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# Graduate College

*The latest news and updates from OUHSC Graduate College*



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## Announcements:

**The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Graduate College Convocation** – The Graduate College Convocation will be held Saturday, May 11, 2019, at 2:00pm in the David L. Boren Student Union, Room 170, to honor graduates from the Summer 2018, Fall 2018, and Spring 2019 term. A reception will be held immediately following Convocation in the Robert M. Bird Library Faculty Atrium. This year's convocation Speaker will be: Sean Bauman, PhD, President & CEO, IMMY, Inc. Everyone is welcome to attend!

**The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Opportunity** – The Army Research Laboratory (ARL) invites exceptional young researchers to apply for an ARL Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellowship. This fellowship provides recipients the opportunity to pursue independent research while working alongside some of the nation's best scientists and engineers. Applicants must display extraordinary ability in scientific research and show clear promise of becoming outstanding leaders. Successful candidates will have already tackled a major scientific or engineering problem or will have provided a new approach or insight, evidenced by a recognized impact in their field. Application deadline is May 31, 2019. View eligibility criteria at ([www.nas.edu/arl](http://www.nas.edu/arl)).

**The Biomedical & Life Sciences Collection** – Includes talks on an introduction to genetics by Dr. Lawrence Bellamy of University College London, as well as talks on lysosomal storage diseases, preschool wheeze, the pharmacokinetics of therapeutic proteins and a new series GPCR Signaling in Human Health and Disease. View the complete collection at <https://hstalks.com/biosci/>

## Announcements *Continued*:

**Due diligence: (Power) Point (not) taken** - PowerPoint is the go-to software for preparing figures. Despite its popularity, PowerPoint has some serious shortcomings. This article from [ASBMB Today](#), the member magazine of the [American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#), Kaoru Sakabe, data integrity manager for the ASBMB, discusses why PowerPoint is not a good tool for illustrating your data and what you should be using instead. View the article at <http://www.asbmb.org/asbmbtoday/201706/DueDiligence/>

**Graduate Student Association (GSA)** – The [Graduate College GSA](#) will have officer elections at the next GSA meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12-noon in BMSB 324, lunch will be served. Nominations for the GSA Executive Board and GSA Senator positions closed on April 29<sup>th</sup>, voting will take place in-person at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> GSA meeting. Students who would like to vote but cannot attend the meeting should contact the Graduate College office in advance for instructions ([gradcollege@ouhsc.edu](mailto:gradcollege@ouhsc.edu)).

**Postdoc Association (PDA)** – The [OUHSC PDA](#) May meeting will be Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 12-noon in the Bird Library Faculty Atrium with 2 postdocs presenting work-in-progress seminars: Dr. Tijs Louwies and Dr. Benjamin Cassidy. All Postdocs are encouraged to come; give feedback to the presenters, network with peers and support your postdoc community over lunch.

**Postdoc Travel Award** – The OUHSC Postdoc Association (PDA) presents the new \$500 postdoc travel award to attend a scientific meeting outside the OKC metro area.

Eligibility:

- Available to postdoctoral fellows employed by OUHSC
- Only one award per fellow per year
- Postdocs who attend 3 OUHSC PDA meetings between February and July, 2019

Requirements:

- Awardees must be a full-time postdoctoral fellow employed at OUHSC during the time the award is used
- Awardees must present an abstract (oral or poster) at the meeting

Find out required application materials at the next PDA meeting, Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:00PM. Application Deadline: July 15, 2019 at 5:00pm. Please feel free to contact the [Postdoc Association officers](#) with any questions you may have - The OUHSC PDA looks forward to receiving your applications!

**2019 GREAT Symposium** – Thank you for another successful GREAT Symposium! On behalf of the Graduate College and the Graduate Student Association, we would like to say thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this event a true success. This event is a tremendous learning opportunity for everyone involved that continues expand each and every year

## Graduate College

### Spotlight:

#### *Souwelimatou Amadou Amani*

**Hometown:** Niamey, Niger

**Undergrad Degree:** Bachelors of Science in Neuroscience, University of Cincinnati

**Favorite Quote:** "Those who accomplish great things pay attention to little ones" Malian Proverb

**What motivated you to apply to grad school, and why OUHSC?** I have always loved medical sciences in general, but most importantly, I enjoy talking about science. Graduate medical research is an opportunity for me to do science and share it with others. I chose OUHSC mostly because of how the first year (GPiBS) was set up. I like the idea that I could rotate in different labs across 7 departments.

**What have you enjoyed most about your time as a Graduate College student at OUHSC?** Graduate school is generally stressful but as a graduate student at OUHSC, I am surrounded with amazing people (both faculty, students, and staff) that are supportive and encouraging.

**What are your career goals after Graduate School?** I am still exploring some options. Currently, I am leaning more towards science policy and communication.

**How will you use your experience in Leadership HSC to promote graduate education?** My ultimate goal is to help promote more science education and research in Africa. I am currently the vice-president of the association "Girls Engaged in Medicine and Science" in Niger, where I have the opportunities to mentor students, mostly girls, who want to pursue a career in science or medical related fields.

**What did you like about the I-CCEW and what will you take away from that experience?** As graduate students, it is easy to lose the big picture of our highly focused research. I-CCEW was an opportunity for me to see how a technology developed in a laboratory can be potentially commercialized to tackle a real-world issue. Through the semester, I have worked on my communication, interpersonal and leadership skills, and I have also developed a vast network of people in various sectors (Business, research, health professionals...). Those are the great things I took away from my I-CCEW experience.

## Announcements *Continued*:

and that would not be possible without your support. Thank you again and see you all next year! Tentative dates for the 2020 GREAT Symposium are March 23-26, 2020.

**Professional & Career Development Seminar** – Dr. Chelle' Guttery, will talk about "Students with Disabilities in Professional and Clinical Programs" on – Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm in the Robert M. Bird Library Atrium; lunch will be served.

**Student Satisfaction Survey** – This is your chance to let leadership on campus know about your experiences at OUHSC – complete the annual Student Satisfaction Survey! Please remember to note your primary College is "Graduate" for all MS and PhD students. If you complete the 15-25 minute survey, you will have the chance to enter to win. Complete the survey by Friday, May 10, 2019 at

<https://students.ouhsc.edu/Student-Services/SSS>

**The Graduate College is pleased to announce the defense of the following degrees:**

### Emily Clowdus

Cell Biology | Separable Roles for Rif1 in Replication Timing and Transcription Control During Early Embryonic Development

Committee in Charge: Christopher L. Sansam, PhD; Gary J. Gorbsky, PhD; Linda F. Thompson, PhD; Scott M. Plafker, PhD; Courtney T. Griffin, PhD; David A. Jones, PhD

### Kimberly McCullor

Graduate Pharmaceutical Sciences | Bacteriophage and Phage-Like Elements of Clinically Important Streptococci: Role in Horizontal Gene Transfer and Enhanced Virulence

Committee in Charge: William M. McShan, PhD; Allison F. Gillaspay, PhD; Nathan Shankar, PhD; Michael A. Ihnat, PhD; Anne Pereira, PhD

### Rabab Sharif

Department of Cell Biology | Potential Role of Prolactin-Induced Protein as a Disease Biomarker and the Effect of Corneal Cross-Linking on Keratoconus Microenvironment

Committee in Charge: Dimitrios Karamichos, PhD; Anne Pereira, PhD; Randle M. Gallucci, PhD; Jody A. Summers, PhD; Michelle C. Callegan, PhD

### Benjamin Frempah

Graduate Pharmaceutical Sciences | The Role of IL-6Ra in Irritant Contact Dermatitis

Committee in Charge: Randle M. Gallucci, PhD; Michael A. Ihnat, PhD; William M. McShan, PhD; Robert D. Foreman, PhD; T. Kent Teague, PhD; David M. Sherry, PhD

### Juell Homco

Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology | Impact of Misclassification Error on Estimated Cardiovascular Care Performance

Committee in Charge: Hélène Carabin, DVM, PhD; Tabitha Garwe, PhD; Zsolt J. Nagykalai, PhD; Sydney A. Martinez, PhD; Yan Daniel Zhao, PhD

## Resources

**Graduate College forms/policies & more**  
<http://graduate.ouhsc.edu>

**Student Health and Wellness Clinic-**  
<http://students.ouhsc.edu/SHWC.aspx>  
Contact Casey Carter, Senior Clinic Manager, with questions: Office 405-271-9675 x30605; Cell: 405-625-9042; Email: [Casey-Carter@ouhsc.edu](mailto:Casey-Carter@ouhsc.edu)

**Student Counseling Services**  
David L. Boren Student Union, Suite 300  
Phone: (405) 271-7336  
Toll-Free: (877) 577-5655  
Email: [Counselors@ouhsc.edu](mailto:Counselors@ouhsc.edu)

**OUHSC Writing Center**  
<https://students.ouhsc.edu/Student-Services/WritingCenter>

**OUHSC Student Guide**  
<https://students.ouhsc.edu/StudentGuide>

**OUHSC Student Affairs**  
<https://students.ouhsc.edu/>

**Academic Resources**  
<https://students.ouhsc.edu/Academic-Resources>

**OUHSC Student Services**  
<https://students.ouhsc.edu/Student-Services>

**Valerie Lewis**

Department of Pathology | Molecular Characterization of CXorf21 Provides Further Insight into Sex Disparities in both Innate Immunity and SLE Pathogenesis

Committee in Charge: Robert Hal Scofield, MD; Robert C. Axtell, PhD; Kristi Koelsch, PhD; Christopher J. Lessard, PhD; Yuechueng Liu, PhD; Zhizhuang Joe Zhao, PhD

**Kaitlin McGrew**

Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology | Estimation of and Correction for Misclassification of Injection Drug Use Status among Infective Endocarditis Hospitalizations

Committee in Charge: Tabitha Garwe, PhD; Hélène Carabin, DVM, PhD; Mary B. Williams, PhD; Yan Daniel Zhao, PhD; Douglas A. Drevets, MD; S. Reza Jafarzadeh, DVM, PhD

**Alexandra Crowe**

Graduate Pharmaceutical Sciences | Regulation of Organic Anion Transporting Polypeptide (OATP) 1B1 Transport Function and Phosphorylation by a Single Nucleotide Polymorphism c.521 TC and Protein Kinase/Phosphatase Modulators

Committee in Charge: Wei Yue, PhD; Jessie L.S- Au, PharmD, PhD; Lucila Garcia-Contreras, PhD; Sukyung Woo, PhD; Doris Benbrook, PhD; Jie Wu, PhD

**Joshua Moses Corbin**

Department of Pathology | Functional Analyses of TMEFF2 in Prostate Regeneration and Cancer Lead to the Identification of a Prognostic Gene Signature and Potential Therapeutic Strategy for Prostate Cancer

Committee in Charge: Maria Ruiz-Echevarria, PhD; Doris Benbrook, PhD; Wei-Qun Ding, PhD; Yuechueng Liu, PhD; Joe Zhao, PhD



**The Graduate College is delighted to announce the defense of MS Thesis:**

*Biostatistics*

Carolyn Mead-Harvey  
Alexander Stubblefield

*Clinical and Translational Sciences*

Paul McGaha II

*Epidemiology*

Wenxue Lin

*Genetic Counseling*

Ashlee Byrnes  
Jada Jackson  
Cheryl Reeves  
Lauren Taylor  
Kelsey Watson

*Nutritional Sciences*

Christina Crowder  
Sara Fortin-Miller  
Rebecca Fronberry  
Catherine Grantham  
Jennifer Morrison  
Kayla Quashie  
Jessica Smith

*Pharmaceutical Sciences*

Marie Claire Mukashyaka

*Radiological Sciences*

Austin Bunker  
Thanh Nguyen

## Announcement *Continued*:

Revathi Masilamani, a former postdoctoral fellow from OUHSC, is currently working at Cytovance Biologics, Inc., and has announced that - Cytovance Biologics, Inc. has unused protein purification resins that they no longer need and they would like to give away. Anyone from OUHSC needs the following resins are encouraged to contact the company: Phenyl Sepharose 6 Fast flow; DEAE Sepharose FF; Superdex preparatory grade: Capto Q; Capto adhere; Ceramic hydroxyapatite; Mab select SURE; Sepharose Q; Superdex 75, etc. Contact: Cytovance Biologics, Inc., 800 Research Parkway, Ste 200, Oklahoma City, OK. [www.cytovance.com](http://www.cytovance.com)

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event
May 2	Graduate Student Association (GSA) Meeting and officer elections. 12:00 pm, BMSB 324 – Lunch provided
May 6	Postdoctoral Association (PDA) Meeting Postdoc seminar series: T. Louwies, B. Cassidy 12:00 pm, Bird Library Atrium – Lunch Provided
May 11	OUHSC Graduate College Convocation 2:00 pm, David L. Boren Student Union, Rm 170 Reception following Robert M. Bird Library Atrium
May 17	Professional and Career Development Seminar Speaker: Dr. Chelle' Guttery Topic: "Students with Disabilities in Professional and Clinical Problems" 12:00 pm, Robert M. Bird Library Auditorium (LIB299)

**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](mailto:gradcollege@ouhsc.edu) to see how you can help out!*

## Connect With Us!

### OUHSC Graduate College:

#### Facebook

[facebook.com/graduate.ouhsc/](https://facebook.com/graduate.ouhsc/)

#### Instagram

[@ouhsc\\_graduate\\_college](https://www.instagram.com/ouhsc_graduate_college)

#### LinkedIn

OUHSC Graduate College

### Postdoc Association:

#### Facebook

[facebook.com/groups/OUHSC.PDA/](https://facebook.com/groups/OUHSC.PDA/)

### Graduate Student Association:

#### Facebook

[facebook.com/groups/OUHSC.GSA](https://facebook.com/groups/OUHSC.GSA)

### GPiBS:

Twitter - [ouhsc\\_gpibs](https://twitter.com/ouhsc_gpibs)

Contact the OUHSC Graduate College:

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