Alumni Spotlights

GSBS alumni John Kopchick, PhD (1980/Arlinghaus) delivers keynote speech at 2016 Student Research Day

John Kopchick, PhD, a 2006 GSBS distinguished alumni and Professor of Molecular Biology and Goll-Ohio Eminent Scholar at Ohio University, delivered a riveting keynote speech to GSBS students, staff and faculty at the first annual GSBS Student Research Day on June 30.

The speech, titled
"Growth hormone, mini-mice, football, dirty shorts and a new drug" described his journey as a molecular endocrinologist in growth hormone biology. GSBS Student Research Day gave students an opportunity to participate in an oral presentation, poster session detailing student's research, and an elevator speech competition.

**Russell Broaddus, MD, PhD (1994/CASTRO) named 2016 McGovern Teaching Award Winner**

Russel Broaddus, MD, PhD, was selected by students from The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston as the 2016 recipient of the John P. McGovern Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Broaddus has been a GSBS faculty member since 2001. He is also a GSBS alumnus who graduated from the with a MD/PhD from the department of Immunology in 1994.

![Left to right: Michelle Barton, PhD, GSBS Dean; Russell Broaddus, MD, PhD, and Michael Blackburn, PhD, GSBS Dean, at the McGovern Teaching Award dinner reception](image)

**Interested in Serving?**

**E-mentorship Program**

A mentor can be a wonderful resource and help a student prepare for the next steps in their career. That is why the GSBS Office of Alumni Affairs has created the e-mentoring program to allow GSBS alumni to "electronically" mentor GSBS students. The interaction can take place electronically, by phone, in person, or a combination of all three. If you are interested in being a mentor, click here.

**AMBR Mentorship Program**

The Association of Minority Biomedical Researchers (AMBR) would like to invite members of the GSBS Alumni Association to participate in the AMBR Mentorship Program. The goal of this program is to partner AMBR members with alumni mentors that will assist them throughout their journey in graduate school. Unlike the e-Mentorship Program, mentors are required to meet bi-monthly with mentees to provide confidential and honest advice and guidance on their skills and career goals. Find out more about the program and its benefits to you as an alumni by clicking here. If you are interested in serving as mentor, click here to sign-up. Questions? Contact the AMBR group at gsbs_ambr@uth.tmc.edu.
Upcoming Events

October 13th
GSBS Alumni Dinner
Los Angeles, CA

October 24th
Student-Alumni Networking Social
4-5pm
Onstead Auditorium

November 5th
GSBS Alumni Dinner
Los Angeles, CA

November 10th
GSBS Alumni Dinner
Tampa, FL

What’s new at GSBS

GSBS 2016 Commencement Ceremony

The 2016 GSBS commencement ceremony took place on Saturday, May 7, at Rice University, Shepherd School of Music. GSBS wants to congratulate the class of 2016 and welcome them to our alumni network.
GSBS Uses Creative Strategies to Recruit a Diverse Population of Students

The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston (GSBS) Offices of Admissions and Diversity are collaborating to recruit a diverse pool of applicants into our PhD, MD/PhD and MS programs.

On April 28-29, 2016, GSBS invited a selection of undergraduate program directors, faculty advisors, and educational administrators to tour the school and to provide information about the educational and research strengths of GSBS. A discussion of diversity initiatives and programs to support the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority students were also reviewed.

Representatives from Dillard University (New Orleans, Louisiana), Morehouse College (Atlanta, Georgia), The University of Texas at El Paso, Texas Southern University, and Oberlin College (Oberlin, Ohio) participated in meetings focused on providing information about GSBS programs, the graduate application process, and summer research opportunities that are available to their students. Student led tours of lab facilities were a highlight of the visit.

Genetic Counseling Program Celebrates 25 Year Anniversary
The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) at Houston wants to congratulate the Genetic Counseling Program on their 25th anniversary.

GSBS is home to the two-year specialized Master's program in Genetic Counseling that was founded in 1989 in association with the Department of Pediatrics at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth. There are approximately 36 accredited genetic counseling programs in the United States and Canada, but our program is the only one located in Texas. Graduates from the program have gone on to work in diagnostic laboratories, industry, private practice and other specialty areas.

The program has continued to grow over the years and has the unique ability of utilizing the many resources in the Texas Medical Center to allow its graduates to be well rounded graduates. We wish

Alumni Networking

GSBS Alumni Share Their Experiences in the Field of Science Education
On Thursday, May 26, in the GSBS Large Classroom, GSBS hosted A Day in the Life of a Science Educator career lunch. Five GSBS alumni shared their experiences and what a normal day is like for a science educator. The seminar speakers included: Cameron Jeter, PhD (2010/Sereno), Joy Marshall, PhD (2003/Kaplan), Lindsey Minter, PhD (2014/Barton), Chad Wayne, PhD (2002/Wilkinson), and Hannah Wingate, PhD (2007/Keyomarski).

The event provided a casual platform for approximately GSBS students to ask the speakers candid questions about a career in science education in both secondary and higher education. The next career lunch will take place in the Fall.

GSBS Alumni Dinners in Washington, DC
On Wednesday, July 13, and Thursday, July 14, Marenda A. Wilson-Pham, PhD, Assistant Dean, Diversity and Alumni Affairs, and Andrew Bean, PhD, Associate Dean of Graduate Education hosted two GSBS alumni dinners in Washington, DC. GSBS alumni that live in the Washington, DC area got a chance to join them for a night of informal networking and engagement. The next GSBS alumni dinner will be on Thursday, October 13, in Los Angeles, CA.

**In the News**

**4 GSBS faculty members named 2016 UT ROTA recipients.**
The University of Texas System Board of Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award (ROTA) for 2016. This award is among the most competitive in the nation and also one of the largest monetary teaching recognition programs in higher education.

**GSBS would like to congratulate Gary Gallick, Ph.D., for being named the recipient of the 2016 Paul E. Darlington Mentor Award for GSBS Faculty.**
Gallick, a professor in Department of Genitourinary Medical Oncology Research at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, is affiliated with the GSBS Program in Cancer Biology and has been a GSBS faculty member since 1986. Read more here.

**The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at**
Houston would like to announce our newest staff member. Lindsey Minter, PhD (2014/Barton), joined GSBS as Assistant Director of Graduate Education on August 1st. Minter is a GSBS graduate.

GSBS would like to congratulate Jingfei Ma, PhD, on his Commended course honored by the GSBS Curriculum Committee. Each year the committee selects courses for this distinction. Ma teaches "GS 02 1183: Applied Math in medical Physics" in collaboration with David Fuentes, PhD, and Shouhao Zhou, PhD.

UTHealth would like to thank generous donors for raising a record $100 million with an art-filled celebration.

NIH Awards $11 million to UTHealth researchers to study deadly prion diseases. Led by Claudio Soto, PhD, researchers from McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) was awarded $11 million from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

UTHealth, UVA show how gene protects against heart disease. Findings by the research team from McGovern Medical School at UTHealth appeared in the June issue of Nature Medicine.

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Many Faces of UTHealth: Dash remarks on memorable moments. Pramod Dash, PhD, works on long-term memory formation and is the principal investigator of the Dash Lab in the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy. The laboratory explores the molecular mechanisms contributing to working memory, short-term memory and the relationships between each type. He and his colleagues employ a multi-disciplinary approach to using molecular, biochemical, genetic, pharmacological and behavioral techniques.

Presidents' Research Scholar wins same award 19 years after mentor. Many students at The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston hope to follow in their mentors' footsteps. On Tuesday, August 23, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology student Kaiqi Sun did just that as he accepted on of the 2016-2017 Presidents' Research Scholarships. His advisor, Yang Xia, MD, PhD, won a Presidents' Research Scholarship in 1997.

In Memoriam

Alfred G. Knudson, Jr, MD, PhD
Alfred G. Knudson, Jr., MD, PhD, renowned geneticist and cancer researcher, dean of The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston from 1970-1976, passed away on Sunday, July 10th, at his home in Philadelphia, PA after an extended illness. He was 93 years old.

He visited GSBS on March 5, 2013, for a plaque dedication which recognized the GSBS award given in his honor, the Alfred G. Knudson, Jr., Outstanding Dissertation Award. You can watch the video from that dedication ceremony here.

Anuradha Dutt, PhD (1983/Dowhan)

We wish condolences to the family and friends of GSBS alum, Anuradha Dutt, PhD graduated from GSBS from the Molecular Biology program. She was a Research Associate in the Department of Experimental Pediatrics at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Institute.
Interested in giving to GSBS?

Your gift to GSBS has the opportunity to touch the lives of students who will find solutions to our most critical health concerns!

If you would like to give to GSBS, contact Susan Simon, Associate Director, Office of Development by phone at (713) 500-3118 or by e-mail at Susan.M.Simon@uth.tmc.edu

Join the UT GSBS at Houston Alumni Facebook group today!

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