# Forum in Focus







CRITEBRATING 50 LET





## Our Forum Presidents

#### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT: 50 Years of Women Supporting Science

Fifty years ago, Tena Gorman, Ruth Eileen Sullivan and Dottie **Block** founded the Texas Biomedical Forum. These three ladies were sitting around a table and envisioned a women's group to support Southwest Foundation for Research and Education, now known as the Texas Biomedical Research Institute. They enlisted a group of like-minded women and that is not much different than our Forum today. As I reflect on the cover photo of this newsletter, and in many recent conversations with Tena, I'm in awe of this powerful group of women and the amazing organization that they started. Their first big fundraiser was a picnic--a picnic that would ultimately evolve into the gala of today.

I feel incredibly grateful to be following in their trailblazing footsteps! Serving as the 50th President of the Forum is a true honor. At our last board meeting, I looked around at our trustees and thought how blessed I am to work with each and every one of them. All of these ladies are strong, talented, and selflessly volunteer their time to help educate the community about the life-changing research taking place at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute. Wow, what I can learn from all of them!

I grew up in the small town of Yoakum, Texas as the daughter of a veterinarian and a nurse, so science was a huge part of my childhood. Of course I didn't realize then that at the age of 45 it would become an even bigger focus through my work with the Forum. Thank you to **Amanda Bezner** for inviting me to my first lecture luncheon and to Carla Nelson for my board nomination. I've learned so much, and now I can honestly say that if you have the desire to get involved in a worthy cause, it should be this. What these scientists discover on a daily basis will truly improve the world for all of us. By proxy, we're making the world a safer, healthier place for our friends, family, and future generations. As we like to say, "What starts at the Forum plants the seed to change the world!"

And that change is happening now: Larry Schlesinger, the CEO at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute, plans to make Texas Biomed a world-class infectious disease research facility. By 2050, infectious diseases will become the top cause of death globally at an estimated cost of \$100 trillion, and we are proud to be the organization taking the lead on this. It's amazing to reflect on everything that has led to where we are: from our first pilot study in neonatology to the development of the Hepatitis B vaccine... well, the stars are the limit! I'm sure you can agree with me that we should do all we can to help Texas Biomed reach its goal.

Summertime for the board doesn't necessarily mean time off. In fact, it has actually been a very busy time. Emily Jones, our parliamentarian, had to step into her role immediately when we presented to the board in May to increase membership dues. Passing this new bylaw will make our organization stronger and help spread the word about Texas Biomedical Research Institute Membership Chair Amelita Mauze and her assistant Rebecca Nathan have been incredibly busy. Since our membership campaign kicked off on June 1st, Amelia and Rebecca have been working diligently to renew our current memberships and recruit new members. Our Membership Directory Chair Emily Sytsma and her assistant Ashley Friedman have already started making updates and are ready to take on the 2019-2020 membership list. Please note that November 1st is the deadline to get your name in our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary directory!

In August, our past Gala Chair Whitney Miller, Co-Chair Cynthia Kerby, and Assistant Chair Whitney Schones presented a check to the Texas Biomed for \$210,000. This money will be given to our scientists and has been earmarked for a series of exciting pilot studies. Thank you to all who attended The Night they invented Champagne.

Our newest gala team, Gala Chair Whitney Schones, Gala Co-Chair Karen Bryant, and Gala Assistant Jessica Worth are in full gear. They have worked incredibly hard over the summer as well. Kim Lewis' beautiful home was the perfect place to reveal this year's gala theme, 'Starry Night'. Their table chair **Bonnie Muecke** is busy finalizing the sales of all the premier tables, while Gala Grants Chair Corinna Richter has been instrumental in securing two \$100,000 grant matches. But she's not stopping there. In keeping with the gala's theme, these ladies are truly shooting for the stars. Mark your calendars: the gala is scheduled for May 2,

Vice-President and Lecture Luncheon Chair Cynthia Kerby and her assistant, Kristin Tips, have the fall lecture luncheon well underway. It

is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6th at 11:30 at The Argyle.

As a past treasurer, I'm extremely excited to be working with Forum Treasurer Brooke Meabon and Gala Treasurer Audra Kerr. These two are a powerhouse team and I can't wait to see where they take the Forum in regards to savings, budgets and goals!



Our communication team, Meredith Howard and Lauren Pepping, are busy updating our website and getting the word out to the community to join or renew their memberships and attend upcoming events through constant contact and social media.

Gloria Dilley and Triana Grossman, our special event chairs and both first year trustees, have already come to the table with several creative, fun ideas. Love their energy! The members' social is scheduled for November 21st. This is an event you do not want to miss! And hopefully you won't miss it, because our newest position this year is database administrator. We're working hard to make sure you receive all Forum correspondence. We are extremely grateful to our Database Chair, Courtney Archer, for taking on this project. She takes this position very seriously and is determined to get our database cleaned up so that no one misses an upcoming event or newsletter!

Speaking of our newsletter team, Katie Rogers and Angela Rabke, are really working hard as I'm writing this. No one is going to miss a deadline with these two in charge. What an undertaking! These ladies have so much talent and we're extremely blessed to have them on the board.

I'm very excited that community outreach is off to a great start. Mary Labatt, Angie Light, and Muffin Moorman have lined up student tours from as far away as Del Rio. And Christina Ketabchi and Lindsay Bolner are already devising other ways to reach science teachers throughout the city to let them know about our Science Education Awards. We are grateful to Valerie Guenther and the McNutt Foundation for partnering with us all these years to help fund our local high school science teachers.

I need to make sure our Past President Jody Lutz knows how incredibly thankful I am to be following in her footsteps. Her tenure as a board member and leader has touched our organization in countless ways through the years and without her, we wouldn't be where we are today. This year Jody will be overseeing the Nominating Committee. I have no doubt our organization is in the best possible hands with her in this role.

And finally, I need to thank my advisors for saying yes to going on this journey with me this year: Tena Gorman, Corbett Christie, Terry Gouger, Laura Moorman, Courtney Percy, Karen Mueller, Judy Schlesinger, and Leslie Hamilton. I appreciate you all taking my calls, sharing your stories, providing me with relevant insight and guiding my steps along the way. Proverbs 19:20

With gratitude, Cury
Amy Swaney

#### PAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Truth be told, there may be no better job in the Forum than Past President (although Past Gala Chair would also be a front runner). In as much as it is an honor to serve, the true joy comes in watching the organization continue to thrive, grow, and adapt after your tenure. I was reading an article recently about the principles of Servant Leadership, long talked about in business schools and how



they apply practically outside of the confines of academia. What caught my eye and kept my attention were three of the pillars discussed and how closely they resemble the ongoing organizational structure of the Forum:

**Stewardship:** Do you believe you are preparing your organization to make a positive difference?

Growth: Do you believe you are focused on helping the organization grow and develop?

Community Building: Do people feel a strong sense of community in the organization?

There is no question that the stewardship of the Forum is planting the seeds to change the world through Forum Grants and our Science Education outreach initiatives. Our growth as an organization has been monumental, and Texas Biomed has been able to turn our small grants into impressive amounts of funding for vitally important projects. Finally, Community Building...there is no tribe quite like the Forum in their dedication to a cause and to building long lasting friendships across the organization.

For fifty years we have stood as a group of women working together, and I cannot wait to watch what the Forum will accomplish in the next fifty. Renew your membership, make your gala reservation, bring a friend to the Fall Lecture Luncheon, enjoy all the Forum has to offer. Let's keep building the Forum community so that this dynamic group can continue to grow, evolve and serve as stewards of our community. There is no doubt that by working together the best is yet to come! Cheers to the Forum!

In service and with gratitude, fody

Jody Lutz



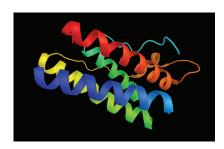


#### NEW GRANT FUNDS ANTI-AGING STUDY

The William and Ella Owens Medical Research Foundation has awarded Texas Biomed Associate Professor Marcel Daadi, Ph.D., with a grant of more than \$100,000 to test a promising FDA-approved drug for reversing age-related cognitive decline and memory deficits observed in aged baboons.

"We are truly excited about this opportunity to use aged baboons in our study because they develop human-like, age-related decline in cognitive and motor performances," Dr. Daadi said. "With this drug, we hope to develop a therapeutic intervention to enhance the bioenergetics and function of our brain cells and improve the general health and well-being of our aged population."

#### RESEARCHERS FIND NEW MUTATION IN THE LEPTIN GENE



Leptin, the "satiety hormone" made by adipose cells that helps to regulate energy balance by inhibiting hunger. Opposed by the actions of the hormone ghrelin, the "hunger hormone."

The global obesity epidemic is so far-reaching it now has an overarching name: globesity. Texas Biomed Staff Scientist Raul Bastarrachea, M.D., is part of a team that discovered a new mutation in the gene that regulates the key hormone suppressing hunger called leptin. This new mutation could help researchers understand why people develop excess of body fat. Dr. Bastarrachea's research is aimed at helping tackle metabolic disorders like cardiovascular disease and diabetes which are fueled by obesity and impact millions of people around the world.

"We keep learning more and more about the role of fat in normal-weight people," Bastarrachea said. "By researching what goes wrong when genes don't code correctly for the production of leptin, we are coming closer to answers that could help millions of people with metabolic disorders."

#### TEXAS BIOMED WINS NEW FUNDING FOR IMPORTANT **HEART DISEASE STUDY**

The Strong Heart Study of American Indians (SHS) is one of the largest and longest-running epidemiological and genetic studies involving Native Americans in the country, involving more than 7,600 participants since 1988. 30 years ago, NIH researchers began looking at particular risk factors for heart disease in the Native American population. SHS scientists and their collaborators across the country found Native Americans have some of the highest rates of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease among people of various ethnicities.





#### TEXAS BIOMED ANNOUNCES **NEW FACULTY MEMBER**

Texas Biomedical Research Institute has recruited a new faculty member to San Antonio. Assistant Professor Diako Ebrahimi, Ph.D., will establish his own research program in quantitative biology related to the fields of viral and cancer immunology and also collaborate on research projects with Texas Biomed Faculty. Dr. Ebrahimi's recruitment is part of the Institute's 10-year strategic plan to recruit nearly 20 new faculty members and double the size of the Institute.

"My goal is to develop a collaborative and cross-disciplinary research program that combines multi-omic quantitative analysis with targeted experimental strategies to identify and answer key questions in the fields of viral and cancer immunity," Ebrahimi shared. "Currently, large amounts of data are being generated across disciplines to study complex biological processes. However, cross-disciplinary quantitative skills are urgently needed to analyze and interpret these massive datasets and direct future targeted experiments."



#### TEXAS BIOMED HIRES NEW PRIMATE CENTER RESEARCHER

The newest Professor at Texas Biomed, Mahesh Mohan, D.V.M., M.S., Ph.D., is an HIV researcher who focuses on what happens at the sub-cellular level when a person is infected with the virus that causes AIDS. Recently, he has branched out into studying the use of cannabinoids (a psychoactive component in marijuana) to manage the inflammation that often accompanies an HIV infection. His research could lead to new insights into using cannabinoids to treat other illnesses as well.

"HIV infection results in chronic inflammation. We are working to identify where the changes occur and try to reverse the problem with new feasible pharmacological approaches," Mohan said.



#### EBOLA THERAPIES AND VACCINES SHOW PROMISE

In August 2019, human clinical trials were halted in the current Ebola epidemic that has claimed more than 1800 lives in Africa. The findings resulted in the discontinuation of two of the drugs in the trial. Future patients will be randomly assigned to receive either REGN-EB3 (Regeneron) or mAb114 (Ridgeback Biotherapeutics) in an extension phase of the study. Texas Biomed scientists in the Institute's Biosafety Level 4 contract research program conducted preclinical testing of three of the four compounds in the trial, working with Regeneron, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), and Mapp Pharmaceuticals.

'Preclinical data showed each of these compounds to be efficaciousto some degree," explained Ricardo Carrion, Jr., Ph.D., Professor and Director of Texas Biomed's BSL-4 Contract Research Program. "We are motivated by the promise of several compounds and are happy to see that patients are recovering, as that is always the goal of our science - to positively impact human lives.





### Texas Biomedical Forum Announcements

# STUDENT TOURS PROMISE INSPIRATION FOR TEXAS STUDENTS

This year Mary Labatt, Angie Light, and Muffin Moorman will coordinate science presentations and facility tours for dozens of interested high schoolers and their teachers. Our goal is to provide inspiring exposure to the exciting work of Texas Biomed, and to offer a broader vision of the possibilities in scientific research to these young people. We are especially excited to increase awareness of the generous grants available for science education in local schools.

#### 2019/2020 FORUM GRANTS

The Texas Biomedical Forum Grants program supports the Texas Biomedical Research Institute by raising money to enable the scientists to launch high risk/ high reward pilot studies. Over the years, the Forum has awarded over \$3 million to the scientists for these "seed grants" that has resulted in major research awards of \$73 million from other funders such as the NIH. In one such example of the success of these pilot studies, a 2017 Forum grant made to Professor Larry Schlesinger, M.D., Assistant Professor Smita Kulkarni, Ph.D., and Staff Scientist Eusondia Arnett, Ph.D., yielded a \$536,250 two-year NIH grant to study how HIV alters the formation of lesions in the lungs that make patients more susceptible to TB infection. This impactful research was made possible by the generous donors of the Forum Grants program.

This year, to honor the Forum's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are thrilled to announce two very special sponsors who have provided the Forum and its donors a tremendous incentive to give through the pledge of a challenge match of up to \$100,000, each. The James W. Gorman Family Foundation, in honor of **Tena Gorman**, the Mays Family Foundation, in honor of **Peggy Mays**, have generously agreed to match all Grants gifts, dollar for dollar, which offers us the opportunity to triple our impact on the Texas Biomedical Research Institute. We are immensely grateful to these Foundations for demonstrating their leadership and generosity though this matching challenge.

#### SCIENCE AWARD UPDATE

Dr. Jamie Holbrook of St. Mary's Hall was a recipient of a Forum Education Grant last year, and recently shared an update on their work. "As of today we have purchased the equipment (stereoscopes and camera), assembled the equipment, practiced stereoscope viewing skills, bred the zebrafish, and are analyzing the normal development process of our embryos. Our investigation of environmental contaminants on the embryos will occur in October to coincide with our curriculum. Below is a photo of a student using a new stereoscope purchased with grant money and another photo showing the zebrafish embryo that he is viewing. I look forward to keeping you updated as this amazing learning experience unfolds!"





Embryo viewed from stereoscope



# JOIN US FOR THE FALL LECTURE LUNCHEON

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019 11:30 AT THE ARGYLE

The World Health Organization calls immunizations "one of modern medicine's greatest success stories." However, the rise in the numbers of parents choosing not to vaccinate their children is creating outbreaks of vaccine-preventable infectious diseases across the country.

The United States is experiencing headline-making surges of measles cases. More than 1,000 cases of the virus-caused illness have occurred in 2019, marking the highest number of cases since 1992. Some parents are even exposing their children to chickenpox on purpose, creating unwarranted health threats. Our guests will address the myths and misunderstandings regarding vaccinations.

#### Panel of speakers:

**Joanne Turner**, **Ph.D.**, Texas Biomed's VP of Research and President of the San Antonio Vaccine Center

**Cherise Rohr-Allgerini, Ph.D.**, MPH, San Antonio Program Director of The Immunization Partnership.

Moderated by **Wendy Rigby**, Texas Biomed Media and Communications Specialist.

Individual Tickets: \$75 Guests Welcome, Business Casual

**Table of 8:** \$600

Your payment is your reservation. Kindly reserve online at txbiomed.org/forum or mail checks payable to:

The Forum PO Box 6648 San Antonio, TX 78209 by October 25th.

**Cynthia Kerby**, First Vice President, Lecture Luncheon Chair: cynthiakerby@hotmail.com









#### REMEMBER, MEMBERS: IT'S TIME TO RENEW!

Have you signed up or renewed your membership? The Forum's membership year runs from June 1 - May 31, which means it's time to make your 100% tax-deductible donation!

Your fully deductible membership dues allow us the ability to increase our visibility in the community and ultimately provide financial support to Texas Biomed and the work they do to benefit people worldwide.

Members receive invitations to Fall and Spring Lecture Luncheons, special events, priority notification of table sales for the Forum Gala, a printed membership directory and our Forum in Focus newsletter.

Please note that November 1st is the print deadline for inclusion in the membership directory.

All members receive the same benefits. Thank you for selecting the level at which you'd like to support the groundbreaking and

There are three levels of Forum membership; each are 100% tax deductible

**BENEFACTOR MEMBERSHIP:** \$300 SUPPORTER MEMBERSHIP: \$150

**CONTRIBUTOR MEMBERSHIP:** \$75

lifesaving research being done here in San Antonio at Texas Biomedical Institute.

We thank you for your interest in and support of the Forum and look forward to seeing you at Forum events!

Please contact Amelita Mauzé, Membership Chair, and Rebecca Nathan, Asst. Membership Chair, by emailing Forum.Membership@TexasBioMed.org with any inquiries.

Thank you to those of you who have already secured your membership for the 2019-2020 year.

#### 2019-2020 MEMBERS

Melany Anderser Courtney Archer Ruth Austin Martha Avant Dainne Azar Ann Barshop Josie Behrend Brooke Bell Mary Benedum Jennifer Berridge Amanda Bezner Jaselyn Blanchard Lisa Blonkvist Lindsay Bolner Jennifer Bradley Cris Bregman Andrea Brooks Gretchen Burkholder Minnette Buzzini Ginny Cadwallade Paige Cadwallader Michele Cadwallade Lisa Caldwell Beatriz Cardenas Lupita Castrejón Tijerina Debbie Christie Jody Cochran Lisa Howlett Cohick Shelby Colemai Hayley Conger Sarah Gaye Conner

Heather Craig Ann Cross Heather De Roja Gaye Defosset Kathryn Dehlinger Diana Denman Camille Denton Jennifer Dewa Stephanie Dick April Dickson Abigail Dickson Gloria Dilley Sharon Downing Colette Edwards Lynnette Embrey Karen Evans Bryant Maxine Farrimond Lynette Farrimond Tracee Feik Lvnn Finesilver Crysta Martita Fleming Susan C. Franklii Katie Fravell Ashley Friedman Virginia Gibson Elizabeth Gillespie Judy Gillis Kimberly Gillum Gayle Girdley Bonnie Gouge Terry Gouger Adrian Grant

Triana Grossman Adrianna Grossman Helen Groves Valerie Guenthei Lindsay Guenther Brooks Hagee Leslie Hamilton Melinda Hart Anne Heaner Cari Hill Karen Hixon Meredith Howard Robin Howard Carol Johnston **Emily Jones** Fahiola Kaase Abigail Kampmann Kathleen Kennedy Priscilla Kent Cvnthia Kerby Audra Kerr Christina Ketabchi Ashley Korbell Mary Labatt Marline Lawson Joanne Lawton Charlotte Leddy Kathleen LeFlore Kim Lewis Angie Light Paola Lloyd Ashley Longoria Rhonda Low

Courtney Percy Eleanor Pfirrmann Helen Pohlv Scotty MacDaniel Cassie Porterfield Elizabeth Marceau Beverly Purcell Guerra Angela Rabke Callie Ramirez Kelly Raney Nicole McClane Nancy Rector-Finney Denise Reetz Evangelina Reza-Hol-Brooke Meabon Sonya Medina Williams Corinna Richter Tashya Riggs Linda Rittenhouse Maureen Mimar Samantha Rodriguez Ana Leah Montemayor Katie Rogers Laura Moorman Lorin Runnels Mallory Moorman Jane Satel Stacy Schlagel Judy Schlesinge Kathy Schlosberg Barbara Schneide Whitney Schones Evangeline Myers IV Lisa Sechler Daniela Serna Rebecca Nathan Marie Smith Kati Smith Lauren Newburi Patricia Smothers Virginia Nochols Jill Souter Lvnn Stahl Lauren Pepping Shannon Stephens

Jody Lutz

Cynthia Lutz

Jennalie Lvons

Amelita Mauze

Peggy Mays

Mary McNelis

Kara McVey

Cynthia Miller

Whitney Miller

Muffin Moorman

Melissa Morgan

Bonnie Muecke

Karen Mueller

Cheryl Myers

Claude Nabers

Sarah Owens

Harriet Peavy

Alice Lynch

Ann Stevens Allison Stocke Chaney Stuar Sally Sullivan Amy Swaney Emily Sytsma Shelley Thill Christi Tidwell Kristin Tins Elizabeth Van Sickle Jill Vassar Angelica Vela Yvette Vickery Dotty Voqt Michelle Wagne Neill Walsdorf Jr Lois Warren AnaPaula Watson Suzanne White Alison Wiesentha Tracy Williams Kori Williams Carole Wong Jodi Wood Jessica Worth Edie Wright Joan Wyatt Julie Zacher Allison Zeller

as of September 20. 2019

#### TRUSTEES

Elizabeth Cox

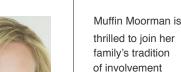
This year, the Forum elected 11 new trustees. We will highlight a few of these young women in each newsletter this year.

Muffin Moorman

#### Ashley Friedman

Ashley Friedman is the Texas lead for strategic brand partnerships at Foursquare. She works with brands and agencies to leverage first-party, mobile location data to create innovative marketing programs





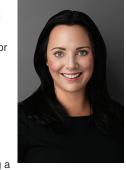
family's tradition of involvement in Texas Biomed this year. A native of San Antonio. Muffin arew up on the Brady Creek Ranch and spent hours learning about

Tom Slick and the Argyle from her beloved grandmother, Betty Moorman.

After high school and graduate studies on the east coast, Muffin earned two doctorates in religious studies and now teaches for the Franciscan University of Steubenville. She is the mother of two children and fourteen pets, and she is actively involved in The World Youth Alliance for human rights, the Charlemagne Institute, Sunshine Cottage School for the Deaf, and the San Antonio Museum of Art.

#### Katie Rogers

Born and raised in San Antonio, Katie received a Bachelor of Arts in Advertising, with a Minor in Film studies, from Southern Methodist University. In May 2011 Katie started Core Creative, a marketing agency that provides a full range of marketing services while retaining a



personalized, client-focused approach. She has marketing experience in a variety of industries including Real Estate, Hospitality, Non-Profit, Restaurant, Medical, Retail, Law, Energy, Private Investments and more. In recent years, Katie has enjoyed being involved in the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas. SA Life Academy, Pi Beta Phi San Antonio Alumnae Club and many other organizations.

Katie and her husband Will are busy with two boys, Travis (age 6) and Wilson (age 4). She loves traveling, cooking, Pilates, and spending time with her family and friends.





# Sala Reveal Party

Enthusiastic Forum members gathered at the beautiful home of  ${\bf Kim\ Lewis}$ for the big reveal of our 50th Anniversary Gala theme, "A Starry Night." The location was especially appropriate, as Kim's home once belonged to **Tom Slick!** Our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme reminds us to 'shoot for the stars' as we support Texas Biomed. Coincidentally, the Gala's 25th year theme was "Silver Moon," and was chaired by current Advisor, Walton Gregory.

Big thanks to Kim for hosting our group!



05.02.20



#### THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA is MAY 2ND, 2020

Tables are moving fast for this monumental event! Be sure to reserve your space soon.

• Make check payable to:

· Texas Medical Forum Attn: Forum Gala Table Sales Chair

Mail to: P.O. Box 6146 San Antonio, TX 78209

Or email **Bonnie Muecke** at Forum.GalaTableSales@TxBioMed.org by October 25th.

If you would like to include a company logo, attach to email.













Forum in Focus / Fall 2019



Texas Biomedical Forum Post Office Box 6648 San Antonio, TX 78209

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Wed. Oct. 30, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.

Past President Luncheon (Zachry's Home)

Wed. Nov. 6, 2019 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting 11:00 a.m. Fall Lecture Luncheon (Slick-Urschel)

Thurs. Nov. 21, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. **Membership Social (Steves' Home)** 

Wed. Jan. 8, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. Board Meeting The Argyle (Slick-Urschel)

Wed. Feb. 12, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. Board Meeting The Argyle (Slick-Urschel)

Thurs. Feb. 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Cheers for Charity (Grossman's Home)





