Forum in Focus





















President's Letter



WOW! What an incredible year so far as the 53rd President of the Texas Biomedical Forum (The Forum). This year has flown by with all the wonderful programming that the Forum Board has planned and executed. I could not be more impressed by the hard work of this inspiring group of women.

Since our last newsletter, The Forum was pleased to host our Spring Lecture Luncheon and Science Education Awards on March 1st featuring Dr. Marcel Daadi discussing the Progress in Stem Cell Treatment—Pipeline for Parkinson's Disease. Dr. Daadi presented to an engaged crowd that included our high school Science Education Award Scholarship recipients. Thank you to Kristin Tips and Allegra Hawkins for this beautifully planned day and to **Kate Rogers** for overseeing our Science Education Awards in conjunction with the V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation.

On March 30th, Lauren Biegler and Ashley Quintanilla chaired our second annual Clay Shoot Classic in partnership with the Founder's Council. This fun and unique event was an incredible financial success (raising just over \$137,000!), and we look forward to recreating this event for many years to come. There was all-day shopping with nine pop-up vendors, including: Modern Outfitters, Gruene Hat Company, Upland Bespoke, Fraulein Boot Company, Chap's Choppin' Tops, The Tiny Finch, Fannie Thomas Fine Jewelry, Leslie Cheatham Design, and AnArte Gallery. In addition to the clay shoot, guests enjoyed a lunch catered by El Jarro de Arturo, an open bar and margarita stations, live and silent auctions, a Gracie Panel raffle, a wine tasting by award winning sommelier Scott Ota, and live music from Django Walker. Thank you to Lauren, Ashley and their committee for a job well done! Through their leadership and hard work, they made the Clay Shoot Classic a highlight of The Forum year!

And last, but certainly not least, our wonderful gala, Birds of a Feather, ended our year of events and programming on May 6th with a gorgeous bang! Gloria Dilley, Triana Grossman, Jayme Russell, Elaine Vornsand, Christina **Ketabchi** and the entire Gala Committee produced a truly unforgettable evening. I cannot thank them enough for the

incredible amount of time, energy and planning that they each contributed. As you well know, the Gala is our most significant fundraising event. I will let Gloria and Triana reveal the unbelievable amount that they raised, but it is truly exciting for our organization. This team worked tirelessly throughout the year, and it was evident the night of the Gala. The event was a beautiful, delicious and stunning success, and it was enjoyed by all. From the décor, the music, and the food, to the ribbon pull and silent auction, everything was executed perfectly. Thank you to Gloria, Triana and the entire Gala Committee! Bravo!

As I reflect on the past year, I am in awe of what this group of women accomplished.

What a wonderful and busy year we have had as an organization! Two lecture luncheons, two special events for our membership, the Clay Shoot Classic, a sold-out gala, a record year for membership, and over \$200,000 in grant donations (as of printing) (Congrats to you, **Joannah Pickett**), and priceless awareness raised for the Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Texas Biomed). Our fiscal year ends July 31st, and our wonderful treasurers, Bonnie Muecke and Christina Ketabchi, are busy crunching the numbers from the Gala and our other fundraising efforts to finalize our gift to Texas Biomed. We look forward to presenting that check in early August.

It has been my absolute privilege and honor to lead the dynamic group of women who make up our board of trustees. Each and every one of them have contributed to our success in a unique and meaningful way. It was bittersweet to hand the gavel to incoming President Rebecca Nathan at our last board meeting of the year, but I know she will do a wonderful job. The future is bright for our organization under her leadership—and for years to come. And now, it is my great honor to join the illustrious ranks of our Past Presidents, including Immediate Past President Amelita Mauzé and my wonderful advisors: Jerilyn Blanchard, Melissa Morgan, Lisa Sechler and Karen Lee Zachry.

Thank you for an unbelievable year serving as the Forum President!

Emilie Herrmann Petty

Past President's Letter



Dear Friends of The Forum,

I attended my first gala committee kick-off party in the fall of 2008 for Suzanne Dabbous and Karen Lee Zachry's Out of Africa. I was recently back in San Antonio, a newlywed, and had no idea where saying "yes" to one of my first committee assignments would lead.

Nearly 15 years later, David and I have an 11 year old who has never been prouder of me than when I was "President" of this organization that I hold dear to my heart. I will be forever grateful to Laura Moorman for encouraging me to join that committee so long ago. The memories and relationships made while promoting the life-saving work being done at the Texas Biomed have been life-changing. Working alongside some of my dearest friends, sister, and sisters-in-law have made it the most rewarding and fun experience.

It was an honor to chair the Nominating Committee this last year, and I take my leave with the utmost confidence in the incoming Executive Board and our impressive new Trustees. The future is bright for The Forum! Thank you for allowing me the honor of being a small part of our history.

> Gratefully, Amelita Mauzé



Headlines

HISTORIAN UPDATE

Callie Price

As my term as The Forum Historian draws to a close, I am delighted to share reflections on this extraordinary journey of discovery, learning, and preservation.

The role of a historian, particularly within an organization as vibrant as The Forum, is often likened to a bridge connecting past, present, and future. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to traverse this bridge, engaging with our rich legacy and sharing our stories, both old and new, with all of you. Additionally, the work of the historian is about preserving the spirit of The Forum, a spirit forged by the dedication and passion of countless women who have contributed to The Forum since its inception in 1970.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this role has been the opportunity to delve into our collective past and bring to light the significant events and individuals that have shaped our organization. Each story retold and each milestone celebrated has helped us stay connected to our roots while fostering a sense of continuity and community.

As I pass on this historian role, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I look forward to seeing how The Forum continues to evolve and support the incredible scientific breakthroughs at Texas Biomed. Our history is not just a record of our past; it's a testament to our resilience, our commitment, and our shared vision for a healthier future.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Rebecca Nathan

The energy surrounding The Forum is palpable! We are appreciative of the 324 women, including 5 new Lifetime Members for whom we are eternally grateful, who this year helped fund emergent science with their membership contributions. We are pleased to announce that we raised \$80,000 through memberships this year—money which will help fund pilot studies at Texas Biomed. Thank you!

We hope you have enjoyed our programs and events throughout the year and look forward to having you join us again for our 54th year of The Forum. Memberships will be ready for renewal beginning on August 1st. Please watch your mailboxes, inboxes, and social media channels for a friendly reminder. Thank you for your ongoing support of The Forum and Texas Biomed.

FORUM GRANTS UPDATE

Joannah Pickett

Joannah Pickett, Assistant Grants Chair, oversaw this year's Forum Grant Fund. These 100 percent tax-deductible gifts are specifically earmarked to fund Pilot Studies by the scientists at Texas Biomed. Due to the generosity of the following individuals, foundations, and corporations, we are pleased to report \$202,000 in grant contributions as of May 18th.

\$50.000

Mays Family Foundation

\$25,000

Karen and Ronald Herrmann/The Herrmann Zeller Family Foundation Valero

\$20,000

Jeanie Rabke Wyatt Foundation

\$10,000

Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation of 1992 Malú and Carlos Alvarez Faye L. and William L. Cowden Charitable Foundation

\$5,000-\$7,500

Emily Glassel
Kay and Clark Mandigo
Laura and Lew Moorman

\$2,500-\$5,000

Barfield Collection by Lisa Kopecky Emilie and Christopher Petty AnaPaula and Mark Watson

\$1,000

Vivienne and Christopher Bathie Donna Block Suzanne and Rick Cavender Dillard's Adrianna and Christopher Grossman Claudia Huntington Audra and Kelly Kerr Brenda King Amelita and David Mauzé Nicola and Michael McLaughlin Claire and Easton McNab Melissa Morgan/M Interiors Susan Oppenheimer Joannah and Christopher Pickett Jayme and William Russell Amy and Ben Swaney/ The Prestigious Mark Amir Taghi Kristin and Dick Tips Jessica and Clint Worth Karen Lee and David Zachry

These funds will be added to the proceeds of our other fundraising events to make a single annual gift to Texas Biomed. We are proud to be able to support Pilot Studies and important medical research through this and all our programs of The Forum board. Thank you for your support!

TEXAS BIOMED HIV VACCINE CANDIDATE AIMS TO BLOCK VIRUS BEFORE IT TAKES ROOT



The National Institutes of Health has awarded \$3.8 million to Texas Biomed Professor Marie-Claire Gauduin, PhD, to further develop a promising HIV vaccine candidate over the next 4 years. An effective HIV vaccine has eluded the biomedical community for decades, in part because it spreads throughout the body within weeks of infection. Dr. Gauduin is aiming to stop HIV where it enters by

designing a vaccine that specifically targets the interior lining of the vagina and rectum, called the mucosal epithelium. The vaccine stimulates the production of antibodies in these areas. Much like a bouncer checking for fake IDs just inside the door, or sentries along a castle wall, the antibodies are well positioned to quickly respond and block the virus from proceeding any further. The grant will allow Dr. Gauduin and her team to build on promising results in nonhuman primates, gathering more data about mechanisms, safety, efficacy and different delivery methods. "I am excited to move forward, and hope to get to the preclinical stage for human trials," Dr. Gauduin says.

THERAPY SHOWS PROMISE TO HELP CLEAR TUBERCULOSIS



A team of Texas Biomed and SNPRC scientists, led by Professor Smriti Mehra, PhD, have identified a promising way to help fight tuberculosis (TB), a disease that still kills nearly 2 million people annually. The research focuses on a potential host-directed therapy that can bolster the body's ability to control infection. Specifically, they found inhibiting an enzyme known as IDO – short for Indoleamine

2,3 dioxygenase – helped nonhuman primates completely eliminate active TB infection. Blocking IDO for 4 weeks in conjunction with antibiotics led to improved health metrics compared with antibiotics alone. "This is exciting," says Dr. Mehra. "We have promising results suggesting an IDO inhibitor could be a host-directed therapy that reduces the length of time and amount of antibiotics that TB patients have to take, especially those with multi-drug resistance."

CODE TOOL MAKES VACCINE DEVELOPMENT FASTER AND MORE ACCURATE

A new software tool developed by Texas Biomed Professor Luis Martinez-Sobrido, PhD, and collaborators in India and Spain can help scientists and vaccine developers quickly edit genetic blueprints of pathogens to make them less harmful. The tool, called CoDe, short for Codon Deoptimization, enables users to make precise edits to a genetic code to make genes less functional. Often, vaccine developers want to optimize or turn up expression of certain genes, and there are plenty of software tools to help with that. But for live attenuated vaccines that contain the full genetic sequence of a virus, it is critical to deoptimize, or turn down, certain genes, to make the vaccines safe and effective. "With CoDe we can precisely mutate thousands of nucleotides in a single gene," Dr. Martinez-Sobrido says. "It also enables us to modulate gene expression of small sections, rather than knocking out entire genes completely. That is very helpful for vaccine design as well as basic research." CoDe is freely available for other academic users and available to license by industry partners.

PROMISING BLADDER CANCER TREATMENT



A modified tuberculosis (TB) vaccine developed at Texas Biomed could help treat a common type of bladder cancer. The current TB vaccine, called BCG, has been used to treat non-muscle invasive bladder cancer since the 1970s. It is extremely effective at preventing the cancer from coming back, but there is one major problem. Most patients cannot tolerate the strong side effects. When treatment fails, bladder removal is the last option. As part of their efforts

to improve the vaccine for TB, Texas Biomed Professor Jordi B. Torrelles, PhD, and his team removed some components from the outer layer of the vaccine and found it caused less inflammation in the lung. They teamed up with UT Health San Antonio to see if the modified vaccine could potentially help with bladder cancer. Studies in mouse models and human cells showed the modified vaccine worked equally as well as the original to treat the cancer, without the strong side effects. The team is now working to secure funding for a clinical trial to see if the results hold true for human patients. Dr. Torrelles and his UT Health colleague were selected to present their story of San Antonio bioscience collaboration at The Health Cell's annual State of the Industry in May.















Lauren Biegler and Ashley Quintanilla

On Thursday, March 30th, The Forum and Founder's Council co-hosted the Second Annual Clay Shoot Classic benefiting Texas Biomed at The San Antonio Gun Club. Forum and Founder's Council co-chairs Lauren Biegler, Ashley Quintanilla, Aaron Asel and Stephanie Dick worked seamlessly together to execute a fun day of clay shooting, pop-up shopping, live music, and entertainment.

Overall, the event raised more than \$138,000, with the profits going to benefit Texas Biomed.

Shooters and spectators were treated to an assortment of Mexican food from El Jarro de Arturo, listened to live music by Django Walker, enjoyed libations and a margarita bar courtesy of our underwriters Live Oak Vodka, Asel & Associates, Silver Eagle Beverages, Ashley and Rad

Weaver for Dulce Vida and Mamitas Seltzers. Scott Otta, a renowned wine sommelier provided a three-course flight of excellent wines for spectators and shooters to enjoy as well.

A special thank you to our title sponsor Modern Outfitters as well as First Citizens Bank, Live Oak Vodka, Asel & Associates, Luther King Capital Management, Silver Eagle Beverages for their generous support in helping make this such a successful event. We would also like to thank all of our other amazing sponsors, underwriters, pop-up vendors, and generous silent and live auction donors.

A special shout out to the talented pop-ups who came out and supported us: Modern Outfitters, Gruene Hat Company, Upland Bespoke, Fraulein Boot Company, Chap's Choppin' Tops, The Tiny Finch, Fannie Thomas Fine Jewelry, An Arte Gallery, and Leslie Cheatham Design. As always, The Forum is grateful for the continued support from our partnership with Akudo Anyanwu and her team at Texas Biomed.













FORUM GALA: BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER

Gloria Dilley & Triana Grossman

Torum/Jala

On the 6th of May, The Argyle was in full bloom for the 52nd annual Texas Biomedical Forum Gala. Every year, this beloved event is one of the most anticipated soirees of the spring season—and 2023 was no exception. Gala Co-Chairs Triana Grossman and Gloria Dilley presented this year's theme "Birds of a Feather Flock Together" in honor of the covey of women who have helped The Forum fly to new heights since its founding in 1970.

On a balmy Saturday evening, hundreds of people descended on The Argyle's front lawn, where live finches greeted guests from inside a beautiful antique birdcage. Cocktails were served beneath a soaring sail tent that was fashioned with a Greek Key trim, draped twinkle lights, and fresh flowers in every shade of pink. The Gala's custom crest, with its floral and avian motifs, was painted onto the party's large circular bar and dance floor, while DJ RomiQ and the Dallas String Quartet (DSQ) played onstage amidst a meadow of flowering cherry blossom trees. Elsewhere in the tent, chic lounge areas in shades of ivory and celadon flanked tall folding screens wrapped in Gucci's Green Heron wallpaper. Linda West, the Dallas-based Fortune Teller and cheeky "Lipsologist", also brought her lip-print reading prowess to the Gala this year.

The 2023 Ribbon Pull was another highlight of the event -and one that helped bolster our fundraising goals. Four glimmering life-size trees draped with red ribbons and acrylic birds revealed a medley of prizes, from gift cards to Kelly Wade Jewelers to local fitness, beauty, and photography packages.

Later, quests were treated to a magical, candlelit dinner inside the club. Fresh garlands woven with lush green vines, hot pink peonies, fragrant roses, and cherry blossoms graced every room and table in what was surely one of the most glamorous nights at The Argyle on record. The three-course menu thoughtfully paid homage to the night's avian theme, from the club's favorite chicken fried quail to a decadent chocolate Faberge egg presented in a phyllo nest for dessert.

As the night progressed, Forum members and guests alike bid on silent auction items that ranged from fine jewelry by David Webb and Fannie Thomas, to premium Formula 1 tickets, mink shawls by Mackenzie Brittingham, and trips to Tuscany and Laguna Beach. Undoubtedly, the night's most precious prizes came from the 5-month-old French Bulldog and 3-month-old Goldendoodle puppies, both of whom made the rounds all evening with fresh flower collars.

After the party, guests returned to the whimsical tent for an afterparty featuring live music and late-night bites. Before flying the nest, guests left with a parting gift courtesy of Saks Fifth Avenue, who generously donated their popular Nest candles to all in attendance.

It was truly an evening to remember—and one for the record books. The 2023 Gala grossed over \$1,000,000 which will help spearhead and support the groundbreaking research happening at Texas Biomed.

Thank you to all who helped make it happen—we are sincerely grateful to our Gala Team, everyone who donated, and all of you who made this year's event such a huge

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- Forum Gala Co-Chairs Tables Gloria & Miguel Dilley, Triana & Brandon Grossman

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- Zachry Corporation

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- Kane Russell Coleman Logan
- Rebecca & Scott Nathan











Forum Sala Continued

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GALA CHAIRS & COMMITTEE

- Forum President, Emilie Herrmann Petty
- Gala Co-Chairs, Triana Grossman & Gloria Steves Dilley
- Gala Assistant, Jayme Russell
- Gala Table Sales, Elaine Vornsand
- Gala Treasurer, Christina Ketabchi

Consultants: Audra Kerr, Raven Labatt, Jody Lutz, Amelita Mauzé, Bonnie Muecke, Rebecca Nathan, Amy Swaney

Gala Committee: Maddie Allen, Amy Berg, Lauren Biegler, Alex Blonkvist, Mackenzie Brittingham, Carla Brozovich, Avril Byrne, Emily Buescher, Emily Carpenter, Jackie Covey, Charlotte Dawson, Juliana Duseck, Burkley Fitzsimons, Katie Fravell, Jamie Gomez, Cece Griffin, Adrianna Grossman, Koren Growcock, Lindsay Guenther, Sarah Hager, Lauren Hawa, Allegra Hawkins, Ann Himoff, Evangelina Holliday, Lauren Kate Holt, Jamie Kowalski, Linda Leavitt, Lee Lee, Carolina Lewis, Sallie Lewis, Kourtney Little, Cassandra Longoria, Scotty Macdaniel, Jordana Matthews, Marie Mays, Nicola McLaughlin, Claire McNab, Sita McNab, Ana Leah Montemayor, Muffin Moorman, KayKay O'Brien, Kelly O'Connor, Clara Ostrander, Federica Padilla, Angelica Palm, Lucy Peveto, Joannah Pickett, Callie Price, Ashley Quintanilla, Christy Rainey, Callie Ramirez, Corinna Richter, Kate Rogers, Kelly Russell, Megan Steves, Erin Swatko, Emily Sytsma, Krystal Taber, Amber Thomas, Fannie Thomas, Natalie Trevino, Alegra Volpe, Alice Welder, Griffin West, Jessica Worth, Margaret Yancy, Jenevieve Zoch











Trustee Luncheon

END OF YEAR FORUM BOARD OF TRUSTEE LUNCHEON

For the final board meeting of our fiscal year, former, continuing, and incoming Forum trustees joined together at The Argyle on the morning of May 3rd. After the meeting concluded with current President, Emilie Petty, passing the gavel to incoming President, Rebecca Nathan, all trustees gathered on the veranda for a beautiful luncheon to celebrate this year's accomplishments. This year, we say goodbye to a handful of trustees. We could not be more appreciative of their many years of service and hard work, and we welcome a new group of women to an exciting new chapter for The Forum.

Outgoing Board of Trustees

Gloria Steves Dilley Katie Fravell Triana Grossman Audra Kerr Scotty Macdaniel Amelita Mauzé Muffin Moorman Callie Price Kate Rogers Kristin Tips

New Board of Trustees

Amy Berg Meredith Muecke Howard Elizabeth Marceau Marie Mays Emily McMurray Kay Kay O'Brien Clara Ostrander Margaret Pape Claire Rouse Sallie Lewis Schneider







To our 324 Forum Members,

Thank you for your contribution, participation and support of The Forum and our mission to help fund groundbreaking research at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute. You are the backbone of our organization, providing us with the foundation and momentum to effectively raise money for essential pilot studies. We are grateful for you and are humbled and excited by the growth of our membership in recent years. Forum memberships run from August to July, so—unless you are one of our 49 Lifetime Members—please be on the lookout for renewal information in August. As always, a current list of Forum Members can be found on our website, along with information regarding renewing your memberships. Please share this information with anyone you think might be interested in joining The Forum. We already have fun and compelling events in the works for 2023 – 2024!

Thank you again for your exceptional and ongoing support.

With gratitude, Rebecca Nathan, Membership Chair





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

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ABOUT TEXAS BIOMED

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.