promotes the Myelination Transcriptional Program in Oligodendrocytes”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Hongtao Yu, Ph.D., Mentor

Andrew Seungjae Chung

B.S., 2013, University of California, Los Angeles

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Efficacy of Immunotherapy in Preventing Liver Cancer and the Role of Metabolic Zonation in its Development”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Hao Zhu, M.D., Mentor

Mingjian Du

B.S., 2014, Tsinghua University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Liquid-Liquid Phase Separations in Innate Immune DNA Sensing and NF- κ B Signaling Pathways”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Zhijian Chen, Ph.D., Mentor

Mahmoud Mohamed Elguindy

B.A., 2014, University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Regulation of PUMILIO RNA Binding Proteins by Long Noncoding RNA NORAD”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Joshua T. Mendell, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Robert Charles Harris

B.S., 2012, Baylor University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Contextual Roles of Isocitrate Dehydrogenase-1 and Isocitrate Dehydrogenase-2 in Electron Transport Chain Complex III Deficiency”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

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

Jeremiah David Herbert

B.S., 2014, University of Missouri, Rolla

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“B-Globin Enhancers Regulate Bistable Gene Expression States”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Gary C. Hon, Ph.D., Mentor

Samantha Tori Johnson

B.A., 2017, University of Florida

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Role of TNRC6 in RNA Interference”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

David R. Corey, Ph.D., Mentor

Aarin Jones

B.S., 2016, Purdue University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Analysis of Interrelationships Among NAD⁺, PARP1, ADP-Ribosylation, and Splicing in Murine Embryonic Stem Cells”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

W. Lee Kraus, Ph.D., Mentor

Sojeong Jun

B.S., 2017, University of California, Los Angeles

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Cell-Type Specific Requirement for Pyruvate Dehydrogenase in Hematopoiesis and Leukemia Development”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Michalis Agathokleous, Ph.D., Mentor

Boxun Li

B.S., 2015, Peking University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Building a Methodological Framework for Cell Fate Engineering”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Gary C. Hon, Ph.D., Mentor

Chase Hunter Melick

B.S., 2013, University of California, San Diego

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Crosstalk Signaling Between cAMP and mTORC1”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Jenna L. Jewell, Ph.D., Mentor

Marco Antonio Monroy

B.S., 2015, San Francisco State University

M.S., 2017, San Francisco State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Vanishing Act: Lymphatic Vessels and Disappearing Bones”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Michael T. Dellinger, Ph.D., Mentor

Andres Ramirez Martinez

B.S., 2014, Universitat Rovira I Virgili

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Myogenic Effectors and Disease”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Eric N. Olson, Ph.D., Mentor

Anne Regina Ryan

B.S., 2014, Union College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Investigating Vascular Patterning and Regression in Kidney Development and Organoids”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Ondine B. Cleaver, Ph.D., Mentor

Anu Thomas

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

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“A Novel Nuclear Export Route for GC-rich RNAs”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Joshua T. Mendell, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Michael Nguyen Trinh

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“On Cholesterol Transport Between Membranes”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Michael S. Brown, M.D. and Joseph L. Goldstein, M.D., Mentors

Qianbin Zhang

B.S., 2017 Sun Yat Sen University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Distinct Functional Properties of Perinatal Versus Adult Adipose Progenitor Subpopulations”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Rana K. Gupta, Ph.D., Mentor

IMMUNOLOGY

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Ian Nicholas Boys

B.A., 2015, Baylor University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Identification of Receptor Transporter Proteins as Conserved Antiviral Effectors in Vertebrates”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

John W. Schoggins, Ph.D., Mentor

Fatma Sevde Coskun

B.S., 2017, Koç University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Identification of Smaller Noncoding RNAs Produced by Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Infected Macrophages that Regulate Mtb Growth and Survival”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Nicolai S. C. Van Oers, Ph.D., Mentor

Eric Jonathan Hsu

B.S., 2015, Washington University

B.S.E.E., 2015, Washington University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“A Cytokine Receptor Masked IL-2 Prodrug Selectively Activates Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocytes for Potent Antitumor Therapy”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Yang-Xin Fu, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Margaret Mae McDaniel

B.S., 2015, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Dendritic Cells Suppress Pathogen-Induced Inflammasome Activation to Prime Naïve T Cells”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Chandrashekhhar Pasare, Ph.D., Mentor

Benjamin Ik Moon

B.S., 2014, Brown University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Development of an IL12 Prodrug to Treat Solid Tumors with Minimal Toxicity”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Yang-Xin Fu, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Casey Elizabeth Moore

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Re-Designing Cancer Immunotherapy to Enhance Anti-Tumor Immunity”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Yang-Xin Fu, M.D., Ph.D. and Jian Qiao, M.D., Ph.D., Mentors

Garrett Ray Overcast

B.S., 2016, New Mexico State University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Intestinal Epithelial Cell Intrinsic IL-IR Signaling in Host Defense and Inflammation”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Chandrashekhhar Pasare, Ph.D., Mentor

Mihir Vidyadhar Pendse

B.S., 2012, University of California, San Diego

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“A Molecular Basis for Macrophage Control of Gastrointestinal Motility”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Lora Hooper, Ph.D., Mentor

Vanessa Torres

B.S., 2014, The University of Texas at San Antonio

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“BDNF-Producing B Cells Mediate Plasticity in the Recovering Brain After Stroke”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Ann M. Stowe, Ph.D., Mentor

Xintao Tu

B.S., 2016, Zhejiang University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Regulation of the cGAS-STING Pathway: Non-Agonist Activation and Cellular Trafficking”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Nan Yan, Ph.D., Mentor

MOLECULAR BIOPHYSICS

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Paul Joseph Blazek

B.A., 2014, University of Pennsylvania

M.S., 2014, University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Capabilities of Neural Systems Depend on a Hierarchically Structured World”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Milo M. Lin, Ph.D., Mentor

Whitney Nicole Costello

B.S., 2012, University of Oklahoma, Norman

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Enabling Structural Studies of the Yeast Prion Protein within a Cellular Environment”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Kendra K. Frederick, Ph.D., Mentor

Nicholas Paul Lesner

B.A., 2016, College of Wooster

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Metabolic Reprogramming in Response to Mitochondrial Electron Transport Chain Dysfunction”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Prashant Mishra, M.D., Ph.D., Mentor

Thuy Ngoc Thi Nguyen

B.S., 2015, Baylor University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*The Structural Distribution of Epistasis in a Pair of Essential Metabolic Enzymes*”

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Kimberly A. Reynolds, Ph.D., Mentor

Sean Whitney Rogers

B.S., 2016, University of Missouri

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Metabolic Regulation at Sub-Organelle Length Scales: Inter-Organelle Contacts and Lipid Droplets*”

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

W. Michael Henne, Ph.D., Mentor

Karolina Paulina Stepien

B.S., 2014, Wroclaw University of Technology

M.S., 2016, Wroclaw University of Technology

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Munc18-1 is a Master Orchestrator of Synaptic SNARE Assembly*”

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Jose Rizo-Rey, Ph.D., Mentor

MOLECULAR MICROBIOLOGY

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Rachael Chanin

B.A., 2010, Brandeis University

Ph.D. Dissertation: “*Characterizing the Role of the E. Coli Cytochrome Oxidase AppBCX During Intestinal Inflammation*”

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Sebastian E. Winter, Ph.D., Mentor

Justin Mark Hansen

B.S., 2015, University of Notre Dame

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Biochemical Characterization of IPAH E3 Ubiquitin Ligase Effector Proteins and Their Host Substrates”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Neal M. Alto, Ph.D., Mentor

Matthew Robert Lanahan

B.S., 2015, Elon College

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“The Tradeoffs for a Viral Mutant with Enhanced Replication Speed”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Julie K. Pfeiffer, Ph.D., Mentor

Animesh Anand Mishra

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

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

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Factors Governing Gastrointestinal Colonization of Candida Albicans”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Andrew Y. Koh, M.D., Mentor

Nora-Guadalupe Piña Ramirez

B.A., 2007, Boston University

M.P.H., 2012, Boston University

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“ADAP1 Promotes Latent HIV-1 Reactivation by Tuning the KRAS-ERK-AP-1 Signaling-Transcriptional Axis”*

Degree Awarded: December 10, 2021

Ivan D’Orso, Ph.D., Mentor

NEUROSCIENCE

Program Chair: Genevieve Konopka, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Yuh Tarnng Chen

B.S.E., 2012, National Taiwan University

M.S., 2013, National Taiwan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Hippocampal Output to the Septum Regulates Locomotion and Exploration*"

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Wei Xu, Ph.D., Mentor

Jun Guo

B.S., 2015, Fudan University

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Inhibitory Control of Contextual Fear Memory and Memory Specificity*"

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Wei Xu, Ph.D., Mentor

Patricia Mary Horvath

B.S., 2013, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Interaction of Quantal Inhibitory and Excitatory Neurotransmission in Regulation of Synaptic Homeostasis Via Molecular Signaling*"

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Lisa M. Monteggia, Ph.D., Mentor

Mark Landy

B.S., 2013, Cornell University

Ph.D. Dissertation: "*Sensory Neurogenesis and the Role of PRDM12 in Nociceptor Development and Function*"

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Helen C. Lai, Ph.D., Mentor

Anushka Christobel Wickramaratne

B.S., 2014, University of California, Riverside

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Modulation of Nocturnin Phosphatase Activity Through the Disordered Amino Terminus”*

Degree Awarded: August 6, 2021

Carla B. Green, Ph.D., Mentor

Zhe Zhang

B.S., 2016, University of Hong Kong

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Experience-Dependent and Input-Specific Regulation of Neocortical Circuit Development by Genes Linked to Neurodevelopmental Disorders”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Kimberly M. Huber, Ph.D., Mentor

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Vaishnavi Narayanan Nair

B.S., 2016, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

M.S., 2016, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Development of Metal-Catalyzed and Photochemical Approaches to Carbon-Carbon Bond Forming Reactions”*

Degree Awarded: May 6, 2022

Uttam K. Tambar, Ph.D., Mentor

**HONORS AND AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND
SERVICE RECEIVED BY 2021-2022 GRADUATES
SOUTHWESTERN GRADUATE SCHOOL**

69th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting Attendee

Whitney Nicole Costello (2019)

American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship

Michael Nguyen Trinh (2021)

American Society of Nephrology Predoctoral Fellowship

Anne Regina Ryan (2019)

Dean's Discretionary Award

Mahmoud Mohamed Elguindy (2022)

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellowship

Carlos Alberto Paz (2017)

Howard Hughes Medical Institute International Fellowship

Qi Wang (2015)

Ida M. Green Award

Karolina Paulina Stepien (2021)

National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine

Ford Foundation Fellowship

Nora-Guadalupe Piña Ramirez (2016)

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Ian Nicholas Boys (2016)

Whitney Nicole Costello (2017)

Aarin Jones (2018)

Margaret Mae McDaniel (2017)

Carlos Alberto Paz (2017)

NCI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award

Emily Nicole Arner (2020)

NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Rachael Chanin (2020)

Samantha Tori Johnson (2018)

Mark Landy (2019)

Nicholas Paul Lesner (2020)

Benjamin Ik Moon (2021)

Anne Regina Ryan (2020)

David Hamilton Saucier (2019)

Whitney Leigh Stuard (2020)

Michael Nguyen Trinh (2021)

Nominata Award

Ian Nicholas Boys (2021)

Mingjian Du (2019)

Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans

Michael Nguyen Trinh (2021)

PEO Scholarship

Whitney Leigh Stuard (2018)

William F. and Grace H. Kirkpatrick Award

Mark Landy (2020)

Michael Nguyen Trinh (2020)

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 6, 2021

Paul Michael Blazek (2023)
Andrew Seungjae Chung (2023)
Mahmoud Mohamed Elguindy (2023)
Eric Jonathan Hsu (2023)
Mark Landy (2023)
Austin Bradley Moore (2022)
Michael Nguyen Trinh (2023)

December 10, 2021

Alberto Bremauntz Enriquez (2023)
Xuexia Jiang (2024)

May 6, 2022

Benjamin Ik Moon (2025)
Casey Elizabeth Moore (2024)
Whitney Leigh Stuard (2023)

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.

