

Training in Drug Abuse Research:
Behavior and Neurobiology
NIDA T32 DA031115

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Introduction

Postdoctoral fellows receive interdisciplinary training across various laboratories and areas of expertise. Fellows are matched with a primary faculty mentor and also work with additional mentors.

Taking advantage of the diverse expertise of participating faculty mentors, this program provides concentrated interdisciplinary research training for individuals who are highly motivated to seek a broader training than is typically available in traditional postdoctoral experiences.

The expertise of participating mentors includes:

- Molecular Pharmacology
- Neurochemistry
- Neuroparmacology
- Clinical Trials
- Electrophysiology
- Biochemistry
- Behavioral Pharmacology
- Human Laboratory Studies

Expectations of Trainees

Each trainee participates in a variety of seminars, classes, journal clubs, and meetings associated with the program. In addition to conducting research, trainees are required to attend the following Program activities:

- ☐ Training in the responsible conduct of research
- ☐ Director's Meetings
- ☐ Addiction Journal Club
- ☐ Community Outreach
- ☐ Chalk Talks

Training Plan

With their faculty mentor, trainees develop an individualized development plan (IDP) that outlines the goals of the postdoctoral training, benchmarks and mechanisms for evaluation, and the expected duration.

Notification of Publications and Other Activities

While in the program, all trainees need to provide updates on all of the publications, presentations, awards, and other accomplishments that result from the Training Program. This information should be submitted to the Program Coordinator via the Trainee Activity Submission Form, which can be found at <http://uthscsa.edu/ARTT/T32/Activities.asp>

Research

The primary activity and responsibility of trainees is the conduct of addiction research under the guidance of one or more senior mentors or jointly by a senior and junior mentor. The research plan for individual trainees is outlined in the letter of application to the program and progress during their matriculation is monitored through the annual submission of an Individual Development Plan (IDP) as well as the oral presentation by trainees at the annual Advisory Committee Meeting. In evaluating progress of trainees, the Executive Committee pays particularly close attention to the number and quality of publications, authorship of publications, meeting presentations, and grant submissions.

Addiction Seminar Series

Trainees are strongly encouraged to attend all drug abuse and other relevant seminars and grand rounds in the Departments of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Psychiatry and are required to attend at least one seminar per week. Many lectures in these seminar series are on addiction and cover a broad spectrum of techniques, approaches, and classes of drugs. While the majority of lecturers are from academia, others come from the private sector. This diversity

of lecturers gives trainees a further appreciation of the diversity of career options that are available to well-trained biomedical scientists.

Chalk Talk

Each month trainees in the Program as well as other interested students and fellows attend a 2-hour Chalk Talk where a mentor in the Program, another UTHSCSA faculty member, or a guest from outside UTHSCSA makes an informal presentation and leads a discussion. Sessions are held in the evening and include pizza and refreshments. Discussion leaders can use a white board (no PowerPoint) and are free to address a wide range of topics from how to start a laboratory from scratch to management of personnel, students, and projects to guidelines for negotiating the right position and the right startup package. Some Chalk Talks are dedicated to training in the responsible conduct of research. Many faculty mentors in the Program contribute to Chalk Talks, although others from UTHSCSA also participate. The diversity of contributors to Chalk Talks (and to the Pathways to Careers in Science Workshop) provides an excellent opportunity for discussions regarding the breadth of careers that are available to highly trained biomedical scientists. This informal format has proven to be very effective in promoting lively discussions and is popular with trainees.

Mentors of trainees in the training program must present a Chalk Talk or recruit someone to do so, at least once every two years.

Journal Clubs

In addition to required attendance at the every-other-week Addiction Journal Club, trainees are encouraged to attend one or more of the following journal clubs: 1) Pharmacology (First Tuesday of the Month); 2) Physiology (monthly); and 3) Neuroscience (Last Tuesday of the month). The Addiction Journal Club, held every other Tuesday, covers a wide range of topics in addiction, specifically, and biomedical science, in general, with the following thematic areas having been addressed since 2012 (each comprising 4-15 papers discussed over 1-3 months): irreversible antagonists; stimulant abuse; drug discrimination; marijuana; smoking; addiction and choice; alcohol and health; theories: disease model & incentive sensitization; Pavlovian conditioning and addiction; and reproducibility in science. Once per year trainees in the Program are responsible for coordinating and presenting a thematic area (series of papers) in the Addiction Journal Club. With assistance from the Journal Club coordinator, Dr. Lamb, trainees select a topic and a series of papers, and collectively present the papers over consecutive sessions. This “teaching” experience provides trainees with the opportunity to organize and present papers while leading a discussion with 15-20 trainees and faculty members. This new initiative broadens the exposure of trainees to the addiction literature and provides an opportunity for them to engage in a teaching experience.

Mentors of trainees in the training program must present a paper in the Addiction Journal Club, at least once per year.

Drug Abuse Advisory Committee Meeting

Trainees attend and make a presentation at the *Behavior, Biology & Chemistry: Translational Research in Addiction* (BBC) meeting (<http://pharmacology.uthscsa.edu/bbc.asp>) that is held annually in San Antonio. The BBC brings together trainees and other addiction researchers at UTHSCSA with 150-200 trainees and other addiction researchers from around the US and abroad for a 2-day scientific meeting. Supported in part by an NIH grant (R13DA029347; France, PI), this meeting provides travel stipends to young awardees scientists and 2 of the oral communication sessions are dedicated to young scientists (i.e. not beyond postdoctoral training). The meeting includes a symposium on an emerging new area in addiction research and presentations in the symposium span chemistry, pharmacology, behavior, and clinical

research. Having such a high quality addiction meeting in San Antonio each year offers exciting opportunities to the trainees and the Training Program. Each year trainees in the Program attend and present their data at the BBC meeting and they participate in the Advisory Committee Meeting that immediately precedes the BBC meeting.

Attendance at the annual meeting is mandatory for all mentors of trainees.

Career Development Workshops

In addition to Chalk Talks, trainees attend a variety of workshops that provide career development training on a broad range of topics. The Program cosponsors a 2-hr Career Development Workshop that is held in conjunction with the BBC meeting. Trainees from UTHSCSA, local colleges and universities, and others attending the BBC meeting who preregistered for the workshop submit questions and topics for discussion by email. Topics range from strategies to prepare for a changing workplace environment, to how to negotiate a startup package to what research opportunities are available in the military to how to balance a career in science with raising a family. Invited participants make a brief presentation followed by discussion, questions and answers. Each year 50-80 young scientists attend the workshop, which was highly rated in post-workshop online surveys. The Program will continue cosponsoring and trainees will continue attending annual Pathways to Careers in Science workshops that will be held in conjunction with the BBC meeting. The Friday before the BBC meeting, trainees in the Program attend the Advisory Committee Meeting followed by the Pathways to Careers in Science Workshop.

Grant Writing/Reviewing Workshops

Trainees are expected to submit a grant application, either an F, R, or K mechanism or equivalent, in their first or second year in the Program. The Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs conducts grant writing workshops (“F Troop” and “K-Paseo”) specifically for trainees writing F and K mechanism grants; those workshops meet weekly in synchrony with the NIH grant submission deadlines. Current and past trainees in the Program have participated in these workshops. In addition, Dr. Dougherty organizes a monthly grant writing/reviewing workshop where applications, critiques, and responses/revisions to critiques and grants are reviewed and discussed by faculty and trainees. Materials are distributed in advance of meetings that provide an opportunity for trainees to read and listen to senior investigators critique grants on various topics in addition. This also is a venue where trainees can receive feedback on their own grant applications. The Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science (IIMS) sponsors seminars and workshops (Grants & Research Careers Development Series) on various aspects of career development, including many sessions that are dedicated to grants and grantsmanship. Trainees are encouraged to attend these regularly scheduled grant-related workshops. The goal of the Program is for all trainees to write and submit a grant application (as PI) during their first year in the Program.

Getting-a-Job Boot Camp

The Program provides various opportunities to help trainees find and secure a job after they complete the Program. Chalk Talks and Director’s Meetings include discussions on preparing a competitive CV, writing an application letter, how to prepare for a job visit, how to behave during a job visit, what constitutes a “job talk” versus a pure “science talk,” and how to negotiate. Moreover, the Director, faculty mentors, and other trainees regularly listen to and critique oral presentations by trainees, whether intended for scientific meetings or for job interviews. The Program also offers other practice interviews to help trainees prepare for telephone or skype interviews or personal visits to potential employers. For these interviews the Director and Coordinator solicit participation from faculty mentors in the Program as well as other faculty members at UTHSCSA, particularly individuals who are not directly involved with (and perhaps do not even know) the trainee. The trainee’s CV, the job description for which they are applying, and any other relevant information are provided to the faculty member prior to the interview. The trainee talks with the interviewer either over the

telephone or in the interviewer's office. After the telephone or in-person interview the faculty member provides a written summary and critique of the trainee's performance; the summary/critique is distributed to the trainee and their mentor and a copy is retained by the Coordinator.

Director's Meeting

Each month trainees meet with the Director in his office for a 1-hr breakfast meeting. These informal sessions cover a broad range of topics including, but not restricted to, the following:

- Training in the responsible conduct of research (watching a video followed by discussion)
- Practicing "elevator talks"
- How to write an effective cover letter
- How to write an effective letter of application
- How to write an effective letter of recommendation
- How to prepare an effective CV for different types of positions
- How to apply for, interview, and negotiate for a job
- Laboratory, personnel, and project management
- Setting up a new laboratory
- Preparing and using an IDP to your advantage
- Laboratory management and financial considerations
- The challenges of using controlled substances in research.

Together with other activities, Director's Meetings provide training in career development and strive to improve the oral and written presentation skills of trainees.

Community Outreach

Trainees will be expected to complete 8-10 hours of community outreach/volunteer activities each year. Trainees should report all community outreach activities via the activity submission form.

Didactic Training

All trainees have the option to enroll in PHAR 5020 (Basics of Research Design, 1 credit hour) during their first year in the Program. This course covers a number of topics on research design and data analysis and includes a session on scientific ethics. As deemed necessary by the mentor and the trainee, trainees enroll in or proctor other courses in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, including although not restricted to, the following:

- 1) CSBL 5095 - Experimental Design and Data Analysis, 3 credit hours
- 2) PHAR 5013 - Principles of Pharmacology, 3 credit hours
- 3) PHAR 5014 - Therapeutics, 3 credit hours
- 4) BIOC 6033 - Cell Signaling Mechanisms, 2 credit hours
- 5) INTD 5047 - Neuroanatomy, 2 credit hours
- 6) PHAR 6027 - Fundamentals of Neuroethics, 1 credit hour
- 7) PHAR 6025 - Molecular Pharmacology, 2 credit hours
- 8) CSBL 6048 - Animal Models, 3 credit hours
- 9) PHAR 5091 - Micro-electives, 1 credit hour for each of the following topics:
 - a. New Views on Monoaminergic Neurotransmission: Are Transporters Important?
 - b. Drug Discovery: Nuts & Bolts
 - c. Historical Perspectives of Receptor Theory
 - d. Cell Membrane Microdomains and Signaling
 - e. Neuropeptide Metabolism
 - f. Serotonin: From Soup (Transmission) to Nuts (Behavior)
 - g. Fundamentals of Behavioral Pharmacology
 - h. Therapeutics: Central Nervous System Pharmacotherapeutics.

Trainees are advised not to enroll in more than 4 credit hours per year. Because these courses are for senior graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, they are held at times that do not interfere with other scheduled activities.

Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research

Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research occurs in several different venues and formats. First, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs has sponsored 1-hr lectures (*Spotlight on Research Integrity*). Trainees are required to attend a minimum of **8** Spotlight on Research Integrity lectures per year. Second, annually trainees complete UTHSCSA required training in the use and care of animals in research and/or in the use of human subjects in research, as appropriate for their activities. Each year they also complete required online training on information management and data integrity. Collectively, online training modules comprise 1.5-2.5 hr/year. Third, during the first year of the Program, trainees take a 1 credit hour course entitled “Basics of Research Design” which provides training in experimental design, analysis, and the responsible conduct of research. Fourth, once per month trainees meet with the Program Director in 1-hr Director’s Meetings and at least two of those meetings per year are dedicated to discussions on the responsible conduct of research. Fifth, Chalk Talks frequently include discussions that are directly relevant to and occasionally dedicated to ethics in research. Sixth, trainees are encouraged to attend lectures sponsored by the Center for Medical Humanities & Ethics that occur 3 times per year and often, although not always, are on topics in clinical research and medicine. Seventh, in addition to these formal mechanisms, trainees receive informal training during regularly scheduled meetings with their mentors and laboratory colleagues.

RCR: Subject Matter

Training includes, but is not limited to, the following topics: data integrity; mentorship; plagiarism; authorship and collaboration; laboratory culture and behavior; use of animals in research; use of human subjects in research; research misconduct; the ethics of experimental design and analysis; conflict of commitment and conflict of interest; copyright and intellectual property; experimental design and data reproducibility; and peer review.

RCR: Faculty Participation

Faculty participation varies depending on the trainee; however, all trainees receive training from the Program Director in Director’s Meetings and from the Director and other Program faculty members in Chalk Talks. During their first year in the Program trainees take “Basics of Research Design” (taught by Dr. McMahon). It is expected that faculty in the Program will regularly contribute to the Spotlight on Research Integrity.

RCR: Duration

Trainees receive a minimum of 15.5 hrs of formal training in the responsible conduct of research during their first year in the Program (8 hr from Spotlight on Research Integrity; 2 hr from a Director’s Meetings; 2-4 hr in Chalk Talks; 2 hr in “Basics of Research Design”; and a minimum of 1.5 hr in online training modules) in addition to other seminars, lectures, and meetings with mentors. During subsequent years in the Program trainees continue to participate in all of these activities with the exception of “Basics in Research Design” (i.e. a minimum of 13.5 hr/year).

RCR: Frequency

Training is ongoing, informally in discussions with mentors and other laboratory personnel, and formally through regularly scheduled Spotlight on Research Integrity lectures (held every month; trainees are required to attend a minimum of 8 per year), Chalk Talks (monthly), Director’s Meetings (monthly), seminars and lectures (weekly), online training (annually), as well as the required course during the first year in the Program.

UTHSCSA Appointment, NIH Forms and Procedures

Offer Letter

The Program Coordinator will provide an offer letter to the Trainee. The trainee will meet with the Program Director to discuss the appointment and requirements of the T32. If the trainee is in agreement, they will sign the offer letter, and obtain the signatures of their mentor and senior mentor (when applicable) and Dr. France.

Health Insurance

Trainees are responsible for their own health insurance. They have the option to purchase health insurance through the school, or use a different provider. If applicable, health insurance is reimbursed monthly upon submission of appropriate documentation. Trainees are to pay their own insurance, and then submit their receipt to the Program Coordinator on a monthly basis for reimbursement. Please note that the grant does not provide reimbursement for health insurance costs for family members, or for supplemental insurance costs for the trainee (i.e. vision or dental insurance).

Fellowship Award Authorization (FAA)

All trainees will sign the UTHSCSA FAA, which is prepared by the Program Coordinator, every grant period, including re-appointments. The Program Coordinator will obtain the remaining signatures for the trainee.

Commons ID

Each trainee, if they do not already have one, must set up an eRA Commons account in order to access xTrain. For an eRA commons account trainees will need to contact Vinerys Rodriguez, (567-4941 rodriguezv7@uthscsa.edu) in OSP.

xTrain

xTrain is an application that allows program directors/principal investigators, university administrators, and trainees electronically prepare and submit PHS 2271 Statement of Appointment Forms and PHS 416-7 Termination Notices associated with institutional research training grants, institutional career development awards, individual fellowships, and research education awards. Agency staff also uses xTrain to review and process the appointments and termination notices that are submitted electronically.

XTrain Appointment

Trainees on the T32 must have their appointments documented in XTrain. The Program Coordinator will then appoint the trainee to the T32 grant in XTrain, and route to the trainee for review and approval. After the trainee approves, it will be routed to the Program Director, Dr. France, who will then route it to OSP and the NIH for final approval.

Resources for xTrain

Web-Based Tutorials: Trainee Profile Setup: https://era.nih.gov/training_career/tutorials/xTrain_ProfileSetup.htm
xTrain Online Help: <http://era.nih.gov/erahelp/xTrain/default.htm>
xTrain Training Resources: http://era.nih.gov/era_training/xtrain.cfm
xTrain FAQs: http://era.nih.gov/commons/faq_commons.cfm#XVI

NRSA Individual Fellowship Activation Notice (FAA)

All fellows must complete this form for the first year of their fellowship, indicating their start date under the fellowship and other requested information. The form can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/416/phs416-5.pdf>.

NRSA Payback Agreement

Within the trainee's first year of appointment to the T32, the Program Coordinator will provide the trainee with a copy of the NRSA Payback Agreement for review. The trainee will sign and return to the Program Coordinator, who will submit it to the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) for completion.

The Kirschstein-NRSA legislation requires some recipients of support (fellows or trainees) to pay back the Federal government by engaging in health-related biomedical or behavioral research, including the direct administration or review of health-related research, health-related teaching, or any combination of these activities.

Once a Termination Notice has been submitted and accepted, the NIH awarding Institutes and Centers (IC) determines if a payback obligation exists. When a trainee or fellow must pay back, the Termination Notice and related documents are forwarded to the NIH Kirschstein-NRSA Payback Service Center (PSC). PSC personnel are NIH's experts in Kirschstein-NRSA payback requirements. The PSC administers the payback activities of all of the NIH ICs. The authorities related to payback normally delegated to the IC are delegated to the Chief, Kirschstein-NRSA PSC. The PSC retains all records until an obligation is satisfied, and then transfers closed records to the Federal Records Center.

Most Kirschstein-NRSA recipients eventually fulfill their payback obligation by engaging in activities that are determined to be acceptable service (Research, Teaching or Health-Related Activities). Some recipients fulfill their obligation via financial payback. On rare occasions, the payback obligation is waived.

Research. Research is defined as an activity that involves designing experiments, developing protocols, and collecting and interpreting data. In addition, review of original research or administration of original research that includes providing scientific direction and guidance to research may be acceptable if a doctoral degree and relevant research experience is required for individuals filling such positions. Such research can be conducted in an academic, government, commercial, or other environment in either a foreign or domestic setting. In addition, when consistent with the cumulative amount, type, and frequency of research or research training experiences, functions that involve analytic or other technical activities conducted in direct support of research, as defined above, will also satisfy the service payback obligation.

Teaching. Teaching is an instructional activity that takes place in an organized educational or other instructional environment. Activities classified as teaching are generally carried out in a formal didactic setting, but other activities will be considered if they are consistent with the certifying institution's policy on the definition of teaching responsibilities. Such teaching can be conducted at universities, professional schools, research institutes, teaching hospitals, primary schools, secondary schools, or colleges. When calculating hours of teaching per week, it is permissible to include 3 hours of preparation time for each hour of direct instruction. Acceptable teaching activities must have a biomedical or health-related relevance.

Health-Related Activities. This incorporates a broad range of activities related to the description, diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of disease from the most basic biomedical or behavioral research to the most applied or clinical research. Activities in fields other than those usually considered to be directly related to human disease, such as agriculture, environmental sciences, biotechnology, and bioengineering, also will be considered health-related. Visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps_2013/nihgps_ch11.htm#Toc271265163 for more information

Termination Procedure

xTrain

When the time comes for the trainees to terminate the program, a process is started in xTrain. The Program Director or the Research Coordinator will locate the trainee in xTrain and initiate a Termination Notice (TN), which is routed to the trainee. The trainee will complete the form in xTrain, including the Summary of Training section, then route it to the PI. Should a trainee terminate before they have been appointed on the training grant for 12 months, the trainee may be subject to pay back funds via the payback agreement.

FAA

Trainees will sign an FAA form to terminate their position, to be submitted to the Program Coordinator, who will submit to OSP on the trainee's behalf.

Contact and Future Position Information

Trainees should provide contact information and future position information to the Program Coordinator. This information will be used for future grant information, including the annual progress report and grant resubmission.

Other

The trainee will be subject to all other termination protocols set by their department and UT Health San Antonio, including key and badge returns, the departmental separation form, and other miscellaneous items as determined by the department.

T32 Check List

- ☐ Sign Offer Letter
- ☐ Give information to Cindal Dominguez, Program Coordinator
 - ☐ Emergency Contact Information
 - ☐ ERA Commons ID – if established
 - ☐ Updated copy of CV/Biosketch
 - List of publications
 - List of current and previous grant support
 - ☐ Information if you want to enroll/audit courses
- ☐ Sign FAA
- ☐ Create an XTrain Profile
- ☐ Accept T32 Appointment in XTrain
- ☐ Sign Payback Agreement
- ☐ Complete UTHSCSA Trainings
- ☐ Update program coordinator of any new: <http://uthscsa.edu/ARTT/T32/Activities.asp>
 - ☐ Publications
 - ☐ Grants
 - ☐ Poster presentations
 - ☐ Awards
- ☐ Inform Program Coordinator of all attendance at:
 - ☐ Responsible Conduct of Research Seminars
 - ☐ Departmental Seminars
 - ☐ Journal Clubs
 - ☐ Chalk Talks

Frequency	Activity
Weekly	Seminars Journal Club
Bi-weekly	Addiction Journal Club
Monthly	Director's Meetings Chalk Talks
Yearly	BBC/PCS/ Drug Abuse Advisory Committee Meeting Community Outreach – 10 hrs per year
As Needed	Responsible Conduct of Research Spotlight on Research Integrity – 8 per year Career Development Workshops Grant Writing/Reviewing Workshops Getting a Job Boot Camp

<http://uthscsa.edu/ARTT/T32/ActivityFrequency.asp>

Trainee Resources

Who to Know

Charles P France, PhD

Program Director

france@uthscsa.edu

567-6969

Internal Advisory Committee Members

Name	Term
Dr. Jim Lechleiter	2014 – 2019
Dr. Kelly Berg	2015 – 2020
Dr. Daniel Lodge	2016 – 2021
Dr. Jennifer Potter	2016 – 2021
Dr. Gregory Collins	2017 – 2022

Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP)

<http://research.uthscsa.edu/osp/>

phone: 210-567-2340

fax: 210-567-8107

e-mail: grants@uthscsa.edu

Cindal Dominguez

Research Coordinator

dominguezc3@uthscsa.edu

567-4655

External Advisory Committee Members

Name	Term
Dr. Ellen Walker	2015 – 2019
Dr. Cecilia Hillard	2015 – 2019
Dr. Robert Pechnick	2017 – 2021

Department of Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR)

<http://research.uthscsa.edu/lar/>

Phone: (210) 567-6166

Email: LAR@uthscsa.edu

UT Police (Safe Walk)

<http://www.uthscsa.edu/police/campus-safety-patrol>

phone: 210-567-2800

UTHSCSA



Program Faculty



William P Clarke, PhD
Professor
Pharmacology
clarkew@uthscsa.edu



Lisa M. Cleveland, PhD
Assistant Professor
Family & Community Health
Systems
clevelandl@uthscsa.edu



Gregory Collins, PhD
Assistant
Professor/Research
Pharmacology
collinsg@uthscsa.edu



Michael A Dawes, MD
Assistant Professor
Psychiatry
dawes@uthscsa.edu



Lynette C. Daws, Ph.D.
Professor
Physiology
daws@uthscsa.edu



Donald M Dougherty, PhD
Professor
Psychiatry
doughertyd@uthscsa.edu



Charles P France, PhD
Professor
Pharmacology
france@utshscsa.edu



Lisa R Gerak, PhD
Assistant Professor/Research
Pharmacology
gerak@uthscsa.edu



Brett C Ginsburg, PhD
Associate Professor
Psychiatry
ginsburg@uthscsa.edu



Andrea Giuffrida, PhD
Vice President for Research
Professor Pharmacology
giuffrida@uthscsa.edu



Kenneth Hargreaves, DDS
Professor and Chair
Endodontics
hargreaves@uthscsa.edu



Nathalie Hill-Kapturczak, PhD
Assistant Professor
Psychiatry
hillkapturcz@uthscsa.edu



Martin A Javors, PhD
Professor
Psychiatry
javors@uthscsa.edu



Wouter Koek, PhD
Professor
Psychiatry
koek@uthscsa.edu



Daniel Lodge, PhD
Associate Professor
Pharmacology
lodged@uthscsa.edu



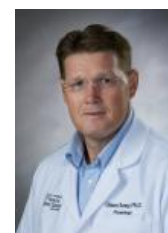
Charles W Mathias, PhD
Associate Professor
Psychiatry
mathias@uthscsa.edu



Jennifer S Potter, PhD
Associate Dean for Research
& Student Programs
Assoc. Professor - Psychiatry
potterjs@uthscsa.edu



John D Roache, PhD
Professor
Psychiatry
roache@uthscsa.edu



Glenn M Toney, PhD
Assistant Professor
Psychiatry
toney@uthscsa.edu

Office of Post-Doctoral Affairs

<https://opa.uthscsa.edu/home>

210-567-0509

opa@uthscsa.edu

Linda McManus, Ph.D.

Director

This office serves the postdoctoral research fellows who are essential members of the multidisciplinary investigative teams at the UT Health Science Center - San Antonio. There is no question that the research knowledge and skills of newly-minted scientists contribute to the overall success of our research programs. However, the training of early career investigators must also insure that they:

- obtain critical career skills
- build an individual record of accomplishment
- define and establish networks

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs supports trainee professional career development to maintain the vitality of our postdoctoral research training environment. OPA operates as a unit within the Office of the Vice President for Research, with offices are located on the main campus. We provide resources to trainees and mentors from throughout the Health Science Center.

Office of Career Development

http://gsbs.uthscsa.edu/gsbs_ocd

Teresa Evans, Ph.D.

Director

The mission of the Office of Career Development is to provide comprehensive career and professional development programming to graduate trainees at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio (UTHSCSA). The Office of Career Development is available to all graduate students and postdoctoral trainees. Dr. Evans can provide guidance through one-on-one meetings that can focus on the discussion of resume and C.V. preparation, mock interviews, evaluation of seminars, and skills necessary for positions sought, as well as information on both academia and non-academia careers. Teresa Evans, Ph.D. is a UTHSCSA Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences alumnus and the Director of the Office of Career Development. The Office of Career Services is housed in AAB 108. Please feel free to schedule an appointment by emailing evanstm@uthscsa.edu

UTHSCSA Postdoctoral Association (UP)

The UTHSCSA Postdoctoral Association aims to support and advance postdoctoral training at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. This support is focused on several areas of importance to the postdoctoral experience. The first is scholarly learning – this includes hosting extramural seminar speakers, organizing career development workshops, and facilitating opportunities for postdocs to present their work in local meetings. The second is networking activities – this includes scientific meetings with other postdocs, new postdoc support, and social gatherings for postdocs and their families. Lastly, UP will work to be the voice of the postdoctoral community at the university. UP will advocate for concerns and ideas from the postdoc community and will work with the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and other university entities to improve the environment for postdoctoral training. Contact UP at up@uthscsa.edu for more information

Trainee SACNAS Chapter

The Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) is a society of scientists dedicated to fostering the success of Hispanic/Chicano and Native American scientists-from college students to

professionals-to attain advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership. The UTHSCSA chapter works to organize campus and community activities to promote the scientific and personal development of its members.

To join the chapter or be part of the email list: <http://eepurl.com/PwvZT> or email SACNASatUTHSCSA@gmail.com

San Antonio

Now the seventh largest city in the United States, San Antonio has retained its sense of history and tradition, while carefully blending in 20th century progressiveness. The city has always been a crossroads and a meeting place. Whether on business or for pleasure, close to seven million visitors a year delight in San Antonio's charms.

Twenty feet below street level lies the Paseo del Rio. Better known as the "River Walk," cobblestone paths border both sides of the San Antonio River as it winds its way through the middle of the downtown business district. The River Walk is quiet and park-like in some stretches, while other areas are full of activity with European style sidewalk cafes, specialty boutiques, nightclubs and gleaming high-rise hotels. The River Walk stretches for approximately two-and-a-half miles from the Municipal Auditorium and Conference Center on the north end to the King William Historic District on the south. The river's floating barge system provides a novel method of sightseeing and people-watching in downtown San Antonio. San Antonio provides for great family outings, beginning with Brackenridge Park, a 433-acre refuge in the heart of the city, attached to the San Antonio Zoo. With a collection of more than 3,000 animals, the zoo is ranked as one of the best in the country. Other family activities can be found at the San



San Antonio is also home to two major theme parks; Sea World of Texas, the world's largest marine life park, and Six Flags Fiesta Texas, the town built just for fun. Fiesta Texas is created around four themed areas: the Mexican town of Los Festivales, the German village of Spassburg, the 1920 cowboy boom town of Crackaxle Canyon, and the small Texas town of Rockville set during the golden age of 50's-60's rock'n'roll.



Antonio Children's Museum, Hertzberg Circus Museum, the hands-on Witte Museum, and the Magik Theater which provides family-oriented, professional theater in the heart of downtown. San Antonio has two impressive art museums. The McNay Art Museum, set in a Mediterranean-style mansion, has wide-ranging collections including post-impressionist and modern art, theater art, Medieval art, and Native American art. The San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA) is housed in the castle-like former headquarters of the Lone Star Brewery. This museum is noted for its antiquities collections, Mexican folk art, modern art, pre-Columbian art and Spanish colonial art.

The luxurious Majestic Theater, built in 1929, is a memorable downtown setting for touring Broadway shows and concerts and is also the permanent home of the San Antonio Symphony, now in its 65th season.

With over 300 days of sunshine annually, San Antonio offers an abundance of outdoor sports and recreation. Numerous rivers in the Texas Hill Country form an arc around the northern edge of San Antonio, and provide many opportunities for canoeing, tubing and white-water rafting. Area lakes attract fishermen, as well as water skiing, jet skiing, and sailing enthusiasts. The Gulf coast is only 100 miles away. Working ranches throughout Central and South Texas are available as hunting leases for wild game, while dude ranches offer a taste of the Old West, complete with horseback riding. Numerous state parks offer opportunities for hiking in the rugged terrain of the Hill Country. Dining options in San Antonio run the gamut from fine French cuisine to Chinese to Soul food and Cajun, but the one not to miss is Tex-Mex.

