

# The GRADUATE bulletin

Latest news from the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences

## Word from the Dean



This month we welcome Dr. La'Nissa Brown Baker, Associate Director for Scientific Staffing at the United States Food and Drug Administration, for the next **virtual Career Opportunity and Professional Development Seminar** on November 6. On November 24, we will host our annual **Holiday Open House Appreciation Luncheon**, with "Grab and Geaux" curbside service (p 4). Our trainees and faculty have been busy volunteering (p 1), earning awards and membership invitations (p 2-3), successfully defending (p 2), and publishing (p 4-7) this month. Finally, it is **recruiting season for our PhD programs**, and we have been utilizing our new Workday Student Recruiting platform to connect with prospective students. I encourage all of our graduate faculty to please assist your program directors in recruiting our next class of future biomedical scientists.

## *Community service in action during the pandemic*

SGSHS students Nena Hawkins, Ana Ivy, John Aaron Howell, Kadie Nobles, and Casey Rayborn (top, from left) volunteered at a service project sponsored by the UMMC Office of Diversity and Inclusion, EversCare Food Pantry, and the School of Population Health on October 15.

Approximately 20 other SGSHS students also volunteered at this event during October 13-15.



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## Important Dates

**NOV 2** Registration opens for spring term

**NOV 6** COPD Lecture Series: "FDA Overview and Career Opportunities" Dr. La'Nissa Brown-Baker

**NOV 24** SGSHS Holiday Open House: Curb-side pickup!

**NOV 26-27** Thanksgiving Holidays

# KUDOS

prestige-honor-distinction



## Ashley Griffin

PhD Program, Neuroscience

Young Investigator's Award for Early Career Kidney Conference; Presented an oral presentation for Early Career Kidney Conference



## Jeanne Ishimwe

PhD Program, Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology

Young Investigator Award - Basic Science Forum for Emerging Kidney Scientists



## Megha Satpathy

PhD Program, Biomedical Materials Science

- Invited and accepted to join 'The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi', the highest interdisciplinary honor society
- Invited to present at the 2020 GWIMS Ignite symposium on November 19th



## Anna Scasny

PhD Program, Microbiology and Immunology

Invited and accepted to join 'The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi', the highest interdisciplinary honor society

## Successful Dissertation Defenses



### Charles Phillips

Pathology

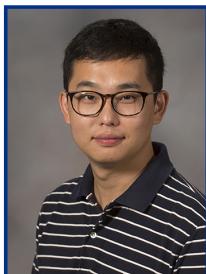
*"Inflammatory Mediators and Alterations to Barrier Function in Obesity and Weight Loss: Perspectives in Humans and Rodents"*



### Sydney Vita

Neuroscience

*"Blood-brain barrier alterations following traumatic brain injury"*



### Shaoxun Wang

Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology

*"An Oral Antihyperglycemic Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter 2 Inhibitor Reverses Cognitive Impairments in Aged Diabetic Animals"*

## Graduate Student Body



### Ongoing Volunteer Opportunity

The UMMC Ambulatory EversCare Clinic Food Pantry distributes food every third Wednesday of the month from 10am to 1pm and additionally as resources allow and they need volunteers. Please contact the EversCare office at 601-815-3535 or send an email to [EversCare@umc.edu](mailto:EversCare@umc.edu) or [dmitra@umc.edu](mailto:dmitra@umc.edu) for more information.

### Officer Spotlight: Ashley Griffin, Secretary/Treasurer

“ I am from Greenwood, MS. I did my undergrad at Delta State University. Hobbies: I enjoy anything with food so eating, cooking, and watching cooking shows. Interesting Facts: I used to compete in pageants, and I served as Miss Black Mississippi USA 2018. ”

# Office of POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES

*As part of the institutional commitment to excellence in education and research, the Office for Postdoctoral Studies strives to serve as the dedicated resource for postdoctoral fellows and applicants, faculty mentors and department administrators.*

## Call for new members to serve on the Advisory Committee:

The tasks of the Advisory Committee are:

1. To provide advice to the Director for Postdoctoral Studies and generate innovative ideas to enrich the postdoc training experience at UMMC.
2. To assist the Director in organizing seminars, research day, and workshops for career development of postdoctoral fellows at UMMC
3. To help coordinate and lead discussion sessions in the Seminar Series for Responsible Conduct of Research

Members will serve a 1-2 year term and are expected to commit an average of 2-4 hours per month on activities related to the Office for Postdoctoral Studies.

The committee has regular meetings (once every three months or more) with the Director for postdoctoral studies.

If you would like to serve on the Advisory Committee, please email Shanna Moulds ([smoulds@umc.edu](mailto:smoulds@umc.edu)) by November 6, 2020. All nominees will be reviewed and committee members will be selected by the School of Graduate Studies Deans.

## KUDOS



### Dr. Roselin Nittala

Postdoc Research Fellow, Radiation Oncology

#### Presentations:

- 13th American Association for Cancer Research Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/ Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved, October 2020
- American Society for Radiation Oncology Annual (ASTRO) Conference, October 2020 [highlighted in ASTRO daily news 2020 as top rated scientific research abstract].
- GWIMS Ignite Symposium 2020, "Covid-19 and Emotional Well-being"

#### Memberships:

- Accepted into NIH/NCI GMap Region 2 targeted training workshop of Cancer Health Disparities.

## FACULTY KUDOS



### Dr. Denise Cornelius

Emergency Medicine,  
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Invited as 37th Daniel T Rolfe Scholars  
Memorial Heritage Lecturer for Meharry Medical College School of Medicine and School of Graduate Studies and Research - October 2020



### Dr. Susana Salazar

Biomedical Materials Science

Selected as one of 10 trainees nationwide for the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) MIND The Future program (Mentoring an Inclusive Network for a Diverse Workforce of the Future) Click here to read more.

UMMC Office of Diversity and Inclusion

### WORD OF THE MONTH:

## Perception

*A result of perceiving: Observation  
A mental image: Concept*



### Dr. Jorge Vidal

Microbiology and Immunology

Career highlighted by the American Society for Microbiology: This month is the Hispanic heritage month in the US and they celebrated by writing about achievements and contributions of a few Hispanics Microbiologists. Click to read more.

# Mark your calendar for the 2020 SGSHS Holiday Open House

Students and trainees: If you are interested in volunteering at this appreciation luncheon, please email [smoulds@umc.edu](mailto:smoulds@umc.edu).

Tuesday, November 24

11:30-1:30 PM

PICK UP OUTSIDE THE  
UMMC STUDENT UNION



## recent PUBLICATIONS by SGSHS faculty and trainees

### *Author-supplied:*

- Rapp SR, Gaussoin SA, Sachs BC, Chelune G, Supiano MA, Lerner AJ, Wadley VG, Wilson VM, Fine LJ, Whittle JC, **Auchus AP**, Beddhu S, Berlowitz DR, Bress AP, Johnson KC, Krousel-Wood M, Martindale-Adams J, Miller EC, Rifkin DE, Snyder JK, Tamariz L, Wolfgram DF, Cleveland ML, Yang M, Nichols LO, Bryan RN, Reboussin DM, Williamson JD, Pajewski NM; **SPRINT Research Group**. Effects of intensive versus standard blood pressure control on domain-specific cognitive function: a substudy of the SPRINT randomised controlled trial. *Lancet Neurol*. 2020 Nov;19(11):899-907. doi: 10.1016/S1474-4422(20)30319-7. PMID: 33098800.
- **Redin A. Spann**, Bradley A. Welch, and Bernadette E. Grayson. Ghrelin signaling is dysregulated in male but not female offspring in a rat model of maternal vertical sleeve gastrectomy, *Journal of Neuroendocrinology*, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jne.12913>
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- **Phillips CL**, Welch BA, Garrett MR, Grayson BE. Regional heterogeneity in rat Peyer's Patches through whole transcriptome analysis. (Accepted 10/2020) *Experimental Biology and Medicine*
- Sydney M Vita 1, Bernadette E Grayson, Raymond J Grill, Acute damage to the blood-brain barrier and perineuronal net integrity in a clinically-relevant rat model of traumatic brain injury, *Neuroreport*. 2020 Nov 4;31(16):1167-1174. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32991524/>
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- Stray S., Gordy X., Sullivan D., Bender S., Cook C., McKone K, Stokes J, Rockhold R. (2020) Base Pair: 28 years of Sustained High School Biomedical Research Mentorship Driving Health Sciences Career Progression. *J STEM Outreach*. (2020) 3(3), October 20. <https://doi.org/10.15695/jstem/v3i3.05>.
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### **Select articles from PubMed (9/30/20 - 10/29/20). Use links to view on the NCBI website.**

- Ammous F, Zhao W, Ratliff SM, Kho M, Shang L, Jones AC, Chaudhary NS, Tiwari HK, Irvin MR, Arnett DK, Mosley TH, Bielak LF, Kardia SLR, Zhou X, Smith J. Epigenome-wide association study identifies DNA methylation sites associated with target organ damage in older African Americans. *Epigenetics*. 2020 Oct 26;1-14. doi: 10.1080/15592294.2020.1827717. Online ahead of print. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/33100131>
- Burns PA, Mena LA, Crosby RL. Foretelling the Future: Predicting STI Diagnosis and Its Implications for Ending the HIV Epidemic among Black Men Who Have Sex with Men. *J Urban Health*. 2020 Oct;97(5):642-652. doi: 10.1007/s11524-019-00413-w. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31898202>
- Carter KT, Palei AC, Spradley FT, Witcher BM, Martin L, Hester RL, Kutcher ME. A rat model of orthopedic injury-induced hypercoagulability and fibrinolytic shutdown. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg*. 2020 Nov;89(5):926-931. doi: 10.1097/TA.0000000000002924. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32890345>

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