

**GSBS Standing Committee Reports  
For March 3, 2022  
Faculty Meeting**

**Academic Standards Committee (Dr. Ali Azhdarinia, Chair)**

The Committee has met 6 times since the last faculty meeting and approved:

- 49 Advisory Committees
  - 4 Requests for Secondary Area of Concentration
- 36 Requests for Committee changes
- 14 Petitions for M.S. degree Candidacy
- 25 Petitions for Ph.D. Candidacy
  - 3 Waivers of first-author publication
  - 1 Dismissal

**Admissions Committee (Dr. Wenbo Li, Chair)**

The admissions committee met the following dates to discuss PhD applications:

- Nov.16, 2021 – introductory/orientation meeting
- Dec. 8, 2021
- Dec. 15, 2021
- Jan. 5, 2022
- Jan. 27, 2022
- Feb. 2, 2022

- Total PhD applications received: 805
- Total complete PhD applications: 790
- PhD applications reviewed by Admissions Committee: 454
- Interview offers: 154
  - Declined offer to interview: 23
- Total SMS applications received: 289
- Total complete SMS applications: 281
  - Genetic Counseling: 273
  - Medical Physics: 8
- Total MS in Biomedical Sciences received (to date\*): 50  
*\*The Committee will meet on April 13 to review applications to the MS program*

Degree program	Fall 2022 (# of completed apps)	Fall 2021 (# of completed apps)	% change
PhD	790	743	6%
MS	20*	106	
SMS-GCP	273	314	-13%
SMS- Med Phys	8	9	-11%

\*Deadline April 1 for MS in Biomedical Sciences

For comparison, 761 PhD applicants and 743 complete PhD applications were received for Fall 2021, an increase of 6%.

For comparison, 323 complete SMS applications were received in 2021. 314 Genetic Counseling applications were received, a decrease of 13% for 2022. Additionally, 9 Medical Physics SMS applications were received in 2021, a decrease of 11% for 2021.

### **Curriculum Committee (Dr. Shane Cunha, Chair)**

1. The Committee had four (4) meetings since the last faculty meeting in October.
2. Approval of New Proposed Course (1) and Course Requests (2)
  - a. New Proposed Course  
GS02 1021: Supervised Clinical Experience in Radiation Therapy Physics
  - b. Increase of Credit Hour (from 1 to 2 SCH)  
GS04 1781: Pragmatic Bioinformatics for Bench Scientists (new course number: GS04 1792)
  - c. Reactivation and Reduction of Credit Hour (from 2 to 1 SCH)  
GS21 1162: Effective Career Planning (new course number: GS21 1191)
3. Discussed 11 courses that will undergo the review.

#### Major Course Review (8 courses)

- a. GS01 1033: Introduction to Biostatistics and Clinical Trials
- b. GS02 1042: Imaging Science
- c. GS02 1073: Fundamental Anatomy, Physiology, and Biology of Med. Physics II
- d. GS04 1781: Pragmatic Bioinformatics for Bench Scientists
- e. GS11 1622: Topics in Medical Genetics I
- f. GS14 1181: Graduate Neuroanatomy
- g. GS21 1061: Critical Thinking in Science
- h. GS21 1017: Foundation of Biomedical Research (Core Course)  
GS21 1018: Foundation of Biomedical Research for Quantitative Students

#### Follow-up Course Review (3 courses)

- a. GS04 1781: Pragmatic Bioinformatics for Bench – done on
- b. GS06 1132: Application of Tumor Immunology in the Clinical Setting
- c. GS14 1024: Systems Neuroscience

4. Student Focus Group meetings conducted/scheduled for the following courses:
  - a. GS04 1253: Principles of Genetics and Epigenetics – done on Jan. 25
  - b. GS02 1073: Fundamental Anatomy, Physiology, and Biology of Med. Physics II – done on Feb. 9
  - c. GS14 1181: Graduate Neuroanatomy – scheduled on Feb. 24
  - d. GS04 1103: GS11 1622: Topics in Medical Genetics I – scheduled on Mar. 3
5. Presented, discussed, and/or approved the following items.
  - a. Committee Charge and Procedural Guidelines

- b. Committee assignment/s of courses for review (major and follow-up)
- c. Procedure for reviewing GSBS Courses
- d. Finalization of report re the future of GSBS online courses.
- e. GSBS guidelines for Spring semester classes.
- f. Process in reviewing the Core Course.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Dr. Melinda Yates, Chair**

The GSBS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee was approved by the GSBS faculty as a standing committee on October 6, 2021. Some of the responsibilities of this committee include regular assessment of the community, establishing impactful training and programming for the community, reviewing GSBS data, and setting corresponding benchmarks.

The committee has met twice since its formation: December 9, 2021 and January 27, 2022. The committee will meet ~monthly for at least six months to establish priorities and plans.

Accomplishments/upcoming plans of committee to date:

- Elected chair of the committee, Dr. Melinda Yates, Associate Professor, Gynecologic Oncology & Reproductive Medicine, MD Anderson Cancer Center – Jan. 27
- Each committee member will complete a LinkedIn Learning DEI training module by March 31
- Draft working bylaws of the committee – by end of the semester
- Define initial short- and long-term committee priorities– by spring
- Create a webpage of committee priorities timeline with a virtual suggestion box – early summer

The current members of the committee are:

<b>Faculty</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Melinda Yates, PhD (Chair)	MD Anderson
Jennifer Czerwinski, MS CGC	UTHealth
Candelaria Gomez-Manzano, MD	MD Anderson
Daniel Harrington, PhD	UTHealth
Ralf Krahe, PhD	MD Anderson
<b>Staff</b>	
Karen Weinberg	UTHealth
Kari Savannah Brewer	MD Anderson
Natalie Sirisaengtaksin	UTHealth
<b>Students</b>	
Taylor Halsey	MD Anderson
Mabel G. Pérez-Oquendo	MD Anderson
Josue E. Pineda	MD Anderson

### **Membership Committee Dr. Mary Farach-Carson, Chair**

The Committee met three times since the last Faculty Meeting in September.

The Committee approved the following:

- 8 applications for Regular Membership
- 6 applications for Associate Membership
- 1 change of status request from Regular to Distinguished Senior Lecturer Membership
- 2 reappointments with highest commendation
- 10 reappointments commendation
- 22 reappointments
- 4 reappointments with encouragement

Other matters considered by the Committee:

Supported a 4-point award to faculty for each year of service on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Standing Committee. This matches the points awarded for participation in other GSBS Standing Committees.

Discussed whether Course Directors should receive points for attending lecture hours and assisting in office/TA hours. The Committee approved a trial period starting spring 2022 wherein Course Directors must document their participation on the course syllabus in order to receive credit.

### **Program Directors Committee (Dr. Jichao Chen, Chair)**

The Committee met three times since the last Faculty Meeting and discussed the following topics:

- GSBS Dean's office staff changes
- GSBS course formats and teaching innovations during the pandemic
- GSBS response to the pandemic
- Program activities during the pandemic and planning for the future
- GSBS response to the 2020 Climate Survey
- Program director term start and end dates. Eight programs now have a standard term start date of July 1st and term end date of June 30th
- Program Directors duties
- 2021 Visitation (graduate school applicant interviews)
- Application rates for GSBS awards during spring and fall application cycles
- Course Co-Directors and Mini-Courses

- Parking & Shuttles
- Stipend increase

**Additional Notes:**

- Dr. Jichao Chen was elected to a one-year term as Chair of the Program Directors Committee at its November 2021 meeting.
- There will be four program elections in Spring of 2022 to elect new Directors and Co-Directors for these programs: Cancer Biology, Genetics & Epigenetics, Quantitative Sciences, and Therapeutics & Pharmacology.

**Student Scholarship Committee (Dr. Jingfei Ma, Chair)**

1. Discussed the 2021 Fall Awards criteria, evaluated 96 applications for 25 different fellowships/ scholarships, and selected 59 recipients.

Award Name	Recipients	Advisor	Program
Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowships and Charlene Kopchick Fellowship	Ruoyu Wang	Wenbo Li	GE
	Kareem Wahid	Clifton Fuller	QS
	Shannon Hartzell	Stephen Kry	MP
	Celine Kong	Jichao Chen	GE
	Kyle LaBella	Ron DePinho	CB
	Oscar Villarreal	E. Scott Kopetz	CB
	Xu Zhang	Fabricio Do Monte	NS
	Sonia Patel	John Heymach	CB
Second-year Renewals Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowships  *Last year's Charlene Kopchick Fellow	Jovanka Gencel Augusto	Gigi Lozano	GE
	Yiyun Lin	Nick Navin	QS
	Archit Ghosh	Kunal Rai	GE
	Jennifer Hurtig	Ambro van Hoof	MID
	Yasaman Barekatin	Raghu Kalluri	MP
	Carolina Garcia Garcia	Cullen Taniguchi	CB
	Soleil Hernandez*	Laurence Court	MP
	Suman Shrestha	Rebecca Howell	MP

Jesse B. Heath, Jr. Family Legacy Award	Daniel Zamler	Giulio Draetta	CB
EllenTaylor Goldin Legacy Award	Yulun He	Kristy Brock	MP
Gigli Family Endowed Scholarship	Marvin Wirianto	Seung-Hee Yoo	BCB
Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarships in Cancer Research	<b>Pre-Candidacy</b>		
	Yimo Sun	Greg Lizee	IMM
	Recep Bayraktar	George Calin	CB
	<b>Post-Candidacy</b>		
	Li Cai	Ron DePinho	CB
	Cheng-En (Rodney) Hsieh	Michael Curran	CB
	Arthur Liu	Michael Curran	IMM
	Jincheng Han	Ron DePinho	CB
Cancer Answers/Sylvan Rodriguez Scholarship	Sunada Khadka	Ron DePinho	CB
The Antje Wuelfrath Gee and Harry Gee, Jr. Family Legacy Award	Cuauhtemoc Gonzalez	Vasanthi Jayaraman	BCB
	Xin Ru Jiang	Katy Rezvani	IMM
T.C. Hsu Memorial Scholarship	Jiexi Li	Ron DePinho	CB
	Hanghui Ye	Nick Navin	GE
Investing in Students Futures Scholarship	Kyla Gibney	Francesco Versace	NS
	Melissa Franch	Valentin Dragoi	NS
	Yun Yan	Nick Navin	QS
	Er-Yen (Nick) Yen	Giulio Draetta	CB
George M. Stancel, Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences	Wen-Hao Hsu	Ron DePinho	CB
	Askash Boda	Michael Curran	IMM
Steve Lasher and Janiece Longoria Graduate Student Research Award in Cancer Biology	Swati Mohapatra	George Calin	CB
	Wei-Hsin Liu	Yair Reisner	IMM
R.W. Butcher Achievement Award	Mary Fuentes	Pawel Mazur	CB
Oates Family Fellowship	Mabel Perez-Oquendo	Don Gibbons	GE

Sylvan Rodriguez Foundation Scholarship honoring George M. Stancel, PhD	Charmelle Williams	Matthew Gubin	IMM
Sam Taub and Beatrice Burton Endowed Fellowships in Vision Disease	Alexis Mobley	Jaroslav Aronowski & Louise McCullough	NS
Roberta M. and Jean M. Worsham Endowed Fellowship	Takese McKenzie	Jian Hu	NS
GSBS Endowment Scholarship	Krithikaa Rajkumar Bhanu	Michael Curran	IMM
	Rui Ye	Steven Lin	CB
	Janani Subramanian	Shane Cunha	BCB
Wei Yu Family Endowed Scholarship	Rhiannon Morrissey	Gigi Lozano	GE
The Fadine Jackson Roquemore Scholarship in Cancer Research	Jinhao Zou	Sanjay Shete	QS
Molly S. Bray, PhD Scholarship	Taylor Halsey	Robert Jenq	MID
City Federation of Women's Club Endowed Scholarship in the Biomedical Science	Vikram Kulkarni	Scott Evans	IMM
	Lee-Ann Notice	Ambro van Hoof	MID
Ray Meyn Scholarship in Cancer Research	Sharvari Dharmaiah	Jason Huse	CB
	Kevin Liu	Emil Schueler	MP
Ralph B. Arlinghaus, PhD Scholarship	Hey-Min Lee	E. Scott Kopetz	CB
	Zecheng Yang	Wantong Yao	IMM
Floyd Haar, MD, Endowed Memorial Research Award in Memory of Freda Haar	Ko-Chien Chen	Ron DePinho	CB
	Joan Jacob	Kendra Carmon	BCB
Cancer Answers Scholarship	Deanna Glassman	Anil Sood	BS/CB
	Thomaia Pamplin	Curtis Pickering	BS/CB

**Research Grant Awards:**

Award Name	Recipients	Advisor	Program
	Rachel Van Drunen	Kristin Eckel-Mahan	NS

<b>Dr. John J. Kopchick Research Award</b>			
<b>President's Research Excellence Award</b>	<b>Sara Murphy</b>	<b>Balveen Kaur</b>	<b>IMM</b>

***Program Awards:***

<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Advisor</b>	<b>Program</b>
<b>Aaron Blanchard Research Award in Medical Physics</b>	<b>Travis Salzillo</b>	<b>Pratip Bhattacharya</b>	<b>MP</b>
<b>Dee S. and Patricia Osborne Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences</b>	<b>Rachel Van Drunen</b>	<b>Kristin Eckel-Mahan</b>	<b>NS</b>

**2. Other accomplishments:**

- Conducted SSC Fall Award meeting on December 7, 2021.
- Conducted Kopchick Fellowships finalists' interview on January 24, 2022.