

# Forum in Focus



## Forum Board of Trustees

### Front Row L to R:

Amy Swaney, Kristin Tips,  
Cynthia Kerby, Amelita Mauzé,  
Emilie Petty

### Second Row L to R:

Whitney Schones, Lindsay Bolner,  
Rebecca Nathan, Bonnie Muecke,  
Jessica Worth, Emily Sytsma

### Third Row L to R:

Katie Fravell, Angela Rabke,  
Audra Kerr, Corinna Richter

### Fourth Row L to R:

Katie Rogers, Gloria Dilley,  
Christina Ketabchi, Sarah Hager

### Back Row L to R:

Avril Byrne, Callie Price, Ashley  
Friedman, Scottie MacDaniel, Mary  
Labatt, Triana Grossman, Meredith  
Howard, Muffin Moorman

**Not Pictured:** Rebecca Nathan,  
Adrianna Grossman, Carolina  
Lewis, Angie Light, Scarlette  
Moorman, Stacey Schlagel

# President's Letter

## STRONGER IN SERVICE TOGETHER

Looking back over this past year I find myself inspired by our mission, our board and our community. Taking on the role as The Forum's 51st President; a job in which I prepared for with the help of my predecessors, I can honestly say that this year was not what we all could have imagined. However, I am so honored and proud to have led such an amazing group of women who exemplified such resilience and commitment to our mission.

It was our mission which remained at the forefront of everything I set out to accomplish with the board. I continually reminded us all of our purpose "...to support the Texas Biomedical Research Institute through community relations, volunteer service and fundraising." My first goal was to have a successful membership campaign in order to connect our community of support with The Forum during this critical time. Vice President of Membership, **Emilie Petty**, and her assistant, **Bonnie Muecke**, led the most financially successful membership drive to date. Their introduction of an *Exclusive 2020 Lifetime Membership* resulted in over *42 Lifetime Members* with a total of 268 members - raising over \$115,125. With this support, our Treasurer, **Audra Kerr**, and Assistant Treasurer, **Mary Labatt**, were able to ensure our budget was on track for the year ahead.

My next goal was to identify safe ways to keep our membership engaged with in-person events being difficult to execute or all together canceled. A shining moment was when Special Events Chair, **Angela Rabke**, and her assistant, **Stacey Schlagel**, came up with two new and safe ways to connect our members. During a time when we needed some magic in our holiday season, a safe and sold-out *Cookies with Santa* event was highly received and hosted at The Argyle. Our second special event was held in February which was a fabulous *Valentine Virtual Raffle*. Together these events not only raised over

\$14,000 but provided the much-needed happiness and joy as everyone tried to adjust to the "new normal". Another way of connecting our members was our annual directory that went out all thanks to Directory/Database Chair, **Emily Sytsma**, and her assistant, **Ashley Friedman**. The directory included our updated bylaws by our Parliamentarian, **Christina Ketabchi**. All of the member engagement could not have been accomplished without the help of our Communications Chair, **Meredith Howard**, and her assistant, **Scotty MacDaniel**. Together, they managed all of our marketing and communications via email, website and social media. Our Newsletter Chairs, **Angie Light** and **Katie Fravell**, worked with the entire board to capture our joint efforts during this incredible time of service. Our Historian, **Lauren Pepping**, prepared a wonderful account of our last 50 years of service and recorded the start of this 51st year in our history. Our Recording Secretary, **Rebecca Nathan**, continues to keep us organized and Corresponding Secretary, **Whitney Schones**, graciously sends out flowers and letters on our behalf.

Other areas that proved to be a challenge this year was our annual lecture luncheons and our much-loved Science Education Awards. Vice President and Lecture Luncheon Chair, **Amelita Mauzé**, and her assistant, **Triana Grossman**, were successful in providing a virtual luncheon in November with the help of The Argyle's curbside service. However, the spring lecture luncheon, host to the Science Education Awards, was canceled due to safety precautions. Science Education Award Chairs, **Lindsay Bolner** and **Kate Rogers**, continued working behind the scenes and a winner was selected and awarded on behalf of The Forum and the V.H. Memorial Foundation. I took this year to reevaluate our SEA program and my goal was to identify a way to ensure its support and future success. In the fall, I met with the SEA chairs and Valerie Guenther to brainstorm on how to further enhance our program. I am extremely proud to announce a new initiative that will be rolled out for the upcoming year. Through a partnership with the Bexar County Scholarship Clearing House, we will be including senior scholarship awards. I am so thankful to the SEA chairs in helping to execute my vision of the new program and to Valerie Guenther for her support of the new idea. Another area of service that was in need of redesign was how to conduct student tours during the pandemic. Student Tour Chairs, **Muffin Moorman** and **Sarah Hager**,

Established 1970  
Texas Biomedical Forum  
P.O. Box 6648  
San Antonio, Texas 78209

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[Forum.President@TxBioMed.org](mailto:Forum.President@TxBioMed.org)

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immediately pivoted and worked with Texas Biomed to move tours on-line. They were successful in providing this long-time opportunity to local area schools safely.

Our Vice President of Grants, **Callie Price** and her assistant, **Gloria Dilley** have been busy with our grant fundraising and kept us on track to meet our goal. They successfully secured 100 percent board participation and were able to add grant matching donors to help jump start our efforts. They are helping to share, now more than ever, just how incredibly important our mission is to help support Texas Biomedical Research Institute. Our Giving Campaign Chair, **Kristin Tips**, Co-Chair, **Corinna Richter**, Website Designer, **Katie Rogers**, and Ways and Means, **Jessica Worth**, created a new fundraiser this year. With the uncertainty of whether we would be able to host an in-person gala, the *Giving Team* collaborated on a new event to include an exciting Luxury Auction which took place on May 1, 2021. This giving effort was highlighted by a wonderful Forum Giving website designed and donated by Katie Rogers and Core Creative. Collectively, these efforts helped guarantee that we have accomplished our fundraising goals for the year! If you haven't already, please visit the site at [www.ForumGiving.com](http://www.ForumGiving.com) to see our continued efforts and how you can help support The Forum.

There are no words for the gratitude I have for our Past President, **Amy Swaney**. She and I will forever have a bond and understanding surrounding the challenges we

faced while serving during this pandemic. With all of our plans that were cancelled and the constant pivoting to remain on task, knowing she was a text or call away was a tremendous comfort. We are women leaders and we lead not only with our minds but also with our hearts. *Thank you, Amy!*

I am thankful to my advisors: **Dr. Akudo Anyanwu**, **Terry Gouger**, **Jody Lutz** and **Laura Moorman**. They provided constant guidance and support and I am proud to have served alongside them and to have led such an extraordinary group of the women. I would also like to recognize **Tena Gorman**, **Leslie Hamilton**, and **Judy Schlesinger** for their continued support.

Serving with Passion and Purpose,

*Cynthia*

**Cynthia Kerby**  
2020 – 2021  
Forum President



## LETTER FROM OUR FUTURE PRESIDENT

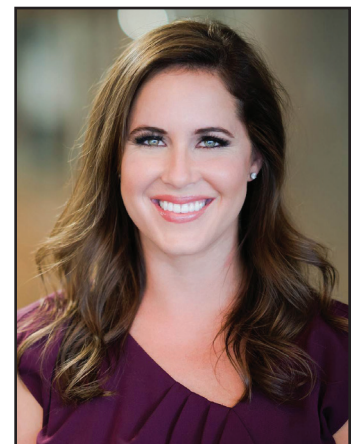
As many of you know, it is a tradition that the incoming president selects a signature color to individualize The Forum's logo. In recent history, a proud UT alum's color of choice was burnt orange, followed by her A&M successor's maroon. In anticipation of my term as president, I chose a shade of spring green to symbolize a time of new beginnings and renewal. As an organization that is known for our community outreach and in person programming and events, Cynthia faced an incredible hardship of keeping The Forum visible and relevant in a world of social distance and zoom. While I hope to put terms such as "new normal," "re-imagine" and "pivot" in our past, I could not be prouder of the way she was able to fulfill our mission in the most challenging time.

With the encouragingly low positivity rate of COVID-19 in our community and the increasing availability of the vaccine, I am excited to spring forward with a fresh perspective and vigor for The Forum's future. It is with much enthusiasm that I embark on my new adventure as our organization's 52nd president and I look forward to seeing many of you in person at a Forum event soon.

*Amelita*

**Amelita Mauzé**

Texas Biomedical Forum  
52nd President



# Forum Member Events

## SPRING LUNCHEON SUCCESS!

On Wednesday, May 5, 2021, The Forum had the opportunity to come together and celebrate this year's accomplishments. We enjoyed a board meeting at The Argyle followed by a beautiful luncheon. During the meeting, we shared committee reports, future plans, thanked outgoing trustees and welcomed new ones. We closed the meeting with the honorary gavel exchange and outgoing presidential pinning. The highlight of the morning was sharing the news of our financial fundraising contribution of \$510,000 for the Texas Biomedical Research Institute. Although the year was full of pivots in the midst of



a pandemic, the board was quite successful in our mission and I am truly honored to have lead such an amazing group of women during this momentous time in our Forum's history.

Cynthia Kerby  
The Forum's 51st  
President



## COOKIES WITH SANTA

A very happy group of Forum families celebrated the holiday season and supported Texas Biomed with a safe and intimate Santa experience held at the Argyle Club in December. Each family scheduled time for a one-on-one meeting with Santa Claus, who delighted all of the kids from a safe distance. Beautiful gingerbread and hot cocoa kits were taken home by each family, and fun was had by all. We are so grateful to everyone who participated in this sold-out opportunity!



## VALENTINE'S RAFFLE

Although we couldn't gather to show our LOVE for Texas Biomed, the Forum's Valentine's Day Raffle was a perfect way to show our affection for science! We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of Seazars, Kelly Wade Jewelers, Julian Gold, Holly Basing Floral Designs, Baker Tatum, The Argyle Club, and the Forum Trustees. Together we were able to raise approximately \$12,000 for Texas Biomedical Institute. Thank you to each and every person who supported Texas Biomedical with a ticket purchase.



The lucky winners were:

**Valerie Samaniego** – “Stock the Bar,” with fine wines and bourbons from Seazars, as well as a set of of gorgeous crystal and cocktail napkins from Baker Tatum

**Karen Lee Zachary** – “Pamper Yourself,” with a \$1,500 gift certificate to Kelly Wade Jewelers, and a beautiful gift basket full of self-care splurges from Julian Gold.

**Rebecca Canavan** – “Valentine's Treat” with dinner for two at the Argyle Club, a beautiful floral design by Holly Basing, and a collection of fine wines donated by the Forum Trustees.



## 2021 MEMBERSHIP

Melany Andersen	Josie Flesher	Cathryn LeVrier
Akudo Anyanwu	Paige Flinn	Kim Lewis
Courtney Archer	Malini Fowler	Kim Lewis
Jordan Arriaga	Susan Franklin	Angie Light
Ruth Austin	Katie Fravell	Paola Lloyd
Emily Azar	Ashley Friedman	Rhonda Low
Stacie Banack	Kelly Wade Fry	Cynthia Lutz
Ann Barshop	Heather Snow Fulton	Jody Lutz
Sharon Batchelor	Kathy West Gallaspy	Joan Lyman
Ruth Bates	Lauren Garansuay	Scotty MacDaniel
Laura B. Baucum	Jenny Gibson	Kathy MacNaughton
Tish Beck	Bonnie Giddens	Camille Mandigo
Josie Behrend	Elizabeth Gillespie	Elizabeth Marceau
Mary Benedum	Kimberly Gillum	Susan Martin
Brooke Benson	Gayle Girdley	Kathryn S. Martinez
Amy Berg	Tena Gorman	Amelita Mauzé
Jessica Berg	Bonnie Gouger	Caitlin McCamish
Jennifer Berridge	Terry Gouger	Sara McCamish
Amanda Bezner	Adrian Grant	Jane McFarlane
Jerilyn Blanchard	Walton Gregory	Kara McVey
Lisa Blonkvist	Cece Frost Griffin	Jo Lynne Meador
Kathleen Bolner	Adrianna Grossman	Lisa Menick
Lindsay Bolner	Triana Grossman	Kelly Middleton
Jennifer Bradley	Helen Groves	Cynthia Miller
Cris Bregman	Lindsay Guenther	Rachel Miller
Pat Bristol	Valerie Guenther	Sarah Miller
Andrea Brooks	Beverly Purcell Guerra	Whitney Solcher Miller
Carla Brozovich	Sarah Hager	Maureen Mimari
Karen Bryant	Leslie Hamilton	Ana Leah Montemayor
Gretchen Burkholder	Diana Hamner	Tina Montoya
Minnette Buzzini	Delaina Harrison	Sarah Moore
Avril Byrne	Melinda Hart	Laura Moorman
Lisa Caldwell	Lauren Hawa	Muffin Moorman
Francie Calgaard	Allegra Pitt Hawkins	Scarlette Moorman
Beatriz Cardenas	Teri Haye	Melissa Morgan
Caroline Carrington	Heather Haynes	Mary Beth Mosbacher
Monica Castillo	Helen Hays Pohly	Bonnie Muecke
Judith Cavender	Anne Heaner	Karen Roitsch Mueller
Mary-Alice Chiscano	Henrietta P.C. Hildebrand	Cheryl Myers
Debbie Christie	Cari Hill	Evangeline Myers
Jody Cochran	Ann Himoff	Rebecca Nathan
Lisa Howlett Cohick	Patricia Houston	Virginia Nicholas
Shelby Coleman	Moire Hogan	Lauren Oberman
Hayley Conger	Meredith Howard	Laura Page
Kathryn Conner	Robin Howard	Harriet Peavy
Sarah Gaye Conner	Hannah Hudson	Mary H. Penalzo
Sarah Trampota	Kathryn Mays Johnson	Lauren Pepping
Conquest	McQueen Johnson	Courtney Percy
Laurin Cothren	Molly Johnson	Emilie Petty
Heather Craig	Carol Johnston	Micki Philbin
Ann Cross	Catherine Jones	Callie Price
Suzanne Dabbous	Emily Jones	Angela Rabke
Kalyn Davidson	Fabiola Kaase	Callie Ramirez
Claire Daviss	Abigail Kampmann	Harriett Raney
Meg Dawson	Tiffany Karnes	Eva Reza-Holliday
Kathryn Dehlinger	Kathleen Kennedy	Corinna Richter
Jordan Delaney	Cynthia Kerby	Tashya Riggs
Camille Denton	Audra Kerr	Linda Rittenhouse
Heather de Rojas	Christina Ketabchi	Virginia Ruth Robins
April Dickson	Olive Anne Kleberg	Samantha Rodriguez
Gloria Dilley	Ashley Korbell	Kate Rogers
Sharon Downing	Cally Kothmann	Katie Rogers
Julie Dorbandt	Mary Labatt	Caroline Rose
Barbara Dreeben	Raven Labatt	Monica Rowland
Colette Edwards	Leah Lacy	Jane Satel
Earl Fae Eldridge	Liz Lamoureux	Linda Satel
Lynette Farrimond	Marline Lawson	Judy Schlesinger
Maxine Farrimond	Charlotte Leddy	Stacy Schlagel
Tracee Feik	Jean Lee	Kathy Schlosberg
Nancy Finney	Kathleen LeFlore	Barbara Schneider
Martita Fleming	Sheila Leslie	Whitney Schones

## MEMBERSHIP

The Texas Biomedical Forum boasts a record-breaking membership year, raising \$115,125. To date, The Forum has 268 members, which includes our honorary members and 42 lifetime members. We are so grateful to all of our members for their support, and would like to give a very special thank you to our 2020 Lifetime Members.

### LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Stacie Banack	Amelita Mauzé
Lindsay Bolner	Peggy Pitman Mays*
Carla Brozovich	Ana Leah Montemayor
Caroline Carrington	Laura Moorman
Monica Castillo	Bonnie Muecke
Sarah Trampota Conquest	Emilie Petty
Ann Cross	Micki Philbin
Meg Dawson	Callie Price
Camille Denton	Corinna Richter
Gloria Dilley	Stacy Schlagel
Nancy Finney	Daniela Serna
Kelly Wade Fry	Emily Skillman
Jenny Gibson	Megan Steves
Adrianna Grossman	Amy Swaney
Triana Grossman	Kristin Tips
Helen Groves	Mary West Traylor
Patricia Houston	Jill Vassar
Kathryn Mays Johnson	AnaPaula Watson
Cynthia Kerby	Melissa Wiggans
Jean Lee	Karen Lee Zachry
Kim Lewis	Allison Zeller
Rhonda Low	<i>*deceased</i>

Lisa Sechler	Lupita Castrejón Tijerina	Linda Whitacre
Daniela Serna	Kristin Tips	Suzanne White
Marsha Singleton	Mary West Traylor	Melissa Wiggans
Emily Skillman	Lina Triesch	Maxine Wilcox
Marie Smith	Nancy Turnbull	Amanda Williams
Patricia Smothers	Rosemary Van	Kori Williams
Sally Sethness Solcher	Heuverswyn	Sonya Medina Williams
Lynn Stahl	Jill Vassar	Tracy Williams
Megan Steves	Angelica Vela	DeAnn Wilson
Allison Stocker	Dotty Vogt	Carole Wong
Chaney Stuart	Michelle Wagner	Jodi Wood
Jan Studer	Caroline Walker	Jessica Worth
Sally Sullivan	Beverly Walsdorf	Edie Wright
Amy Swaney	Ann Walton	Joan Wyatt
Amanda Sykes	Carlie Hill Waters	Julie Zacher
Emily Sytsma	AnaPaula Watson	Karen Lee Zachry
Shelley Thill	Kelly Weaver	Barbara T. Zars
Wanda S. Thomas	Nancy G. West	Ana Zelle
Lisa Thurmond	Lisa Westmoreland	Allison Zeller



## TEXAS BIOMEDICAL FORUM FUNDRAISING SUCCESS!

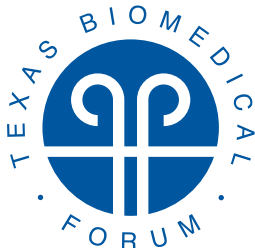
For the past 12 months we have witnessed the continuing cancellations of a host of fundraising events, galas and social activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic here in San Antonio. But despite that trend, the women who make up the Texas BioMedical Forum, an organization dedicated to the support of the Texas BioMedical Research Institute, have raised the bar when it comes to raising money in challenging times.

Chair Woman, Kristin Tips and Co-Chair Woman, Corinna Holt Richter, of this year's Forum Giving Campaign, hosted a live auction at Vogt Auction Galleries along with the entire Forum Board of Trustees. More than 100 items were donated by supporters from the community that were beautifully showcased in a 140 page Forum Giving Catalog which also included recognition of the generous sponsors, grant donors and members who contributed to the success of the campaign.

This year in spite of the pandemic, the Texas Biomed Forum Trustees were able to present the Institute with a check in the amount of \$510,000 to jump start new scientific research that will make a difference for years to come.

Along with raising money, part of the Forum's mission is to raise awareness for the Research Institute's critical work here and around the world. As a result of this year's high profile Auction event, local TV stations broadcast multiple news stories including a 30-minute Texas Biomed Forum Television Special on Fox29 and WOAI.

The money raised this year, turns scientists working at Texas Biomed into modern day "Superheroes". The private funding from members of the Forum, the event sponsors and grant donors will enable the Texas Biomed Research Institute to remain a global leader in the fight against infectious diseases.



# Texas Biomed Forum Grants

## Learning & Discovery Initiative K-12



## Pilot Study Grant Donors

\$25,000

Mays Family Foundation • Laura and Lew Moorman • The Family of Betty Kelso

\$15,000

Kim Lewis and Jessica & Clint Worth

\$12,500

Feik Family Foundation • The Frost Foundation

\$10,000

Nelson Puett Foundation • Gloria Steves Dilley • Carla and John Brozovich  
The University of Texas at San Antonio

\$2,500 - \$5,000

Triana and Brandon Grossman • Rebecca and Scott Nathan • Corinna and JB Richter

\$1,000 and below

Ruth Bates • Ann Cross • Ashley Friedman • Triana Grossman • Bonnie Muecke  
Lindsay Bolner • Valerie Guenther • Sarah Hager • Marie Halff  
Karen Hixon • Meredith Howard • Cynthia Kerby • Christina Ketabchi • Audra Kerr  
Mary and Louis Labatt • Angie Light • Rebecca and Keith Long • Amelita Mauzé  
Laura Moorman • Scotty Macdaniel • Muffin Moorman • Emilie Petty  
Lauren Pepping • Thomas and Olivia Popplewell • Callie Price • Angela Rabke  
Katie and Will Rogers • Stacey and David Schlagel • Whitney Schones • Amy Swaney  
Emily Sytsma • Kristin and Dick Tips • Sonya Medina Williams • Jessica and Clint Worth

Forum Grants as of April 13, 2021

THANK YOU TO OUR

## 2021 Forum Giving Sponsors

### BREAKTHROUGH



### PIONEER



### REVOLUTIONARY



### PROMISE



### INNOVATOR

Southwest Research Institute  
Rebecca and Scott Nathan • Corinna and JB Richter  
Jessica and Clint Worth

### DISCOVERY

TradeCraft • Camilla M Parker  
Edda Wallace  
The Law Offices of S. Jason Westmoreland P.C.

### EXPLORER

Lisa and Wade Caldwell • Sean and Margaret Gunn • Lina Triesch



## 2020 NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS WORKED WITH TEXAS BIOMED ON HEP C DISCOVERIES



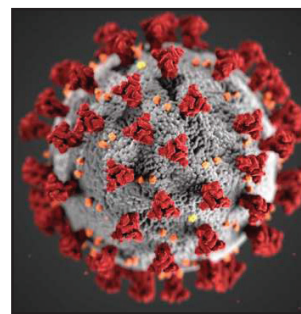
Dr. Robert Landford

Three scientists were awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology for discovering hepatitis C, a virus that researchers at Texas Biomed played a critical role in curing. Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles Rice worked with several Texas Biomed scientists on animal studies, publishing numerous papers together. The trio relied heavily on chimpanzee studies, which the SNPRC at Texas Biomed provided and monitored. In 2015, three years after the testing of a monoclonal antibody to prevent HCV infection was conducted at Texas Biomed, chimps were retired from biomedical research. Texas Biomed's liver disease expert Dr. Robert Lanford, Professor Emeritus, collaborated with Dr. Rice in the chimpanzee studies.

"Texas Biomed is proud of the work Dr. Lanford, his lab and the team at SNPRC did in not only furthering critical basic discoveries, but also their work in proving the safety and efficacy of some of the first medications that could cure HCV and were brought to market," said Texas Biomed President and CEO Dr. Larry Schlesinger. "HCV is an excellent example of what can happen when the world combined the best scientific minds with animal science and technological advancements and teamwork. Within a lifetime, the world went from discovery of a novel virus to cure."

## TEXAS BIOMED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM AND ARIDIS PHARMACEUTICALS DEVELOP A NEUTRALIZING HUMAN MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY AGAINST SARS-COV-2

Texas Biomed teamed up with the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Aridis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. to further develop a human monoclonal antibody (hmAb) 1212C2, which showed promise for preventative use or as a therapy for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Using Aridis' proprietary formulation and plasma half-life extension, the scientists have shown, as outlined in the study on BioRxiv, that delivering hmAb 1212C2 directly to the lung through inhalation or by injection showed significant reduction in viral load in the lungs.



CDC Corona

"Administering targeted human antibodies that bind tightly to SARS-CoV-2 is a promising approach to advance therapies. We must have more effective therapies to reduce the death rate from this ongoing pandemic. I am excited about the opportunity to advance hmAb 1212C2 with Aridis Pharmaceuticals," said Dr. Larry S. Schlesinger, President/CEO of Texas Biomed.

## SCIENTISTS TO STUDY WHETHER AGING IS IMPACTED BY CHANGES IN GUT MICROBIOME

Associate Professor Corinna Ross, Ph.D., is a principal investigator on a \$3.38 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) multi-investigator grant to study "microbiome-mediated therapies for aging and healthspan" in marmosets, which are small monkeys native to South America. A key component of this study is to perform fecal microbiome transplants from young marmosets to older marmosets to determine whether the transplant stabilizes aging in older marmosets, she says.



"Microbial imbalance has been associated with a number of chronic and age-related disorders, but studying these imbalances in human populations is challenging due to variability in diet, exposure to pharmaceutical and differences in physical activity. Marmosets provide us a uniform model from which to evaluate the effects of changes to their microbiome," Dr. Ross said.





## SCIENTISTS JOIN COLLABORATORS FROM AROUND THE NATION TO COMBAT COVID-19

Several scientists at Texas Biomed have been selected to serve on seven national scientific committees and working groups related to COVID-19. The national committees connect scientists from around the nation to develop best practices and exchange ideas to combat COVID-19.

“These appointments highlight the expertise and knowledge that Texas Biomed scientists are able to contribute in the many areas of biomedical and scientific research,” said Dr. Joanne Turner, Vice President, Research for Texas Biomed. “We’re performing multiple SARS-CoV-2 research studies with more than 30 completed and active projects, therefore, it’s important for us to be involved in these national discussions.”

Committee	Member
Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions & Vaccines (ACTIV) Coronavirus Vaccine & Therapy Evaluation Network (CoVTen) sub-committees	Ricardo Carrion, PhD (Chair) Jordi Torrelles, PhD  Shannan Hall-Ursone, DVM  Joanne Turner, PhD
WHO Ad hoc Expert Group on preclinical models of COVID-19 disease	Ricardo Carrion, PhD (NHP) Deepak Kaushal, PhD (NHP)  Luis Martinez-Sobrido, PhD (Rodent) Jordi Torrelles, PhD (Rodent)
Coronavirus Immunotherapy Consortium (CoVIC) through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Jordi Torrelles, PhD Luis Martinez-Sobrido, PhD
National Primate Research Center (NPRC) Coronavirus Vaccine & Therapy Evaluation Network (CoVTen) Leadership	Deepak Kaushal, PhD
National Primate Research Center (NPRC) Coronavirus Vaccine & Therapy Evaluation Network (CoVTen) operations	Ricardo Carrion, PhD Diana Scorpio, DVM
Non-Human Primate (NHP) Coronavirus Vaccine Evaluation Network (CoVEN)	Deepak Kaushal, PhD
National Primate Research Center (NPRC) coronavirus working group	Ricardo Carrion, PhD (co-chair) Luis Giavedoni, PhD
WISC-CoVEN COVID Eval Network	Larry Schelesinger, M.D. Deepak Kaushal, PhD
CIC – COVID Imaging Consortium	Xavier Alvarez, PhD Shashank Ganatra, PhD Deepak Kaushal, PhD

*Texas Biomed National Advisory Committee*

## GLOBAL FOUNDATION AWARDS TEXAS BIOMED \$1 MILLION TO CONDUCT LARGE-SCALE RODENT TESTING OF HUMAN MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES TO COMBAT SARS-COV-2



*Jordi Torrelles, Ph.D.*

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded Texas Biomed \$1 million to test the efficacy of human monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) for the treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection. MAbs are human-made proteins meant to mimic human immune system antibodies. Texas Biomed Professors Luis Martinez-Sobrido, Ph.D. and Jordi B. Torrelles, Ph.D. will co-lead the project to evaluate the protective

efficacy of these MAbs in small rodent models, developed at Texas Biomed, on behalf of the Coronavirus Immunotherapy

Consortium (CoVIC), an international nonprofit consortium evaluating MAb therapeutics for COVID-19.

“The MAbs we will receive are coming from labs from around the world for key experiments in this global effort to advance treatments against SARS-CoV-2,” said Dr. Torrelles, Professor at Texas Biomed, Lead of the Population Health Program and Director of the BSL-3 Program. “The tests will include different concentrations and possible combinations of multiple MAbs to see which gives lasting protection.”



## NIH GRANT AIMS TO ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC MODELS OF AGING FOCUSED ON CREATING BETTER INTERVENTION TOOLS FOR AGE-RELATED DECLINE



Corinna Ross, Ph.D.

The Southwest National Primate Research Center (SNPRC) at Texas Biomedical Research Institute and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio received a \$1.3 million collaborative grant to continue the San Antonio Marmoset Aging Program (SA MAP) and further define the hallmarks of aging in a nonhuman primate (monkey) model. Developing the marmoset model will

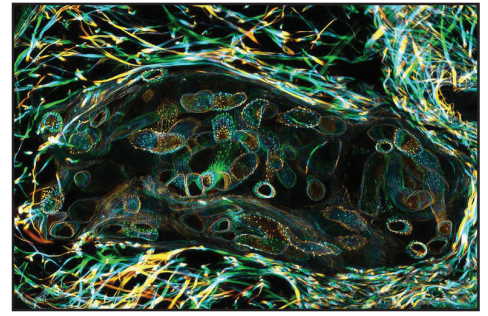
allow for eventual testing of interventions in additional model systems that could slow or change age-related decline in humans.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute on Aging awarded the grant to develop new tools for the characterization of aging to Corinna Ross, Ph.D., Associate Professor at Texas Biomed and Associate Director of Research at the Southwest National Primate Research Center, and Adam Salmon, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Barshop Institute, UT Health San Antonio. Drs. Ross and Salmon will co-lead the team of scientists within SA MAP, leveraging their expertise and resources to gain knowledge behind the molecular and physiological functions behind age-related diseases.

## RESEARCHERS COLLABORATE TO RE-ENGINEER DRUG AGAINST PARASITIC DISEASE

Texas Biomed Professor Tim Anderson, Ph.D. contributed to a study, where Researchers at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio), The University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) and Texas Biomedical Research Center (Texas Biomed) re-engineered the drug compound oxamniquine (OXA), paving the way for potential new treatments to prevent drug resistance among people infected with schistosomiasis, a parasitic disease that impacts 240 million people worldwide, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Results from the study were recently published in the journal PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases.

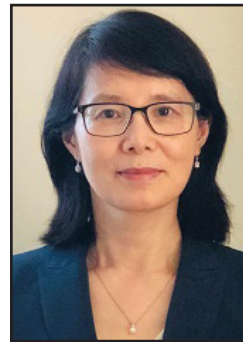
The researchers designed and synthesized derivatives, or drug compounds similar to OXA from the original formulation of OXA. These derivatives



Schistosomiasis

eliminated all three schistosomiasis species in vitro. The three species of flatworms that cause schistosomiasis are: *S. mansoni*, *S. haematobium*, and *S. japonicum*. Praziquantel is moderately effective against all three species; however, its predecessor, oxamniquine, is only effective against adult *S. mansoni*. Structural data from another UT Health San Antonio and Texas Biomed collaborative study using crystallographic analyses, an x-ray of a drug's crystallized form, assisted the team in identifying points that could be restructured to allow oxamniquine to act differently once it is in the body.

## TEXAS BIOMED RESEARCHER USES GENE-EDITING TECHNOLOGY FOR A STEP CLOSER TO THE ERADICATION OF HIV



Binhua "Julie" Ling, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Texas Biomed), is a Principal Investigator and co-corresponding author on a new study published in Nature Communications, where scientists effectively removed inserted Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV) from

many tissues in the body, using the CRISPR-based genome editing system delivered by an adeno-associated virus vector. SIV infection in rhesus macaque non-human primates is similar to HIV infection in humans. This innovative approach moves researchers a step closer to eradicating HIV.

"I am very happy that this rhesus macaque model of SIV infection that my laboratory has studied for HIV research for nearly two decades, enabled this exciting discovery," she said. "For the first time, we tested the proof-of-concept of the gene-editing technology in virus removal in non-human primates, and the results bring us to a new avenue in the search to cure HIV infection."



## OWENS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION AWARDS \$100,000 TO TEXAS BIOMED RESEARCHER TO STUDY ANCIENT VIRUS SEGMENTS IN HUMAN DNA AND THEIR POTENTIAL ROLE IN INDUCING CANCER



*Diako Ebrahimi, Ph.D.*

The William and Ella Owens Medical Research Foundation awarded Diako Ebrahimi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Texas Biomed), \$100,000 to study the role of ancient viral segments of human DNA in cancer. These viral fragments are remnants of ancient infections, which have been passed down to humans over a long course of evolution.

APOBEC3 enzymes are responsible for fighting infection. They aid the body in combatting invading viruses as well as suppressing viruses already within human DNA. These enzymes have also been reported to be responsible for inducing mutations in many cancers, including lung, breast, bladder and cervical cancers. However, little is known about the role of internal viruses in cancer. By analyzing the DNA of cancer patients, researchers can pinpoint the viral classes targeted by APOBEC3 enzymes.

## SCIENTISTS AT TEXAS BIOMED AIM TO TEST THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS OF CBD/THC AGAINST HIV-INDUCED NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded Professor Mahesh Mohan, D.V.M., Ph.D., and collaborators more than \$3.5 million over five years to investigate the effects of cannabinoids on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) associated neurocognitive disorder (HAND). This research project aims to evaluate whether delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and Cannabidiol (CBD) alone or in combination can potentially alter DNA methylation, which is a biological process that can create a change in the expression of certain genes. Using Indian rhesus macaques with Simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV), the monkey equivalent of HIV, researchers will be able to study if changes in gene DNA methylation levels impact inflammation in the brain, which is the underlying cause of HAND.

“We’re focusing on neuro-inflammation that affects the brain even in patients on antiretroviral therapy (ART). There are a few mechanisms that drive this inflammation, but we want to look at immune cells in the blood and cerebrospinal fluid at different stages of SIV infection,” said Dr. Mohan, principal investigator for the study.

Cannabinoids have previously shown great promise for the treatment of neurological disorders; therefore, we want to see if it can exert therapeutic effects in HIV patients suffering from HAND, he added.



## TEXAS BIOMED VETERINARIAN RECEIVES HIGH HONOR FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH



*Dr. Diana Scorpio, D.V.M.*

“It’s a great honor to receive the MERIT award from Dr. Fauci,” Dr. Diana Scorpio, D.V.M., Professor and Associate Director of Veterinary Resources and Research Support at the Southwest National Primate Research Center (SNPRC) said.

Texas Biomed congratulates Dr. Scorpio for being selected by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s highest infectious disease expert,

to receive the 2020 NIAID Merit Award for her efforts on further development of the BCG (bacille Calmette-Guerin) tuberculosis vaccine. Dr. Scorpio was the attending veterinarian on the study during her tenure at the VRC, which is an extension of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), established to facilitate research in vaccine development. Dr. Scorpio also served as the animal program director at the VRC before her appointment at the SNPRC.

This is Dr. Scorpio’s third MERIT award. She received her first MERIT award in 2018 for preclinical work related to the accelerated development of a ZIKA DNA vaccine and one in 2019 for identifying vaccine-induced antibodies capable of neutralizing 59% of HIV-1 and revealing how such antibodies can be induced through focusing on a conserved antigen hotspot.

## SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARDS



Kenny Hoang

Kenny Hoang, a Chemistry teacher at Saint Mary's Hall, was awarded \$2,000 for the submission of his project, Environmental Chemistry and the Sustainability of Aquaponic Systems as a Viable Alternative/Solution to World Hunger and Earth Sustainability. Aquaponics serves as a viable alternative to grow both animals and plants

for food in a sustainable way, while also decreasing humans' carbon footprint in an effort to prevent the depletion of Earth's natural resources. The method uses less space and resources, produces crops faster and at higher yields, and eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers and additives by utilizing the symbiotic relationship between fish and plants.

"The Science Education Award Program offered by the Texas Biomedical Forum has given me the opportunity to give my students the chance to see science in action to come up with solutions to problems the world is facing today," said Hoang. "We are very grateful for everything Texas BioMed has done for the San Antonio community through their outreach programs. Every time we get to work with Texas BioMed, the students and faculty are always excited to hear about science and what amazing things are happening here in San Antonio. They are impressed by the amount of work being done in their own city and how science is being used outside the walls of the classroom. Texas BioMed has made learning science in our community real, exciting, applicable, and fun!"

The project will take place during the 2021-2022 academic year in SMH Chemistry I classes. This cross-curricular initiative involves research where students study how aquaponics works and observe its benefits and effects firsthand. Students will compare aquaponics to traditional methods of planting and farming, and will research and choose their own fish, herbs, and vegetables to use in the project. The students will also house and grow zebra fish for the labs that AP Biology conducts and cover topics in biology, chemistry, environmental science, and more.

"As humans continue to search for alternatives to feed people, while also sustaining Earth's natural resources for future generations, I hope this project/experiment will give my students the opportunity to see applicable, cross-curricular science in action to solve world problems while also opening their minds to the opportunities to better the place they live in, Earth," said Mr. Hoang. "My hope is that this will prompt conversations in the near future and that it empowers students to be a part of this important dialogue as intelligent, knowledgeable citizens of this country and as champions and defenders of the Earth."



## NEW NEXT YEAR

We have some really exciting additions to the Science Education Awards! Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, awards will go to college scholarships for students.. Through a partnership with the Bexar County Scholarship Clearing House, students will for the first time have the opportunity to apply. The new Science Education Award Scholarships will be one-time, merit-based awards each ranging from \$500 to \$20,000. Awards for each year may total \$40,000. A successful applicant must be a senior graduating from a Bexar County or contiguous county High School, must have a GPA of 3.5 or better and must intend to pursue a college curriculum directed towards a degree in Science. Applications can be submitted in conjunction with the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation ([mspf@mspf.org](mailto:mspf@mspf.org)) and will be due in November of 2021.



## GRANTS PROGRAM

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 more than \$3.2 million to the scientists for these “seed grants” which has resulted in major research awards of over \$75 million from other funders such as the NIH.

This year, we are thrilled to announce that the Forum Grants program has raised over \$187,000 to be awarded to the scientists at Texas Biomed. This would not be possible without the support of all of our donors, and we would like to especially recognize the Charles Butt Foundation, Mays Family Foundation, Laura and Lew Moorman, The Family of Betty Kelso, Kim Lewis and Jessica and Clint Worth,

Feik Family Foundation, Nelson Puett Foundation, Carla and John Brozovich, Gloria Steves Dilley, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Frost Charitable Foundation, Triana and Brandon Grossman, Rebecca and Scott Nathan, and Corinna and JB Richter.

As we have all been in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has never been a more important time to support the Texas Biomedical Research Institute and their ground-breaking research with COVID-19 and numerous other infectious diseases that will have lasting global impact for generations to come. Should you wish to donate to the Texas Biomedical Forum Grants Program, we invite you to visit <https://forum.txbiomed.org/forum-grants/>. Thank you for your continued support!

## STUDENT TOURS UPDATE

The team at Texas Biomed continues to do an incredible job of arranging virtual tours for local high school students this spring. So far in 2021 we have welcomed St. Mary's Hall and New Braunfels High School with an online introduction to the work and campus at Texas Biomed, and a virtual presentation and Q&A from one of our scientists. These tours provide a valuable point of connection and advancement for local

young people, and serve to build a meaningful and ongoing relationship with local educators. We are so grateful for the dedication to community outreach among our best researchers and for the gift of their valuable time. We look forward to recruiting and welcoming San Antonio area schools this fall.



## 2021 FORUM AWARDS

Nine scientists received one-year pilot project awards from the Texas Biomedical Forum. Here are the recipients:

### The 2021 Faculty Forum Grant Recipients are:

Ian Cheeseman, Ph.D.

Joanne Turner, Ph.D.

Luis Martinez-Sobrido, Ph.D.

### The 2021 Staff Scientist Forum Grant Recipients are:

Olena Shtanko

Rajesh Thippeshappa

### The 2021 Post-Doctoral Scientist Forum Recipients are:

Colwyn Headley

Xue Li/Neal Platt

### The 2021 Cowles Post-Doctoral Fellowship Recipient is:

Susanta Pahari

### The 2021 Graduate Fellowship Recipient is:

Alyssa Schwami

# Honoring Our Forum Founders

## THE FORUM: THROUGH THE YEARS

This year has been an extraordinary one for The Forum and all of the world. It will forever go into our history books as the year a global pandemic hit and rocked our lives. The Forum Gala was cancelled in 2020, which was the first time that had happened since The Forum was formed in 1970. Now in 2021 under the leadership of Cynthia Kerby, we are successfully pivoting with the introduction of our very first Forum Giving Auction. She says, "As we began our 51st year, we stood strong behind our mission to support the Texas Biomedical Research Institute through community relations, volunteer services and fundraising. This year proved, now more than ever, just how important our service is to The Forum and the Texas Biomed. I am proud to have led an extraordinary group of women this year and we can all be proud of what we have accomplished!"

We celebrated our 50 year anniversary last year, and as with all growing organizations, there have been many changes over the years. Our very first



gala was a picnic at someone's lawn as Past President Jody Lutz pointed out. Amanda Bezner, also a Past President, vividly recalls packaging party favors and watching her mom, Susan Loyd, and other Gala Committee Members make all the decorations in their garage and dining room! Amanda remembers a story from her great aunt, Dottie Block, one of the Forum's Founding Members and first President,



in 1981 when it started to pour rain and the gala needed to be quickly moved from the Lutch Brown Estate to inside Frost Bros. It was a sight to see! Other galas have been hosted at SeaWorld, Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle, the Institute of Texas Cultures, and a few other locations. We eventually made the jump to host all Forum

Galas at The Argyle in the 90's, which was a momentous change. We are so very grateful for the support and partnership they have provided us since.



Another huge change was in 2006-2007 during Terry Gouger's Gala year. Terry remembers breaking down the numbers that year. She was able to successfully cut costs where necessary, but also realized that the Forum could generate additional funds by hosting small events like raffling off the Hyder House in San Miguel de Allende and by selling tickets to a party where her husband's band was the entertainment! The biggest boost of all, however, was her idea to reach out to small businesses in the community for tax deductible donations, which we now refer to as Gala Grants. Committee members each had a goal to secure two \$250 donations, which amounted to an additional \$35,000. As Past President Suzanne Dabbous describes, "Terry came up with Gala Grants which was a crazy good boost of money we could raise--so smart!" Because of Terry's financial savviness, she helped double the Forum's fundraising efforts which totaled \$300,000 that year. More recently, Jody Lutz was able to take Gala Grants to another level during her Gala year in 2015-2016. She was able to secure the Forum's first large corporate grant, The Raptor Grant. This paved the way for more corporate sponsorships in the last five years, which are now a very substantial part of our fundraising efforts.

We also can't forget the year our name changed from Southwest Foundation Forum to Texas Biomedical Forum. This happened during Karen Lee Zachry's presidential year of 2010-2011. Terry Gouger says, "As a lawyer, Karen Lee had the right personality for the name change. She is very methodical." While there were some bylaw changes to be made that Karen Lee's lawyering skills helped with, Karen Lee says the skillset she used the most was bringing people together. She created a committee of several Past Presidents and Founders to provide input on the new name. They laughed, told stories about our history, and were reminded of the bigger mission of which we're a part



of. As Karen Lee said in a letter to her Board, “We may call ourselves by a different name, but the dedicated work of our volunteers in support of the Texas Biomedical Research Institute, goes on and on.”

The addition of the Science Education Awards in 1993 was also very significant. Jerilyn Blanchard was President at the time and was sitting with Valerie Guenther, a Forum Board Trustee and longtime supporter, at a Golden Circle event when the word “education” from one of our older names, Southwest

Foundation for Research and Education, was to be removed. Valerie recalls being horrified and they “agreed it was vital to keep some focus on



education.” Because of that, the Science Education Awards were created. She took the idea to her co-trustees of the V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation who agreed to match funds provided by the Forum. The V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation has been a generous partner ever since. Our most recent pivot of the Science Education Awards under the direction of Cynthia Kerby is the addition of scholarships for high school seniors. Cynthia says, “I am proud to leave a legacy of an exciting new initiative that will strengthen our community outreach and provide support to students interested in science related fields.”

Moving from “the dark ages to more contemporary ages was also huge,” according to Terry. This major change happened the year Suzanne Dabbous was Membership Chair in 2009-2010. Many changes were happening in the technological world, and it was time to make more information available



online instead of on paper. There was also a thought to be more eco-friendly. While we still print a directory every year, it is now optional in order to conserve paper. “We also made a move to be more environmentally friendly by switching

correspondence to Constant Contact,” said Suzanne. Today, we continue to send out some event information by email via Constant Contact, we share information via social media,

and we’ve even had to move our Board meetings to Zoom like so many others have this year!

As we move into the 2021-2022 Forum year with President-Elect Amelita Mauzé as our leader, we want to express our gratitude and appreciation to everyone who has helped shape who we are today - each President and Trustee, every Forum member old and new, our generous supporters and partners, The Argyle, and of course the Texas Biomedical Research Institute for allowing us to support the important work you do. That’s what it has always - and always will - be about. Cheers to many more years and more positive changes to come!

Written by Lauren Pepping

Forum Historian 2020-2021

*Contributions from, in alphabetical order:*

*Amanda Bezner, PP*

*Corbett Christie, Former VP for Institutional Advancement at TBRI*

*Suzanne Dabbous, PP, PGC*

*Terry Gouger, PP, PGC*

*Valerie Guenther*

*Cynthia Kerby, PP, GC*

*Susan Loyd, PGC*

*Jody Lutz, PP, PGC*

*Amelita Mauzé, President-Elect*

*Courtney Percy, PP, PGC*

*Amy Swaney, PP, PGC*

*Karen Lee Zachry, PP, PGC*

*(PP, Past President; GC, Gala Chair)*





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## THE FORUM GALA 2022

Mark your calendars for Forum Gala 2022! We will return to The Argyle on **Saturday, May 7, 2022** for a lovely and fun evening to raise much-needed funds for Texas Biomed. We are excited to announce our Gala leadership for 2022. Rebecca Nathan will be our Gala Chair, with Audra Kerr as Gala Co-Chair. Callie Price will serve as Gala Assistant, Bonnie Muecke as Gala Treasurer and Avril Byrne as Table Sales Chair. Congratulations to all and we look forward to seeing everyone in person in 2022! Stay tuned for more details!

