

Lance Babcock (MS1)

Lance.L.Babcock@uth.tmc.edu

Brandeis University



I am interested in multidisciplinary, circuit, and neuromodulation-based approaches to treating chronic pain and chemotherapy-induced pain.

Tutorials: Louise McCullough-Juneyoung Lee, BRAINS Lab

Awards:

Fun facts: I once accidentally drank a glass of salt water without tasting the salt. I enjoy nearly all forms of exercise and I have been a swimmer for half of my life.

Oluwatosin “Tosin” Banjo (MS1)

Oluwatosin.Banjo@uth.tmc.edu

Wellesley College



I am interested in

Tutorials: None yet

Fun fact:

Awards:

Lea Godret Miertschin (MS1)

Lea.M.GodretMiertschin@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University



I am interested in adaptive and innate immunity, infectious disease, and the tumor microenvironment.

Tutorials: None yet

Awards: Cullen Fellowship

Fun facts: I'm originally from New Mexico, I have two cats (one lazy and the other crazy, as expected), and my husband and I also love to play board games in our free time!

Joseph “Joe” Jansen (MS1)

Joseph.Jansen@uth.tmc.edu

University of Alabama



I am interested in metabolism and mechanisms of lifestyle factors (nutrition, exercise) in chronic disease

Tutorials: None yet

Fun fact: I'm from St. Louis and I like to play basketball in my free time

Awards:

Breanna Shen (MS1)

Breanna.Q.Shen@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas -Dallas



I am interested in mechanisms of pain and inflammation, as well as other neuroplasticity disorders, including stroke and Alzheimer's disease.

Tutorials:

- Dr. Terry Walters
 - Electrophysiology, DRG neuron hyperexcitability in postsurgical pain model

Awards:

- Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Marcus L Urann Fellowship
- Goldwater Scholarship
- National Merit Scholarship

Fun fact: I have been playing violin since I was 3 years old and am continuing to play in med school!

Hannah Thompson (MS1)

Hannah.P.Thompson@uth.tmc.edu

University of Houston – Clear Lake



I am interested in: Mechanisms of fibrosis and the role of extracellular matrix components in disease pathology. Still unsure of which specialty I would like to focus in!

Tutorials:

- Dr. Akihiko Urayama, PhD

Awards: Cullen Fellowship

Fun fact: I love reading, true crime docuseries, and gaming!

David Begelman (MS2)

David.V.Begelman@uth.tmc.edu

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

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

Tutorials:

Dr. Nicholas Navin

- Exploring susceptibilities to breast cancer in the aging breast through the application of single-cell RNA/DNA technology.

Awards:



Fun fact: I love to jam sesh on the clarinet!

Jazmine Grant (MS2)

Jazmine.A.Grant@uth.tmc.edu

Howard University



I am interested in applying behavioral and neuropharmacological approaches to further advance our understanding of chronic pain and substance abuse.

Tutorials:

- Dr. Carmen Dessauer
 - Observation of calcium signaling following satellite glial cell activation via multiple compounds

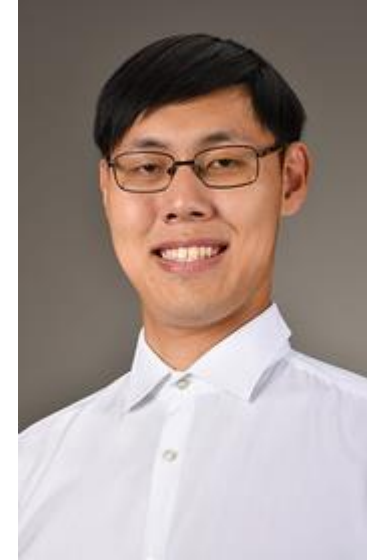
Awards: 2021 Goldwater Scholar

Fun facts: I was featured in an article by the New York Times and was on A1 of the Sunday paper and I previously hosted my own podcast which combined pop culture and science.

Anthony Kang (MS2)

Anthony.M.Kang@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University



Research Interests: Computational Biology

Tutorials: Jinzhong Yang

Fun Facts: I love Comic-Con and the Rubik's cube

Awards: Cullen Fellowship

Brian Koehler (MS2)

Brian.Koehler@uth.tmc.edu

Texas A&M University



I am interested in using novel immunotherapeutic agents to manipulate the myeloid component of glioblastoma and reverse the “cold” immunosuppressive microenvironment in the tumor.

Tutorials:

- Dr. Fred Lang
 - Delta-24 oncolytic virus treatment of GBM

Awards:

Fun facts: I play the piano and love to bake! I can bake pie, cake, cheesecake, and cookies. My favorite recipe is apple pie a la mode.

Sanjay Neerukonda (MS2)

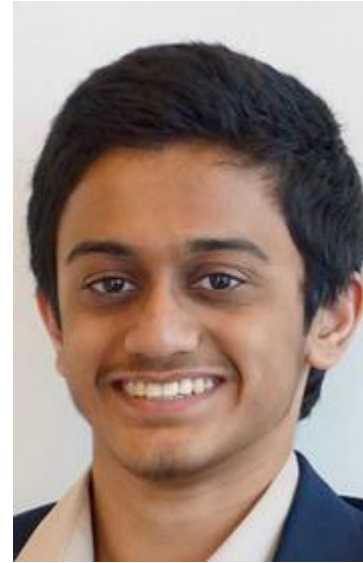
Sanjay.V.Neerukonda@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas -Dallas

I am interested in mechanisms of neuroplasticity and repair following traumatic nervous system injury in addition to chronic pain pharmacology/therapeutics

Tutorials: Peter Grace

Awards:



Fun facts: I speak 3 languages and love reading science-fiction novels!

Ephraim Vasquez-Rosado (MS2)

Ephraim.J.VasquezRosado@uth.tmc.edu

University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez



I am interested in cardiac tissue engineering

Tutorials: Daniel Harrington

Fun fact: I can play guitar

Awards:

Aaron Bickert (MS3)

Aaron.A.Bickert@uth.tmc.edu

Johns Hopkins University

I am interested in cancer therapeutic resistance, tumor microenvironment in cancer progression and metastasis, and the role of exosomes in cancer

Tutorials:

- John Paul Shen
 - Resistance to chemotherapeutic agents in colorectal cancer cell
- Michael Galiko
 - Morphine dependence using place preference assays in *Drosophila*

Awards:



Fun facts: I attended Johns Hopkins University, worked at the NIH for 3 years studying resistance to cancer chemotherapy, grew up in 4 different states. I enjoy running mid- to long-distance and I'm learning how to fly a plane.

Megan Tarbet (MS3)

Megan.M.Tarbet@uth.tmc.edu

Texas A&M University

I am interested in chronic pain and spinal cord injury

Tutorials:

- E. Terry Walters
 - Whole-cell patch clamping in isolated DRG neurons
 - Fundamentals of high-content microscopy
- Fabricio Do Monte
 - Immunohistochemistry of brain slices
 - Whole-cell patch clamping in slices
 - In vivo electrophysiology using implantable electrodes

Awards:

- Cullen Fellowship



Fun facts: I cross-stitch, am a big fan of true crime podcasts and TV series, grew up in a VERY small farming town. (There were 13 people in my grade.), and I used to work on a farm and at an apple orchard. I also had a summer job as a janitor.

Carmen Zavala (MS3)

Carmen.A.Zavala@uth.tmc.edu

Indiana University - Bloomington

I am interested in chronic pain mechanisms and treatments

Tutorials:

- E. Terry Walters
 - Studied opioid hyperalgesia in post-surgical rats using assays such as von frey and mechanical conflict test

Awards:



Fun facts: I am the Service Senator for the MS2 class where I work directly with our class charity, Santa Maria Hostel, to promote housing and recovery of mothers struggling with substance use disorder. You can find me in the gym or exploring the Houston food scene & night life!

Timothy Bi (MS2, GS1)

Timothy.M.Bi@uth.tmc.edu

University of Washington

PhD Program: Immunology

Advisor: Dr. Pavan Bachireddy

Research Interests: Immunotherapy, single-cell multiomics in the setting of leukemia

Tutorials:

- Gregory Lizee
 - MHC-Class I intracellular tail function and trogocytosis
- Pavan Bachireddy
 - Inferring clonal relationships of leukemic cells in single-cell data

Awards:

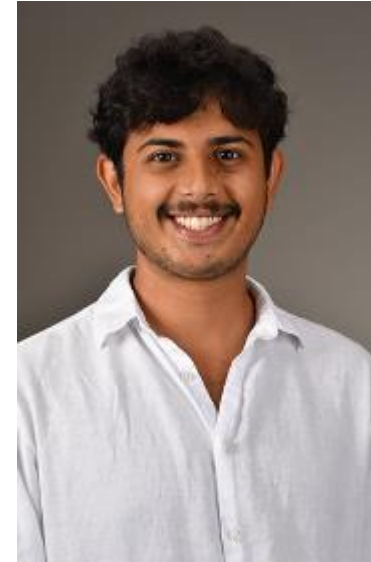


Fun facts: From the Pacific Northwest! Used to play badminton semi-competitively.

Aditya Singh (MS2, GS1)

Aditya.Singh@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas - Austin



PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Nitin Tandon, MD

Research Interests:

Tutorials:

- Nitin Tandon
- John Seymour

Fun Facts:

Awards:

Maryam Elizondo (MS3, GS1)

Maryam.E.Elizondo@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University



PhD Program: Therapeutics and Pharmacology

Advisor: Dr. Kai Sun MD, PhD

Research Interests: I am interested in dermatology, inflammatory diseases, diabetic wound healing, fibrosis, adipose tissue, and metabolism! (pew!)

Tutorials:

- Harry Karmouty-Quintana
- Kai Sun

Awards: Arnold P. Gold Foundation Gold Humanism Honor Society Award 2023, CCTS TL1 Award, Best Oral Presentation at TAP Retreat 2023.

Fun Facts: I was once a lead singer of a Strokes cover band. I also have three cats (Pepper, Rosemary, and Chicken). Bonus: My husband is a space suit fashion designer!

Sarah Ghalayini (MS3, GS1)

Sarah.Ghalayini@uth.tmc.edu

Georgia Institute of Technology – Main Campus

PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Advisor:

Research Interests: I am interested in immunology, bioengineering, and cancer

Tutorials:

- Taniguchi Lab
 - Role of HIF-2 in modulation of the tumor microenvironment and its interactions with immune cells in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma
- Clifton Fuller Lab
- Simon Young Lab

Awards:



Fun fact: One of my hobbies is Arabic Calligraphy!

Jacob Mattia (MS3, GS1)

Jacob.Mattia@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisor: Wenbo Li

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

Tutorials:

- Jason Huse
- Wenbo Li

Awards: CCTS TL1 Fellowship



Fun Facts: I enjoy cooking, working out, reading, and sleeping. I was born and raised in Normal, Illinois, so I guess you could say I'm a pretty average guy. (I swear I'm not as boring as these fun facts make me sound)

Anna Meyer (MS3, GS1)

Anna.M.Meyer@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University

PhD Program: Immunology

Advisor: Jason Schenkel, MD/PhD

Research Interests: I am interested in immunology and cell biology

Tutorials:

- Peter Friedl Lab
 - Prostate cancer metastasis to bone
- Mauro Di Pilato Lab
- Pamela Wenzel Lab
- Jason Schenkel Lab

Awards:

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



Fun facts: I enjoy running, reading, and music.

Alexandra Miller (MS3, GS1)

Alexandra.E.Miller@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas - Austin



PhD Program: Therapeutics and Pharmacology

Advisor: Dr. Ji Young Yoo

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

Tutorials:

- Joseph McCarty
 - Investigated the role of Mlc-1 in maintaining the integrity of the BBB to further categorize subtypes of perivascular astrocytes involved in BBB maintenance
- Gabriel Lopez
 - Therapeutic application of an anti-PDL1 aptamer for checkpoint inhibition in triple negative breast cancer

Awards:

- Cullen Fellowship
- McGovern Gold Humanism Honor Society

Fun facts: I like to rock climb, hike, and bike in my free time! My first job was as a caricature artist at Kemah Boardwalk and my second simultaneous job was as a Pharmacy Technician. I am also involved in the LBGTQ+ in Health org at McGovern and founded the Medical Students with Disability and Chronic Illness branch at McGovern.

Trey Waldrop (MS3, GS1)

Trey.J.Waldrop@uth.tmc.edu

Augustana University



PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Advisor: Emil Schueler

Research Interests: I am interested in radiation biology and tumor microenvironment

Tutorials:

- Cullen Taniguchi
 - Tumor microenvironment interactions, pancreatic cancer, hypoxia
- Emil Schueler

Awards: CCTS TL1 Fellowship

Fun facts: Some of my favorite hobbies are running and cooking, when I was in high school, I wanted to be an actor, I am involved in the Medical Humanities Scholarly Concentration at the medical school, and one of my favorite classes in undergrad was Social Dance.

Sydney Wilbon (MS3, GS1)

Sydney.S.Wilbon@uth.tmc.edu

University of Miami

PhD Program: Molecular & Translational Biology

Advisor: Mikhail Kolonin, PhD

Research Interests: I am interested in metabolism, reproductive biology, and genetics

Tutorials:

- Rebecca Berdeaux
 - Metabolism in brown fat from diabetic vs healthy mice.
- Swathi Arur
 - Effect of metabolism on reproductive capabilities in *C. elegans*
- Mikhail Kolonin

Awards:



Fun fact: I played violin for 10 years

Clarissa Hoffman (MS2, GS3)

Clarissa.M.Hoffman@uth.tmc.edu

University of California – San Diego

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisor: Yuri Dabaghian

I am interested in math, computational neuroscience, and signal processing

Tutorials:

- Joseph McCarty
 - Studying how the prion family protein Prnd/Doppel regulates angiogenesis in development and cancer
- Yuri Dabaghian
 - Stochasticity of brain waves

Awards:



Fun fact: I like to live life on the edge...

Grace Murley (MS3, GS2)

Grace.A.Isakson@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisor: Marty Pagel

I am interested in applying machine learning models including neural nets to various MR techniques. I also am interested in novel PET tracers for cancer detection and staging.

Tutorials:

- Marty Pagel
 - EPRI, Glioblastoma multiforme, acidoCEST MRI, MSOT, 19F-FAZA PET/CT
- Pratip Bhattacharya
 - Pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasia, hyperpolarized MRI, metabolic imaging

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- American Legion Auxillary Fellowship



Fun facts: I have two adorable cats, I like video games and reading fantasy novels, I used to play trumpet in the Marching Owl Band (MOB) at Rice, and I come back to play for football games with the MOB every once in a while

Andres Lopez (MS3, GS2 - U54/UPR)

Andres.Lopez@uth.tmc.edu

University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras



PhD Program: Immunology

Advisor:

I am interested in immunotherapy and cancer drug resistance

Tutorials:

- Sachet Shukla
- Candelaria Gomez-Manzano

Awards:

- MARC research trainee

Fun facts: I surf and play beach tennis - or at least I did before moving here

Nicolas Moreno (MS3, GS2)

Nicolas.F.Moreno@uth.tmc.edu

Texas A&M University



PhD Program: Biochemistry & Cell Biology

Advisor: Cynthia Ju

I am currently studying how the innate immune system guides tissue repair after colitis.

Tutorials:

- Charles Cox
 - Traumatic brain injury, cell therapy
- Cynthia Ju
 - Liver injury

Awards:

- “The Transplant Society” Student Ambassador for North America
- UTHealth CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- UTHealth Jesse B. Heath, Jr. Family Legacy Award

Fun fact: I have two German shepherds!

Morgan Riba (MS3, GS2)

Morgan.N.Riba@uth.tmc.edu

Texas A&M University

PhD Program: Immunology

Advisors: Stephanie Watowich and Cassian Yee

I am interested in tumor immunology, cancer vaccines, and dendritic cells

Tutorials:

- Gheath Al-Atrash
- Cassian Yee

Awards:

- McGovern Gold Humanism Honor Society
- CCTS TL1 Fellowship



Fun facts: I like to hang out at local coffee shops, thrift, and go salsa dancing (among other hobbies)! I grew up in Austin and spent a year at the NIH in Maryland before moving to Houston. My favorite TV shows are RuPaul's Drag Race and Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

Sarah Shin (MS3, GS2)

Sarah.Y.Shin@uth.tmc.edu

University of Missouri- Kansas City

PhD Program: Molecular and Translational Biology

Advisors: Harry Karmouty-Quintana and Danielle Wu

I am interested in studying how mechanotransduction impacts cell phenotype in pulmonary fibrosis using 3D hydrogels.

Tutorials:

- Jason Huse
 - Brain metastases biochemical pathways
- Harry Karmouty-Quintana
 - Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis transitional stem cells
- Danielle Wu
 - Salivary gland stem cell hydrogels

Awards: GSBS Endowment Scholarship



Fun facts: Since undergrad, I've eaten Panda Express the night before every exam as my pre-exam ritual.

Mitchell Slapik (MS2, GS3)

Mitchell.Slapik@uth.tmc.edu

Swarthmore College



PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Valentin Dragoi

I am interested in computational neuroscience, machine learning and psychiatry.

Tutorials:

- Jair Soares
 - Subtyping Bipolar Disorder
- John Byrne
 - Neural Activity and Feeding Behavior
- Valentin Dragoi
 - Optimal Stimuli, Subspace Communication, Neural Dimensionality and Attention

Awards:

- F30 Fellowship
- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- George M. Stancel Fellowship
- Osborne Scholarships

Fun fact: I play the saxophone!

Kathryn Snyder (MS2, GS3)

Kathryn.M.Snyder@uth.tmc.edu

Vanderbilt University

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Nitin Tandon

I am interested in cognition, language, electrophysiology, and neuroimaging

Tutorials:

- Valentin Dragoi
 - Intracranial recordings in freely moving macaques to study executive functioning
- Nitin Tandon
 - Lesion-symptom mapping of postoperative word finding difficulties

Awards:



Fun facts: I ride horses, play expert on guitar hero, and I can do the worm!

Jasper Chen (MS2, GS4)

Jasper.Chen@uth.tmc.edu

Johns Hopkins University

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisors: Albert Koong and Ronald DePinho

I am interested in cancer epigenetics and hypoxia

Tutorials:

- Anirban Maitra

Awards:

- HHMI Medical Fellows
- NIH NRSA F30 Fellowship
- American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship



Fun Facts:

Pahul Hanjra (MS3, GS3)

Pahul.P.Hanjra@uth.tmc.edu

Virginia Commonwealth University

PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Advisor: Anil Sood

I am interested in autophagic cell death, chronic stress and cancer, and glucocorticoid signaling in cancer

Tutorials:

- Ann Klopp
 - Role of *Lactobacillus iners* in conferring resistance to radiation therapy within cervical cancer cells
- Anil Sood
 - Characterizing if caspase 8 agonism promotes sensitivity to bevacizumab resistance in ovarian cancer cell lines
 - Validation of selisistat in use for HGSC

Awards:

- American Legion Auxillary Fellowship 2023
- Travel Award, AACR Special Conference on Ovarian Cancer 2023



Fun facts: I'm left handed, a life-long vegetarian, and I like to strength train

Amanda Lanier (MS3, GS3)

Amanda.L.Lanier@uth.tmc.edu

Texas A&M University

PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Advisor: Powel Brown

I am interested in TNBC, cancer prevention, and hereditary cancer/high risk patients

Tutorials:

- Laura Beretta
 - Identifying novel therapeutic targets/risk markers in HCC/NAFLD in TX Hispanic population
- Powel Brown
 - Identifying Drug Combinations with PARP inhibitors in BRCA mutant breast cancer
- Georgios Karras
 - Determining the impact of genetic modifiers on HSP90 buffered FANCA mutants

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- GSBS Endowment Scholarship
- Pauline Altman-Goldstein Discovery Research Award

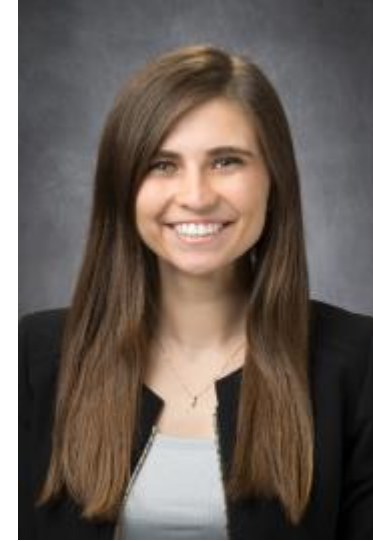


Fun facts: I took college courses on winemaking and barbecue! I'm definitely a foodie and love the diverse restaurants Houston has to offer.

Natasha Topolski (MS3, GS3)

Natasha.L.Topolski@uth.tmc.edu

Tulane University



PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Jair Soares

I am interested in psychiatry research with a focus on multi-modal biomarker development for patient diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment

Tutorials:

- Jair Soares
 - Project focused on machine learning applications in neuroimaging mood disorders research
- Gabriel Fries
 - Project focused on epigenome wide association studies (EWAS) in bipolar disorder

Awards:

- Ralph B. Arlinghaus, Ph.D. Scholarship
- McGovern Medical School MSTP Pre-Candidacy Poster Competition (1st Place)

Fun Facts:

- I currently serve as the chair of the national American Medical Association Medical Student Section
- This year marks the time I have officially lived anywhere for five consecutive years

Mary Adeyeye (MS3, GS4)

Mary.Adeyeye@uth.tmc.edu

University at Albany, SUNY

PhD Program: Genetics and Epigenetics

Advisors: Xiangli Eleftheriou (UTHealth) and Brendan Lee (BCM)

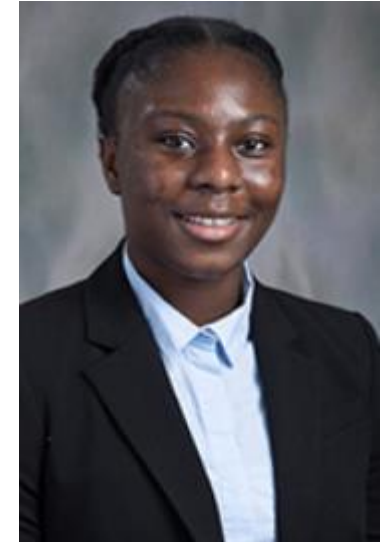
I am interested in rare bone disorders, such as osteogenesis imperfecta, skeletal biology, therapeutic discovery, and orthopedic surgery.

Tutorials:

- Johnny Huard, PhD UTHealth
- Elizabeth Davis, 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. Fellowship
- Cullen Fellowship



Fun facts: I hold a Division I school record at UAlbany in the indoor pentathlon (2017-present) and I have a pet hedgehog named Freddie 😊

Janelle Korf (MS3, GS4)

Janelle.Korf@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas - Austin



PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisors: Louise McCullough and Bhanu Ganesh

I am interested in the gut-brain axis, microbiome, neurodevelopment, and neuroinflammation

Tutorials:

- Shelburne/ Olsen
 - Infectious disease pathology and antibiotic resistance
- Ann Klopp/ Okhuysen
 - Vaginal microbiome and response to radiation therapy for cervical cancer

Awards:

- Neuroscience Program Retreat 2nd Place Pre-Candidacy Talk
- Dee S. and Patricia Osborn Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences
- American Heart Associate Predoctoral Fellowship

Fun fact: I like to draw portraits

Joshua Morse (MS3, GS4)

Joshua.Morse@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University

PhD Program: Therapeutics & Pharmacology

Advisor: Zhiqiang An

I am interested in monoclonal antibody immunotherapy and AML

Tutorials:

- Patrick Hwu
- Cullen Taniguchi
- Pratip Bhattacharya
- Xiaodong C. Cheng

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- UHealth CCTS 2nd Place
- GSBS Graduate Student Research Day Poster Competition Speaker Award
- Gordon Research Seminar in Antibody Biology and Engineering



Fun facts: I was born and raised in Boston and am a massive fan of Boston sports and Liverpool FC. I have two dogs, a corgi mix named Bruce and a labradoodle named Anfield (Annie). I'm obsessed with board and video games, Settlers of Catan and Overwatch in particular

Ben Whitfield (MS3, GS4)

Benjamin.T.Whitfield@uth.tmc.edu

Davidson College

PhD Program: Immunology

Advisor: Jason Huse

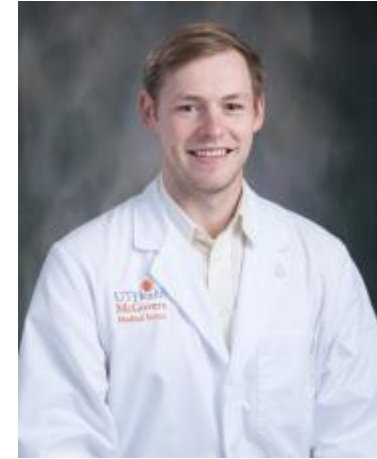
I am interested in gliomas, brain cancer, and tumor immune interaction.

Tutorials:

- Michael Curran
 - Identifying AML mutations which alter tumor-intrinsic STING function.
- Florencia McAllister
 - Examined the impact of diet on pancreatic tumorigenesis.

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 fellowship
- Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarship in Cancer Research
- 2023 Caroline Ross Brain Tumor Center Retreat Poster Award – 1st place
- 2023 Immunology Program Retreat Poster Award – 1st place
- 2022 Caroline Ross Brain Tumor Center Retreat Poster Award – 1st place
- 2022 Immunology Program Retreat Poster Award – 1st place



Fun facts: I was born in Pittsburgh, PA, but grew up and went to college in North Carolina.

In my free time I lift weights, take advantage of Houston's concert scene, and play a lot of nerdy board and video games.

Renato Guerrieri (MS4, GS4)

Renato.A.Guerrieri@uth.tmc.edu

Davidson College

PhD Program: Immunology

Advisor: Michael Davies

I am interested in immunology, cancer metabolism, immunotherapy resistance, and CNS metastasis

Tutorials:

- Varsha Gandhi
 - Leukemia and targeted therapy
- Patrick Hwu
 - Melanoma and targeted therapy + adoptive T cell therapy

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 fellowship
- Chair for the American College of Physicians Council of Student Members (2021-2022)
- Delegate to the American Medical Association (2022-2023)



Fun facts: I enjoy playing with my dog, indoor cycling, drag brunch, and traveling

Emily Mendez (MS4, GS4)

Emily.F.Mendez@uth.tmc.edu

Johns Hopkins University



PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Consuelo Walss-Bass

I am interested in psychiatric genetics, bioinformatics, neurodevelopment, and substance use disorders

Tutorials:

- Pratip Bhattacharya
 - Medical Imaging Physics, NMR and cancer metabolism

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 fellowship
- SfN Neuroscience Scholars Program Scholar
- Dee S. And Patricia Osborne scholarship in the neurosciences
- ACNP Blue Ribbon Award

Fun fact: I'm a mom!

Oscar Villarreal (MS3, GS5)

Oscar.E.Villarreal@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas - Austin

PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Advisor: Scott Kopetz

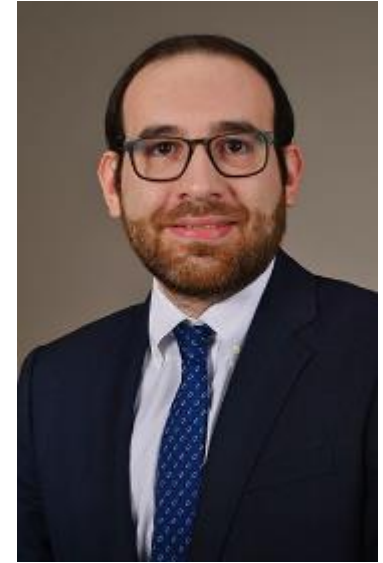
I am interested in colorectal cancer, therapy resistance, tumor biology, and translational cancer models

Tutorials:

- Holger Eltzschig/Jessica Bowser
 - Inflammatory bowel disease, colorectal cancer
- Jeffrey Molldrem
 - TCR engineering

Awards:

- Charlene Kopchick Fellowship
- MD Anderson CPRIT Graduate Scholar



Fun fact:

Mikayla Waters (MS3, GS5)

Mikayla.S.Waters@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas - Austin

PhD Program: Biochemistry & Cell Biology

Advisor: Melinda S. Yates and Karen Lu

I am interested in gynecologic oncology, endometrial cancer, Lynch syndrome, cancer risk, cancer development, and cell/molecular biology

Tutorials:

- E. Terry Walters
- Dianna Milewicz
- Melinda Yates

Awards:

- UTHealth CPRIT Innovation in Cancer Prevention Research Training Program Fellowship
- Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarship in Cancer Research



Fun facts: I have 2 dogs and 2 cats and I love to garden!

Michael Longmire (MS3, GS5)

Michael.K.Longmire@uth.tmc.edu

University of Alabama - Birmingham



PhD Program: Biochemistry & Cell Biology

Advisor: Scott Evans

I am interested in innate immunity, infectious disease, therapeutics and preventives

Tutorials:

- John McMurray
- Scott Evans

Awards:

- Travel Award, Amer. Thoracic Soc International Mtg 2023
- Fernando Aron Yarrito Scholarship 2023-2024

Fun facts: I own too many board games. I have a rescue mutt named Mina and a Russian blue named Dmitri.

Kareem Wahid (MS3, GS4, Postdoc 1)

Kareem.A.Wahid@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisor: Clifton "Dave" Fuller

Postdoctoral Program: Image-Guided Cancer Therapy T32

I'm broadly interested in machine learning for clinical decision support. My postdoctoral fellowship is focused on human-machine interaction in automated image segmentation for radiotherapy applications.

Tutorials:

- Rivka Colen (now at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center)
- Leorah Freeman (now at Dell SOM)

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 (*TL1TR003169*)
- F31 (*F31DE031502*)
- Several GSBS fellowships and awards
- IGCT T32 (*T32CA261856*)



Fun facts: I have a wonderful pet Leachianus Gecko named Emmy. I play tennis and go to concerts sometimes.

Jonathan Schulz (MS3, GS6)

Jonathan.Schulz@uth.tmc.edu

Southwestern University

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisor: Kunal Rai

I am interested in

Tutorials:

- Louise McCullough
- Kartik Venkatachalam
- Kunal Rai

Awards:



Fun Facts:

April Nguyen (MS4, GS5)

April.H.Nguyen@uth.tmc.edu

University of Central Florida

PhD Program: Microbiology & Infectious Diseases

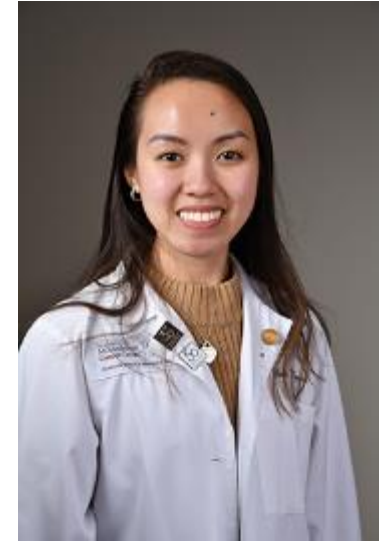
Advisor: Cesar Arias

I am interested in infectious diseases.

Tutorials:

- Herbert Dupont
- Charles Darkoh
- Cesar Arias

Awards: Travel Award, ID Week 2019



Fun Facts:

Yashwanth Lagisetty (MS4, GS4, Postdoc 1)

Yashwanth.Lagisetty@uth.tmc.edu

University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisor: Olivier Lichtarge (BCM) and Terry Walters

I am interested in mathematics, AI, computational and theoretical neuroscience, evolution, genomics

Tutorials:

- A. Sam Beddar
- Alemayehu (Alex) Gorfe

Awards:



Fun facts: I have cats and play tennis

Joseph Barnes (MS3, GS6- U54/UPR)

Joseph.A.Barnes@uth.tmc.edu

University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus



PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Advisor: Jian Hu

I am interested in myelin, Schwann cells, demyelination, neuropathy, and myelin lipids

Tutorials:

- Gabriel Lopez-Berestein
- Changqing "Cynthia" Ju

Awards:

- NINDS F31 Ruth L. Kirschstein Diversity Fellowship
- UTHealth CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- Cancer Biology Travel Award
- Gold Humanism Honor Society

Fun facts: Raised on a farm and can find manual labor relaxing. Like to cook, albeit amateur 😊

Raisa Reyes Castro (MS4, GS5- U54/UPR)

Raisa.A.ReyesCastro@uth.tmc.edu

University of Puerto Rico

PhD Program: Genetics & Epigenetics

Advisor: Swathi Arur

I am interested in cancer and developmental biology

Tutorials:

- Swathi Arur
- Guillermina Lozano
- Ann Klopp

Awards:

- G&E Service award
- First place GSRD post-candidacy poster presentation



Fun facts: I like to play volleyball and love my dog called Drogo. I am part of the U54 MD/PhD partnership program between UPR and MDA