

Office for Research

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2 · SEPTEMBER 2024



A Message from the Vice Dean for Research

It has been just over a year since I stepped into the role of Vice Dean for Research in the Long School of Medicine. I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable journey we have shared. I am profoundly grateful for the unwavering support and collaboration that I have received from our dedicated faculty, staff, trainees and leadership.

Over the past year, we have achieved significant milestones in our research endeavors. To support our growth, we have also expanded our research infrastructure through space renovations and new research facilities. I am continually inspired by the groundbreaking work being conducted in the departments, institutes and centers, and I am proud of the impact we are making both locally and globally.

Looking forward, our goals remain ambitious! We aim to foster a culture of continuous collaborations and interdisciplinary research. By strengthening partnerships within our institution, we can leverage our collective expertise to tackle some of the more pressing health and disease issues of our time. I encourage each of you to seek out new opportunities for collaborations, share your ideas, and support one another in your research pursuits.

We must remain committed to excellence in research and innovation. Together, we can continue to push boundaries, generate new knowledge, and contribute to the advancement of cures to many debilitating diseases that remain a challenge. I am excited about the future, and confident that with our shared expertise and combined efforts, we will achieve even greater success in making lives better.

Manzoor Bhat, MS, PhD

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**WHEN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS GO BAD:
ADVANCES IN BIOLOGY AND TREATMENT IN HEALTH AND DISEASE**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

1:00-5:00 PM

PESTANA LECTURE HALL, 3.102 B

Reception to follow

MODERATED BY



UT Health
San Antonio
Obstetrics & Gynecology



KATE LAWRENSON, PHD

Associate Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Co-Director, Center of Inherited
Oncogenesis
UT Health San Antonio



RATNA VADLAMUDI, PHD

Professor and
Vice Chair for Research
Department of Obstetrics and
Gynecology
UT Health San Antonio

DISTINGUISHED PRESENTERS



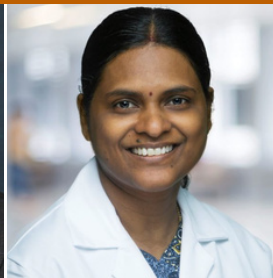
MICHAEL ANGLESIO, PHD

Department of Obstetrics
and Gynecology
University of British
Columbia



**RUSSELL BROADDUS,
MD, PHD**

Department of Pathology
and Laboratory Medicine
University of North
Carolina



**SURYAVATHI
VISWANADHAPALLI, PHD**

Department of Obstetrics
and Gynecology
UT Health San Antonio



**RANDAL D. ROBINSON,
MD, MBA**

Department of Obstetrics
and Gynecology
UT Health San Antonio



NAMEER B. KIRMA, PHD

Department of Molecular
Medicine
UT Health San Antonio



EDWARD R. KOST, MD

Department of Obstetrics
and Gynecology
UT Health San Antonio



UT Health
San Antonio

Office for Research
Long School of Medicine

lsom.uthscsa.edu/office-research
somresearch@uthscsa.edu
(210) 567-0611

MAJOR SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS

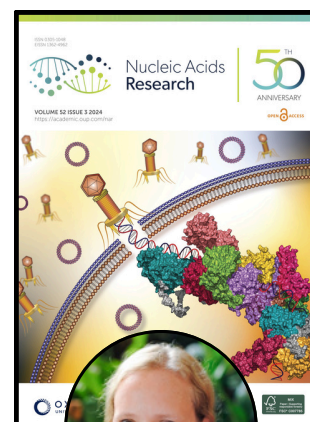
Our LSOM faculty have made significant **scientific breakthroughs**, publishing their work in high-impact journals. Congratulations to the research teams!



PAOLO CASALI, MD
Microbiology, Immunology
& Molecular Genetics



MARCOS RESTREPO, MD, MSc, PhD
Medicine



ELOÏSE DRAY, PhD
Biochemistry and
Structural Biology



SHAUN K. OLSEN, PhD
Biochemistry
and Structural Biology



PEI WANG, PhD
Cell Systems and Anatomy
Mays Cancer Center



FENG-CHUN YANG, MD, PhD
Cell Systems and Anatomy
Mays Cancer Center



Twice Published!
DAVID GIUS, MD, PhD
Radiation Oncology
Mays Cancer Center
Barshop Institute for
Longevity and Aging Studies



LAURENCE MOREL, PhD
Microbiology, Immunology
& Molecular Genetics



PAOLO CASALI, MD
Microbiology, Immunology
& Molecular Genetics



Twice Published!
JAMES F. NELSON, PhD
Cellular & Integrative
Physiology
Barshop Institute for
Longevity and Aging
Studies



ADAM B. SALMON, PhD
Molecular Medicine
Barshop Institute for
Longevity and Aging
Studies



NU ZHANG, PhD
Microbiology, Immunology
& Molecular Genetics



JEAN X. JIANG, PhD
Biochemistry
and Structural Biology

Twice Published! Designates PIs with
two publications in the journal

Scan to view
these articles
and more
published since
January 2024



GRANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Enroll Now!



The LSOM Office for Research is hosting the annual Grant Development Program from September 19th to December 17th. The program is a hybrid design to facilitate involvement with clinical and basic science colleagues.



Didactic lectures on essential grant components



Participants submit subsection drafts throughout the course for personalized feedback



Enhance grantsmanship skills



Upon completion, participants are expected to have a proposal ready for submission to an extramural funding agency

DAVID GIUS, MD,PHD
GRANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Courses starting soon!

September 19th - October 1st, 2024

Research Idea Development

October 8th - November 12th, 2024

Specific Aims Development

November 19th - December 17th, 2024

NIH R01 Grant Writing Skills



Scan QR Code
to view the
course timeline



Success Stories



JOSEPHINE TAVERNA, MD

**Mays Cancer Center
2023 Grant Development
Cohort**

NIH 1R01CA269766-01A1

*Toward Clinical Trial: AXL-STAT3
Targeting of Lung Tumor
Microenvironments*

V Foundation (Victory Over Cancer)

*AXL-STAT3-PD1 Targeting of Tumor
Immune Microenvironments*

RESEARCH COLLABORATION INITIATIVES



Collaborative Research Luncheon

JULY 12, 2024

The LSOM Office for Research hosted a mid-annual luncheon for Vice Chairs for Research and similar roles, with the aim of fostering collaborations among researchers with shared goals and interests.

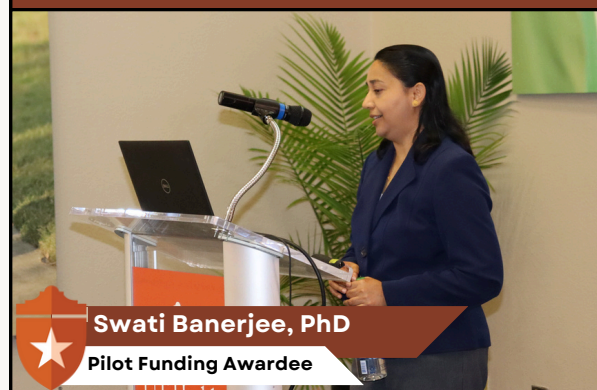


Multi PI Pilot Grant Awards Luncheon

JULY 17, 2024

The LSOM Office for Research provided internal pilot funding to assist faculty in generating data for NIH Grant applications. A total of \$375,000 in pilot funding was awarded to five research teams. This funding remains available for up to one year, with the objective of submitting a grant within nine months of receiving support.

Dr. Banerjee was recently awarded an NINDS/NIH R01 that was supported by the pilot funds



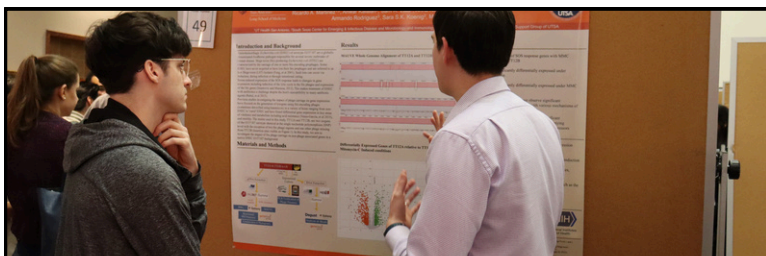
Swati Banerjee, PhD
Pilot Funding Awardee



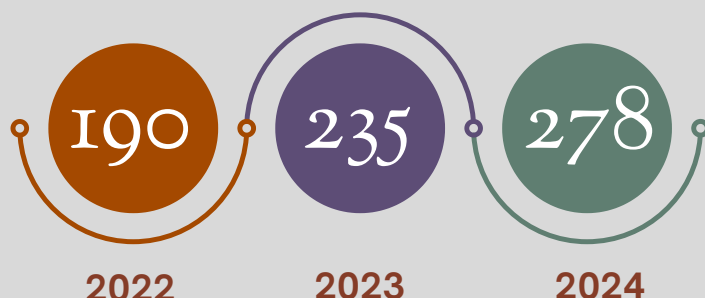
Jeremy A. Tanner, MD
Pilot Funding Awardee

2024 RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

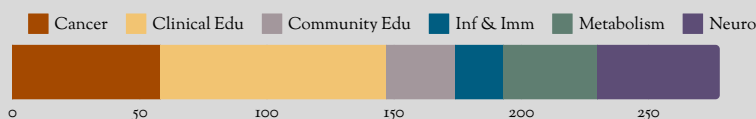
March 28, 2024



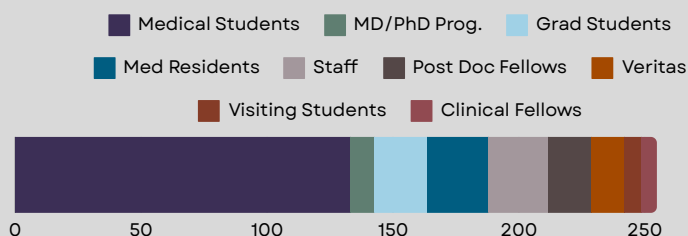
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESEARCH POSTERS PRESENTED



POSTER CATEGORIES



PARTICIPATION



The LSOM Office for Research hosted 278 poster presenters at the 2024 Research Symposium. The six best posters by students and trainees were selected to give podium presentations alongside our LSOM Rising Stars. Presentations delivered by our LSOM students, trainees, Rising Stars and keynote address by Dr. Larry Schlesinger, President and CEO of Texas Biomedical Research Institute, added invaluable insights and perspectives to the symposium. Additionally, another 7 posters were selected for poster awards. Congratulations to all poster award recipients! We thank our presenters, attendees and the LSOM community for their support in making the LSOM Research Symposium a successful event.



GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

José Cavazos, MD, PhD
Associate Dean for Resident Research



GME RESEARCH TRAINING SEMINAR SERIES



UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING FOR IRB PROTOCOLS AT UT HEALTH SAN ANTONIO

August 22, 2024
4:30-5:30 PM | ALTC, 2.219

Moderated by: Dr. José Cavazos
Guest Speaker: Dr. Krista Kilpadi



APPROACHING BIostatISTICS SUPPORT AT UT HEALTH SAN ANTONIO

November 7, 2024
4:45-5:45 PM | ALTC, 2.219

Moderated by: Dr. José Cavazos
Guest Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Gelfond



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

February 20, 2025
4:30-5:30 PM

Moderated by: Dr. José Cavazos



WRITING AND PRESENTING YOUR SCIENCE

May 8, 2025
4:30-5:30 PM

Moderated by: Dr. José Cavazos



UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION



OFFICE HOURS

Wednesdays, 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM
in 342F, virtual or in-person
by appointment only

Scan to complete the Meeting Request
form and send it to lathrop@uthscsa.edu

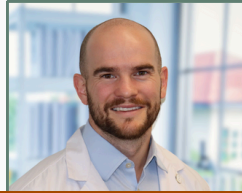
KATE LATHROP, MD
Assistant Dean for
Medical Student Research



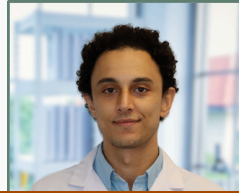
MEET YOUR 2024–2025 MS2 MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH LIAISONS



Sinchana Basoor



Daniel Bellingham



Ahmed Benchouia



David Fronk



Freedom Green
and Gus Gus



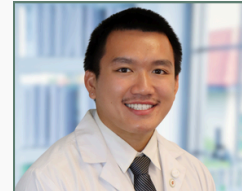
Nicholas Jones



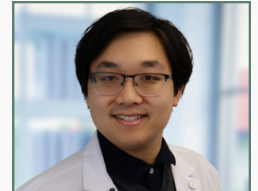
Adam Maestas



Matthew Myers



Alex Nguyen



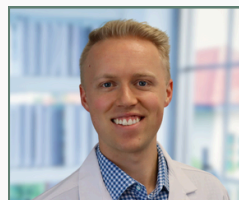
Nicholas Nguyen



Daanish Sheikh



Amirtha Shekar



Colin Smith



Sarah Traynor



Manar Zoghdan

The LSOM Office for Research is delighted to introduce and extend a warm welcome to our new Medical Student Research Liaisons for the 2024-2025 academic year. As liaisons, they will serve as vital connectors between our student body and the LSOM Office for Research. Their responsibilities include facilitating communication, promoting research opportunities, and supporting their peers in navigating the research landscape. Each of these liaisons brings a unique set of skills and perspectives that will contribute to fostering a vibrant and collaborative research environment. We are excited about these initiatives for our research community.

2023–24
Liaisons



Armand Berry
Tolga Delibasi
Kannan Freyaldenhoven

Alexander Joyce
Mithila Kareti
Star Ni

Aiswarya Pillai
Nadia Sahli
Shriya Veluri

UPCOMING STUDENT EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 11

RESEARCH INTEREST GROUPS

HOSTED BY THE LSOM OFFICE FOR RESEARCH

OCTOBER

FINDING A RESEARCH MENTOR

HOSTED BY A MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH LIAISON

NOVEMBER 6

GEAR UP FOR RESEARCH

HOSTED BY THE LSOM OFFICE FOR RESEARCH

DECEMBER

CV WORKSHOP AND HEADSHOTS

HOSTED BY A MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH LIAISON

JANUARY

MD WITH DISTINCTION IN RESEARCH

CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

HOSTED BY THE LSOM OFFICE FOR RESEARCH

FEBRUARY

GRANT WRITING FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

HOSTED BY A MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH LIAISON

MARCH

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

HOSTED BY THE LSOM OFFICE FOR RESEARCH

Gear Up For Research

Wednesday, November 6

3:30-5:00 PM- Med Student Research Seminar

5:00-6:00PM- Reception

ALTC 3.304

reception to follow at the Holly Foyer

MS1 and MS2 students are invited to learn from UT Health San Antonio institute, center, and department leaders about their work, research opportunities, and how to prepare for research.

REGISTER NOW



MD WITH DISTINCTION IN RESEARCH

ATTENTION
PLEASE!

Showcase your Commitment to Research

The distinction acknowledges medical students who demonstrate a dedicated commitment to enriching their medical education with independent research while maintaining high academic standards during medical school. Students are strongly encouraged to consider applying for the distinction as it supports a competitive residency application.



Intent to Apply is due September 1, 2024



Complete application is due December 1, 2024



Capstone presentation is scheduled for January 2025

LEARN MORE



Past Events

WELCOME FAIR

The LSOM Office of Admissions and Special Programs hosted the annual Welcome Day Info Fair for the incoming class of 2028. It was a great opportunity to talk to incoming students curious about research offered at LSOM. Dr. Lathrop, Assistant Dean for Medical Student Research and staff were present to answer specific questions and welcome the 200 students and guests in attendance. Students had the opportunity to spin the wheel for some fun LSOM swag. Thank you Admissions and Special Programs for hosting us!



MED STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

The UME Office hosted its annual Senior Awards Night and Dinner which serves to recognize outstanding and deserving graduating medical students. We want to congratulate all awardees recognized and give a special shoutout to the recipients of this year's Senior Research Awards!

BENJAMIN JOHNSON

Basic Science Research

JONATHAN LEFKOWITZ

Translational Research

JONATHAN TREFFALLS

Clinical Research

AOEE TRAINING

The LSOM Office for Research selected top poster submissions from the Research Symposium and provided presenters the opportunity to hear a talk on communicating with confidence. Thank you to Dr. Ángel González and the Academic Opportunity and Educational Excellence (AOEE) team for their collaboration.



SPACE RENOVATIONS & INFRASTRUCTURE



MEDICAL SCHOOL BUILDING– 7TH FLOOR RENOVATIONS

The 28,000-square-foot renovation project of the 7th floor began in the fall 2023 and was completed in June 2024. The expanded research space will accommodate growth and expansion for the Departments of Pharmacology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, and Psychiatry. The research labs are designed with an open space model to allow cross-disciplinary interactions and collaborations among faculty and trainees.



NEW SCIENCE ONE BUILDING AT UT HEALTH

UT Health San Antonio is constructing a new 95,000-square-foot lab facility, Science One. This building has been designed to house investigators whose research focus will be in the broad areas of Cancer Biology, Neuroscience, Diabetes, Aging Biology and age-associated disorders. In all these research areas, investigators will use state-of-art technologies using advanced microscopy, genomics, bioinformatics and molecular and cellular technologies that will allow a deeper understanding of the processes that go awry leading to devastating diseases and conditions. This \$100 million, five story building will foster inter-disciplinary collaborations among experts and enhance the university's research and patient care missions.

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
Senior Program Coordinator



Jonathan Castro
Student Intern



UT Health
San Antonio

Office for Research
Long School of Medicine

[Isom.uthscsa.edu/office-research/](https://isom.uthscsa.edu/office-research/)

somresearch@uthscsa.edu

(210) 567-0611

