

DATA SET: August 2025 to February 2026
Academic Standards Committee
(Dr. Michelle Hildebrandt, chair - August 2025 – Sept 2025
Dr. Shawn Bratton, chair – Oct 2025 to Present)

The Committee has met 7 times since the last faculty meeting and approved:

68 Advisory Committees
13 Requests for Secondary Area of Concentration
36 Requests for Committee changes
24 Petitions for M.S. degree Candidacy
59 Petitions for Ph.D. Candidacy
11 Waivers of first-author publication
3 Plan of action to resolve probation status

Other Actions:

- 1) Approved Neuroscience program exam format change from a slides-based presentation to a chalk talk
- 2) Approved a petition for a re-examination after failure of first candidacy examination
- 3) Approved one additional tutorial for an MD/PhD student
- 4) Discussed rules for advisory committee composition and attendance at committee meetings; Office of Academic Affairs will draft a policy

Academic Affairs Office
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
Activity Report
(September 2025 – February 2026)

- 1. The Committee had five (5) meetings since the last faculty meeting in August 2025.**
- 2. Presented/discussed new course proposal:**
 - **Principles of Experimental Mouse Genetics** –Fabien Delerue, PhD, Course Director
- 3. Discussed courses that will undergo major and follow-up review.**

Major Course Review (9 courses)

- GS02 1021: Supervised Clinical Experience in Radiation Therapy Physics
- GS02 1053: Radiation Detection, Instrumentation, and Data Analysis
- GS04 1213: Mechanisms of Cancer Therapeutics
- GS11 1083: Contemporary Issues in Genetic Counseling
- GS11 1132: Introduction to Genetic Counseling
- GS11 1172: Prenatal Genetic Counseling
- GS14 1141: Neuroimmunology
- GS14 1152: Cancer Neuroscience
- GS14 1612: Biostatistics for Life Scientists

Follow-up Course Review (3 courses)

- GS04 1093: Biology of Cancer Metastasis
- GS14 1024: Systems Neuroscience
- GS21 1014: Design and Management of Clinical Trials

- 4. Completed course review of the following courses:**
 - GS02 1021: Supervised Clinical Experience in Radiation Therapy Physics
 - GS14 1612: Biostatistics for Life Scientists
 - GS02 1053: Radiation Detection, Instrumentation, and Data Analysis
- 5. Scheduled Student Focus Group meetings for the following courses:**
 - GS11 1083: Contemporary Issues in Genetic Counseling – Feb. 27
 - GS14 1141: Neuroimmunology – March 4

7. Other items presented and discussed:

- GS04 1813: History of Biology and Cancer Science - discussion of course history and its future as a required course in the Cancer Biology Program
- GS04 1792: Pragmatic Bioinformatics for Bench Scientists - discussion of course leadership and future planning/fielding names of potential course co-directors.
- Committee Charge and Procedural Guidelines
- Committee assignment/s of courses for review (major and follow-up)
- Procedure for reviewing GSBS Courses
- Commended course/s for academic year 2025

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Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Membership Committee
Activity Report
September 2025 – February 2026
Chair - Dr. Mohammad Salehpour

The Committee met three times since the last Faculty Meeting in September 2025.

The Committee approved the following:

- 21 applications for Regular Membership
- 10 applications for Associate Membership
- 62 reappointments
- 15 reappointments with commendation
- 4 reappointments with highest commendation
- 13 reappointments with encouragement
- 2 reappointments not recommended for renewal

Program Directors Committee Dr. Kristin Eckel-Mahan

The Committee met two times since the last Faculty Meeting and discussed the following topics: (September & December)

- Program Sponsored Tutorials (Dr. Shadding)
- Updated Academic Forms (Dr. Cole)
- Student Rotation Approvals (Dr. Cole)
- Appropriate Internship Approvals Through the GSBS (Dr. Salinas)
- Cost Containment Efforts (Ms. Weinberg)
- Academic Forms Approvals (Ms. Weinberg)
- Changes in admissions/Program sponsored tutorials (Drs. Aballay & Shadding)
- Committee Composition -Role of PDs (Dr. Cole)
- Implementation of New Academic Forms (Dr. Cole)

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Activity Report
September 2025 - February 2026

1. Discussed the Fall 2025 awards criteria and evaluated 126 applications for 34 different fellowship/scholarships and selected 73 new awardees including renewal fellows as shown below:

Award Name	Recipients	Advisor	Program	Institution
Charlene Kopchick Fellowship 2026	Lana Al Hasani	Wenbo Li	GE	UTHealth Houston
	Mya Rodriguez	Andrea Stavoe	NS	UTHealth Houston
Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowships 2026	Cara Biddle	Kendra Carmon	MTB	UTHealth Houston
	Cheng-En Shen	Yuan Pan	CB	MD Anderson
	Ha Tran	Charles Manning	CB	MD Anderson
	Julianna Quinn	Jun Wang	GE	UTHealth Houston
	Megan Fisher	Dung-Fang Lee	CB	UTHealth Houston
	Wen Jiang	Kristin Eckel-Mahan	NS	UTHealth Houston
	Annette Wu	Wen Jiang	IMM	MD Anderson
	Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowships (Renewal)	Maliha Munir	May Daher	CB
Richa Nayak	Yejing Ge	GE	MD Anderson	
Andrew Gillard	Cande Gomez-Manzano	CB	MD Anderson	
Peyton High	Kendra Carmon	MTB	UTHH	
Dounya Jalloul	Michael Beierlein	NS	UTHH	
Ryan Sloan	Jayhun Lee	MID	UTHH	

Jesse B. Heath, Jr. Family Legacy Award	Anna Marks	Marites Melancon	MP	MD Anderson
	Sarah Shin	Harry Karmouty-Quintana	MTB	UTHealth Houston
	Yueh-Ming Shyu	Kendra Carmon	TAP	UTHealth Houston
Ellen Taylor Goldin Legacy Award	Shannon Erhardt	Jun Wang	GE	UTHealth Houston
Michael E. Kupferman, MD Fellowship	Emily Bontekoe	Alexandre Reuben	IMM	MDACC
	Shuaitong Chen	Wantong Yao and Yang Liu	GE	MDACC
James E. Tempesta, M.D. Endowed Scholarship	Vicky Chuong	Fabricio Do Monte	NS	UTHH
Gigli Family Endowed Scholarship	Kathryne Rojeck	Jessica Corredor	GCP	UTHealth Houston
	Phuoc Minh Quan Mai	Sunil Krishnan	TAP	UTHealth Houston
Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarships in Cancer Research	Chia Hsin Lin	Nicholas Navin	QS	MD Anderson
	Javier Leo	Di Zhao	CB	MD Anderson
	Ping Xu	Nicholas Navin	CB	MD Anderson
	Sarah Schneider	Stephanie Watowich	IMM	MD Anderson
	Shao-Ping Yang	Dihua Yu	IMM	MD Anderson
Cancer Answers/Sylvan Rodriguez Scholarship	Tyler Bateman	Ali Azhdarinia	TAP	UTHealth Houston
The Antje Wuelfrath Gee and Harry Gee, Jr. Family Legacy Award	Chih Wei Chu	Kenneth Hu	CB	MD Anderson
	Ziyu Fu	Jingfei Ma	MP	MD Anderson
T.C. Hsu Scholarship	Mitheera V	Guillermina Lozano	GE	MD Anderson
	Yutao Qi	Ronald DePinho	CB	MD Anderson
Investing in Students Futures Scholarship	Brian Koehler	Jian Hu	CB	MD Anderson
	Yuhan Cao	Qingchun Tong	NS	UTHealth Houston
	Yu-Sung Hsu	Katy Rezvani	IMM	MD Anderson
	Nisha Narayanan	Hussein Abbas	CB	MD Anderson
Ray Meyn Scholarship for Cancer Research	Minyue Chen	Human Kadara	IMM	MD Anderson
	Lian Duan	Stephen Kry	MP	MD Anderson

	Thierry Iraguha	Jason Schenkel	IMM	MD Anderson
	Shun Rao	Yisheng Li	QS	MD Anderson
	Natalie West	C. Dave Fuller	MP	MD Anderson
George M. Stancel, Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences	Chaitali Bhadiadra	Liuqing Yang	IMM	MD Anderson
	Reem Elghaish	Nicholas Navin	QS	MD Anderson
Steve Lasher and Janiece Longoria Graduate Student Research Award in Cancer Biology	Laurel Boatright	Lauren Colbert	MID	MD Anderson
Oates Family GSBS Endowment	Tania Sainz Zuniga	Francisco Vega	IMM	MDACC
	Hsiang-Ching (Adam) Tseng	Kuang-Lei Tsai	MTB	UTHH
	Yang Zhou	Stephanie Watowich	IMM	MD Anderson
R.W. Butcher Achievement Award	Shuyue Wang	Han Xu	QS	MD Anderson
Sylvan Rodriguez Foundation Scholarship honoring George M. Stancel, PhD	Anthony Kang	Clifton Dave Fuller	QS	MD Anderson
Sam Taub and Beatrice Burton Endowed Fellowships in Vision Disease	Julia Zickus	Pratip Bhattacharya	MTB	MD Anderson
Roberta M. and Jean M. Worsham Endowed Fellowship	Alyssa Shulman	Dihua Yu	CB	MD Anderson
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Endowment	Cole Ruoff	Nicholas Navin	QS	MD Anderson
	Shruthi Kannan	Pavan Bachireddy and Jeffrey Molldrem	IMM	MD Anderson
	Erin Snoddy	Kristy Brock	MP	MD Anderson
	Haoyi Yang	Wei Cao	NS	MD Anderson
Wei Yu Family Endowed Scholarship	Shafqat Ehsan	Lauren Colbert	QS	MD Anderson
The Fadine Jackson Roquemore Scholarship in Cancer Research	Henry Meyer	Radhe Mohan	MP	MD Anderson
Molly S. Bray, PhD Scholarship	Tala Noun	Humam Kadara	CB	MD Anderson
City Federation of Women's Club Endowed Scholarship in the Biomedical Science	Kiara Bornes	Callie Kwartler	GE	UTHealth Houston

Ralph B. Arlinghaus, PhD Scholarship	Chi Yin Ching	Ronald DePinho	CB	MD Anderson
	Ngoc Tuyet Tra	Sunil Krishnan	TAP	UTHealth Houston
	Rene Girard	Harry Karmouty- Quintana	MTB	UTHealth Houston
Fernando Aron Yarrito Scholarship	David Won	Cassian Yee	IMM	MDACC
Floyd Haar, MD, Endowed Memorial Research Award in Memory of Freda Haar	Zaphanelene Kaffey	Clifton Dave Fuller	MP	MD Anderson
Cancer Answers Scholarship	Mackenzie Wienke	Charles Ishak	GE	MD Anderson
Henry W. Strobel, PhD Endowed Scholarship	Teresa Sullivan	Anna Konovalova	MID	UTHealth Houston
Janet Elaine Pierce Frye Scholarship for Cancer Research	Trisha Wathan	Deepa Sampath and Jeffrey Molldrem	CB	MDACC
	Yueting Zhao	Nicholas Navin	CB	MDACC
Michelle C. Barton, PhD Scholarship	Xiaohan Chi	Ruitao Lin	QS	MD Anderson
Annette Marie Loguidice Scholarship	Aya Albittar	Sachet Shukla	IMM	MDACC
	Muxin Wang	Pratip Bhattacharya	NS	MDACC

Legend: Highlighted in green are MDA Awards

2. Program-based award and award through other review mechanisms.

➤ Dee S. and Patricia Osborne Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences

RECIPIENTS	ADVISOR	PROGRAM	INSTITUTION
Shivi Garg	Louise McCullough	NS	UTHealth Houston
Paula Bender	Kristin Eckel-Mahan	NBS	UTHealth Houston
Julia Zickus	Pratip Bhattacharya	MTB	MD Anderson

3. Other accomplishments

- Conducted SSC Fall Award meetings on Dec. 1 and 2, 2025 for MS/Pre candidacy and Post-Candidacy Awards, respectively.

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Student Success and Well Being Report

- The GSBS Student Success and Well-Being Committee has been analyzing the data collected from last year's Wellness Survey to determine new initiatives to best support our GSBS students.
- In February, select committee members participated in Mental Health First Aid Training (MHFA) alongside some GSBS staff and program directors. This is an evidence-based certification program teaching adults how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health or substance use challenges.
- The committee collaborated with First-Generation Student Group on a Valentine's Day Event: "Heart, Body, & Mind Wellness" February 10-12th.
- Based on the responses to our Wellness Survey, we will be kicking off a "Financial Wellness Series" scheduled for April 10th during Graduate Student Appreciation Week. We will be introducing the committee to new students, providing an overview of the tenants of wellness, and hosting a speaker to discuss budgeting strategies.
- We are planning on reaching out to local institutes (e.g., MD Anderson, UTHealth, Rice University) to discuss potential collaborations on activities related to student wellness.