

# Office for Research

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1 · JANUARY 2024



### A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

As we have started a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments and the many incredible opportunities that lie ahead. The past year has been a testament to our collective dedication and unwavering commitment to advancing knowledge through the different domains of our research enterprise.

Let us embrace the many opportunities with a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm, and continue to explore and collaborate across disciplines to address the pressing health and wellness needs facing our society. Our commitment to research excellence remains steadfast, and together, we will make impactful contributions to our research endeavors and science at large. I encourage each one of you to set ambitious goals, push the boundaries of your imagination and seek out new opportunities for collaborations. Let us foster an environment that nurtures innovation and empowers each one of us to thrive.

The journey of discovery is not without its challenges, but it is through challenges that we learn, grow, and innovate. Let us support one another, learn from each other's experiences, and celebrate our collective achievements.

On behalf of the Long School of Medicine Office for Research, I wish you continued success and a productive year ahead!

- Manzoor Bhat, MS, PhD

### THIS ISSUE:

#### Upcoming

Research Symposium • P. 2-3

#### Focus on Faculty

Awards and Recognitions • P. 4

Clinical Trials Pilot Project Awardees • P. 5

Program Project Pilot Funding • P. 5

Grant Skills Development • P. 6

CPRIT • P. 6

Major Scientific Breakthroughs • P. 7

Faculty Events • P. 8

#### Research Spaces

Space Renovations • P. 9

#### GME

Workshops • P. 10

#### UME

Medical Student Fall Social • P. 11

Lunch and Learn Series • P. 11

Medical Student Research Liaison-led  
Events • P. 11

Office for Research Team • P. 12



LONG SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

---

Thursday, March 28  
8:00 AM–3:30 PM  
LEC 3.102B | Holly Foyer

---

Registration and abstract submission now open!



Deadline to submit is **March 11**



Office for Research  
Long School of Medicine

For questions contact the Office for Research  
[somresearch@uthscsa.edu](mailto:somresearch@uthscsa.edu) | 210-567-0611

# RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

|                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8:00 - 8:20 AM   | Doors Open, Breakfast          |
| 8:20 - 8:30 AM   | Welcome, Dean Hromas           |
| 8:30 - 10:00 AM  | Trainee Podium Presentations   |
| 10:15 - 11:45 AM | LSOM Rising Star Presentations |
| 12:00 - 1:00 PM  | Keynote Presentation           |
| 1:00 - 3:30 PM   | Lunch                          |
| 1:30 - 2:30 PM   | Poster Session I               |
| 2:30 - 3:30 PM   | Poster Session II              |



## WELCOME



ROBERT HROMAS, MD, FACP  
Dean and Professor of Medicine,  
Joe R. and Teresa Lozano  
Long School of Medicine  
Vice President for Medical Affairs,  
UT Health San Antonio

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION



LARRY SCHLESINGER, MD  
Professor, President and CEO  
Texas Biomedical Research Institute

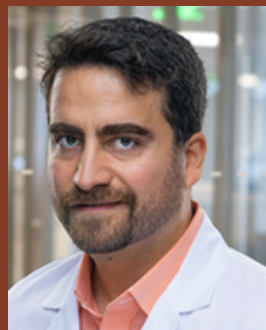
## TRAINEE PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

- Medical Student
- MD/PhD Student
- Graduate Student
- Clinical Fellow
- Resident
- Post-doctoral Fellow

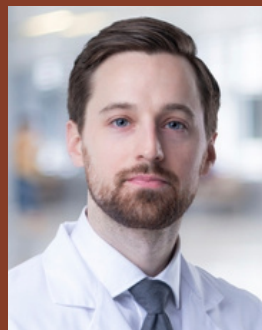
## PRESENTATIONS BY RISING STAR AWARDESS



JOSEPHINE TAVERNA, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine



MOHAMAD HABES, PHD  
Assistant Professor  
Radiology Research  
Imaging Institute



KEVIN KORONOWSKI, PHD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Biochemistry  
& Structural Biology



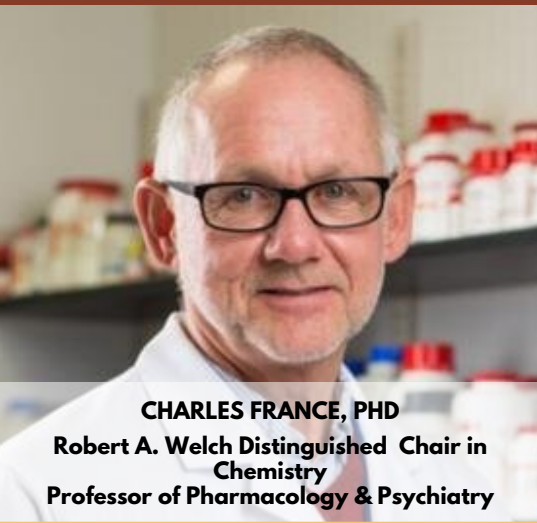
HYE YOUNG LEE, PHD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Cellular and  
Integrative Physiology



CLAUDIA SATIZABAL, PHD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Population  
Health Sciences

# AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

## MASTER RESEARCHER AWARDS

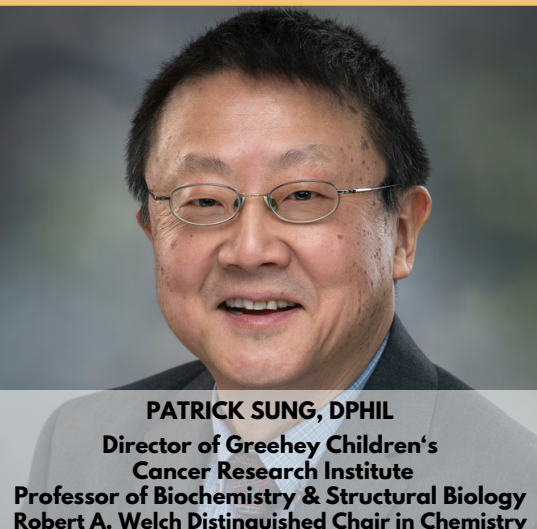


**CHARLES FRANCE, PHD**

Robert A. Welch Distinguished Chair in Chemistry  
Professor of Pharmacology & Psychiatry

### Distinguished Mentor

Over the past three decades, Dr. France has received continuous extramural grant support and has led many ground-breaking research programs with a high impact in advancing medications to prevent and treat opioid use disorders.



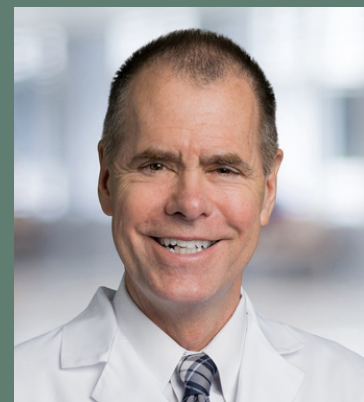
**PATRICK SUNG, DPHIL**

Director of Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute  
Professor of Biochemistry & Structural Biology  
Robert A. Welch Distinguished Chair in Chemistry

### Distinguished Researcher

Dr. Sung is an outstanding scientist with boundless enthusiasm and unlimited generosity, and above all an extraordinary mentor to colleagues and trainees at all stages of career development.

*A Message from the Dean*



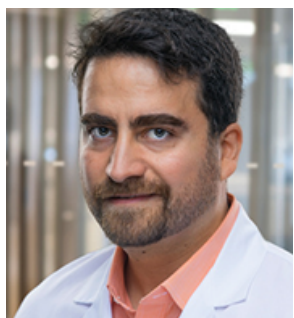
“Congratulations to the champions of inquiry and the architects of innovation. Your dedication to pushing boundaries has paved the way for transformative discoveries. Your commitment to excellence serves as an inspiration to all aspiring researchers.

*- Dean Hromas*

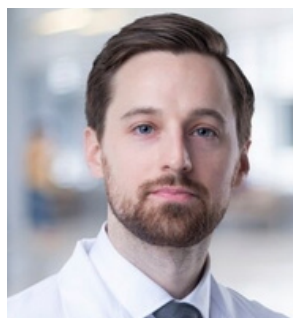
## RISING STAR AWARDS



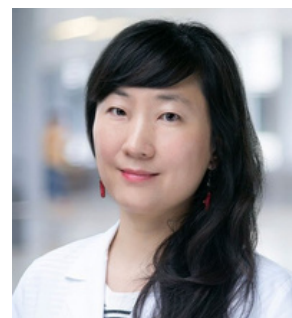
Josephine Taverna, MD  
Medicine



Mohamad Habes, PhD  
Radiology Research  
Imaging Institute



Kevin Koronowski, PhD  
Biochemistry & Structural  
Biology



Hye Young Lee, PhD  
Cellular & Integrative  
Physiology



Claudia Satizabal, PhD  
Population Health  
Sciences



The rising star award is an annual recognition from the Dean, School of Medicine. This accolade honors junior faculty members who exemplify UT Health San Antonio's research mission, showcasing the promise of thriving in independent research careers.

# Clinical Trials Pilot Project Awardees

This award supports the development of multi-investigator research teams focused on clinical trials through two years of pilot funding support.

**CAROLINA  
SOLIS-HERRERA, MD**



Department of Medicine/  
Division of Endocrinology

Title: Novel T<sub>2</sub>DM Management in Kidney  
Transplant: Transplant – PROTECT

.....  
Co-Investigators

Rupal Patel, MD, Suverta Bhayana, MD, Kumar Sharma, MD,  
Madesh Muniswamy, MS, PhD, Geoffrey Clarke, PhD

**ANDREW  
MEYER, MD**



Department of Pediatrics/  
Division of Pediatric Critical Care

Pilot Tranexamic Atomized for Pediatric  
Tonsillectomy Hemorrhage (pTEAPOT)

.....  
Co-Investigators

Marisa Earley, MD, Robert De Lorenzo, MS, MD,  
Whitney Schwarz, MD

**\$150k**  
*for two years*

## **NEW** PROGRAM PROJECT GRANTS PILOT FUNDING

The LSOM Office for Research will support application development of NIH Program Project Grant application submissions with up to \$100,000 in pilot funding. Pilot funding will be available up to one-year with the end goal of Program Project grant submission within nine months post funding support.

**View the RFA and apply now!**

**Up to \$100,000  
in funding**



**March 1st Deadline**



# GRANT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## Upcoming Meetings

- 💡 Research Idea Development
- 📄 Write a Grant Revision Letter
- 🔍 How to Pick a Study Section

**JOIN OUR  
MAILING LIST**



*“Our programs enhance the grantsmanship skills of early and mid-career clinical and tenure-track basic science faculty. It features a hybrid design to encourage involvement with clinical and basic science colleagues.”*

*-David Gius, MD, PhD  
Assistant Dean for Research*



## CPRIT Established Investigator Recruitment Award

*CPRIT’s Established Investigator Recruitment program helps recruit exceptional faculty to Texas universities and research institutions. The \$6,000,000 award honors outstanding senior investigators with proven track records of research accomplishments combined with excellence in leadership and teaching.*



Simon Gayther, PhD



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Dr. Simon Gayther’s addition will bring transformative expertise to our cancer-focused programs. He will assist in recruiting outstanding investigators, further bolstering our population cancer science programs. Additionally, his contributions will play a key role in realizing our institutional vision of becoming a leading research center for Inherited Oncogenesis.

Dr. Gayther was recruited from Cedar Sinai Medical Center to UTHSCSA as a Professor of Medicine, Mays Family Endowed Chair in Inherited Oncogenesis, and inaugural Director of UT Health San Antonio’s Centers for Inherited Oncogenesis.

# MAJOR SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS

Our LSOM faculty have published significant **scientific breakthroughs** in high-impact journals. Huge congratulations to their department and research team!



Shaun Olsen,  
PhD



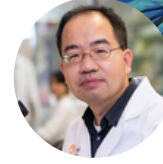
Reuben Harris,  
PhD



Na Xiong,  
PhD



Evelien Bunnik,  
PhD



Zhijie (Jason) Liu,  
PhD



Weixing Zhao,  
PhD



Patrick Sung,  
DPhil



Tim Huang,  
PhD



Shaun Olsen,  
PhD



Siyuan Zheng,  
PhD



Andrew Pickering,  
PhD



Josephine Taverna,  
MD



Yuzuru Shiio,  
MD, PhD



Manzoor Bhat,  
MS, PhD



Patricia Dahia,  
MD, PhD



Katsumi Kitagawa,  
PhD



Madesh Muniswamy,  
MS, PhD

Scan now  
to view  
their articles



# Faculty Events

## New Faculty Welcome

September 29, 2023

The LSOM Office for Faculty along with the Office for Research hosted the annual New Faculty Welcome. During this event, new faculty were introduced to Dean Hromas, LSOM Dean's Cabinet members, key administrators and colleagues.

The event provided insights into the institutions culture and mission and served to highlight the institutions commitment to promote a culture of collaborative innovation.



## Vice Chairs for Research Luncheon

October 13, 2023

The luncheon hosted for the Vice Chairs for Research provided a remarkable exchange of insights, experiences, and innovative ideas among our clinical and basic science department leadership. Through these discussions we witnessed the profound expertise and enthusiasm for advancing research.

We took the opportunity to discuss our collective achievements, acknowledging the significant milestones reached by our departments. Moreover, we identified new avenues for collaboration, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary teamwork in enhancing patient care, research endeavors, and educational initiatives.





# SPACE RENOVATIONS

**49,599 SQ. FT. OF RENOVATED LAB SPACE**  
**\$20.6 MILLION IN TOTAL RENOVATION COST**  
**235,725 HOURS OF LABOR**

**328** New wireless access points

**411** New data cables

**975** New standard and emergency power outlets

## LSOM Departments acquiring renovated space:

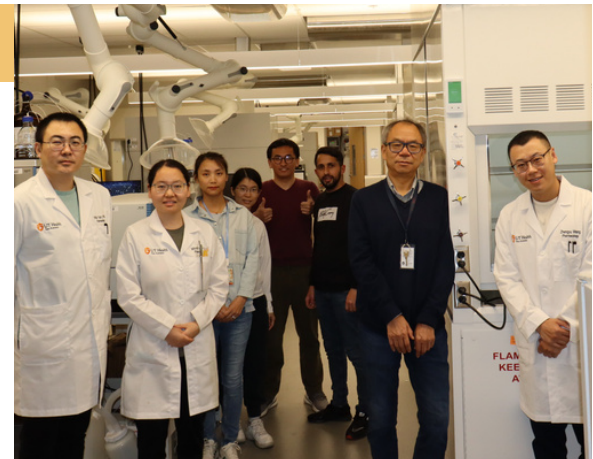
Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics, Neurosurgery, Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Structural Biology, Cell Systems and Anatomy, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Psychiatry, Medicine- Cardiology

### RESEARCH SPACE FOR MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

Barshop, 3rd Floor

Dr. Hong-Yu Li, is a Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Long Distinguished Chair in Drug Discovery. He is a member of the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery (CIDD) at UT Health San Antonio. Dr. Li is a world renowned medicinal chemist who has synthesized a number of therapeutic-relevant molecules in his lab.

Dr. Li's lab was renovated on the Barshop third floor, covering an area of ~2,500 square feet. The renovations required the implementation of a comprehensive HVAC system with proper cooling, heating, and exhaust mechanisms to maintain a negative pressure environment to accommodate the 14 fume hoods within his lab. The area encompasses laboratory space, fume hoods, multiple tissue culture rooms, equipment and storage sections, a procedure room, and an NMR spectroscopy room.



### RESEARCH SPACE FOR THE CENTER FOR MUCOSAL & MICROBIOME BIOLOGY

LSOM, 5th Floor

Dr. Mansour Zadeh is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics and Director of the Center for Mucosal & Microbiome Biology.

Dr. Zadeh's lab space was renovated on the fifth floor of the Medical School. The renovations required complete dismantling of ~3,000 square feet of space to create laboratory space, tissue culture rooms, designated freezer space, equipment areas, and procedure rooms.

**We gratefully acknowledge support from the following departments:**

*Facilities Management, Environmental Health and Safety, Space Planning, Information Technology, Purchasing, Materials Management and UT Health Police*

# GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Registration is open for upcoming training sessions



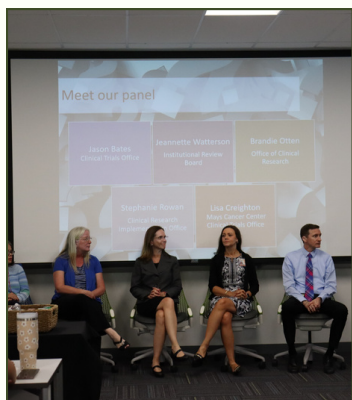
“In 2024, we will create a repository that includes recorded sessions and various additional resources. This repository will be accessible to trainees who want to expand their knowledge of research methodologies and clinical investigation.”



- José Cavazos, MD, PhD  
Associate Dean for Resident Research

## GME RESEARCH TRAINING

These comprehensive workshops feature collective research presentations, offering attendees a deep dive into various facets of clinical investigation.



**AUGUST 24, 2023**

Understanding and Applying for IRB Protocols at UT Health San Antonio

**NOVEMBER 9, 2023**

Approaching Biostatistics Support at UT Health San Antonio

**FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

Funding Opportunities for Residents & Fellows

**MAY 9, 2024**

Writing and Presenting Your Science

# UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION



Kate Lathrop, MD  
Assistant Dean for Medical  
Student Research

## RESEARCH FALL SOCIAL

September 13, 2023



The LSOM Office for Research hosts an annual Fall Social, offering incoming medical students a chance to **explore research prospects available at LSOM**. Additionally, it serves as a **networking opportunity** where students can connect with equally passionate peers in the field of research.

## Medical Student Research Liaison-led Events

### Research Interest Groups September 28, 2023

The event brought together 14 research interest groups to facilitate meaningful interactions between student group leaders and MS1s and MS2s interested in joining a research interest group.



Connect with us for  
upcoming opportunities



@UTSOMResearch



SOMresearch

## Medical Student Lunch & Learn

September 6, 2023

### MedEd Scholarship



### AT A GLANCE:

#### LSOM Office for Research UME Research Activity

August- December 2023

147

Medical students  
attended research  
networking events

3

Research  
engagement  
events

20

Mentors  
participated

32

Students enrolled  
in faculty-  
mentored  
independent  
studies

Long School of Medicine  
**OFFICE FOR RESEARCH**



Manzoor Bhat, MS, PhD  
Vice Dean for Research



Patrick Sung, DPhil  
Assoc. Dean for Research



David Gius, MD, PhD  
Asst. Dean for Research



Kate Lathrop, MD  
Asst. Dean- Medical Student Research



José Cavazos, MD, PhD  
Assoc. Dean- Resident Research

# MEET THE TEAM



Chris Valdez, PhD  
Assoc. Dir., Research Operations



Jennifer Maldonado  
Executive Assistant



Jonathan Castro  
Student Intern

