2019 PATHWAYS TO CAREERS IN SCIENCE

Friday, March 1, 2019 • 1:45 – 3:45 pm
UT Health San Antonio – Main Campus
AL&TC Room 3.302

6th Annual Career Workshop
- Highlighting professionals from across diverse career paths
- Career development topics and skills will be discussed
- Round table Q&A format
AGENDA
PATHWAYS TO CAREERS IN SCIENCE
FRIDAY • MARCH 1, 2019

1:30 pm – 1:40 pm  Arrival and Check-In
1:45 pm – 1:50 pm  Introduction
1:50 pm – 2:10 pm  1st Rotation
 3 min move time
2:13 pm – 2:33 pm  2nd Rotation
 3 min move time
2:36 pm – 2:56 pm  3rd Rotation
 3 min move time
2:59 pm – 3:19 pm  4th Rotation
 3 min move time
3:22 pm – 3:42 pm  Final Rotation
3:45 pm  Close

BEHAVIOR, BIOLOGY, and CHEMISTRY
Translational Research
in Addiction

ARTT
Addiction Research, Treatment & Training
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

BBC
Behavior, Biology, and Chemistry
Translational Research in Addiction

UT Health
San Antonio
Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
Department of Pharmacology
Office of the Vice President for Research
Varsin Archer, M.S.
Project Manager at Southwest Research Institute
**Topic:** Research Business Development

Mrs. Varsin Archer is a Project Manager at Southwest Research Institute (SwRI). She earned her Master’s in Organic Chemistry from Missouri State University. She is currently in her eighth year at SwRI.

In addition to being a Project Manager, Mrs. Archer also engages in business development by guiding pharmaceutical and biopharma programs to successful business outcome. She has extensive experience in leading cross-functional chemistry manufacturing control (CMC) project teams with proven adaptability transferring project expertise across many aspects of product development such as IND-enabling operations like cGMP manufacturing and regulatory support for investigation new drug (IND) filing.

Mrs. Archer’s strength as a leader comes from a deep understanding of the interpersonal skills and communication with technical teams and client’s business goals. She also has an understanding of the relationship with academia, industry and larger community for collaboration and also responds effectively to challenges and opportunities in the environment. Her top skills are in strategic planning, seeking potential opportunities in the community, communication with all organization levels project planning and execution, and risk identification.

Nicquet Blake, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs, UT Health San Antonio
**Topic:** Academic Administration - Navigating Students

Dr. Nicquet Blake is the Senior Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs at the UT Health San Antonio (UTHSA). She began her academic career at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and pursued her doctoral in Neuroscience at Washington University, St. Louis in the lab of Dr. Thomas Woolsey. Dr. Blake defied conventional wisdom and pursued a post-doctoral position in Biochemistry rather than Neuroscience. In 2007, faced with the choice of directing her own laboratory or serving to recruit and guide students as well as facilitate student learning and success, Dr. Blake followed her heart back to Texas. In her current position, she is responsible for the recruitment, admissions, and retention of students in the Graduate program at UTHSA.

Travis Block, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist for StemBioSys, Inc.
**Topic:** Start-up

Travis Block is a San Antonio native and a graduate of the joint Ph.D. program in Biomedical Engineering at UTSA and UT Health San Antonio. During his undergraduate and graduate studies, respectively, Dr. Block founded MonoMano, Inc. and San Antonio Science, Inc. Currently, he serves as senior scientist for StemBioSys, Inc. In that role, he directs research and development efforts for the company.
Beth Eby, CLU®, ChFC®
Principal, Eby Financial
Topic: Networking

Principal of the San Antonio financial services firm, Eby Financial, Beth Eby works primarily with professionals and executives in health care. Beth is a founder of The Health Cell, a group that brings professionals together across the healthcare and bioscience industry in San Antonio. Active in a number of civic organizations, she is a frequent speaker on the topic of networking, and she credits community engagement for both business success and an interesting life.

Teresa Evans, Ph.D.
COO, Trauma Insight | Assistant Professor, UT Health SA | Principal, Teresa Evans Ph.D. LLC
Topic: Finding Your Career Path

Dr. Teresa Evans is a trained scientist, leader and consultant whose passion involves cultivating the innovation ecosystem in San Antonio. For her work in these fields, she was recently honored with the inclusion in the San Antonio 40 under 40 class of 2018. Dr. Evans leads a self-named consulting firm, currently serves as fractional COO for Trauma Insight and also holds a part-time faculty position at UT Health San Antonio where her work focuses on growing the STEM workforce of San Antonio through promoting K-12 Science Teacher Professional Development.

After receiving a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from UT Health San Antonio, she has contributed to the life science community as a faculty member there and published several peer-reviewed manuscripts in the fields of neuroscience and science education. Her publication in Nature Biotechnology titled “Evidence for a Mental Health Crisis in Graduate Education” has garnered significant national attention. It is currently ranked at the 99th percentile (12th out of 267,441) for tracked articles of similar age. As the founding Director of the Office of Workforce and Career Development (OWCD) at UT Health San Antonio, Teresa designed programs to foster the connections among academic scientists, San Antonio industry partners, and the military community.

Dr. Evans possesses technology commercialization expertise, having been a Partner at the RealCo Seed Fund Program. Throughout her work across the academic and industrial sectors of San Antonio life sciences and technology, Teresa has developed a reputation as an advocate for the advancement of innovation through her abilities to communicate and connect with a wide variety of professionals across a variety of disciplines.

Amy Feehan, Ph.D.
Scientific Liaison at syGlass
Topic: Science Communication-Innovation

Finishing up her BS in neuroscience, Amy was ready for all the $80k+ job offers to pour in... which never happened. After working for a minimal salary as a lab tech at Rush University in Chicago, it became abundantly clear that without a Ph.D. there was no chance at making a living wage in science. She switched to a sales position for a little over a year to save money while applying to Ph.D. programs and started at Tulane University with her mentor, Jim Zadina. Throughout the Ph.D. program, Amy was first author on multiple papers, applied for two patents, and managed to develop a severe rat allergy. She and a few friends started an "Alternative Careers in the Sciences" seminar series that brought speakers from industry, non-profit, NGO, and government to educate students about their career paths and ultimately found her own place in a start-up company called syGlass. Amy never imagined that she would be developing virtual reality software for science and medicine, but her current position aligns well with her ultimate goals of improving scientific communication around the world.
Andrea Giuffrida, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research, UT Health San Antonio
**Topic:** Research Administration / Advocacy

Andrea Giuffrida, Ph.D. is the Vice President for Research at UT Health San Antonio®, and a full professor in the Department of Pharmacology in the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine. He oversees the institutional research infrastructure and operations, regulatory compliances, and academia-industry partnerships. He also serves as liaison to The University of Texas System for matters related to research advocacy and technology commercialization.

Dr. Giuffrida has provided important breakthroughs to the neuropharmacology of the cannabinoid system, which have been published in high-impact journals, including Nature and Nature Neuroscience. His research focuses on the role played by endocannabinoids in psychomotor disorders characterized by dopaminergic dysfunction, such as schizophrenia and Parkinson’s disease. Dr. Giuffrida served as an AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow in the Office of Science Policy at the National Institutes of Health, and he is actively engaged in life science and biotechnology networks in the state, the U.S., and internationally. He is also a member of the editorial boards of the International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology and Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs.

He currently serves on the board of directors of BioMed SA and Texas Health and Bioscience Institute, whose mission is promoting the development of bioscience and healthcare in the state. In addition, Dr. Giuffrida serves on the boards of trustees of the Texas Research & Technology Foundation and the Texas Biomedical Research Institute, and on the Executive Leadership Group of the Association of Academic Health Centers, an international organization promoting biomedical research and the education of the next generation of health professionals.

Dan Hargrove, M.S.
CEO of eMTORA Biosciences | Co-founder of Cancer Insight (CI) and Trauma Insight (TI)
**Topic:** Clinical Research / Start-Up

Dan Hargrove, a lawyer by training, is the co-founder of Cancer Insight, which is a clinical Contract Research Organization that specializes in designing and executing Immuno-Oncology (IO) clinical trials. Cancer Insight also develops its own proprietary IO products. Dan is currently working to stand up Cancer Insight’s sister company, Trauma Insight. Building upon the strong foundation of Cancer Insight, Trauma Insight focuses on commercializing medical technologies that have military relevance yet have greater application to the civilian community. Dan has years of experience interacting with the FDA and commercializing medical technologies. He is a retired reserve military judge advocate. He served on active duty as a bridge judge advocate with the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and the 82nd Airborne Division, and he has deployed to the Middle East. He was a Professor of Law at the Army JAG School for ten years with the specialty of federal procurement and government contracts. He has published and presented extensively on these topics. He retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel in 2018.
Andrew Meyer, M.D., M.S.
Assistant Professor of Pediatric Critical Care, UT Health San Antonio

**Topic:** Clinical Translational Research

Dr. Andrew Meyer is an assistant professor of pediatric critical care at UT Health San Antonio. As a physician-scientist, Dr. Meyer integrates biomedical engineering and medical research to improve the lives of critically ill children by eliminating complications associated with biomedical devices. A member of the UT Health pediatrics faculty, he cares for young patients at University Hospital, the pediatric clinical partner of UT Health San Antonio. Dr. Meyer received his Bachelor of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering and Material Science & Engineering at The University of California, Berkeley in 1997, followed by a Master of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2000. He continued his education at Virginia Commonwealth, receiving his M.D. in 2004 and completing internship and residency training in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics in 2008. He completed his clinical fellowship in Pediatric Critical Care medicine at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. in 2011. That year, UT Health San Antonio recruited him to the pediatrics faculty to teach, care for patients and conduct research. Dr. Meyer has an active research program funded by the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, and Congenital Heart Disease Foundation to study pro-thrombotic (pro-clotting) conditions generated by pediatric cardiopulmonary bypass. Moreover, he collaborates with other UT investigators to define new assays that can identify children at risk for severe clotting event such as a stroke or DVT. In the community, Dr. Meyer leads CPR and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) classes through the American Heart Association. Dr. Meyer lives in Alamo Heights with his wife and two children, ages 4 and 6 years. When he is not taking care of patients or doing research, he enjoys spending time with his family and making pottery. He started making pottery over 20 years ago for fun and relaxation, but now enjoys the creative challenge in designing functional and beautiful gifts for friends and family. In recognition of his excellence in medical research, Dr. Meyer was named the 2017 Junior Distinguished Research Scholar at UT Health San Antonio.
Pathways to Careers in Science
2019 Speaker Bios

Tim Raabe, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Topic: Academic/Education Teaching

Dr. Raabe received his B.S. and M.S. in Biology from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University) and his Ph.D. in Zoology (Physiology) from UT Austin. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the lab of Dr. George H. DeVries at the Hines VA Hospital/Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois, and examined the role of neuregulins in axonal/glial cell signaling. Dr. Raabe became an Assistant Professor at St. Mary's University in San Antonio and worked his way through the ranks to become Professor and Chair of Biological Sciences and eventually the Associate Dean of the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology. After 21 years at St. Mary's, Dr. Raabe has recently taken on the role of Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at UT Health San Antonio.

Wendy Rigby
Media and Communications Specialist at Texas Biomedical Research Institute
Topic: Science Communication-Media

Wendy Rigby is a San Antonio native who has worked as a journalist for more than 25 years. She spent two decades at KENS-TV covering health and medical news. Now, she brings her considerable background, experience and passion to Texas Public Radio.

Wendy has earned dozens of awards for medical reporting from various state and national organizations including the Texas Medical Association, the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and the Dallas Press Club. She has been honored with two Emmy Awards from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Wendy earned her Bachelor's degree in Print and Broadcast Journalism from Trinity University in San Antonio. She graduated summa cum laude.

She lives in San Antonio with her husband. Wendy has two adult children and a menagerie of pets. She enjoys music, reading, watching movies, cross-stitching, and travel. Wendy left TPR in September, 2017 and now works for Texas BioMed.

Rose Riggs, M.A.
Education Development Specialist and Program Director for the Teacher Enrichment Initiatives (TEI)
Topic: Education-K-12

Mrs. Riggs is an Education Development Specialist and Program Director for the Teacher Enrichment Initiatives (TEI). As Program Director, Rose creates community outreach opportunities for UTHSA students and faculty to engage with area schools. She also coordinates professional development programs for area K-12 teachers that connect teachers with local scientists and biomedical professionals. These programs help teachers stay current on developments within science research and ensure curriculum accurately reflects up-to-date information. Through these programs, TEI supports teachers as they help area students explore pathways to STEM-related careers. She is Composite Science certified, grades 6 through 12, and taught chemistry and AP chemistry at a local, title 1 high school for 10 years. Rose holds a master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction and she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Adult Professional and Community Education at Texas State University.
Jose Salinas, Ph.D.
Research Task Area Manager for Comprehensive Intensive Care Research, Single/Multi Organ Support, and Vital Tissue Preservation U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research

**Topic:** DOD Research

Dr. Jose Salinas is the chief of the Clinical Decision Support and Automation Research Branch and deputy Capability Area Manager for Medical Robotic and Automated Systems at the US Army Institute of Surgical Research, Fort Sam Houston, TX. In his research role, he is currently focusing on development of new clinical decision support technologies and automation solutions to improve outcomes of military combat casualties across all echelons of care. This includes the development of novel information technology and engineering products that provide users with new approaches to communicate and automate different diagnoses and treatments that are normally performed through manual means. Other projects include research and development efforts that use information technology concepts for enhanced medical situational awareness in the deployed setting. Dr. Salinas also manages multiple research efforts in advanced digital signal processing algorithms for enhanced diagnosis of combat casualties including the use of advanced machine learning techniques for improved physiologic models and prediction of trauma injuries. His current program currently includes over 10 full time intramural researchers working at the institute in addition to multiple extramural efforts with universities, institutions, and medical devices manufacturers.

Samar K. Shah
Patent Attorney at Shah IP Law, PLLC

**Topic:** Intellectual Property Law

Samar Shah is a San Antonio based patent attorney who helps IT and MedTech companies protect their intellectual property. Samar, a Silicon Valley transplant, cut his teeth in the field by writing patents for technology companies such as Google and Facebook as well as other start-ups. In addition to writing patents, Samar has also litigated patent lawsuits in Federal District Courts for clients such as KCI/Acelity, Thermogenesis, Blackberry, AT&T, and others. Samar, who is barred in California and Texas, was named a Rising Star by Northern California’s Super Lawyers Magazine, a Top 40 Under 40 Professional by the San Antonio Business Journal, and a Top Patent Attorney by San Antonio Scene Magazine.

Prior to his legal career, Samar received a biomedical engineering degree from Vanderbilt University, and worked as a biomedical engineer at NASA.

Mikaela SiFuentes, Ph.D.
Medical Writer II at KCI, an Acelity Company

**Topic:** Science Communication-Industry

Dr. Sifuentes is currently a Medical Writer at Acelity, a global wound care medical device company headquartered in San Antonio. She mainly produces product information, clinical research, and case reports that helps to improve the visibility of Acelity devices among the greater medical community. Dr. Sifuentes is also a recent Neuroscience graduate from the UT Health San Antonio, where she continues to explore the mechanism of protection of thyroid hormone during stroke. Dr. Sifuentes has been recognized for the quality of her work by a Translational Science Scholarship and a Predoctoral Fellowship funded by the American Heart Association.
**Brian Stout, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Biology, Northwest Vista College  
**Topic:** Education-Primarily Undergrad Institution  

Dr. Brian Stout currently teaches Biology, Physiology, Microbiology and Genetics courses at Northwest Vista College. He graduated from UT Health with a Ph.D. in Pharmacology. During his 15 years at NVC he has served as Department Chair for the Natural and Physical Sciences and Faculty Senate President. Dr. Stout has won several service and teaching awards, as well as being nominated by the college for the statewide Minnie Piper Steven's Award. Brian also serves as a board member for the John Jay Science Academy.

**Joanne Turner, Ph.D.**  
Vice President for Research at Texas Biomedical Research Institute  
**Topic:** Research Administration & Researcher  

Joanne Turner, Ph.D., is the Vice President for Research at Texas Biomedical Research Institute. In addition to her administrative role, where she oversees the research functions of Texas Biomed, she also manages a research program. Her research focuses on immunology of Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection and immunology of aging. More specifically, she studies the changes that take place in the immune system during the natural aging process and how those changes can influence both innate and adaptive immune function when infected with *M. tuberculosis*. She also studies immune responses that correlate with an individual's susceptibility to reactivate a previously latent infection with *M. tuberculosis*. Dr. Turner received her Ph.D. in Immunology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She started with Texas Biomed this past summer, having previously served as a Professor and Biosafety Level 3 Program Director at The Ohio State University.