



Forum in Focus

FALL 2014

President's Letter

As I sit down to write this President's Letter, I am reminded how important the Texas Biomedical Forum is to me and I know to you as well. We are all involved in this organization for many reasons, but I'm quite sure the primary reason is because supporting Texas Biomed is a truly rewarding experience. The work of the scientists at Texas Biomed is so significant and touches each and every one of us in some way. I can't imagine any person whose family or friends are not touched by the work these scientists do, from genetic research to cardiovascular disease, diabetes and many other areas.

I want to welcome again our new trustees for this year. We are so excited to have such a wonderful group of talented women, and I look forward to working with each of you this year. I hope you, the new trustees, as well as all of us on this board, will continue to find opportunities to become more and more involved and dedicated to the work of both the Forum and Texas Biomed.

I hope that all of you were able to attend this year's highly successful Gala, *La Dolce Vita*, which raised a record \$300,000 for the Forum. These monies fund much-needed pilot study grants for the Texas Biomed scientists. Many congratulations to the



Melissa Morgan

hard-working and talented **Daniela Serna**, Gala Chair, **Ashley Hixon**, Gala Co-Chair, and **Jordan Arriaga**, Gala Assistant. The Gala was a huge success, and a great time was had by all at this glorious event!

We are all looking forward to the upcoming 2015 Gala, and I know it will again surpass all expectations! **Jordan Arriaga**, Gala Chair, **Courtney Percy**, Gala Co-Chair, and **Sara Walker**, Gala Assistant, have been hard at work this summer putting together another fantastic and highly successful evening! Mark May 2nd on your calendar and stay tuned for more information on this fantastic event!

Many thanks to **Amanda Bezner**, 1st VP Lecture Luncheon, and **Tracy Williams**, Luncheon Assistant, who have been hard at work this summer both handing off the membership duties as well as planning this year's two lecture luncheons. I look forward to attending these events as I know these ladies will secure entertaining and informative speakers.

And speaking of Forum membership, **Daniela Serna**, 4th VP Membership, along with **Amy Swaney**, Membership Assistant, have also been working diligently during the Summer months putting together a fantastic plan to expand our Forum membership. I look forward to working with them on this and other Forum initiatives.

This Fall, **Lisa Westmoreland**, Treasurer, will keep the Forum's books while **Carla Nelson**, Assistant (Gala) Treasurer, will be working closely with the 2015 Gala ensuring it's success.

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

(Continued on Page 2)

— *President's Letter* —

(Continued from Page 1)

Due to all of the hard work over the Summer, **Shalimar Wallis** and **Edie Wright** have brought us this great newsletter. It's a lot of work coordinating many different articles, but we all enjoy being kept up to date with the latest developments at the Forum.

In addition, over the Summer **Sara McCamish** and **Lynette Embrey**, Science Education, have both worked very diligently in preparing the much-adored Science Education Awards that are presented each year at the Spring Lecture Luncheon. We look forward to hearing about the new winners!

Many thanks to this year's Recording Secretary, **Sheila Mayfield**, as well as **Ashley Hixon**, Corresponding Secretary. Both are such invaluable positions, and we would not be able to keep it all together without them!

Both **Elizabeth Cox** and **Ashley Weaver** have been working to put together this year's Forum directory. **Lindsay Archer** and **Clare Duffin**, Social Media/PR, will ensure our events are well publicized. **Courtney Ogle**, Volunteers, will help coordinate all of the many volunteers that make our events possible.

Jody Lutz, **Holly Rabinowitz** and **Julie Dorbandt** will be our team for Special Events this year. I know that all of us look forward to attending these fun events. In addition, both **Tammy Cochran** and **Tracee Feik** are heading up the Roundtable Discussions to be held on January 29th at the Argyle. I encourage everyone to attend the Special Events as well as the Roundtable Discussion!

Over the Summer, **Christina Mayer** and **Ann Walton**, Student Tours, have been working to organize the many student tours that take place at Texas Biomed. Many thanks to **Whitney Solcher Miller**, Website Liaison, for making sure

the website is kept up to date with all the latest news and events.

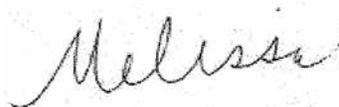
We are so grateful that **Sarah Moore** has agreed again to be this year's photographer. We really appreciate her capturing all the events on "film." **Amy Feik Garcia**, Archivist, will keep the Forum well-organized, while **Elizabeth Carrington**, Historian, will keep the Forum well-documented. **Kati Smith**, Parliamentarian, will make sure our meetings run in an orderly fashion.

I want to recognize our Past President, **Cathryn Le Vrier**, and thank her for all of her hard work last year as the Forum's President. She was a great support to us all, and I look forward to working with her this year.

Finally, I can't end this article without extending a huge thank you to my advisors, **Karen Lee Zachry** and **Julie Zacher**. I could not have done this without them. I really appreciate each of them taking time out of their schedules to act as advisors. They have both been a tremendous help to me as we transition into our new Forum year. I know I will lean on them many times this upcoming year, so I thank them both in advance!

So, as we all may be a little sad but also a little glad that summer has finally come to a close, I look forward to a year of hard work and great successes. This Forum board is filled with very talented and generous women, and I look forward to working with each of you this year.

Sincerely,



Melissa Morgan
President 2014-2015
Texas Biomedical Forum

GROUPS THAT SUPPORT THE TEXAS BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Did you know that there are two other groups, besides the Texas Biomedical Forum, that support the Texas Biomedical Research Institute?

Most of us are familiar with The Forum, whose main purpose is to raise pilot study funds for Texas Biomed through its highly anticipated annual Forum Gala in May. Membership in the Forum includes invitations to that Gala and two lecture luncheons each year, all held at The Argyle. Your dues (varied levels available) also include a tour of the Texas Biomed campus, a membership directory and the *Forum in Focus* newsletter published three times per year. For more information on membership and to join, visit: <http://www.txbiomed.org/forum/membership>

Another notable group that supports Texas Biomed is **The Founder's Council**, a young professional group whose mission is to cultivate interest in Texas Biomed through leaders in the San Antonio area (loosely ages 25 to 46). The base membership dues of \$150/single and \$225/couple (higher membership levels available) include at least two lecture luncheons and a dinner at The Argyle, a membership appreciation party and a Holiday Party, which is always held at an exceptional

location. Did you gather that all events are included with your membership? Come join in on the fun by visiting www.txbiomed.org/joinfc!

And yet another important group that greatly supports Texas Biomed is the **Golden Circle**, which is made up of donors who give an unrestricted donation of \$1,000 or more annually to the Institute (higher levels of support available). As a member of this prestigious circle of giving, you will receive special invitations to educational and appreciation events, as well as the Institute's special news mailings (i.e. *Progress*), informative periodicals (i.e. *Scientific Report*) and the annual report. For more information about this group and to join, visit: <https://txbiomed.org/make-a-difference/circles-of-support>.

As a member of any or all three of these groups, you will be supporting one of our country's leading independent biomedical research facilities. Your membership to these groups supplement grant monies and show grant-making organizations that we are interested and have confidence in Texas Biomed's work. We encourage you to learn more about each of these Texas Biomed "support groups" and hope that you join them today!

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Are you looking for a way to get more involved with the Texas Biomedical Forum?

Consider volunteering your time this year to the many opportunities the Forum has to offer: greet guests at the Fall and Spring Lecture Luncheons, attend a Student Tour of Texas Biomedical Research Institute, offer assistance with a Forum special event, or share your talents with the Annual Gala.

You can access the Forum's website at www.txbiomed.org/forum to find dates that will fit your schedule.

Thank you for supporting Texas Biomed with your time and commitment. Please contact Courtney Ogle with questions regarding volunteer opportunities: 210-416-8666 or crogle77@gmail.com.

STUDENT TOURS

Student Tours are a fantastic opportunity for area high school students, and a rewarding experience for Forum volunteers!

Each year the Forum facilitates an in depth tour of the Texas Biomedical Research Institute for several advanced placement biology and chemistry classes in San Antonio and the surrounding areas. This season's 2014-2015 school tours are already completely booked!

Student and Forum tour volunteers will be treated to lectures from scientists in the Department of Virology and Immunology and the Department of Genetics, as well as to staff guided tours of the A&T Genomics Computing Center, the suit room of the Biosafety Level 4 containment laboratory, and the Southwest National Primate Research Center.

All Forum members are encouraged to attend one student tour. Tours will be given Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 am on the following dates: **Fall 2014:** September 16th, 23rd, 30th; October 7th
Spring 2015: January 27th; February 3rd, 10th, 17th

Sweet Success for La Dolce Vita Gala 2014!

The 43rd annual Texas Biomedical Forum Gala, held on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 at The Argyle was a resounding success! The theme, *La Dolce Vita ~ Una Magica Notte in Toscana* created lots of buzz with an amazing menu, a sensational premier silent auction, a one of a kind raffle and other great features!

This year's Gala Chair, **Daniela Serna**, Co-Chair **Ashley Hixon** and Gala Assistant, **Jordan Arriaga**, worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the Gala



both in terms of enjoyment and financially. With the help of the fabulous Gala Committee Chairs and committee members, as well as the San Antonio community, the Forum presented a check for **\$300,000** to the Texas Biomedical Research Institute! This record setting sum will help fund the most pilot studies in a year by the Texas Biomedical Forum. A special thanks to **Lisa Westmoreland**, Gala Treasurer for her efforts to re-create the budget and for her help in tracking all of the donations, expenses and managing the Forum bank account.

This year's Gala included some evident changes. Thanks to the fearless Gala Advisors (who are all Past Forum Presidents, incidentally), **Terry Gouger**, **Julie Zacher** and **Karen Lee Zachry**, the Gala leadership felt blessed with their support and advice to move forward with several unique ideas. The years' past raffle was transformed to a sensational super silent auction and a unique one of a kind raffle was introduced in 2014!

The efforts for the planning of the Gala began early in the summer of 2013 with the selection of great Gala Committee Chairs. One of those chairs was **Sheila Mayfield**, Table Sales Chair who hit the ground running and helped launch the inaugural

pre-sales table effort. By early October 2013, we had over half of our tables committed to higher level table sponsors (a first for this Gala) and by late October, the Gala was sold out! In early April, the inaugural VIP Reception honoring our premium Table Sponsors was held at Villa Finale in the King William District. Thanks to the generous support of The Argyle, Cinco Vodka, Silver Eagle Distributors and The Wine Group, the reception was lovely and guests enjoyed touring Villa Finale.

Additionally, Forum Grants Chair, **Sara Walker** hit it out of the ballpark by exceeding the goal and raising over \$60,000 for Texas Biomed. We partnered with The Big Give SA and that day of giving generated more than \$5,000 in additional funds to the Forum Grants. We can't thank the San Antonio community enough for stepping up and giving to this very worthy cause.



The talented artist and Invitations Chair, **Elizabeth Carrington** beautifully designed the invitations for the Gala and After Party, as well as the Gala program. Her role involved of graphic

(Continued on Page 5)

La Dolce Vita Gala 2014

(Continued from Page 4)

design time, vision and dedication. Elizabeth's attention to detail in all of her work did not go unnoticed . . . the unique design, use of thermography and myriad of different papers and stickers on the Gala invitation truly set the tone for the event. Additionally, many thanks to the entire Gala Committee who helped hand deliver invitations to all of our guests.



As guests arrived at The Argyle, they were greeted by the flashes of Marks Moore Photography and handed a delectable drink inspired by the Gala's theme, the Tuscan Twist. The amazing décor was thanks to the vision of Decorations Co-Chairs, **Holly Rabinowitz** and **Raven Labatt**. They worked closely with Danny Cuellar of Trinity Flowers to create a Tuscan garden feel with lots of greenery and beautiful white flowers. An outstanding, grand floral arrangement hung from the center of the After Party tent to wow the guests. Another beautiful feature that night was the awe-inspiring food table beautifully prepared by The Argyle and decorated by the Decorations Committee. It included a very generous donation of a huge Parmesan cheese wheel from Central Market H-E-B. This table was a hit as guests

enjoyed choosing their own hors d'oeuvres, which included Italian meats and cheeses, paninis, sundried tomatoes and vegetables. In order to create the garden ambiance, lighting played a key role in this year's Gala. The entire grounds of The Argyle were covered with lights and lovely strands of lights were displayed over the parking lot. A special performance courtesy of Ballet San Antonio and the Opera San Antonio entertained guests, as the dancers mingled amongst guests in gold body paint and danced amongst the crowd to the sounds of an Italian Opera. Thank you to Forum Trustee, **Christina Mayer** for her help in coordinating this effort.

One of the most spectacular aspects of this year's Gala was the fantastic menu. Menu Chair, **Sonya Medina Williams** and the Menu committee did an amazing job keeping with the theme of



the Gala. As the Primo course, guests enjoyed an asparagus salad and chilled white bean soup; the Secondo course was delectable lightly breaded veal piccata with lemon butter caper sauce, accompanied with truffle mushroom ravioli and steamed broccoli with carrots. For the family-sharing feel of Italy, a beautiful cheese and dried fruit board

(Continued on Page 6)

La Dolce Vita Gala 2014

(Continued from Page 5)

with almond tuile cookies and mascarpone and honeycomb was passed around the dinner tables. Central Market H-E-B generously donated gelato, and guests were able to enjoy that on the patio, along with a biscotti and coffee bar.

Fortunately, guests got to walk in to The Argyle to rooms filled with Neiman Marcus boxes set in their places

again this year! The prestigious retailer kindly sponsored the Favors of an incredible full size Nest candle or Nest home kit. In addition Neiman Marcus went above and beyond to create a Favor Check-In, so that guests could leave their special gift while they danced the night away. Our thanks to **Lisa Miller**, Favors Chair and Xitlalt Herrera-Salazar (also a Forum Gala committee member) and Tom Wensinger from Neiman Marcus for the continued support and sponsorship of our Gala. Neiman Marcus also generously sponsored a Tom Ford lip bar after dinner, and guests that visited took home a sample lipstick from the famed designer!

Once again, the After Party was a huge success! A record number of tickets were sold this year and After Party Chair, **Lindsay Archer** helped with the organization of it all. DJ Lucy Wrubel was as lively as ever, and everyone enjoyed dancing to her beats. Many thanks to Entertainment Chair, **Courtney Ogle** for leading the effort in assuring that guests enjoyed the night. Gaming Chairs,

Jody Lutz and **Sarah Moore** executed the casino style games and photo booth. Every gaming table was full and all had fun! Delicious late night pizza

was enjoyed as the night came to an end. The Apizza Mia food truck was ready to serve their delicious pizza, including their specialty white Margherita pizza along with delectable mini cannolis.



Thanks again to **Sonya Medina Williams**, Menu Chair for coordinating the late night eats.

One of the most successful aspects of the gala was the splendid super silent auction co-chaired by **Lynnette Embrey** and **Courtney Percy**! It began with the ability to preview and make opening bids on the website 32auctions.com. The premier silent auction included nine fabulous packages: 1) The Argyle package that included an exquisite handbag from The Barfield Collection won by Stacey Rhodes, 2) Julian Gold package won by Clint Worth, 3) Moped won by Timo Hixon, 4) Neiman Marcus package also won by Clint Worth, 5) Paloma Pachanga package that included The Smoke Shack, Coppers Meat Market and Satel's also won by Timo Hixon, 6) Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry watch won by Mills Palm (this package was our most successful item auctioned), 7) Saks Fifth Avenue package won by Jose Ortiz, 8) Shetler Wade Jewelers package won by Stacy Woods and 9) Trustee Wine Barrel package won by James Lehmann. Thanks to all the 'winners' for their generous support of the Forum!

(Continued on Page 7)

La Dolce Vita Gala 2014

(Continued from Page 6)

This year the Gala featured a one of a kind raffle. With the help of North Park Lexus of San Antonio, Herff Travel and Montage Hotels and Resorts, the raffle consisted of a chance to win a Lexus IS 250 by guessing the exact number of pennies inside an acrylic box. If no exact guess was made, the person that made the closest guess would win a trip for 2, including round-trip airfare, airport transfers and four night accommodations at the winner's choice of a Montage Resort property in Laguna Beach, Beverly Hills or Deer Valley. Two other raffle ticket holders with the closest guesses also won a 3-day rental to drive a Lexus for the weekend. The exact number of pennies in the box was 47,228. The winner of the raffle was Michael Wallis (he was off by 1,535 pennies)! Michael will enjoy the Montage Laguna Beach with his wife this Fall . . . an amazing trip for the price of a \$100 raffle ticket! This year didn't involve a luck drawing, but an educated guess instead. Lori Donnell and Denise Mosser were the two runner-ups and winners of the Lexus for the Weekend Drive prize. Our endless thanks to **Leslie Miller** and **Kati Smith**, Raffle Co-Chairs who worked to ensure the success of this exciting feature of the Gala! Special thanks to **Elizabeth Cox** and the

folks at North Park Lexus and to Peter Herff at Herff Travel for their coordination and support of this year's Gala.

Many, many thanks to **Edie Wright**, Logistics Chair who ensured that all went smoothly with the set-up on the day of the event. She also coordinated taxis to be available for rides home after the Gala, amongst many other things. A big thanks goes to Social Media Chair, **Allison Hayne** for creating and keeping the first ever Gala Facebook page up and running. Be sure to like our page called Texas Biomedical Forum!

The Gala was also well publicized to various media outlets in San Antonio thanks to our PR Chair, **Elizabeth Cox**. She and her committee worked on press releases and sent in photographs to news outlets all over the city, including Society Diaries, 78209 magazine, San Antonio Woman, Online in 09, etc. In addition, Elizabeth secured an ad with the San Antonio Express News to feature our corporate sponsors and publicly thank them for their very generous support (a first this year!).

(Continued on Page 8)



La Dolce Vita Gala 2014

(Continued from Page 7)

Be sure to grab a copy of Society Diaries magazine, which featured a multi-page spread on the Gala. We would also like to extend our thanks to Marks Moore Photography for generously donating back to the Forum all proceeds from the sale of the photos taken at the Gala.

A special thank you to The Argyle administration and staff, who went above and beyond with their help in ensuring the success of the Gala. General Manager, Michael Vlad and his team led by Catering Events Director, Jessica Speaker were absolutely spectacular and so accommodating. This year's record-breaking success was largely due to their support of the Forum and its mission to aid the Texas Biomedical Research Institute.

The 2014 Gala was ultra successful due to the fabulous Gala Committee Chairs and the generosity of the San Antonio community. We are so appreciative to everyone who continues to support the Forum and its mission to support the Texas Biomedical Research Institute through community relations, volunteer services and fundraising. The proceeds from the Gala go directly to fund scientists' pilot studies to further the investigative efforts of the Institute. It was an incredible evening thanks to the efforts of so many volunteers. Texas Biomed is a special place in our community and the Forum is honored to be a group that helps support them!

La Dolce Vita Una Magica Notte in Toscana

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Table Sponsors

Pisa

Karen and Tim Hixon
Valero
Alice and Clark Welder

Siena

Friends of the Forum

Lucca

Argo Group
Cyrena and Buck Benson/Emily and Brad Jones
Elise and Craig Boyan
Beatriz and Raul Cardenas/Ashley and Rad Weaver
Cox Smith
CW Floors/Feik Enterprises LLC
Clare and Donald Duffin
Ernst & Young LLP
Lindsay and Jack Guenther Jr.
H-E-B

Jefferson Bank
Julian Gold
Law Offices of S. Jason Westmoreland, P.C.
Kim Lewis and Jessica Lewis Worth
Longoria-Wright Foundation
Luther King Capital Management
Kenneth Maverick, M.D./James Lehmann, M.D.
Lisa and David Miller
Mission Pharmacal
Laura and Lew Moorman

Lucca
Continued

Phyllis Browning Company
RBC Wealth Management
Robert Tucker Hayes Foundation
Stacey and Jamo Rubin/Alice and Sergio Viroslav
The RWM Foundation
Antonio Serna, IV, M.D.
San Antonio Gastroenterology Associates, PA

Shepherd Kaplan
Silver Eagle Distributors
Southwest Research Institute
Shannon and Jon Turner/Stacey and Mark Woods
USAA
Keith Wright, M.D. – South Texas Surgeons
Zachry Corporation

Arezzo

Azar Distilling/Cinco Vodka
April and Will Barnes/Karen and Jeff Bryant
Jessica and Ryan Berg/Amanda and Robert Bezner
The Broadway
Drs. Edward Briggs and Sara McCamish
Corporate Solutions
DPT Laboratories, LTD.
Frost Bank
Gunn Automotive Group
ING/Ty Edwards

Mastrapasqua Asset Management/Claude and Jessica Koontz
Mazurek, Alford & Holliday
Mission Park Funeral Chapels/Steves Foundation
Georgina and Jay Podjenski
R.L. Worth & Associates
Saks Fifth Avenue
Sendero Wealth Management
St. Mary's University School of Law
Texas Biomedical Research Institute
Sonya Medina Williams and Gene Williams

Table Sponsors

Individual Patrons

Stefanie and Brett Alvheim
Kim Azar
Caroline and Bo Badouh
Brooke and Matthew Bell
Jennifer and Jason Berridge
Lauren and John Browning
Monica and Sonny Cavazos
Tammy and Chris Cochran
Elizabeth and Kevin Cox
Jenny Crone
Elizabeth and Chris Dewar
Julie and Patrick Dudley
Debbie and Terive Duperier
Terry and J.B. Gouger

Laura and Michael Heinrich
Trish and Clint Hennessey
Fabiola and Kevin Kaase
Danielle and Brooks Kieschnick
Cathryn Levrier
Catherine and Wilbur Matthews
Christina and Paul Mayer
Sheila and Carter Mayfield
Callie and Wes Mayo
Kim and Charles McTee
Lisa and Barry Menick
Melissa and Kelton Morgan
Carla and Dan Nelson
Kasey and Kirk Oden

Holly and Adam Rabinowitz
Victoria and Martin Rico
Dori and Paul Salisbury
Lauren and John Saunders
Kati and Michael Smith
Julia and Michael Troy
Robin and Ralph Voight
Shalimar and Michael Wallis
Kelly and Derrek Weaver
Christen and George Wommack
Edie and John Wright
Anna and Todd Wulfe
Jenevieve and Frank Zoch

Forum Grants

Leonardo Da Vinci

The Brown Foundation
Emory A. Hamilton
Mays Family Foundation
Sara Stumberg Walker

Galileo Galilei

Drs. Ash and Suzanne Dabbous
Friend of the Forum
Helen K. Groves
Candace and Michael Humphreys
Mission Pharmacal
John Newman Family Charitable Fund
Ruth Eilene Sullivan
Barbara and Kenneth Trevett
Karen Lee and David Zachry
Julie and Peter Zacher

Dante Alighieri

Debbie and Corbett Christie
Drs. Ann and Matthew Cross
Julie and Kenneth Dorbandt
Terry and J.B. Gouger
Ashley and Timo Hixon
Laura and Lew Moorman
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Rittenhouse
Daniela and Antonio Serna, IV, M.D.
Lisa and Jason Westmoreland
Tracy and Jack Williams

Pilot Leadership Circle

*Circle includes Past Presidents and Past
Gala Chairs of the Texas Biomedical Forum*

Suzanne Dabbous
Barbara Dreeben
Tena Gorman
Terry Gouger
Cathryn Levrier
Peggy Mays
Laura Moorman
Mary Penaloza
Lisa Sechler
Ruth Eilene Sullivan
Caroline Walker
Karen Lee Zachry
Julie Zacher
Allison Zeller

Premier Silent Auction Sponsors

The Argyle
The Barfield Collection
Julian Gold
Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry
Neiman Marcus
Paloma Pachanga
The Smoke Shack
Coopers Meat Market
Satel's
Saks Fifth Avenue
Shetler Wade Jewelers

Trustees of the
Texas Biomedical Forum 2013-14

Raffle Sponsors

Herff Travel
Montage Hotels & Resorts
North Park Lexus of San Antonio

In-Kind Sponsors

The Argyle
Azar Distilling- Cinco Vodka
Aztec Events & Tents
Ballet San Antonio
Central Market H-E-B
Elizabeth Carrington Art and Design
Clampitt Papers
Expressions Printing & Copying
Gulf Business Printing
Holtz Entertainment and Lighting
Marks Moore Photography
Neiman Marcus
North Park Lexus of San Antonio
Opera San Antonio
Pachanga Express
Republic National Distributing
Silver Eagle Distributors
Society Diaries
Trinity Flowers by Danny Cuellar
The Prestigious Mark
The Wine Group
Villa Finale

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Please save the date for a reception honoring Past Presidents on Wednesday, November 5th at Karen Lee Zachry's home.

Lisa Kopecky will be showcasing her handbags, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Forum. Additional details and formal invitation to follow. Please contact Jody Lutz (jodyhammlutz@gmail.com) or Holly Rabinowitz (hollyrabinowitz@sbcglobal.net) with any questions. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Roundtable Discussions

Thursday, January 29, 2015

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

The Argyle

This event is hosted by the Texas Biomedical Research Institute Forum specifically for the education of Forum members and their guests. Please join us for an evening of engaging conversations with some of the Institute's top researchers.

Texas Biomed Updates

ROBERT GRACY NAMED INTERIM CEO AT TEXAS BIOMED

Robert W. Gracy, Ph.D., has been named Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Texas Biomedical Research Institute.

Gracy, who has been serving as Interim Chief Scientific Officer for Texas Biomed since March following the retirement of John VandeBerg, has had a long and successful career in

biomedical research and academic research leadership.

His research focuses on aging and chronic diseases resulting from oxidative damage, and he has published more than 200 research papers and book chapters and holds several biotechnology patents.

He is a Professor of Biochemistry at the University

of Texas at San Antonio, and for six years served as UTSA's Vice President for Research, growing annual research expenditures from \$23 million to \$57 million. Previously, he had served as Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, Dean and Vice President of Research at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

New \$2.7 Million NIH Grant to Texas Biomed to Develop New Methods to Understand the Genetic Basis of Diseases

Over the past decade, genetic studies conducted by scientists around the world and at Texas Biomed have helped identify large numbers of differences in the sequence of the human genome that are contributing to a wide range of diseases. It has been challenging to understand how these changes in the DNA sequence specifically affect the cells in the body, and lead to obesity, diabetes, heart disease or even neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease. Once we understand the underlying mechanisms, we may be able to develop new therapies and actually



Michael Olivier, Ph.D.

improve treatment for these diseases.

To accelerate this process, the National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the National Institutes of Health requested proposals from researchers to develop novel and innovative approaches that will help decipher the function of these specific genome sequence changes, and now awarded Michael Olivier, Ph.D., one of Texas Biomed's newest recruits to the Department of Genetics, a new 4-year grant to develop and implement such technologies.

Biomed Updates

NIH Grant Continues

His laboratory specifically focuses on developing new ways to study how proteins – little machines in cells that do everything, from producing energy to sending signals to other cells to recognizing and responding to challenges such as fat in the diet – interact with the DNA in our cells to regulate the expression of genes.

Genes can be turned on or off, depending on whether a cell needs more or less of a specific protein, and this complex regulation is influenced by a large number of other proteins that bind to the DNA and regulate it. These regulatory proteins bind to specific sequences in the DNA, and if this sequence is changed in an individual, that particular protein may no longer bind as efficiently. The result is that a nearby gene is regulated differently in a person with this specific change in the DNA sequence, “Obviously, this complex regulation of genes requires a large number of different proteins, and many of them we do not even know yet,” Olivier said. “This is why we are trying to develop a method that allows us to look at one specific piece of DNA, such as one gene, and to identify all the proteins that are bound to that particular sequence.”

Once the sequence has been isolated, the bound proteins can be identified by a technology called mass spectrometry that uses advanced sensitive instrumentation to detect small amounts of proteins. Dr. Olivier will exploit this new methodology to examine cells from members of the San Antonio Family Study. Here, they will

identify proteins that regulate genes important in the regulation of cholesterol and other risk factors for heart disease.

Previous studies have helped identify changes in the DNA sequence of study participants that raise their cholesterol levels, which increases their risk for heart attacks or strokes. This new study will now identify how these sequence changes modify the regulation of specific genes, and which proteins are important in that regulation.

“Identifying the proteins that are important for this regulation of genes will not only help us understand how these sequence changes lead to higher cholesterol levels in these participants, it will also help us to identify new drugs that may help correct these changes, and help reduce the risk for a heart attack or stroke,” Olivier said.

For now, however, his lab is focusing on developing the necessary protocols and methods so that they can begin these investigations – a challenging effort requiring a wide range of expertise in his group, from chemistry to genetics to cell and molecular biology. And with the new support from the NIH, they hope to be able to develop and apply these new methodologies quickly so that they can be used to help understand how the human genome works, and how the sequence differences in it affect disease risk.

Texas Biomed Study Provides Conclusive Evidence that Sunscreen Use in Childhood Prevents Development of Malignant Melanoma in Adults

Research conducted at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute, has established unequivocally in a natural animal model that the incidence of malignant melanoma in adulthood can be dramatically reduced by the consistent use of sunscreen in infancy and childhood.

According to senior author John L. VandeBerg, Ph.D., the research was driven by the fact that, despite the increasing use of sunscreen in recent decades, the incidence of malignant melanoma, the most aggressive form of skin cancer, continues to increase dramatically. The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 75,000 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed in the U.S. this year.

“While sunscreen is highly effective in preventing sunburn, this paradox has led some to question whether sunscreen is effective in preventing melanoma caused by ultraviolet (UV) light,” VandeBerg said. “It has been suggested that sunscreen enables people to

receive more UV exposure without becoming sunburned, and that increased exposure to UV light has led to an increasing incidence of melanoma.”

Questions regarding the effectiveness of sunscreen have remained unanswered in part because, until recently, no natural mammalian model of UV-induced melanoma has existed, noted VandeBerg. Scientists at Texas Biomedical Research Institute have established the gray short-tailed opossum, a small marsupial from South America, as such a model, and tested an over-the-counter facial lotion containing SPF15 sunscreen for its ability to prevent UV-induced melanoma.

The Texas Biomed researchers found that the application of lotion containing sunscreen to infant opossums led to a 10-fold reduction in pre-melanotic lesions (known to progress to melanoma), in comparison to infant opossums receiving lotion that did not contain sunscreen. This difference in the development of lesions occurred

even when low doses of UV light were applied – so low that they caused no sunburn or even reddening of the skin in the opossums that did not receive sunscreen.

The pre-melanotic lesions did not appear until the infants had become adolescents (equivalent to early teenagers in humans), and prior experiments established that the pre-melanocytic lesions in opossums do not progress to melanomas until the animals are well into adulthood, as typically occurs in humans.

“Based on these results, we speculate that the reason it is particularly important that sunscreens be used consistently in childhood, and especially in infancy, is because skin cells during growth are dividing much more rapidly than in adulthood, and it is during cell division that the cells are most susceptible to UV-induced damage,” said VandeBerg. “Evidence that supports this hypothesis is that melanoma is not induced in adult opossums when their shaved skin is irradiated by UV light in the absence of sunscreen.”

Ebola Research: Role of the Department of Virology & Immunology at Texas Biomedical Research Institute

Ebola virus Infection: Griffiths, A., Hayhurst, A., Davey, R., Shtanko, O., Carrion Jr., R., and Patterson, J.L. *Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers 2014*, Singh and Ruzek, eds. CRC Press pg. 435-456.

The viral genus Ebola virus or Ebola is the causative agent of Ebola hemorrhagic fever. It is a member of the Filoviridae, or Filovirus family. Ebola was originally recognized in 1976 near the Ebola River Valley in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Symptoms include rapid onset of fever, malaise, muscle aches, headache and later rash with bleeding at bodily orifices. Due to the high mortality rate of Ebola virus infection, the lack of an approved treatment or vaccine, the ability of the virus to be transmitted in the laboratory and known human-to-human transmission, all filoviruses are classified as Biosafety level 4 (BSL-4) pathogens by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Work being done by the Department of Virology and Immunology and Texas Biomedical Research Institute in the BSL4 laboratory includes:

Detection of Ebola virus:

The Department is working to detect biothreats such as Ebola virus using Llama antibodies, making detection of the virus faster, cheaper and more easily accomplished in field operations. Texas Biomed continues to study the interactions of llama single domain antibodies with the internal Ebola component nucleoprotein first published in 2012/2013. Specifically, scientists wish to understand the molecular mechanisms that enable our antibodies to recognize the nucleoprotein polymer in a Velcro like manner, thereby conferring high sensitivity detection.

Furthermore, our scientists are intrigued by the observation that many of our antibodies appear to bind to highly conserved patches on these dynamic pathogens, so they not only bind to all five of the Ebolavirus species we know about, they may well be capable of targeting those species yet to emerge. (Plos One 2013)

Vaccine Development:

In support of vaccine development for filoviruses, Texas Biomed Scientists developed a novel non-human primate (NHP) model for viruses such as Ebola virus and Marburg virus (Virology, Nov. 25, 2011). Scientists are involved in developing techniques for the measurement of immune responses in NHP to filoviruses vaccines.

We are working to identify immune correlates for vaccine-induced protection against filovirus infections

We are also working toward the understanding of how these viruses cause disease by studying a variety of viral processes including viral evolution in order to maximize understanding of which component of the virus will needed to be utilized in vaccine development.

Scientists provided evidence that support VLP vaccine platform technology as a viable candidate for prevention of filovirus disease (Virology Jan. 5, 2009).

Texas biomed scientists are now participating in advanced development of vaccines to these viruses. Institute researchers are actively investigating the efficacy of filovirus vaccines using several different live vectors such as Adeno vectors.

Treatment Developments:

Early on, Texas Biomed scientists were involved with showing the utility of repurposing FDA approved drugs for treatment of Ebola virus in rodent models (Plos One: 2013).

Currently, our scientists are testing newly identified classes of small molecules as broad-spectrum inhibitors for Ebola virus infection. One class is already showing promise in protecting against disease in a small animal model.

Faculty Members Actively Involved in Ebola Research:

Ricardo Carrion, Jr. Ph.D., Robert A. Davey, Ph.D., Luis Giavedoni, Ph.D., Anthony Griffiths, Ph.D. Andrew Hayhurst, Ph.D., and Jean L. Patterson, Ph.D.

TEXAS BIOMED REGENERATIVE MEDICINE PROGRAM EXPANDS WITH TWO NEW RESEARCH SCIENTISTS

Texas Biomed Regenerative Medicine Program Expands With Two New Research Scientists Texas Biomedical Research Institute has recruited two new research scientists to its Southwest National Primate Research Center (SNPRC) who will focus on regenerative medicine, working with animal models to develop human stem cell therapies for medical conditions such as Parkinson's disease, degenerative diseases of the eye and muscular dystrophy.

Tiziano Barberi, PhD and Marcel M. Daadi, PhD join Texas Biomed as Associate Scientists in the SNPRC. Barberi comes from the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia and Daadi arrives from Palo Alto, CA where he was part of the Consulting Faculty of Stanford University's Department of Neurosurgery. He is also President and Chief Scientific Officer of NeoNeuron LLC.

Barberi, a native of Italy, had been one of 15 Chief Investigators of the Stem Cells Australia Consortium for stem cell research and Group Leader for the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute. With a laboratory research focus on the directed differentiation of human pluripotent stem cells (hESC and iPSC) into specific developmental fates, his research aims are to provide tools for human development studies, in vitro disease modeling and a cell therapeutics approach to disease.



Tiziano Barberi, Ph.D.

He described in a seminal work a method to obtain all the clinically relevant neuronal subtypes from mESC, and was the first to have directed differentiation of hESC into mesenchymal precursors and into the progenitor cells forming the skeletal muscle system.

Prior to his work in Australia, Barberi was head of the Laboratory of Stem Cells and Development at the Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope in Duarte, CA. During the time spent at City of Hope, Barberi was awarded the prestigious New Faculty Award from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). He is an invited reviewer for a number of stem cell-related research journals and is a grant reviewer/assessor for research programs in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the European Union.

Daadi has unique academia and industry experiences bridging basic and translational research. He comes to Texas Biomed from the San Francisco bay area where he founded a biotechnology company, NeoNeuron, focused on developing therapies for treating neurological disorders. He served as Director of Stem Cell Research, CIRM Disease Team Stroke Neural Transplant Program at Stanford University School of Medicine and Director of the Parkinson's Disease Program at the Sanford Burnham Medical Research Institute, Layton Biosciences Inc and NeuroSpheres LLC.



Marcel Daadi, Ph.D.

At Stanford University, Daadi developed a novel technology to purify homogenous populations of neural stem cells from human pluripotent stem cells and coax them to specific types of neurons that can be used for brain repair. His research is paving the way for clinical trials to treat patients with devastating neurological disorders, such as Parkinson's disease, stroke and traumatic brain injury. He seeks to expand on the capabilities of the SNPRC and to build new collaborative programs and projects in stem cell research with colleagues at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Daadi serves as editor and reviewer for many peer review journals. He is a permanent member on the National Institutes of Health Grant Review

Committee, The Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund and serves on many other national and international Grant Review Committees.

EyeCare Study Awarded a Grant Exceeding \$4 Million

Texas Biomedical Research Institute Scientist Matthew P. Johnson, Ph.D., and Department of Genetics Chair Sarah Williams-Blangero, Ph.D., are the co-Principal Investigators of a new NIH grant award for a project that started in June, 2014. Funded by the National Eye Institute of the NIH, the project is entitled "Genetic Epidemiology of Ocular Health and Disease." The study is a collaborative effort between Texas Biomed and the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology located in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Blindness and poor vision are major public health concerns throughout the world. Approximately one tenth of the worlds' population (i.e., around 733 million individuals), has impaired vision. Approximately 660 million (90%) of these individuals reside in developing countries like Nepal. Visual impairment negatively impacts independence, diminishes quality of life, and places a hefty economic burden in the trillions of dollars on health care systems. The two leading causes of impaired vision are uncorrected refractive errors such as nearsightedness and farsightedness, and cataract, both of which are substantially influenced by genetic risk factors.

The primary objective of the new eye study is to identify the genetic

factors that strongly influence measures of normal eyes and that influence eye problems such as refractive error and cataract in the Jirel ethnic group of Nepal. Over past 28 years, Dr. Williams-Blangero and colleagues from Texas Biomed and other institutions around the country have conducted extensive anthropological, epidemiological and genetic research studies with the members of the Jirel population. The long term collaborations with the participants in the Jirel studies have been of great benefit for characterizing the genetic factors influencing a broad range of disease related characteristics from parasitic worm loads, to osteoporosis risk factors, to depression. Approximately 2,300 Jirels have participated in these past studies and all of these individuals belong to a single extended pedigree, which is one of the most statistically powerful human pedigrees ever studied. Two thousand Jirels will be recruited to participate in the eye study.

The Jirels live in the Jiri region of the eastern hills of Nepal. Given the remoteness of the site, this may well be the first eye examination for many of the study participants. The study will have direct therapeutic benefit for individuals who choose to participate. For example

the staff from the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology will correct refractive errors through distribution of eye glasses and will administer ocular-related medicine for treatment of observed infections. Individuals requiring any basic ocular-related surgical procedure will be referred to the closest regional hospital for treatment.

The unique characteristics of the extended, multigenerational Jirel pedigree ensure a high likelihood of success in identifying genes that influence both normal eye health and eye diseases. The results of the eye study will provide novel insights into the causal mechanisms underlying the onset and progression of eye diseases. The knowledge to be gained by this research project will improve our understanding on the genetic determinants of variation in eye-related clinical measures and risk for eye diseases of public health importance in the U.S. and other global populations. This information will ultimately lead to the development of new therapies and preventative measures for eye diseases that will benefit not only Nepalis, but people throughout the world.

Drs. Johnson and Williams-Blangero will go to Nepal to begin recruiting participants for the study in November. The journey to Jiri from Kathmandu takes about 9

hours by car over a single lane road that threads through the Himalayan Mountains. The Jirels who will be recruited to the study reside in seven villages that are located within a two hour walking distance of the building that will be used as the research clinic. "We have always had excellent participation in our studies," Dr. Williams-Blangero said. "Given the opportunity to see an ophthalmologist and receive an eye exam, I anticipate that many individuals will want to take part in this new study" she said.

Past President's Letter

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."
— Margaret Mead

This city, and by extension, this world is so fortunate that 44 years ago, a group of very caring women shared a vision and started the Forum. Today we continue with that vision and are truly making a difference. I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to work with some of the most dynamic and caring women in San Antonio for the last decade as a trustee of the Forum.

I am incredibly honored to have been President of the Forum during yet another incredibly successful year! The Forum's largest contribution to the Texas Biomedical Research Institute marked the most exciting end of a Forum year to date. Dr. Robert Gracy was presented with a \$300,000 check last month that will allow for substantial funds for the scientists.

This incredible achievement was the result of the efforts of many. I would like to specifically thank our 2014 Gala Chairs, Daniela Serna,

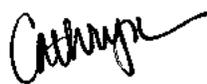
In addition to directly benefiting study participants and study participants and significantly expanding scientific knowledge of the genetic determinants, and subsequent biological mechanisms, of eye diseases of global significance, this project will build health of our global community through innovative biomedical research" Dr. Matthew Johnson said. "It is an exciting new endeavor which, by building on nearly 30 years of prior research on the population, will allow us to rapidly make discoveries regarding the genetic determinants of ocular health" he said.

Ashley Hixon, and Gala Assistant, Jordan Arriaga for their enthusiasm, creativity and tireless dedication all year. The hard work paid off, and the Gala was absolutely elegant and one of the most successful in our history. Most importantly, the funds raised from this event will result in multiple grants for pilot studies at Texas Biomed. This is something we can ALL feel good about!

Each one of our Board Members has contributed above and beyond any expectations. The shared passion for this tremendous cause shows in the many accomplishments of the last year.

I truly enjoyed being President of such a strong organization and look forward to being a trustee for one more year. The friendships made with each of you are an amazing added bonus of working for this cause.

I enjoyed every minute of this richly rewarding experience and thank you all for your continued support!



The Forum invites you to join us for the Fall Lecture Luncheon on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at the Argyle.



We are thrilled to welcome past Texas Biomedical Forum trustee Dr.

Julie La Barba as our featured lecture luncheon speaker. Dr. La Barba will be discussing "Real Food for All", a closer look at what eating local really means and why when it comes to fresh produce, we can't let Perfect be the enemy of Good.

As a board certified pediatrician, health consultant and professional volunteer, Dr. La Barba is passionate about children and nutrition. Having grown up in an Italian produce family, she learned to appreciate real food at an early age. This fostered her professional commitment to children's nutrition and resulted in her extensive professional training and targeted advocacy for public health education and research.

We hope you will join us for what promises to be an informative and interesting lecture about this important topic that resonates in today's society.

Invitations will go out this fall. Reservations for tables of eight or individual tickets will be available for purchase on our website, <http://tx-biomed.org/forum/lecture-luncheons>.

This event is likely to be a sell out crowd, so reserve your seat in advance.



TEXAS BIOMEDICAL FORUM 2014-2015 BOARD OFFICERS

Melissa Morgan
President

Amanda Bezner
First Vice-President, Lecture Luncheon

Jordan Arriaga
Second Vice-President, Gala Chair

Courtney Percy
Third Vice-President, Gala Co-Chair

Daniela Serna
Fourth Vice-President, Membership

Lisa Westmoreland
Treasurer

Carla Nelson
Assistant Treasurer

Ashley Hixon
Corresponding Secretary

Shiela Mayfield
Recording Secretary

Cathryn Le Vrier
Past President



TEXAS BIOMEDICAL FORUM 2014-2015 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Amy Feik Garcia
Archivist

Elizabeth Cox
Directory

Ashley Weaver
Directory

Sara Walker
Gala Assistant

Elizabeth Carrington
Historian

Tracy Williams
Luncheon Assistant

Amy Swaney
Membership Assistant

Edie Wright
Newsletter

Shalimer Wallis
Newsletter

Kati Smith
Parliamentarian

Sarah Moore
Photographer

Tammy Cochran
Roundtable Discussion

Tracee Feik
Roundtable Discussion

Lynnette Embrey
Science Education Awards

Sara McCamish
Science Education Awards

Lindsay Archer
Social Media / PR

Clare Duffin
Social Media / PR

Julie Dorbandt
Special Events

Jody Lutz
Special Events

Holly Rabinowitz
Special Events

Christina Mayer
Student Tours

Ann Walton
Student Tours

Courtney Ogle
Volunteers

Whitney Solcher Miller
Website Liaison

Corbett Christie
Texas BioMed Liaison

Advisors
Julie Zacher
Karen Lee Zachry

TEXAS BIOMEDICAL FORUM

P.O. Box 6648

San Antonio, Texas 78209

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Antonio, Texas
Permit No. 2193