



# Forum in Focus

FALL 2016

## President's Letter

Dear Members of the Texas Biomedical Forum,

To say that I'm honored, excited, thrilled and overjoyed to serve as this year's Texas Biomedical Forum President is an understatement. There are several reasons for those feelings... I am honored to follow in the footsteps of a wonderful group of ladies that came before me to raise community awareness and money to fund pilot studies for the incredible research being done at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute (*Texas Biomed*) and *Texas Biomed* is truly a special place. Why, you may ask?

Founded in 1941, *Texas Biomed* is home to one of only six Biosafety Level 4 Laboratories (BSL-4) found in North America. But more importantly, it has the only operational BSL-4 lab owned by a private institution, which allows great research flexibility. The world's deadliest diseases for which there are no known treatments or vaccines are studied in these labs. Additionally, *Texas Biomed* is home to the Southwest National Primate Research Center, one of only seven National Institutes of Health National Primate Research Centers. Furthermore, *Texas Biomed* is home to one of the world's largest computer clusters for human genetic and genomic research.

The history between the Forum and *Texas Biomed* is a rich one. Since 1999, the Forum has been raising money for the scientists' pilot study funds, which has allowed them to apply for additional grant monies amounting to about \$54 million. Additionally, the Forum creates awareness about *Texas Biomed* through high school student tours, science education awards for high school teachers, roundtable discussions with scientists and our lecture luncheon events.

This year, I'm lucky to be working with an amazing Board of Trustees, including 14 fabulous new trustees. I am so excited to work with each of them and have truly enjoyed the ideas and enthusiasm from that I've heard from them!

I want to thank, Immediate Past President, **Amanda Bezner** for her time, and dedication to the Forum over her many years as a trustee. This year, Amanda will chair the Nominating Committee and has assembled a great group of six other women that will help shape the future of the Forum. Those others serving on Nominating this year are: Karen Bryant, Ashley Hixon, Emily Jones, Whitney Miller, Mary Beth Mosbacker and Karen Lee Zachry.



Daniela Serna

Last year ended with a bang with our fabulous Forum Gala "Black and White Masquerade" with the leadership of Gala Chair, **Sara Walker**, Gala Co-Chair, **Jody Lutz** and Gala Assistant, **Elizabeth Cox**. It was a beautiful evening that raised an incredible amount of money for *Texas Biomed* scientists' pilot studies. Additionally, this exceptional group of women secured an \$111,409 grant from Raptor to collaborate with *Texas Biomed*. Also, *Texas Biomed* secured a \$100,000 matching grant donation program with UTHSCSA and the leaders of the Gala worked hard to secure this matching grant.

Time is certainly flying and our new Gala leaders are hard at work for next year's Forum Gala, which will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at The Argyle. **Ashley Weaver**, Gala Chair, **Molly Drought**, Gala Co-Chair and **Amelita Mauzé**, Gala Assistant are a dynamic group of women that are devoted to making great things come about for this year's Gala... so mark your calendars today! Of note, Molly Drought is the daughter of **Susan Wise**, who chaired the Forum Gala in 2001. Now, Susan is serving as one of our Gala advisors, along with past Gala Chair **Walton Gregory**, who served as Gala Chair in 1995. We love to engage with our past Gala leaders and are thankful for their continued support.

**Courtney Percy**, First Vice-President- Lecture Luncheon, along with new board trustee, **Carey Hildebrand**, Lecture Luncheon Assistant are in charge of putting together both a Fall and Spring Lecture Luncheon, which are both held at The Argyle. Save the date of Wednesday, November 16, 2016 for the Fall Lecture Luncheon and Wednesday, March 8, 2017 for the Spring Lecture Luncheon. In the last few years, the norm has become for the Forum to host a local speaker that aligns with the innovation of *Texas Biomed*. In the spring, we host a *Texas Biomed* research scientist speaking about his/her cutting edge study. Don't forget to bring a friend and help us showcase our amazing organization with them.

Our membership drive is currently in full swing and will be coming to an end soon. We are recruiting new Forum members, as well as renewing old members. **Jody Lutz**, Fourth Vice-President- Membership and **Karen Bryant**, Membership Assistant are working to make sure this year is a great success. Make sure to renew your membership today!

*Continued on next page.*

One of the benefits of being a Forum member is receiving a Forum directory. **Kelly Wade Fry** is overseeing the process of producing our best directory yet. It will finally hit mailboxes at the end of November and showcase our changes and improvements.

An incredibly important job in our organization belongs to Treasurer, **Sara McCamish** and Assistant/Gala Treasurer, **Amy Swaney**. I am extremely grateful for all the work that these women do to keep our financials in order.

**Elizabeth Cox**, Recording Secretary has been keeping us well organized by sending agendas and minutes timely before our meetings and keeping our attendance records accurately.

**Christine Mayer**, Corresponding Secretary is our official note writer. She diligently keeps a list of who needs to be thanked for their help to the Forum and ensures that they are recognized and appreciated.

**Jessica Berg** and **Mallory Moorman** are this year's Student Tour Co-Chairs. Any area high schools wanting to tour *Texas Biomed* can fill out an application on our website. The Forum hosts once monthly tours on the last Tuesday of the month, except for December and May. Please reach out to us if your child's school is interested in participating.

The Social Media guru is **Brooke Meabon**. She has done a great job posting news on both our Facebook and Instagram accounts. She is working on maximizing what social media can do to create awareness for the Forum. Brooke will be handling these efforts for all Forum related events, including our Gala.

Public Relations efforts are being led by **Audra Kerr** for all Forum events, as well as our much-anticipated Gala. She is expanding the list of PR contacts and working closely with our Social Media Chair and Photographer to ensure that all of our events have great publicity.

**Nicole McClane** is our in house Photographer. She takes pictures of all Forum events and shares those pictures to make sure our newsletter and social media posts are up-to-date to keep the Forum at the forefront in our community.

Special Events Co-Chairs, **Stephanie Dick** and **Adrienne Frost** have been hard at work already. They have perfectly planned our Fall Special Event, the Past President and Gala Chairs Luncheon at the home of Dr. Suzanne Dabbous. Joining us at this special event is the fabulous retailer, Baker Tatum. Additionally, they have great ideas in store for our spring Special Event, so stay tuned for more information.

The *Forum in Focus* newsletter is being taken care of by **Denise Mosser** and **Sarah Trampota**. They have worked tirelessly to streamline the process and make it fresh and fun to read. Now, you will be able to enjoy it in color! They are open to any suggestions, so contact them with any ideas of articles or information you would like to see!

**Cynthia Kerby**, Parliamentarian has already made an impact this year in her job. Not only is she working diligently to review and amend our by-laws this year, but she has also introduced a 'Parliamentary Tip' segment at our board meetings. She has engaged our board trustees helping us all understand the parliamentary process based on Robert's Rules of Order.

**Amy Maverick** and **Whitney Miller**, Science Education Awards Co-Chairs have been moving forward with their efforts to give away free money to high school science teachers at our Spring

Lecture Luncheon and Science Education Awards event on March 8, 2017. Spread the word to your child's school if you know of a teacher that has an idea to further science in his/her classroom. Applications are found on our website.

Logistics Chair, **Lynnette Embrey** has been making sure that all of our Forum events are fully 'staffed'. She recruits board trustees to help with any volunteer needs that our events require. She has been on top of it and helpful to all those chairing Forum events.

Website Liaison, **Heather De Rojas** is soon to be working as our new website will be unveiled later this fall. She will take care of updating our information and keeping the website current with all of our events.

This year we have two new positions on our Forum Board: Forum Grants and Corporate and Community Outreach. These two jobs are extremely important to the sustainability of the Forum.

We work hard all year long raising monies for our efforts to fund pilot/experimental research studies by *Texas Biomed* scientists. **Emily Jones** is leading Forum Grants and she has a clear and amazing vision on how to accomplish this lofty goal by reaching out to corporations, foundations, businesses, as well as individuals alike. We are grateful for all of you that contribute to these important 'seed grants' that lead to greater/larger research study funding crucial to the work at *Texas Biomed*.

Corporate and Community Outreach relates to our Gala table sponsorship effort. We are privileged as an organization to have immense corporate and community support for our Forum Gala that has been in existence for 46 years. The lead on Corporate and Community Outreach is **Hayley Conger**, who has already been extremely organized and thoughtful in her newly created board position. She will head up this effort and ensure that all corporate and community supporters continue to be recognized and appreciated, as they are the heart of our Gala.

The Forum would not be where it is today without the work of our past leaders- Presidents, Gala Chairs and Co-Chairs and former Board Trustees. I am privileged enough to have the help of 4 past leaders that are serving as my Forum Advisors this year- **Terry Gouger**, **Melissa Morgan**, **Karen Lee Zachry** and **Allison Zeller**. These amazing ladies have already given me much of their time, advice, thoughts and cheerleading and for that I'm ever so grateful.

Again this year, we welcome our Honorary Trustees- **Peggy Gracy** and **Leslie Hamilton**. Mrs. Gracy is the wife of Robert Gracy, current President of *Texas Biomed*. Mrs. Hamilton is the wife of Adam Hamilton, current CEO of Southwest Research Institute, a sister organization to *Texas Biomed* also founded by Tom Slick. These ladies have been great supporters of our events, including Lecture Luncheons and Gala and soon they will give a snapshot view of those organizations in their light to our board trustees. We warmly welcome them and thank them for being a part of our board.

I hope this year to share my love of the Forum, biomedical research and the jewel that is, the Texas Biomedical Research Institute that we have here in our very own San Antonio, with all of you.

With gratitude and in service,

*Daniela Serna*

President 2016-2017  
Texas Biomedical Forum



## It's that time of the year... Join or Renew Your Membership to the Texas Biomedical Forum

All women over the age of 21, interested in promoting the work of the **Texas Biomedical Research Institute** are invited to join the Texas Biomedical Forum (Forum). The mission of the Forum is to support Texas Biomed through community relations, volunteer services and fundraising. The Forum's main purpose is to raise pilot study funds for Texas Biomed through its highly anticipated annual Forum Gala held at The Argyle in May... and there are many ways to get involved, but first make sure you initiate/renew your membership, so that you can be in the "know"!

Membership in the Forum includes invitations to the Gala, lecture luncheons and roundtable discussions each year, all held at The Argyle. Your dues also include a tour of the Texas Biomed campus, a membership directory, email blasts with pertinent Forum information and the *Forum in Focus* newsletter, which is published three times per year.

Our membership year has been modified to correlate with our fiscal year and it now starts June 1st through May 31st (of the following year). Next year, the annual membership campaign will begin on May 15th and the deadline to be included in the membership directory is November 1st.

The Standard-level membership is \$50, but feel free to support our cause at a higher level with the Patron-level membership at \$100 or the Benefactor-level membership at \$250. Higher-level memberships allow us the ability to increase our visibility and showcase our existence to support Texas Biomed. All membership levels are 100% tax deductible.

For more information on membership and to join or renew, please visit: <https://www.txbiomed.org/support-us/the-forum/membership/initiate-renew-membership/>

Please note: We highly encourage you to pay your dues online! However, we have enclosed a form to join or renew your membership along with a return envelope for your convenience in this newsletter.

So, join or renew your Forum membership and help spread the word throughout San Antonio about the positive, life-changing research that is being conducted at the city's biomedical research jewel, Texas Biomed!

For membership questions, please email "Jody Lutz, Membership VP" at [texasbiomedicalforum@gmail.com](mailto:texasbiomedicalforum@gmail.com).

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TOURS AT TEXAS BIOMED

Student Tours are a fantastic opportunity for area high school students. Tours are always a rewarding experience for students, teachers, and Forum volunteers. Each year, the Forum facilitates an in-depth tour of the Texas Biomedical Research Institute for several advanced placement Biology and Chemistry classes in San Antonio and the surrounding areas.

Students and Forum tour volunteers are treated to lectures from scientists in the Department of Virology and Immunology and the Department of Genetics, as well as to staff-guided tours of the AT&T Genomics Computing Center. Students will see a video of scientists in the Laboratory and will tour the outside facilities in a school bus.

The 2016-2017 school year tours are filling up fast! If you know of a school that would like a tour, please email "Jessica Berg, Student Tours Chair" and/or "Mallory Moorman, Student Tours Co-Chair" at [texasbiomedicalforum@gmail.com](mailto:texasbiomedicalforum@gmail.com).

### FORUM HOSTS TEXAS BIOMED'S ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

This year's Roundtable Discussion was held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, at The Argyle. The dinner was a great success with a full house of over 80 guests! It was an evening of interesting topics for discussion, and an exciting time to learn more about Texas Biomed's involvement in these promising areas of medicine. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to our scientists for sharing a fun and very informative evening with all in attendance.

#### Genetics

**Michael Proffitt, Ph.D**  
**Shelley Cole, Ph.D**  
**Kim Reeves, Ph.D**  
**Michael Olivier, Ph.D.**

#### Virology

**Manu Anantpadma**  
**Ruth Ruprecht, M.D., Ph.D.**  
**Andrew Hayhurst, Ph.D.**  
**Luis Giavedoni, Ph.D.**

#### SNPRC

**Marcel Daadi, Ph.D.**  
**Chris Chen**

## Attention All Past Presidents and Past Gala Chairs & Co-Chairs... Join Us for a Lovely Luncheon!

A luncheon will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. at the home of Past President/Past Gala Chair, Dr. Suzanne Dabbous featuring Baker Tatum. A portion of sales will benefit the Forum. We would love to see all Past Presidents and Past Gala Chairs and Co-Chairs there. Kindly respond by October 26th to Adrienne Frost and Stephanie Dick, Forum Special Event Co-Chairs at [forumspecialevents@gmail.com](mailto:forumspecialevents@gmail.com).

### *Fall 2016 Lecture Luncheon*

## The Current State of Screening Mammography



Dr. Suzanne Dabbous

The Texas Biomedical Forum invites you to join us for the first Lecture Luncheon of the year on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at The Argyle. We are thrilled to welcome former Texas Biomedical Forum President, Dr. Suzanne Dabbous.

Dr. Suzanne Dabbous is the Founder of Avestée Women's Imaging Center of Alamo Heights and a Board Certified Radiologist. She is a graduate of the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, where she received the highest academic honor of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society Membership. Dr. Dabbous brings a unique imaging perspective to Breast Imaging. During her General Surgery Internship at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, she was able to see firsthand the full spectrum of Breast Cancer treatment from surgery through radiation/chemo and reconstruction. She completed her radiology residency at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas where she received her training in

mammography at the Komen Breast Center by one of the countries experts, Dr. Phil Evans. In addition to Women's Imaging, Dr. Dabbous is a fellowship trained Neuroradiologist but has chosen to restrict her practice to Women's Imaging.

She was inspired to open Avestée Women's Imaging Center when Digital Breast Tomosynthesis was unanimously approved by the FDA in February 2011. She immediately recognized its amazing ability to address the current issues hampering Breast Cancer Screening today, including but not limited to dense breast tissue and committed personally to bringing the technology to San Antonio. ***"I really wanted to be the first to bring the technology to San Antonio women. When I decided to do this, no one had it. But I am very happy I am able to offer the best to my patients. They deserve it and I am sure it will become the standard of care across the nation soon. Whether they come to me or go elsewhere, every woman should get a 2D/3D combo mode mammogram. If you are going to get a mammogram, why would you settle for anything but the best technology available read by highly trained dedicated women's imagers?"***

You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear from one of our own.

## FORUM GRANTS

The Texas Biomedical Forum raises money year round for Forum Grants, which fund pilot studies for Texas Biomedical Research Institute scientists. A pilot study, pilot project or pilot experiment is a small scale preliminary study conducted in order to evaluate feasibility, time, cost, adverse events, and effect size in an attempt to predict an appropriate sample size and improve upon the study design prior to performance of a full scale research project. Each pilot study costs as much as \$50,000 and lasts about one year. These grants are sometimes known as “seed grants” because they are relatively small but the ideas they power can grow to become huge in impact.

In the last 16 years Forum Grants have totaled \$2.4 million in pilot studies, which have directly resulted in more than \$55 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health and other similar organizations. Forum Grants provide our scientists with greater means to study and discover what might lead to a breakthrough, and even a cure, in the fields of heart disease, devastating infectious diseases, Parkinson’s disease, macular degeneration and serious conditions related to aging as well as those of newborns.

Most recently, a Forum Grant in the amount of \$40,000 awarded to Dr. Ruth Ruprecht in 2014 led to Texas Biomedical Research Institute receiving \$23 million from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health. Texas Biomedical Research Institute scientists led by Dr. Ruprecht, together with a multi-institutional coalition of experts from the United States and Europe, are working

towards a coordinated, innovative approach to the development of an AIDS vaccine by targeting a frontline defense at the mucosa, while simultaneously generating backup immune responses in the blood and tissues.

Other recent Forum Grants have led to a breakthrough identifying a promising anti-viral to treat Ebola infection, advance a rapid screening technology for genetic interactions in psychiatric and neurological disorders, funded innovative ways to understand the genetics of heart disease, funded research to understand the influence of the microbiome in obesity and diabetes, and advanced brain imaging studies to show transplanted dopamine-producing neurons used to treat Parkinson’s disease.

We hope you will join our efforts to fundraise for Forum Grants in the following ways:

- Make a fully tax deductible Forum Grant donation, 100% of which will go directly to scientists’ pilot studies.
- Recommend individuals, foundations and corporations that may be interested in contributing. We will gladly reach out to them.
- Help spread the word about this important fundraising initiative that supports research at Texas Biomedical Research Institute.

Proceeds from the Forum Gala in May also support Forum Grants. For more information concerning Grants, please email “Emily Jones, Forum Grants Chair” at [texasbiomedicalforum@gmail.com](mailto:texasbiomedicalforum@gmail.com) or (210) 387-2563.

### TEXAS BIOMED UPDATES

## *Celebrating 75 Years...*

**T**exas Biomedical Research Institute stands today as a splendid testament to the vision of its founder, Tom Slick. It has become one of the world’s leading independent research institutions dedicated to improving the health of our global community through innovative research on the detection, cause, prevention, cure and eradication of disease. Science journals in all parts of the world report our progress, and humanity is enriched by the fruits of its findings. Scientists work each and every day to improve human health and unravel the mysteries of chronic and infectious diseases through innovative thinking, creative problem solving and cutting-edge technologies. Texas Biomed is making today’s discoveries possible – and laying the groundwork to become tomorrow’s cures.

The support of The Texas Biomedical Forum cannot be overlooked. Our gifts are instrumental in assisting scientists in giving birth to novel ideas, which in turn allowing them to apply for larger grant dollars from major funders like the National Institutes of Health. Seventy-five years ago a challenge was established that will never be laid aside and will only continue to grow in greatness and in value to all mankind. Texas Biomedical Forum stands proudly as a partner in the progress that will enrich the lives of each of us and future generations.

# Welcome To Our Newest Board Trustees

In April, 2016, fourteen ladies were slated and elected as New Trustees for the Texas Biomedical Forum. These ladies attended their orientation luncheon at The Argyle in May, 2016. Each of these ladies express a true passion for the Forum and all that it stands for within our community. We would love your help in welcoming them as they begin the newest chapter in their daily role as a New Trustee for the Forum.



## Texas Biomedical Forum New Board Trustees for 2016-2017

**Top Row, Left to Right:** Heather de Rojas, Stephanie Dick.

**Middle Row, Left to Right:** Hayley Conger, Emilie Petty, Kim Johnson, Carey Hildebrand, Brooke Meabon.

**Bottom Row, Left to Right:** Sarah Trampota, Mallory Moorman, Amelita Mauzé, Amy Maverick, Kelly Wade Fry, Audra Kerr

**Not pictured:** Molly Drought and Nicole McClane

**HALEY CONGER** is a Senior Business Development Manager for Constellation an Exelon Company and is married to Brent Conger. She has three children: Hunt – 10, Lyles – 6 and Pack – 2. Hayley became a Trustee because fully believes in our mission and all that the Forum strives to accomplish. She truly enjoyed all of the past lecture luncheons that she attended and looks forward to all in the future. The Forum Gala has always been one of her favorite events of the year!

**HEATHER FEIK de ROJAS** is a realtor and is married to Jeff de Rojas. She became a Trustee because she loves to volunteer her time to what we all know as a fun organization that aids in raising funds to support research for the world renowned Texas Biomedical Research Institute. Her favorite events of the Forum include the Gala and Roundtable Discussions. Heather's father, John Feik, her sister, Amy Garcia, and her brother, J.J. Feik, are all associated with the Texas Biomedical Research Institute.

**STEPHANIE DICK** is a Commercial Relationship Manager and is married to David Dick. She has five children: Alexandria – 21, David – 19, Candice – 16, Logan – 14 and Mykayla – 4. When she is not working, she loves to spend time with her family outdoors and playing volleyball. Stephanie was excited to become a Trustee, so she could increase awareness of the research being done at Texas Biomed and promote this lifesaving work within the San Antonio community. Her favorite events of the Forum include Roundtable Discussions and the Gala.

**CAREY WATSON HILDEBRAND** is a stay at home mom, who loves to volunteer and fundraise. She is married to David Hildebrand, and they have three children: Jackson – 10, Harton – 8 and Hudson – 6. She became a Trustee because she was amazed and inspired with the research conducted at Texas Biomed. Her favorite event of the Forum is the Gala.

**KIM JOHNSON** is a stay at home mom and is married to Clyde Johnson. Kim has three children: Bennett – 10, Shelton – 7 and Elle – 3. She was excited to join the Forum because she has been active in raising funds for medical research in the past and she felt that this was going to be a great opportunity to be involved with raising money for research at the seed level. Her favorite event is the Gala, however, she looks forward to attending more Forum events.

**AUDRA S. KERR** is a Financial Advisor and is married to Kelly Kerr. She has one child: Hayden D. Kerr – 10. Audra's hobbies include reading and skiing. She was encouraged to become a Trustee because of Texas Biomed's mission. Her favorite event to attend is the Science Education Award ceremony.

**AMELITA MOORMAN MAUZÉ** is a co-owner of 5 Broads Off Broadway and is married to David Mauzé. They have one son, George, who is four years old. She was excited to join as a Trustee to help further awareness of Texas Biomed and the work it does. Her favorite Forum event is the Gala. Amelita has several family ties to Texas Biomed, including Past President, Laura Moorman; sister-in-law, Mallory Moorman (also a new Trustee); as well as other family members.

**AMY MAVERICK** is a Physician and is married to Ken Maverick. She has three children: Lauren – 11, Brady – 9 and Quinn – 5. Amy was very excited to become a Trustee because of the medical research conducted at Texas Biomed. Her favorite event to attend are Roundtable Discussions.

**NICOLE McCLANE** is Personal Wardrobe Stylist and is married to Rob McClane, aka Don Roberto! They have two daughters, Lucia Sheldon – 7; and Sydney Nicole – 4. She strongly supports Texas Biomed and its mission in saving lives with the power of scientific discovery. Nicole is honored to act as an Ambassador in promoting the life-saving work of Texas Biomed and helping educate the San Antonio community about the vital research conducted at Texas Biomed. Her favorite events include the Gala and Lecture Luncheons.

**BROOKE MEABON** is the owner of Alamo City Moms Blog and National Sales for City Moms Blog Network. She is married to Jared Meabon. They have two children: Harper – 6 and Harris – 4. Brooke was encouraged to become a Trustee because of the work that Texas Biomed does and its importance, not only for our lives, but also for the future and health of our children. She is passionate because the Forum supports seed money for research that can save lives. Her favorite event is the Gala.

**MALLORY SEALY MOORMAN** is the owner of Smart Barre San Antonio and is married to John Moorman. They have one daughter, Magnolia. Mallory is passionate about the foundation and feels like the work done by the groups associated, such as the Forum and Founder's Council, make an intentional and specific impact. She loves all Forum events; however, Lecture Luncheons are her favorite. Mallory's family ties to the Forum include her sister-in-law, Laura Moorman, Past President and Amelita Mauzé, who is also a new Trustee.

**EMILIE HERRMANN PETTY** is an attorney and is married to Christopher Petty. They have two sons: Hildebrand – 4 and Augustus -2. She loves being a mom! Emilie was encouraged to become a Trustee because of her love for this unique organization and what it does! Her favorite event is the Gala. She does have familial ties to Texas Biomed.

**SARAH ELIZABETH TRAMPOTA** is an Interventional Pain Management Physician and Anesthesiologist. In her free time, Sarah enjoys spending time with family and friends. She enjoys running, playing racquetball and loves to travel. Sarah was influenced by her dear friend, Jody Lutz to become a member of the Forum and then encouraged by several others to pursue becoming a Trustee of the Forum. Her favorite events include the Gala and Lecture Luncheons.

**KELLY WADE FRY** is the co-owner of Shetler Wade Jewelers and a graduate gemologist. She is married to Steven Fry. They have two daughters: Nancy Nell – 10 and Raleigh – 3. She joined the Forum because of the impact it has on our community, as well as the world! It's a remarkable resource and we are blessed to be a part of its fundraising in San Antonio. Her favorite events include the Gala and Roundtable Discussions.

## FORUM GALA 2017

We hope you will join us for an elegant evening

### *In Bloom*

Save the date for a beautiful evening celebrating the classic traditions of The Argyle and supporting the life changing, ground breaking research of the Texas Biomedical Research Institute.



This year's Gala will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Ashley Weaver (Gala Chair), Molly Drought (Gala Co-Chair) and Amelita Mauzé (Gala Assistant) are already hard at work planning what promises to be an evening of that will not be forgotten.

The theme, *In Bloom*, was presented to the committee on Wednesday, September 28th, at a seated luncheon on the veranda. The flower-filled mint julep cup party favors gave only a taste of the classic and elegant evening to come.

We anticipate that this year's Gala will sell out quickly. Please make your reservations early.

If you are unable to attend the Gala, please consider making a Forum Grant donation – a wonderful way to directly support the Texas Biomed through the Forum's fundraising efforts.

## FORUM TIDBITS

### *Did you know...*

**Texas Biomedical Forum Established:** 1970-1971

**Previously known as the:** Southwest Foundation Forum

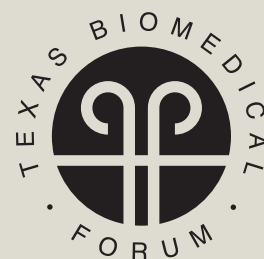
**Original concept to form the Forum by:** Mrs. S. S. Walter, Mr. Lewis T. Johnson, Mr. L. Richard Smith, Jr., and Dr. Harold Vagtborg

**Founding Members:** Mrs. Dottie Dreeben Block, Mrs. Tena Gorman, and Mrs. Ruth Eilene Sullivan

**Total Past Presidents:** 46

**Total Past Gala Chairs and Co-Chairs:** 92

**Total Current Board Trustees:** 40





## THE 2016 BIOMEDICAL FORUM GALA: THE PARTY OF THE CENTURY.

On Saturday, May 7th, men in tuxedos and women in black and white gowns; faces adorned with masquerade masks of all shapes and sizes, gathered at The Argyle for the 45th Annual Texas Biomedical Forum Gala. The theme, taken from Truman Capote's infamous 1966 Black & White Ball labeled "The Party of the Century," mirrored the historic party's aesthetic in more ways than just attire. Just as Capote envisioned his guests being the "flowers" of the evening, the Gala allowed the guests with their elaborate masks amongst a sea of black and white decor to serve as the centerpieces of the evening.

This year's Gala Chair, **Sara Stumberg Walker**, Co-Chair **Jody Lutz** and Gala Assistant, **Elizabeth Cox**, worked around the clock to create an evening of timeless elegance and awareness about the important work occurring at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute and its much needed fundraising. With the help of fabulous committee chairs, committee members, volunteers, community supporters, our partners at the UT Health Science Center and members like you, **the Forum was able to secure \$511,409.00 in Forum Grants for the Texas Biomedical Research Institute.** This contribution will be used to fund pilot studies at the Institute and will help the scientists put their ideas into action. A special thanks to our Gala Treasurer, **Dr. Sara McCamish**, for her hard work and time spent in tracking the sales, donations and intricacies of the event.

Planning for *The Party of The Century* began in June of 2015, with the selection of our fantastic committee chairs. **Fabiola Kaase**, our Table Sales Chair, immediately stepped into her role and helped create our first cohesive database of past donors and table sponsors to ensure that no one was left out of the fun. This year, we introduced a new table sponsorship level at \$7,500 (a step between our traditional \$5,000 and \$10,000 table levels) and Fabiola helped us raise almost \$300,000 in Table Sales alone. Our Forum Grants Chairs, **Heather De Rojas** and **Cynthia Kerby** hit the ground running leaving no stone unturned. Thanks to this spectacular team, we were able to meet a \$100,000 matching grant opportunity presented to us by the UT Health Science Center and raised a total of \$362,321 through Forum Grant efforts.

The party's logo, a hand drawn sketch of Babe Paley, carried the evening's theme on all of the letters and materials for the event. Invitations Chair, **Mary McNelis**, designed beautiful black and white invitations which featured photographs of Truman Capote's party at the Plaza Hotel. The pictures showcased the evening's elegant decor and the era's A-list celebrities who attended. Each and every invitation was hand-tied with a delicate black ribbon, sealed with a silver wax stamp of the Forum's logo and hand delivered.



Masks and Make Believe out of Louisiana generously supported the Forum and a sold out trunk show illustrated the demand for masks! Guests accessorized in masks of all shapes and sizes as a nod to the theme on the night of the event.

As guests arrived at The Argyle, they were greeted by a signature "In Cold Blood" champagne cocktail, a tribute to Capote's most famous work. A piano player entertained guests, while internationally acclaimed artist Bryson Brooks painted the party in real time. The scene set by Decoration Chair, **Whitney Schones** featured dramatic elements of black and white infused with a modern touch. Photos from Capote's party illuminated the back wall of the beautifully illuminated tent, a custom designed photo backdrop utilizing fashion sketches from the inspirational party lined another wall. Ghost chairs filled The Argyle and **Trinity Flowers** accented the evening with their signature gorgeous blooms. The effect was vintage and yet refreshingly modern as well.

Capote's party was inspired by the ballroom scene in *My Fair Lady*, which played on the lawn during the After Party. "The Party at the Plaza..The Place to Be" was chaired by **Nicole McClane**. The After Party had a life of its own. New York themed food and music by Jordan Khan and his band Manhattan kept guests on the dance floor until the morning hours.

The party was aesthetically a beautiful event, a fabulous evening was had by all and a record setting amount of money was raised.

*We look forward to Gala 2017!*

# THE PARTY OF THE CENTURY

*Saturday, May 7, 2016*

## *Table Sponsors*

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Karen and Tim Hixon  
Law Offices of S. Jason Westmoreland, P.C.  
Laura and Lew Moorman with Nancy and Jeff Moorman

### *Katharine Graham*

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Shannon and Jon Turner  
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Corporate Solutions	Longoria-Wright Foundation	Texas Biomedical Research Institute (2)
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Duffin Family and Oliver Family	Amy and Kenneth Maverick	USAA
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# 2016 Forum Grant Donors

## Matching Grant Champions (\$25,000)

Brown Foundation  
Stumberg Family Foundation  
Valero Energy Foundation

## In Cold Blood (\$10,000)

Emory Hamilton  
Mays Family Foundation

## Summer Crossing (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Klesse Foundation

## Breakfast at Tiffany's (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Helen Groves  
Denise and Matt Mosser  
John Newman Family Charitable Fund  
Danise J. Sullivan Foundation  
Ashley and Rad Weaver  
Lisa and Jason Westmoreland

## Other Voices. Other Rooms (\$500 - \$999)

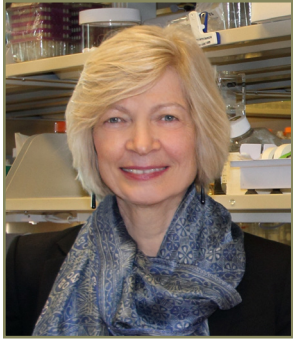
Lauren and John Browning, M.D.  
Laura and Lew Moorman  
Sarah Trampota, M.D.  
Allison and Josh Zeller

## The Grass Harp (\$250 - \$499)

Carla Brozovich  
Debra and Corbett Christie  
Heather and Jeff de Rojas  
Amy and Mark Garcia  
Triana and Brandon Crossman  
Terry and J.B. Gouger  
Cynthia and Paul Kerby, M.D.  
Mary McNelis Interiors  
Casey Roy Design  
South Texas Money Management  
Joan and Richey Wyatt



## Comprehensive HIV vaccine project funded at \$23 million by NIH



Dr. Ruth Ruprecht

Texas Biomedical Research Institute scientists, together with a multi-institutional coalition of experts from the United States and Europe, announced the receipt of a \$23 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health. The goal of this program is to establish

a vaccine approach that targets a frontline defense at the mucosa, while simultaneously generating backup immune responses in the blood and tissues.

The new Program Project grant is led by Dr. Ruth Ruprecht, Scientist and Director of the Texas Biomed AIDS Research Program, as the principal investigator. She has brought together leaders in the fields of viral pathogenesis, molecular biology, whole body imaging, monoclonal antibody development, immunology, lymph node-targeted vaccine design and animal modeling.

The AIDS epidemic has been the worst infectious disease outbreak in modern history, killing 35 million people and continuing to infect 50,000 people in the U.S. each year.

“The basic idea of the new program project is to induce host defenses against HIV simultaneously at multiple levels, first at mucosal barriers, then in mucosal tissues, and finally in the systemic circulation and the rest of the body,” Dr. Ruprecht explained.

NIH’s Office of Research Infrastructure Programs is the fourth renewal of the Center grant that provides funds to SNPRC to continue operation of its facility with nearly 3,000 nonhuman primates and continue its research in aging, regenerative medicine, experimental physiology and genomics and infectious diseases.

The NPRCs advance human health through a network of unique institutions that provide animals, expertise, and specialized facilities and equipment to scientists conducting research with nonhuman primates. Each of the seven NPRCs must reapply regularly to receive support through a P51 grant, and SNPRC reapplied last year. The Center underwent a thorough review of its application and a 35-person site visit of outside scientists and NIH officials before receiving this most recent award.

“Our team is delighted to receive this grant support from NIH, as we strive to maintain our reputation of excellence in the care of nonhuman primates in research,” said Dr. John Bernal, Associate Director of Veterinary Resources and Research Support. “Our goal is to provide the best environment possible for animals in research, and this support will allow us to continue to improve our facilities and the training of our team.”

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## Scientists receive \$3.5 million from NIH to study drug resistance in a global parasitic disease



Dr. Tim Anderson

In June 2016, Texas Biomed announced that Dr. Tim Anderson in the Department of Genetics at Texas Biomedical Research Institute and Dr. Phil LoVerde at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio were awarded a \$3.5 million grant over the next five years by the National Institutes of Health to understand

the genetic changes in the schistosome parasite that lead to drug resistance.

Schistosomiasis, a disease caused by parasitic flukes that live in the blood vessels, affects more than 200 million people in Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East and ranks second only to malaria as the most devastating parasitic disease of humans, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Chronic schistosomiasis infection can lead to liver failure and bladder cancer, and in 240 thousand people annually, infection can lead to death.

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## Southwest National Primate Research Center at Texas Biomed receives \$40 million NIH grant

The Southwest National Primate Research Center (SNPRC) at Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Texas Biomed) was awarded more than \$40 million for a National Institutes of Health P51 grant through 2021 to continue research programs using nonhuman primates (NHP) as part of the National Primate Research Center (NPRC) consortia. This five-year grant from the



Praziquantel (PZQ) is the primary drug to treat schistosomiasis, and 250 million doses of this drug are now used to treat patients every year. With such intensive drug treatment the public health community is concerned that resistance to this drug will emerge – or may have already emerged. The way in which the drug kills parasites is also not known. PZQ targets adult parasites, and it is unknown why the drug is ineffective against immature stages.

Anderson explained. “Once we know how the drug works, we can start to improve it. One way to understand how the drug works is to identify the genes that make parasites resistant.”

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## Texas Biomedical Research Institute and Southwest Research Institute awarded collaborative \$3.4 million contract for Ebola countermeasure



Dr. Robert Davey

Texas Biomed and Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) announced in June 2016 a one-year, \$3.4 million contract award from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) to combine two available medications and test the resulting combination drug therapy against the Ebola virus.

In the release, SwRI noted that there are currently no proven treatments for the Ebola virus and outbreaks can cause fatalities as high as 90 percent.

“Using its core pharmaceutical capabilities, SwRI will create a more bioavailable, or more easily absorbed, formulation of cepharanthine (CEPN),” SwRI noted in the news release. “CEPN is a Japanese drug that has been safely used by humans for more than 40 years to treat a wide range of illnesses. In screening for chemical compounds that could potentially fight Ebola virus infection, Texas Biomed scientists discovered CEPN was effective at combatting the Ebola virus but required very high doses. This new formulation of CEPN will be combined with chloroquine, a drug used to treat malaria. Texas Biomed will conduct efficacy testing of the formulations in its state-of-the-art Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory.”

## TOPS' GENOME Registry Seeks Answers to Obesity Challenges



Dr. Michael Olivier



Dr. Tony Comuzzie

Wisconsin-based TOPS Club Inc.® (Take Off Pounds Sensibly®), the nonprofit weight-loss support organization, announced a collaborative study with Texas Biomedical Research Institute this past summer aimed at trying to unlock the mystery of why some people gain weight – and cannot lose it – while others have success at taking weight off and keeping it off. This effort has gained national attention, recently being featured on National Public Radio's “[Here and Now](#).”

Through an electronic questionnaire, available at [www.topsgenome.com](http://www.topsgenome.com), volunteers provide eating habits, daily routines, and history of weight gain and loss. Some have been invited to participate in further research by providing a saliva sample of their DNA. According to Michael Olivier, Ph.D., co-director of the Center and Chair of the Department of Genetics at Texas Biomed, the information collected will help researchers identify what has helped people lose weight successfully, even as others struggle.

“Genes are not the sole culprit,” explains Anthony Comuzzie, Ph.D., co-director of the Center. “Environmental factors such as diet and exercise also play a major role. Two major changes have occurred over the last four to five decades: changes in our environment that make calories easy to come by (for example, an increased number of fast-food eateries) as well as technological advances such as garage door openers and remote controls, that make it more and more difficult for us to burn calories in our daily lives... As a result, even those without a genetic predisposition to weight gain find it increasingly difficult to keep themselves from putting on pounds.”

## Past President's Letter

How fast a year flew by! The message that repeats in my head frequently these days is, "The days are long, but the years are short." I've certainly felt my years serving as a trustee for the Forum have been "short" but such a richly, rewarding experience. To watch women come together as a team for a common cause always makes my heart happy and this rings true especially for the Trustees who serve the Forum.

My hat goes off to our 2016 Gala Chairs, Sara Walker and Jody Lutz and Gala Assistant, Elizabeth Cox, for producing a fabulous Gala in every way. From the fundraising arm to the production of the event, these women and their committee truly pulled out a show-stopper evening. A round of applause is deserved for their hard work, raising more than \$500,000, which will result in more grants for pilot studies at Texas Biomed than ever before. I feel proud of this accomplishment and incredibly hopefully for what the future research will uncover. A big thanks to the entire Board of the Forum for all of your time, dedication and talent that you bring to the table every day!

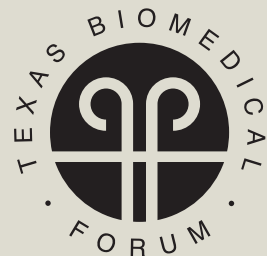
It was a privilege and an honor to serve as your President this past year. The Forum has been part of my life for 7 years and counting. I'm confident the Forum will continue to thrive and provide funding for Texas Biomed's pilot studies, and I promise to continue being a good steward for this incredible organization.

I am grateful for my experiences within the Forum and I can't thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to lead.

All my best,

*Amanda*

Amanda Bezner



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**Top Row, Left to Right:** Christine Mayer, Sara McCamish, Jody Lutz, Elizabeth Cox, Amanda Bezner

**Bottom Row, Left to Right:** Courtney Percy, Daniela Serna, Ashley Weaver

**Not Pictured:** Molly Drought and Amy Swaney

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## **SAVE THE DATE FOR ALL THE UPCOMING FORUM EVENTS**

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

**Past President - Past Gala Chairs Luncheon**

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

**Fall Lecture Luncheon**

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

**Science Education Awards and Spring Lecture Luncheon**

Saturday, May 6, 2017

**Forum Gala**

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

**Board of Trustees - Past President Luncheon**