

Ethan Chen (MS1)

Ethan.Chen@uth.tmc.edu

Northeastern University

I am interested in brain cancer research, specifically studying the immunological landscape of the glioblastoma tumor microenvironment.

Tutorials:

1. Ken Hu, PhD

Awards:



Fun fact: I really enjoy cooking, baking, and developing my own recipes! My latest obsession is making the perfect strawberry matcha latte.

Samuel “Sam” Liu (MS1)

Samuel.W.Liu@uth.tmc.edu

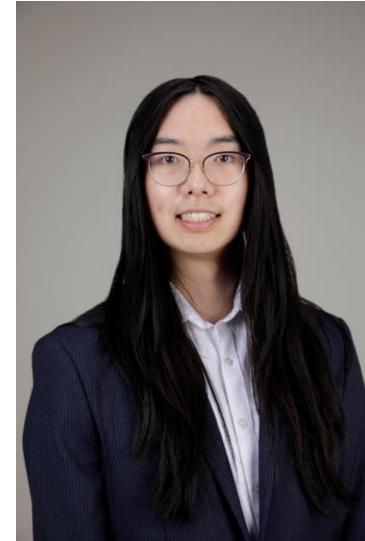
Duke University

I am interested in the structural mechanisms of ligand recognition and receptor activation underlying the signaling of transmembrane receptor proteins.

Tutorials:

1. Irina Serysheva, PhD

Awards: Cullen Trust Fellowship



Fun fact: I love hiking and the outdoors. I've foraged for mushrooms before.

Kenedi Lynch (MS1)

Kenedi.L.Lynch@uth.tmc.edu

Louisiana State University

I am broadly interested in infectious disease, immune regulation, and novel therapeutics/diagnostics.

Tutorials:

Awards:



Fun fact: Between finishing undergrad and coming to McGovern, I lived in Scotland!

Julie Park (MS1)

Julie.E.Park@uth.tmc.edu

University of California – Los Angeles

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

Tutorials:

Awards:



Fun fact: I love driving! I'd much rather take a longer, more scenic route than a shorter, less visually appealing one.

Aamna Siddiqui (MS1)

Aamna.J.Siddiqui@uth.tmc.edu

Virginia Commonwealth University

I am broadly interested in bioengineering, drug delivery methods, and oncology

Tutorials:

Awards:



Fun fact: I enjoy embroidering, scrapbooking, and trying out new restaurants!

Alaina Tillman (MS1)

Alaina.N.Tillman@uth.tmc.edu

Florida Atlantic University

I am interested in the intersection between stress and aging in aerospace medicine!

Tutorials:

Awards:



Fun fact: I can fly planes and have my pilot license!

Tri Truong (MS1)

Tri.M.Truong@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas - Austin

I am interested in using multi-omics computational methods (RNAseq, Xenium, SpatialATACSeq) and wetlab validation to study the tumor microenvironment, cellular plasticity, and tumor heterogeneity.

Tutorials:

Awards:



Fun facts: I am a big board game connoisseur. Love to watch cartoons. Performed in many stage performances, such as portraying Puss in Boots in a Shrek musical. I am also a huge foodie, so feel free to reach out if you ever want to try new food/boba places!

Drue Domagala (MS2)

Drue.M.Domagala@uth.tmc.edu

University of Utah

I am interested in neuroimmunology.

Tutorials:

1. Rodney Ritzel, PhD

Awards:



Fun fact: I like to play in recreational sand volleyball leagues.

Cesiah Gomez (MS2)

Cesiah.Gomez@uth.tmc.edu

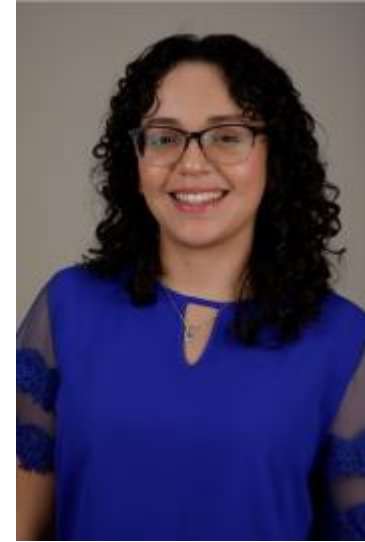
Wellesley College

I am interested in: Neuroscience and developmental biology

Tutorials:

1. Swathi Arur, PhD

Awards:



Fun fact: I'm a huge foodie, love traveling, playing cozy games like Stardew Valley, and have recently gotten really into board games like Codenames and Rumikub.

Soo “Lucy” Im (MS2)

Soo.Y.Im@uth.tmc.edu

Temple University

I am interested in exploring targeted treatments for cancer cells, particularly by harnessing our own immune systems through immunotherapy.

Tutorials:

1. Pavan Bachireddy, MD

Awards:



Fun fact: I enjoy going to national parks with my fiancé and playing video games together. We also recently started fostering kittens!

Gloria Lee (MS2)

Gloria.R.Lee@uth.tmc.edu

University of Pennsylvania

I am interested in cancer science broadly. With pertained interest in tumor-stromal interactions and TME mediated responses to therapy.

Tutorials:

1. Emil Schueler, PhD

Awards:



Fun facts: I love travelling and have visited over 50 countries in my life!

Catherine Moy (MS2)

Catherine.Moy@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas - Austin

I am interested in using cryo-electron microscopy to uncover the structure and conformational dynamics of pathologically relevant biomolecules and biomolecular complexes!

Tutorials:

1. John Tainer, PhD

Awards:



Fun facts: I love running, reading, and cooking! I'm also trying to grow an herb garden on my balcony.

Bryce West (MS2)

Bryce.E.West@uth.tmc.edu

Dartmouth College

I am interested in studying the neuro-immunological responses to central nervous system trauma that increase risk of neurodegenerative diseases.

Tutorials:

1. Michelle Hildebrandt, PhD

Awards: Albert Schweitzer Fellowship 2025-2026



Fun fact: I am a native Houstonian! I played softball in college and am currently training for Ironman Texas.

Euan Zhang (MS2)

Euan.Y.Zhang@uth.tmc.edu

Northeastern University

I am interested in finding the mechanism behind a novel phenomenon which uses 40Hz Gamma therapy to reverse Alzheimer's Disease.

Tutorials:

1. Ruth Heidelberger, PhD
2. LongJun Wu, PhD

Awards: Cullen Trust Fellowship



Fun fact: I produce EDM under the moniker Zenyu. Recently, I've started building electric guitars as a hobby. I was also a team captain for a collegiate Overwatch team at Northeastern.

Lance Babcock (MS3)

Lance.L.Babcock@uth.tmc.edu

Brandeis University

I am interested in multidisciplinary, circuit, and neuromodulation-based approaches to treating chronic pain and improving functional outcomes after spinal cord injury, stroke, and traumatic brain injury.

Tutorials:

1. Louise McCullough, MD, PhD / Juneyoung Lee, PhD
2. Qingchun Tong, PhD

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 (MS3)

Oluwatosin.Banjo@uth.tmc.edu

Wellesley College



I am interested in

Tutorials:

1. Hui-Wen Lo, PhD

Fun fact:

Awards:

Lea Godret Miertschin (MS3)

Lea.M.GodretMiertschin@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University



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

Tutorials:

1. Moran Amit, MD, PhD

Awards: Cullen Trust 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 (MS3)

Joseph.Jansen@uth.tmc.edu

University of Alabama

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

Tutorials:

1. Vihang Narkar, PhD

Awards:



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

Breanna Shen (MS3)

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:

1. E. Terry Walters, PhD

- Electrophysiology, DRG neuron hyperexcitability in postsurgical pain model

2. Andrew Shepherd, PhD

Awards:



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

Hannah Thompson (MS3)

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:

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

Awards:

- Cullen Trust Fellowship

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

David Begelman (MS3, GS1)

David.V.Begelman@uth.tmc.edu

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisor:

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

Tutorials:

1. Nicholas Navin, PhD

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

2. Pavan Bachireddy, MD

Awards:



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

Jazmine Grant (MS3, GS1)

Jazmine.A.Grant@uth.tmc.edu

Howard University

PhD Program: Therapeutics and Pharmacology

Advisor: Xiaodong Cheng, PhD

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

Tutorials:

1. Carmen Dessauer, PhD

- Observation of calcium signaling following satellite glial cell activation via multiple compounds

2. Xiaodong Cheng, PhD

3. Alex Gorfe, PhD

Awards:



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 (MS3, GS1)

Anthony.M.Kang@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

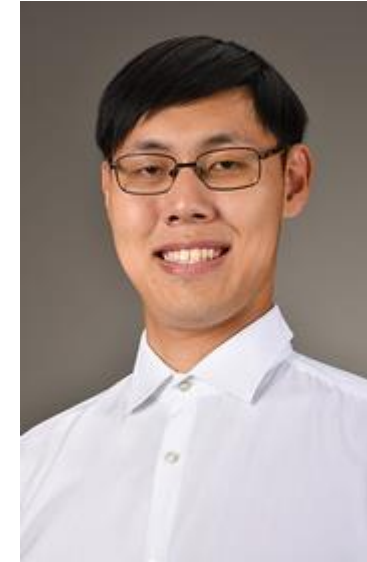
Advisor:

Research Interests: Computational Biology

Tutorials:

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

Awards: Cullen Fellowship



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

Brian Koehler (MS3, GS1)

Brian.Koehler@uth.tmc.edu

Texas A&M University

PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Advisor: Jian Hu, PhD

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:

1. Fred Lang, MD

- Delta-24 oncolytic virus treatment of GBM

2. Jian Hu, PhD

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.

Anthony “Jun” Lim (MS3, GS1)

Anthony.J.Lim@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas - Austin

I am interested in neuro-immunology, perivascular niche of glioblastoma, and spinal cord imaging.

Tutorials:

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

Awards:



Fun facts: Transferred into the program from MS3! Personal hobbies include martial arts, gymnastics, and eating around town. I also go by Jun (like the month).

Sanjay Neerukonda (MS3, GS1)

Sanjay.V.Neerukonda@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas -Dallas

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Louise McCullough MD, PhD

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

Tutorials:

1. E. Terry Walters, PhD
 - Depolarizing spontaneous fluctuations in nociceptors
2. Peter Grace, PhD
 - Effect of high-fat diet on development of diabetic neuropathy and Nageotte nodules
3. Louise McCullough, MD, PhD

Awards:

- Albert Schweitzer Fellowship 2023-2024 – Senior Fellow
- AAN 2024 Medical Student Experience at the Annual Meeting Scholarship
- McGovern – Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS)



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

Shanila Shakil (MS3, GS1 – U54/UPR)

Shanila.Shakil@uth.tmc.edu

Princeton University

PhD Program: Immunology

Advisor:

I am interested in 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

Awards:



Fun facts: In my free time, I like to bake, take on DIY and arts-and-crafts projects, hit the gym for a workout, and rot in bed doomscrolling with my best friend ☐

Ephraim Vasquez-Rosado (MS3, GS1)

Ephraim.J.VasquezRosado@uth.tmc.edu

University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez

PhD Program: Molecular and Translational Biology

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

I am interested in cardiac tissue engineering

Tutorials:

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

Awards:



Fun fact: I can play guitar

Timothy Bi (MS2, GS3)

Timothy.M.Bi@uth.tmc.edu

University of Washington

PhD Program: Immunology

Advisor: Pavan Bachireddy, MD

I am interested in immunotherapy and single-cell multi-omics in the setting of leukemia

Tutorials:

1. Gregory Lizee, PhD

- MHC-Class I intracellular tail function and trogocytosis

2. Pavan Bachireddy, MD

- Inferring clonal relationships of leukemic cells in single-cell data

Awards: GSBS Student Assistance Scholarship 2024



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

Aaron Bickert (MS3, GS2)

Aaron.A.Bickert@uth.tmc.edu

Johns Hopkins University

PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Advisor: Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD

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

Tutorials:

1. John Paul Shen, MD

- Resistance to chemotherapeutic agents in colorectal cancer cell

2. Michael Galko, PhD

- Morphine dependence using place preference assays in *Drosophila*

3. Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD

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.

Aditya Singh (MS2, GS3)

Aditya.Singh@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas - Austin

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Nitin Tandon, MD

Research Interests:

Tutorials:

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

Awards: Deans Excellence Scholarship 2023-2024



Fun Facts:

Megan Tarbet (MS3, GS2)

Megan.M.Tarbet@uth.tmc.edu

Texas A&M University

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Consuelo Walss-Bass, PhD

I am interested in 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



Fun facts: I cross-stitch, am a big fan of true crime podcasts and TV series, grew up in a VERY small farming town, and I used to work at an apple orchard.

Carmen Zavala (MS3, GS2)

Carmen.A.Zavala@uth.tmc.edu

Indiana University - Bloomington

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Nitin Tandon, MD

I am interested in 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:



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!

Maryam Elizondo (MS3, GS3)

Maryam.E.Elizondo@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University

PhD Program: Genetics and Epigenetics

Advisor: Michael Galko, PhD

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

Tutorials:

1. Harry Karmouty-Quintana, PhD
2. Kai Sun, PhD
3. Michael Galko, PhD

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, GS3)

Sarah.Ghalayini@uth.tmc.edu

Georgia Institute of Technology

PhD Program: Therapeutics and Pharmacology

Advisor: Rob Fuentes, PhD and Albert Koong, MD, PhD

I am interested in 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; Oates Family GSBS Endowment Award;
AAI Diversity Travel Award; GSBS, Cancer Biology, & TAP
Travel Awards



Fun fact: One of my hobbies is Arabic Calligraphy!

Jacob Mattia (MS3, GS3)

Jacob.Mattia@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisor: Wenbo Li, PhD

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

Tutorials:

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

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- Oates Family GSBS Endowment Scholarship 2024-2025
- Russell and Diana Hawkins Family Foundation Discovery Fellowships 2025-2026



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, GS3)

Anna.M.Meyer@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University

PhD Program: Immunology

Advisor: Jason Schenkel, MD, PhD

I am interested in 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



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

Alexandra Miller (MS3, GS3)

Alexandra.E.Miller@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas - Austin

PhD Program: Therapeutics and Pharmacology

Advisor: Ji Young Yoo, PhD

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:

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

Awards:

- Cullen Trust 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, GS3)

Trey.J.Waldrop@uth.tmc.edu

Augustana University

PhD Program: Therapeutics and Pharmacology

Advisor: Emil Schueler, PhD

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

Tutorials:

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

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- GSBS International Travel Award
- Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Endowment Scholarship 2024-2025



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, GS3)

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:

1. Rebecca Berdeaux, PhD

- Metabolism in brown fat from diabetic vs healthy mice

2. Swathi Arur, PhD

- Effect of metabolism on reproductive capabilities in *C. elegans*

3. Mikhail Kolonin, PhD

Awards:



Fun fact: I played violin for 10 years

Clarissa Hoffman (MS4, GS3)

Clarissa.M.Hoffman@uth.tmc.edu

University of California – San Diego

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisor: Yuri Dabaghian, PhD

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

Tutorials:

1. Joseph McCarty, PhD

- Studied how the prion family protein Prnd/Doppel regulates angiogenesis in development and cancer

2. Yuri Dabaghian, PhD

- Stochasticity of brain waves

Awards:



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

Grace Murley (MS4, GS3)

Grace.A.Isakson@uth.tmc.edu

Rice University

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisor: C. Dave Fuller, MD, PhD; Pratip Bhattacharya, PhD

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:

1. Marty Pagel, PhD

- EPRI, Glioblastoma multiforme, acidoCEST MRI, MSOT, 19F-FAZA PET/CT

2. Pratip Bhattacharya, PhD

- Pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasia, hyperpolarized MRI, metabolic imaging

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- American Legion Auxillary Fellowship
- GSBS International Travel Award



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, GS4 - U54/UPR)

Andres.Lopez@uth.tmc.edu

University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras

PhD Program: Immunology

Advisor: Candelaria Gomez-Manzano, MD

I am interested in 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



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

Nicolas “Nico” Moreno (MS3, GS4)

Nicolas.F.Moreno@uth.tmc.edu

Texas A&M University

PhD Program: Molecular & Translational Biology

Advisor: Cynthia Ju, PhD

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

Tutorials:

1. Charles Cox, MD

- Traumatic brain injury, cell therapy

2. Cynthia Ju, PhD

- Liver injury

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



Fun fact: I have two German shepherds!

Morgan Riba (MS3, GS4)

MRiba@mdanderson.org

Morgan.N.Riba@uth.tmc.edu

Texas A&M University

PhD Program: Immunology

Advisors: Stephanie Watowich, PhD and Cassian Yee, MD

I am interested in 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



Fun facts: I like to hang out at local coffee shops, thrift, and go salsa dancing. I grew up in Austin and spent a year at the NIH in Maryland before moving to Houston.

Sarah Shin (MS3, GS4)

Sarah.Y.Shin@uth.tmc.edu

University of Missouri- Kansas City

PhD Program: Molecular & Translational Biology

Advisors: Harry Karmouty-Quintana, PhD and Danielle Wu, PhD

I am interested in cellular mechanisms underlying pulmonary fibrosis.

Tutorials:

1. Jason Huse, MD, PhD

- Brain metastases biochemical pathways

2. Harry Karmouty-Quintana, PhD

- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis transitional stem cells

3. Danielle Wu, PhD

- Salivary gland stem cell hydrogels

Awards:

- GSBS Endowment Scholarship 2023-2024
- McGovern Research Retreat Post-Candidacy Poster Contest, 1st Place
- Foundation of Anesthesia Education and Research MSTP Award 2025



Fun facts: I love exploring Houston's coffeeshop scene and playing word/puzzle games. I try to get out of Houston for hiking trips a few times a year!

Mitchell Slapik (MS3, GS4)

Mitchell.Slapik@uth.tmc.edu

Swarthmore College

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Michael Beierlein, PhD and Valentin Dragoi, PhD

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

Tutorials:

1. Jair Soares, MD, PhD
 - Subtyping Bipolar Disorder
2. John Byrne, PhD
 - Neural Activity and Feeding Behavior
3. Valentin Dragoi, PhD
 - Optimal Stimuli, Subspace Communication, Neural Dimensionality and Attention

Awards:

- Dean's Research Scholarship
- F30 Fellowship
- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- George M. Stancel Fellowship 2023-2024
- Osborne Scholarship



Fun fact: I play the saxophone!

Kathryn “Katie” Snyder (MS3, GS4)

Kathryn.M.Snyder@uth.tmc.edu

Vanderbilt University

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Nitin Tandon, MD

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

Tutorials:

1. Valentin Dragoi, PhD

- Intracranial recordings in freely moving macaques to study executive functioning

2. Nitin Tandon, MD

- Lesion-symptom mapping of postoperative word finding difficulties

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 (1st Place), UTHSC



Fun fact: I ride horses and have owned my horse Cavalli since I was 17. I also rode for the Vanderbilt equestrian team in college.

Pahul Hanjra (MS4, GS4)

Pahul.P.Hanjra@uth.tmc.edu

Virginia Commonwealth University

PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Advisor: Anil Sood, MD

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

Tutorials:

1. Ann Klopp, MD, PhD

- Role of *Lactobacillus iners* in conferring resistance to radiation therapy within cervical cancer cells

2. Anil Sood, MD

- 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 (MS4, GS4)

Amanda.L.Lanier@uth.tmc.edu

Texas A&M University

PhD Program: Cancer Biology

Advisor: Powel Brown, MD, PhD

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

Tutorials:

1. Laura Beretta, PhD
2. Powel Brown, MD, PhD
3. Georgios Karras, PhD

Awards:

- CCTS TL1 Fellowship
- GSBS Endowment Scholarship 2022-2023
- Pauline Altman-Goldstein Discovery Research Award 2023-2024
- MD Anderson Outstanding Research Trainee in Cancer Prevention



Fun facts: I took college courses on winemaking and barbecue! I love exploring the Houston food scene and experimenting with new recipes at home.

Natasha Topolski (MS3, GS5)

Natasha.L.Topolski@uth.tmc.edu

Tulane University

PhD Program: Neuroscience

Advisor: Jair Soares, MD, PhD

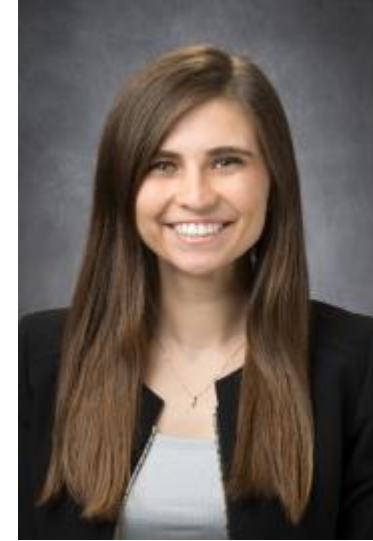
I am interested in psychiatry research with a focus on multi-modal biomarker development for patient diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment

Tutorials:

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

Awards:

- Ralph B. Arlinghaus, Ph.D. Scholarship
- McGovern 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

Jasper Chen (MS2, GS6)

Jasper.Chen@uth.tmc.edu

Johns Hopkins University

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisors: Albert Koong, MD, PhD and Ronald DePinho, MD

I am interested in 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



Fun Facts:

Mary Adeyeye (MS3, GS6)

Mary.Adeyeye@uth.tmc.edu

University at Albany, SUNY

PhD Program: Genetics and Epigenetics

Advisors: Jun Wang, PhD (UTHealth) and Brendan Lee, MD, PhD (BCM)

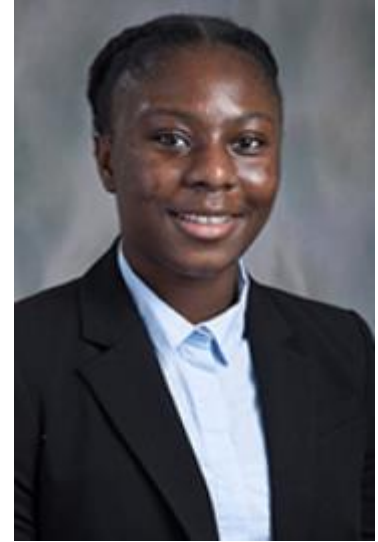
I am interested in rare bone disorders, such as osteogenesis imperfecta, skeletal biology, therapeutic discovery, and orthopedic surgery.

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



Fun fact: I hold a Division I school record at UAlbany in the indoor pentathlon (2017-present)

Kareem Wahid (MS4, GS4, 2 YR Postdoc)

Kareem.A.Wahid@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley

PhD Program: Quantitative Sciences

Advisor: Clifton "Dave" Fuller, MD, PhD; David Fuentes, PhD

Postdoctoral Program: Image-Guided Cancer Therapy T32

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

Tutorials:

1. Rivka Colen (now at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center)
2. Leorah Freeman (now at Dell SOM)

Awards:

- NIH: CCTS TL1 (*TL1TR003169*); F31 (*F31DE031502*); IGCT T32 (*T32CA261856*).
- GSBS: Kopchick Fellowship, Presidents' Research Scholarship, ALA Fellowship in Cancer Research.
- Misc: RSNA Honored Educator Award; Radiology: AI Editor's Recognition Award; RSNA Medical Student Research Grant; MD Anderson Peer to Peer Mentor Award.



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