# Forum in Focus



ENTHUSIASTICALLY PROMOTING THE TEXAS BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
THROUGH COMMUNITY RELATIONS, VOLUNTEER SERVICE, AND FUNDRAISING

### President's Letters



Dear Friends of The Forum,

The incredible women who comprise our Board of Trustees have been busy soliciting new members, planning and attending Forum events, fundraising, and raising awareness of the Texas Biomedical Research Institute. As a working board without administrative help, it is truly

amazing what this group of women is able to accomplish! It is a privilege to lead them and to provide this update.

I am proud to report that **Kristin Tips**, VP Membership, and her assistant **Carolina Lewis**, have surpassed their membership revenue goal of \$30,000. Thank you to all of our members for your generous support of our organization!

Our gala team, **Rebecca Nathan**, **Audra Kerr**, **Callie Price**, **Bonnie Muecke**, and **Avril Byrne** have only a handful of gala tables left to sell for May 7th's gala, *The Enchantment of Spring*. Run, don't walk, if you still hope to snag one!

Gloria Dilley is on track to surpass her ambitious goal for Grants and we are thrilled to have 100% board participation in support of this initiative. This statistic greatly helps our applications for local foundation funding, which Scotty Macdaniel is helping submit. Additionally, we had great success with a holiday grant gift campaign. We would love to keep honoring your loved ones with a fully tax deductible donation made in their name.

Since our last newsletter, we have been fortunate to host three in person events, the success of which is the result of many hours of thoughtful planning and strategizing. Past President Liaison **Triana Grossman** hosted a beautiful luncheon on November 18<sup>th</sup> honoring our 39 living Past Presidents.

**Ashley Friedman** and **Adrianna Grossman**, Special Events Chairs, oversaw our Holiday Party and Fireside Chat on December 16<sup>th</sup> and hosted a very successful first annual Onze tournament on February 15<sup>th</sup>. We are already looking forward to recreating this fun competition next year!

Still to come, VP Elect and Lecture Luncheon Chair, Emilie Petty is organizing our Spring Lecture Luncheon planned for March 2<sup>nd</sup>. At the luncheon, **Kate Rogers**, Science Education

Awards Chair, will acknowledge the first-ever recipients of our SEA scholarship offerings for high school seniors.

We are also excited to introduce a new event to our lineup: a skeet shoot with the Founder's Council scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to **Jessica Worth** for her efforts in getting this inaugural event off the ground.

Skeet shoot tickets and lecture luncheon table reservations are available to purchase on our beautiful new website. Thank you to **Katie Rogers** for her time and talents bringing the new site to life and to **Meredith Howard** for her detailed eyes on the content.

And speaking of content, **Muffin Moorman**, Historian, steals the show at our monthly meetings with her fun reports of The Forum's glamorous and illustrious past. Muffin is also busy documenting and compiling our history of the last 52 years. If you have any mementos or memories that you would like to share of your past Forum experience, we would love to include those in our records.

Behind the scenes, Cynthia Kerby (Immediate Past President/Nominating Chair), Christina Ketabchi (Parliamentarian), Lindsay Bolner (Recording Secretary), Mary Labatt (Treasurer), and Emily Sytsma (Corresponding Secretary) and her Communications Team, Sarah Hager, Katie Fravell, Angie Light, Angela Rabke, and Stacy Schlagel continue to keep The Forum running smoothly, well organized, and well prepared for the year ahead. And, as always, we are grateful for Akudo Anyanwu, Susanna Young, and Lisa Cruz at Texas Biomed for the support and resources that they provide The Forum.

As you well know, The Forum's efforts are for the benefit of Texas Biomed and specifically directed to the early stage research projects taking place at TBRI known as pilot studies. In December, The Forum was able to fund 10 individual research projects with the proceeds of our 2020 – 2021 year. We are thrilled to have the ability to fund these projects, grateful for the generous donors who make it possible, and wait with enthusiasm to see the fruits of these brilliant scientists' research.

Gratefully, Amelita Mauzé

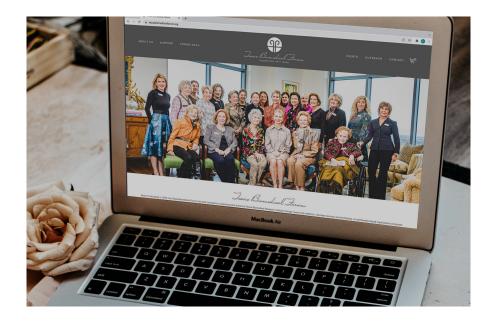


Dear Friends of the Forum,

The Nominating Committee was hard at work this January with the Executive Board nominations for the 2022 – 2023 year. We were tasked with slating amazing leaders in jobs to continue the great work of The Forum. The committee was so grateful for all of the submissions and nominations. We had so many qualified trustees who are willing to serve. The slate was proposed and voted on at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Serving with passion and pursose. Sincerely, Cynthia Kerby,

Immediate Past President, Nominating Chair



#### THE FORUM WEBSITE HAS A FRESH LOOK

The Forum has a beautiful new website! Thoughtfully designed and built by our very own **Katie Rogers** and her team at Core Creative, the new website reflects the sophistication, history and elegance of The Forum as it enters it 52<sup>nd</sup> year of supporting Texas Biomedical Research. The new website not only functions as a membership and fundraising hub, but also tells the story of the Texas Biomedical Forum featuring many photos that take visitors through a walk down memory lane. Visit us as www.texasbiomedicalforum.org and let us know what you think!

Congratulations to the 2022 – 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President **Emilie Petty** 

President Elect/VP Lecture Luncheon **Kristin Tips** 

Gala Co-Chairs
Gloria Dilley &
Triana Grossman

VP Membership Rebecca Nathan

VP Grants

Audra Kerr

Treasurer

Bonnie Muecke

Assistant Treasurer Christina Ketabchi

Corresponding Secretary
Sarah Hager

Recording Secretary Emily Sytsma

Parliamentarian

Jessica Worth



#### AN EVENING WITH NICOLA BATHIE

Gloria Dilley, Claire McNab and Kristin Tips were honored to host friends of The Forum for a Fashion Show and Launch Party of the Nicola Bathie McLaughlin Holiday Capsule Collection, with Antonio Melani for Dillard's. On this fall evening of October 26th, 2021, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served at The Argyle while attendees enjoyed visiting with the honoree, viewing the featured collection, and shopping for their favorites.

Recognized for her love of ethereal femininity, the Nicola Bathie McLaughlin Holiday Capsule Collection is adorned with elegant florals and delicate embellishments. Nicola's eye for details brought to life an array of romantic silhouettes, flouncing hemlines, and elegant holiday-ready looks. As a nod to Marie Antoinette's wardrobe, the featured collection draws a sense of nostalgia that tempts the senses into feeling a poetic sophistication.

Nicola Bathie is proud to support The Texas Biomedical Forum. A portion of sales proceeds benefited The Forum's grant program.

















#### PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

Thirty-three attendees enjoyed the Past President's Luncheon held at the Argyle on November 18th.

After receiving updates from Forum Trustees about Gala, Membership, and Grants, guests heard from Drs. Schlesinger and Anyanwu. They spoke about how COVID-19 has highlighted the ongoing need for research and shared exciting information about the road ahead for Texas Biomed, with an emphasis on three campaigns as crucial areas of growth in the effort to combat infectious disease: Faculty Recruitment, Education, and Building.

Many thanks to **Triana Grossman** for organizing this informative and fun event.

#### INSPIRATIONS FROM THE PAST...

Two lecture luncheon themes from 1988 and 1989 might resonate with our 2022 mood... "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues" and "Where Our Dollars Have Gone" both inspired "rave reviews" in their contexts.

The first topic, devoted to women's mental health, attracted record numbers to learn about developing treatments for depression from a panel composed of local psychiatrists and gynecologists. The second lecture topic highlights the history of transparency and accountability which has secured the dynamic relationship between Texas Biomed and the Forum for decades. We all benefited from such reports when we gathered to learn about the inspiring recent research that has been enabled by Forum grants in December. In winter of 1988, Forum president Shirley Oliver began her newsletter by encouraging Forum members to walk into the new year with "a thankful heart." Wishing all joy, gratitude, and happy fundraising for science in 2022!



### Forum Past Eveents

#### A FULL HOUSE: THE FORUM'S GALENTINE'S ONZE TOURNAMENT

After being rescheduled due to inclement weather, The Forum's Galentine's Onze Tournament took place Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Argyle. Excitement filled the air as Onze hands were played and friends nibbled on light bites and sipped refreshments.

Fraulein Boot Company held a pop-up shop during the event and generously donated 20% of proceeds from all sales during the luncheon to The Forum. **Allison Reyes**, owner of Blo San Antonio, donated blowouts as prizes for the lady of each table with the lowest score. Game Night Gifts were onsite with a selection of custom cards and game pads.

No Onze Tournament would be complete without a lavish raffle. The Galentine's Onze Raffle did not disappoint. Prizes included a gorgeous scarf and matching ribbon from Sorella Clothing Co., a pair of original and vintage boots donated by Fraulein Boot Company, and 2 non shooter tickets to next month's Inaugural Forum Skeet Shoot on Thursday March 24th. **Emily Sytsma** was the lucky winner!









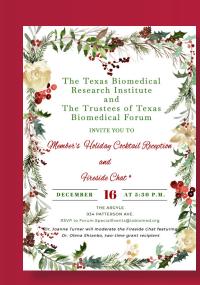




### TBRI AND TRUSTEES OF TEXAS BIOMEDICAL FORUM 2021 MEMBER'S HOLIDAY COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Texas Biomedical Research Institute and Trustees of Texas Biomedical Forum 2021 Member's Holiday Cocktail Reception

The Forum hosted a Holiday Cocktail Reception on December 16th for our Past Presidents, Current, and Lifetime Members of The Forum. Guests enjoyed light bites and refreshments as they were entertained by holiday music from the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in a raffle to win a one of a kind colorful painting by a retired chimpanzee from Texas Biomed. Additionally, Stephanie Schiller, the artist behind Austin-based fashion sketch company, Vogue Vignette, was in attendance to sketch guests in their holiday best at the event. These personalized drawings were a treasure for all those who stood for a drawing and they were amazing to watch the artist create. **Ashley Friedman** and **Adrianna Grossman**, our special events chairs, planned the perfect evening for our members to gather together and enjoy the spirit of the holiday season.



During the reception, guests also enjoyed a Fireside Chat, moderated by Dr. Joanne Turner and featured two-time Forum grant recipient and TBRI scientist, Dr. Olena Shtanko. It was exciting and inspiring to hear Dr. Shtanko illustrate the lasting impacts that Forum Grants have had on her research and career.



#### INAUGURAL FORUM AND FOUNDER'S COUNCIL SKEET SHOOT

It is with great excitement that we look forward to the inaugural Forum and Founder's Council Skeet Shoot. Premier Gala Sponsors will receive tickets to attend this collaborative event raising funds for Texas Biomed. Event Co-Chairs Jessica Worth and **Stephanie Dick** are putting together a very fun day for all to enjoy!

#### Thursday, March 24, 2022

10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (or until last shooter): Shooting, Calcutta, Pop-Up Shops, Side Games, Silent Auction, Open Bar

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Lunch & Live Music

2 p.m. – 5 p.m.: Wine Tasting & Guitar Trio

#### San Antonio Gun Club

928 E. Contour Drive San Antonio, Texas 78212

We are expecting 30 teams of four to participate, and spectators may purchase tickets to attend. We will have food served throughout the day and an open bar, in addition to entertainment, a raffle and pop-up shops. **Spectator** Tickets are \$100.

To purchase tickets or sponsor, please contact our Skeet Shoot Co-Chairs Stephanie Dick and Jessica Worth, ffcskeetshoot@gmail.com.

We are honored to celebrate with you this spring!



Thank you to our title sponsor, Modern Outfitters. And thank you to our committes:

#### **Invitations**

Meredith Howard Muffin Moorman Hilary Bridgman **Burkley Fitzsimons** 

#### Communications

Katie Rogers Lauren Hawa

Heather Craig Lindsay Guenther Aaron Asel Sarah Conquest Mark Muecke

#### **Sponsorships**

Kristin Tips Gloria Dilley **Andrew Hunt** Alexis Wiensenthal Miguel Dilley



2022 FORUM GALA:

### "WHERE FLOWERS BLOOM, SO DOES HOPE."

— LADY BIRD JOHNSON

#### Forum Gala 2022 is almost sold out!

The excitement for The Forum Gala—to be held at The Argyle on Saturday, May 7, 2022—is palpable. From the dedication and hard work of our committee members to the demand for private rooms and tables, it's abundantly clear that we are all ready for a party to celebrate the groundbreaking research coming out of Texas Biomed.

We are especially grateful to our Table Sales Committee—Chairwoman Avril Byrne, with Katie Fravell, Eva Holliday, Nicola McLaughlin, Claire McNab, Emily Sytsma, Elaine Vornsand and Bonnie Muecke-for all of their efforts to date. Only a few tables are still available for purchase! Please contact Bonnie at bonnie.muecke@gmail.com to reserve your table.

#### There are 6 ways for you to support Texas Biomed as we approach our Gala:

- GALA UNDERWRITING: Help cover the cost of Gala and allow us to donate more dollars to Texas Biomed.
- GALA TABLE SPONSORSHIPS: Attend a night of dinner and dancing while supporting Texas Biomed.
- GALA AFTER PARTY TICKETS: Join us for the after dinner dancing, entertainment and surprises.
- GALA RAFFLE TICKETS: Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win some incredible items and packages.
- FORUM MEMBERSHIP: Join us as a member of our 52nd year. Your dues are 100% tax deductible.
- FORUM GRANTS: Fund pilot studies with your 100% tax-deductible donation.

#### Email bonnie.muecke@gmail.com to donate today!

Our Raffle Committee has gone to great lengths to shore up some incredible packages that are sure to delight. Thank you to Committee Co-Chairs Ashley Friedman and Angela Rabke, Kelly Wade Fry, Lindsay Bolner, Carolina Lewis, Kendall Mazurek, Colette Edwards, Kate Rogers, Pam Futch and Hannah Hudson! Stay tuned for an email announcing opportunities to purchase tickets!

We also extend our gratitude to our Communications team—Co-Chairs Sarah Hager and Angie Light, Ellen Hudson, Christina Ketabchi and Ashley Quintanilla and our Underwriting Team—Chairwoman Mary Labatt, Renee Amaro and Scotty Macdaniel.



Forum in Focus / Spring 2022



#### 2022 FORUM AWARD RECIPIENTS

2022 Forum Post-doctoral Fellow Awards, supported by the Texas Biomedical Forum:

**Bindu Singh** will research the role myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs) play in tuberculosis.

**Antonio Solis Leal** will research methamphetamine effects on HIV persistence in certain cell types.

**Rossella Titone** will determine whether mitochondria are at the sites of EBOV replication and assess whether EBOV replication alter mitochondrial functions.

**Susanta Pahari** will research how aging changes the function of alveolar air sacs in the lungs.

2022 Forum Staff Scientist Awards, supported by the Texas Biomedical Forum:

**Anna Allué Guardia** will investigate how the lungs' alveolar lining fluid influences tuberculosis infection progression.

**Eusondia Arnett** will research the influence of zinc and zinc transporters on tuberculosis infection.

**Rajesh Thippeshappa** will research a nonhuman primate model of AIDS.

**Shalini Gautam** will optimize flow cytometry processes to support a wide range of research.

2022 Forum Faculty Awards, supported by the Texas Biomedical Forum:

**Jordi B. Torrelles** will investigate ways to reverse cellular senescence, or deterioration related to the process of aging.

**Andrew Hayhurst** will research how to improve detection, diagnosis and treatment of a deadly pathogen N. fowleri, commonly known as a brain-eating amoeba.

**Elizabeth Clemmons** will research a bronchitis bacterium that infects animals and improve diagnostics for current and prior infection.

"We are so grateful for the strong support from the San Antonio philanthropic community for Texas Biomed. The type of seed funding provided by the Texas Biomedical Forum is critical for advancing discoveries of new medicines, treatments, vaccines and diagnostic tests."

Joanne Turner, PhD, Executive Vice President, Research at Texas Biomed.

## TEXAS BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH RECEIVES CRITICAL ARPA FUNDING

Texas Biomedical Research Institute is grateful for the support The Forum provided this past month in its efforts to garner city funding through the American Rescue Plan Act. The Forum's signed letter of support, that was sent to all city council members and city staff, was incredibly helpful in showcasing the breadth and depth of collaboration and advocates the Institute has within our community.

The Forum is an integral part of the Institute's success, as we educate and promote science in San Antonio and beyond. Our efforts helped secure \$10 million in grant funding.

Texas Biomedical Research Institute is poised to also receive funding from the county, all of which will help the Institute update and modernize critical infrastructure on our campus, such as water and sewage lines, power and HVAC systems.

These infrastructure upgrades will serve as the foundation for our new animal care complex, central research building and redesigned campus. This is a critical first step in realizing our 10-year growth plan, and our support is invaluable. Texas Biomedical Research Institute is immeasurably grateful.









Rajesh Thippeshappa



Andrew Hayhurst



Anna Allue Guard



lizabeth Clemmons



usondia Arnett

### TEXAS BIOMEDICAL FORUM GRANTS

Over the past 20 years, the Forum has awarded more than \$3.5 million in Pilot Study Grants, which have enabled Texas Biomed researchers to apply for more than \$75 million in outside funding, amounting to a 20-fold return on investment.

"We are so proud that our fundraising efforts enable us to provide 10 seed grants to Texas Biomed post-doctoral fellows, staff scientists and faculty this year," says **Amelita Mauzé**, President of the Forum. "We are especially pleased to support such bright, up-and-coming researchers who are making significant contributions to human health right here in San Antonio."



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



Texas Biomed is one of the world's leading independent biomedical research institutions dedicated to eradicating infection and advancing health worldwide through innovative biomedical research. Texas Biomed partners with researchers and institutions around the world to develop vaccines and therapeutics against viral pathogens causing AIDS, hepatitis, hemorrhagic fever, tuberculosis and parasitic diseases responsible for malaria and schistosomiasis disease. The Institute has programs in host-pathogen interaction, disease intervention and prevention, and population health to understand the links between infectious diseases and other diseases such as aging, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity. For more information on Texas Biomed, go to www.TxBiomed.org.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Forum & Founder's Council Inagural Skeet Shoot Tournament: 10:30 am – 5:45 pm; Shop, Food & Music: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Wednesday, April 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Texas Biomedical Forum Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 4 at 10:30 a.m.

Texas Biomedical Forum Board Meeting

Saturday, May 7, 2022

Forum Gala: The Enchantment of Spring

