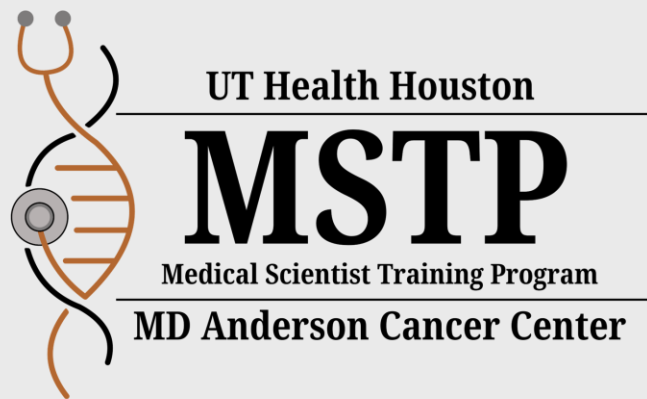




~~Cancer~~<sup>®</sup>  
UT MD Anderson

 UTHealth<sup>®</sup>  
Houston

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

UTHealth Houston-MD Anderson

Cancer Center MSTP Student Directory 2026/2027

# Ben Dunning (MS1)

[Benjamin.C.Dunning@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Benjamin.C.Dunning@uth.tmc.edu)

Texas A&M University

Research Interests: broadly interested in device design, signal processing, and machine learning for applications in precision medicine

Tutorials:

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Comedy writing / performing
- Working out
- Board games

# Caidyn Ellis (MS1)

[Caidyn.A.Ellis@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Caidyn.A.Ellis@uth.tmc.edu)

Oglethorpe University - BS

Agnes Scott College - MS

Research Interests: broadly, the role of glial cells—especially astrocytes—in traumatic brain injury (TBI) pathogenesis, outcomes, and most importantly, recovery

Tutorials:

1. Louise McCullough, MD, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Crochet, spinning yarn (and knitting)
- Yoga
- Playing TTRPGs
- Attending concerts, markets, and festivals

# J. Mason Harding (MS1)

[Jeffrey.M.Harding@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.M.Harding@uth.tmc.edu)

University of North Carolina

Research Interests: Network neuroscience, neuroimaging, and improving neuromodulation techniques for closed-loop, personalized therapies

Tutorials:

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Triathlon
- Cooking
- Golf (more recently, still terrible)

# William Lee (MS1)

[William.J.Lee@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:William.J.Lee@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Pennsylvania

Research Interests: Brain-computer interfaces, the neural and molecular correlates of sleep, and utilizing stereo-EEG

Tutorials:

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Volleyball
- Lifting/running, cooking
- Watching the NHL (go Flyers!) and NFL (go Birds!)

# Rolando Marquez (MS1)

[Rolando.Marquez@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Rolando.Marquez@uth.tmc.edu)

Rice University

Research Interests: Broadly interested in cell and molecular engineering

Tutorials:

1. Sally Yoo, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Traveling
- Baking
- Crossword puzzles and board games
- Bass guitar

# Kaila Nayvelt (MS1)

[Kaila.E.Nayvelt@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Kaila.E.Nayvelt@uth.tmc.edu)

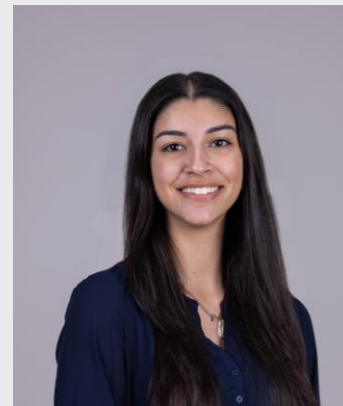
University of Texas - Austin

Research Interests: Cancer immunology, epigenetics, advancing personalized medicine, translational work/therapeutic development broadly

Tutorials:

1. Sangeeta Goswami, MD, PhD

Awards: Cullen Trust Fellowship



Hobbies: dancing (social dance & ballet), crochet/knitting, hiking/beachgoing, thrifting, movie nights

# Brendan Parent (MS1)

[Brendan.D.Parent@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Brendan.D.Parent@uth.tmc.edu)

Cornell University

Research Interests: pancreatic cancer, cell plasticity, cancer immunology

Tutorials:

1. Vince Bernard, MD, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies: Going to the gym, traveling, hiking, reading, trying new restaurants/coffee shops

# Elizabeth Trull (MS1)

[Elizabeth.C.Trull@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.C.Trull@uth.tmc.edu)

Texas A&M University

Research Interests: cancer biology, with a particular interest in tumor heterogeneity, metastasis, and therapeutic resistance

Tutorials:

Awards:



Hobbies: Listening to music, reading, doing pilates/barre, playing with my cat, Lulu, and practicing my barista skills

# Ethan Chen (MS2)

[Ethan.Chen@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Ethan.Chen@uth.tmc.edu)

Northeastern University

Research Interests: brain cancer research, specifically studying the immunological landscape of the glioblastoma tumor microenvironment.

Tutorials:

1. Ken Hu, PhD
2. Christopher Alvarez-Breckenridge, MD, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Cooking
- Baking
- Exploring the city!

# Samuel “Sam” Liu (MS2)

[Samuel.W.Liu@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Samuel.W.Liu@uth.tmc.edu)

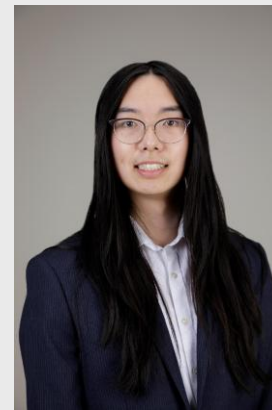
Duke University

Research Interests: the structural mechanisms of ligand recognition and receptor activation underlying the signaling of transmembrane receptor proteins

Tutorials:

1. Irina Serysheva, PhD
2. Nitin Tandon, MD

Awards: Cullen Trust Fellowship



Hobbies:

# Kenedi Lynch (MS2)

[Kenedi.I.Lynch@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Kenedi.I.Lynch@uth.tmc.edu)

Louisiana State University - BS

The University of Edinburgh - MScR

Research Interests: broadly interested in infectious disease, immune regulation, and novel therapeutics/diagnostics

Tutorials:

1. Ben Schrank, MD, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Volleyball
- Film & tv
- Reading
- Thrifting
- Traveling

# Julie Park (MS2)

[Julie.E.Park@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Julie.E.Park@uth.tmc.edu)

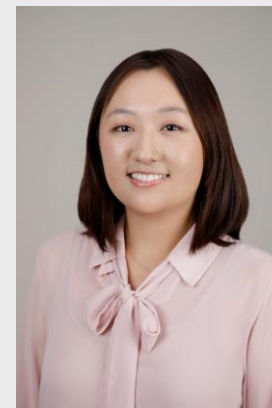
University of California – Los Angeles

Research Interests: I am broadly interested in cancer research, including molecular biology, immunology and radiotheranostics.

Tutorials:

1. Andrew Sikora, MD, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Traveling
- Going to new restaurants and cafes
- Gardening
- Cooking
- Walking in nature

# Aamna Siddiqui (MS2)

[Aamna.J.Siddiqui@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Aamna.J.Siddiqui@uth.tmc.edu)

Virginia Commonwealth University

Research Interests: I am broadly interested in bioengineering and developing cancer therapeutics/drug delivery methods

Tutorials:

1. Simon Young, DDS, MD, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Scrapbooking
- Embroidering
- Thrifting
- Hosting themed parties
- Exploring new coffee shops and restaurants :)

# Alaina Tillman (MS2)

[Alaina.N.Tillman@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Alaina.N.Tillman@uth.tmc.edu)

Florida Atlantic University

Research Interests: I'm interested in muscle and bone loss, metabolism, hypoxia, stress, and aging in aerospace medicine and biomedical research!

Tutorials:

1. Theresa Guise, MD and Gabriel Pagnotti, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Hiking and traveling to national parks (I've visited over half of them!)
- Any exercise (weightlifting, pilates, running, climbing, and yoga)
- Flying planes
- Thrifting

# Tri Truong (MS2)

[Tri.M.Truong@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Tri.M.Truong@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Texas - Austin

Research Interests: using multi-omics computational methods (RNAseq, Xenium, SpatialATACSeq) and wet lab validation to study the tumor microenvironment, cellular plasticity, and tumor heterogeneity

Tutorials:

1. Ken Hu, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Exploring Food and Coffee Spots
- Board Games
- Video Games
- Watching Sports
- Dance

# Drue Domagala (MS3)

[Drue.M.Domagala@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Drue.M.Domagala@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Utah

Research Interests: neuroimmunology



Tutorials:

1. Rodney Ritzel, PhD

Hobbies:

Awards:

# Cesiah Gomez (MS3)

[Cesiah.Gomez@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Cesiah.Gomez@uth.tmc.edu)

Wellesley College

Research Interests: neuroscience and developmental biology

Tutorials:

1. Swathi Arur, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Reading
- Videogames
- Board games
- Legos
- Going out and trying new places to eat
- Travel

# Soo “Lucy” Im (MS3)

[Soo.Y.Im@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Soo.Y.Im@uth.tmc.edu)

Temple University

Research Interests: exploring targeted treatments for cancer cells, particularly by harnessing our own immune systems through immunotherapy

Tutorials:

1. Pavan Bachireddy, MD

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Playing videogames
- Spending time with my husband and our cat Mochi
- Visiting National Parks

# Gloria Lee (MS3)

[Gloria.R.Lee@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Gloria.R.Lee@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Pennsylvania

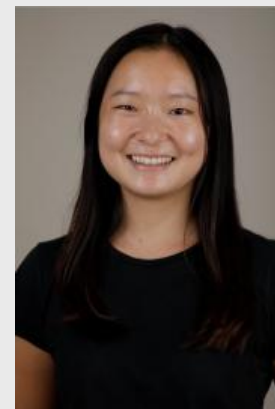
Research Interests: cancer science broadly, with pertained interest in tumor-stromal interactions and TME mediated responses to therapy

Tutorials:

1. Emil Schueler, PhD

Awards:

- Alpha Omega Alpha Carolyn Kuckein Fellowship 2026
- American Society of Clinical Oncology Fellowship 2026



Hobbies:

- Soccer
- Photography
- Figure Skating
- Live music
- Traveling!

# Catherine Moy (MS3)

[Catherine.Moy@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Catherine.Moy@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Texas - Austin

Research Interests: using cryo-electron microscopy to uncover the structure and conformational dynamics of pathologically relevant biomolecules and biomolecular complexes!

Tutorials:

1. John Tainer, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

- Running
- Keeping houseplants in purgatory
- Coffee shop hopping

# Bryce West (MS3)

[Bryce.E.West@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Bryce.E.West@uth.tmc.edu)

Dartmouth College

Research Interests: neuro-immunological responses  
to central nervous system trauma



Tutorials:

1. Michelle Hildebrandt, PhD

Hobbies:

- running
- triathlon
- trying new coffee shops

Awards: Albert Schweitzer Fellowship 2025-2026

# Euan Zhang (MS3)

[Euan.Y.Zhang@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Euan.Y.Zhang@uth.tmc.edu)

Northeastern University

Research Interests: finding the mechanism behind a novel phenomenon which uses 40Hz Gamma therapy to reverse Alzheimer's Disease

Tutorials:

1. Ruth Heidelberger, MD, PhD
2. Long-Jun Wu, PhD

Awards: Cullen Trust Fellowship



Hobbies: cars, video games, and building electric guitars

# Lance Babcock (MS3, GS1)

[Lance.L.Babcock@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Lance.L.Babcock@uth.tmc.edu)

Brandeis University

PhD Advisor: Long-Jun Wu, PhD

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Research Interests: multidisciplinary, circuit, and neuromodulation-based approaches to treating chronic pain and improving function in neurodegenerative diseases and after stroke.

Tutorials:

1. Louise McCullough, MD, PhD / Juneyoung Lee, PhD
2. Qingchun Tong, PhD
3. Long-Jun Wu, PhD
4. Sheng Li, MD, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

Exercise (Running, Weight lifting, Yoga, Climbing, Dancing, Hiking, etc)

Binging good TV series

Video games

Solving puzzles

# Oluwatosin “Tosin” Banjo (MS3, GS1)

[Oluwatosin.Banjo@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Oluwatosin.Banjo@uth.tmc.edu)

Wellesley College

PhD Advisor:

PhD Program:

Research Interests:

Cancer immunology, CAR-NK Therapy

Tutorials:

1. Hui-Wen Lo, PhD
2. Gohar Manzar, MD, PhD

Awards:

SCoPE Excellence in Ethics and Professionalism (2024)



Hobbies: Baking, Cooking, Working Out, Reading

# Lea Godret Miertschin (MS3, GS1)

[Lea.M.GodretMiertschin@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Lea.M.GodretMiertschin@uth.tmc.edu)

Rice University

PhD Advisor: Hind Rafei

PhD Program: Immunology

Research Interests: CAR T therapy, autoimmune disease, general immunology!

Tutorials:

1. Moran Amit, MD, PhD
2. Kristen Pauken, PhD
3. Hind Rafei, MD, MS

Awards: Cullen Trust Fellowship



Hobbies: World Cup 2026!  
Board Games, Gardening, Cats,  
Cooking, Running, Climbing,  
Hiking in the mountains, Reading  
(loving Brandon Sanderson and  
Dungeon Crawler Carl at the  
moment), eating out at all the  
incredible restaurants in Houston!

# Joseph “Joe” Jansen (MS3, GS1)

[Joseph.Jansen@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Joseph.Jansen@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Alabama

PhD Advisor:

PhD Program: Therapeutics and Pharmacology

Research Interests: developmental biology; congenital malformations

Tutorials:

1. Vihang Narkar, PhD
2. Jun Wang, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies: Reading, exercising,  
lying in the park

# Breanna Shen (MS3, GS1)

[Breanna.Q.Shen@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Breanna.Q.Shen@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Texas – Dallas

PhD Advisors: Terry Walters and Taichi Goto (co-mentors)

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Research Interests: mechanisms of pain and inflammation, neuro-immune and neuro-epithelial interactions in wound healing

Tutorials:

1. E. Terry Walters, PhD
2. Andrew Shepherd, PhD
3. Taichi Goto, PhD, RN, PHN

Awards:



Hobbies:

Reading

Walking at Hermann Park

Going to the gym

Playing violin

Visiting local coffee/boba shops

# Hannah Thompson (MS3, GS1)

[Hannah.P.Thompson@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Hannah.P.Thompson@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Houston – Clear Lake

PhD Advisor: Harry Karmouty-Quintana

PhD Program: Molecular & Translational Biology

Research Interests: pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, translatomics

Tutorials:

1. Akihiko Urayama, PhD
2. Harry Karmouty-Quintana, PhD

Awards: Cullen Trust Fellowship



Hobbies: playing sand volleyball, reading, participating in community clean ups

# David Begelman (MS3, GS2)

[David.V.Begelman@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:David.V.Begelman@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

PhD Advisor: Ken Hu

PhD Program: Immunology

Research Interests: passionate about unraveling the biology of aging, as it applies to neurodegenerative disease and cancer.

Tutorials:

1. Nicholas Navin, PhD
2. Pavan Bachiredy, MD
3. Ken Hu, PhD
4. Long-Jun Wu, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies: I love experimenting in the kitchen, especially with sourdough and kombucha, caring for my ever-growing mini apartment plant forest, and playing fetch with my cat, Mika. Also, jam sesh on the clarinet!

# Jazmine Grant (MS3, GS2)

[Jazmine.A.Grant@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Jazmine.A.Grant@uth.tmc.edu)

Howard University

PhD Advisor: Xiaodong Cheng, PhD

PhD Program: Therapeutics and Pharmacology

Research Interests: Using modern methods to aid in drug discovery for novel protein targets, with a translational research interest in chronic pain.

Tutorials:

1. Carmen Dessauer, PhD
2. Xiaodong Cheng, PhD
3. Alex Gorfe, PhD

Awards: Training Interdisciplinary Pharmacology Scientists (TIPS) T32 Fellowship



Hobbies: Going to concerts and live music events, trying new restaurants, and traveling

# Anthony Kang (MS3, GS2)

[Anthony.M.Kang@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Anthony.M.Kang@uth.tmc.edu)

Rice University

PhD Advisor: Clifton “Dave” Fuller, MD, PhD

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Research Interests: computational biology as it relates to cancer

Tutorials:

1. Jinzhong Yang, PhD
2. C. Dave Fuller, MD, PhD

Awards: Cullen Trust Fellowship



Hobbies:

- Comic-Con
- Golfing
- Singing opera
- Playing Mario Kart

# Brian Koehler (MS3, GS2)

[Brian.Koehler@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Brian.Koehler@uth.tmc.edu)

Texas A&M University

PhD Advisor: Jian Hu

PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Research Interests: using novel immunotherapeutic agents to manipulate the myeloid component of glioblastoma and reverse the “cold” immunosuppressive microenvironment in the tumor

Tutorials:

1. Fred Lang, MD
2. Jian Hu, PhD

Awards: CCTS T32 Fellowship



Hobbies:

- Making mead
- Playing with my cat

# Anthony “Jun” Lim (MS3, GS2)

[Anthony.J.Lim@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Anthony.J.Lim@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Texas - Austin

PhD Advisors: Wen Jiang, Betty Kim

PhD Program: Immunology

Research Interests: neuro-immunology, perivascular niche of glioblastoma, and spinal cord imaging

Tutorials:

1. Wen Jiang, MD, PhD
2. Joseph McCarty, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

# Sanjay Neerukonda (MS3, GS2)

[Sanjay.V.Neerukonda@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Sanjay.V.Neerukonda@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Texas - Dallas

PhD Advisor: Louise McCullough

PhD Program: Neuroscience / Immunology

Research Interests: mechanisms of neuroinflammation, neuroplasticity and repair following stroke and traumatic nervous system injury in addition to chronic pain pharmacology/therapeutics

## Tutorials:

1. E. Terry Walters, PhD
2. Peter Grace, PhD
3. Louise McCullough, MD, PhD

## Awards:

- Albert Schweitzer Fellowship 2023-2024
- AAN 2024 Medical Student Experience at the Annual Meeting Scholarship
- McGovern Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS)
- SfN Neuroscience Scholars Program - Fellow (2025-2027)
- Texas Medical Association - Outstanding Student of the Year 2026



## Hobbies:

- Board games
- Sci-fi/mystery film & TV
- Walks
- Duolingo

# Shanila Shakil (MS3, GS2 – UPR)

[Shanila.Shakil@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Shanila.Shakil@uth.tmc.edu)

Princeton University

PhD Advisor: Zhiqiang An

PhD Program: Immunology

Research Interests: immunology and head and neck cancers, with an emphasis on improving current therapies by understanding the tumor microenvironment and its role in treatment response

Tutorials:

1. Lauren Colbert, MD
2. Andrew Sikora, MD, PhD
3. Zhiqiang An, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies: Ice cream making

# Ephraim Vasquez-Rosado (MS3, GS2)

[Ephraim.J.VasquezRosado@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Ephraim.J.VasquezRosado@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez

PhD Advisors: Mary (Cindy) Farach-Carson, Simon Young

PhD Program: Molecular and Translational Biology

Research Interests: tissue engineering

Tutorials:

1. Daniel Harrington, PhD
2. Mary (Cindy) Farach-Carson, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

# Timothy Bi (MS2, GS4)

[Timothy.M.Bi@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Timothy.M.Bi@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Washington

PhD Advisor: Pavan Bachiredy

PhD Program: Immunology

Research Interests: immunotherapy and single-cell multi-omics in the setting of leukemia

Tutorials:

1. Gregory Lizée, PhD
2. Pavan Bachiredy, MD

Awards:

- GSBS Student Assistance Scholarship 2024
- Travel Award, Single Cell Analyses Mtg, Cold Spring Harbor, NY



Hobbies: Coffee, badminton, listening to and/or making music, trying new restaurants

# Aaron Bickert (MS3, GS3)

[Aaron.A.Bickert@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Aaron.A.Bickert@uth.tmc.edu)

Johns Hopkins University

PhD Advisor: Raghu Kalluri

PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Research Interests: pancreatic cancer, cancer therapeutic resistance, tumor microenvironment in cancer progression and metastasis

Tutorials:

1. John Paul Shen, MD
2. Michael Galko, PhD
3. Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

# Aditya Singh (MS2, GS4)

[Aditya.Singh@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Aditya.Singh@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Texas - Austin

PhD Advisor: Nitin Tandon

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Research Interests:

Tutorials:

1. Nitin Tandon, MD
2. John Seymour, PhD

Awards: Dean's Excellence Scholarship 2023-2024



Hobbies:

# Megan Tarbet (MS3, GS3)

[Megan.M.Tarbet@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Megan.M.Tarbet@uth.tmc.edu)

Texas A&M University

PhD Advisor: Consuelo Walss-Bass

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Research Interests: mechanisms underlying the development of chronic pain, neuroimmunology, and opiate use disorder

Tutorials:

1. E. Terry Walters, PhD
2. Fabricio Do Monte, PhD
3. Consuelo Walss-Bass, PhD

Awards:

- Cullen Trust Fellowship
- GSBS Peer Review Challenge



Hobbies:

Playing D&D

Cross-stitching

3D wooden puzzles

True crime podcasts

Going to the park with my dog

# Carmen Zavala (MS3, GS3)

[Carmen.A.Zavala@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Carmen.A.Zavala@uth.tmc.edu)

Indiana University - Bloomington

PhD Advisor: Nitin Tandon

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Research Interests: chronic pain mechanisms and treatments

Tutorials:

1. E. Terry Walters, PhD
2. Sally Yoo, PhD – Mark Burish, MD, PhD
3. Carmen Dessauer, PhD
4. Nitin Tandon, MD

Awards:



Hobbies:

# Maryam Elizondo (MS3, GS4)

[Maryam.E.Elizondo@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Maryam.E.Elizondo@uth.tmc.edu)

Rice University

PhD Advisor: Emil Schueler

PhD Program: Genetics and Epigenetics / Therapeutics  
and Pharmacology

Research Interests: dermatology, inflammatory diseases,  
diabetic wound healing, fibrosis, adipose tissue, and  
metabolism

## Tutorials:

1. Harry Karmouty-Quintana, PhD
2. Kai Sun, PhD
3. Michael Galko, PhD
4. Yejing Ge, PhD
5. Emil Schueler, PhD

## Awards:

- Arnold P. Gold Foundation Gold Humanism Honor Society  
Award 2023 - CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- Best Oral Presentation at TAP Retreat 2023  
TL1/T32 Fellowship 2024, 2025



## Hobbies:

Reading novels, hanging out with  
my family (husband and daughter!)  
Thrifting, watching movies/TV shows  
(mostly mysteries/thrillers), playing  
board games on the clocktower and similar  
type games  
Hiking, kayaking, outdoors activities  
when it's not one hundred million  
degrees outside

# Sarah Ghalayini (MS3, GS4)

[Sarah.Ghalayini@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Sarah.Ghalayini@uth.tmc.edu)

Georgia Institute of Technology

PhD Advisors: Rob Fuentes and Albert Koong

PhD Program: Therapeutics and Pharmacology

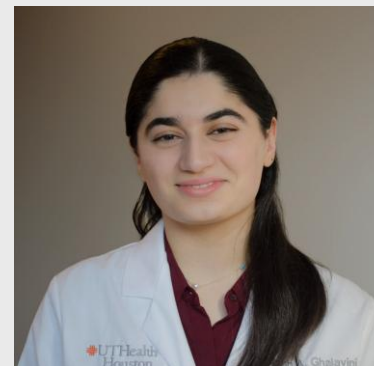
Research Interests: immunology, bioengineering, and cancer

Tutorials:

1. Cullen Taniguchi, MD, PhD
2. Clifton Dave Fuller, MD, PhD
3. Simon Young, DDS, MD, PhD

Awards:

- CCTS T32 Fellowship 2025-2026
- Top 50 Abstract Award Association for Clinical and Translational Sciences National Meeting 2026
- Oates Family GSBS Endowment Scholarship 2024-2025
- American Association of Immunologists Travel Award 2025
- Cold Spring Harbor Workshop on Pancreatic Cancer Scholarship 2024



Hobbies:

- Experimenting with new recipes
- Hiking
- Reading
- Cross-stitching

# Jacob Hamon-Mattia (MS3, GS4)

[Jacob.Mattia@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Jacob.Mattia@uth.tmc.edu)

Rice University

PhD Advisor: Wenbo Li

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Research Interests: Down syndrome, 3D genomics, computational biology, and neurodevelopment

Tutorials:

1. Jason Huse, MD, PhD
2. Wenbo Li, PhD

Awards:

- CCTS T32 Fellowship 2024-2025
- Oates Family GSBS Endowment Scholarship 2024-2025
- Russell and Diana Hawkins Family Foundation Discovery Fellowships 2025-2027



Hobbies:

- Cooking
- Indie Rock Music
- Nerdy Board Games
- Sci-fi/Fantasy

# Anna Meyer (MS3, GS4)

[Anna.M.Meyer@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Anna.M.Meyer@uth.tmc.edu)

Rice University

PhD Advisor: Ron DePinho

PhD Program: Immunology

Research Interests: immunology and cell biology

Tutorials:

1. Peter Friedl, PhD
2. Mauro Di Pilato, PhD
3. Pamela Wenzel, PhD
4. Jason Schenkel, MD, PhD

Awards:

- 2020 Texas Children's Pediatric Research Symposium  
Top Abstract Award



Hobbies:

# Alexandra Miller (MS3, GS4)

[Alexandra.E.Miller@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Alexandra.E.Miller@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Texas - Austin

PhD Advisor: Ji Young Yoo

PhD Program: Therapeutics and Pharmacology

Research Interests: exosome-based drug delivery, oncolytic virotherapy and micro-RNA as adjuvant therapeutics for the optimization of immunotherapies in glioblastoma multiforme

Tutorials:

1. Joseph McCarty, PhD
2. Gabriel Lopez, MD
3. Ji Young Yoo, PhD

Awards:

- Cullen Trust Fellowship
- McGovern Gold Humanism Honor Society
- American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship 2026-2027



Hobbies:

# Trey Waldrop (MS3, GS4)

[Trey.J.Waldrop@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Trey.J.Waldrop@uth.tmc.edu)

Augustana University

PhD Advisor: Emil Schueler

PhD Program: Therapeutics and Pharmacology

Research Interests: FLASH Radiotherapy; murine physiology; toxicology

Tutorials:

1. Cullen Taniguchi, MD, PhD
2. Emil Schueler, PhD

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- GSBS International Travel Awards
- Best Oral Presentation, 2024 FLASH Radiotherapy & Particle Therapy Conference
- 1st Place, 2025 Texas Regional CTSA Consortium T1-T4 in 3 Minutes Competition
- GSBS Endowment Scholarship 2024-2025



Hobbies:

- Spending time with family
- Running
- Reading (especially nonfiction!)
- Learning Spanish
- Pub Trivia
- Mentoring

# Sydney Wilbon (MS3, GS4)

[Sydney.S.Wilbon@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Sydney.S.Wilbon@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Miami

PhD Advisor: Mikhail Kolonin

PhD Program: Molecular & Translational Biology

Research Interests: metabolism, reproductive biology,  
and genetics

Tutorials:

1. Rebecca Berdeaux, PhD
2. Swathi Arur, PhD
3. Mikhail Kolonin, PhD

Awards:



Hobbies:

# Andres Lopez (MS3, GS5 - UPR)

[Andres.Lopez@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Andres.Lopez@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras

PhD Advisor: Candelaria Gomez-Manzano

PhD Program: Immunology

Research Interests: immunotherapy and cancer drug resistance

Tutorials:

1. Sachet Shukla, PhD
2. Candelaria Gomez-Manzano, MD

Awards:

- American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship 2024-2026
- GSBS Student Assistance Scholarship 2024
- Multiple Travel Awards



Hobbies:

# Nicolas “Nico” Moreno (MS4, GS4)

[Nicolas.F.Moreno@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Nicolas.F.Moreno@uth.tmc.edu)

Texas A&M University

PhD Advisor: Cynthia Ju

PhD Program: Molecular & Translational Biology

Research Interests: how the innate immune system guides tissue repair after colitis

Tutorials:

1. Charles Cox, MD
2. Cynthia Ju, PhD

Awards:

- “The Transplant Society” Student Ambassador for North America
- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- UTHealth Jesse B. Heath, Jr. Family Legacy Award
- Henry W. Strobel, PhD Endowed Scholarship 2024-2025
- McGovern Medical School Dean’s Research Award 2025



Hobbies:

# Morgan Riba (MS3, GS5)

[MRiba@mdanderson.org](mailto:MRiba@mdanderson.org)

[Morgan.N.Riba@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Morgan.N.Riba@uth.tmc.edu)

Texas A&M University

PhD Advisors: Stephanie Watowich and Cassian Yee

PhD Program: Immunology

Research Interests: tumor immunology and immunotherapy

Tutorials:

1. Gheath Al-Atrash, DO, PhD
2. Kim Schluns, PhD
3. Stephanie Watowich, PhD

Awards:

- NCI F30 Award
- CCTS T32 Fellowship
- McGovern Gold Humanism Honor Society



Hobbies:

# Sarah Shin (MS3, GS5)

[Sarah.Y.Shin@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Sarah.Y.Shin@uth.tmc.edu)

University of Missouri - Kansas City

PhD Advisors: Harry Karmouty-Quintana and Danielle Wu

PhD Program: Molecular & Translational Biology

Research Interests: Systemic sclerosis lung fibrosis, lung calcifications, mechanotransduction

Tutorials:

1. Jason Huse, MD, PhD
2. Harry Karmouty-Quintana, PhD
3. Danielle Wu, PhD

Awards:

- GSBS Endowment Scholarship
- McGovern Research Retreat Post-Candidacy Poster Contest, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- Foundation of Anesthesia Education and Research MSTP Award
- Jesse B. Heath, Jr. Family Legacy Award
- Korean American Medical Association Scholarship



Hobbies:

- Fostering kittens
- Playing board games (Dominion!)
- Attempting to garden
- Watching competition TV shows

# Mitchell Slapik (MS4, GS4)

[Mitchell.Slapik@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Mitchell.Slapik@uth.tmc.edu)

Swarthmore College

PhD Advisors: Michael Beierlein and Valentin Dragoi

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Research Interests: computational neuroscience, machine learning and psychiatry

Tutorials:

1. Jair Soares, MD, PhD
2. John Byrne, PhD
3. Valentin Dragoi, PhD

Awards:

- NEI F30 Fellowship
- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- Dean's Research Scholarship
- George M. Stancel Fellowship 2023-2024
- Osborne Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences



Hobbies: Jazz saxophone!

# Kathryn “Katie” Snyder (MS4, GS4)

[Kathryn.M.Snyder@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Kathryn.M.Snyder@uth.tmc.edu)

Vanderbilt University

PhD Advisor: Nitin Tandon

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Research Interests: cognition, language, electrophysiology, and neuroimaging

Tutorials:

1. Valentin Dragoi, PhD
2. Nitin Tandon, MD

Awards:

- Cullen Trust Fellowship, UTHSC
- Graduate Student Merit Award, Society for the Neurobiology of Language
- Dee S. and Patricia Osborne Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences, UTHSC
- Travel Award, Society for the Neurobiology of Language
- Scholar Spotlight Honorable Mention, The BRAIN Initiative
- MSTP Retreat Poster Competition (1<sup>st</sup> Place), UTHSC



Hobbies:

# Natasha Topolski (MS4, GS5)

[Natasha.L.Topolski@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Natasha.L.Topolski@uth.tmc.edu)

Tulane University

PhD Advisor: Jair Soares

PhD Program: Neuroscience

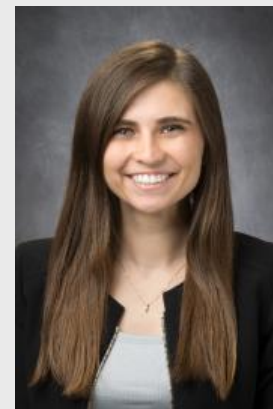
Research Interests: psychiatry with a focus on multi-modal biomarker development for patient diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment

Tutorials:

1. Jair Soares, MD, PhD
2. Gabriel Fries, PhD

Awards:

- Ralph B. Arlinghaus, Ph.D. Scholarship
- McGovern MSTP Pre-Candidacy Poster Competition (1st Place)
- TMA Student of the Year



Hobbies:

- Photography
- Plant propagation
- Trick dog training

# Jasper Chen (MS3, GS6)

[Jasper.Chen@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Jasper.Chen@uth.tmc.edu)

Johns Hopkins University

PhD Advisors: Albert Koong and Ronald DePinho

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Research Interests: cancer epigenetics and hypoxia

Tutorials:

1. Anirban Maitra, MBBS
2. Cullen Taniguchi, MD, PhD

Awards:

- HHMI Medical Fellows
- NIH NRSA F30 Fellowship
- American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship 2021
- Floyd Haar, M.D., Endowed Memorial Research Award 2023-2024



Hobbies:

# Mary Adeyeye (MS3, GS7)

[Mary.Adeyeye@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Mary.Adeyeye@uth.tmc.edu)

University at Albany, SUNY

PhD Advisors: Jun Wang (UTH) and Brendan Lee (BCM)

PhD Program: Genetics and Epigenetics

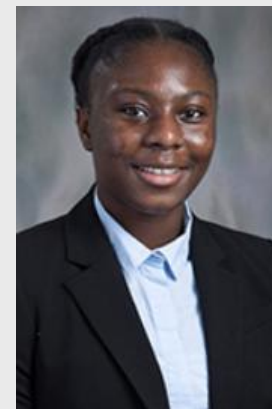
Research Interests: rare bone disorders, such as osteogenesis imperfecta, skeletal biology, therapeutic discovery, and orthopedic surgery

## Tutorials:

1. Johnny Huard, PhD UTHealth
2. Elizabeth Davis, PhD BCM
3. Brendan Lee, MD, PhD BCM

## Awards:

- 2022 G&E Travel Award
- 2022 GSBS Travel Award
- 2022 Annual MD-PhD National Student Conference Travel Award
- 2022 American Society for Bone and Mineral Research Underrepresented Minority Mentorship Award
- 2023 NICHD F31 Diversity Fellowship
- 2023 GSBS Michael E. Kupferman M.D. Scholarship
- Cullen Trust Fellowship
- 2024 ASBMR Young Investigator Award



Hobbies: