ASBMD (American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) 2015 Graduate/Postdoctoral Travel Award for the 2015 Experimental Biology Recipients were Katie Hinchee–Rodriguez, a fourth year graduate student who works in Bettie Sue Masters biochemistry lab and Chris Kim, a second year graduate student who works in Dr. Sang Eun Lee’s Cell and Molecular Medicine Lab. Both recipients will receive a reimbursement of up to $1,000 in allowable travel expenses. They will also present their research and participate in the award and professional development at the 2015 Experimental Biology Annual Meeting in Boston, MA on March 27th.

Vinh Dao, a third year graduate student in Dr. Tyler Curiel’s lab, won 2nd place and $200 for his poster presentation at the 3rd Annual Vaccine Development Center of San Antonio (SAVE) Conference that took place from Nov 13-14, 2014 at UTHSCSA. Vinh’s project on the use of oral rapamycin to prevent cancer was also selected for an oral presentation at the 9th World Immune Regulatory Meeting (WIRM) that takes place in Davos, Switzerland from March 18-21, 2015.
Kristen Rogers, GS1 (pictured right) joined Dr. Eric Green, Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute along with other UTHSCSA students for the 2015 Ewing Halsell Distinguished Lecture on January 13, 2015. Dr. Eric Green’s lecture was on Human Genomics: A Quarter Century of Progress.

Student Publications


4th Annual Holiday Party

Dr. Jose E. Cavazos once again hosted the Annual MD/PhD Holiday Party at his home. Students, faculty, and guests enjoyed wonderful food, drinks, and great company. Several faculty and students participated in a White Elephant gift exchange. Some of the faculty had more fun than the students (see Dr. Cavazos with the reindeer antlers).

A very special thank you goes to Dr. & Mrs. Cavazos for hosting.

6th Annual MD/PhD Retreat Keynote Speaker

Dr. Barry Paw was born in Burma and immigrated to the US at the age of 7. His early years were spent growing up in California, namely East Los Angeles and the San Francisco East Bay. He is a product of the California public education system in his early years. Dr. Paw received his B.A. (Biochemistry) degree from the University of California, Berkeley, where he worked on prokaryotic iron metabolism and siderophore biochemistry with J.B. Neilands, Ph.D. He then received his M.D. and Ph.D. (Biological Chemistry) degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine. His Ph.D. thesis was on the molecular genetics of Tay-Sachs Disease and lysosomal storage disorders with Elizabeth Neufeld, Ph.D. He completed an internship and residency in pediatrics at Boston Children’s Hospital and a fellowship in pediatric hematology-oncology at Boston Children’s Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He conducted his post-doctoral research fellowship in zebrafish genetics and hematopoiesis at Boston Children’s Hospital with Leonard Zon, M.D. He is currently an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and an attending physician in Pediatric Oncology at Boston Children’s Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He is board certified in General Pediatrics and Pediatric Hematology-Oncology. He was a recipient of the William Randolph Hearst Young Investigator Award in 2002, a Basil O’Connor Scholar Award from the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation in 2004, and the Young Investigator President’s Award from the International BioIron Society in 2005. Dr. Paw was also elected into the American Society for Clinical Investigation in 2008. His research group is supported by the National Institutes of Health (NHLBI and NIDDK).
Important Dates

MD/PhD Special Seminar
Wednesday, April 8th

Mitch Chesler, MD, PhD graduated from the NYU Medical Scientist Training program. He received his PhD in 1985, and completed the MD degree in 1986. Post-doctoral work was performed with Dr. Richard Kraig in 1986-1987, at Cornell Medical College, followed by a Pathology fellowship at Brigham & Women’s Hospital in 1987. He took a faculty position at NYU in 1988 with joint appointments in the Dept. of Neurosurgery and the Dept. of Physiology & Biophysics (now the Dept. of Neuroscience & Physiology). Dating from his doctoral work, Dr. Chesler’s research has focused on intracellular and extracellular pH in the central nervous system, with particular emphasis on the dynamics of pH that are elicited by neural activity, and their role in physiological and pathophysiological contexts. Studies have focused on the regulation of pH, the mechanisms that generate activity-dependent pH changes, and most recently the influence of these pH shifts on neuronal function. A particular emphasis has been the modulation of post-synaptic NMDA receptor responses by neuronal surface pH transients, and the role of extracellular carbonic anhydrases in the regulation of these effects.

Attention MS1 and MS2 students!

School of Medicine will be hosting
Passport 2015

A Journey through Research, Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Poster Session Day

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Registrations deadline is Sunday, March 1st at 5:00PM

Advanced registration is required. An Abstract is not required to register. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top presenters. For registration and additional information, please visit:

som.uthscsa.edu/research

Important Dates

Bench to Bedside Series 2014-2015

January 12th-Catherine Wu, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School

February 9th– Gregory Aune, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
UTHSCSA

April 13th-Lucy Godley, MD, PhD
Associate Professor in Medicine
University of Chicago

May 11th– Ralph DeBerardinis, MD, PhD
Associate Professor in Pediatrics
UT Southwestern

More information on 2014-2015 B2B guest speakers is posted on MD/PhD website.
http://som.uthscsa.edu/mdphd/b2b.asp

MD/PhD External Advisory for MSTP Resubmission Visit
March 26-27th MSTP Directors of the University of Pennsylvania and University of Alabama at Birmingham Drs. Lawrence “Skip” Brass, and Robin Lorenz will be on campus conducting an external MSTP mock site visit for resubmission.

2nd Visit for MD/PhD Accepted Applicants
March 6-7th

MD/PhD 6th Annual Retreat
March 7th

MD/PhD Program Recruitment Events

Southern Texas Swing– February 25th-28th
University of Michigan Schools Expo– March 24th
DFW Spring Swing– April 7th-9th
UT Austin– April 16th-17th

Mitchell Chesler, MD, PhD
Professor of Neurosurgery,
Neuroscience and Physiology
NYU School of Medicine