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Message from the Vice Dean for Research

As we step into 2025, I want to express my excitement for the year ahead and reflect on the incredible momentum we have built together in our research community. The past year was one of growth, collaboration, and discovery. Our collective work has already had a profound impact within our institution and across the global research landscape, as reflected by the many high-profile publications highlighted in this newsletter and also by the ranking in Nature Index as one of the fastest growing universities.

In 2025, we are poised to further expand our research capabilities by merging with the University of Texas at San Antonio. I am particularly excited about new opportunities that the merger will bring through sharing our expertise and insights, building new partnerships and exploring new avenues for transformative discoveries. As we embark on this new chapter, our commitment to advancing innovative research, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations and driving meaningful progress in medicine and science will continue to be at the forefront of everything we do. I encourage you all to foster new collaborations combining intellectual and technical innovations to make ground-breaking discoveries. Together, we will continue to shape the future of medicine and make a lasting impact on the lives of those who need it most.

Thank you for your dedication and relentless pursuit of excellence in science and medicine, and for training the next generation of physicians and scientists. Through our strategic and concerted efforts, let's make 2025 a year of even greater promise and impact for discovering new mechanisms and therapies to make lives better.

- Manzoor Bhat, MS, PhD



Scan here for a digital download of the current and previous issues.



LONG SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

— 2025 —

Wednesday, March 26
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Holly Foyer and Auditorium

REGISTER TO ATTEND



SUBMIT A POSTER



Trainees



Staff/Faculty

2025 RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Wednesday, March 26

8:00 AM–5:00 PM
Holly Auditorium | Holly Foyer

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Simon Gayther, PhD

Professor
Director, Center for Inherited
Oncogenesis
Co-Director, Population Sciences
and Prevention Program

TRAINEE PRESENTATIONS

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

RISING STAR FACULTY PRESENTATIONS



Swati Banerjee, PhD

Associate Professor
Department of Cellular and
Integrative Physiology



Lingtao Jin, PhD

Associate Professor
Department of
Molecular Medicine



Shangang Zhao, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Medicine

AGENDA

8:00–8:30 AM	Doors Open/Breakfast
8:30–8:35 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:35–8:40 AM	Trainee Podium Presentation Introductions
8:40–10:10 AM	Trainee Podium Presentations
10:10–10:20 AM	Live Voting of Trainee Presentations
10:10–11:10 AM	Poster Session 1
11:20–12:20 PM	Poster Session 2
11:30–2:00 PM	Lunch
12:30–1:30 PM	Poster Session 3
1:40–2:40 PM	Poster Session 4
2:40–2:50 PM	Rising Star Introductions
2:50–3:50 PM	Rising Star Presentations
3:50–4:00 PM	Keynote Introduction
4:00–5:00 PM	Keynote Presentation
5:00–6:00PM	Reception

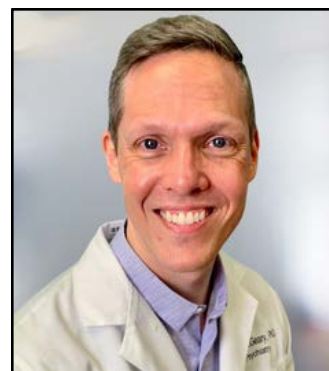
DISTINGUISH FACULTY AWARDS

“...a pioneering researcher in chronic pain and post-traumatic headache. His work has influenced care guidelines for the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and his team has secured over \$40 million in federal research funding.”

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER

DONALD MCGEARY, MD

Professor and Vice Chair for Research
Department of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences



DISTINGUISHED MENTOR

RATNA VADLAMUDI, PHD

Professor and Vice Chair for Research
Department of Obstetrics
and Gynecology



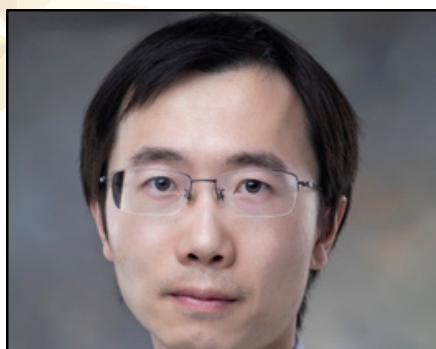
“...an exceptional academic mentor, fosters a supportive environment that encourages innovation, independence, and collaboration. His commitment, hands-on instruction and professional development of his mentees have been instrumental in them obtaining grants to establish their independent cancer research career.”

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Rising Stars

2024 Recipients

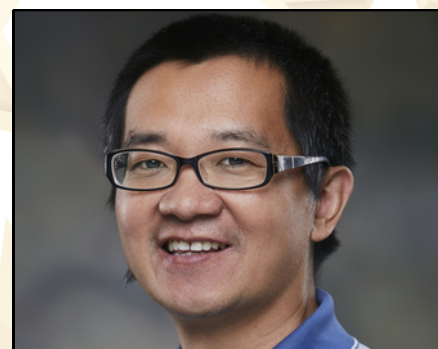
The rising star award is an annual recognition from the Dean, School of Medicine. This accolade honors junior faculty members who exemplify UT Health San Antonio's research mission, showcasing the promise of thriving in independent research careers.



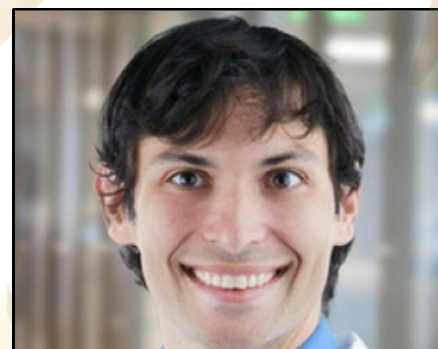
LINGTAO JIN, PHD
Associate Professor
Department of Molecular Medicine



SWATI BANERJEE, PHD
Associate Professor
Department of Cellular and
Integrative Physiology



SHANGANG ZHAO, PHD
Assistant Professor
Department of Medicine



JEREMY TANNER, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Neurology

Faculty Highlights

Recipient of the 2024 Basser Global Prize for Cancer Research

Congratulations to Professor Patrick Sung, Director, Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute, as the 2024 Basser Global Prize recipient for groundbreaking work on BRCA2 gene function and its implications for cancer treatment and prevention.



PATRICK SUNG, DPHIL
Director, GCCRI
Associate Dean for Research, LSOM
Professor, Biochemistry and Structural Biology

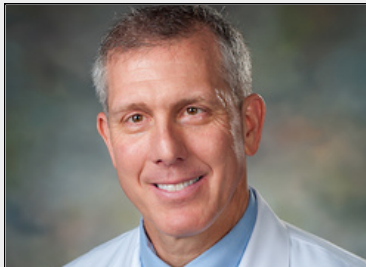
National Cancer Institute Program Project Award

Dr. Patrick Sung was recently awarded a National Cancer Institute Program Project award for his work on regulation of BRCA-dependent genome repair. This award received \$12.6 million in funding.

Recipient of the 2025 Hill Prize

Congratulations to Dr. Robert De Lorenzo, President of EmergenceMed LLC, and Dr. R. Lyle Hood, Associate Professor at UTSA, for receiving the 2025 Hill Prize in the area of medical technology.

Their project aims to improve airway management by redesigning endotracheal tubes with a Flexible Airway Securement Tube that enhances adaptability, stability, and patient safety. This innovative design promises to simplify intubation and pave the way for future advancements in airway care.



ROBERT DE LORENZO, MD
Vice Chair of Research and Professor
Department of Emergency Medicine

Long School of Medicine Office for Research Grant Development Program

Thank you to our 2024-2025 participants



DAVID GIUS, MD, PHD
Assistant Dean for Research
Grant Development Program
Director

- Oluwaseun Ogunbona, MD
- Panneerdoss Subbarayalu, PhD
- Sajid Khan, PhD
- Sarah Savoia, PAC
- Sekinat McCormick, MD
- Sergey Shein, PhD
- Sevan Alwan, PhD
- Stacy Ogbeide, PsyD
- Subrata Debnath, PhD
- Valentina Garbarino, PhD
- Winifred Mak, MD, PhD
- Xueqiu Jian, PhD
- Yan Du, PhD
- Yue Li, PhD

- Alexei Tumanov, MD, PhD
- Amy Werry-McFarlin, PhD
- Dongwen Lyu, PhD
- Egle Bytautiene Prewit, MD, PhD
- Eloise Dray, PhD
- Guanshi Zhang, PhD
- Habil Zare, PhD
- Jessica Treviño Jones, PhD
- Jisook Ko, PhD
- Ling Ma, PhD
- Matthew Dopler, PhD

Success Stories

Grant Development Program Participant

NIH R01CA281726

Novel mechanism of chemokine nitration in bladder cancer

"With the help from the Grant Development Program, I received funding from the National Cancer Institute on my first R01 grant."



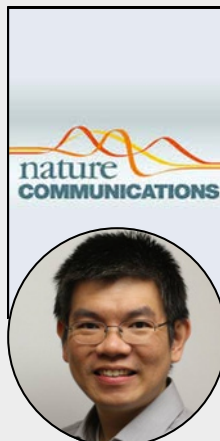
NEELAM MUKHERJEE, PHD
Department of Urology

MAJOR SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS

Pushing Science Forward



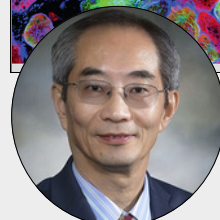
Patrick Sung, DPhil
Biochemistry and
Structural Biology



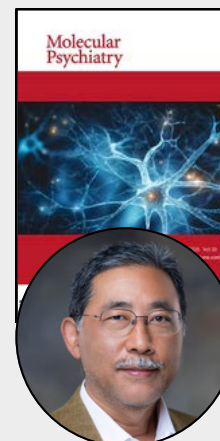
Gek-Ming Sia, PhD
Pharmacology



Mohamad Habes, PhD
Biggs Institute



LuZhe Sun, PhD
Cell Systems and
Anatomy



Noboru Hiroi, PhD
Pharmacology



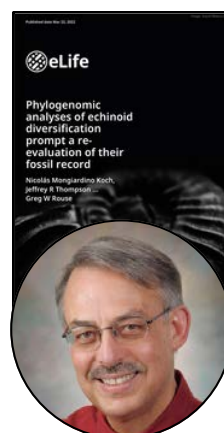
Nu Zhang, PhD
Microbiology,
Immunology and
Molecular Medicine



Adam Salmon, PhD
Barshop Institute



James Nelson, PhD
Cellular and Integrative
Physiology



Bruce Nicholson, PhD
Biochemistry and
Structural Biology



Four times published!



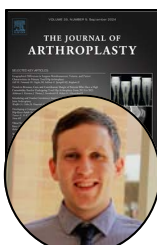
Chance Moore, MD
Orthopaedics

Student Spotlight



Four times published!

Two first-author and
two contributing author
publications in The
Journal of Arthroplasty



Travis Kotzur
Medical Student
Class of 2025

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



Scan here to view
publications

RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

La Frontera 2024 When Endometrial Cells Go Bad: Advances in Biology and Treatment in Health and Disease

October 15, 2024

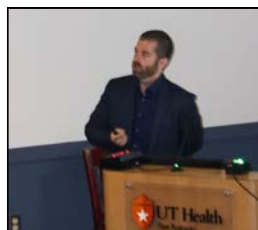
The LSOM Office for Research, in collaboration with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, hosted the annual La Frontera Symposium, focusing on endometrial health. The event featured presentations and panel discussions on biological mechanisms, treatment advancements, and the role of endometrial cells in health and disease, allowing attendees to engage with experts and explore potential collaborations.



Unlocking the Power of Cryo-EM: Advancing Awareness, Expanding Collaborations, and Maximizing Impact

November 8, 2024

"Unlocking the Power of Cryo-EM," drew faculty, trainees, and researchers from UT Health and UTSA. The event explored Cryo-EM's transformative potential in structural biology, drug discovery, and molecular research. Experts discussed its ability to visualize biological molecules at unprecedented resolutions, enhancing our understanding of molecular mechanisms. Attendees also learned about the state-of-the-art Cryo-EM lab at UT Health, promoting facility use and cross-disciplinary collaboration.



Undergraduate Medical Education

“LSOM Office for Research events provide an excellent opportunity for students to engage with faculty, making research more accessible and easing the path to involvement.”

- Carlos Peña, MS 1



KATE LATHROP, MD
Assistant Dean for Medical Student Research

The LSOM Office for Research supports trainees in achieving research goals through programs that engage medical students. For information on partnering for a student workshop, contact somresearch@uthscsa.edu.

Medical Student Research Liaison-led Event

NUTS AND BOLTS OF RESEARCH

October 17

84
registered



Scan here to access episodes

San Antonio Biomedical Research (SABR), is a medical student-run podcast aimed at connecting medical students and biomedical research faculty in the San Antonio area. By sharing information and fostering collaboration, SABR hopes to spark new ideas and drive research forward.

Since launching in July 2024, the podcast has released 23 episodes.

At A Glance:

UME Research Activity

3 Research engagement events

277 Students registered for events

6 Mentors participated

“LSOM Office for Research events provide an excellent platform for students to explore research interests, network with faculty, and get involved in impactful projects.”

- Freedom Green MD/PhD Student



98
registered

Research Interest Groups

September 11

Gear Up For Research

November 6



95
registered

Graduate Medical Education



JOSE CAVAZOS, MD., PHD
Associate Dean
for Research Training

“The GME Research seminars have helped me better understand and navigate institutional resources to enhance my research during residency.”

- Hannah Uhlig-Reche, MD, MPH
Rehabilitation Medicine, PGY-4

GME Research Training



Approaching Biostatistics Support at UTHSCSA

Thursday, November 7

Guest Speaker:
Jonathan Gelfond, MD, PhD

The LSOM Office for Research hosted the GME Research Training Seminar, ‘Approaching Biostatistics Support at UTHSCSA,’ for residents and fellows seeking to strengthen their biostatistics skills. The session provided practical insights on study design, data analysis, and result interpretation, while also highlighting the biostatistics resources available at UTHSCSA for tailored research support.

Registration is open for upcoming trainings...



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

Moderated by: Dr. Cavazos

February 20

4:30-5:30 PM | TBD

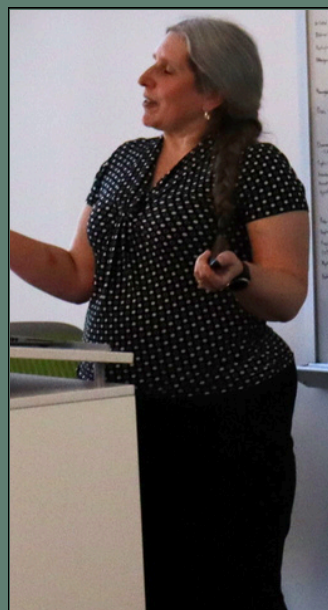


Understanding and Applying for IRB Protocols at UTHSCSA

Thursday, August 22

Guest Speaker:
Krista Kilpadi, MD, PhD, CCRP

The LSOM Office for Research hosted the GME Research Training Seminar, ‘Understanding and Applying for IRB Protocols at UTHSCSA.’ The session covered the IRB process, offering tips on protocol submission and ensuring ethical research practices. Participants gained valuable insights and had the opportunity to ask questions, better preparing them for future research projects.



WRITING AND PRESENTING YOUR SCIENCE

Moderated by: Dr. Cavazos

May 8

4:30-5:30 PM | TBD



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

