2021 PATHWAYS TO CAREERS IN SCIENCE
MARCH 5TH & 6TH, 2021
Virtual Workshop
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>SUB-TOPIC</th>
<th>FRIDAY, MARCH 5TH</th>
<th>SATURDAY MARCH 6TH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESEARCH INTENSIVE INSTITUTIONS</strong></td>
<td>Clinical Lab Director</td>
<td>Arthur Chang, PhD, HCLD, ELD, CC</td>
<td>Matthew Hart, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Core Lab Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td>Bess Frost, PhD</td>
<td>Kenneth M. Hargreaves, DDS, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Administrator</td>
<td>Joanne Turner, PhD</td>
<td>Andrea Giuffrida, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTIONS</strong></td>
<td>2-Year College Faculty</td>
<td>Brian Stout, PhD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-Year College Faculty</td>
<td>Bridget Ford, PhD</td>
<td>Jonathan King, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAREER TRANSITIONS</strong></td>
<td>Career Development Awardee</td>
<td>Chris Chiu, PhD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Early Academic Faculty Appointee</td>
<td>Jennifer Donegan, PhD</td>
<td>Katie Serafine, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENTREPRENEURSHIP</strong></td>
<td>Startups</td>
<td>Guillermo Vela, MS</td>
<td>Ralph Johnston, MS, MBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, TECH TRANSFER &amp; COMMERCIALIZATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christine Burke, PhD, MBA</td>
<td>Travis Block, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INDUSTRY</strong></td>
<td>Medical Science Liaison</td>
<td>Melanie Paquette-McNerlin, PhD</td>
<td>Jay Morris, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research &amp; Development</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ann Beal Salamone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MILITARY HEALTH RESEARCH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carmen Hinojosa-Laborde, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EFFECTIVE NETWORKING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tracey Baas, PhD</td>
<td>Beth Eby, CLU®, ChFC®</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>John F. Barnes IV, MBA, SPHR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONSULTING</strong></td>
<td>Healthcare Policy Consulting</td>
<td>Remy L. Brim, PhD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCIENCE COMMUNICATION</strong></td>
<td>Scientific Writing</td>
<td>Jennifer R. Lloyd, MBA</td>
<td>Mikaela SiFuentes, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCIENCE POLICY/ADVOCACY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tyler R. Lamb, JD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DRUG AND DEVICE DEVELOPMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Luis Martinez-Sobrido, PhD</td>
<td>Philip T. LoVerde, PhD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tracey Baas, PhD
Assistant Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Success, University of Texas San Antonio

**Topic:** Effective Networking

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.

John F. Barnes IV, MBA, SPHR
Vice President of Human Resources and Learning, BioBridge Global

**Topic:** Research Administration

John is the Vice President of Human Resources and Learning, BioBridge Global in San Antonio, Texas. Prior to his work with BioBridge Global, he held senior management positions in operations and human resources at several firms including Texas Biomedical Research Institute, Accenture and ILEX Oncology, Inc., a publicly held cancer drug development company until its acquisition in 2004. He is also a software designer and developer. In the course of his work, he has filed two software application patents. John is a member of several professional organizations and academic honor societies and has held numerous volunteer leadership positions with national and local organizations. John earned an Associate of Arts degree from New Mexico Military Institute, a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from New Mexico State University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

Travis Block, PhD
Principal Scientist StemBioSys, Inc.

**Topic:** Intellectual Property, Tech Transfer & Commercialization

Travis Block was born and raised in San Antonio, TX prior to moving to upstate New York to earn a BS in biomedical engineering from the University of Rochester. Dr. Block returned to San Antonio to earn a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the joint graduate program at UTSA & UTHSCSA. After completing his PhD, Dr. Block joined StemBioSys to lead R&D efforts to develop novel cell culture technologies. Dr. Block is the co-founder of MonoMano Inc., San Antonio Science Inc., Marinkovic & Block LLC, & Et al BioCapital LLC. Dr. Block currently serves as Chief Technology Officer of StemBioSys, Partner at Marinkovic & Block, LLC, and Partner at Et al BioCapital, LLC. Additionally, Dr. Block sits on the Health & Environmental Safety Institute Cardiac Safety Committee and the Board of Cartox Inc. Dr. Block is passionate about science communication.

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Website: [www.travisjblock.com](http://www.travisjblock.com)
Remy L. Brim, PhD
Principal, BGR Government Affairs, LLC, Washington, DC
**Topic:** Consulting (Healthcare Policy Consulting)

Dr. Remy Brim is a scientist and health care policy expert focused on strategic policy and advocacy support for clients with FDA-regulated products and activities. As co-head of BGR’s Health Care Practice, she helps clients effectively navigate the complex regulatory and political landscapes required to advance the discovery, development, and delivery of innovative products to patients and consumers. Her success for clients is rooted in her deep technical understanding, thoughtfulness, and commitment to sound public health policy.

Prior to joining BGR Group, Remy served as Senior FDA Policy Advisor to the Senate HELP Committee’s Ranking Member, Patty Murray (D-Wash.). In this role, she was lead negotiator and advisor for U.S. Senate Democrats on FDA medical device, prescription drug, biologic, food safety and cosmetic policy initiatives, including the 21st Century Cures Act and the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017. She managed FDA-related policy development and relationships for the Ranking Member, both internally with Senate leadership, other Senate offices, and their House counterparts, and externally with the FDA and other governmental organizations, regulated industry companies and trade associations, patient advocacy organizations and other key stakeholders.

Previously, Remy served under Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), including as the Senator’s Senior Health Policy Advisor from 2015 to 2016. She managed a comprehensive health care portfolio, with emphasis on policies relevant to the biotech, medical device, and health care industries rooted in Massachusetts.

Remy earned her BS in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics from Michigan State University and her PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Michigan Medical School, where she advanced pre-clinical research to support an investigational new drug application at the FDA for a Breakthrough-designated biologic currently under clinical investigation. Remy served as a Bioethics Post-Doctoral Fellow at the National Institutes of Health from 2011 to 2013, where she analyzed ethical issues in clinical research, public health and health care, applying frameworks from philosophy, ethics and law.

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.
Arthur Chang, PhD, HCLD, ELD, CC
Professor & Director, ART Labs, Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility | OB/GYN, UT Health San Antonio

**Topic:** Research Intensive Institutions (Core Lab Director)

Dr. Arthur Chang is Professor in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Department of OB/GYN, and Director of Clinical Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Laboratories at UT Health Reproductive Health & Fertility Center. He is board certified as High-complexity Clinical Laboratory Director (HCLD), Embryology Laboratory Director (ELD), and Clinical Consultant (CC). Dr. Chang is well recognized among fellow clinical reproductive biologists and technologists in the US and the international community. He has served on professional leadership positions including president/board and committee chair appointments, journal editor, accreditation inspection team leader, and consultant.

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Chris Chiu, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow, Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute, UT Health San Antonio

**Topic:** Career Transitions (Career Development Awardee)

Dr. Chris Chiu is a postdoctoral fellow at the Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute, UT Health San Antonio. 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 is a recipient of the NIH/NCI Pathway to Independence (K99/R00) Award to transition to an independent investigator. He was also awarded the San Antonio Life Sciences Institute (SALSI) Postdoctoral Research Training Fellowship, Ann A. Hollocher Trainee Travel Award, and an active research support from The Fund for Innovation in Cancer Informatics (ICI).

Jennifer Donegan, PhD
Instructor/Research, Pharmacology, UT Health San Antonio

**Topic:** Career Transitions (Early Academic Faculty Appointee)

Dr. Jennifer Donegan is currently an Instructor at UT Health San Antonio. She earned her PhD in 2014 from UT Health San Antonio, working in the laboratory of Dr. David Morilak. After graduating, she began a post-doctoral fellowship with Dr. Daniel Lodge at UT Health San Antonio, where she studied the role of the ventral hippocampus in schizophrenia. In 2019, she received a K99/R00 award from the NIH to examine hippocampal circuits in health and disease. In June 2021, she will begin a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the UT Dell Medical School in Austin.

Beth Eby, CLU®, ChFC®
Principal, Eby Financial

**Topic:** Effective 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.
Pathways to Careers in Science
2021 Discussion Leaders' Bios

**Bridget Ford, PhD**
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, TX
**Topic:** Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (4-Year College Faculty)

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 serves as the Anatomy and Physiology I and II Course Coordinator, and teaches Anatomy and Physiology I and II, General Biology I and Lab for Majors, Cell Biology, and a Selected 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. The overall goal Dr. Ford has for all of her trainees is to apply what they learn in the classroom to ask scientific questions in the quest to become independent and creative thinkers.

**Bess Frost, PhD**
Associate Professor, Department of Cell Systems and Anatomy and Barshop Institute, UT Health San Antonio
**Topic:** Research Intensive Institutions (Principal Investigator)

Dr. Frost earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Texas, Austin and a PhD from the University of California San Francisco. As a graduate student, Dr. Frost pioneered work that ignited a now prominent area of research, which is that tau adopts prion-like characteristics that help explain its pathological spread through the brain and the diverse disease phenotypes of the human tauopathies. Dr. Frost performed her postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School, where she developed a multi-system approach to studying tauopathy, interweaving studies in Drosophila, mice and postmortem human brain tissue. Dr. Frost is currently an Associate Professor at the Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies, the Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer’s and Neurodegenerative Disorders, and the Department of Cell Systems and Anatomy at the University of Texas Health San Antonio.

The research focus of Dr. Frost's laboratory revolves around the basic neurobiology connecting toxic forms of tau to neuronal death and dysfunction. Specifically, her group has found that the detrimental effects of pathogenic tau on nuclear and genomic architecture activate "jumping genes" and disrupt RNA trafficking. Through this work, Dr. Frost and her team have identified novel targets for therapeutic treatment of tauopathies, as well as compounds that interfere with these processes and suppress tau-induced neurotoxicity. Dr. Frost's recent honors include the O'Donnell Award in Medicine from The Academy of Medicine, Engineering, and Science of Texas, and an Outstanding Achievement Award from CurePSP.
Andrea Giuffrida, PhD
Vice President for Research and Professor of Pharmacology, UT Health San Antonio

**Topic:** Research Intensive Institutions (Research Administrator)

Andrea Giuffrida, PhD 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 serves as 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 boards of directors of BioMed SA and Texas Healthcare 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.

Kenneth M. Hargreaves, DDS, PhD
Professor & Chair, Department of Endodontics, UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry

**Topic:** Research Intensive Institutions (Principal Investigator)

Ken Hargreaves received his DDS from Georgetown University, his PhD in physiology from the Uniformed Services University, and his certificate in Endodontics from the University of Minnesota. He is professor and Chair of the Department of Endodontics and is cross-appointed as a professor in the Departments of Pharmacology, Physiology and Surgery at UT Health in San Antonio. Ken is part of a 7 faculty member team science group focused on pain research ranging from molecular studies to behavioral studies to electrophysiological studies to clinical trials. Ken has published more than 200 articles, trained 13 PhD students and 22 post-doctoral fellows and serves as editor of the *Journal of Endodontics*. He has received NIH MERIT Award, two IADR Distinguished Scientist Awards, the UTHSCSA President's Distinguished Senior Scholar Award and the ADA Research Gold Medal Award.
Pathways to Careers in Science
2021 Discussion Leaders’ Bios

Matthew Hart, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Structural Biology and Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute, UT Health San Antonio
Topic: Research Intensive Institutions (Core Lab Director)

Dr. Matthew Hart, PhD, 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 PhD 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

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.
Ralph Johnston, MS, MBA
Entrepreneur In Residence at The University of Texas at San Antonio
**Topic:** Entrepreneurship (Startups)

Ralph Johnston, currently Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the University of Texas at San Antonio, has more than 30 years of experience in the healthcare field, including senior leadership positions in diagnostic, biotechnology, medical device, and pharmaceutical firms from start-ups to large companies. He was involved in the startup of Infusaid, the company that produced the first totally implantable drug delivery system. Infusaid was sold to Pfizer where he spent over ten years, ultimately serving as Vice President, Worldwide Sales and Marketing at Pfizer-Infusaid. He also co-founded several startup ventures, including Contour Medical, a specialty medical device, diagnostic and drug delivery consultancy and Intranasal Therapeutics. Ralph was also CEO of Tomophase Corporation, a medical device imaging company employing optical coherence tomography in interventional pulmonology. As a consultant, he provided business support for several non-profits including the Joslin Diabetes Center and Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians.

Mr. Johnston obtained his MS in molecular biology from the University of Michigan Ann Arbor and MBA from Suffolk University. He has also completed several certification and training courses starting with a medical technology license from the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) with a focus on clinical chemistry, sales and marketing leadership training with Corning Medical, a strategic marketing course at UPenn Wharton Business School while at Pfizer, and Growth Wheel International with Velocity, Texas.

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Jonathan King, PhD
Professor, Biology Department, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX
**Topic:** Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (4-Year College Faculty)

Prof. Jonathan King has been a faculty member in the Biology Department at Trinity University since 2001. He has brought his expertise in cellular and molecular physiology to the classroom in a broad range of courses including most prominently introductory Biology and Vertebrate Physiology. He maintains an active NIH and NSF supported research program studying epithelial cell junctions. He has mentored dozens of undergraduate researchers who have presented their findings in experimental approaches from confocal microscopy to CRISPR/Cas9 at national meetings and as co-authors on publications. Prof King’s experience in mentorship and career development has also been developed through his service as department chair and his central role on many faculty search committees. He is currently the director of the Successful Starts Program which focuses “Fostering Active Learning in STEM Education” helping new or aspiring faculty members to strengthen their teaching skills and consider their mentoring strategy.
Tyler R. Lamb, JD
Senior Manager, Government Affairs and Science Policy, American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), Washington, DC
Topic: Science Policy/Advocacy

Tyler R. Lamb is Senior Manager, Government Affairs and Science Policy for the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET). He leads the department and is responsible for representing ASPET and its members to lawmakers and staff on Capitol Hill. Mr. Lamb is also responsible for ASPET’s regulatory engagement with federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Science Foundation. His issue portfolio includes federal appropriations for biomedical research, animal research, controlled substances, and STEM workforce issues. In addition to his policy work, Mr. Lamb oversees ASPET’s Washington Fellows program that trains early career scientists in federal advocacy. Prior to joining ASPET, Mr. Lamb worked in federal and state government affairs and health policy for a national patient advocacy organization. He has also held campaign finance positions on federal and state electoral campaigns.

Mr. Lamb holds a BA in Political Science from the University of South Carolina and a JD from the Charleston School of Law. He resides in Washington, DC.

Jennifer R. Lloyd, MBA
Senior Director of University Communications, St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, TX
Topic: Science Communication (Scientific Writing)

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.

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Philip T. LoVerde, PhD
Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, UT Health San Antonio
Topic: Drug and Device Development

Dr. Philip T. LoVerde is a Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas. He has over 45 years experience researching host-parasite interactions, especially those that involve the human blood fluke, Schistosoma. His research involves vaccine development, role of signal transduction in schistosome-host interactions, interplay between male and female parasites that results in female reproductive development, role of host genes in infection outcomes, genomics and genetic approach to identifying drug resistant genes. Current research is focused on drug development. He has published over a 190 papers.

Webpage: http://gsbs.uthscsa.edu/faculty/philip-loverde-ph_d
Luis Martinez-Sobrido, PhD
Professor, Department of Infectious Disease and Pathogenesis, Texas Biomedical Research Institute
Adjunct Professor, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, UT Health San Antonio
Adjunct Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology at University of Rochester, New York
Topic: Drug and Device Development

Dr. Martinez-Sobrido is a Professor in the Department of Infectious Disease and Pathogenesis at Texas Biomedical Research Institute, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics (MIMG) at University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio (UT-Health SA), and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at University of Rochester, New York.

His PhD research focused on the study of viral replication and transcription of respiratory syncytial virus under the guidance of Dr. Jose Antonio Melero at the Instituto de Salud Carlos III in Madrid, Spain.

He conducted post-doctoral research on the molecular biology of influenza viruses under the supervision of Dr. Adolfo Garcia-Sastre at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, USA.

His research interest during the last 20 years have been focused on the molecular biology, immunology and pathogenesis of negative-stranded (influenza viruses, respiratory syncytial virus, human metapneumovirus, arenavirus, thogoto virus, Ebola virus, Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever virus, Newcastle Disease Virus) and positive-stranded (dengue virus, Zika, mouse hepatitis virus, SARS and SARS-CoV-2) RNA and DNA (human cytomegalovirus and vaccinia) viruses.

His current research interest focuses on the molecular biology of RNA viruses, mainly influenza, arenaviruses, Ebola, Zika and coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2.

Dr. Martinez-Sobrido has extensive knowledge in plasmid-based reverse genetics techniques to rescue recombinant RNA and DNA viruses, pioneered the development of techniques and screening assays to identify and characterize viral-encoded interferon antagonist proteins, established new molecular biology techniques to study highly pathogenic viruses without the requirement of special biosafety conditions, and generated fluorescent viruses to facilitate the study of virus-host interactions in cultured cells and animal models of infection.

Jay Morris, PhD
Medical Science Liaison - Southeast at Biotheranostics, Inc.
Topic: Industry (Medical Science Liaison)

Dr. Morris began his postdoctoral position at the Medical University of South Carolina after finishing his PhD in molecular and environmental plant science. After his postdoc training, he moved the UT Health San Antonio as research assistant professor in the department of molecular medicine focusing on cancer chemoprevention modalities in several cancers. He is currently a Medical Science Liaison for a cancer diagnostic company with a territory stretching from Texas all the way to North Carolina.

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Melanie Paquette-McNerlin, PhD
Eli Lilly & Co., Consultant Medical Science Liaison, Neuroscience
**Topic:** Industry (Medical Science Liaison)

Melanie Paquette-McNerlin grew up in Maine, then completed a BA in Psychology with a minor in French at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA; an MA and PhD in Behavioral Neuroscience from Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ; and a postdoctoral fellowship in Behavioral Neuroscience at Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU) in Portland, OR. She worked as a research faculty (non-tenure track) in Neurology at OHSU, then in Pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, TX. Her research involved the 6-OHDA rat model of Parkinson’s disease. Melanie also worked part-time as a science editor for several years while conducting research. In 2010, she joined Lilly USA (part of Eli Lilly & Company) as a Neuroscience Medical Science Liaison Consultant, covering Neurodegeneration and Pain.

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Ann Beal Salamone
Chairman of the Board, Rochal Industries
Member, National Academy of Engineering
**Topic:** Industry (Research & Development)

Ann Beal Salamone is co-founder of Rochal Industries, a global leader in commercializing technology innovations in polymer, antimicrobial and biological systems founded in 1986. She is a principal inventor of Rochal’s products for wound and burn care. Holding 27 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 companies as well as co-founded six companies.

Katie Serafine, PhD
University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)
**Topic:** Career Transitions (Early Academic Appointee)

Dr. Serafine received her BA in psychology from Norwich University in Northfield, VT and her M.A. in psychology as well as her PhD in Behavior, Cognition, and Neuroscience from American University in Washington, DC. Dr. Serafine also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in behavioral pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, TX. Dr. Serafine joined the faculty in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) in 2015. Research in the Serafine Laboratory focuses on how factors such as age, sex and diet impact sensitivity to drugs of abuse. Drug sensitivity is assessed using behavioral pharmacological models ranging from unconditioned behavior to more complex behaviors using classical and operant conditioning. Recently, Dr. Serafine’s research has also focused on sex differences in drug sensitivity, and the overlap between drug abuse and metabolic syndrome. Dr. Serafine was selected as the 2018-2019 Biomedical Research Awareness Day Fellow by the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and Americans for Medical Progress. In 2019, she was also named one of NIH’s “Future Research Leaders”. At UTEP, Dr. Serafine also serves as Co-Director for the neuroscience major, and teaches courses at the graduate and undergraduate level.

Webpage: [https://www.serafinelab.com](https://www.serafinelab.com)
Mikaela SiFuentes, PhD
Medical Writer II at 3M
Topic: Science Communication (Scientific Writing)

Dr. Sifuentes is currently a Medical Writer at 3M for product information, clinical research, and case reports. She coordinates with clinicians to ensure that real-world uses of Acelity devices can be shared with the larger medical community. Dr. Sifuentes is also a 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
Professor of Biology, Northwest Vista College, San Antonio, TX
Topic: Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (2-Year College Faculty)

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.

Joanne Turner, PhD
Vice President for Research, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio, TX
Topic: Research Intensive Institutions (Principal Investigator)

Joanne Turner, PhD, 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 PhD in Immunology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She was appointed VP for Research with Texas Biomed in 2017, having previously served as a Professor and Biosafety Level 3 Program Director at The Ohio State University. She also serves as the Executive Director of the San Antonio Vaccine Development Center, a collaborative program between Texas Biomed, the University of Texas at San Antonio, UTHealth San Antonio and Southwest Research Institute. The Center aims to share information about vaccine development and promoting the use of vaccines in the community. In addition to leading innovative, collaborative research programs and cores, she oversees a comprehensive science regulatory program with GLP practices.

Twitter: @TxBVPR
Guillermo Vela, MS  
CEO and Co-Founder, Nebulab, San Antonio, TX  
**Topic:** Entrepreneurship (Startups)

Guillermo is the CEO and co-founder of NeuScience, a cancer therapeutics company using artificial intelligence to accelerate drug discovery in solid tumor cancers. NeuScience’s investors include the Rise of the Rest fund led by AOL founder and billionaire tech investor, Steve Case, and is backed by industry leaders such as Jeff Bezos, Eric Schmidt, Meg Whitman, Tori Burch, and David Rubenstein among others. He is also co-founder of Et al BioCapital, a fund dedicated to investing in public biopharma companies, and also serves as principal consultant with Biotexsci Consulting helping clients with pandemic preparedness using best practice and evidence-based solutions for business development. Previously, Guillermo was founding CEO of Nebulab, a scientific data management technology startup, and 1 of 10 companies from 1000+ global applicants selected by the prestigious Techstars Accelerator 2015 Cloud Program. He is also a former brain cancer and stem cell researcher from the Department of Neurosurgery and Oncology at Johns Hopkins, where he worked under the mentorship of world-renown neurosurgeon, Dr. Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa. Guillermo was advisor to the winning category startup of the NIH’s 2015 Neuro Startup competition, Hecate OncoSolutions, has been an invited speaker to numerous events centered around science and technology. Guillermo received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin American Studies, and his Master of Science degree in Biotechnology from the Johns Hopkins University. Guillermo was born in Mexico City, but is a native of Laredo, TX

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