

OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award is given to the outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in the Graduate College. Each program screens applications and nominates one dissertation to compete for this prestigious award. The Research and Graduate Student Affairs Committee of the Graduate Council is responsible for the selection of the winner. The Doctoral Dissertation award result is announced annually at the HSC Campus Awards Ceremony where the winner is presented with a certificate and a cash award.

2021

Amanda Roehrkasse, PhD

“Receptor Engagement and G Protein Recruitment by the Cardioprotective Peptide Adrenomedullin”

Mentor – Augen Pioszak, PhD

2020

Rabab Sharif-Sandel, PhD

“Potential Role of Prolactin-Induced Protein as a Disease Biomarker and the Effect of Corneal Cross-Linking on Keratoconus Microenvironment”

Mentor – Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD

2019

Hem Sapkota, PhD

“Determinants and Consequences of Cohesion Fatigue in Mammalian Cells”

Mentor – Gary J. Gorbsky, PhD

and

Sanjida Mahjabeen, PhD

“SHetA2 Vaginal Suppositories as Novel Treatment for Cervical Dysplasia: Formulation Optimization and Exploratory IND-Enabling Preclinical Studies”

Mentor – Lucila Garcia-Contreras, PhD

2018

Dana Mowls, PhD

“Cigarette Smoking, Electronic Nicotine Product Use and Biomarkers of Exposure Among American Indians in the Southern Plains”

Mentor – Laura Beebe, PhD

and

Dustin Masser, PhD

“Quantitative assessment of neural retina morphology, function, and DNA methylation in an experimental model of diabetic retinopathy”

Mentor – Willard Freeman, PhD

2017

Rebba Boswell-Casteel, PhD

“Functional Characterization of a Purified Equilibrative Nucleoside Transporter
(ScENT1) From *S. cerevisiae*”

Mentor – Franklin A. Hays, PhD

2016

Julie M. Ward, PhD

“Arida3a Modulates Disease Activity in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus”

Mentor – Carol F. Webb, PhD

2015

Florence Garman, PhD

“Mechanism of the Generation and Maintenance of Neutralizing, Toxin-Specific Responses to Anthrax Vaccination”

Mentor – Judith A. James, MD, PhD.

2014

Gina Griffith, PhD

“Cationic Antimicrobial Protein 37 kDa and Corneal Wound Healing”

Mentor – Anne Pereira, PhD

and

Brett Herzog, PhD

“Podoplanin Protects High Endothelial Venule Integrity in Lymph Nodes and Maintains Blood and Lymphatic Vessel Separation”

Mentor – Lijun Xia, PhD

2013

Christopher Conrady, PhD

“Type I Interferons: Innate Control of Viral Infection”

Mentor – Dan J. Carr, PhD

2012

Nasir Mustaq, PhD

“Measuring Nicotine Dependence among Smokeless Tobacco Users”

Mentor – Laura Beebe, PhD

and

Junie P. Warrington, PhD.

“Microvascular Mechanisms for Whole Brain Radiation Therapy-Induced Cognitive Impairment”

Mentor – William E. Sonntag, PhD

2011

Tabitha Garwe, PhD

“Directness of Transport to a Level I Trauma Center: Impact on Mortality in Patients with Major Trauma”

Mentor – Linda Cowan, PhD

and

Allison Farrand, PhD

“Characterization of the Membrane Recognition Mechanism of the Cholesterol-Dependent Cytolysins”

Mentor - Rodney Tweten, PhD

2010

Tamara Potapova, PhD

“Mechanisms that Control the Directionality of Mitotic Transition in Somatic Cells”

Mentor – Gary Gorbsky, PhD

2009

Manoj Thapa, PhD

“Chemokines and Chemokine Receptors that Mediate Immune Defense to Genital Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 (HSV-2) Infection”

Mentor – Daniel J. Carr, PhD

2008

There were no entries this year because Dean Tomasek elected to change the award to reflect the current year. These nominees/winners became the 2009 winners.

2007

Guiyuan Li, PhD

“The AKT Isoforms in Retina”

Mentor – Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD

2006

Robert S. Welner, PhD

“Restriction of Lymphoid Progenitors to the T cell Lineage”

Mentor – Paul W. Kincade, PhD

2005

Preeti Mangesh Tendolkar, PhD

“Enterococcus faecalis Biofilms: Analysis of the Roles of Enterococcal Surface Protein, Esp, and a Newly Identified Genetic Locus”

Mentor – Nathan Shankar, PhD

2004

Leann Godderz, PhD

“The Stoichiometry and Intermolecular Interactions of the V(D)J Recombinase”

Mentor – Karla Rodgers, PhD

2003

Heather Hickman, PhD

“Major Histocompatibility Complex Class I Peptide Characterization Before and After Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection”

Mentor – William Hildebrand, PhD

2002

Jasper Yik, PhD

“Palmitoylation of the Asialoglycoprotein Receptor”

Mentor – Paul Weigel, PhD

2001

Lynn E. Hancock, PhD

“Identification and Characterization of an *Enterococcus faecalis* Polysaccharide Genetic Determinant and the Contribution of the Capsular Polysaccharide to the Biology of the Organism”

Mentor – Michael Gilmore, PhD

2000

Sean Bauman, PhD

“Dendritic Cells in the Afferent Phase of Anticryptococcal Cell-Mediated Immune Responses”

Mentor – Juneann Murphy, PhD

1999

Melissa R. Arbuckle, PhD

“Early Events in Lupus Humoral Autoimmunity”

Mentor - John Harley, MD, PhD

1998

Hester Doyle, PhD

“The Role of Chemokines during the Expression Phase of an Anticryptococcal Cell-Mediated Immune Response”

Mentor – Juneann Murphy, PhD

1997

Yuichiro Takagi, PhD

“Biochemical Characterization of RNA Polymerase II Elongation Factor Elongin (SIII)”

Mentor – Joan Conaway, PhD

1996

Patricia Benton, PhD

“Characterization of a K562 Cell Model of Persistent Poliovirus Infections”

Mentor – Richard Lloyd, PhD

1995

Zhao-Ming Dong, PhD

“Modulation of Leukocyte Migration by Cryptococcal Polysaccharides and the Mechanism Involved”

Mentor – Juneann Murphy, PhD

1994

Ali Shilatifard, PhD

“Sulfation of the AIDS Virus and the Biochemistry of Sulfatases in Animals and Humans”

Mentor – Richard Cummings, PhD

1993

Jimmy Ballard, PhD

“Molecular Characterization of the Lethal Alpha Toxin from *Clostridium Septicum*”

Mentor - Rodney Tweten, PhD