Welcome the new MD/PhD Program Group for AY2014

We introduce you to the five newest members of the MD/PhD Program: Daniel Shropshire, Cassandra Leonardo, Jacob Boyd, Eric Baueerle, and Andy Banh. They have officially been welcomed into the School of Medicine during the annual White Coat Ceremony on July 20th. They started with lab rotations to get a feel/idea of what lab they would like to be part of in a couple of years when they enter their graduate school portion. We ask all the current students to give them a warm welcome and to impart any knowledge gained to the newbies!

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2014! Will Lavery, Joe Walch, and Dat Vo graduated with their MD/PhDs!
Congratulations to our PhD Graduates who will be returning to 3rd Year Medical School!

A big Congrats to Celest M. Austin, Jill (Jillian) Heisler, Peter Starr, Danielle A. Victor, Elena V. Wisely, Jade Z. Zhou, and Daniel S. Barron for obtaining their PhD’s from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences! They will be starting their 3rd year in Medical school. As for Daniel, he has transferred to Yale School of Medicine where he will complete his last two years of medical school. Again, Congrats to our new Doctors of Philosophy!

NEW GS-1 CLASS

The Graduate School gains 5 new MD/PhD students! Curtis A. Clark, Jeffrey D. Cooney, Brett Ipson, Trevi A. Ramirez, and Kristen C. Rogers. All 5 students recently completed orientation and training, and are now officially in the PhD phase of the program. The students will be mentored by the following faculty:

Curtis A. Clark– Tyler Curiel, MD,MPH
Jeffrey D. Cooney-Ricardo Aguiar, MD, PhD
Brett Ipson– Al Fisher, MD, PhD
Trevi A. Ramirez– Greg Aune, MD, PhD
Kristen C. Rogers– Sunil Ahuja, MD

UTHSCSA Cover stories & news

Dual seeds led to MD/PhD

Our very own MD/PhD student Ethan Kotkowski (MS2) talks about how he had an epiphany and realized as he promoted science to his elementary school pupils, that he needed to pursue his own passion for science. Working as a second grade bilingual teacher at a low-income elementary school in south Austin he volunteered to help at the school science fair where he showed a video to his students about the Google Science Fair winners. This then led Ethan to pursue his own passion and was accepted at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio MD/PhD Program in May 2013 and began lab rotations that summer. You can read more on Ethan Kotkowski’s story on http://www.uthscsa.edu/stories/md-phd-ut-medicine.

Saving pediatric cancer survivors

Greg Aune MD., PhD., pediatric oncologist and a student mentor for UTHSCSA MD/PhD Program talks about how he has dedicated his life to conducting research on the basic science of cardiac disease in pediatric cancer survivors. Being that Dr. Aune was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma as a child, his experience then led him into pediatric oncology and to an interest with the health problems that are connected to cancer survivorship that occur afterwards. Dr. Aune’s plan is to begin developing new medications that will prevent damage to the vulnerable organs that result in late health effects in cancer survivors. You can read more on Dr. Aune’s story on http://www.uthscsa.edu/stories/cardiac-research-pediatric.

HSC student named to National Board

Congratulations to Tiffani Houston (GS3), a graduate student at UTHSCSA, who was appointed to the position of National Diversity Research Co-chairman by the board of directors of the Student National Medical Association at the group’s Annual Medical Conference (AMEC) recently held in Washington, D.C. Way to go Tiffani!
The MD/PhD Program submitted the first NIH Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) Application to NIGMS on May 29, 2014. The 805-page application requests 5 years of support for 9 training slots for a total of $1.8M. We expect to know the outcome of our South Texas MSTP application until late January 2015. Let's hope for the best!!

Justin M. Drerup (GS2) was recently awarded the Translational Science Training (TST) TL1 grant for a 1 year fellowship that will pay for the majority of his stipend and tuition.

Mariam Ishaque (GS2) submitted an F30 grant on August 8th. Best of luck Mariam!!

Tiffani Houston (GS3) has received a competitive impact score for her R36 grant and will receive news later this month! Best of Luck Tiffani!

Vinh A. Dao (GS3) Translational Science Training (TST) TL1 grant from the Institute of Integration of Medicine and Science, UTHSCSA and was also the 8th participant who was awarded the F30 grant.

Jessica A. Zavadil (GS3) was awarded the CPRIT Predoctoral Fellowship Grant in May and will be endowed starting in August and will continue to be funded for the next 2 years.

Congratulations to Kristen C. Rogers (GS1) for being selected as an HVTN Research and Mentorship Program Scholar by the HVTN RAMP Review Board.

Congratulations to Vinh A. Dao (GS3) for the being awarded the Student Poster Winner of the "5th Annual Frontiers of Translational Science Research Day", UTHSCSA & "Microbiology & Immunology Student of the Year Award", UTHSCSA.

Publications


Wisely EV, Xiang YK and Oddo S. Genetic suppression of β2 adrenergic receptors ameliorates tau pathology in a mouse model of tauopathies. Human Molecular Genetics, in press 2014.

Publications cont.

New addition to the MD/PhD Family

Congratulations to Elena Dauod, PhD. & husband welcomed the newest addition to their family! Stephen Dauod was born on June 18, 2014 weighing 7lbs. 11oz.

Save the Dates!

Candidate Interviews
The MD/PhD Program will be interviewing candidates for the 2015AY. If you are interested in assisting with the interviews in any way, please contact Jackie Hill at 567-1945.

August 18th & 19th
September 8th & 9th
October 6th & 7th
October 27th & 28th
November 3rd & 4th
November 10th & 11th
November 24th & 25th
December 1st & 2nd
December 15th & 16th

Statistics in Evidence Based Medicine 5 Course Seminar for Continuing Medical Education 10:30-11:30AM in Rm#106 AAB
August 4: Understanding Relative Risks and Odds Ratios
August 11: Marginal and Conditional Odds Ratios
August 18: Introduction to Logistic Regression
August 25: Special Cases of Logistic Models
September 8: Logistic Regression for Matched data

B2B

Bench to Bedside Seminars for the 2014-2015 academic year. Please note, the location for each month will be announced on the MD/PhD website - http://som.uthscsa.edu/mdphd/b2b.asp

August 11th
September 15th
October 13th
November 17th
December 8th

2015 B2B dates will be available soon