



THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL  
*Commencement*

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SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2008

TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON  
FORT WORTH CONVENTION CENTER  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

TEXAS COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

*As a courtesy, please silence all electronic devices.*

# *Commencement*

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## S P E A K E R

KENNETH P. MORITSUGU, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P.M., is currently vice president for global strategic affairs for LifeScan, a Johnson & Johnson company. He is responsible for coordinating the company's strategic efforts in addressing the increasing diabetes pandemic. Dr. Moritsugu is the chairman of the Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Institute, a global initiative to provide awareness and training in



state-of-the-art science, information, and technology relative to diabetes prevention, awareness, diagnosis, and treatment. In addition to overseeing the Institute, he will also work to develop other innovative programs and strategies that will help Johnson & Johnson and the healthcare community better address the delivery of diabetes care around the world.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Moritsugu was the acting surgeon general of the United States from July 2006 to his retirement from the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service in September 2007. As acting surgeon general, he served as the nation's top doctor, communicating the best available science and information to the American people to help protect, promote and advance their health and safety. He was also the operational commander of the nearly 6,000 Commissioned Corps health personnel of the U.S. Public Health Service. He has also served as deputy surgeon general of the United States beginning in October 1998, and assistant surgeon general, beginning with Surgeon General C. Everett Koop in 1988.

Hailing from Honolulu, Hawaii, he has earned degrees from University of Hawaii, George Washington University School of Medicine and the University of California School of Public Health, Berkeley. He is board certified in preventative medicine; holds fellowships in the American College of Preventative Medicine, the Royal Society of Health, and the Royal Society of Medicine; and is a Certified Correctional Health Professional.

Dr. Moritsugu has been a career officer in the Commissioned Corps since 1968 and has served his country in numerous capacities and places from medical officer on a Coast Guard cutter to acting as the U.S. representative to the health care systems of Kuwait, Mexico, Nigeria, and more. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the Surgeon General's Medallion with two gold stars, the Distinguished Service Medal with two gold stars, the Outstanding Service and the Commendation Medals of the U.S. Public Health Service, and many others.

# *Commencement*

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## S E R V I C E

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL \*

NATIONAL ANTHEM \*

GREETINGS

Scott Ransom, D.O., M.B.A., M.P.H.  
President

GREETINGS FROM THE CHANCELLOR  
AND BOARD OF REGENTS

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GRADUATING CLASS

Andrew J. Frost  
Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Ransom

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE

ADDRESS

Dr. Moritsugu

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREES \*\*

Richard S. Kurz, Ph.D.  
Dean, School of Public Health

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE  
AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES \*\*

Jamboor Vishwanatha, Ph.D.  
Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

# *Commencement*

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## S E R V I C E

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES DEGREE \*\*

Marc B. Hahn, D.O.

Senior Vice President of Health Affairs  
Dean, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE DEGREE \*\*

Dr. Hahn

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DUAL DEGREES \*\*

Drs. Hahn and Vishwanatha

### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Ransom

### HOODING OF CANDIDATES

### PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Drs. Hahn, Vishwanatha and Kurz  
Betty Belton, Registrar

### PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT OATH

Henry Lemke, M.M.S., P.A.-C.

### OSTEOPATHIC OATH

Dr. Hahn

### VALEDICTION

Dr. Ransom

### RECESSIONAL \*

# Commencement

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## S E R V I C E

### GRAND MARSHAL

Hollis King, D.O., Ph.D.

Associate Executive Director of the Osteopathic Research Center

Associate Professor of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

Chair, Executive Council of the Faculty

### MARSHALS

Kathryn M. Cardarelli, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Assistant Professor

School of Public Health

Michael G. Clark, Ph.D., P.A.-C.

Associate Professor

Department of Internal Medicine/Division of Cardiology and

Department of Physician Assistant Studies

### USHERS

University of North Texas Health Science Center Students

### ANNOUNCER

Thomas Moorman, Ed.D.

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs

### BANNER BEARERS

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Class President, Andrew J. Frost

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Outstanding Graduate Student, Sherry Sours-Brothers

School of Public Health

Outstanding Doctoral Graduate, Nykiconia Preaceley

Physician Assistant Studies

Class President, Russell R. Smith

# *Commencement*

C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 8

## CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE

### ***John Adams***

Livingston, Texas

“Sexual Identity and Allostatic Load”

Major Professor: Kathryn Cardarelli, Ph.D., M.P.H.

### ***Vishnuwardhan Reddy Adavalli \****

Warangal, India

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Kathryn Cardarelli, Ph.D., M.P.H.

### ***Enisa Arslanagic, M.D.***

Eules, Texas

“Promotores de Salud of North Texas: Impact of Health Education Intervention on the Change of Blood Pressure and Body Mass Index in Adult Participants in Dreams Project 1”

Major Professor: Sue G. Lurie, Ph.D.

### ***Osarumwense Ayela-Uwangue***

Fort Worth, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Joon-Hak Lee, Ph.D.

### ***Abidemi Olubisi Ayeni +***

Grand Prairie, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Kathryn Cardarelli, Ph.D., M.P.H.

### ***Saritha Bangara***

Hurst, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Martha Felini, Ph.D., M.P.H., D.C.

### ***Kalyan Ram Bhamidimarri +***

New York, New York

“The Dose Dependent Effect of Alcohol Consumption on Cardiovascular Disease and its Risk Factors – A Systematic Review”

Major Professor: Sejong Bae, Ph.D.

### ***Ankur Bindal***

Haryana, India

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Sumihiro Suzuki, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

**Lynnetta Renee Bonsu**

Arlington, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Martha Felini, Ph.D., D.C., M.P.H.

**Ledjona Duka Buchanan +**

Wichita Falls, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Shande Chen, Ph.D.

**Brita Bohei Cheng \***

Honolulu, Hawaii

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Raghbir Sandhu, M.D., Dr.P.H.

**Paul Shirodeep Dasari**

Andhra Pradesh, India

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Martha Felini, Ph.D., D.C., M.P.H.

**Saurabh Hareshbhai Desai +**

Ahmedabad, India

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Raghbir Sandhu, M.D., Dr.P.H.

**Michael James Foster +**

Fort Worth, Texas

“Integrating Contemporary Surveillance Mechanisms in an Attempt  
to Improve Detection and Response to Ebola Hemorrhagic Fevers”

Major Professor: Sue Lurie, Ph.D.

**William J. Germann +**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Karan Singh, Ph.D.

**Amit D. Gode +**

Nagpur, India

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Kathryn Cardarelli, Ph.D., M.P.H.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

***Sajeda Haque\****

Arlington, Virginia

“Healthcare Insurance and Practices Among Hispanic Immigrants in Tarrant County, Texas”

Major Professor: Kristine Lykens, Ph.D.

***Kristen Anne Hahn***

Old Lyme, Connecticut

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Martha Felini, Ph.D., D.C., M.P.H.

***Ann Marie Harris***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Development and Analysis of a Baseline Retail Food Program Database of Foodborne Illness Risk Factors for the City of Fort Worth Public Health Department Consumer Health Division”

Major Professor: Joon-Hak Lee, Ph.D.

***Elizabeth Hill +***

Lubbock, Texas

“Establishment of a Baseline Count Loading in a Water-Damaged Hospital”

Major Professor: Terrance Gratton, Dr.P.H.

***Ashlee Daniele Inman \****

Fort Worth, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Karan Singh, Ph.D.

***Rachael S. Jackson***

Grapevine, Texas

“Religiosity and Sexually Transmitted Diseases: How Past and Present Religiosity Affect the Odds of Having a Sexually Transmitted Disease Among Young Adults”

Major Professor: Sue G. Lurie, Ph.D.

***Rajani Kanukolanu***

Hyderabad, India

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Lori Fischbach, Ph.D.

***Eunice Kimunai***

Grand Prairie, Texas

“Health and Social Issues, Health Promotion/Education Strategies in the Refugee Community:

A Review of Literature

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D., C.H.E.S.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

**Parag S. Kunte +**

Maharashtra, India

“Variations in Hospital Utilization for Cardiovascular Surgical Procedures in Texas”

Major Professor: Sejong Bae, Ph.D.

**Julius James Henry Edward Lovelace Larry III**

Savannah, Georgia

“Kawasaki Disease in Texas Children: A Need for Healthcare Provider  
Continuing Education and Public Health Policy Considerations”

Major Professor: Alberto Coustasse-Hencke, M.D., Dr.P.H.

**Deirdre S. Leon**

Carbondale, Illinois

Comprehensive Exam

Major Professor: Raghbir Sandhu, M.D., Dr.P.H.

**Lynn Dee Lewis**

Fort Worth, Texas

“West Nile Virus: Communication in Print and On-line Media  
Using Content Analysis of *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*”

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D., C.H.E.S.

**Isela Macias\***

Dallas, Texas

“An Exploratory Study of the Influence of Language and Ethnic Concordance on  
Hispanic Patients’ Trust in Their Healthcare Providers in Tarrant County”

Major Professor: Mary Luna Hollen, Ph.D., R.D., L.D.

**Nyebol Buok Madut +**

Liberia, Liberia

“Is it as Simple as ABC? Applying Uganda’s ABC Approach  
Amongst the Dinka Ethnic Group of Southern Sudan”

Major Professor: Peter Hilsenrath, Ph.D.

**Brianna Nicole McGee**

Aledo, Texas

“Health Disparity in the African American Community with Regard to  
Maternal Mortality and the Effect of Physical Activity on Preeclampsia”

Major Professor: Sue G. Lurie, Ph.D.

**Joe Robert Mireles**

Eagle Pass, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Martha Felini, Ph.D., M.P.H., D.C.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

***Pamela Michelle Motloch \****

Fort Worth, Texas  
Comprehensive Exam  
Advisor: Yu-Sheng Lin, Sc.D.

***Harrison T. Ndetan***

Dallas, Texas  
“Characterization of Health Status and Modifiable Risk Behavior Factors of United States Adults  
Using Chiropractic Care as Compared to General Medical Care”  
Major Professor: Sejong Bae, Ph.D.

***Corinne Neitzke Warren +***

Poughkeepsie, New York  
“End of Life Conversations in a Pediatric Hospital”  
Major Professor: Sue G. Lurie, Ph.D.

***Sally Newball \****

San Andres Island, Colombia  
Comprehensive Exam  
Advisor: Shande Chen, M.A., Ph.D.

***Jackline Gloria Opollo***

Nairobi, Kenya  
“Organizing Framework for a Master’s Program in Nursing in Uganda: A Literature Review”  
Major Professor: Nuha Lackan, Ph.D.

***Eboni D. Palmer +***

Fort Worth, Texas  
“Health Risk Associated with Microbial Contamination in Healthcare Facilities”  
Major Professor: Terrance Gratton, Dr.P.H.

***Nikhil Ashwin Parikh +***

Maharashtra, India  
Comprehensive Exam  
Advisor: Lori Fishchbach, Ph.D.

***Siddharth Parmar +***

Chandigarh, India  
“Healthcare Quality Variation: For-Profit vs. Not-for-Profit Hospitals”  
Major Professor: Nuha Lackan, Ph.D.

***Snehalkumar B. Patel***

Gujarat, India  
Comprehensive Exam  
Advisor: Kyung-Mee Choi, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

**Tamika L. Perry, D.O. \***

Wichita Falls, Texas

“An Examination of HIV Screening for African American  
and Hispanic Women In Southwest Dallas County”

Major Professor: Nuha Lackan, Ph.D.

**Amanda Kay Poynter**

Burleson, Texas

“The Relationship of *Acanthosis Nigricans* to Type 2 Diabetes in the Hispanic Population:  
A Literature Review”

Major Professor: Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, Dr.P.H., R.N.

**Mohammad H. Rahman**

Sugar Land, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Joon-Hak Lee, Ph.D.

**Lori Ann Rodriguez +**

North Richland Hills, Texas

“Environmental Tobacco Smoke Exposure in Children:  
Compliance with a Home Smoking Ban Among Texas Households”

Major Professor: Kathryn Cardarelli, Ph.D., M.P.H.

**Amy Ruiz**

Southlake, Texas

“Recommendations for a Smoking Cessation Intervention for Pregnant Women:  
Key Components and Results of a Cost Effective Analysis”

Major Professor: Fernando Wilson, Ph.D.

**Jorge Sanchez \***

Fort Worth, Texas

“HIV/AIDS Among Migrant Workers: A Federal Response”

Major Professor: Fernando Wilson, Ph.D.

**Chirag Sanghvi +**

Madhya Pradesh, India

“Review of Blunt Pancreatic Trauma and its Outcome”

Major Professor: Shande Chen, M.A., Ph.D.

**Christine G. Smith**

Waco, Texas

“Social and Cultural Factors in the Use of International AIDS Education Programs in India:  
Comparative Literature Review”

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D., C.H.E.S.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

**Stephanie Snodgrass +**

San Antonio, Texas

“A Review of Grade School-Based Eating Disorder Prevention Programs”

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D., C.H.E.S.

**Deandra L. Stewart**

Watauga, Texas

“An Evaluation of Quality in Prenatal Care Among African American Women”

Major Professor: Nuha Lackan, Ph.D.

**Audra Wells +**

Bowie, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Raghbir Sandhu, M.D., Dr.P.H.

**Maurice A. Williams +**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Raghbir Sandhu, M.D., Dr.P.H.

**Kelly Renee Ylitalo**

Arlington, Texas

“Urbanicity and Mammography Utilization: How Living in an Urban or Rural Area Affects Mammography Screening Utilization Among Women in the United States”

Major Professor: Kathryn Cardarelli, Ph.D., M.P.H.

**Brandon Zinn, D.O. \***

Plano, Texas

“Disaster Preparedness of Major Texas Cities”

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D., C.H.E.S.

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2008

## CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE

### **Monica Campos-Bowers**

McAllen, Texas

“The Mechanism of Agriculture and Health-Exploration of Links  
Between Agriculture Practice and Human Nutrition in Rural China”

Major Professor: Nuha Lackan, Ph.D.

### **Dorothy Fanshi Budzi \***

Binka, Cameroon

“Are Patients Satisfied with Care in the Veterans Health Administration System?”

Major Professor: Sue G. Lurie, Ph.D.

### **Lauralee Harris \***

North Richland Hills, Texas

“The Relationship Between Adolescent Suicide and Income Inequality”

Major Professor: Sue G. Lurie, Ph.D.

### **Elham Rastegar Kourosch**

Southlake, Texas

“Evaluating the Sustainability of the North Texas Sulud Para Su Corazón Program:  
Effects of the Program on Promotores and the Partner Organizations”

Major Professor: Sue G. Lurie, Ph.D.

### **Tuan Dinh Le, M.D.**

Arlington, Texas

“Effects of Cardiorespiratory Fitness on Serum Ferritin Concentration and Type 2 Diabetes:  
Evidence from the Aerobics Center Longitudinal Study (ACLS)”

Major Professor: Sejong Bae, Ph.D.

### **Jotam Garaimunashe Pasipanodya, M.D.**

Harare, Zimbabwe

“Disability Adjusted Life Years Lost Due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Tarrant County, 2005-2006:  
An Analysis of the Role of Post Tuberculosis Impairment”

Major Professor: Peter Hilsenrath, Ph.D.

### **Nykiconia Preacely**

Jackson, Mississippi

“Lung Cancer Risk Among Workers in Poultry Slaughtering and Processing Plants: A Pilot Study”

Major Professor: Eric Johnson, Ph.D., M.D., M.P.H., D.T.P.H.

### **Catherine Borski Spranger**

Columbus, Texas

“Examining the Theoretical Constructs of Motivational Interviewing:  
Applying Self-Determination Theory to Physical Activity Among Heart Failure Patients”

Major Professor: Shawn Jeffries, Ph.D.

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2008

## CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

**James M. Abbey**  
Garland, Texas

**Heather G. Aguirre**  
Laredo, Texas

**Sonja Babic**  
Dallas, Texas

**Amir Homayoun Barzin**  
Arlington, Texas

**Meredith Bennett**  
Kingwood, Texas

**Wesley Calvin**  
Conroe, Texas

**Philip S. Choi**  
San Jose, California

**Joby Chaluparambil**  
Texas City, Texas

**Kuang-Wei Eric Chang**  
Round Rock, Texas

**Christian Alexander Dean**  
Dallas, Texas

**Ashley M. De la Rosa**  
Hallettsville, Texas

**Henry Matthew Dollahite**  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Jacob Falcon**  
Bruni, Texas

**Roel Omar Flores Jr.**  
Harlingen, Texas

**Daniel Anthony Gehlbach**  
Plano, Texas

**Julian Gonzalez-Fraga**  
Baytown, Texas

**Shawn Gerard Hughes**  
Flower Mound, Texas

**Obiora Kizito Idigo**  
Lagos, Nigeria

**Sanjay Jain**  
Houston, Texas

**Jairon Michael Johnson**  
Abilene, Texas

**Nathan Scott Johnston**  
San Antonio, Texas

**Yasmin H. Maqsood**  
Frisco, Texas

**David Joseph Martinez**  
Weslaco, Texas

**Benjamin Joseph May**  
Celina, Texas

**Chance Michael McInnis**  
Tyler, Texas

**Ashley Mekala**  
Dallas, Texas

**Lawrence Mendiola**  
Wheeler, Texas

**Morela Analy Montoya**  
Round Rock, Texas

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 8

***Ann Marguerite Nadon***  
Georgetown, Texas

***Samantha Ozofu Otokunrin***  
Grand Prairie, Texas

***Soraira G. Pacheco***  
Houston, Texas

***Robert Chase Phariss***  
Colorado City, Texas

***Danielle Ruff***  
Temple, Texas

***Amanda Simmons***  
Portland, Texas

***Courtney Calongne Sloan***  
New Orleans, Louisiana

***Andrew Joseph Sullivan***  
Montgomery, Texas

***Achala Kirit Talati***  
Sunnyvale, Texas

***Ruchi Rajesh Turakhia***  
Lake Jackson, Texas

***Uchechi Stella Uzoegwu***  
Houston, Texas

***Joseph James Vengalil***  
Sugar Land, Texas

***Amethyst Kathleen Weese***  
Granbury, Texas

***Wade Aaron Zimmerman***  
Lebanon, Maine

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

**Brett Thomas Adkins**

Katy, Texas

“Involvement of Caspase-2 in Cisplatin-Induced Cell Death”

Major Professor: Alakananda Basu, Ph.D.

**Jessica Alexander**

Bastrop, Texas

“Using a Database to Facilitate the Accrual of Geriatric Subjects with Dementia for Clinical Research Studies”

Major Professor: Patricia Gwartz, Ph.D.

**Tarig A. Alkhazin \***

Richmond, Virginia

“Validation of the Maxwell® 16 DNA Purification System”

Major Professor: Arthur J. Eisenberg, Ph.D.

**Angela Ambers +**

Dallas, Texas

“A DNA-Based Multiplex Screening Tool for Separation of Fragmented & Commingled Skeletal Remains”

Major Professor: Joseph Warren, Ph.D.

**Kiran Kumar Bangalore**

Fort Worth, Texas

“Gaining New Insights on Improving the Current System of Institutional Review Boards Research Site Interaction: A Novel Approach”

Major Professor: Harold Sheedlo, Ph.D.

**Tyler Bloomer +**

Plano, Texas

“Evaluation of the Systematic Clinical Trials Protocol Approval Process at a Matrix Cancer Center”

Major Professor: Patricia Gwartz, Ph.D.

**Allison Brown**

Dallas, Texas

“Following Up with CODIS Hits”

Major Professor: Joseph Warren, Ph.D.

**Julieanna Angel Camarena**

Arlington, Texas

“Review of the Current Treatment Options for Prostate Cancer, Evolution of Radiosurgery, and Initiation of a CyberKnife Prostate Cancer Trial”

Major Professor: Michael Oglesby, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

**Jessica Danielle Chandler**

Farwell, Texas

“Clinical Research Patient Recruitment and Retention”

Major Professor: Michael Smith, Ph.D.

**Sarah Kathleen Cole**

Carrollton, Texas

“An Initial Comparison of Applied Biosystems Quantifiler Duo  
and Promega Plexor HY DNA Quantitation Systems”

Major Professor: Arthur J. Eisenberg, Ph.D.

**Mayurika Dutta**

Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

“Detection of Androgen Receptors by Flow Cytometry”

Major Professor: Meharvan Singh, Ph.D.

**Wendy L. Eubank \***

Garden Ridge, Texas

“Influence of the Carotid Baroreflex on Cerebral Blood Flow During Supine and Seated Upright Rest”

Major Professor: Peter B. Raven, Ph.D.

**Lauren Elizabeth Fuqua \***

Bells, Texas

“Evaluation and Validation of Tecan GENios Microplate Reader for  
Quantification and Normalization of Family Reference DNA Samples”

Major Professor: Joseph Warren, Ph.D.

**Srinivas Gottipati**

Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

“Mitochondrial Superoxide Dismutase Activation with 17- $\beta$  Estradiol-Treated Human Lens Epithelial Cells”

Major Professor: Patrick Cammarata, Ph.D.

**Ming Jiang**

Liaoyang, Liaoning, China

“Role of Glucocorticoid Receptor  $\beta$  in Glucocorticoid-Induced Ocular Hypertension”

Major Professor: Thomas Yorio, Ph.D.

**Pil Jo Kim**

Taegu, Taegu, South Korea

17 $\beta$  Estradiol Suppresses Hydrogen Peroxide-Induced Nuclear Factor  $\kappa$ B (NF $\kappa$ B)  
Activation in a Neuronal Cell Line, HT22 Cells”

Major Professor: James Simpkins, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

***Damien Kinzler*** \*

“Sustained Inhibitory Rib-raising and Microneurographic Measurement  
of Sympathetic Nerve Activity Under Cold-pressor Stress”

Major Professor: John V. Planz, Ph.D.

***Melissa Angela Kreikemeier*** \*

Bellwood, Nebraska

“Human Hair Shaft Volume and Mitochondrial DNA Recovery”

Major Professor: John V. Planz, Ph.D.

***Rakesh Kumar***

Saharsa, Bihar, India

“Pharmacological Evaluation of the D2 and D3 Dopamine Receptor Selective Compounds  
on L-Dopa Dependent Animal Involuntary Movements in Rats”

Major Professor: Robert Luedtke, Ph.D.

***Sandra Longoria***

San Benito, Texas

“Effects of Oxidative Stress on IP3 Receptor Function in the Neuronal Cell Line HT22”

Major Professor: Peter Koulen, Ph.D.

***Jennifer Jeanne Miller*** \*

Richmond, Texas

“Determining Absolute Zero of qPCR”

Major Professor: John V. Planz, Ph.D.

***Itzel Nayheli Pena***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Getting Lost in Translation: The Dangers in Literal Translation”

Major Professor: Neeraj Agarwal, Ph.D.

***Amol B. Rajmane*** +

Ausa, Maharashtra, India

“Refining a CRO’s Standard Operating Procedures Through  
the Review and Analysis of FDA Warning Letters and Industry Practice”

Major Professor: Michael Martin, Ph.D.

***Krithi Rao*** \*

“The Functional Role of Human 2B4 Isoforms h2B4-A and h2B4-B in Natural Killer Cells”

Major Professor: Porunelloor Mathew, Ph.D.

***Manuel Rodriguez*** \*

“Evaluation of the Least Sum of Squares Method”

Major Professor: John V. Planz, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 8

***Cherice Paulette Roth***

Cleveland, Ohio

“STAT6 and Its Relationship with Prostate Specific Antigen and Annexin A2”

Major Professor: Jamboor Vishwanatha, Ph.D.

***Diana Renee Schulz***

Fort Worth, Texas

“The Effects of Intermittent Hypoxia on Ethanol Intoxication and Withdrawal”

Major Professor: Robert Mallet, Ph.D.

***Marcia Spear***

Azle, Texas

“The Impact of the *Mycoplasma pulmonis* MALP-2 Homologue on Disease Progression”

Major Professor: Jerry Simecka, Ph.D.

***Jessica A. Stambaugh \****

Kansas City, Missouri

“Evaluation of the Usefulness of DNA Repair Enzyme Systems  
in the STR Analysis of Artificially Degraded DNA”

Major Professor: Arthur J. Eisenberg, Ph.D.

# *Commencement*

C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

## CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

### ***Nowland Delmar Bambarð III***

Anchorage, Alaska

“Signaling in Natural Killer Cells: NK Cell Activation by LLT1 Receptor”

Major Professor: Porunelloor Mathew, Ph.D.

### ***T. J. Bartosh***

Duncanville, Texas

“Molecular Regulation of Cardiac Stem Cell Growth and Differentiation by  
Extrinsic Factors and Novel Intracellular Signaling Pathways”

Major Professor: Rouel Roque, M.D.

### ***Shekhar H. Deo +***

Maharashtra, India

“Delta Opioid Receptor: Parasympathetic Location and Changing Phenotypes in Canine Heart”

Major Professor: James Caffrey, Ph.D.

### ***Rohini Dhar***

India

“Involvement of p70S6K in Cisplatin-Mediated Cell Death”

Major Professor: Alakananda Basu Ph.D.

### ***James Martin Flynn***

Millwood, New York

“Estrogen Signaling Mediated Protection Against Loss of  
Mitochondrial Membrane Potential in Lens Epithelial Cells”

Major Professor: Patrick Cammarata, Ph.D.

### ***John Anthony Fuller***

Anderson, Indiana

“Extracellular PACE4 is Increased Following Transient Oxygen  
Glucose Deprivation in Optic Nerve Astrocytes”

Major Professor: Robert Wordinger, Ph.D.

### ***Suzanne D. Gonzalez***

El Paso, Texas

“Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms and Haplotype Analyses of Complex Medical Disorders”

Major Professor: Arthur Eisenberg, Ph.D.

### ***Sebum Lee +***

Seoul, South Korea

“Basal JNK Activity Controls PS1 Expression and Y-Secretase Activity  
Through a p53-Dependent Mechanism”

Major Professor: Hriday Das, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

**Wees Jamar Love**

Double Oak, Texas

“Toll-like Receptor 2 Mediates the Host’s Responses in Murine Respiratory Mycoplasmosis”

Major Professor: Jerry Simecka, Ph.D.

**Everett Sheldon Nixon**

Arima, Trinidad

“Function of Differentially Expressed Intracellular Calcium Channels in Retinal Neurons”

Major Professor: Peter Koulen, Ph.D.

**Ritu Pabla**

Chandigarh, India

“Tolerating DNA Damage: Translesion Polymerase ETA and its Regulation”

Major Professor: Wolfram Siede, Ph.D.

**Yamini Patel**

Mansfield, Texas

“5-HT<sub>1A</sub> Receptors are Present in the Retina and are Involved in the Neuroprotection of the Outer Retina by 5-HT<sub>1a</sub> Agonists Through the Activation of MAPK Pathway Leading to Induction of BCL2 and BCL-XL”

Major Professor: Neeraj Agarwal, Ph.D.

**Vidhya Ramachandi Rao +**

Maharashtra, India

“Endothelin-1 Mediated Regulation of Extra-Cellular Matrix Collagens – A Role in Pathology of Primary Open Angle Glaucoma”

Major Professor: Thomas Yorio, Ph.D.

**Jwalitha Shankardas**

Neyveli, Tamil Nadu, India

“The Role of 14-3-3 $\sigma$  in Corneal Epithelial Differentiation”

Major Professor: Dan Dimitrijevič, Ph.D.

**Ritu Anand Shetty +**

Maharashtra, India

“Vitamin E, Coenzyme Q10 and Brain Aging”

Major Professor: Michael Forster, Ph.D.

**Sherry Sours-Brothers**

Fort Worth, Texas

“Store-Operated Calcium Entry in Glomerular Mesangial Cells”

Major Professor: Rong Ma, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

***Kissaou T. Tchedre***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Sigma-1 Receptor Signaling in the Eye”

Major Professor: Thomas Yorio, Ph.D.

***Tushar Purusjptarr Thakre \****

Mission, Kansas

“Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms of the ATP1 A2 Gene and Their Effects on Cardiovascular Variables in African Americans and Caucasians”

Major Professor: Michael Smith, Ph.D.

***Nopporn Thangthaeng +***

Bangkok, Thailand

“Role of Advanced Glycation End-Products (AGEs) on Brain Aging”

Major Professor: Michael Forster, Ph.D.

***Rusha Thomas***

Bangalore, Karnataka, India

“HIF: A Key Survival Factor for Serum-Deprived Prostate Cancer Cells”

Major Professor: Myoung H. Kim, Ph.D.

***Zhaohui Wang +***

Cangzhou, Hebei, P.R. China

“Molecular Mechanisms and Potential Therapies of Oxidative Damage to the Retinal Pigment Epithelium”

Major Professor: Rouel Roque, M.D.

***Kun Don Yi \****

“Protein Phosphates Involvement in Estrogen-mediated Neuroprotection”

Major Professor: James Simpkins, Ph.D.

***Gulab S. Zode***

Nawegaon Bandh, Maharashtra, India

“Bone Morphogenetic Protein 4 Inhibits TGF- $\beta$ 2 Stimulation of Extracellular Matrix Proteins in Optic Nerve Head Cells: Role of Gremlin in ECM Modulation”

Major Professor: Robert Wordinger, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 8

## CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES DEGREE

### **Marisol Serrano Anderson**

Grand Prairie, Texas

“Parental Awareness and Understanding of Over the Counter Products Containing Acetaminophen (Tylenol) in Children Under the Age of 5”

Advisor: Chris Cooper, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

### **Jacqueline Lynn Beeler**

Denton, Texas

“Physician Assistants’ Attitudes Regarding the Ethics of Embryonic Stem Cell Research”

Advisor: Chris Cooper, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

### **Jeanette Lyn Bettes**

Austin, Texas

“The Use of Cinnamon in the Treatment of Type II Diabetes Mellitus”

Advisor: Parva Firozbakht, M.S., PA-C

### **Shannon C. Bolinger**

McKinney, Texas

“Should the Presence of *Acanthosis Nigricans* be the Sole Predictor of Insulin Resistance in the Adolescent Population”

Advisor: Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

### **Julie Anne Charters**

Colleyville, Texas

“The Attitude of Medical Examiners Toward the Employment of Physician Assistants”

Advisor: Linda Reed, Ed.D., P.A.

### **Nancy Ann Coppernoll**

Fayetteville, Arkansas

“Identification and Intervention of At-Risk for Overweight or Overweight Children in a Primary Care Clinic by Clinicians”

Advisor: Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

### **Shannon Michelle Danner**

Nederland, Texas

“The Attitude of Medical Examiners Toward the Employment of Physician Assistants”

Advisor: Linda Reed, Ed.D., P.A.

### **Katherine Hare Elliott**

Bogata, Texas

“Antifungal Agents Used for Histoplasmosis Prophylaxis in Immunocompromised Patients: A Systematic Review”

Advisor: Henry Lemke, M.M.S., P.A.-C.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

***Jill Michelle Estep***

Katy, Texas

“What Factors Influence the Intent to Obtain Triple or Quad Screen Testing for Down Syndrome in Non-Pregnant Women Ages 18-45?”

Advisor: Linda Reed, Ed.D., P.A.

***Deanna Garcia***

El Paso, Texas

“Identification and Intervention of At-Risk for Overweight or Overweight Children in a Primary Care Clinic by Clinicians”

Advisor: Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Asma Shameem Ghani***

Austin, Texas

“A Systematic Review of a Vegetarian Diet in Meeting Nutritional Requirements During Pregnancy and Associated Health Complications Found Both in the Mother and the Newborn”

Advisor: Linda Reed, Ed.D., P.A.

***Lori Ann Gomez***

Brownsville, Texas

“Evaluating Smoking Cessation Interventions in Pregnant Women”

Advisor: Linda Reed, Ed.D., P.A.

***Elisha Leigh Hatfield***

Henrietta, Texas

“A New Silent Epidemic: Are Primary Care Clinicians Doing Enough to Detect the Early Onset of Chronic Kidney Disease in High Risk Patients?”

Advisor: Michael Clark, Ph.D., P.A.-C.

***Brent W. Hawkins***

Victoria, Texas

“What is the Prevalence of Type 2 Diabetes Risk Factors in a Clinical Sample of Somoto, Nicaragua?”

Advisor: Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Stephanie Marie Hess***

Muenster, Texas

“Teaching Physician Assistant Students About Motivational Interviewing and its use in the Management of Smoking Habits and Physical Inactivity”

Advisor: Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Kathleen Margaret Hogan***

Arlington, Texas

“International Progress of the American Physician Assistant Model of Education and Medical Practice”

Advisor: Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

***Lisa Taylor Kelly***

Dallas, Texas

“Parental Awareness and Understanding of Over the Counter Products  
Containing Acetaminophen (Tylenol) in Children Under the Age of 5”

Advisor: Chris Cooper, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Kimberly Ann Krcha***

Corpus Christi, Texas

“Effectiveness of Pro-Active, Non-Drug Therapies for Chronic Low Back Pain”

Advisor: Chris Cooper, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Elizabeth Marie Leeker***

Terrell, Texas

“International Progress of the American Physician Assistant Model of Education and Medical Practice”

Advisor: Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Sapril T. Nguyen***

Arlington, Texas

“What is the Prevalence of Type 2 Diabetes Risk Factors in a Clinical Sample of Somoto, Nicaragua?”

Advisor: Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Jennifer Lynn Pomales***

Dallas, Texas

“Lumbar Spinal Stenosis: Conservative Versus Operative Therapy”

Advisor: Jim Roch, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Laura Renee Sapaugh***

Spring, Texas

“Teaching Physician Assistant Students About Motivational Interviewing  
and its use in the Management of Smoking Habits and Physical Inactivity”

Advisor: Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Leslie Brooke Sarrett***

Carrollton, Texas

“Determining the At-Home Recovery Rate of Patients Who Undergo the Outpatient Lap-Band Procedure”

Advisor: Linda Reed, Ed.D., P.A.

***Russell Ray Smith***

Brownwood, Texas

“Educating Parents of Asthmatics on the Effective Use of Asthma Management Tools”

Advisor: Michael Clark, Ph.D., P.A.-C.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

***Lukman Olufemi Telufusi***

Houston, Texas

“Educating Parents of Asthmatics on the Effective Use of Asthma Management Tools”

Advisor: Michael Clark, Ph.D., P.A.-C.

***Deemonna Lynn Torres***

Austin, Texas

“Texas Physician Assistants’ Practices Regarding Spiritual History”

Advisor: Chris Cooper, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Rachel Murff Vasek***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Physician Assistants’ Knowledge of Mexican American Behaviors of Familism, Simpatia and Machismo”

Advisor: Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Agatha Rae Watson***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Should the Presence of *Acanthosis Nigricans* be the Sole Predictor of Insulin Resistance in the Adolescent Population”

Advisor: Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

***Meredith Lynee Yount***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Texas Physician Assistants’ Practices Regarding Spiritual History”

Advisor: Chris Cooper, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.

WITH HONORS

***Katherine Hare Elliott***

***Jill M. Estep***

***Stephanie M. Hess***

***Kimberly A. Krcha***

***Jennifer L. Pomales***

***Agatha Rae Watson***

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2008

## CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

***Asha Abraham***

Internal Medicine  
Plaza Medical Center  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Daniel H. Ahn***

Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, Texas

***Aaron R. Aldape***

Family Medicine  
Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital  
Corpus Christi, Texas

***Kathleen Scott Alfuth***

Internal Medicine  
Methodist Hospital  
Houston, Texas

***Melissa Kay Allen***

Psychiatry  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas

***Heather A. Andersen***

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Austin, Texas

***Alex Nelson Autry***

Family Medicine  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Heather Lynn Autry***

Family Medicine  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Eva Elizabeth Ayala***

Family Medicine  
Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital  
Corpus Christi, Texas

***Nicole Schrock Bartosh***

Internal Medicine  
Texas A&M – Scott and White  
Temple, Texas

***Erin Weust Beltramini***

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, Texas

***Travis Gaujot Bias***

Family Medicine  
Memorial Hermann Hospital  
Houston, Texas

***Kalan Nicole Bobbitt***

Family Medicine  
Austin Medical Education Programs  
Austin, Texas

***Patrick L. Boothe***

Family Medicine  
Methodist Charlton  
Dallas, Texas

***Beau Thomas Branyon***

Urology  
Michigan State University  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
East Lansing, Michigan

***Molly Ann Brooks***

Family Medicine  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2008

**Summer D. Bryant**

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
San Antonio, Texas

**Kristy Ruthann Bybee**

Pediatrics  
Texas A&M – Scott and White  
Temple, Texas

**Kalyan Chakrala**

Internal Medicine  
Plaza Medical Center  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Christian Rogers Chambers**

Surgery  
Genesys Health Systems  
Grand Blanc, Michigan

**Aaron Chen**

Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
San Antonio, Texas

**Monika Chmielewska**

ENT and Facial Plastic Surgery  
Botsford General Hospital  
Farmington Hills, Michigan

**Kathleen Anna Chomka**

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Austin, Texas

**Michelle Lauren Coates**

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
St. Johns Episcopal Far Rockaway  
Far Rockaway, New York

**Emily Louella Colyer**

Emergency Medicine  
New England College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Kent Hospital  
Warwick, Rhode Island

**Benjamin Robert Crawford**

Family Medicine  
Hillcrest Medical Center  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

**Maria M. Crompton**

Family Medicine  
McLennan County Family Practice  
Waco, Texas

**Jordan Paul Downing**

Family Medicine  
Baton Rouge General Medical Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Kimberly D. Duffy**

Family Medicine  
Methodist Charlton  
Dallas, Texas

**Scott Sherlock Emerson**

Psychiatry  
University of Utah Affiliate Hospitals  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**Jennifer Lynn Evans**

Pediatrics  
Driscoll Children's Hospital  
Corpus Christi, Texas

**Angela Gremillion Ferguson**

Internal Medicine  
New York Medical College  
St. Vincent's Hospital  
New York, New York

**Richard Christian Fries**

Pathology  
Virginia Commonwealth University Health  
Richmond, Virginia

**Andrew Jeb Frost**

Family Medicine  
UAMS-AHEC  
Texarkana, Arkansas

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2008

***Nelly Ivonne Garcia***

Family Medicine  
Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital  
Corpus Christi, Texas

***Cameron Herschel Gates, Jr.***

Radiology  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
San Antonio, Texas

***Yesenia Gutierrez***

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
San Antonio, Texas

***Tara Ashley Hagopian***

Radiology  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, Texas

***Amber Renee deJongh Hairfield***

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, Texas

***Cameron Michelle Halsell***

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Matthew Lee Harrison***

Emergency Medicine  
University of Arkansas  
Little Rock, Arkansas

***Benjamin J Harvey***

Surgery  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas

***April Dawn Hendryx***

Pathology  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, South Carolina

***John Michael Higginbotham***

Family Medicine  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

***William David Hinojosa***

Surgery  
Wright Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio

***Jessica Rae Pryor***

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Good Samaritan  
Cincinnati, Ohio

***Tracy Tran Hoang***

Family Medicine  
Memorial Hermann Hospital  
Houston, Texas

***Scott Jenner Howard***

Internship  
Plaza Medical Center  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Russell Brent Jackson***

Orthopedic Surgery  
Oklahoma State University  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
St. Anthony Hospital  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

***Joseph Dillon Jenkins***

Family Medicine  
Darnall Army Community Hospital  
Fort Hood, Texas

***Lori Ann Jenkins***

Radiology  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas

***Gary Lynn Jones***

Pediatrics  
Texas A&M – Scott and White  
Temple, Texas

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2008

**Ashley Aarti Joshi**

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
San Antonio, Texas

**Jacob Brian Kaiser**

Pediatrics  
Texas Tech University Affiliates  
Lubbock, Texas

**Monica Ghosh Kalra**

Family Medicine  
Methodist Charlton  
Dallas, Texas

**Faustino M. Kazenske**

Orthopedic Surgery  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Ian S. Kirkpatrick**

Family Medicine  
Bay Area  
Corpus Christi, Texas

**Aleena Kurien**

Family Medicine  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

**Kimberly Claire Martin**

Pediatrics  
University of Arkansas  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Amanda Christine Martinez**

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Austin, Texas

**Joseph R Mawyer**

Family Medicine  
Phoenix Baptist Hospital  
Phoenix, Arizona

**John Robert McClanahan**

Family Medicine  
McLennan County Family Medicine  
Waco, Texas

**Jay Neal McCombs**

Emergency Medicine  
Texas Tech University Affiliates  
El Paso, Texas

**Melissa Jean McFadden**

Family Medicine  
McLennan County Family Medicine  
Waco, Texas

**Manisha Shivang Mehta**

Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas

**HelenMari Louise Merritt**

Surgery  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
San Antonio, Texas

**Jose Antonio Meza**

Obstetrics / Gynecology  
Texas Tech University Health Science Center  
Odessa, Texas

**Amanda Leigh Miller**

Family Medicine  
Eglin Air Force Base  
Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

**Tiffany Lee Montegut**

Obstetrics / Gynecology  
Methodist Hospital  
Houston, Texas

**Vicki Phillips Moore**

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2008

**Krystal Jean Morrell**

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

**Heather Danielle Morris**

Pathology  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

**Kiran Dev Nair**

Internal Medicine  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, Texas

**George Bao Nguyen**

Internal Medicine  
Texas A&M – Scott and White  
Temple, Texas

**Ewa M. Oberdorfer**

Pediatrics  
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics  
Iowa City, Iowa

**Jenna Lynn O'Brien**

Pediatrics  
Hershey Medical Center / Penn State  
Hershey, Pennsylvania

**Ryan Patrick O'Neill**

Internship  
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine  
St. Luke's Hospital  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

**Patricia Diane O'Toole**

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
New York College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Good Samaritan Hospital  
West Islip, New York

**Michelle Denise Olson**

Internal Medicine  
Naval Medical Center – San Diego  
San Diego, California

**Meera Patel**

Obstetrics / Gynecology  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Rishi Arvind Patel**

Pathology  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, Texas

**Ronak Jayant Patel**

Surgery – Preliminary  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas

**Samir Pravinchandra Patel**

Anesthesiology  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
San Antonio, Texas

**Predrag Pavlovic**

Family Medicine  
Plaza Medical Center  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Carey Speece Penniston**

Family Medicine  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

**Prashant Kuchukulla Reddy**

Family Medicine  
Conroe Regional Medical Center  
Conroe, Texas

**Guadalupe Reyna**

Family Medicine  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

**Justin Douglas Rice**

Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, Texas

# Commencement

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CLASS OF 2008

**Levi Andrew Rice Jr.**

Internal Medicine  
Plaza Medical Center  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Joel Douglas Richards**

Family Medicine  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
Tyler, Texas

**Aaron Michael Roberts**

Surgery  
University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey  
School of Osteopathic Medicine  
Kennedy Memorial  
Stratford, New Jersey

**Celine Gabriele Robinson**

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, Texas

**Courtney Elizabeth Rose**

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas

**Jeri King Rose**

Emergency Medicine  
Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital  
Corpus Christi, Texas

**Margaret Michelle Seater**

Medicine  
Cambridge Health Alliance  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Douglas W. Segars**

Psychiatry  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Hassan Shahidi**

Emergency Medicine  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

**Megan Anne Smith**

Internal Medicine  
Methodist Hospital  
Dallas, Texas

**Scott Gordon Smith**

Radiology  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
San Antonio, Texas

**Kelley Marie Struble**

Internal Medicine  
University of Oklahoma Health Science Center  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Emily Catherine Thomason**

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

**Stephen Welch Thomason**

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Baylor University Medical Center  
Dallas, Texas

**Amanda Suzanne Tinsley**

Emergency Medicine  
Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital  
Corpus Christi, Texas

**Hang Thu Tran**

Emergency Medicine  
St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center  
Toledo, Ohio

**Shamita Trivedi**

Pediatrics  
Loyola University Medical Center  
Chicago, Illinois

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2008

**Brian Wesley Tulbert**

Emergency Medicine  
University of Arkansas  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Joseph Onuoha Ugorji**

Radiology  
Henry Ford Macomb-Warren  
Warren, Michigan

**Amol Anant Utturkar**

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
University of California Irvine Medical Center  
Irvine, California

**Raghu Unnikrishnan Varier**

Pediatrics  
Children's Mercy Hospital  
Kansas City, Missouri

**Alexander Pinh Vilaythong**

Family Medicine  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

**William Coleman Weatherby**

Psychiatry  
Austin Medical Education Programs  
Austin, Texas

**Sixian Cheng Welch**

Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, Texas

**Lisa Rosprim White**

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

**Macy Whitley**

Internal Medicine  
University of Missouri – Kansas City Programs  
Kansas City, Missouri

**Andrea Lyn Wiens**

Pathology  
Ball Memorial Hospital  
Muncie, Indiana

**Diedra DeAnne Wuenschel**

Family Medicine  
Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital  
Corpus Christi, Texas

**Dianna Evelyn Yip**

Pediatrics  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, Texas

**Adam Warren Ylitalo**

Urology  
Michigan State University  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
East Lansing, Michigan

**Jocelyn Vun Zee**

Family Medicine  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

## WITH HONORS

**Faustino M. Kazenske**

**Amanda L. Miller**

**Heather Danielle Morris**

**Ronak Patel**

# *Commencement*

---

C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 8

## CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE/ MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

### ***Shawn Michael Ellis***

Bedford, Texas

Anesthesiology

University of Oklahoma College of Medicine  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

### ***Ashley Janae Green***

Grand Prairie, Texas

Internal Medicine

Presbyterian Hospital  
Dallas, Texas

### ***Alyn Dale Hatter***

Fort Worth, Texas

Internship

University Hospital Richmond Medical Center  
Richmond Heights, Ohio

### ***Faustino M. Kazenske***

Fort Worth, Texas

Orthopedic Surgery

John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

### ***Millard Lucien Tierce IV***

Fort Worth, Texas

Pediatrics

University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, TX

# Commencement

---

C L A S S O F 2 0 0 8

***Nashila AbdulRahim***

Irving, Texas

“Interleukin-6 and Its Relationship to Coronary Artery Calcium Burden –  
North Texas Healthy Heart Study”

Major Professor: Roberto Cardarelli, D.O., M.P.H.

Internal Medicine

University of Texas Medical School

Dallas, Texas

***Elizabeth Leigh Bah***

Haslett, Texas

“Prior Osteopathic Palpatory Training and the Effectiveness of Clinical Breast Exams”

Major Professor: John Licciardone, D.O.

Family Medicine

University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

Dallas, Texas

***Laura Denise Curlee***

Richmond, Texas

“The Use of Osteopathic Palpatory Findings in Screening for Nephropathy  
in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: A Pilot Study”

Major Professor: John Licciardone, D.O.

Family Medicine

John Peter Smith Hospital

Fort Worth, Texas

***Joseph R. Oberdorfer***

Omaha, Nebraska

“The Avian Influenza Pandemic and Physician Perception of Preparedness”

Major Professor: Roberto Cardarelli, D.O., M.P.H.

Pediatrics

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Iowa City, Iowa

***Simon Lucas Schrick-Senasac***

Wichita Falls, Texas

“Osteopathic Manipulation for Postoperative Nausea”

Major Professor: Hollis King, D.O., Ph.D.

Internal Medicine

Midwestern University College of Osteopathic Medicine / Swedish Covenant

Chicago, Illinois

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 8

## *The Physician Assistant Oath*

I DO HEREBY PLEDGE my loyalty to the Physician Assistant profession into which I am about to enter. I will strive to apply my skills only with the utmost respect for the well-being of humanity; being ever vigilant in aiding the general welfare of the community, sustaining its laws and institutions, and not engaging in those practices which will in any way bring shame or discredit upon myself or my profession;

I will endeavor to work in accord with my colleagues in a spirit of progressive cooperation and never by word or by act cast imputations upon them;

I will not permit considerations of nationality, politics, prejudice or material advancement to intervene between my work and this duty to present and future generations;

I vow to practice my profession with conscience and dignity.

In the presence of this gathering I bind myself to this oath, making it solemnly, freely and upon my honor.

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 8

## *The Osteopathic Oath*

I DO HEREBY AFFIRM my loyalty to the profession I am about to enter.

I will be mindful of my great responsibility to preserve the health and the life of my patients, to retain their confidence and respect both as a physician and a friend who will guard their secrets with scrupulous honor and fidelity, to perform faithfully my professional duties, to employ only those recognized methods of treatment consistent with good judgment and with my skill and ability, keeping in mind always nature's law and the body's inherent capacity for recovery.

I will be ever vigilant in aiding the general welfare of the community, sustaining its laws and institutions, not engaging in those practices which will in any way bring shame or discredit upon myself or my profession. I will give no drugs for deadly purposes to any person, though it be asked of me.

I will endeavor to work in accord with my colleagues in a spirit of progressive cooperation and never by word or by act cast imputations upon them or on their rightful practices.

I will look with respect and esteem upon all those who have taught me my art. To my college I will be loyal and strive always for its best interests and for the interests of the students who will come after me. I will be ever alert to further the application of basic biologic truth to the healing arts and to develop the principles of osteopathic medicine as taught by my profession.

In the presence of this gathering I bind myself to this oath.

## *Academic Regalia*

THE PAGEANTRY AND DRESS of the academic procession are inherited from the medieval universities of the 11th and 12th centuries.

Academic life as we know it began in the Middle Ages, first in the church and later in the teaching guilds, where dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility.

Principal features of academic dress are the gown, cap and hood. In 1895, American universities agreed upon a definite system of academic dress, which was revised in 1932 and for the most part reflects the style of today.

While it originally may have been worn as protection against the cold of unheated buildings, the flowing gown today is a symbol of the democracy of scholarship. It is black for all degrees, with pointed sleeves for the bachelor's degree. For the doctoral degree, the gown is also faced down the front with velvet, and its sleeves are trimmed with three bars of velvet in the color representative of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains.

The academic cap is a sign of freedom of scholarship, and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. The color of the tassel denotes the discipline.

The hood is trimmed with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color of the facing denotes the discipline represented by the degree. The color of the lining designates the college or university from which the degree was granted.

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 8

Academic regalia for the University of North Texas Health Science Center is distinctive. Graduates receiving doctor of osteopathic medicine and master of physician assistant studies degrees have gowns and hoods trimmed in green, which is the traditional color of medicine in academia. Their hoods are lined in burgundy and silver, the colors of Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Graduates receiving degrees from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Public Health wear hoods lined in burgundy, silver and green. This combination honors the longstanding partnership between the University of North Texas Health Science Center and the University of North Texas. Graduates receiving doctor of philosophy degrees have gowns and hoods trimmed in blue. Graduates receiving master of science degrees have hoods trimmed in gold. Graduates receiving doctor of public health and master of public health degrees have hoods trimmed in salmon. The mortar board tassel is also indicative of the field.

The medallion worn by some faculty is the Academic Commendation for Excellence, given to faculty who have received the highest possible ranking on their post-tenure reviews. The blue and white silk cords worn by some faculty and students signify membership in Sigma Xi, the scientific research society.

## *The Mace*

ONCE A FAMILIAR WEAPON in medieval combat, the mace evolved over time into a symbol of rulership, and then became associated with the pride of a nation and its origins.

Later, the mace was adopted by universities as a symbol of the power of the academic quest for truth and wisdom. It was, and still is, carried at academic processions not only to bring authority to ceremonial occasions, but also to symbolize the unity and aspirations of the collegial community.

University of North Texas Health Science Center's mace is a mahogany staff bearing the seal of the health science center on one side and the seal of the University of North Texas on the other. A laurel wreath encircles the two seals, symbolically tying them together. The health science center's insignia, a modernized Aesculapian staff, adorns the cup that tops the staff. The hollow cup signifies the continuous filling and outpouring of knowledge within the academic institution to faculty who have received the highest possible ranking on their post-tenure reviews. The blue and white silk cords worn by some faculty and students signify membership in Sigma Xi, the scientific research society.



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AT FORT WORTH