
Graduate College

The latest news and updates from OUHSC Graduate College



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Announcements:

Please cast your vote for next year's GSA Officers!

May 6th at 12:00 pm: Final GSA meeting of the semester. We'll be providing a free lunch (outside the grad college office) prior to our 12pm Zoom. Please join us as we'll be voting on next year's GSA officers.

Visit our website

<https://graduate.ouhsc.edu/Current-Students/Graduate-Student-Association> for more information!

Postdoc Association (PDA) – The [OUHSC PDA](#) will meet by Zoom Wednesday, May 12th from 12:00 – 1:00PM. . Be on the look-out for the email with the Zoom link. All Postdocs are encouraged to attend!

2021 Graduate College Convocation

Please join us on Saturday, May 15 at 2 pm to celebrate the graduates of Summer 2019 through Spring 2021. The link for the ceremony will be sent by e-mail.



Announcements *Continued*:

OUHSC Graduate College Convocation: Save the Date – We invite you to join us for the OUHSC Graduate College Virtual Convocation on Saturday, May 15 at 2 PM CT. The link for the Convocation will be announced in May. The ceremony will celebrate graduates from Summer 2019 through Spring 2021. Keynote Speaker: Michael T. Nietzel, PhD, President Emeritus, Missouri State University

Community-led Discovery of Social Isolation and Co-design of Interventions – funded by OUHSC Community Engaged Research Exploratory Award. The College of Nursing, in collaboration with the Colleges of Public Health, Medicine, Dentistry, Allied Health, and the Graduate College is conducting a project called *Community-led Discovery of Social Isolation and Co-design of Interventions*.

To qualify for this opportunity, you need to be a student in the College of Nursing, Public Health, Medicine, Dentistry, Graduate College, or Allied Health.

You would be asked to attend at least one Zoom meeting. Each Zoom meeting will be scheduled for 1 ½ hours. You would also be invited to attend a debriefing session in September/October, 2021 and would have the option to participate in manuscript development, poster presentations, and other related deliverables.

Who should I contact? For More information, Please contact the PI (Dr. Rebecca Koszalinski, Rebecca-koszalinski@ouhsc.edu) or Brenda Olmos (brenda-olmos@ouhsc.edu) the office manager of the study.

9TH Annual Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Symposium on Structural Biology – to be held virtually on June 24, 2021. We encourage you to register (no fees) as soon as possible – the deadline to register is June 17, 2021. Abstracts are due June 9th. Speakers include: Natalie Ahn, University of Colorado; David Taylor, University of Texas; Alexandra Deaconescu, Brown University and Jason McLellan, University of Texas.

Information [HERE](#) and Register [HERE](#)

Early Career Researcher Toolbox: Free Tools for Science Writing from AddGene [HERE](#)

The Graduate College congratulates - The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center 2020-2021 Faculty Awards Recipients.

Important Links and Information!

Guidance for Graduate Students

Graduate College Return to Campus Policy [HERE](#)

- Click [here](#) for the Graduate College Policies related to COVID-19
 - Click [here](#) for telecommuting ideas for graduate students
- NIH Wellness Links:

Faculty/University leadership discussions with OITE Wellness Advisors
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjppE17PULM>

Tips for setting up your Zoom dissertation/thesis defense

Academic Technology has developed guidelines and advice to dissertation defenses on Zoom. You can find it at <https://graduate.ouhsc.edu/Current-Students/Forms-and-Guidelines> under "Guidelines"

OUHSC News on the COVID-19 – Please visit <https://www.ouhsc.edu/coronavirus> for up-to-date information for the Coronavirus and OUHSC.

GSA COVID Information Flyer – **OUHSC GSA's quick guide to your COVID-19 resources.**

HSC Together | COVID-19 Updates & Resources

Students can find COVID-19 updates and resources to [HSC Together](#).

If incoming students have specific questions regarding the university's response to COVID-19, they can email covidquestions@ouhsc.edu. Note the latest version of the [HSC Response Plan](#).

Announcements *Continued*:

The Graduate College announces the following Doctor of Philosophy Defenses:

Jaanam Gopalakrishnan

PhD in Pathology – Identification and Functional Validation of Causal Variants Spanning Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Risk Haplotypes

Committee in Charge: Patrick M. Gaffney, MD; Christopher J. Lessard, PhD; A. Darise Farris, PhD; Scott M. Plafker, PhD; Priyabrata Mukherjee, PhD; Zhizhuang Joe Zhao, PhD

Kimethria Laurie Jackson

PhD in Nursing – Giving Voice: The Lived Experience of Financial Exploitation among Older African Americans

Committee in Charge: Janet Sullivan Wilson, PhD; Barbara Holtzclaw, PhD; Karethy Edwards, PhD; Patsy Smith, PhD; Barbara Carlson, PhD

Micaela Lee Montgomery

PhD in Microbiology & Immunology – Charactering the Involvement of Ocular Glands and Stromal Fibroblasts in Corneal Infections

Committee in Charge: Kevin Fuller, PhD; Mark Lang, PhD; William Hildebrand, PhD; Robert Axtell, PhD; Michael Elliott, PhD

Michelle Zalles

PhD in Neuroscience– Targeting ELTD1 as a Treatment for Glioblastoma

Committee in Charge: Rheal A. Towner, PhD; Randy Jensen, MD, PhD; Kelly Standifer, PhD; Anna Csiszar, MD, PhD; James Battiste, MD, PhD

Minjian Cui

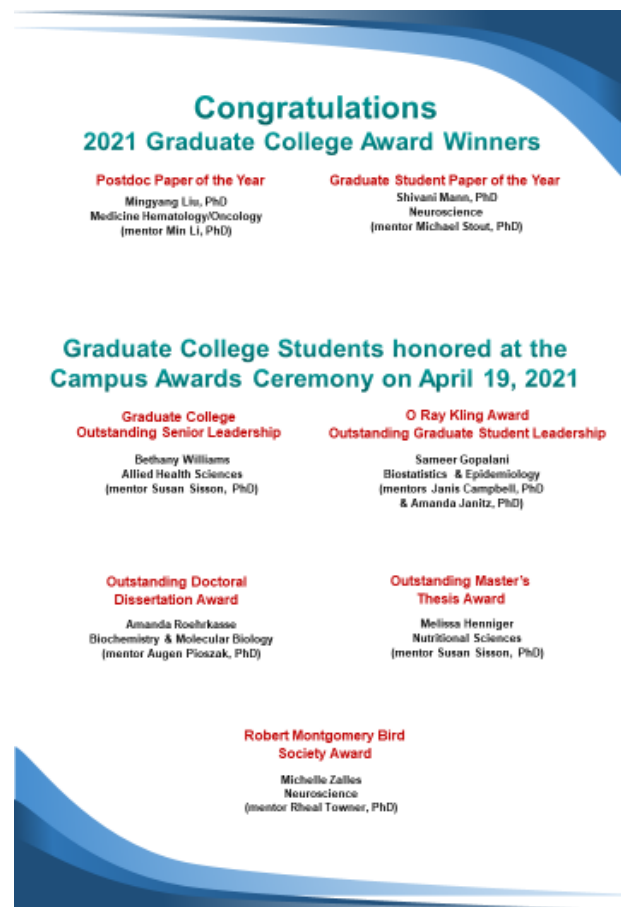
PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences – Combined use of Experimental and Computational Approaches to Improve Preclinical-to-Clinical Translation of Cancer Nanotechnology

Committee in Charge: Jessie L.S. Au, PharmD, PhD, Chair; Michael A. Ihnat, PhD; Lucila Garcia-Contreras, PhD; Sukyung Woo, PhD; M. Guillaume Wientjes, PhD

Terence D. Gipson

PhD in Health Promotion Sciences – Improving Health Care transition Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs in Oklahoma: A Mixed-Methods Participatory Study

Committee in Charge: Thomas A. Teasdale, DrPH; Mark J. Fisher, PhD; Kerstin M. Reinschmidt, PhD; Lancer Stephens, PhD; Valerie Williams, PhD



Congratulations
2021 Graduate College Award Winners

<p>Postdoc Paper of the Year Mingyang Liu, PhD Medicine Hematology/Oncology (mentor Min Li, PhD)</p>	<p>Graduate Student Paper of the Year Shivani Mann, PhD Neuroscience (mentor Michael Stout, PhD)</p>
<p>Graduate College Students honored at the Campus Awards Ceremony on April 19, 2021</p>	
<p>Graduate College Outstanding Senior Leadership Bethany Williams Allied Health Sciences (mentor Susan Sisson, PhD)</p>	<p>O Ray Kling Award Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Sameer Gopalan Biostatistics & Epidemiology (mentors Janis Campbell, PhD & Amanda Janitz, PhD)</p>
<p>Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award Amanda Roehrkasse Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (mentor Augen Ploszak, PhD)</p>	<p>Outstanding Master's Thesis Award Melissa Henniger Nutritional Sciences (mentor Susan Sisson, PhD)</p>
<p>Robert Montgomery Bird Society Award Michelle Zalles Neuroscience (mentor Rheal Towner, PhD)</p>	

Announcements *Continued*:

Souwelimatou Amadou Amani

PhD in Microbiology & Immunology – Humoral immunity following Clostridioides Difficile Infection and Mechanisms of Protection against Disease

Committee in Charge: Mark Lang, PhD, Chair; Jimmy Ballard, PhD; Lauren Zenewicz, PhD; Susan Kovats, PhD; Karla Rodgers, PhD

Erin Teresa Livingston

PhD in Microbiology & Immunology – Contribution of Bacillus InhA Metalloproteases to Endophthalmitis

Committee in Charge: Michelle Callegan, PhD, Chair; Jimmy Ballard, PhD; Mark Lang, PhD; Anne Pereira, PhD; Michael Elliot, PhD

Bing-Hao Chiang

PhD in Radiological Sciences – Exploring Mevion S250i Compact Pencil beam Scanning Proton Therapy System

Committee in Charge: Salahuddin Ahmad, PhD, Chair; Young Chen, PhD; Hosang Jin, PhD; Jagadeesh R. Sonnad, PhD; Hong Liu, PhD

Hardev Grewal

PhD in Radiological Sciences – Investigation of machine Learning-Based Output Predictions and Clinical Impact of Adaptive in Proton Therapy

Committee in Charge: Salahuddin Ahmad, PhD, Co-Chair; Hosang Jin, PhD, Co-Chair; Jagadeesh R. Sonnad, PhD; Yong Chen, PhD; Hong Liu, PhD

Shivani N. Mann

PhD in Neuroscience – Unraveling Molecular Mechanisms Responsible for the Healthspan Benefits of 17 α -Estradiol, A Lifespan-Extending Compound

Committee in Charge: Michael B. Stout, PhD; Willard M. Freeman, PhD; William E. Sonntag, PhD; Michelle C. Callegan, PhD; Arlan G. Richardson, PhD

Pavitra Murali

PhD in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology – TMEM165: Novel Golgi Antipporter involved in Breast Cancer Progression

Committee in Charge: Karla Rodgers, PhD; Karen L. Abbott, PhD; Franklin Hays, PhD; Guangpu Li, PhD; Marie H. Hanigan, PhD; Bethany Hannafon, PhD

Layne Rodden

PhD in Neuroscience – DNA Methylation in Friedreich Ataxia

Committee in Charge: Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD; Paul DeAngelis, PhD; Michael Ihnat, PhD; Bill Freeman, PhD; Anne Pereira, PhD



Announcements *Continued*:

Marc Banworth

PhD in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology – Membrane Localization and Function Specificity of Endosomal Rab GTPases

Committee in Charge: Guangpu Li, PhD; Augen Pioszak, PhD; Karla Rodgers, PhD; David Sherry, PhD; Lijun Xia, PhD

The Graduate College announces the following Master's Thesis Defenses:

Amany Keruakous, "Natural Killer Cell Recovery and Outcomes after Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation in Multiple Myeloma"

MS in Clinical and Translational Sciences

Mentor: Carrie Yuen

Zain Asad, "Global Longitudinal Strain Predicts Ventricular Arrhythmias in Patients with Heart Failure and Implanted Cardiac Devices"

MS in Clinical and Translational Sciences

Mentor: Stavros Stavrakis

Rachel Villegas, "Perspectives of Caregivers of Individuals with Neurodevelopmental Disorders Regarding Genetic Counseling Services"

MS in Genetic Counseling

Mentor: Alex Wadley

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
May 6	GSA Meeting Via Zoom (link to be emailed) 12:00 pm
May 10	Final Unit of the NIH Resiliency Training Program. Unit 6: Managing Up to Maximize Mentoring Relationships. Access the live webinar at 1pm 5/10 or view recording at your convenience. We're working to schedule an evening or weekend group session; date/time tbd. Access Webinar HERE
May 12	Postdoc Association Meeting Via Zoom (link to be emailed) 12:00 pm
May 15	OUHSC Graduate College Virtual Convocation Saturday, May 15 th at 2 pm. Link will be emailed.

Student and Postdoc Contributors – *The Graduate College welcomes graduate student and postdoc contributions of ideas and stories for the monthly newsletter. Please contact us at gradcollege@ouhsc.edu to see how you can help out!*

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