



Forum in Focus

SPRING 2017

President's Letter

Dear Members of the Texas Biomedical Forum,

It is hard to believe that this Forum year has come to an end. The Forum enjoyed a truly successful year due to the help of our Board Trustees in many ways, including a highly anticipated and amazing Forum Gala and some organizational enhancements, as well as visits from other organizations also established by Tom Slick, Jr.- Jeff Bailey, Past President of *Texas Biomed's* Founder's Council and Leslie Hamilton representing Southwest Research Institute (SWRI).

Of note, this last *Forum in Focus* newsletter of the year will serve as our year-end-review report, highlighting in detail all our community and special events that took place throughout the year, including our recent, wildly successful **Forum Gala 2017: In Bloom**. We hope you enjoy this format that closes out this Forum year.

As you all know, the purpose of the Texas Biomedical Forum, known simply as the 'Forum' is to support the Texas Biomedical Research Institute (*Texas Biomed*) through community relations, volunteer services and fundraising. Our three mission components were achieved in the following ways this year...

Community relations of the Forum keep us busy and involve hosting two Lecture Luncheons annually, one Roundtable Discussion, several Special Events a year, monthly Student Tours for high school students, annual Science Education Awards for high school teachers, as well as publishing our *Forum in Focus* Newsletter three times per year. These community relations are accomplished by the **volunteer services** of our Board Trustees, Advisors and Honorary Advisors. **Fundraising** is a Forum specialty. Membership dues fund most of our Forum work, including administrative needs and, importantly, our science education awards program that awards grants to high school science teachers. The Forum Gala specifically fundraises for pilot study grants done by *Texas Biomed* research scientists to accomplish investigational, small scale studies, which often lead to competitive, well-funded grants by national agencies.



Daniela Serna

We are grateful for the participation of the *Texas Biomed* scientists at our Roundtable Discussions in October- thank you to Dr. Anantpadma, Dr. Chen, Dr. Cole, Dr. Daadi, Dr. Giavedoni, Dr. Hayhurst, Dr. Olivier, Dr. Proffitt, Dr. Reeves and Dr. Ruprecht for their time and insights for our audience. Additionally, we are thankful for both of our Lecture Luncheon speakers- Dr. Suzanne Dabbous, Past President and Past Gala Chair of the Forum and Dr. Ricardo Carrion from *Texas Biomed's* Department of Virology and Immunology.

As for our community outreach, we congratulate our 23rd annual Science Education Awards winners representing four area high schools. These awards are generously and equally supported by Mrs. Valerie Guenther and the V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation, along with the Forum. *Texas Biomed* provided scientific support in evaluating award submissions. Additional community outreach was achieved through a wonderful year of Forum Student Tours, six area high schools from all over San Antonio visited *Texas Biomed* this year.

We enjoyed several special events this year- the annual Gala Kickoff Luncheon at The Argyle; Past Presidents Luncheon that included our Past Gala Chairs and Co-Chairs this year at the home of Suzanne Dabbous; Board Trustees Christmas Cocktail Party at the home of Karen Lee Zachry; Spring Jewelry Show Luncheon at Saks Fifth Avenue; first ever Neiman Marcus – Jefferson Bank Stiletto Strut honoring our annual Gala Fashion Show held at The Argyle; annual Board Trustee/Past Presidents Luncheon at the end of the year also at The Argyle and last, but certainly not least, our much anticipated Forum Gala 2017: In Bloom, which took place on the first Saturday in May as has been our tradition. It was a stunning event with amazing décor, delicious food, and dancing 'Under the Moon'... and an incredible fundraising success!

Continued on next page.

The purpose of the Texas Biomedical Forum is to support the Texas Biomedical Research Institute through community relations, volunteer service and fundraising.

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank the **members** of the Forum. We are appreciative of your membership donations as they help fund primarily our Science Education Awards high school teacher winners, the printing and mailing of our *Forum in Focus* newsletter and directory, along with all our organizational administrative needs, which ultimately allow us to do the good work of the Forum raising money for *Texas Biomed*. Any membership monies left at the end of the fiscal year are then donated back to *Texas Biomed* scientific needs and studies as determined by the President of the Forum.

Lastly, I share with you why I feel that *Texas Biomed* is a true treasure in our community and why the Forum takes time to educate our community about this great Institution and its special attributes:

- **Biosafety Level 4 Lab (BSL-4):** it is home to one of only six found in North America, where the world's deadliest diseases for which there are no known treatments or vaccines are studied.
- **Private BSL-4:** it is home to the only operational lab owned by a private institution, which allows great research flexibility and offers the safest environment for scientists to study deadly pathogens for which there are no cures.
- **Southwest National Primate Research Center:** it is home to one of only seven National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Primate Research Centers, which houses a world-class colony of non-human primates which are critical to understanding human disease.
- **Genetic & Genomics Research Center:** it is home to one of the world's largest computer clusters, which investigates how variation in our genes & cells determine our health outcomes.

We also spread the word that our Forum work is mega important to *Texas Biomed* because we contribute significant funding for pilot studies. In the last 17 years, the Forum has awarded about \$2.4 million to fund these studies. As a result, scientists have been awarded nearly \$60 million of additional funds to continue their work (a 30-fold return)!

I would like to acknowledge our Forum Past Presidents, as they have paved the way for us and with their help and that of the Past Gala Chairs and Co-Chairs, they have established many corporate and community partnerships that support our cause. We know we would not be where we are without the ladies/leadership that came before us.

Lastly, I thank each one of our **Board Trustees**- Courtney, Ashley, Molly, Jody, Sara, Amy, Elizabeth, Christine, Amanda, Kim, Emilie, Hayley, Amy, Shalimar, Kelly, Emily, Amelita, Lynnette, Carey, Karen, Denise, Sarah, Cynthia, Brooke, Audra, Nicole, Amy, Whitney, Stephanie, Adrienne, Jessica, Mallory, Heather, Terry, Melissa, Karen Lee, Allison, Peggy and Leslie... without you this year would not have been the year that it was. I am truly thankful for your gift of time, talent and treasure, especially when 'life' continues along quickly, as we try to do this important volunteer work.

It has been my honor to serve as this year's President and I know we are in great hands with our next President, Courtney Percy. I truly look forward for the years to come for the Texas Biomedical Forum... an organization dear to my fundraising and volunteerism heart and scientific soul.

With gratitude and in service,

Daniela Serna
President 2016-2017
Texas Biomedical Forum



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS 2016



Our annual Roundtable Discussions was held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at The Argyle. The event was hosted by the Texas Biomedical Research Institute, specifically for the education of Forum members and for *Texas Biomed* Circle of Support members and their guests. The fun-filled evening included 60 attendees who all enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dessert and engaging conversations about cutting edge medical research with some of our amazing scientists from the *Texas Biomed*. A sincere and warm thanks to our participating scientists in their respective departments for their gift of time and ensuring that this event continues to take place.

~Daniela Serna, President

Genetics

Dr. Shelley Cole
Dr. Michael Olivier
Dr. Michael Proffitt
Dr. Kim Reeves

Virology

Dr. Manu Anantpadma
Dr. Luis Giavedoni
Dr. Andrew Hayhurst
Dr. Ruth Ruprecht

Southwest National Primate Research Center

Dr. Chris Chen
Dr. Marcel Daadi



SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARDS 2017

On Wednesday, March 8th, the 23rd Texas Biomedical Forum Science Education Awards ceremony and lecture luncheon was held at The Argyle. Since its inception, these awards have provided over \$460,000 in grants to help fund innovative science projects for high schools throughout Bexar County. These funds have been made possible through joint grants from the V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation and the Texas Biomedical Forum.

This year a total of \$20,000 was divided among 4 finalists, with a first ever tie for first place. Applications were judged jointly by members of the Forum, Whitney Miller and Amy Maverick, Mrs. Valerie Guenther, and volunteer Scientists from the Institute, including Ellen Quillen, PhD, Staff Scientist with the Department of Genetics, Lydia Bederka, PhD and Post-doctoral Fellow with the Institute, and Dr. Raul Bastarrachea, Staff Scientist with the Southwest National Primate Research Center.

After the awards presentation, San Antonio native, Dr. Ricardo Carrion, Jr., Associate Scientist and BSL-4 Laboratory Associate Director at the Institute, presented to the winners and Forum members on his work at *Texas Biomed*.



2017 SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

1st Place - Tie
\$7,000 Winners

Rachael Guillen

Young Women's Leadership Academy

"Using DNA Technology to Research Genealogy"

Mitochondrial DNA and Alu Insertion Polymorphism analysis to infer overall genealogy lineage.

Jose Ayala

Brooks Academy of Science and Engineering

"Hunting for New Antibiotics in the Wild"

Identifying possible new undiscovered antibiotic compounds originated from domesticated and wild plants.

2nd Place - \$4,500

Jennifer Rice

John Marshall High School

"Forensic Anthropology: Identifying Skeletal Remains"

Using human skeletal remains to accurately identify the approximate age, height, sex and race of the individual to solve forensic mysteries.

3rd Place - \$1,500

Sarah Thompson

Earl Warren High School

"A Look Inside: Using Preserved Specimens to Further Aquatic Learning"

Expressing internal aquatic anatomy and dissection through hands on learning instruments.

~Whitney Solcher, Science Education Awards Co-Chair

STUDENT TOURS



It has been a great year for Forum Student Tours at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute. These are open for any high schools in San Antonio and the surrounding Bexar County area. Several new high schools toured the facility, as well as

schools that ask to come back yearly. We had six tours this year, which included both public and private high schools: Warren High School, San Antonio Christian School, Southside High School, St. Anthony Catholic High School, Poteet High School, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Academy. We always receive great feedback from students and teachers.

Student Tours are a fantastic opportunity for area high school students to engage and learn from *Texas Biomed* scientists and to experience an in-depth primate tour at the Southwest National Primate Research Center (SNPRC) on the same campus.

As always, all Forum members are encouraged to attend a Student Tour. Please check the calendar later in the fall. If you know of a school that is interested in participating, please email us at texasbiomedicalforum@gmail.com.

~Jessica Berg, Student Tours Co-Chair

FORUM GRANTS 2017

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the generous donors listed below who supported Forum Grants this year. Over \$157,000 has been raised for Forum Grants this year to fund pilot studies. We are delighted to report that this grand total qualifies the Texas Biomedical Research Institute to receive matching funds from the UT Health Science Center San Antonio and the Southwest Research Institute which will further raise the total funds raised for pilot studies. For more information about Forum Grants and to make a donation, please contact Emily Jones, Forum Grants Chair, at emilymorrowjones@yahoo.com or (210) 387-2563.

~Emily Jones, Forum Grants Chair

\$100,000

Kittie Nelson Ferguson
Foundation

\$10,000

Emory A. Hamilton
Robert and Jill Turner
Valero Energy Foundation

\$5,000

Daniela and Antonio Serna, IV

\$2,500

Michael S. Morrow

\$1,000

Anonymous
Hayley and Brent Conger
Mr. and Mrs. James Gorman
Jefferson Bank
Emily and Brad Jones
Susan M. Kerr
Lonestar Pest Solutions,
Tina and Richard Montoya
Denise and Matt Mosser
Dr. Sarah Trampota of
Advantage Pain Mgmt.
Suzanne and Dick Wade
Tracy and Jack Williams, III
Karen Lee and David Zachry
Keith Zars Pools
Saks Fifth Avenue

\$500

Dr. and Mrs. John Browning
Judy Cavender
Charles E. Cheever
Lynnette and Trey Embrey
Eric and Lauren Fisher
Four Seasons Ob/Gyn, M.D., P.A.
Jody and Howard Lutz
Melissa and Kelton Morgan
Lisa and Shawn Rosenzweig
Allison and Josh Zeller

\$300

Triana Grossman

\$250

Heather and Jeff de Rojas
Carter Lawson
Allison Stocker, MD / Skin by
Design Dermatology &
Laser Center, P.A.
Linda Yarborough

\$100

Joan and Richey Wyatt

FORUM HEARTFELT THANKS

We want to extend a sincere and warm thank you to the following...

- Jeff Bailey, Past President of the Founder's Council for attending and speaking at our October board meeting
- Leslie Hamilton, current Forum Advisor and wife of Adam Hamilton, President and CEO of Southwest Research Institute (SWRI) for sharing an overview of SWRI with Forum Board Trustees
- Suzanne Dabbous, Forum Past President and Gala Chair for hosting our lovely Past Forum Leadership Special Event at her amazing home
- Jody Cochran and Nicole Nugent of Baker Tatum for setting up a pop-up shop at our Past Presidents, Gala Chairs and Co-Chairs luncheon
- Karen Lee & David Zachry for hosting our 2016 Board Trustee Christmas Cocktail Party at their beautiful home in Terrell Hills. Karen Lee is a current Forum Advisor, Past President and Past Gala Co-Chair.
- Chrissy Bruggeman, Marketing Manager at Saks Fifth Avenue for organizing our in-store luncheon special event
- Xitlalt Herrera-Salazar, Public Relations Manager at Neiman Marcus of San Antonio for helping with the organization of the inaugural Stiletto Strut at The Argyle in partnership with Jefferson Bank
- To those individuals and corporations that donated to *Texas Biomed* through the Big Give San Antonio so that the good work of the Institute continues
- 2017 Gala Leadership- Ashley Weaver, Chair; Molly Drought, Co-Chair and Amelita Mauze, Assistant and their entire committee for an amazing and record setting Gala
- Corbett Christie, Vice President Advancement and Public Relations and Terry Gouger, Associate Advancement Officer, Lisa Cruz, Director of Public Relations both at *Texas Biomed*- for their never-ending and continuing support of the Forum
- To the incredible staff of The Argyle for their continued support of all our Forum meetings and events

FALL 2016 LECTURE LUNCHEON ...

An Important Topic



Forum members and guests enjoyed a beautiful and intimate lunch at The Argyle on November 16th for the 2016 Fall Lecture Luncheon, as we welcomed Dr. Suzanne Dabbous of Avestee Women's Imaging Center of Alamo Heights to share with us her thoughts on the "The Current State of Screening Mammography". She provided an update on the latest technology and advancements in mammography as well as a comprehensive overview on breast health and the importance of detection and screening. As a Forum Past President, it was an honor to host Suzanne and hear her speak on a subject she is so passionate about. A sincere thank you to each of you for coming, sponsoring tables and bringing your guests. Special thanks to our Fall 2016 Lecture Luncheon Table Sponsors: Karen Bryant & Jody Lutz, Lynnette Embrey & Dr. Sara McCamish, Susan Glover & Courtney Percy, Daniela Serna & Ashley Weaver, and Jessica Worth.

*~Courtney Percy, First Vice President,
Lecture Luncheon*



**Carey Hildebrand,
Courtney Percy,
Dr. Suzanne Dabbous,
and Daniela Serna**



**Sarah Trampota,
Denise Mosser,
Cynthia Kerby,
and Amy Garcia**

SPRING 2017 LECTURE LUNCHEON ...

An Informative Event

This year's Spring Lecture Luncheon and Science and Education Awards were held on Wednesday, March 8th at the Argyle. The luncheon was a huge success with the announcement of our Science Education Award winners, followed by an exciting lecture from Dr. Ricardo Carrion. Dr. Carrion is an Associate Scientist



and BSL-4 Laboratory Scientific Manager of the Virology and Immunology Department at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute. He spoke regarding the "Development of Vaccines and Therapies to Ebolavirus Disease." Dr. Carrion's lab aims to advance vaccine development specifically for hemorrhagic fever viruses, such as Ebola, Lassa Fever and Marburg. Most recently, Dr. Carrion and his colleagues have been awarded contracts to test the effectiveness of several vaccine platforms and have developed the common marmoset as a nonhuman primate model to test vaccines against Ebola and Marburg hemorrhagic fever. They are also working to develop new detection methods for bioterror agents. In addition to his role at *Texas Biomed*, he serves as a co-leader of the Infectious Disease Scientific Unit with the Southwest National primate Research Center. Special thanks to Julian Gold and Aromaflage for donating the centerpieces enjoyed during the luncheon. We are so thankful for all of our community partners and all those who attended our Spring Luncheon.

*~Courtney Percy, First Vice President,
Lecture Luncheon*



**Daniela Serna, Courtney Percy,
Dr. Carrion, and Carey Hildebrand**

FORUM PAST PRESIDENTS LUNCHEON



It is always special to welcome our Forum Past Presidents at any and all of our Forum events, in particular our May Past President Luncheon following our last Forum Board Meeting of the year at The Argyle. Our warmest thanks to all of those that were in attendance on Wednesday, May 10th. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and Forum Board Trustees were able to share in conversation with our past leaders on current Forum happenings. Since the Forum's inception in 1970, there have been forty-six presidents! We are grateful for their continued support and participation in our hard-working organization and their role in paving the way to our success as the Forum. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

~Daniela Serna, *President*



- 1970-1971 Dottie Block*
- 1971-1972 Tena Gorman
- 1972-1973 Ruth Eilene Sullivan
- 1973-1974 Lois Yancy
- 1974-1975 Past Bristol
- 1975-1976 Neal Krause*
- 1976-1977 Judy Cavender
- 1977-1978 Jane McFarlane
- 1978-1979 Jane Satel
- 1979-1980 Peggy Mays
- 1980-1981 Lois Jones
- 1981-1982 Laurin Cothren
- 1982-1983 Barbara Yu
- 1983-1984 Margaret Brannan*
- 1984-1985 Maxine Farrimond
- 1985-1986 Barbara Dreeben
- 1986-1987 Gretchen Burkholder
- 1987-1988 Margie Rust*
- 1988-1989 Shirley Oliver
- 1989-1990 Claire Daviss
- 1990-1991 Alice Lynch
- 1991-1992 Mary Penalosa
- 1992-1993 Charlotte Leddy
- 1993-1994 Jerilyn Blanchard
- 1994-1995 Barbara Schneider
- 1995-1996 Rhonda Low
- 1996-1997 Walton Gregory

- 1997-1998 Caroline Walker
- 1998-1999 Cheryl Myers
- 1999-2000 Harriett Raney
- 2000-2001 Cari Hill
- 2001-2002 Maureen Mimari
- 2002-2003 Lisa Blonkvist
- 2003-2004 Lisa Sechler
- 2004-2005 Francie Calgaard
- 2005-2006 Kathryn Dehlinger
- 2006-2007 Brooke Bell
- 2007-2008 Allison Zeller
- 2008-2009 Laura Moorman
- 2009-2010 Terry Gouger
- 2010-2011 Karen Lee Zachry
- 2011-2012 Suzanne Dabbous
- 2012-2013 Julie Zacher
- 2013-2014 Cathryn Le Vrier
- 2014-2015 Melissa Morgan
- 2015-2016 Amanda Bezner

*Deceased

SPRING 2017 GALA FASHION SHOW:

NEIMAN MARCUS – JEFFERSON BANK STILETTO STRUT

This private Neiman Marcus shopping experience was like no other! On Wednesday, April 12th the Slick-Urschel room was transformed into a hip lounge, pink cocktails were flowing, Ditto entertained us with greatest hits on the piano, paparazzi flashes were lighting up the room, ladies wore their favorite designer shoes while browsing for fantastic Spring Gala accessories and models strolled thru the crowd donning fabulous styles. Once our guest Judges Ursula Pari and Elle Morrison were perched on their directors chairs the real fun began. After a short tutorial from the models and **Xitlalt Herrera-Salazar**, the music was turned up and the crowd descended on the red carpet holding nothing back as they “strutted” their stuff all vying for the \$1000 gift certificate at stake at the end of the runway.



It was a tough call for the judges to pick one winner, but ultimately Raven Labatt was rewarded for hamming it up and strutting her specialty “boot” prescribed by her doctor and not her personal shopper! Julie Johnson was happy to take home honorable mention as Neiman Marcus quickly awarded another gift certificate after seeing the struggle to just pick one winner. A special thank you to **Ursula Pari**, KSAT-TV anchorwoman for serving as one of our judges at the event! Everyone looked great and the number of designer shoes on the runway rivaled Imelda Marcos’s closet. No one went home empty handed... party favors from Neiman Marcus and macaroons from The Argyle were handed out for the finale as everyone went home looking forward to next year’s event.

~Adrienne Frost, Special Events Chair



Jefferson Bank
Neiman Marcus

FORUM GALA 2017

In Bloom



In 1970, The Forum was founded by an inspiring and hardworking group of women with the goal to support the life changing and life-saving work being done at Texas Biomed through community awareness and fundraising. Nearly 50 years after our inception, the mission has stayed the same, as has the enthusiasm and hard work of its members, specifically in regards to the gala.

The annual gala is our largest fundraising event and this year was held on May 6th at The Argyle. Gala Chair **Ashley Weaver**, Co-Chair **Molly Drought**, and Gala Assistant **Amelita Mauzé** chose to celebrate springtime with a simple and elegant theme of “In Bloom.”

Work on the gala truly began last fall with a beautiful kick-off luncheon at The Argyle and the early work of setting the theme, designing the logo and printed materials, table sales and fundraising for Gala Grants. Thank you to Invitations Chair, **Mal Moorman**, Table Sales Chair **Hayley Conger**, and Gala Grant chair, **Emily Jones**. **Amy Swaney** kept excellent financial records of all the funds raised throughout the year. Their hard work resulted in a sold-out gala by late 2016, a record tables sales number of over \$400,000 and a record fundraising amount of grants of \$157,000. We are so grateful to the families and corporations who have supported us every year, as well as our new supporters!

The evening of the gala began with a VIP pre-party at the home of Ashley & Rad Weaver for sponsors (and their guests) at the \$10,000 or more level. Guests enjoyed light bites and cocktails while watching the Kentucky Derby before heading to The Argyle. Highlights included a photo opportunity with a floral adorned horse and fashion sketch artist.



The event officially began with cocktails on the lawn at The Argyle. Guests posed to have their picture taken at the step and repeat with beautiful cascading blooms, were entertained by a roving magician and a “living flower,” all set to the beats of DJ Rich. Partygoers also had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for the many fabulous packages solicited by Raffle Chair **Heather de Rojas**. Thank you to our generous raffle donors and to Heather and her committee for raising an amazing \$20,000!

Inside, the classic beauty of The Argyle was highlighted by the efforts of decoration chair, **Emilie Petty**. Members surely recognized the many pieces of Argyle furniture that were incorporated into the design. Tables were set with silk chartreuse tablecloths and crisp white linen napkins, elegant white flowers and the soft glow of candles. Guests were gifted with lovely favors from **Neiman Marcus of San Antonio** at their seat secured by Favors Chair **Cynthia Kerby**. We are grateful to Neiman Marcus for their generosity!

As always, the food and service at The Argyle was one of the evening’s highlights. Menu Chair, **Elizabeth Cox**, received many compliments on the menu which featured classic Argyle favorites.

Following dinner, guests were joined by After Party guests in the white light draped, open-air tent. Entertainment Chair **Kim Johnson** made sure everyone danced the night away to the fun band underwritten by **The St. Anthony Hotel**. When your feet were tired, there were many elegant seating areas throughout the tent, an espresso bar with specialty whipped cream, and passed bites (special thanks to **Labatt Foods**). On their way home, guests enjoyed a slice of **Papa John’s Pizza**.

The Gala chairs would also like to thank Social Media Chair **Brooke Meabon**, Public Relations Chair **Audra Kerr**, Logistics Chair **Lynnette Embrey**, the committee members at large for all of their efforts without whom they would not have succeeded. Additional thanks to our event planners **Caplan Miller** of Austin, **The Argyle** and its wonderful staff for ensuring everything went smoothly. And to our advisors, **Susan Wise** and **Walton Gregory**, whose advice throughout the process has been invaluable.

Until next year...!

~Amelita Mauze, Gala Assistant

Forum in Focus - Spring 2017



GALA COMMITTEE

Jessica Berg
Karen Bryant
Hayley Conger
Elizabeth Cox
Heather De Rojas
Stephanie Dick
Gloria Dilley
Lynnette Embrey
Jolie Flavin
Adrienne Frost
Kelly Wade Fry
Amy Garcia
Triana Grossman
Xitlalt Herrera-Salazar
Carey Hildebrand
Kim Johnson
Jennifer Johnson
Emily Jones
Cynthia Kerby
Audra Kerr
Amy Maverick
Christine Mayer
Nicole McClane
Sita McNab
Brooke Meabon
Whitney Miller
Mallory Moorman
Denise Mosser
Sarah Owens
Emilie Petty
Stacy Schlagel
Amy Swaney
Emily Sytsma
Kristin Tips
Sarah Trampota
Shalimar Wallis
Anapaula Watson
Sonya Medina Williams



IN-KIND SPONSORS

Caplan Miller Events
The Argyle
Méldeen
Society Diaries
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Silver Eagle Distributors
Papa Johns Pizza
Dulce Vida Tequila
Labatt Foods
Neiman Marcus of San Antonio
Lexus of San Antonio

TABLE SPONSORS

\$25,000 Sponsors

Spanish Room

Argo Group

Founder's Suite

Triana and Brandon Grossman

The French Room

Valero Energy Foundation

Bar Porch

Sonya and Gene Williams

The Quincy and Estine Lee Charitable Foundation

Stacy and Dave Schlagel

Bar

Luther King Capital Management

Michael J. Lynd, Jr.

Ashley and Rad Weaver

Hunt Room

Feik Family Foundation/Berg/Golden/
Mosser/Swaney/Sytsma

\$15,000 Sponsors

Weingart Room

Laura and Lew Moorman

Betty Coates Room

Mauzé Construction

Emilie and Christopher Petty

\$10,000 Sponsors

Briggs/Hurd/McCamish/Miller/Vassar/
Welsh

Duffin/Flavin/Johnson/Kieshnick/Taber

Frost/Morgan/Welder/Wulfe

Dacia and Lanham Napier

Law Offices of Jason Westmoreland, PC

LD Ormsby Charitable Foundation

Georgina and Jay Podjenski

Ginny and Wayne Peacock

Silver Eagle Distributors

Wave Healthcare

\$5,000 Sponsors

Lindsay Archer

Elise and Craig Boyan

Ernst and Young

Friends of the Forum

Frost Bank

Shawna and Chase Gorman

Wendy and Eugene Garcia

H-E-B

Karen and Tim Hixon

Julian Gold

Dr. Ariel and Kelly Kruger

Phyllis Browning Company

RBC Wealth Management

RWM Foundation

Southwest Research Institute

Shannon and Jon Turner

Texas Biomedical Research Institute

Texas Biomedical Research Institute

Zachry Corporation

Basse/Cardenas/Flannery/Silva

Butschek/Cox/Kerr/Mayfield/Mosbacher

Karen and Jeff Bryant / Carey and David
Hildebrand / Ana and Boris Zelle

Elizabeth and Chris Dewar /

Trish and Clint Hennessey

Friends of Brooke Meabon and Sarah Owens

/ Texas Medical Legal Consultants, LLC /
Joy Custom Goods

Friends of Brooke Meabon and Sarah Owens
/ Beck Industrial / Tinsley and Chad Smith

Emily and Brad Jones / Shalimar and
Michael Wallis / Edie and John Wright

Kim Lewis / Jessica and Clint Worth

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lutz / Mr. and
Mrs. Robert Bezner / Advantage Pain

Management / Mr. and Mrs. Jason Davis /
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Archer

Corinna and JB Richter / Sita McNab

Mazurek and Holliday, PC

OUR FORUM YEAR HAS COME TO AN END... DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Thank you to all of our members for their continued support of the Forum. The 2017-2018 membership drive is in full swing. Expect a letter to arrive in your mailbox sometime early this summer or renew your membership online today at: <https://www.txbiomed.org/support-us/the-forum/membership/>

We will continue to have three membership levels: **Benefactor: \$250.00, Supporter: \$100.00, and Contributor: \$50.00. Each membership level is 100% tax deductible.**

Forum membership includes invitations to attend two lecture luncheons each year at The Argyle, a tour of the *Texas Biomed* campus upon request and information about Forum Gala, the city's premier spring fundraiser gala. Our newsletter and directory are also provided to our membership. Renew today to stay in touch with the Forum and *Texas Biomed*!

Next year's team- Ashley Weaver, Vice President of Membership and Molly Drought, Membership Assistant are happy to answer any questions regarding your membership renewal or initiating a new membership. For inquiries regarding membership please email texasbiomedicalforum@gmail.com.

Encourage your friends, daughters and neighbors to learn more about the Forum and again, thank you for your continued support.

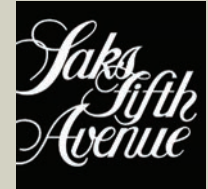
~Jody Lutz, VP of Membership

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE FASHION LUNCHEON

A beautiful luncheon took place at Saks Fifth Avenue on Wednesday, March 22nd honoring the work of the Texas Biomedical Forum. Theresa Harper Bruno, designer for Jordan Alexander Jewelry shared her success story and showcased her elegant line of precious stones. Thirty Board Trustees and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Jewelry Department and shopped afterwards as Saks generously donated 10% of sales back to the Forum. We are most appreciative of this special partnership this year and are extremely thankful to Chrissy Bruggeman from Saks for her amazing help in organizing this wonderful event!



~Adrienne Frost, Special Events Chair



PAST FORUM LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

This year's fall Special Event- Past Presidents, Gala Chairs and Co-Chairs Luncheon, was held at the beautiful, Suzanne Dabbous', most lovely home in Monte Vista on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Our event was well attended by more than fifty past presidents and past gala chairs and co-chairs. Baker Tatum so graciously agreed to host a pop-up event selling their famous orchids and containers, and generously contributed a portion of the sales to the Forum! A delicious and healthy lunch was served by Tim the Girl; the day was sunny and beautiful, and deemed a great success! Special thanks to Suzanne Dabbous, our gracious host, Nicole Nugent and Jody Cochran from Baker Tatum; and Lynnette Embrey for arranging our fabulous volunteers, including Emilie Petty and Kim Johnson who helped with check-in. Much appreciation to our Forum Board Trustees for helping things run smoothly and, of course, to our fearless leader Daniela Serna!

~Adrienne Frost, Past President Luncheon & Special Events Co-Chair



Sara McCamish, Suzanne Dabbous and Ashley Hixon



Jane Satel, Mary Benedum, and Christy Gulley



Jordan Arriaga and Jody Cochran of Baker Tatum



Emilie Petty, Adrienne Frost, and Kim Johnson



Karen Lee Zachry, Amelita Mauze, and Mallory Moorman

BAKER TATUM
tabletop to terrace

Texas Biomed Names Larry Schlesinger, M.D. as President/CEO



Dr. Larry S. Schlesinger

New CEO brings team of researchers and funding in study of tuberculosis and lung biology

Texas Biomedical Research Institute's Board of Trustees named Dr. Larry Schlesinger as the Institute's new President and CEO, effective May 31, 2017. He is currently the Chair of the Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity and Director of

the Center for Microbial Interface Biology at Ohio State University.

Dr. Schlesinger has more than 30 years of experience in medicine and infectious disease research. He is an internationally recognized medical scientist with significant expertise on the origin and development of tuberculosis and other airborne communicable infections of great concern to human health globally. He and his research team have made major discoveries on the human immune response to pathogens, and he is translating these into host-directed drug discovery platforms. His laboratory studies innate immunity to these infectious pathogens by focusing on their interactions with human mononuclear phagocytes, which are cells that protect the body by ingesting harmful cells, bacteria or foreign particles. Dr. Schlesinger will continue his research at *Texas Biomed*, bringing with him a team of experienced researchers.

"I am honored to join *Texas Biomed* at an exciting time for biomedical research," said Dr. Schlesinger "This organization has a unique, pioneering history, and I look forward to being a part of that history and the Institute's future. *Texas Biomed's* research faculty has earned worldwide recognition and support for the quality and impact of their research. I am excited to join them as both a scientific colleague and executive leader. The Institute has a reputation for dealing with some of the most difficult medical issues in the world, and I look forward to what we can all accomplish together in the future."

Dr. Schlesinger earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Cornell University and his medical degree from Rutgers Medical School. He served his residency and chief residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor, Mich., and then was a Clinical Fellow in infectious disease and a Research Fellow in bacterial pathogenesis at the UCLA Center for the Health Sciences and UCLA –San Fernando Valley Medical Program in Los Angeles, Calif.

Dr. Schlesinger is married to Judy Schlesinger, and they have two children, Michael and Eva.

Texas Biomed Part of Research Efforts to Screen and Develop Ebola Virus Drug



Dr. Robert Davey

Dr. Robert Davey, Scientist at Texas Biomedical Research Institute, is part of a team of researchers working to find new drugs that will stop Ebola virus from growing inside infected cells. Dr. Christopher Basler, a professor in the Institute for Biomedical Sciences at Georgia State University, has received a five-year, \$4.1 million federal grant for this project. Dr. Davey and his team will work closely with Dr. Basler to

validate all new drugs identified in the effort. The work will involve seeing if the drugs block infection of cells by live Ebola virus and will be done in the biosafety level 4 laboratory at *Texas Biomed*.

"I am very excited to continue our cutting edge work with Dr. Basler," Dr. Davey said. "The way these viruses replicate is an Achilles heel that should be easily exploited, but up to now we have not had the tools to do the drug screen. Dr. Basler's screening platform lets us do this for the first time and our expertise with live virus will help to prove their potential for treatment."

Dr. Robert Lanford Receives Baylor College of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award



Dr. Robert Lanford

Texas Biomedical Research Institute Scientist and Director of the Southwest National Primate Research Center Dr. Robert Lanford was honored in April with the Distinguished Alumni Award by the Baylor College of Medicine Alumni Association. The Award recognizes individuals for their excellence among peers of Baylor.

Dr. Lanford earned his Ph.D. in 1979 and completed his postdoctoral work at Baylor College of Medicine. He then served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Virology and Epidemiology until 1984, when he came to the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research now known as Texas Biomedical Research Institute.

Establishing the hepatitis research program at *Texas Biomed*, Dr. Lanford has contributed significant advancements to understanding viral hepatitis, which causes inflammation of the liver that can progress into cirrhosis or liver cancer. For more than 30 years, Dr. Lanford has focused on developing

treatments for viral hepatitis. His efforts included pre-clinical trials in non-human primates for therapies for hepatitis C (HCV) and hepatitis B (HBV), some of which progressed to human trials and approved therapies.

Between 130-150 million people are chronically infected with HCV alone, according to the World Health Organization, and about 700,000 people die each year from HCV-related liver diseases. His early work helped characterize the immune response to HCV infection and helped establish models necessary to understand HCV infection when it was a poorly understood virus. His work has facilitated the development of drug cocktails that now cure chronic HCV infection in humans.

For the past three years, Dr. Lanford has served as the Director of the Southwest National Primate Research Center where he oversees administrative, scientific and animal care operations. SNPRC is part of a national network of only seven NIH-supported Centers that conducts and enables studies that make breakthrough discoveries of causes, preventions, treatments and cures possible.

“It is an honor to be recognized among my peers for my life’s work,” Dr. Lanford said. “One of the most significant events in my scientific career was being accepted into the graduate program of Baylor College of Medicine and having Dr. Janet Butel as my mentor.”

Dr. Butel wrote in her letter of support, “Dr. Robert Lanford is a creative, thoughtful and innovative researcher whose work has contributed significantly to basic science and human health.”

Scientists with Texas Biomed’s Southwest National Primate Center Receive San Antonio Area Foundation Grants to support studies in potential treatments for Diabetes and Leukemia



Dr. Tiziano Barberi

Dr. Tiziano Barberi and Dr. Marcel Daadi, Associate Scientists at the Southwest National Primate Research Center at Texas Biomedical Research Institute, received individual grants from the John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation, a fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation, to support pilot projects in diabetes and lymphoblastic leukemia research.

Pilot projects are small, early stage research studies aimed at determining the feasibility of a project in an effort to scale up the study if the project concept shows promise. At *Texas Biomed*, pilot studies are generally first steps to proving a concept so that scientists can apply for greater funding from national grant institutions, like the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Barberi received a \$20,000 grant for his pilot project titled, *Exploring A Possible Novel Approach For The Treatment Of T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)*.

In previous studies, Dr. Barberi determined that a specific signaling pathway directly affects the expression of a gene called SCL/TAL-1. This gene is essential for blood cell development but when it is abnormally expressed, SCL/TAL-1 is responsible for the malignant transformation of T lymphocytes, leading to the development of T-ALL. By activating this signaling pathway with a specific molecule, Dr. Barberi found that SCL/TAL-1 expression was dramatically reduced. He has since started to treat an SCL/TAL1 positive T-ALL leukemia cell line with this molecule, and initial results are encouraging.

“Further study will allow us to confirm whether treatment with this molecule is responsible for the death of T-ALL cells,” Dr. Barberi said. “While we are years away from any type of clinical application and there is still much to understand, this study could provide the basis for an innovative treatment based on the direct inhibition of the cause of malignant cell growth.”



Dr. Marcel Daadi

Dr. Daadi received a \$35,000 grant for his project titled, *Developing Stem Cell Therapy for Treating Diabetes*. The project aims to develop a unique approach to treating diabetes.

Dr. Daadi and his team are engineering stem cells derived from the skin or blood cells of patients and coaxing them into insulin producing cells, which will be then microencapsulated and grafted under the skin of a patient.

“We can take skin or blood cells and reverse their physiological clock to make them pluripotent stem cells able to generate billions of any kind of cells on the body,” Dr. Daadi explained. “These are called induced-pluripotent stem cell (iPSCs). During this past year we have been able to turn these pluripotent stem cells into islet-like β -cells producing insulin in a dish.”

The plan for this study is to now microencapsulate these cells and test them in a baboon model of diabetes.

“This pilot study will lay the groundwork for a larger long-term trial on the effectiveness and safety of implanting iPSC-derived microencapsulated β -cells in baboons,” Dr. Daadi said. “If we are successful, these studies could accelerate the development of a viable long-term stem cell therapy for diabetes patients.”

~Lisa Cruz, Director of Public Relations/TX Biomed

2017-2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Many thanks to the 2016-2017 Nominating Committee: Whitney Miller, Ashley Hixon, Emily Jones, Karen Lee Zachry, Karen Bryant and Mary Beth Mosbacker. I'm so grateful to these women for spending their time and energy in helping to select an outstanding incoming executive board of trustees for 2017-2018:

1st Vice-President - Lecture Luncheon - Jody Lutz

2nd Vice-President - Gala Chair - Denise Mosser

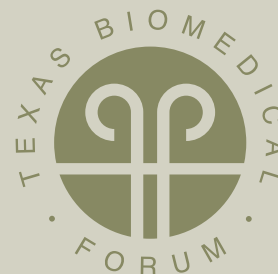
3rd Vice-President - Gala Co-Chair - Nicole McClane

4th Vice-President - Membership - Ashley Weaver

Recording Secretary - Amy Garcia

Corresponding Secretary - Elizabeth Cox

Assistant Treasurer - Stephanie Dick



Additionally, two new trustees were appointed to the Forum board: **Rebecca Oppenheimer Nathan** and **Courtney Archer**. We are thrilled to have all of these women and look forward to the future of the Texas Biomedical Forum.

~Amanda Bezner, Immediate Past President & Nominating Chair

Texas Biomedical Forum Executive Board 2016-2017



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

Daniela Serna
President

Courtney Percy
Vice-President, Lecture Luncheon

Ashley Weaver
Vice-President, Gala Chair

Molly Drought
Vice-President, Gala Co-Chair

Jody Lutz
Vice-President, Membership

Sara McCamish
Treasurer

Amy Swaney
Assistant Treasurer

Elizabeth Cox
Recording Secretary

Christine Mayer
Corresponding Secretary

Amanda Bezner
Immediate Past President

Texas Biomedical Forum Board of Trustees 2016-2017



Top Row, Left to Right: Mallory Moorman, Audra Kerr, Heather de Rojas, Stephanie Dick, Brooke Meabon, Christine Mayer

Second Row from the Top, Left to Right: Sarah Trampota, Whitney Miller, Emilie Petty, Kim Johnson, Carey Hildebrand, Shalimar Wallis, Jessica Berg

Third Row from the Top, Left to Right: Denise Mosser, Cynthia Kerby, Hayley Conger, Amelita Mauzé, Amy Garcia, Emily Jones, Amy Maverick, Kelly Fry

Bottom Row, Left to Right: Christine Mayer, Amanda Bezner, Jody Lutz, Courtney Percy, Daniela Serna, Sara McCamish, Ashley Weaver, Elizabeth Cox

Not pictured: Molly Drought, Lynnette Embrey, Nicole McClane and Amy Swaney

Kim Johnson
Archivist

Karen E. Bryant
Membership Assistant

Adrienne Frost
Special Events

Emilie Herrmann Petty
Archivist

Denise Belle Mosser
Newsletter

Jessica Berg
Student Tours

Hayley Conger
Community/Corporate Outreach

Sarah Trampota
Newsletter

Mallory Moorman
Student Tours

Amy Garcia
Digitizer/Historian

Cynthia Kerby
Parliamentarian

Heather de Rojas
Website Liaison

Shalimar Wallis
Digitizer/Historian

Brooke Meabon
Social Media

Forum Advisors

Terry Gouger
Melissa Morgan
Karen Lee Zachry
Allison Zeller

Kelly Wade Fry
Directory

Audra Kerr
Public Relations

Emily Jones
Forum Grants

Nicole McClane
Photographer

Amelita Mauzé
Gala Assistant

Amy Maverick
Science Education Awards

Lynnette Embrey
Logistics

Whitney Miller
Science Education Awards

Honorary Trustees

Peggy Gracy
Texas Biomedical Research
Institute
Leslie Hamilton
Southwest Research Institute

Carey Watson Hildebrand
Luncheon Assistant

Stephanie Dick
Special Events

Texas Biomed Liaison
Corbett Christie
VP of Advancement and
Public Relations



Post Office Box 6648
San Antonio, TX 78209

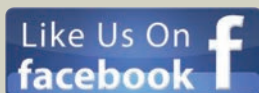
Non-Profit Organization
US Postage PAID
Permit No. 2193
San Antonio, TX

SAVE THE DATE FOR ALL THE UPCOMING FORUM EVENTS

- In the meantime, ensure that you continue receiving this newsletter by renewing your membership online at <https://www.txbiomed.org/support-us/the-forum/membership/initiate-renew-memberships/>
- Stay tuned for the Forum's new website debuting this fall!

Visit us at- www.txbiomed.org/forum

Email us at- texasbiomedicalforum@gmail.com



Texas Biomedical Forum



Follow us on Instagram-
[@texasbiomedicalforum](https://www.instagram.com/texasbiomedicalforum)