



Presidential

AWARDS

UT Health
San Antonio



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San Antonio

Presidential Awards

March 5, 2020

Welcome

President Henrich

Presentation of Awards

Employee Excellence in Service

Team Excellence

Teaching Excellence

Distinguished Service to the Institution

Clinical Excellence

Distinguished Research Scholar Award

Closing



A Message from the President

Every day it is an honor for me to lead UT Health San Antonio. Today, I am especially proud to recognize you—the men and women who make our university one of the nation's finest academic health science centers.

As recipients of the Presidential Awards, you represent exceptional achievement in your fields. Through your creativity, perseverance and leadership, you elevate our university as a beacon of hope for the sick, the exciting home of healing discoveries and a stimulating environment for students. Congratulations on your accomplishments.

Sincerely,

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP
President and Professor of Medicine



The Presidential Employee Excellence in Service Award honors UT Health San Antonio employees who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the university. They have made noteworthy and distinctive contributions to UT Health San Antonio by modeling our core values and serving our missions of education, research, patient care and community engagement. In developing new processes or improving existing ones, these individuals have significantly improved productivity and cost savings for the university.



Julie Collins, B.A.

Director of communications for study promotion and dissemination, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Long School of Medicine

Ms. Collins joined the department shortly after the original STRONG STAR Consortium was funded and has been invaluable in communicating our efforts, study findings and new initiatives to our university and military partners and investigators, the scientific community, our funders, the individuals and their families affected by the conditions we investigate, and the media. Her efforts have directly contributed to the unparalleled success of STRONG STAR and (the Consortium to Alleviate PTSD) and the groundbreaking research accomplished.

– Alan L. Peterson, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry, Long School of Medicine, director, STRONG STAR Consortium



Thea K. Lyssy, M.A., PMP, CQIA

Director of accreditation, compliance and quality improvement, Office for Undergraduate Medical Education, Long School of Medicine

Ms. Lyssy was crucial to the process and ultimate successful outcome of the Long School of Medicine's recent Liaison Committee on Medical Education re-accreditation. The school was successful in its accreditation process achieving the maximum eight year accreditation cycle. This is due in no small part to Ms. Lyssy's skills, prowess, and excellence in keeping us organized and on task. She's an enthusiastic partner every step of the way.

– Deborah Conway, M.D., associate dean for curriculum, and Joshua Hanson, M.D., associate dean for student affairs, Long School of Medicine



Natalina Martinez, M.B.A.

Director of finance and administration, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Ms. Martinez is careful, clever, perceptive and, above all, strategic. She is not a status quo type person, but rather someone who continually and tirelessly looks for better ways to do things, any things, all things. ... She is a phenomenal administrator and keeps the Graduate School not only on its tracks, but at the front edge of its journey. So, in her role as director of finance and administration, she is invaluable to say the least, but better defined as stellar and, in many cases, transformational.

– David S. Weiss, Ph.D., dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences



Norman Mendez, B.S.

Operations manager, Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute, Long School of Medicine

First and foremost, Mr. Mendez's actions speak to an extraordinary commitment to responsible stewardship of university resources. He takes pride in his work. He works quietly behind the scenes to advance our missions of research, teaching and service, increasing our visibility and maintaining our infrastructure with maximum efficiency and minimal disruption. He always conducts himself with integrity, professionalism and is always seeking to improve the environment for those around him.

– Alexander Pertsimlidis, Ph.D., and others, Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute



DJ Smith

Special events coordinator, Office of the Dental Dean, School of Dentistry

In the course of one academic term, Ms. Smith coordinates 22 official school events and 24 grand rounds for faculty, staff and students. She is greatly respected by our community and is considered the gold standard of event planning. More than her work, however, Ms. Smith's positive attitude and willingness to help anyone in need embodies our values of teamwork, professionalism and excellence. She is most comfortable behind the scenes, but it is time to be celebrated for her tireless efforts.

– Peter M. Loomer, B.Sc., D.D.S., Ph.D., MRCD(C), FACD, professor and dean, School of Dentistry



Within the Employee Excellence in Service category, the Presidential Team Excellence Award provides an opportunity to recognize an entire team of faculty, staff and students for exemplary contributions and outstanding collaboration that have resulted in accomplishments which fully honor the mission, core values and vision of UT Health San Antonio.



UT Health Cranial Remolding Program

Department of Neurosurgery, Long School of Medicine

Darren J. Poidevin, CLPO
Clinical program director, team leader

Jim P. Brookshier, M.P.O., CLPO
Cranial remolding specialist

Monica Garcia
Referral coordinator senior

Debbie Rose
Physician relations specialist senior

Marissa Velez
Referral coordinator senior



The team has developed innovative ways to educate patients, physicians, physical therapists and community members about the cranial remolding program. They have done this by producing educational parent guides, unique platforms for physicians to utilize in their offices, seminars, in-service presentations, videos and social media content. The cranial remolding team is driven to provide services of the highest quality. They achieve this goal by working together at every level in order to map out strategies for delivering the best treatment plan to each patient. Because of these efforts, the department has grown dramatically and it continues to expand every day, in both patient number and the number of referring physicians.

– John R. Floyd, M.D., associate professor and chair, Department of Neurosurgery



The Presidential Teaching Excellence Award is presented to outstanding full-time faculty members who exhibit the finest principles in education. They possess extensive knowledge of their subject material, maintain an awareness of current developments and incorporate examples from recent literature or clinical experience in the classroom. These faculty members have distinguished themselves not only through teaching methods in the classroom, but also by serving as role models and mentors to students outside class. They have made a significant contribution to the education and development of future health care professionals.

Teaching Excellence ★ Sustained



Michael Geelhoed, D.P.T., PT

Associate professor and director of clinical education, Department of Physical Therapy, School of Health Professions

Motivated by an authentic interest in students and powered by his compassion to make a difference, Dr. Geelhoed has found ways to educate the whole student, not just cover relevant content. Dr. Geelhoed has demonstrated that innovation in program development ignites learning and promotes engagement in education. His innovative contributions and efforts have inspired change and expanded learning opportunities in the communities served.

– David Shelledy, Ph.D., RRT, FAARC, FASAHP, professor and dean, School of Health Professions

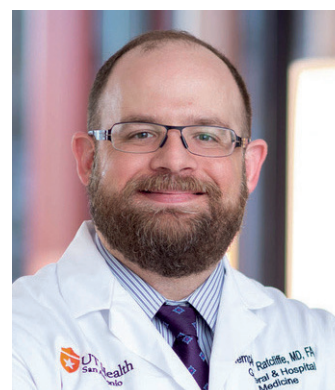


Omid B. Rahimi, Ph.D.

Associate professor, director of human anatomy program, Department of Cell Systems and Anatomy, Long School of Medicine

During the academic year, Dr. Rahimi mentors 80 to 100 medical students throughout their four years in a variety of elective courses. He is a principal mentor or co-mentor for students in the master's degree in anatomical sciences, besides being a mentor for junior anatomy faculty. Dr. Rahimi played a pivotal role in transforming anatomy education in the areas of curricular management/design and in technology modernization/infrastructure. He inspires others with his professionalism, unbounded energy and enthusiasm, and positive can-do attitude.

– Christi A. Walter, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Cell Systems and Anatomy



Temple A. Ratcliffe, M.D., FACP

Associate professor/clinical, Division of Hospital and General Medicine, Long School of Medicine

Having reviewed his teaching evaluations from medical students and residents, Dr. Ratcliffe's scores are all consistently above the faculty average, and in the case of students, approach perfection. Moreover, certain themes emerge from the comments. He clearly challenges his learners to identify clear goals and to push toward those goals aided by a continuous stream of feedback. He models professionalism with colleagues and compassion at the bedside and facilitates the consistent use of evidence-based medicine. He serves his learners as an example of a highly effective teacher, physician and leader.

– W. Brian Reeves, M.D., FACP, FASN, professor and chair, Department of Medicine



P. Renee Yew, Ph.D.

Associate professor, Department of Molecular Medicine, Long School of Medicine

I know from personal interactions that Dr. Yew has demonstrated her commitment to excellence in teaching in the classroom and laboratory from the day she arrived at our department 20 years ago until the present. Hers is a clear and sustained record of accomplishments "exhibiting exemplary professional behavior, interactions and attributes that advance student learning." Great teaching is in her DNA, and this professional attribute is unmistakably reflected in her dossier.

– Zelton Dave Sharp, Ph.D., professor, Department of Molecular Medicine

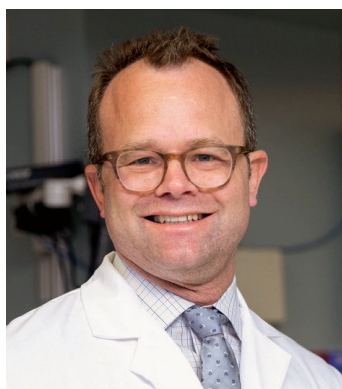


Elizabeth Reed Hanson, M.D.

Associate professor/clinical, Division of General Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics, Long School of Medicine

Dr. Hanson has made substantial contributions to the field of medical education. This is evidenced by her impressive accomplishments over the past eight years, to include numerous educational publications, a significant number of nationally presented posters, workshops, abstracts and platform presentations. Her teaching skills are innovative, student centered, creative, comprehensive, novel, and to watch her work, you would say, is awe inspiring.

– Sandra J. Ehlers, M.D., professor, Department of Pediatrics



Luke A. Newton, M.D.

Associate professor and chief, Division of General Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Long School of Medicine

I have worked with Dr. Newton over the last eight years as a medical student, resident and now colleague. He has been one of the greatest influences in my growth as a physician and educator. His passion for patient care and education is unparalleled. On numerous occasions I have witnessed him stay late for an add-on surgery, swoop into labor and delivery at all hours of the night to attend the deliveries of his patients and be ready for morning rounds at 6:30 a.m. with a new group of medical students without missing a beat.

– Erin Mankus, M.D., FACOG, assistant professor/clinical, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology



Annette Occhialini, M.D.

Assistant professor, Department of Cell Systems and Anatomy, Long School of Medicine

Dr. Occhialini has made a notable impact in the areas of medical curriculum design, development and enhancement, and educational/anatomical research. She has become the campus leader in implementing the BodyViz™ virtual anatomy system and has used it to develop a growing suite of case-based tutorials. Dr. Occhialini is a multi-talented teacher, making many vital contributions to the educational missions of the department and the university.

– Christi A. Walter, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Cell Systems and Anatomy, and others



The Distinguished Service to the Institution Award honors a UT Health San Antonio employee who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the university. Through dedication of time, talent and leadership, the individual serves as a role model and mentor to students and colleagues. The award recipient has made major contributions to the growth and development of UT Health San Antonio and the education of the next generation of health care professionals who will serve San Antonio, South Texas and the world.



Norma Martínez Rogers, Ph.D., RN, FAAN

Professor, Office for Faculty Excellence, School of Nursing

As a tenured full professor, Dr. Martínez Rogers has served throughout her career as a role model for Hispanic students and faculty. She established, with colleagues, the National Hispanic Nurses Association, served as its president, and has now founded the International Association of Latino Nurse Faculty and serves as its president. She has given voice to the underserved nationally and, indeed, has given distinguished service to UT Health San Antonio.

– Eileen T. Breslin, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, professor and dean, School of Nursing



The Presidential Clinical Excellence Award honors full-time faculty of UT Health San Antonio who provide clinical services as part of their appointments. These clinicians have distinguished themselves through exemplary and sustained expertise, and they represent the very finest in quality patient care. By building relationships with patients, family members, professional colleagues, residents, students and staff, these awardees demonstrate collaborative teamwork, independent leadership and compassionate care.



Ramin Poursani, M.D.

Professor/clinical, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Long School of Medicine

I have worked with many compassionate and excellent physicians, but Dr. Poursani stands out because of his selfless concern for patients. His patients love him because he works with them, understanding their obstacles and limitations, to reach important health goals. As the chief of clinical operations for University Health System for my department, his visionary leadership allows him to serve patients who will never meet him, but benefit from his advocacy.

– Carlos Roberto Jaén, M.D., Ph.D., M.S., FAAFP, professor and chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine



Shafqat Shah, M.D.

Associate professor/clinical, Division of Hematology-Oncology, Department of Pediatrics, Long School of Medicine

Early in her career, Dr. Shah sought out the most difficult group of patients on which she has focused—those with brain tumors, which has become her clinical niche.

Dr. Shah takes on these patients seriously, dealing effectively with every aspect of treatment. She exudes a sense of genuine concern for her patients, often interjecting with a sense of humor. Her patients revere her for her intellect, her sincerity and her compassion.

– Gail E. Tomlinson, M.D., Ph.D., professor, Department of Pediatrics

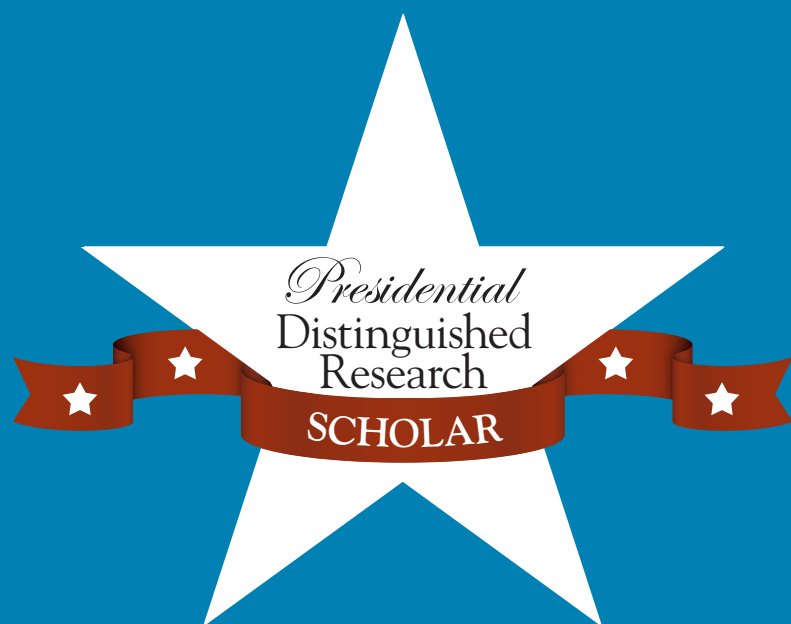


Edward F. Wright, D.D.S., M.S.

Professor, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, School of Dentistry

Dr. Wright approaches each clinic encounter with compassion and focus. He provides his undivided attention to all patients who sit in his chair. He takes the time to clearly understand a patient's concerns and symptoms. He provides patients with an organized, systematic evaluation, a well-formulated diagnosis and cost-effective treatment plan that give the best long-term symptom relief, often thinking outside of the box and recruiting the expertise of other health care professionals.

– Diane J. Sullivan, D.D.S., associate professor/clinical, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry



The Presidential Distinguished Research Scholar Award represents the very best in academic achievement. This award honors an individual who exhibits superior scholarship and maintains the highest standards of professionalism. This award also recognizes significant contributions to theory, research and practice, a national or international reputation, a sustained record of extramural support, and major additions to scientific literature and health advancement.



Charles P. France, Ph.D.

Robert A. Welch Distinguished University Chair in Chemistry; professor, Department of Pharmacology and Department of Psychiatry, Long School of Medicine



Early in his career, Dr. France demonstrated that the fundamental principle underlying the science of pharmacology, namely receptor theory, could be applied to behavioral measures. This was a somewhat heretical view at the time. But Dr. France, using quantitative approaches, convincingly demonstrated that behavior could be used to study receptor processes. These studies and similar subsequent ones moved behavioral studies into the mainstream of pharmacological investigations and cemented Charles' leadership role in this area.

– Alan Frazer, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Pharmacology

With appreciation

PRESIDENTIAL TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD COMMITTEE

Jacqueline Mok, Ph.D. (non-voting chair)
Gregory P. Ernst, Ph.D., ECD, SCS
Michael Huber, D.D.S.
David Kadosh, Ph.D.
Wendy J. Lee, D.N.P., FNP-BC, FAANP
Christopher Moreland, M.D.

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Jacqueline A. Pugh, M.D.
Kathleen R. Stevens, Ed.D., RN, ANEF, FAAN
David S. Wampler, Ph.D.
David S. Weiss, Ph.D.

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Autumn D. Clegg, Ed.D., OTR, CBIS
Clarice Golightly-Jenkins, Ph.D., RN, CS
Ahmed Sabbah, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Mark Sparkman, M.D.

PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE

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Marie Hunt
Jennifer Johnson, AIA, PMP, CEFP
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Jeremy Mercier, M.S.I.S., PMP
Steve Brown, M.B.A.
Diana Medina, B.B.A.
Bonnie Moreno, B.A.
Richard Wilson, Lt., MPO