



UMMC

School of Graduate Studies  
in the Health Sciences

# HONORS DAY

APRIL 22, 2021

# WELCOME



**Dr. Joey Granger**

**Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
in the Health Sciences**

# THANK YOU!

- Dr. LouAnn Woodward, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, Dean School of Medicine
- Dr. Ralph Didlake, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Chief Academic Officer
- Dr. Richard Summers, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
- Dr. Sheila Henderson, Major Gifts Officer, Institutional Advancement
- Office of Alumni Affairs

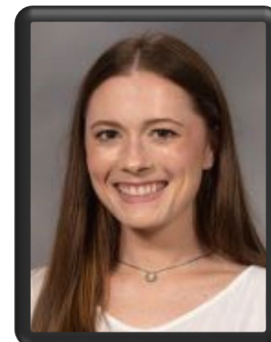
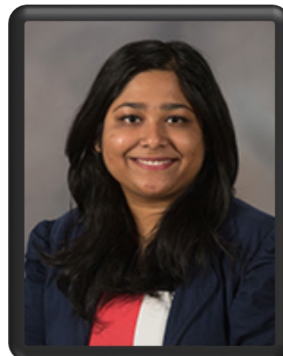
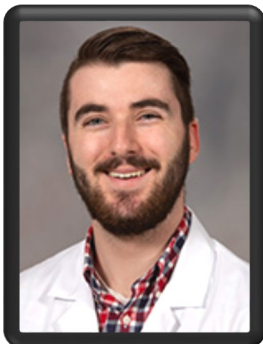


# PROGRAM DIRECTORS

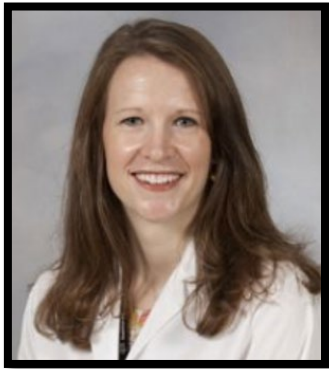
- Dr. Barbara Alexander, Physiology and Biophysics
- Dr. Hanna Broome, MS in Biomedical Sciences
- Dr. Sean Didion, MDPHD
- Dr. Michael Hebert, Cell and Molecular Biology
- Dr. Susana Salazar Marocho, Biomedical Sciences – PhD
- Dr. Andrew Notebaert, Clinical Anatomy
- Dr. Mary Stewart, Nursing
- Dr. Ritesh Tandon, Microbiology and Immunology
- Dr. Douglas Vetter, Neuroscience
- Dr. Kedra Wallace, MS Clinical Investigation
- Dr. Jan Williams, Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology

# 2020 GRADUATE STUDENT BODY OFFICERS

- **President: Olivia Travis, Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology**
- **Vice President: Andrew Ferriby, Clinical Anatomy**
- **Secretary/Treasurer: Ashley Griffin, Neuroscience**
- **Philanthropy Coordinator: Dipanwita Mitra, Microbiology and Immunology**
- **Student Wellness Representative: Anna Scasny, Microbiology and Immunology**
- **Masters Representative: Ashton Church, Biomedical Sciences**



# GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION



**Dr. Sydney Murphy**  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs



**Dr. Hanna Broome**  
Assistant Dean of Student Affairs &  
Recruitment



**Shanna Moulds**  
Director of Operations



**Jessie Bowman**  
Project Manager



**Emma Draughn**  
Administrative Assistant

# SPECIAL THANKS



**James Carter**



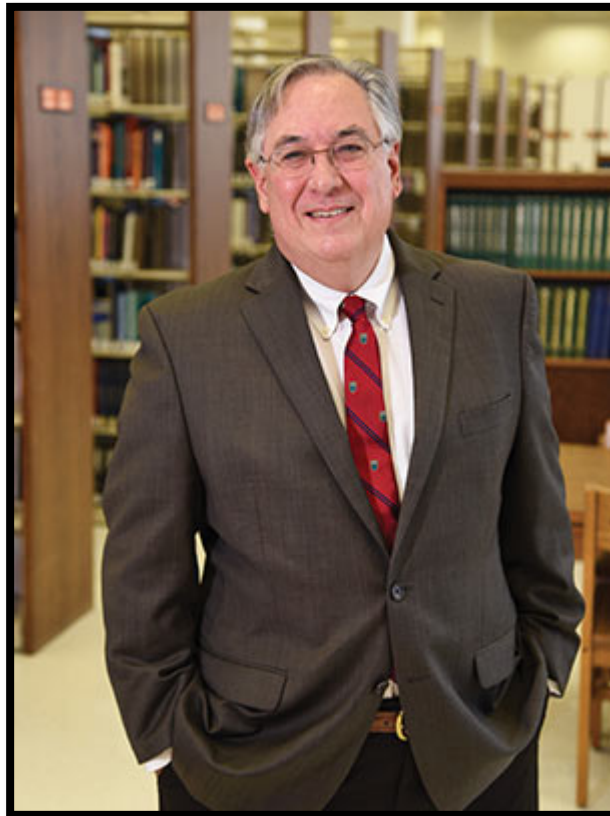
**Philip Blaylock**

DR. FELICIA TARDY  
ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT





DR. RALPH DIDLAKE  
ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Dr. Joey Granger**

**Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
in the Health Sciences**

# RECAP: WHERE ARE OUR GRADUATES



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 2020-2021 Awards Won by Current PhD Students and Publications by PhD Students

**50** Total awards and honors won by **27** PhD students **11** Students won multiple awards

**5** Local awards **15** National & International Awards **3** Extramural fellowships

**42** First-author publications **26** Co-author publications **68** for a total of publications by PhD graduates

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 2020-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow Awards

**28** Total awards and honors won by **14** Postdoctoral Fellows

**8** Local awards **15** National & International Awards

**6** Extramural fellowships **5** Postdocs won multiple awards

# RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES



**Dr. Sydney Murphy**

**Associate Dean of  
Academic Affairs**



# MASTER OF SCIENCE

Jacob Barrett Aldridge

Rochester Cordell Alston

Rhenius Brittoraj Antonyraj

Sarah Tarek Araji

Taylor Paige Battle

Samer Muhamad Beauti

Sheila Sofia Belk

Mideny Jean Bell

Jeffrey Scott Bruni, Jr.

Mckayla Alexandria Butler

Alexander Hall Carlyle

Jalah Lillian Carter

Courtney Anne Cates

Anarius Anta' Cathey

Bobby Cavett Jr.

David Taylor Charles

Ashton Lee Church

Ava Elise Clayton

Jordan Ashley Coggins

Anajah Vanais Coleman

Lauren Rae Corby

Elizabeth Ann Crissey

Joseph Clifton Crosby

Sabrina Jaclyn Crumpton

Dean Philip Dickinson

Christopher Lane Diethelm

Matthew Hyrum Elledge

Hayley Lianna Elliott

Andrew Patrick Farmer

Garner Campbell Fincher

# MASTER OF SCIENCE

DeAndra Meshell Fortenberry  
Nathaniel Bruce Gentry  
Kathleen Glover  
Somtochukwu Mary Godwin-Offor  
Bayley Jane Graves  
Tyler Verell Gregory  
Jessica Amelia Hackett  
Ja'nasa Sanquina Hardy-Hardin  
Jordan Raquel Hastings  
John Nguyen Ho  
Shelby Grace Holcomb  
Georgiana Olivia Hoover  
Scheldon Denard Irvin  
Adriana Quintel Ivy  
Kimberly Lauren Jackson

Reneesha Renise Johnson  
Blake Randall Jones  
Joseph Robert Jones  
Garrett Joseph Jordan  
Ashley Brianna Lampkin  
Aujarimere D. Lewis  
Ariana Simone Madlock  
Kaitlin Ann McNeely  
Bailey Rene McPhail  
Marie Ainsworth Merrell  
Elizabeth Reade Middleton  
Abedulnaasseer Osman Alkhidir  
Mohammedlamien  
Jemyll Grace Santo Domingo Morato  
Neha Farhan Nafis



# MASTER OF SCIENCE

Hang Thi Nguyen  
Hien Ngoc Nguyen  
Jacob Patrick Niehaus  
Simrat Pal  
Kayla Nicole Patterson  
Hunter Prestel Peeples  
Brealand Chanise Pendleton  
Morgan Nicole Pfleger  
Alie Katherine Phillips  
Jared Nicholas Quave  
Sarah Bruce Ragsdale  
Sydney Ashley Reaves  
Jayla-Danielle Marshae Reese  
Kristin Elizabeth Reeve  
Carlie Justice Reeves  
Robin Alexandra Riddick  
Cameron Paris Roach

Montianah Jovan Roseburgh  
Alex Robert Roth  
Kristina Brooke Seyfarth  
Elise Marie Sterling  
Taylor Alexander Stevens  
Lucy Caroline Taylor  
Sydney Marie Thomas  
Caitlyn Celeste Upton  
Jannea Alexandria Vance  
Jessica Denice Verdell  
Blake Evan Waldrip  
Elizabeth Lawton White  
Dhakiya Zaina Young

# LAURA E. COATS

*DOCTORATE IN PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS*

*MENTOR: DR. BARBARA ALEXANDER*



## Dissertation

Pathogenesis of Intrauterine Growth  
Restriction and Developmental  
Programming of Cardiovascular Disease

## Publications

7 manuscript (5 first author, 2 co-author)

# LAURA E. COATS

DOCTORATE IN PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS

MENTOR: DR. BARBARA ALEXANDER

## Honors and Awards

- Graduate Student Body Vice President
- Featured Trainee, *The Physiologist* Magazine, American Physiological Society
- Caroline tum Suden Travel Award, Experimental Biology
- Onsite Poster Award, School of Graduate Studies' Research Day
- Onsite Poster Award, AMA Council on Hypertension Meeting

# LAURA E. COATS

*DOCTORATE IN PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS*

*MENTOR: DR. BARBARA ALEXANDER*

## Memorable Moment

The Saturday after I submitted my dissertation to my committee, I was hanging out at Hops and Habanas with my friends and peers from UMMC. While there, I got an email that my first author research paper was accepted. That day I realized I was going to finish my PhD very soon. We all celebrated together, and everyone was so happy and proud for me.

## Current Position

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Dr. Joshua Speed's lab, UMMC Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics

# JARED S. COBB

*DOCTORATE IN BIOMEDICAL MATERIALS SCIENCE*

*MENTOR: DR. AMOL JANORKAR*



## Dissertation

Control of Polymer Particle Size and Surface Features for Drug Delivery and Tissue Engineering

## Publications

8 manuscripts (7 first author)

2 Provisional Patent Applications

2 Utility Patent Applications (US and PCT)

# JARED S. COBB

*DOCTORATE IN BIOMEDICAL MATERIALS SCIENCE*

*MENTOR: DR. AMOL JANORKAR*

## Honors and Awards

- USDA-NIFA-AFRI: Education and Workforce Development: Predoctoral Research Fellowship
- Associate Student Body LEADERSHIP: Innovation Award
- Southern Biomedical Engineering Conference: 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner for oral presentations
- First-ever group of graduate students from UMMC selected to attend the Millsaps University Business Advantage Program for Professionals
- Multiple plaques/certificates recognizing intellectual property contributions to UMMC
- Artwork selected for the front cover of ACS Omega journal

# JARED S. COBB

*DOCTORATE IN BIOMEDICAL MATERIALS SCIENCE*

*MENTOR: DR. AMOL JANORKAR*

## Memorable Moment

- Me walking into Dr. Janorkar's office: I have an idea, hear me out before you say anything.
- Dr. Janorkar: oook.
- Me: We're going to save the honey bees \*proceeds to explain idea\*
- Dr. Janorkar: \*long silence\*
- Dr. Janorkar: I like it, people are either going to think we're insane or geniuses.

I always appreciated how Dr. Janorkar never dismissed my ideas outright, no matter how far away they were from his area of expertise or how crazy they sounded. We ended up getting a USDA research grant and a separate fellowship from this particular idea.

## Current Position

U.S. Army Core of Engineers

# JASON ENGEL

*DOCTORATE IN PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS*

*MENTOR: DR. ALEJANDRO CHADE*



## Dissertation

Mechanisms and Efficacy of Targeted  
Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor  
Therapy for Kidney Disease: Macrophages  
and Microvessels

## Publications

5 manuscripts

11 abstracts



# JASON ENGEL

*DOCTORATE IN PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS*

*MENTOR: DR. ALEJANDRO CHADE*

## Honors and Awards

- High Impact Paper – Basic Science, Hypertension, Winter 2019
- Caroline tum Suden/Frances Hellebrandt Professional Opportunity Award. EB Orlando, 2019
- APS Renal Section Predoctoral Excellence in Renal Research Award Finalist. EB Orlando, 2019
- Invited review for the American Journal of Physiology – Renal Physiology
- American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship

## Memorable Moment

Receiving my first research grant.

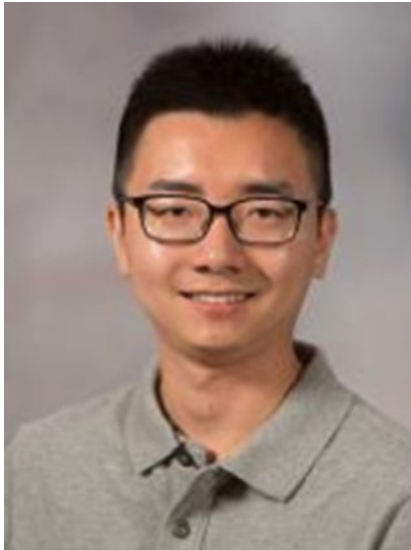
## Current Position

Internal Medicine Residency at UMMC

# LETAO FAN

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. RICHARD J. ROMAN*



## Dissertation

Impaired Renal Hemodynamics and  
Glomerular Hyperfiltration  
Contribute to Hypertension-  
Induced Renal Injury in  $\gamma$ -Adducin  
Knockout Rats

## Publications

9 manuscripts (4 first author)

# LETAO FAN

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. RICHARD J. ROMAN*

## Honors and Awards

- Kidney Council New Investigator Travel Award, American Heart Association-Hypertension Scientific Sessions (2020).

## Memorable Moment

The cold autumn morning after a night's rain, when Dr. Roman took me to his golf course, he was teaching me to play golf, we were talking about science, life, and future as we swung our way to the ninth hole, mud covered our clothes, and shoes were wet, my arm was sore and my back hurt, but it was one of the moments in my life, that filled with joy and fun, and I will treasure it and forever be grateful.

# LETAO FAN

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. RICHARD J. ROMAN*

## Current Position

Will relocate to Boston, Massachusetts in May and work as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Center of Engineering in Medicine and Surgery at the Department of Surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

# JEANNE A. ISHIMWE

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS & PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. JENNIFER M. SASSER*



## Dissertation

The role of the gut microbiome in the development of preeclampsia.

## Publications

10 abstracts, 9 of which I am the first author

4 first author manuscripts

# JEANNE A. ISHIMWE

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS & PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. JENNIFER M. SASSER*

## Honors and Awards

- American Heart Association predoctoral fellowship
- American Physiological Society/ Basic Science Form for Emerging Kidney Scientists Young Investigator Award
- First author manuscript featured on a APSselect special issue which highlights outstanding scientific discoveries published by the American Physiological society.
- The American Foundation of Hypertension Research and Education Travel Grant for Support of Underrepresented Minorities
- American Society of Nephrology Kidney Students and Residents Award
- American Heart Association Council on Hypertension Top Trainee Advocacy Award
- American Physiological Society Martin Frank Diversity Travel Award
- American Physiological Society Caroline tum Suden Professional Opportunity Award
- American Federation for Medical Research Southern Society for Clinical Investigation Student Research Award

# JEANNE A. ISHIMWE

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS & PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. JENNIFER M. SASSER*

## Memorable Moment

My most memorable moment is the day I defended my dissertation. In addition to the incredible support from my PI and mentoring team, the virtual defense format allowed my family and friends from all corners of the world to be present which was amazing.

## Current Position

Postdoctoral research fellow at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

# KARTIKEYA SINGH JODHA

*DOCTORATE IN BIOMEDICAL MATERIALS SCIENCE*

*MENTOR: DR. JASON A. GRIGGS*



## Dissertation

Fractal Analysis of Dental Ceramics Using  
a Novel Unbiased Method

## Publications

4 manuscripts (1 first author)



# KARTIKEYA SINGH JODHA

*DOCTORATE IN BIOMEDICAL MATERIALS SCIENCE*

*MENTOR: DR. JASON A. GRIGGS*

## Honors and Awards

- Graduate Student Body Secretary/Treasurer, and Student Research Group President
- Regional Representative for Southeast Region A at American Association for Dental Research
- Travel Award to Academy of Dental Materials (Brazil, 2018)
- KULZER Travel Award to International Association for Dental Research (Vancouver, 2019)
- Best Poster Presentation (2<sup>nd</sup> Place) at Southern Biomedical Engineering Conference (2019)
- Collaborator for Academy of Dental Materials Travel Award (Lauren Corby, 2019), AADR Dentsply Student Clinician Research Award (William Key, 2019), and ADA Stanford Award (William Key, 2021)

# KARTIKEYA SINGH JODHA

*DOCTORATE IN BIOMEDICAL MATERIALS SCIENCE*

*MENTOR: DR. JASON A. GRIGGS*

## Memorable Moment

A lot! Some of those, figuring out and getting data from atomic force microscope so that I no longer have to live in the atomic force microscope lab. Other, my first visit to ER in US and a friend telling others that the injury is because “Kartikeya was just being Kartikeya.” Haha! Fun times.

## Current Position

Starting post-doctoral fellowship under Dr. Jason Griggs here at University of Mississippi Medical Center

# HADEN A. JOHNSON

*DOCTORATE IN BIOMEDICAL MATERIALS SCIENCE*

*MENTOR: DR. MICHAEL D. ROACH*



## Dissertation

Surface Modification of Titanium to Enhance Photocatalytic and Antimicrobial Properties

## Publications

3 manuscripts (1 first author)

# HADEN A. JOHNSON

*DOCTORATE IN BIOMEDICAL MATERIALS SCIENCE*

*MENTOR: DR. MICHAEL D. ROACH*

## Honors and Awards

- Society for Biomaterials Student Travel Achievement Recognition Honorable Mention (2018)
- Travel Award to ASTM International Conference on Additive Manufacturing (2019)
- Millsaps College Business Advantage Program Else Scholarship (2020)
- School of Dentistry Student Research Group Treasurer (2020-2021)

# HADEN A. JOHNSON

*DOCTORATE IN BIOMEDICAL MATERIALS SCIENCE*

*MENTOR: DR. MICHAEL D. ROACH*

## Memorable Moment

I was able to attend the International Association of Dental Research conference in Vancouver in the summer of 2019 to present research on behalf of my department. My fiancé was able to come and experience the city with me. We were able to go on a whale watching tour to see orcas for the first time, and we went to the top of Grouse Mountain. I am very thankful for all the opportunities that research gave me to travel to places and meet people that I normally would have never been able to.

## Current Position

I will be working as an Aerospace Engineer in the Structures and Materials Division of the U.S. Army CCDC Aviation and Missile Center in Huntsville, AL.

# TYLER LOMAX

*DOCTORATE IN PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS*

*MENTOR: DR. ROMAIN HARMANCEY*



## Dissertation

Impact of UCP3 Deficiency on High-Fat Diet-Induced Obesity and Insulin Resistance

## Current Position

Laboratory Analyst at Green Analytics, Baltimore, MD

# KENJI MAEDA

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. JENNIFER SASSER*



## Dissertation

Temporal Utero-Placental Transcriptomic  
Analysis and Cerebrovascular  
Complications of the Dahl Salt Sensitive  
Rat Model of Spontaneous Superimposed  
Preeclampsia

## Current Position

Study Director at Charles Laboratories,  
Boston, MA

# CAROLINE MUELLER

*DOCTORATE IN CLINICAL ANATOMY*

*MENTOR: DR. ALLAN SINNING*



## Dissertation

Integrating Clinical Correlations into the  
Gross Anatomy Laboratory: Clinically-  
Oriented Laboratory Manuals

## Publications

1 manuscript (1 first author)



# CAROLINE MUELLER

*DOCTORATE IN CLINICAL ANATOMY*

*MENTOR: DR. ALLAN SINNING*

## Honors and Awards

- 4 American Association of Anatomy Travel Awards

## Memorable Moment

My mom and dad were trying to get ahold of me and I did not have my phone on me. They called my director, my mentor, and Dr. Sydney Murphy to find me, and everyone in the school was willing and able to find me and ease my parents' worry -- that's how much of a family the graduate school is to me!

## Current Position

Assistant Professor of Medical Instruction at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

# CHARLES PHILLIPS

DOCTORATE IN PATHOLOGY

MENTOR: DR. BERNADETTE GRAYSON



## Dissertation

Inflammatory Mediators and Alterations to Barrier Function in Obesity and Weight Loss: Perspectives in Humans and Rodents

## Publications

4 manuscript (1 first author, 3 co-author)

# CHARLES PHILLIPS

*DOCTORATE IN PATHOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. BERNADETTE GRAYSON*

## Memorable Moment

My most memorable moment(s) as a graduate student are fairly recent, stemming back to early 2020. The year was off to a great start with attending an APS workshop in Orlando; however, shortly after the pandemic hit and it seemed as if everything was in free fall and uncertain. Through this, our lab was able to come together and turn 2020 a very productive year, churning out numerous publications and graduating three students. Being in the center of this was an uplifting experience that shows no matter how uncertain or bleak the near future may seem, keep moving forward and something good will come from your hard work.

## Current Position

Application Scientist with Sciligence Corporation in Cambridge, MA

# BIBEK POUDEL

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS & PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. JAN M. WILLIAMS*



## Dissertation

The Role of Macrophages in the  
Development of Renal Injury Associated  
with Prepubertal Obesity

## Publications

10 manuscripts (4 first author & 6 Co-author)

# BIBEK POUDEL

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS & PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. JAN M. WILLIAMS*

## Honors and Awards

- **April 2021** APS Renal Section Research Recognition Award, Experimental Biology-2021 meeting, April 27-30.
- **September 2020** Hypertension Trainee Advocacy Committee (TAC) New Investigator Award American Heart Association 2020 Scientific Session (September 10 – 13)
- **July 2020** APSselect in the AJP-Renal Physiology (PMID: 32390513)
- **March 2020** APS Graduate Student Ambassador Award
- **January 2020** APS Professional Skills Training (PST) Course on Writing and Reviewing for Scientific Journal fellowship January 23-26, 2020 at Orlando, Florida
- **October 2019** Excellence in Graduate Research Day-2019 (GRD-2019) Poster Presentation Award. Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS.

# BIBEK POUDEL

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS & PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. JAN M. WILLIAMS*

## Memorable Moment

- Unforgettable bonding with my mentor Dr. Williams.
- Marathon training around the Pearl reservoir trail during every weekend.
- I cannot forget the worst one ever Mississippi's historic winter snow storming during my dissertation defense week. Sleeping inside the car in the night just before my dissertation defend day due to outage of power at home is one of the most memorable events in my life.

## Current Position

Relocated to Philadelphia, PA and working as a postdoctoral researcher at Renal, Electrolyte, and Hypertension Division, Department of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

# OLIVIA K.D. TRAVIS

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. DENISE C CORNELIUS*



## Dissertation

Interleukin 17 Signaling and Natural Killer Cell Activation in Preeclampsia

## Publications

8 manuscripts (3 first author)

# OLIVIA K.D. TRAVIS

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. DENISE C CORNELIUS*

## Honors and Awards

- Graduate Student Body President
- Water & Electrolyte Homeostasis Section Steven M. Horvath Professional Opportunity Award Recipient
- UMMC Excellence in Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology Graduate Student Award
- Experimental Biology 2020 ASPET Travel Award Recipient
- Experimental Biology 2020 Portland Press Water and Electrolyte Homeostasis Section Predoctoral Research Finalist
- FASEB DREAM Travel Award for the American Physiological Society Professional Skills Training Course: Writing & Reviewing for Scientific Journals Course
- American Heart Association Hypertension New Investigator Travel Award
- Best of AHA Specialty Conferences Abstract: Hypertension 2019
- UMMC Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Award
- UMMC Fundamentals of Physiology Award
- APS Minority Travel Fellowship Award Recipient



# OLIVIA K.D. TRAVIS

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. DENISE C CORNELIUS*

## Memorable Moment

Attending the American Heart Association Hypertension Council on Hypertension 2017 in San Diego and witnessing my mentor Dr. Denise Cornelius and Dr. Jan M Williams dominating in karaoke.

## Current Position

Postdoctoral Fellow at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital

# HANNAH R. TURBEVILLE

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. JENNIFER SASSER*



## Dissertation

Long-term Consequences of Preeclampsia  
and the Nitric Oxide Pathway in the Dahl S  
Rat

## Publications

7 manuscripts

# HANNAH R. TURBEVILLE

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. JENNIFER SASSER*

## Honors and Awards

- A. Wallace Conerly Scholarship
- American Society of Nephrology Kidney TREKS Program
- American Society of Nephrology Kidney STARS Program (2 time recipient)
- Meyer and Genevieve Falk Endowment Award
- Alpha Omega Alpha initiate
- American Society of Nephrology Travel Award to the AAP/ASCI/APSA Joint Meeting
- F30 Fellowship funded by NIDDK
- Portland Press Predoctoral Research Recognition Award Finalist
- Emerging Kidney Physiologists 2019 Selected Speaker
- First Place team, RICE bowl
- UMMC SGSHS Research Day Poster Presentation Award
- Caroline tum Suden/Francis A. Hellebrandt Professional Opportunity Award

# HANNAH R. TURBEVILLE

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. JENNIFER SASSER*

## Memorable Moment

I struggled with inserting telemetry catheters into our animals for the longest time, and it made me really frustrated, but I never stopped trying and Dr. Sasser always encouraged me. With my last set of animals for my dissertation, I was really nervous, but I wanted to try one last time and I made sure Dr. Sasser was nearby if something went wrong. Somehow all that repetition finally sank in and I got every single catheter in that last group of animals all by myself!

## Current Position

University of Michigan ENT Residency

# JENNIFER BYRD STEPHEN

*DOCTORATE OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING*

*MENTOR: DR. KIM HOOVER*



## Dissertation

Nursing advocacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:  
Development of a machine learning  
algorithm for pain detection and bias in  
hospitalized children with femur fractures

## Publications

2 manuscripts (2 first author)

# JENNIFER BYRD STEPHEN

*DOCTORATE OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING*

*MENTOR: DR. KIM HOOVER*

## Honors and Awards

- Mississippi Nurses Foundation 2019 PhD Research Grant (2019)
- Duncan McCormac Memorial Scholarship (2018)
- Janet Y. Harris Scholarship in Nursing (2015)
- Mississippi Nurse's Association Delegate to state convention (2012 – 2014)

# JENNIFER BYRD STEPHEN

*DOCTORATE OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING*

*MENTOR: DR. KIM HOOVER*

## Memorable Moment

Traveling to the Southern Nursing Research Society conference in Williamsburg, VA. We were able to experience the history surrounded by friends and mentors such as PhD program director Dr. Mary Stewart.

## Current Position

Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Patient Care Officer for Magee General Hospital

# SYDNEY M. VITA

DOCTORATE IN NEUROSCIENCE

MENTOR: DR. RAY GRILL, DR. BERNADETTE GRAYSON, AND DR. DONNA PLATT



## Dissertation

Blood-Brain Barrier Alterations Following  
Traumatic Brain Injury

## Publications

4 manuscripts (2 first author)



# SYDNEY M. VITA

DOCTORATE IN NEUROSCIENCE

MENTOR: DR. RAY GRILL, DR. BERNADETTE GRAYSON, AND DR. DONNA PLATT

## Honors and Awards

- Three Poster Presentation Awards at UMMC SGSHS Annual Research Days (2016, 2017, 2018)
- Best Poster Presentation Award, Mississippi Academy of Sciences Research Day (2016)
- Two Poster Presentation Awards at UMMC's Annual Neuroscience Research Day (2017, 2018)
- Dee S. and Patricia Osborne Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences (2018)
- Best Poster Presentation Award at Mission Connect Symposium (2019)

# SYDNEY M. VITA

DOCTORATE IN NEUROSCIENCE

MENTOR: DR. RAY GRILL, DR. BERNADETTE GRAYSON, AND DR. DONNA PLATT

## Memorable Moment

My first Society for Neuroscience Conference during my second year of grad school (2016). I had a very well-attended poster presentation and realizing how easy it was to answer everyone's questions really showed me how much I had learned over the course of a year.

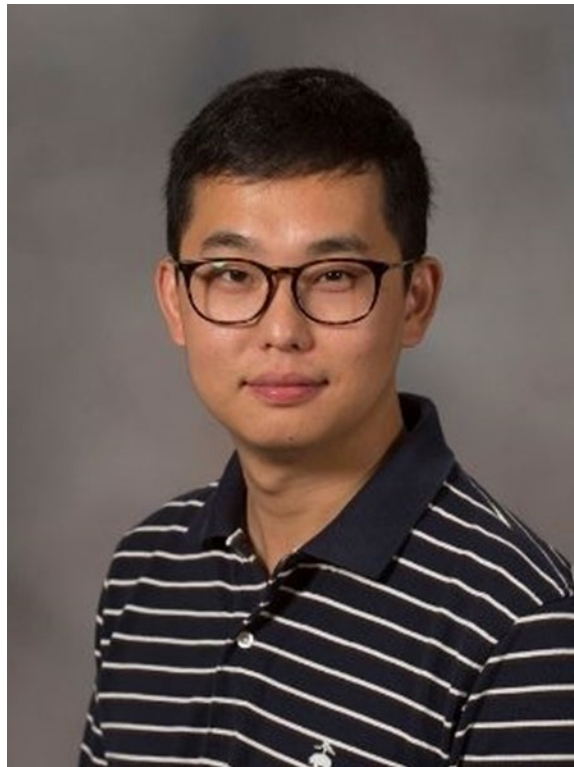
## Current Position

Postdoctoral Fellowship in the labs of Drs. Nick Gilpin and Patricia Molina at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.

# SHAOXUN WANG

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. FAN FAN*



## Dissertation

An Oral Antihyperglycemic SGLT2 Inhibitor Reverses Cognitive Impairments in Aged Diabetic Animals

## Publications

19 manuscripts (5 first author)

# SHAOXUN WANG

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. FAN FAN*

## Honors and Awards

- 2020 - 2021: Membership in The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (offered to the top 10% of seniors and graduate students)
- 2020 - 2021: American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship
- 2020 - 2021: NIH/NIEHS Travel Award, selected by the 18th International Winter Eicosanoid Conference
- 2019 - 2020: Inventor, University of Mississippi Medical Center First Intellectual Property Recognition Ceremony
- 2018 - 2019: Honorable award of BioTek's first Imaging Perspectives Competition
- 2017 - 2018: ASN Kidney STARS award, American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week 2017

# SHAOXUN WANG

*DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACOLOGY*

*MENTOR: DR. FAN FAN*

## Memorable Moment

The time in Hypertension 2018 Scientific Sessions in Chicago was one of my memorable moments. It was my first-time oral presentation at a national conference and I remember my legs were shaking throughout the time. After the meeting, we went to BUBBA GUMP restaurant inspired by the 1994 film Forrest Gump, a movie I watched many times before. My mentors bought us a “Stupid Is As Stupid Does” License Plate, and I mounted it on the door of our lab to “inspire” the lab mates.

## Current Position

Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Surgery, University of California, San Francisco

# SUBHI TALAL YOUNES

*DOCTORATE IN PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS*

*MENTOR: DR. MICHAEL RYAN*



## Dissertation

Pathophysiology and Treatment of  
Preeclampsia: Central Role of the  
Endothelium

## Current Position

Pediatrics Residency at  
Harvard/Brigham and Women's  
Hospital in Boston, MA



UMMC

School of Graduate Studies  
in the Health Sciences

# PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

APRIL 22, 2021

# NOMINATION COMMITTEE

## Award Selection Committee:

**Dr. Ritesh Tandon, Microbiology and Immunology**

**Dr. Michael Hebert, Cell and Molecular Biology**

**Dr. Susana Salazar Marocho, Biomedical Sciences – PhD**

**Dr. Andrew Notebaert, Clinical Anatomy**

**Dr. Doug Vetter, Neuroscience**

**Dr. Barbara Alexander, Physiology and Biophysics**

**Dr. Jan Williams, Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology**

**Dr. Mary Stewart, Nursing**

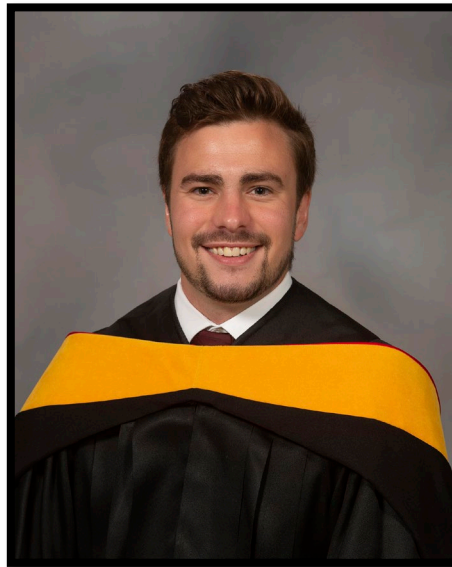
**Dr. Douglas Vetter, Neuroscience**

**Dr. Sean Didion, MDPHd**



# 2021 FUNDAMENTALS OF PHYSIOLOGY AWARD

Alexander H. Carlyle



Awarded for superior scholastic performance in the Fundamentals of Physiology  
course during the 2020-2021 academic year

# 2021 EXCELLENCE IN PHARMACOLOGY AWARD

Dr. Shaoxun Wang



This award is presented to a Medical Pharmacology Ph.D. Candidate who has demonstrated academic and research excellence, outstanding professionalism, and service to the UMMC community

# 2021 M.S. BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM DIRECTOR AWARDS



Jacob B. Aldridge



Alexander H. Carlyle



Jordan A. Coggins



Joseph C. Crosby



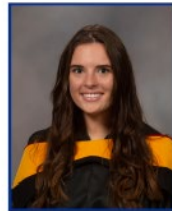
Christopher L. Diethelm



Garner C. Fincher



Somtochukwu M.  
Godwin-Offor



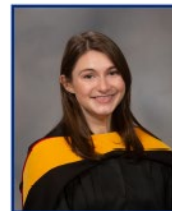
Kaitlin A. McNeely



Jacob P. Niehaus



Carlie J. Reeves



Elizabeth L. White

Awarded in recognition of an overall weighted numerical average in  
the top ten percent of the class

# LAURA COATS, PHD

DOCTORATE IN PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS

MENTOR: DR. BARBARA ALEXANDER



THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

presents the

## 2021 REGIONS OUTSTANDING GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

to

*Dr. Laura Coats*

in recognition of outstanding research accomplishments by a graduate student.

*Awarded on April 22, 2021.*



Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
in the Health Sciences

# SHAOXUN WANG, PHD

DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS & PHARMACOLOGY

MENTOR: DR. FAN FAN



THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

presents the

## 2021 REGIONS OUTSTANDING GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

to

*Dr. Shaoxun Wang*

in recognition of outstanding research accomplishments by a graduate student.

*Awarded on April 22, 2021.*



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jeffrey Granger'.

Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
in the Health Sciences

# LAIS BERRO, PHD

PSYCHIATRY & HUMAN BEHAVIOR

MENTOR: DR. JAMES ROWLETT



THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

presents the

## 2021 TRUSTMARK POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW AWARD

to

*Dr. Lai's Berro*

in recognition of an outstanding postdoctoral fellow.

*Awarded on April 22, 2021.*



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
MEDICAL CENTER

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jeffrey D. Granger'.

Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
in the Health Sciences

# OLIVIA TRAVIS

DOCTORATE IN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS & PHARMACOLOGY

MENTOR: DR. DENISE CORNELIUS



THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

presents the

## 2021 RANDALL–TRUSTMARK OUTSTANDING GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

to

*Olivia Travis*

in recognition of outstanding research accomplishments by a graduate student.

*Awarded on April 22, 2021.*



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
MEDICAL CENTER

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jeffrey D. Granger'.

Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
in the Health Sciences

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAHAFFEY AWARD AND NEW GRADUATE STUDENT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



**Dr. Robert E. Lewis**

**Professor Emeritus**



# ALEXANDRIA GETCHELL

PHD PROGRAM IN MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, B.S. IN IMMUNOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES



THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

presents the

## 2021 JULIUS M. CRUSE, M.D., PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

to

*Alexandria Getchell*

in recognition of an outstanding incoming Ph.D. student  
for the 2021-2022 academic year.

*Awarded on April 22, 2021.*



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jeffrey D. Granger'.

Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
in the Health Sciences

# JARED COBB, PHD

*DOCTORATE IN BIOMEDICAL MATERIALS SCIENCE*

*MENTOR: DR. AMOL JANORKAR*



## THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

This is to signify that

**Dr. Jared Cobb**

is granted the

**Robert A. Mahaffey, Jr. Memorial Award  
for Research Potential in  
Biomedical Materials Science**

to recognize, encourage, and promote superior scientific research capability of young investigators, the award is conferred on this the twenty-second day of April in the year of our Lord, 2021.



Dean, School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences

# THANK YOU!!!

- Regions Bank – Philip Blaylock
- Trustmark National Bank – James Carter
- Office of Alumni Affairs
- Dr. Sheila Henderson, Major Gifts Officer, Institutional Advancement
- Dr. Richard Summers, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
- Dr. Ralph Didlake, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Dr. LouAnn Woodward, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, Dean School of Medicine
- School of Graduate Studies Administration
- Friends and Family of our Graduates and Awardees