HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY, FORUM!  A Look At Who We Are Today

It’s hard to believe that we are well into the new year. We have reflected on the past and set new goals for the year to come, and are starting to evaluate our progress. Perhaps you set goals like learning a new language, traveling more, or simply getting in better shape to fit in that dress for Gala. Whatever the case, one thing is for sure—it if weren’t for the past, you wouldn’t be where you are today. In the non-profit world, those who came before you had visions and achieved them. You are now an important part of that lineage! This is one of the most beautiful parts of belonging to the Texas Biomedical Forum. The front cover shows some of our presidents from the past 50 years. They are still involved, still cheering us on, and they still completely believe in the mission of Forum. In short, the past is still a Texas-sized part of who we are today!

There’s been a lot going on at the Forum lately! Our special events chairs, Gloria Dilley and Triana Grossman, have truly gotten the parties started. For starters, Karen Lee Zachry (President, 2010 – 2011) opened up her beautiful home for our 50th anniversary President’s Luncheon on October 30th. Thank you to all who attended. Hearing your stories was truly a highlight for me! On November 21st, Gloria’s family hosted our first annual Members’ Social at her home. We heard from Dr. Mahesh Mohan regarding CBD while we sipped on margaritas, and the event was amazing! Coming up on their radar is our Cheers for Chairity event. These amazing women from across the country, have truly pushed me to do better and expect more from myself. Their belief in me continues to inspire me through life’s journey. Their belief in me continues to inspire me through life’s journey. Their belief in me continues to inspire me through life’s journey.

And our 50th Anniversary Gala…everything in the air at the Forum right now revolves around this special event. I have to brag for a moment on our superstar Gala group, Chair Whitney Schones, co-chair Karen Bryant, and their team. Our 50th Anniversary Gala has officially sold out! They even secured a 50th anniversary sponsor this year…thank you for helping us make the journey—buy the bug spray and play exterminator with your Forum bestie as a bug killing sidekick. As with much of the Forum’s history, we improvised and simply got the job done. There would be nothing “bugging” our gorgeous guests the night of the Gala! There are many “pretty pictures” of Courtney and me—but this is by far my favorite, because it symbolizes so much about our friendship and also about the Forum, the group that brought us together. I have been gifted some of the most important friendships of my adult life through the Forum. I have gained tremendous mentors who have pushed me to do better and expect more from myself. Their belief in me continues to inspire me through life’s journey. But the true beauty in this is that I am not the first, nor the last, to have this experience. I am just one in a long line of strong, accomplished women who have the opportunity to walk this path. The legacy of serving an organization that provides hope to so many while giving its own members so much…what a blessing. Cheers to the Forum!

In other news, Vice President and Lecture Luncheon Chair Cynthia Kerby and her assistant Kristin Tips knocked it out of the park with their Lecture Luncheon series, Vaccinations: Myths and Misunderstandings, which took place on November 6th. The panel of speakers included JoAnne Turner, Ph.D., Texas Biomed’s VP of Research and Cherise Rohr-Algerini, President of the San Antonio Vaccine Center. The only thing I regret is not video taping their lectures so that members who didn’t attend could see how important this topic is. Cynthia and Kristin are now busy working on the Spring Science Education Lecture Luncheon with our Science Education chair, Christina Ketchabchi and her assistant, Lindsay Bolner. It’s scheduled for Wednesday, March 4th at 11:30 at the Argyle.

And finally, I would like to give a special thanks to The Argyle for hosting a 50th Anniversary Reception for us on March 16th. Fifty years is a huge accomplishment! Thanks to Tena Gorman, (our founder and Past President, 1971-72), and Barbara Dreeben (President, 1985-86) for helping me plan this reception. We truly want to honor you and celebrate our half century of working to educate Texans about the crucial work our scientists are doing!

I’m going to end by saying that being part of this organization feels right to me in all ways—especially when I think about how I’m helping build a better future for my family, friends and community. As Tena Gorman said to me, “How can you not get behind medical discoveries?! It could touch every one of us.” It’s not often you truly get to have a hand in saving lives—yet this is exactly what we’re doing at Texas Biomed.

With sincere gratitude,

Amy Swaney

PAST PRESIDENT’S LETTER

During this year of celebration and reflection on 50 years of the Forum, I have been asked several times what my favorite Forum memory has been. After 8 years of combined service as a Trustee and a Board Member, that is a difficult question to answer. But I share this picture as being indicative of the spirit of my favorite Forum moments. It was taken hours before the 2016 Black and White Masquerade Ball, an ode to Truman Capote’s “Party of the Century.” I was feeling just a bit of pressure to live up to that monumental billing! The South Texas mosquitoes had obviously gotten word that this was not a party to be missed and had shown up, overnight, in MASS to camp on the Argyle’s front yard. In what proved to be a pivotal moment in our friendship, the always charming and resourceful Courtney Percy uttered the brave words, “we should go to Home Depot and buy all the chemicals,” or something along those lines. And so, as any self respecting woman about to chair the largest black tie event of her life does, you make the journey—buy the bug spray and play exterminator with your Forum bestie as a bug killing sidekick. As with much of the Forum’s history, we improvised and simply got the job done. There would be nothing “bugging” our gorgeous guests the night of the Gala! There are many “pretty pictures” of Courtney and me—but this is by far my favorite, because it symbolizes so much about our friendship and also about the Forum, the group that brought us together.

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SAN ANTONIO’S FOUR LEADING RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS JOIN TOGETHER FOR GROUNDBREAKING PARTNERSHIP IN PRECISION THERAPEUTICS

Presidents of San Antonio’s four largest research institutions today announced they are providing $800,000, collectively, for a major initiative in precision therapeutics. The process of precision therapeutics ultimately leads to breakthrough treatments that can be individualized to specific patient populations.

The new San Antonio Partnership for Precision Therapeutics (SA PPT) is being established by UT Health San Antonio, Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Texas Biomed), The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and Southwest Research Institute (SwRI®). This groundbreaking initiative will leverage the unique bioscience capabilities of the four institutions to address the specific and diverse medical needs of the city’s population while serving as a model for the development of therapies to improve medical treatment around the world.

While precision medicine generally focuses on personalized interventions that are based on genetics, environment and diet, precision therapeutics represents a unique merger of this discipline with the complete drug discovery pathway, encompassing and integrating the two which has not been done before. This drug discovery pathway includes basic research, lead compound development, formulation, testing, production, and clinical trials leading to new FDA-approved treatments. The goal of this program will be to create much needed, breakthrough treatments that can be individualized to specific patient populations.

“Precision therapeutics allows us to tailor our treatments from person to person, adapting for a patient’s lifestyle, environment and biology, within and across patient populations,” said Texas Biomed President and CEO Larry Schlesinger, M.D.

“What is most exciting is that this program will completely integrate the approach of precision medicine with the discovery of new treatments as well as the reformulation of existing drugs and drug combinations to address the growing drug resistance problem. It’s a game-changing approach to health care that will allow us to more quickly get therapies to market and work for the majority of those who need it most.”

FOR GROUNDBREAKING PARTNERSHIP IN PRECISION THERAPEUTICS

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PRIMATE CENTER WELCOMES NEW VETERINARIAN, ANNE GOODROE, D.V.M.

Anna Goodroe, D.V.M., DACLAM, is the newest veterinarian to join the staff at the Southwest National Primate Research Center on the Texas Biomedical Research Institute campus.

As an Assistant Veterinarian, she is part of the Veterinary Resources and Research Support team. In providing clinical support, she will conduct preventative health checks, disease surveillance, and treatment/management of health concerns. For research, Dr. Goodroe will consult with investigators regarding study design, animal selection, clinical procedures and study procedure completion. She will also look for opportunities to enhance clinical care, environments and nutrition for all of the animals.

Dr. Goodroe earned her biology degree from Texas A&M University. She had plans to become a marine mammal trainer and spent a year working for Disney and the U.S. Navy training dolphins and sea lions. However, a personal experience with an ill family member sparked her desire to use her knowledge to advance human health. Dr. Goodroe returned to A&M to earn a degree from the veterinary school. She completed her post-doctoral fellowship in Clinical Laboratory Animal Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. She then worked at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center before moving to the University of Houston.

COLLABORATION WITH TEXAS BIOMED, SWRI AND UT HEALTH SAN ANTONIO TARGETS BLADDER CANCER

The San Antonio Medical Foundation (SAMF) has awarded Texas Biomedical Research Institute Professor Jordi B. Torreilles, Ph.D., with a $173,000 grant to study a modified Mycobacterium bovis Bacillus Calmette et Guérin (BCG) vaccine shown to have promise for treating bladder cancer. BCG is a weakened strain of Mycobacterium bovis, a vaccine for tuberculosis. BCG is the main intravesical immunotherapy for early stage bladder cancer, meaning the drug is directly injected into the bladder. BCG immunotherapy is used to prompt the immune system into attacking cancer cells.

About 2.3% of the world population (170 million people) will be diagnosed with bladder cancer at some point during their lifetime, making this disease a major global public health issue. Bladder cancer occurs predominantly in elderly men. The American Cancer Society estimates there will be 80,470 new cases of bladder cancer in the U.S. in 2019 and 17,670 deaths from the disease.

For early stages of bladder cancer, the current standard therapy is surgical removal followed by several treatments with the live bacteria tuberculosis vaccine, BCG. BCG therapy is ineffective in approximately 30-40% of cases and disease recurs in up to 50% of patients. For later stages of bladder cancer, treatment involves complete removal of the bladder.

“Our goal is to dramatically improve treatment for bladder cancer by injection of a modified BCG vaccine into bladder cancer tumors in affected patients,” explained Torreilles, Professor and Lead of Texas Biomed’s Population Health program.

“Through our work in developing a more efficacious tuberculosis vaccine, we have developed a biochemical procedure that removes toxic fats from the cell surface of BCG creating what we call dBCG. Our current results show that dBCG is much safer to administer to muosal sites like the lung and the bladder and has significantly improved efficacy.”
NEW STUDY REVEALS THE ORIGIN OF COMPLEX MALARIA INFECTIONS

New technology employing single cell genome sequencing of the parasite that causes malaria has yielded some surprising results and helps pave the way for possible new intervention strategies for this deadly infectious disease, according to Texas Biomedical Research Institute Assistant Professor Ian Cheeseman, Ph.D. Dr. Cheeseman was Principal Investigator of a three-year study published in the January 2020 edition of Cell Host & Microbe, a high-impact peer-reviewed publication. Malaria is caused by Plasmodium parasites spread to people by the bite of infected Anopheles mosquitoes.

“We don’t know what is inside malaria infections,” Dr. Cheeseman said. “We don’t know how many different genetically distinct strains of parasites here are. We don’t know how related they are to each other. We don’t know how many mosquitoes they came from.”

NEW ANIMAL MODEL SHOWS EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR LATENT TUBERCULOSIS

A major goal of tuberculosis (TB) research is to find a way to treat people with the latent (or inactive) form of the disease to keep them from developing symptomatic TB. A breakthrough study using a new animal model developed for this purpose showed a combination of two classes of antibiotics can wipe out this hidden threat. The study was published in the American Journal for Respiratory Clinical Care Medicine. Deepak Kaushal, Ph.D., Director of the Southwest National Primate Research Center, and Jyothi Rengarajan, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Medicine at Emory University and the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, served as co-principal investigators of the 10-month study. Using rhesus macaques, the scientists were able to create a model of latent TB that resembles what occurs when a person is infected with Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtbc), the bacteria that causes TB, but does not develop active disease. The bacteria are “hibernating” in the lungs, Dr. Kaushal explained.

COMMON DIABETES MEDICATIONS TESTED FOR ANTI-AGING EFFECTS

Two drugs already on the market to treat type two diabetes are being tested in non-human primates to see if they can impact the aging process. Researchers dosed marmosets with Metformin and Acarbose and found no adverse side effects. The pilot study results were recently published in the journal Pathobiology of Aging and Age-related Diseases. Partners in the study include the Southwest National Primate Research Center (SNPRC) on the Texas Biomedical Research Institute campus, UT Health San Antonio, South Texas Veterans’ Health Care System, and Texas A&M-San Antonio.

“The medication was safe and did what we expected it to do in the animals,” said Texas Biomed Associate Professor Corinna Ross, Ph.D., who is also the marmoset colony administrator at the SNPRC. “The marmosets did very well with the therapy and it holds a lot of promise for the future.”
MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

On November 21st, Forum members attended our first membership appreciation event, Margaritas, Mariachis and Members.

The festive evening took place at Nancy and Edward Steves’ lovely home and was perfectly planned by Forum special events chairs, Gloria Dilley & Triana Grossman. Thank you all, for a delightful evening celebrating Forum membership.

Thank you, also, to Texas Biomed for their support and to Dr. Mahesh Mohan who shared with attendees some exciting developments in applications for Cannabinoids.

Since the night of our membership appreciation event, 64 additional women signed up or renewed their memberships (as of January 1st). This $40,625 in new membership dues are critical funds for our operating budget and we are grateful and excited to welcome our new members to The Forum.

PAST PRESIDENTS LUNCHEON

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

Triana Grossman

Triana has been involved in various organizations through the years. She chaired the most successful Zoo Ball to date in 2016, and continues to serve on the 2018 – 19 Zoo Ball committee. She has served on the following committees: 2018 & 2019 Briscoe Museum, 2018 Catrina Ball, 2018 Bereavement Center, 2014 Southwest School of the Arts, 2015 Art Paces, 2019 McNay, 2019 Boys and Girls Club, and she Co-Chaired the 2018 DeSeum “Birthday Bash.” She is the wife of Brandon Grossman and mother of Balthazar, Barron, and Allegra. She is a graduate of The University of the Incarnate Word with a degree in International Business and is a certified gemologist, earning her GG from the prestigious Gemological Institute of America in New York.

Angela Rabke

Angela was born and raised in San Antonio, and received her degree in advertising from the University of Texas in Austin. She served as the Marketing Director for the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo and as the Director of Communications at Keystone School, and is now a professional driver for her 3 children, Cypress (13), Meriwether (11), and Storey (6). Angela has served on the Board of Trustees for both the Southwest School of Art and St. Luke’s Episcopal School, and she is a past president for the Friends of the Children’s Bereavement Center. She enjoys writing, and travelling far and wide with her husband Trey and their kids.

Meredith Howard

Meredith was born and raised in Fort Worth and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations from Texas Tech University. She is the co-founder and principal of Redbird Communications Group, a strategic communications firm specializing in the oil and gas industry. Meredith serves on the board of the San Antonio Medical Foundation and recently joined the board of the San Antonio Zoo; she is also actively involved in raising money for the Witte Museum. When she isn’t working or volunteering, Meredith enjoys traveling with her husband Mike and their three children Jaden (16), Jack (6), and Adele (4).
The 2020 Forum Directory was mailed out earlier this month. If you did not receive a directory, please contact us to receive a copy of the progress and priorities of its scientific programs: Host Pathogen Interactions, Disease Intervention and Prevention and Research.

2020 MEMBERS

Jody Cochran
Jaselyn Blanchard
Amanda Bezner
Ginny Cadwallader
Gretchen Burkholder
Sarah Trampota
Shelby Coleman
Conquest
Cris Bregman
Caroine Badouh
Paige Cadwallader
Debbie Christie
Hannah Beever
Hannah Hudson Beard
Lauren Ciaburri
Lauren Browning
Kathleen Bolner
Michele Cadwallader
Mary Benedum
Brooke Bell
Melany Andersen
Judith Campisi, Ph.D.,
Phil Newmark, Ph.D.,
Karen E. Nelson, Ph.D.,
Mitchell Kronenberg, Ph.D.

Forum in Focus | Winter 2020

Jordan Delaney
Ashley Friedman
Abigail Dickson
Ann Cross
Virginia Gibson
Collete Edwards
Camille Denton
Crystal
Elizabeth Cox
Diana Denman
Heather Snow Fulton
Heather De Roja
Lauren Garansuay
Kelly Fry
Nancy Rector-Finney
Lynnette Embrey
Kathryn Dehlinger
Lauren Dean
Kalyn Davidson
Lela Muzquiz
Karen Mueller
Lori Mize
Tracy Williams
Yvette Vickery
Julie Zacher
Katherine Whitten
Kelly Weaver
Lina Triesch
Lupita Castrejón Tijerina

SILVER AND GOLD

Walton Gregory and Caroline Baileyaines opened the 25th Anniversary Gala, “Under the Silver Moon.” We were thrilled to have them at the January Board meeting, where they shared stories and fun tidbits from their experience. The 25th Gala was the year they brought it back to the Argyle, where it’s been held ever since. Walton and Caroline will attend this year’s 50th Gala, and we are honored!

2019 – 10
The Night They Invented Champagne
Whitney Miller and Cynthia Kerley

2018 – 9
Marigold Dinner Dance and Nicole McDonald

2017 – 8
In Bloom Kelley Wrenn and Molly Drought

2016 – 7
The Kidd and White His&Hers Gala with Walter and Judy Lily

2015 – 6
Fly Me to the Moon – Let Me Play Among the Stars
Jordan Antigo and Courtney Perry

2014 – 5
La Dolce Vita

2013 – 4
Laissez Les Bon Temps Roullez

2012 – 3
Laissez Les Bon Temps Roullez

2011 – 2
Broadway Lights
Mary Shively and Mrs. Robert Healy

2010 – 1
La Dolce Vita

2009 – 1
Mrs. Wade Wise and Mrs. A. H. Cadwallader IV

2008 – 0
1973 – 74:
Oriental Odyssey

1975 – 76:
A Journey to Oz

1978 – 79:
Hollywood Follies

1983 – 84:
An Evening in New York

1986 – 87:
Gala Sixteen

1987 – 88:
A Whale of a Gala at SeaWorld

1988 – 89:
A Storybook Evening in the Black Forest

1989 – 90:
Under the Silver Moon

1991 – 92:
Laissez Les Bon Temps Roullez

1992 – 93:
Broadway Lights

1993 – 94:
A Medieval Knight

1994 – 95:
Run for the Roses

1995 – 96:
Laissez Les Bon Temps Roullez

1996 – 97:
Broadway Lights

1999 – 00:
La Dolce Vita

2000 – 01:
Fly Me to the Moon...Let me Play Among the Stars

2003 – 04:
In Bloom

2005 – 06:
La Dolce Vita

2006 – 07:
Fly Me to the Moon...Let me Play Among the Stars

2009 – 10:
La Dolce Vita

2011 – 12:
In Bloom

2017 – 18:
La Dolce Vita

2018 – 19:
The Night They Invented Champagne

2019 – 20:
The Kidd and White His&Hers Gala with Walter and Judy Lily

2020 – 21:
In Bloom

Selecting a Gala chair is a local artist and designers

Tickets $50* available at: https://forum.txbiomed.org

Silver and Gold

CLARKS OIL COMPANY – Walker
Gala, “Under the Silver Moon.” We are thrilled to have them at the January Board meeting, where they shared stories and fun tidbits from their experience. The 25th Gala was the year they brought it back to the Argyle, where it’s been held ever since. Walton and Caroline will attend this year’s 50th Gala, and we are honored!
UPCOMING EVENTS

February 26, 2020
Cheers for Charity

March 16, 2020
50th Anniversary Reception

March 26, 2020
Gala VIP Party

April 8, 2020
Board Meeting

May 2, 2020
50th Anniversary Gala

May 6, 2020
New Trustee Orientation

SPRING LECTURE LUNCH

Please join us for the Texas Biomedical Forum Board Meeting and Spring Lecture Luncheon & Science Education Awards Presentation.

Wednesday, March 4th, 2020
11:00am Science Education Awards Presentation & Lecture • 11:30am Luncheon
*Forum members are invited to attend the Board Meeting that begins at 10:00am

The Argyle • 934 Patterson Avenue • San Antonio, TX 78209

Tickets: $75 per person or purchase a table for eight guests for $600 ($45 per ticket is tax deductible or $360 per table is tax deductible)

Guests Welcome • Business Casual Attire

Your payment will act as your reservation. Reservations are made online at: https://forum.txbiomed.org/events/lecture-luncheons/spring-lecture-luncheon/

THE 50TH ANNUAL TEXAS BIOMEDICAL FORUM GALA

Join us afterwards for a sky full of stars, music, dancing, bubbles + biomed

Saturday, May 2, 2020 | 9:30pm – 12:00am
$200 per person
$150 for forum, founder’s council and mind science members
Tickets online at: www.bit.do/forumgala2020