

2022

*Presidential*

AWARDS

UT Health  
San Antonio



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San Antonio

## Presidential Awards

April 6, 2022

**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

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**A Message from the President**

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 and who do everything it takes to make lives better.

Sincerely,

William L. Henrich, MD, 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.



### Cheryl Banks, CPA

*Department Administrator, Department of Pharmacology, Long School of Medicine*

By all measures, Cheryl Banks is an outstanding departmental administrator who always goes above and beyond to make sure that the department runs in an efficient manner. This has never been more challenging than with the EDGE transition, when the personnel from the Department of Pharmacology were reassigned to EDGE-related duties. Ms. Banks' exemplary service during this conversion allowed the department to maintain functionality, financial responsibility and compliance. Most importantly, she exuded a positive attitude that the challenges would be solved.

– Susan L. Mooberry, PhD, Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Pharmacology



### Eva Garcia-Rodriguez

*Research Coordinator-Senior, Mays Cancer Center/Office of Education, Long School of Medicine*

Agreeing to organize a summer research program that had not been fully planned or for which she wasn't assigned was a no-brainer for Eva Garcia-Rodriguez, senior research coordinator in the Office of Education at the Mays Cancer Center. When other staff members left the department, she moved to administer a program funded through the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, finding student housing with assured transportation and arranging for virtual sessions when the pandemic made in-person meetings unsafe. She is truly an asset to the institution.

– Robin Leach, PhD, Professor, Department of Cell Systems and Anatomy, Associate Director for Education, Mays Cancer Center



### Sarah Lill, MA

*Manager, Research Operations, Center for Research to Advance Community Health, Long School of Medicine*

Sarah Lill embodies the core values of UT Health – accountability, excellence, innovation, integrity, professionalism, teamwork and collaboration. She worked tirelessly to continue a sense of community even as we were scattered across the city, state and country during COVID-19. Not only did she establish daily remote huddles, but she also single-handedly orchestrated 10 new grant applications in 2021 and seven in 2022 by identifying funding opportunities that matched faculty expertise and bandwidth and working evenings and weekends to complete paperwork. I consider Sarah a partner in running the ReACH Center.

– Joel Tsevat, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Director of the ReACH Center



### Mari Martinez, MPA, CPRA

*Manager, Grants and Contracts, Office of Sponsored Programs*

Ms. Martinez has been an invaluable and dedicated employee of the Office of Sponsored Programs since 2012. Many of my fellow faculty members and grant specialists have counted on her when assistance was needed with grant applications because of her vast knowledge, experience, prompt response, willingness to go the extra mile and extraordinary work ethic. When we faced historical challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to successfully submit 1,400 grant applications without any delays solely because of Ms. Martinez's heroic efforts.

– Yuji Ikeno, MD, PhD, Professor, Barshop Institute/Department of Pathology; Director, Pathology Core, Nathan Shock Center of Excellence in Basic Biology of Aging



### Jason Sandlin

*Distributed Education Coordinator, Office of the Dental Dean, School of Dentistry*

Because of Jason Sandlin's knowledge, dedication and expertise, the School of Dentistry was able to successfully carry out our educational mission without compromising the quality of our education, particularly at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Transitioning from an in-person to an online teaching format was not an easy job for students, faculty and staff, and Jason found himself as the "expert" in educational software. At some point, I felt that the whole educational mission of the School of Dentistry was on Jason's shoulders.

– David Ojeda Diaz, DDS, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Comprehensive 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.



## Winter Storm Uri SNOVID-21 Response Team

### *Facilities Management*

Raymundo Rivera, MS, MBA, PE, CxA  
Executive Director, Engineer and Construction Management, Team Leader

#### *Team Members:*

Adam Arce, Utilities Operations-Senior  
David Brahm, MS, Manager of Landscape and Grounds  
Jeff Davidson, CEM, Manager of Energy Plants  
Jennifer Johnson, AIA, PMP, CEFP, OSHA 30, Manager of Maintenance  
Joe Lara, Maintenance Mechanic Lead  
David Ortiz, MBA, Assistant Director of Financial Operations, Office of Financial Services  
Jeff Patterson, Manager of Construction  
Alfred Vitela, PE, LEED AP, Mechanical Engineer-Senior  
David West, Manager of Utilities

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During the February 2021 winter storm known as Uri SNOVID-21, Facilities Management had a strong on-campus presence to maintain critical operations and keep infrastructure secure. The storm limited the availability of power and water to San Antonio, but the Facilities Management team, working at an “all-hands-on-deck” level, was able to get to campus to secure key systems and to support critical patient care. Throughout the storm, UT Health never lost electrical power and campus damage was minimal because of the large Facilities staff response.

– Raymundo Rivera, Executive Director, Engineering and Construction Management



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 ★ Emerging



**Sylvia Botros-Brey, MD, MSCI**  
Associate Professor/Clinical, Department of Urology, Medical Education and Obstetrics and Gynecology, Long School of Medicine

I am so proud to have Dr. Botros-Brey in my department. She brings a perspective and passion for education that motivates and inspires our faculty and trainees. Not only has she implemented a comprehensive wellness program to develop urology leadership, team building and conflict management, she also established a fellowship program in female pelvic medicine and reproductive surgery and holds a dual faculty appointment in medical education. She does all this while navigating a unique and challenging specialty as a uro-gynecologist.

– Rob S. Svatek, MD, MSCI, Professor and Chair, Department of Urology



**Gretchel Gealogo Brown, PhD, RN**  
Assistant Professor, Office for Faculty Excellence, School of Nursing

A talented team builder, Dr. Gealogo Brown is able to galvanize faculty and staff toward exploring, implementing and evaluating new ways to assess learner outcomes and faculty self-reflection. Dedicated to academic and clinical excellence with a passion for practice improvement, she has incorporated her research interests in data science and stakeholder representation into every assessment or project. She uses her interprofessional collaborations to provide research mentorship opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students in nursing and medicine, efforts resulting in several scholarly publications.

– Jacqueline McGrath, PhD, RN, FNAP, FAAN, Thelma and Joe Crow Endowed Professor, Vice Dean for Faculty Excellence, School of Nursing



**Rekha Kar, PhD**  
Associate Professor/Clinical, Department of Cell Systems and Anatomy, Long School of Medicine

Since joining the Department of Cell Systems and Anatomy in 2015, Dr. Kar's career has been on a continuous upward trajectory. Early on, and almost single-handedly, she planned, organized and conducted a dissection-based workshop for pre-professional students. Her lectures superbly blend basic foundational anatomy with case-based scenarios to reinforce learning, stimulate critical thinking skills and emphasize the applications of anatomy to clinical practice. She interacts with more than 500 students per year in the medical, physician assistant, physical therapy and graduate programs, many of whom are drawn to her affable personality.

– Christi A. Walter, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Cell Systems and Anatomy



**Robert Nathanson, MD, FACP**  
Associate Professor/Clinical, Division of Hospital Medicine, Department of Medicine, Long School of Medicine

Since joining the faculty at UT Health San Antonio in 2014, Dr. Nathanson has established himself as one of the most respected and gifted educators in the Division of General and Hospital Medicine. He is a passionate educator who has developed valuable and innovative training programs, including point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) and related ultrasound-guided procedures that have earned him regional and national recognition. His POCUS elective leads the procedures rotation for the internal medicine residency program. He also teaches at the American College of Chest Physicians.

– Jack Badawy, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor; Gregory D. Bowling, MD, Section Chief of Hospital Medicine, Associate Professor of Medicine; Ankur Segon, MD, Division Chief of Hospital Medicine, Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine



### Jon Courand, MD, FAAP

*Professor and Vice Chair for Pediatrics, Graduate Medical Education, Long School of Medicine*

I can think of no other faculty member who has worked as hard to advance our educational efforts through new venues, methods, collaborations and curriculum than Dr. Courand. Since 2014, he has been vice chair for education and training for the Department of Pediatrics and has been assistant dean of wellness initiatives for Graduate Medical Education since 2019. Dr. Courand is a consummate educator who is passionately committed to training outstanding, compassionate physicians and whose first-ever Compassion Course for residents filled up immediately.

– Woodson S. Jones, MD, Vice Dean of GME/DIO; Lois L. Bready, MD  
Endowed Professor, Professor of Pediatrics



### Erin Nelson, MD

*Professor and Vice Chair for Education, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Long School of Medicine*

Dr. Nelson has made valuable contributions to patient care, service, teaching and academic activities since joining our faculty in 2005. She became the obstetrics and gynecology clerkship co-director in 2011, transitioning in 2014 to director, where she prioritizes student learning and explores ways to innovate. Dr. Nelson develops and invests in resident and faculty programs to ensure excellence in teaching and demonstrates colposcopy skills and techniques to residents and students while designing and implementing an online education series that was published nationally.

– Randal D. Robinson, MD, MBA, Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Humana Foundation Distinguished Chair, Frank Harrison Chair in Reproductive Endocrinology, Fellowship Director, Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility



### Achint K. Singh, MD

*Associate Professor, Department of Radiology, Long School of Medicine*

Dr. Achint Singh, a national authority on neuroradiology and pediatric radiology, is a vital and proficient leader, clinician, teacher and mentor to colleagues and trainees alike. His contributions to our core missions have been substantial, sustained and essential to the growth and expansion of radiology education and clinical services to our faculty, trainees and patients. Dr. Singh's achievements highlight his love for teaching and technology, particularly through his unique applications of artificial intelligence to radiology. We need more educators like Dr. Singh in academic practice.

– Pamela M. Otto, MD, Professor and Chair, Stewart R. Reuter Chair in Radiology



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.



### Paul B. Allen, Sr., DSc, MPAS, PA-C

*Chair, Department of Physician Assistant Studies, School of Health Professions*

Dr. Allen walks masterfully in both military and civilian worlds. After 27 years of service, he retired as a major from the U.S. Army Medical Specialist Corps. He would tell you he didn't plan on a medical career but was drawn into the field as a special forces medical sergeant and paramedic. He continues to volunteer teaching medical tactics to military members. He shines at UT Health San Antonio, where he chairs the physician assistant program, and in Laredo, where he developed a similar program.

– David C. Shelledy, PhD, RRT, RPFT, FAARC, FASAHP,  
Dean, School of Health Professions



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.



Daniel E. Perez, DDS, MS, FACS

*Associate Professor and Program Director, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, School of Dentistry*

Dr. Perez is the most skillful surgeon I have ever seen. While most of us might become experts in one or two types of surgery, Dan is a master of many, including the disciplines of implantology, temporomandibular joint (TMJ), orthognathic surgery, maxillofacial trauma and pathology. He excels in all of these and is thus the busiest practitioner in our department, receiving referrals from Austin and the Rio Grande Valley. He even treats VA and military patients. Dan is a star in every way.

*- Edward Ellis III, DDS, MS, Professor and Chairman, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*



Anand Prasad, MD, FACC, FSCAI, RPVI

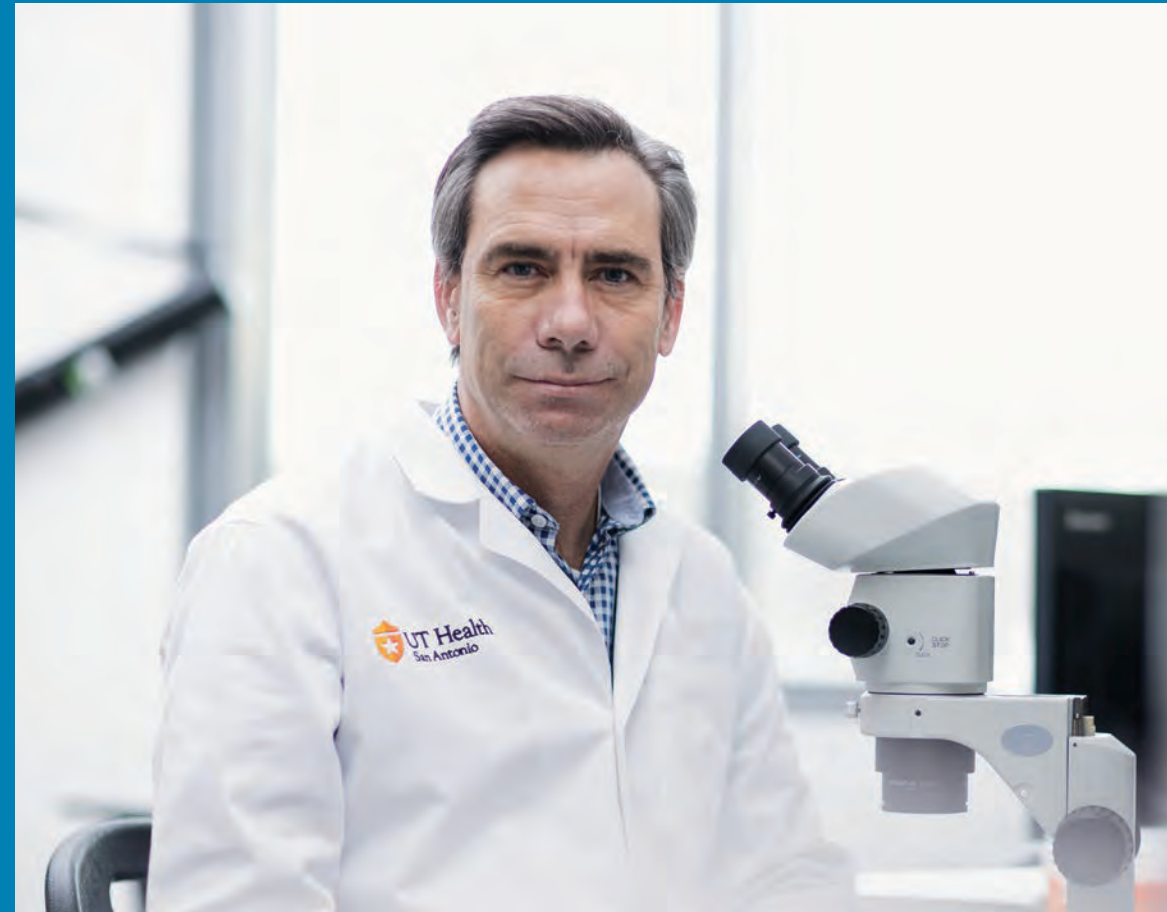
*Professor, Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, Long School of Medicine*

Dr. Prasad is a triple threat in clinical care, research and teaching. He leads locally and nationally in the field of vascular and endovascular medicine. A gifted interventionalist, he has been instrumental in the development of peripheral vascular disease treatments leading to the creation of limb salvage, venous interventions and carotid stenting programs. He is an active scholar and researcher with over 123 peer-reviewed publications and a recent, well-received textbook. As a clinician, Dr. Prasad demonstrates attention to detail, compassion and a willingness to help 24/7.

*- Allen S. Anderson, MD, FACC, FAHA, Janey Briscoe Distinguished University Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine, Professor of Medicine and Chief, Janey and Dolph Briscoe Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine*



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.



### Nicolas Musi, MD

*Professor and Director of the Sam and Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies, Division of Diabetes, Department of Medicine, Long School of Medicine*

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Dr. Musi's contributions to diabetes, metabolism and aging are nationally and internationally known, as demonstrated by his multiple external grants and the recognition he has brought to our institution. He is the director of a consortium that is mapping molecular responses to exercise, heads another project to study metformin's effect on aging, and has a passion for research education. Additionally, he has the highest standards of professionalism I have encountered in medicine by treating all people with respect and lifting up team members personally and professionally.

*- Carolina Solis-Herrera, MD, Chief, Endocrinology Division, Medical Director - Diabetes and Endocrinology Clinics MARC, Assistant Professor of Medicine*



*With appreciation*

**PRESIDENTIAL TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD COMMITTEE**

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Jacqueline Mok, PhD (non-voting chair)  
Martha Acosta, PhD, PT, GCS  
Claudia I. Contreras, DDS  
Robert Esterl Jr., MD  
David Kadosh, PhD  
Cynthia Wall, PhD, MSN, APRN, PCNS-BC, CNE

**PRESIDENTIAL DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH SCHOLAR  
AWARD COMMITTEE**

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Jacqueline Mok, PhD (non-voting chair)  
Kyungeh An, PhD, RN, FAHA  
Tiffani Burgin, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C  
Nathaniel A. Jeske, PhD  
Jean X. Jiang, PhD  
David S. Weiss, PhD

**PRESIDENTIAL CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD COMMITTEE**

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Jacqueline Mok, PhD (non-voting chair)  
Autumn D. Clegg, EdD, OTR, CBIS  
Angela Palaiologou-Gallis, DDS, MS  
Maria Saldiva, FNP  
Gabriel Medrano Valle, MD  
George Willis, MD

**PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE  
IN SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE**

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Danielle McDavid, PHR (non-voting chair)	Donna Navarro
Mabel R. Hernandez	Jeanie Paradise
Lety Laurel Matos	Reuben Pinkson
Jeremy Mercier	Athyala Sailaja
Samantha Montalvo	Amber A. Sharp, MBA, CPA
Michelle Montoya-Mendoza	Andrea Trease, MA
Bonnie Moreno	John Turner, MEd