2020 PATHWAYS TO CAREERS IN SCIENCE

Friday, February 28, 2020 • 3:00 – 5:00 pm
UT Health San Antonio – Main Campus
ALTC Room 3.304

7th 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 • FEBRUARY 28, 2020

2:45 pm  Arrival and Check-In
3:00 pm - 3:05 pm  Introduction
3:05 pm - 3:25 pm  1st Rotation
3:28 pm - 3:48 pm  2nd Rotation
3:52 pm - 4:12 pm  3rd Rotation
4:15 pm - 4:35 pm  4th Rotation
4:38 pm - 4:58 pm  Final Rotation
5:00 pm  Close

BEHAVIOR, BIOLOGY, AND CHEMISTRY
TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH IN ADDICTION

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Department of Pharmacology
Office of the Vice President for Research
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Tracey Baas, PhD
Assistant Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Success, University of Texas San Antonio
Topic: Research Administration

Dr. Tracey Baas is the Assistant Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Success at University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA). She provides guidance to PhD graduate students and postdoctoral trainees, enabling next generation scientists to develop professionalism, enhance productivity and establish the groundwork needed to attain research-related career goals. Prior to joining UTSA, Dr. Baas was the Executive Director for URBEST (Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training) at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Dr. Baas also spent 8 years as an writer and editor with Nature Publishing Group - helping to launch and lead SciBx, a publication that addressed the interface between life science discovery and business. She has previous editorial experience working for other journals, including Review of Modern Physics.

Travis Block, PhD
Principal Scientist StemBioSys, Inc.
Topic: Intellectual Property, Tech Transfer & Commercialization

Travis Block is a San Antonio native and a graduate of the joint PhD 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 Principal Scientist for StemBioSys, Inc. In that role, he directs research and development efforts for the company. Dr. Block is also a partner with Marinkovic & Block, LLC and Et al BioCapital, LLC.

Christine Burke, PhD, MBA
Director of Commercialization, University of Texas San Antonio
Topic: Intellectual Property, Tech Transfer & Commercialization

With 20 years of entrepreneurial and commercialization experience, Christine has helped launch university startups and commercialize invention portfolios that have included novel therapeutic compounds, biologics, medical devices, diagnostics, software, natural products, nanotechnologies, clean energy technologies, and more. She was also a founding employee of LabVelocity, a software and information services company.

Christine has a PhD in Molecular Biology from Yale University, was a post-doctoral fellow in Immunology at UC San Francisco, and has an MBA from the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Pathways to Careers in Science  
2020 Discussion Leaders’ Bios

Becky Butler Cap, MBA  
Sr. Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, GenCure  
**Topic**: Industry (Big Pharma/Biotech)

Becky Cap, a 20-year veteran of the life sciences industry, was named chief operating officer of San Antonio-based GenCure in February, 2016. GenCure, a subsidiary of BioBridge Global, is focused on providing and developing regenerative medicine and cellular therapy products. GenCure’s mission is to realize the potential of donated human cells and tissue to save and enhance lives.

Cap, a native of Texas, earned a bachelor’s degree from Harvard University. She began her career at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, where she gained clinical, laboratory and regulatory experience. She developed her foundational knowledge of clinical medicine in the context of managing clinical trials focused on exploring the benefits of hematologic stem cell transplant for breast cancer and the effects of growth factors in high-dose chemotherapy trials.

While pursuing her MBA at Boston University’s Health Care Management Program, she moved to industry and began working for Eidetics, a consulting firm focused on informing biomedical product development support. She supported US and global development and strategic marketing efforts for chemotherapeutics, leading monoclonal antibodies, tyrosine kinase inhibitors and bio-oncology agents, including PD-1 and PDL-1 inhibitors. Her expertise was honed as Oncology became an active and competitive “market” in which physicians and patients had multiple treatment options available to them for their cancers. Hers was one of the first Oncology Consulting Practices in this strategic marketing and market research space. She also has run her own consulting firm and worked with a number of local startups in the San Antonio community.

Cap has provided strategic guidance for the development of pharmaceuticals and medical devices, both in large, established firms and early stage ventures. She has provided extensive entrepreneurial coaching. She is an active member of local and national committees on Regenerative Medicine and Cell Therapy, two private company Boards of Directors and the Governing Committee for Seton Home. Additionally, Cap is a co-founder and founding president of San Antonio TechBoosters, a 501(c)6 organization established to mentor student entrepreneurs.

Chris Chiu, PhD  
Postdoctoral Fellow at the Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute, UT Health San Antonio  
**Topic**: Career Transitions (Career Development Awards)

Dr. Chiu is a postdoctoral fellow at the Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute, UT Health San Antonio (UTHSA). His career goal is to become a multifaceted, cross-disciplinary investigator of cancer bioinformatics in a research intensive institution. He has been working towards the goal by acquiring cross-disciplinary skills and training in basic biology, bioinformatics algorithms, and translational research. Dr. Chiu was awarded the San Antonio Life Sciences Institute (SALSI) Postdoctoral Research Training Fellowship, Ann A. Hollocher Trainee Travel Award, and research support from The Fund for Innovation in Cancer Informatics (ICI). He recently applied for the NIH Pathway to Independence (K99/R00) Award to transition to an independent investigator.
Anthony DePass, PhD
Professor of Biology at Long Island University-Brooklyn; Principal DePass Academic Consulting
**Topic:** Consulting (Academic Consulting)

Dr. Anthony DePass a Professor of Biology at Long Island University-Brooklyn and the Principal of DePass Academic Consulting that provides services to several universities in program evaluation, strategic planning, grantsmanship training, grant writing, and professional development. Dr. DePass has had over 20 years of experience in the administration and evaluation of programs that target diversity and inclusion in STEM. He is also the PI and Co-Chair of the annual conferences on *Understanding Interventions that Broaden Participation in Science Careers*. These conferences serve as a major venue for the dissemination of scholarship on interventions research and evaluation, as well as facilitating training activities for evaluators, interventions researchers, and program administrators. Dr. DePass was the lead author on assessment for the NSF report on “*Vision and Change in Undergraduate Education - A Call to Action*”.

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, PhD
COO, Trauma Insight • Assistant Professor, UT Health San Antonio • Principal, Teresa Evans PhD LLC

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 PhD 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.
**Bridget Ford, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, University of the Incarnate Word  
**Topic:** Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (Undergrad Institution)  

Dr. Bridget Ford is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at UIW. She obtained her bachelor’s degree at St. Mary’s University in Biological Sciences with a minor in Chemistry. She then went on to earn her PhD in Molecular Medicine at UT Health San Antonio in 2012. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship training at the United States Army Institute of Surgical Research in the Extremity Trauma and Regenerative Medicine task area and at UT Health at San Antonio between the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Division and the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Ford teaches Anatomy and Physiology I and II, General Biology I and Lab for Majors, Cell Biology, and a Special Topics course in Endocrinology at UIW. She is dedicated to mentoring undergraduates in the research laboratory where her research focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms involved in renal cell injury in diabetic kidney disease, with a particular emphasis on oxidative stress pathways.

**John Fritz, MS, MBA**  
Associate Director of Technology Commercialization, Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC)  
UT Health San Antonio and Co-Director of the TechNovum Accelerator  
**Topic:** Intellectual Property, Tech Transfer & Commercialization  

John Fritz serves as Associate Director of Technology Commercialization in the Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC) at UT Health San Antonio and Co-Director of the Accelerator. Prior to OTC Mr. Fritz served as a Project Analyst with Nerac a Research and Advisory Firm for companies developing innovative products and technologies. Prior to Nerac Mr. Fritz was the Project Manager for Technology Commercialization at the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Technology Center where he worked with early stage technology companies to help them develop and launch new technology. He began his career with Entergy Corporation, a multi-billion-dollar utility conglomerate headquartered in New Orleans. At Entergy, Mr. Fritz worked in market research, product development and market management. Mr. Fritz left Entergy to pursue a new career opportunity at Kinetic Concepts Inc., a major medical device company headquartered in San Antonio. At KCI, Mr. Fritz worked in the areas of manufacturing, R&D, and business development.

Mr. Fritz received his BS in Management and MBA in Marketing from the University of West Florida. He graduated with an MS in Management of Technology from UTSA and a Masters in Health Administration from Texas State University.
Pathways to Careers in Science
2020 Discussion Leaders’ Bios

Andrea Giuffrida, PhD
Vice President for Research, UT Health San Antonio
Topic: Science Policy/Advocacy

Andrea Giuffrida, PhD is the Vice President for Research at UT Health San Antonio®, and a professor of Pharmacology in the Long School of Medicine. He oversees the institutional research infrastructure and operations, regulatory compliances, and serves as the university liaison for matters related to research advocacy and technology commercialization.

Dr. Giuffrida has provided important breakthroughs to the neuropharmacology of the cannabinoid system and his research interests focus on the role of endocannabinoids in psychomotor disorders, including schizophrenia and Parkinson's disease. He is a member of the editorial board of *International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology*, and he is actively engaged in life science and biotechnology networks in the state, the U.S., and internationally. He is a member of the Executive Leadership Group of the Association of Academic Health Centers, and he serves on the board of directors of BioMed SA and Texas Health and Bioscience Institute, and on the boards of trustees of the Texas Research & Technology Foundation and the Texas Biomedical Research Institute.

Dr. Giuffrida also served as an AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow in the Office of Science Policy at the National Institutes of Health.

James “Jim” Hall, PhD
Professor, Math & Science, College of Arts and Sciences, Our Lady of the Lake University
Topic: Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (Undergrad Institution)

Dr. James “Jim” Hall earned a BS in Chemistry/Biology at Angelo State University in 1979 and a PhD in Pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio in 1984. He is in his 37th year as a biology professor at Our Lady of the Lake University San Antonio, where he served as Biology Department Chair for 25 years and has also served as the Health Professions Advisor. Dr. Hall teaches medically related undergraduate courses from freshman to senior level, including human anatomy and physiology, microscopic anatomy, microbiology and pharmacology. Mentoring students and traveling with them annually to conferences where students present their research has been one of the most enjoyable parts of his career. Dr. Hall just completed 12 years serving as the National Executive Director of Sigma Zeta, a National Science and Mathematics Honor Society, and OLLU students present their research at that organization’s national conference each year. He has received and collaborated on many federally funded grant projects, including a current (2015-2020) NIH-funded SABER/IRACDA postdoctoral research/teaching training program with UT Health Science Center.

Kenneth M. Hargreaves, DDS, PhD
Professor & Chair, Department of Endodontics, UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry
Topic: Research Intensive Institutions (Principal Investigator)

Dr. Kenneth Hargreaves received his BA in neurobiology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1977, his DDS from Georgetown University in Washington, DC, in 1983, and his PhD in Physiology from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, in 1986. From 1986 to 1990, he was a Staff Fellow and Senior Staff Fellow at the Neurobiology and Anesthesiology Branch of the National Institute of Dental Research (now NIDCR) at the NIH. He completed his residency in Endodontics at the University of Minnesota in 1993 and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. Dr. Hargreaves is currently professor and chair of the Department of Endodontics, and professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Department of Physiology, and Department of Surgery at UT Health San Antonio. He also maintains a private practice limited to endodontics.
Matthew Hart, PhD
High Throughput/Content Screening Facility Core Director, Associate Professor/Research, Department of Biochemistry and Structural Biology, UT Health San Antonio
Topic: Research Intensive Institutions (Core Lab Directors)

Dr. Matthew Hart, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry at UT Health San Antonio, serves as the Director of the High Throughput Screening (HTS) Facility, one of two core facilities forming the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery (CIDD) at UT Health/UTSA. Dr. Hart is also a member of the Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute (GCCRI) and serves as Director of the GCCRI RNAi/CRISPR High Throughput Screening Facility. Dr. Hart received his Ph.D. from Cornell University and did his postdoctoral training at Onyx Pharmaceuticals. His work identified CDC42 as a regulator of cell growth control, established CDC42 as a key regulator of EGFR and Dbl, defined the involvement of p115-RhoGEF in heterotrimeric G-protein signaling, and identified β-TrCP and Axin as regulators of β-catenin signaling. His current work builds on 25 years of experience in basic biomedical research, with 20 years of experience in drug discovery both in pharmaceutical and academic settings, where he led teams in >500K compound-HTS drug discovery targeting mediators in cancer, vascular inflammation and neurodegenerative diseases. Dr. Hart has extensive knowledge of HTS in the biotechnology industry through specific experience in all steps in the drug discovery process, including assay development, optimization and automation. As Director of the CIDD HTS and the GCCRI RNAi/CRISPR HTS facilities, Dr. Hart (a) applies cutting-edge technology to HTS/rational design approaches to translate mechanistic insights of South Texas researchers into effective therapeutics and to enable the identification of novel targets, and (b) uses RNAi/CRISPR-based genetic tools to identify novel targets and signaling events that play a role in pediatric and adult cancers.

Carmen Hinojosa-Laborde, PhD
US Army Institute of Surgical Research
Topic: Military Health Research (Civilian)

Dr. Carmen Hinojosa-Laborde is a native of San Antonio, TX. She earned her BS in Biology at St Mary’s University, and her PhD in Pharmacology at UT Health San Antonio. Her post-doctoral fellowships refined her training as an Integrative Physiologist. During her 17-year academic career her research focused on sex differences in blood pressure regulation with an emphasis on hypertension and aging. Dr. Hinojosa-Laborde’s current research as a military scientist focuses on increasing survival of combat casualties on the battlefield. Her studies address the effects of analgesics on the compensatory responses to hemorrhage.

Myron Ignatius, PhD
Assistant Professor, Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute
Topic: Career Transitions (Early Academic Appointment)

The Ignatius laboratory is interested in understanding the effects of tumor heterogeneity on relapse and resistance to therapies in Rhabdomyosarcoma and other sarcomas. Relapse is a major problem in the clinic where less that 40% of patients with relapse will survive their disease. Rhabdomyosarcoma is a pediatric malignancy of the muscle that is also the most common soft tissue sarcoma in children. Specifically, the Ignatius laboratory will study tumorigenic cell populations that self-renew and metastasize using a combination of zebrafish, murine xenograft and human cell culture systems.
CAPT Michele A. Kane  
**Executive Officer, Nurse Corps, United States Navy**  
**Topic:** Military Health Research (Enlisted)

In 1986, Captain Kane entered into the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman and went through the BDCP Commissioning Program. Captain Kane, a native of Alabama, graduated from Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. In 1998, she attended the Honors Master's program at Oxford University in the United Kingdom and in 1999 she earned her MSN in Nursing Administration from George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. Captain Kane received her Doctorate in Philosophy specializing in cellular study related to Genotoxic and Cytotoxic Effects of Weapons Grade Tungsten Alloy in C2C12 and L6 Muscle Cell in 2008 from the Uniform Services University of the Health Sciences.

Captain Kane was name selected to attend the prestigious Johnson & Johnson Fellowship at Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania in 2010. From 2011-2014, as the first Navy Chief of the Centers for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, Captain Kane promoted, executed and monitored vital research activities, evidence-based practice development, and application of scientific knowledge in the largest Level III Joint Department of Defense (DoD) Medical Center. In 2014-2016, Captain Kane was the first Navy Nurse assigned as the Executive Assistant to Lieutenant General Douglas Robb, Director for the Defense Health Agency (DHA), Arlington, Virginia. She was name selected by the Nurse Corps Chief to participate on the FY13 Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives team. She led a key Navy Nurse Corps strategic initiative by developing a regional “Culture of Inquiry” and teaching evidence-based practice to more than 250 NCA nurses. From 2106-2018, Captain Kane was the Assistant Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and was the driving force behind the development of the MHS High Reliability Operating Model designed to improve quality and eliminate preventable patient harm with execution points at DHA HQ that have drawn accolades from higher authority.

She serves as an adjunct faculty member at multiple civilian universities and is a preeminent scientist, consultant and faculty for research schools and other educational programs within the National Capitol Region, Washington, DC. She has been stationed at Great Lakes, Illinois, Newport, Rhode Island, Jacksonville, Florida, Keflavik, Iceland, and aboard the USNS Comfort, National Naval Medical Center. She has also served as an Administrative Officer and Executive Assistant to the Navy Surgeon General and many Flag Officers. Currently, Captain Kane is the executive officer of Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio, supporting the primary mission to conduct gap driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research to improve survival, operational readiness, and safety of DoD personnel engaged in routine and expeditionary operations.

Captain Kane's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, a Meritorious Service Medal, three Naval Achievement Medals with Overseas Service Ribbon, in addition to various research and publication awards, unit and service medals.
Pathways to Careers in Science
2020 Discussion Leaders’ Bios

**Thomas M. Keck, PhD**
Assistant Professor, Rowan University

**Topic:** Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (Undergrad Institution)

Dr. Thomas Keck is an Assistant Professor at Rowan University, a public research university with a primarily undergraduate population located in Glassboro, New Jersey. Through graduate studies at Oregon Health & Science University, and postdoctoral studies at the National Institute on Drug Abuse, his research has focused on the in vitro and in vivo effects of medications and illicit drugs, and the development of new medications for neuropsychiatric disorders. Since starting his own lab in 2014, Dr. Keck has mentored hordes of undergraduate students doing molecular and animal behavioral work on various medications development projects focused on dopamine, trace amine, and opioid receptors.

**Beena Koshy, PhD**
Special Consultant, Academia-Industry partnerships in the Office of Health Affairs at the University of Texas System

**Topic:** Industry (Big Pharma/Biotech)

Dr. Beena Koshy has a PhD in Life Sciences and was formally trained in biochemistry, immunology, and genetics from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India and post-doctoral training in genetics at the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. She has 15 years of research experience in academia, small biotech and the pharmaceutical industry.

Beena was with GlaxoSmithKline in Research Triangle Park, NC for nine years, where she was a Manager in R&D. At GSK, Beena led pharmacogenomic projects in multiple therapeutic areas including Oncology, Metabolic, Neuroscience, Respiratory and Infectious Diseases. She was also a Board member of the GSK Hepatotoxicity Safety Board, Toxicity Leadership Team, Biomarkers Safety Team and the Drug Interaction Advisory Committee. Most recently, she was in the External Alliances Group in Genetics at GlaxoSmithKline.

In that role, she led and maintained collaborations with academic groups in Asia-Pacific, Japan and Emerging Markets (APJEM) to support GlaxoSmithKline’s internal programs in drug discovery and development. Beena currently works with Vice Chancellor, Dr. Patricia Hurn, at the UT System on the Texas Fresh AIR (Academia-Industry Roundtable) initiative. As part of the Texas FreshAIR initiative, Beena was responsible for outlining and executing a strategy for initiating partnerships between the UT System and its institutions and pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

**Jennifer R. Lloyd, MBA**
Senior Director of University Communications, St. Mary’s University

**Topic:** Science Communication (Medical Writing/Journal Editing)

Jennifer R. Lloyd is the Senior Director of University Communications at St. Mary’s University, overseeing news and information, media relations and social media efforts. She is also Executive Editor for the University’s award-winning alumni magazines, Gold & Blue magazine and the Gold & Blue Law Edition. Prior to joining St. Mary’s University in 2014, she covered higher education issues and scientific research as a journalist for the San Antonio Express-News. Her work has also been featured in the Seattle Times, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Austin Monthly and many other publications. She has taught journalism courses at the university level. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Washington, her Master of Arts in Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin, and her Master of Business Administration from St. Mary’s University.
Vivienne I. Rebel, MD, PhD  
**Executive Vice President, Chief Medical and Scientific Officer of bioAffinity Technologies, Inc**  
**Topic: Industry (Research & Development)**  
Vivienne I. Rebel, MD, PhD, is Executive Vice President, Chief Medical and Scientific Officer of bioAffinity Technologies, Inc., a privately held biomedical company located in San Antonio, TX (USA). Dr. Rebel received her MD from the Free University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands). She conducted her doctoral thesis at the Terry Fox Laboratory in Vancouver, BC (Canada) and her post-doctoral training at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA (USA). Dr. Rebel led her own research program in hematopoietic (cancer) stem cell biology at UT Health in San Antonio, TX (USA) before joining bioAffinity in April, 2016. At bioAffinity Technologies, she is responsible for scientific development of the Company's diagnostic platform technology to detect cancer at its earliest stages, as well as development of a novel treatment for cancer.

Ann Beal Salamone  
**President, Rochal Industries**  
**Topic: Industry (Research & Development)**  
Ann Beal Salamone is President of Rochal Industries LLC, a private research company which develops new biomaterials for wound and burn care. Holding 21 U.S. patents/applications, she has developed products for electronics, water purification, personal care and healthcare. She has invested in, and served on, the boards for several entrepreneurial companies as well as co-founded six companies.

Jose Salinas, PhD  
**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: Military Health Research (Civilian)**  
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.
Mikaela Sifuentes, PhD
Medical Writer II at KCI, an Acelity Company
**Topic:** Science Communication (Medical Writing/Journal Editing)

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, PhD
Associate Professor of Biology, Northwest Vista College
**Topic:** Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (Community College)

Dr. Brian Stout currently teaches Biology, Physiology, Microbiology and Genetics courses at Northwest Vista College. He graduated from UT Health with a PhD 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.

Alex Taylor, PhD
X-ray Crystallography Core Director, Assistant Professor/Research, Department Biochemistry & Structural Biology, UT Health San Antonio
**Topic:** Research Intensive Institutions (Core Lab Directors)

Dr. Alex Taylor is the Director of the X-ray Crystallography Core Laboratory (XRC) and a research-track assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Structural Biology at UT Health San Antonio. He is a San Antonio native who began his career at UT Health as a staff scientist focused on macromolecular structure and biochemistry. Dr. Taylor participates in team science with multiple principal investigators who use the XRC to investigate molecular structure and function for medically relevant applications including cancer and infectious disease.
CAPT Andrew F. Vaughn
Commanding Officer, Medical Corps, United States Navy

**Topic:** Military Health Research (Enlisted)

Captain Andrew Francis Vaughn was first commissioned in the U.S. Navy in May, 1985 from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. He reported as the Damage Control Assistant aboard the USS PLEDGE (MSO-492) in Seattle, Washington. While serving on the USS PLEDGE, he qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer. As a Line Officer, he also served on the USS PLUCK (MSO-464), the USS VINCENNES (CG-49) and on Commander, Joint Task Force Middle East Staff embarked on the USS LA SALLE (AGF-3). He left active duty in 1990 to pursue a degree in Medicine. He graduated from Drexel University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1996 and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Medical Corps. In June, 1997 he completed an internship in Basic Surgery at Naval Medical Center San Diego. He then reported aboard the USS FORT McHENRY (LSD-43) in Sasebo, Japan as a general medical officer. In July of 1999, he reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego as a staff medical officer and was selected to be the Senior Medical Officer (SMO) at Branch Medical Clinic San Diego. He served as the SMO from July 2000 until June 2001, when he started his residency. In June, 2003 he completed his General Preventive Medicine Residency at the Uniform Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. From there, he was stationed at Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit FIVE as a Preventive Medicine Officer. In January, 2005 he deployed to Al Asad, Iraq with Forward Deployed Preventive Medicine Unit – West as the Officer-in-Charge. In that capacity, he provided echelon three preventive medicine services for all troops stationed in Iraq’s largest province of Al Anbar.

Shortly after returning from Iraq, CAPT Vaughn transferred to the nascent Riverine Group ONE (RIVGRU 1), in Little Creek, Virginia. As Group Surgeon for RIVGRU 1, he assisted in establishing and deploying three new Riverine Squadrions to Iraq where they conducted integrated river combat operations with Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces. In August of 2009, CAPT Vaughn reported to the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center and assumed duties as the Health Promotions Division Officer. In 2010, he became the Deputy Director of the Expeditionary Preventive Medicine Directorate and in that capacity oversaw the reunification of the Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Units under the Public Health Center. In December 2010, he deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan as the International Security Assistance Force Preventive Medicine Officer, providing advice and policy guidance for the care of over 120,000 coalition troops. Upon his return from Afghanistan in 2011, he became the Officer-in-Charge of Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit TWO in Norfolk, Virginia. In this capacity, he was responsible for providing force health protection, environmental health, industrial hygiene, sentinel microbiology, disease outbreak control and entomology support to Navy and Marine Corps assets in an area of responsibility that covered the eastern U.S., South America, Africa, Europe and the Middle East. CAPT Vaughn was promoted to his current rank in September of 2012. In September of 2013, he transferred to become Director, Naval Medical Research Unit TWO Detachment Phnom Penh, Cambodia under the aegis of the Naval Medical Research Center - Asia, located in the Republic of Singapore. In June of 2016, after three years in Cambodia, he transferred to the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit THREE (NAMRU-3) in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt assuming the duties as the executive officer. CAPT Vaughn assumed command of NAMRU-3 in September of 2016. During his tenure, NAMRU-3 initiated and maintained research projects in nine countries across the Middle East and Africa and began the transition to its new home in Sicily.

CAPT Vaughn’s awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with a Gold Star, Navy Commendation Medal with two Gold Stars, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and the NATO-ISAF Medal.
Guillermo Vela
CEO and Co-Founder, Nebulab
**Topic:** Entrepreneurship (Startups)

Guillermo Vela is the CEO and co-founder of Nebulab, a San Antonio-based tech company working to simplify how scientists store, organize, and share their data, increasing efficiency and accelerating scientific discovery. Nebulab was 1 of 10 companies selected from over 1200 worldwide applicants to participate in the 2015 Techstars Cloud Accelerator program. Nebulab is also a recipient of the Geekdom Startup Fund. Previously, Guillermo worked as a brain cancer and stem cell researcher for the Department of Neurosurgery and Oncology at Johns Hopkins.

Rafael Veraza, PhD
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Anesthesiology, UT Health San Antonio
**Topic:** Intellectual Property, Tech Transfer & Commercialization

Rafael is a translational scientist focused on the commercialization of biotechnology and innovative medical devices. He currently works in the field of organ and tissue preservation as a postdoctoral fellow at UT Health San Antonio in the Department of Anesthesiology. He has over ten years of experience working with academic research institutions, private companies and international organizations such as the CDC, UNICEF, the WHO, GPEI-EPI, and The Rotary Foundation. Rafa holds a Masters of Public Health from Emory University and a PhD. in Translational Science from UTHSA, UT-Austin and UTSA and hopes to bridge his knowledge of science, business, and public health to transform medical discoveries into treatments and cures for patients.