



Forum in Focus

WINTER 2012

President's Letter

Dear Forum Members,

I hope this letter finds everyone beginning the New Year with a great attitude and of course, a New Year's resolution!

As I was driving the other day, I tuned into NPR only to find one of my favorite authors being interviewed . . . Judy Blume. As many a Forum member might have done, I instantly recalled the books that helped me through awkward adolescence and into early adulthood. I thought of what an incredible gift this woman has and how, by exercising, perfecting and sharing that gift, she continues to impact so many lives. Countless callers, overcome with emotion when placed on the line to speak to her, made me cognizant of the difference an individual can make on this planet.

Later that same day, I went to the UTMD Anderson Cancer Center Luncheon at the Marriott Rivercenter and was fortunate to hear comments by Dr. De Pinho, Tom Johnson, Sam Donaldson, Nancy Loeffler and Cokie Roberts. In the case of Ms. Roberts, it wasn't one comment she made but a certain savoir-faire that was evident in every answer she gave and an underlying optimism defying negativity. It reminded me of my mom . . . which brings us back to New Year's Resolutions! I know to expect a phone call from her on New Year's Day asking me if I have eaten my black-eyed peas and inquiring what, exactly, my



Suzanne Dabbous

New Year's resolution might be. Her philosophy: EVERYONE has room for improvement – some of us more than others! And as Cokie Roberts says, "We Are Our Mother's Daughters."

So it is that thought I would like to leave you with in this New Year. One individual **can** have an enormous impact and I believe the Texas Biomedical Forum is enormously impacting the lives of so many by encouraging public awareness and support of the real treasure San Antonio is privileged to call our own: The Institute.

Looking forward, I would like to ask all members of the Texas Biomedical Forum to make a resolution: ***Impact the future!*** There are countless ways to impact the Texas Biomedical Research Institute in the upcoming months with the Forum:

Make a Gala Grant Donation – 100% of which goes directly to grant recipients, thereby supplying the much-needed seed money for preliminary studies in basic science research.

Attend our Annual Spring Lecture Luncheon to be held at the Argyle on March 28 where the Science Education Awards Recipients will be announced.

Attend our Annual Gala at the Argyle on May 5th! Hundreds of volunteers working with Gala Chair, **Cathryn LeVrier**, Gala Co-Chair, **Raven Labatt**, and Gala Assistant, **Courtney Duphorne**, are busy making sure it will be another sold out event.

Support our Annual Membership Drive when it kicks off this Spring! Renewing your membership **ONLINE AND ON TIME** saves The Forum (*your* Forum) dollars and our planet trees!

The purpose of the Texas Biomedical Forum is to support the Texas Biomedical Research Institute through community relations, volunteer service and fundraising.

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President's Letter *Continued*

Looking back, I would like to thank the TBI Tour Co-Chairs, **Debbie Duperier and Melissa Morgan**, for coordinating our Texas *Biomedical Research Institute Insider's Tour* at the Argyle in October. This was an exciting change of venue met by applause from the attendees where intimate table discussions with leading researchers from The Institute made for a memorable night. Thank you to the scientists and the Texas Biomedical Research Institute as well as former Forum President Terry Gouger for assisting in this transition.

Thank you to dedicated Forum board trustees, **Julie Zacher and Christy Meador**, for coordinating the Annual Fall Lecture Luncheon at the Argyle on November 9th and to our enlightening speaker that day, Dr. John VandeBerg.

A heartfelt thanks is owed, as well, to one of our most loyal and enduring supporters, **Julian Gold**, for working

with board members, **Leslie Miller and Amanda Bezner**, to stage *Bangles, Boots and Bags – Girl's Night Out!* on November 16th.

Although not as publicized, Forum board trustees, **Dr. Ann Allen Cross and Sonya Medina Williams**, have had such tremendous success in organizing the Texas Biomedical Institute Student Tours that there is now a waiting list where previously there were many vacancies! Thank you to former Forum President, **Karen Lee Zachry**, for generously providing transportation for schools unable to do so for themselves, through her President's gift.

Here's to a great fresh start! Happy New Year and remember . . . your resolution, of course!



Suzanne Dabbous
President

BANGLES, BOOTS & BAGS!

with Julian Gold

On Wednesday, November 16th, Julian Gold graciously hosted supporters of the Forum for an evening of **BANGLES, BOOTS & BAGS!** In addition to hors d'oeuvres and cocktails by CINCO Vodka, shoppers were treated to trunk shows by jewelry designer Elizabeth Showers. Handbags and tickets were sold with prizes that included a \$1200 Emilio Pucci Shopping Spree, a pair of \$500 Elizabeth Showers earrings, a \$250 Julian Gold Shoe Salon gift certificate and a Big Buddha purse.



As in past years, Julian Gold generously donated a portion of the evening's sales. This year's event generated a total of \$3000 that will be donated to the Texas Biomedical Research Institute.

To all those at Julian Gold, who, once again, made this event such a tremendous success, **THANK YOU!**



FALL LECTURE LUNCHEON

Fall was actually in the air for our annual Fall Lecture Luncheon, held November 9th at the Argyle. The luncheon was a great success, as we hosted over 130 guests.



Luncheon Assistant Christy Meador, Texas Biomed Chief Scientific Officer and speaker of the day Dr. John L. VandeBerg, Ph.D., Luncheon Chair Julie Zacher and Texas Biomed CEO Ken Trevett.

Our featured speaker was John L. VandeBerg, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer at Texas Biomedical Research Institute. His topic was “The Bold Future of Biomedical Research”. Dr. VandeBerg explained the research being done on stem cell regenerative medicine and gave us a look into the many possibilities of tomorrow’s medicine.

This fascinating research, being done right here in San Antonio at Texas Biomed, has shown promising results for new approaches to treating diseases. “Stem cell research involves fixing broken bodies and damaged minds – regenerating tissues and organs that are damaged or injured or just worn out, and repairing the brains that are ravaged by Parkinson’s or Alzheimer’s,” explained Dr. VandeBerg.

Researchers are also working with stem cells to find ways to treat heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and spinal cord injuries.

“All of the replacement parts that a person needs will be generated from a patient’s own cells, and the use of stem cells in clinical medicine will become a vital component of the routine arsenal of weapons used to treat disease,” said Dr. VandeBerg.



It was an interesting topic for discussion and it was very exciting to find out Texas Biomed’s involvement in this promising area of medicine.

Save the Date!

The Annual Spring Lecture Luncheon will be held on March 28th at the Argyle at 11 a.m.

The winners of Science Education Awards will be announced and honored at this luncheon.

Spring Special Event with Neiman Marcus

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 1st, as the Texas Biomedical Forum and Neiman Marcus pair up for a fabulous evening in tribute to this year’s Gala theme, Diwali. From 6-8pm, you’ll enjoy cocktails, light bites, and an evening gown runway show that will certainly leave you with a few ideas as to what to wear to this year’s Gala! In exchange for admission, your \$30 donation will directly benefit the Texas Biomedical Research Institute.

For more information, please contact Amanda Bezner at 210-882-2003 or Leslie Miller at 210-488-3548.

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

On September 28th, the Gala Committee held a kick-off meeting and themed dinner at the



Argyle. Gala Chair Cathryn LeVrier, Gala Co-Chair Raven Labatt, and Gala Assistant, Courtney Duphorne, welcomed committee chairs and provided an elegant and colorful sneak peek of this year's Gala theme, Diwali. Recognized by vibrant colors and designs, bright lights, firecrackers, fragrant flowers and delicious sweets, this traditional Indian celebration will be held Saturday, May 5th, 2012 at 6pm. Along with many other surprises, you can look forward to exciting surprise changes in the music

during the event. Make plans now to join us for this magical evening at the Argyle as we journey to India for Diwali: Festival of Lights and celebrate the triumph of good over evil.

A big THANK YOU to the many volunteers who are already tirelessly working to organize this incredible event. Decoration Chairs Melissa Morgan and Elizabeth Hale are creating an amazing



Gala committee members Lisa Spielhagen and Jennifar McInley

look to complement and complete the Diwali theme. This year's Gala Grant committee, chaired by Lynette Embrey and Gretchen Herrmann kicked off the grant campaign at the Fall



Gala Co-Chair Raven Labatt, Gala Chair Cathryn LeVrier and Gala Assistant Courtney Duphorne.

Lecture Luncheon and raised over \$2,500. As always, 100% of Gala Grant money goes directly to the grants that support the scientists.

Letters for table sales have been sent. If you know of a company that is interested in purchasing a table and has not yet received a letter, please contact the Table Sales Committee Chairs, Amanda Bezner 210-882-2003 and Sonya Medina Williams at 202-422-3929. As always, the Gala sells out quickly. It's not too early to begin organizing your table, or perhaps planning on joining the evening's festivities at the After Party. For just \$85 per person, or

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Diwali – Continued

4 tickets for \$300, you can join the fun beginning at 9:00 p.m.



Gala committee members Elizabeth Hale and Melissa Morgan

Come dance, visit with friends, and enter to win one of the

fantastic raffle prizes. If you are interested in purchasing one of these coveted tickets, please contact one of the After Party Chairs, Amelita Mauze 210-410-7782 or Emilie Petty 210-394-4041. Raffle Chairs, Melissa Marino and Mary Potts are hard



Also serving on the Gala committee, Mary Potts and Gretchen Herrmann

at work putting together some amazing packages. If you have something to donate or have a special contact with a store or retail establishment, please contact Mary 210-415-2504 or Melissa 210-394-0888. Look for more information soon online at txbiomed.org/forum.

There's no doubt, Diwali promises to be an amazing evening. Cathryn, Raven and Courtney are grateful to each and every committee member for their dedication to the Texas Biomedical Forum and for creating a Gala to remember!

Texas Biomedical Research Institute Insiders' Tour Review

On October 19, 2011, Forum members and their guests were treated to an evening of roundtable discussions at the Argyle with eight scientists from the Texas Biomedical Research Institute. The evening began with opening remarks by Corbett Christie of the Texas Biomedical Research Institute, followed by an introduction by Suzanne Dabbous, MD, President of the Texas Biomedical Forum. Debbie Duperier and Melissa Morgan, with the gracious assistance of Terry Gouger, hosted the event.

Following the opening remarks, each scientist was seated with a small table of guests in order to engage in an in-depth conversation about their particular field of research. The format allowed for guests and the scientists to

engage in a two-way informative conversation, and not simply a lecture. After the first thirty-minute session, the scientists then exchanged seats so that each table was able to have a second session with a different scientist.

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Chaney Stuart, Tripp Stuart, Kim Shepperd, Kelton Morgan, and Jennifer McInley

Insiders' Tour

(Continued from Page 5)

Members and their guests were treated to an evening at the Argyle with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts while engaging in thought-provoking conversations with the scientists. Topics discussed include research of the Hepatitis C virus, the links between nutrition and diabetes, as well as preeclampsia and genetic eye diseases.

The host scientists were as follows: from Virology & Immunology – Dr. Anthony Griffiths, Dr. Robert Lanford and Dr. Jean Patterson; from Genetics – Dr. Matthew Johnson, Dr. Ian Cheeseman, Dr. Joann Curran and Dr. Anthony Comuzzie; and from SNPRC – Dr. Hareesh Nair. Many thanks to all of them, as the evening was a great success and all of the guests walked away from the event with a better understanding of the exciting research being conducted at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute.



John Shepperd visits with Amy White, Kathryn Martinez and Jake Martinez.

Science Education Awards Announcement

Each year, the Science Education Awards are given jointly by the Southwest Foundation Forum and the V. H. McNutt Memorial Foundation. 2012 will mark the 19th anniversary of these awards.

High school science teachers in and around San Antonio may submit grant applications. In order to do so, teachers submit a proposal requesting, in detail, the purchases they would like to make to help develop their science programs. Proposals are judged and awards given to those teachers who demonstrate the strongest commitment to furthering the development of innovative and progressive science education programs.

\$20,000 WILL BE AWARDED:

First Place \$7,000	Fourth Place \$2,500
Second Place \$5,000	Fifth Place \$1,500
Third Place \$3,500	Honorable Mention \$500

Additionally, thanks to the L. D. Ormsby Charitable Foundation, the first ten applicants who submit qualified proposals will receive \$50 for the teacher's personal use and \$200 for that school's science program. It PAYS to apply early this year! Applications are due by February 15, 2012. Winners will be announced at the March 28, 2012 TBF board meeting followed by a special luncheon at The Argyle in their honor. To view past winners or for more details about these awards, please visit our website, www.TxBiomed.org/forum and click on "Science Education Awards."

We look forward to rewarding many dedicated and deserving teachers and their schools this year!

Texas Biomedical Institute Student Tours

We are delighted to report that, due to the availability of the Denny Conference Center, the Student Tour program has seen an increase of 60 additional student attendees per tour this year! Even with



this wonderful increase in the number of students we are able to host, we find ourselves with a new issue to address . . . a waiting list! That list includes 10 schools in the San Antonio area. We are now in discussions to add two new tour dates in the Spring, as this would allow

us to accommodate those students who are currently waiting to tour The Institute. These educational tours serve as a unique opportunity for local high school students, many of whom are interested in working in the fields of scientific research or medicine. A concerted effort was made this year to include more public schools and to ensure that the Student Tour program was made available to students in all corners of our community.

Thank you to the generous volunteers who contributed their time this past Fall for the TBI Student Tours: Elizabeth Carrington, Clare Duffin, Gretchen Hermann, Hailey Laguarda, Cathryn LeVrier, Christina Mayer, Sheila Mayfield, Courtney Percy and Shannon Turner. We also wish to extend a very special thank you to past President, Karen Lee Zachry, for graciously offering to provide financial support to schools in need of transportation assistance.

We are looking forward to another successful season of student tours and thank you, in advance, for your support! If you would like to volunteer for Spring tour dates, please contact Dr. Ann Allen Cross, DVM, at annallencross@yahoo.com or Sonya Medina Williams at smedina@sebud.net.

The spring tour dates are as follows:

Tuesday, January 10th, 2012 - 9:30am - 11:30am
Tuesday, January 17th, 2012 - 9:30am - 11:30am
Tuesday, January 24th, 2012 - 9:30am - 11:30am
Tuesday, January 31st, 2012 - 9:30am - 11:30am



Texas Biomed Updates

New Animal Model is Step Closer to Needed Vaccines

Texas Biomed scientists have discovered a new animal model that could be effective in research to combat deadly viruses that can be used by bioterrorists, and for which no vaccines exist.

A study published in the journal *Virology* reports that the common marmoset, a non-human primate, is susceptible to experimental infection with a family of deadly viruses, including Ebola virus and Marburg virus.

"The common marmoset is a smaller, less expensive and easier-to-use model in which the animal can be tested earlier in the disease process



"Texas Biomed is working with the NIH and Defense Department to have a vaccine available for human clinical studies by 2015"

- Texas Biomed scientist Jean L. Patterson, Ph.D.,

in order to develop a vaccine," said Ricardo Carrillon, Ph.D., a Texas Biomed virologist.

The report, with Texas Biomed scientist Jean L. Patterson, Ph.D., as co-author, was funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the

Texas Biomedical Forum. The study was made possible using Texas Biomed's biosafety level 4 maximum-containment laboratory.

The researchers found that inoculation with small amounts of Ebola virus and Marburg virus caused conditions in the marmoset similar to those observed in human disease. Most notably, animals experienced reduced blood platelet levels, a high number of white blood cells indicating infection, and clotting interrupting normal blood flow to body organs – all of which occur in humans afflicted with these diseases. "We believe that the marmoset is a great model."

Nonhuman primates are good models to study infectious disease because their immune system is similar to humans' and they are good predictors of vaccine efficiency. The marmoset is a better model than other nonhuman primates such as macaques, which are more risky for transmitting certain diseases to humans and generally more difficult to handle.

Ebola virus and Marburg virus infection – generally resulting from handling infected wild animal carcasses – cause hemorrhagic fever which begins with flu-like symptoms and progresses rapidly to the final stages of infection characterized by fever, bleeding, and severe low blood pressure that is fatal in 90 percent of cases. No drug has been approved to treat Ebola virus or Marburg virus. People diagnosed with Ebola or Marburg virus currently only receive supportive care and treatment for complications.

The increased frequency of outbreaks of hemorrhagic fever caused by Ebola and Marburg in central and western Africa and the potential use of such agents as biological

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New Animal Model is a Step Closer to Needed Vaccines

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– Dr. Ricardo Carrillon, Ph.D. and virologist with Texas Biomed

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How First Humans Set Foot on North American Soil

Scientists here are rewriting an early chapter of the history books that describes how and when humans first set foot on North American soil, based on clues extracted from the blood of their San Antonio descendants.

Experts agree – based on genetic evidence, bones, artifacts and the study of languages – that the ancestors of American Indians came from Northeast Asia thousands of years ago, crossing the frozen Bering land bridge, probably in pursuit of wild game.

In recent years, some experts have speculated that they stopped and settled on that land mass, known as Beringia, for perhaps 15,000 years – a long span of time when four distinct ancestral groups genetically drifted away from their relatives back in Asia. Some think their path to the Americas might have been blocked by glaciers until a great thaw.

The idea of that long pause was based both on genetic studies and archaeological finds, including evidence of human settlements on the Asian side dating to about 30,000 years ago.

But in a new paper, scientists at Texas Biomedical argue that new genetic evidence shows those ancient explorers didn't camp out on the land bridge for 15,000 years as believed. Instead, it was less than 5,000 years – and it's possible they barely stopped at all. The results were published in BMC Evolutionary Biology.

"Beringia was more like a bus stop than a homeland," said John Blangero, a co-author of the paper and director of the AT&T Genomics Computing Center at Texas Biomed.



Because the [expression levels of the genes which helps regulate neuron growth] can be measured relatively easily . . . this finding could lead to a way of identifying people at risk for major depressive disorder."

*– Dr. John Blangero, Ph.D.,
Director of Texas Biomed's
AT&T Genomics Computing
Center (CCC)*

"If they stopped, it was very brief – less than 5,000 years," agreed Satish Kumar, a geneticist at Texas Biomed and lead author of the paper. "Otherwise it is kind of a continuous movement to America. They were diverging from Siberian-Asian ancestors, coming to America."

Their evidence comes from genetic material found within mitochondria – tiny bodies within cells that generate energy like power plants.

Unlike regular DNA, mitochondrial DNA is inherited only from the mother and changes mainly through normal mutations from generation to generation. Scientists have calculated how often those mutations take place, making it possible to mark time from them like rings on a tree.

Kumar and Blangero didn't set out to rewrite history books. Instead they were studying the mitochondrial DNA of hundreds of Mexican American volunteers in the San Antonio Family Heart Study to learn more about the genetic origins of

diabetes and obesity. Many scientists have speculated that the high rate of diabetes in Mexican Americans is linked to their blood ties to American Indians, who have even higher diabetes rates.

Kumar identified American Indian portions of the DNA from 215 local volunteers and combined that information with records of DNA collected by other researchers from American Indians and Asians. From those he could create timelines, following each group through the years

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A New Target Identifies Biomarker for Depression and People at Risk

Scientists at Texas Biomed and Yale University have identified a new target area in the human genome that appears to harbor genes with a major role in the onset of depression.

Using the power of Texas Biomed's AT&T Genomics Computing Center (GCC), the researchers found the region by devising a new method for analyzing thousands of potential risk factors for this complex disease, a process that led them to a new biomarker that may be helpful in identifying people at risk for major depression.

"We were searching for things in psychiatric disease that are the equivalent of what cholesterol is to heart disease," said John Blangero, Ph.D., director of the GCC and a principal investigator in the study. "We wanted to find things that can be measured in everybody and that can tell you something about risk for major depression."

The study was directed by Blangero and David Glahn, Ph.D., of Yale University. It was published online in the journal *Biological Psychiatry* and supported by the National Institutes of Health.

Major depressive disorder is one of the most common and most costly mental illnesses. Studies have estimated that up to 17 percent of Americans will suffer depression at some point in their lives. The disorder has proven to be a tough challenge for geneticists. Despite strong evidence that people can inherit a susceptibility to major depression, years of study have failed to locate any of the key genes that underlie the illness.

The scientists used blood samples from 1,122 people enrolled in the Genetics of Brain Structure and Function Study, a large family study that involves people from 40 extended Mexican American families in the San Antonio area.

Blangero and his colleagues looked at more than 11,000 endophenotypes, or heritable factors, and searched for the ones that were linked with the risk of major depression. They found that disease risk correlated most strongly with expression levels of a gene called RNF123, which helps regulate neuron growth.

Once they found this risk factor, further analysis directed scientists to an area on chromosome 4 containing genes that appear to regulate RNF123.

Humans set Foot on North American Soil

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as new families branched off from old ones and spread into North, Central and South America.

Exactly when each of the four groups crossed into the Americas isn't clear – probably between 16,000 and 20,000 years ago at the end of a period called the Last Glacial Maximum, the researchers said. But three estimates for mutation rates have been put forward by scientists, and Kumar ran all of them for this study – coming up with a range of dates. All of them showed a stop in Beringia of less than 5,000 years.

Kumar, an expert in mitochondrial DNA, had done similar work in years past, helping to trace the roots of Australian aboriginal tribes from India through southern Asia.

(This story was adapted from the San Antonio Express-News.)

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A New Target Identifies Biomarker for Depression and People at Risk

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“We might be able to know in advance that a person will be less able to respond to the normal challenges that come about in life,” he said. “Then doctors may be able to intervene earlier after a traumatic life event to remove some of the debilitation of depression.”

The study also shows the potential for using this method of analyzing a multitude of heritable traits as a way to zero in on disease-causing gene variants.

The research capitalized on the newest “deep sequencing” technology that enables Texas Biomed scientists to search through more genetic variables. The GCC has 8,000 linked computer processors that are capable of analyzing millions of genetic variables drawn from thousands of research subjects.

Genes Found to Play Strong Role in Immune System Response

A new study that included hundreds of San Antonio Hispanics found that a person’s genes play a strong role in how the immune system responds to 13 common infections. While the findings might provide some clues to why some people are better able to resist certain infections and some are more susceptible, the researchers were cautious saying it’s not yet clear.

The study, led by researchers at Texas Biomed, measured blood levels of antibodies that target flu, chickenpox, herpes viruses, hepatitis A, Epstein-Barr and several others.

Because the RNF123 expression levels can be measured relatively easily in the blood, this finding could lead to a way of identifying people at risk for major depressive disorder, Blangero said.

“I think the most significant finding is that, with the majority of these pathogens, the antibodies were significantly heritable.”

– Rohina Rubicz, lead author of the study and Texas Biomed geneticist

“They are under genetic control to some extent. And we found that they were significant for all the 13 pathogens we examined except for two.”

While several studies have looked at how big a role genes play in how people respond to vaccines, few have looked at how they influence the body’s defenses against natural infection – particularly in minority groups, the researchers said.

The blood samples were collected from 1,227 Hispanic volunteers in the San Antonio Family Heart Study, a large, local study looking at the genetics of heart disease. In this case, researchers were looking at the link between inflammation and heart disease, and the 13 infections were chosen because they too might affect the heart.

“Now for most of them the risk has not really been proven per se,” said Harald Göring, a geneticist at Texas Biomed and a co-author of the study. “But there have been a large number of studies suggesting that atherosclerosis is at its core an inflammatory disorder. So the question that comes up is, what causes this inflammation? Microbes are an obvious potential candidate.”

Because the genetic profiles of the volunteers were documented, the researchers were able to match the levels of specific antibodies to different genetic patterns. The only two that didn’t show a connection were adenovirus 35, which causes respiratory infections and has been linked to obesity, and herpes simplex virus 2, a sexually transmitted infection.

The findings were confirmed in samples from 648 volunteers of another local genetic study focusing on diabetes and gallbladder disease. The results were published online in the journal *Human Heredity*.
(This story was adapted from the San Antonio Express-News.)

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Thomas B. Slick Papers Donated to UTSA

The family of Thomas Baker Slick Jr., founder of Texas Biomed and other science organizations in San Antonio, has donated his papers to the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Libraries Special Collections. The transfer occurred on August 12, 2011.

The 75 boxes contain papers related to Texas Biomed, Southwest Research Institute, Mind Science Foundation, and other partnerships and corporations. They include documents relating to the disbursement of the estate assets and the trusts of Slick, who died in a plane crash in 1962 at age 46. The collection also reflects Slick's interest in world peace, the paranormal, Arabian horses, breeding cattle, the birth control pill, and more.



Texas Biomed CEO Kenneth P. Trevett discusses the Thomas B. Slick Jr. papers with institute librarian Danny Jones.

The papers will be available to scholars and researchers who are interested in the origins of the biomedical and scientific enterprise in San Antonio and South Texas, the oil and gas industry, the history of the research institutions that Slick established, and his varied other interests. Slick left a vast set of correspondence spanning from 1938 to 1962 and this donation represents the first time after nearly 40 years that it will be available. The documents had previously been housed and preserved at the Preston G. Northrup Memorial Library at Texas Biomed.

"We are very pleased that these papers, which are so important to the history of San Antonio, will be housed in a state-of-the-art facility where historians and others will have access to them," said Kenneth P. Trevett, Texas Biomed's president and CEO. "Tom Slick was a remarkable visionary who really thought San Antonio would become a city of science and health, which indeed it has."

"This gift is important to UTSA for a number of reasons," says Krisellen Maloney, Ph.D., UTSA's Dean of Libraries. "The addition of Tom Slick's papers to our special collections will enhance the work of any researcher interested in the urban development of San Antonio. The materials are particularly valuable to us, given our status as a rising premier research university with strong engineering and biotechnology programs."



A man ahead of his time: Tom Slick shown here in an undated photo.

The University of Texas at San Antonio Libraries preserve the legacies of San Antonio and South Texas through special collections featuring a rich array of primary resources. Strengths of the collections – which are open to academic and casual researchers alike – include San Antonio history, urban development and architecture, regional authors, Mexican cookery, women and women's history, and the Texas-Mexico border region.



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