



THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL  

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*Commencement*

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2007

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

# Commencement

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S P E A K E R

## MAULIK S. JOSHI, DR.P.H.

MAULIK S. JOSHI, DR.P.H., is currently senior advisor for the Office of the Director for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). AHRQ is a \$300 million, 300-employee agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, whose mission is to



improve the quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare for all Americans. Dr. Joshi was formerly the president and chief executive officer of the Delmarva Foundation. A not-for-profit, national, quality improvement organization of 265 employees, Delmarva Foundation's mission is to improve health. Delmarva Foundation was the recipient of the 2005 U.S. Senate Productivity Award, the highest-level award in the state of Maryland, based on the national Malcolm Baldrige criteria for performance excellence. Prior to the Delmarva Foundation,

Dr. Joshi was vice president for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), co-founder and executive vice president for DoctorQuality, senior director of quality for the University of Pennsylvania Health System, and executive vice president for The HMO Group.

Dr. Joshi has a Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.) and a Master of Health Services Administration (M.H.S.A.) from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Science in mathematics (B.S. in mathematics) from Lafayette College. Dr. Joshi is co-editor of "The Healthcare Quality Book: Vision, Strategy and Tools," a graduate-level textbook (Health Administration Press, first edition published 2004, second edition to be published 2008). Dr. Joshi is a member of the Board of Trustees Quality and Patient Safety Committee for Catholic Healthcare Partners, the Board of Governors for the National Patient Safety Foundation, the National Advisory Board for U.S. Preventive Medicine, and the Advisory Committee of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Institute for Improving Clinical Care.

Dr. Joshi was selected as one of the "Healthcare Up and Comers" by Witt/Kieffer and *Modern Healthcare*; one of Philadelphia's Outstanding "40 Under 40" Leaders by the *Philadelphia Business Journal* for commitment to professional excellence and contributions to the community; and as one of the "21 Voices for Quality for the 21st Century" by the American Society for Quality.

# *Commencement*

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## S E R V I C E

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

### 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

Ana Luz Chiapa-Scifres  
School of Public Health

### INTRODUCTION

Dr. Ransom

### ADDRESS

Dr. Joshi

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

Thomas Yorio, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research  
Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Interim Dean, School of Public Health

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

Dr. Yorio

# *Commencement*

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## S E R V I C E

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

Marc Hahn, D.O.

Senior Vice President of Clinical 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 Yorio

### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Ransom

### HOODING OF CANDIDATES

### PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Drs. Hahn and Yorio  
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

James Hall, Ph.D.

Chair, Executive Council of the Faculty

### MARSHALS

Robert Wordinger, Ph.D.

Chairman and Professor

Cell Biology and Genetics

Elizabeth Palmarozzi, D.O.

Chair and Associate Professor

Family and Community Medicine

### USHERS

University of North Texas Health Science Center Students

### ANNOUNCER

Thomas Moorman, Ed.D.

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

### BANNER BEARERS

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Class President, Marvin S. Moul

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Student Representative, Joshua W. Gatson

School of Public Health

Student Representative, Kimberly Fulda

Physician Assistant Studies

Class President, Jessica Leigh Dodge

# Commencement

C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

## CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE

***Lada Alexeenko +***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Self-Esteem, Body Weight and Body Image in Adult of Mexican Origin”

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D.

***Amrutha Balakrishnan***

Maharashtra, India

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Kyung-Mee Choi, Ph.D.

***Jerah Johnne Byerly \****

League City, Texas

“Examining the Relationship Between Relative Well-Being and Health Disparities in the City of Dallas”

Major Professor: Marcus Martin, Ph.D.

***Shanna Lacle Brown***

Crandall, Texas

“Emerging Clinical Research Recruitment Methods: The Internet, Recruitment Specialists and Outsourcing”

Major Professor: Nuha Lackan, Ph.D.

***Elizabeth Castillo \****

Houston, Texas

“Reducing Cultural Barriers through the Promotores de Salud”

Major Professor: Mary Luna Hollen, Ph.D.

***Bharathi Chadive***

Hyderabad, India

Comprehensive Exam

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

***Abigail Larkin Cox***

Grapevine, Texas

“Corporate Wellness: Is It Worth the Investment?”

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

***Shavsha Davis***

Fort Worth, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Karan Singh, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

***Anisa Dhanani***

Eules, Texas

“Outsourcing Health Care and its Effects on the U.S. Health Care System: A Literature Review”

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

***Malembe Sandrine Ebama***

Newark, New Jersey

Comprehensive Exam

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

***Christine Marie Estrada, D.O.***

Chehalis, Washington

“Fellowship Training in Palliative Medicine: Is Subspecialty Training Necessary for the Provision of Quality and Competent Palliative Care?”

Major Professor: Jeffery Talbert, Ph.D.

***Mary Darcelle Foster***

Grand Prairie, Texas

“Implementation of the Federal HIFA Demonstration Waiver as a Tool in Expanding Health Coverage: A Response to Recommendation #2 of Code Red: The Critical Condition of Health in Texas”

Major Professor: Jeffery Talbert, Ph.D.

***Ashley Denise Garrett***

Texas City, Texas

“Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Regarding HIV/Sexually Transmitted Infections in Westmoreland Parish, Jamaica”

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D.

***Janet M. Glowicz +***

Allen, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

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

***Manisha Gupta***

Temple, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

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

***Stephanie K. Hall***

Shreveport, Louisiana

“Are the Disaster Preparedness Plans in the Largest Cities in the United States Adequate for Disabled and Elderly Populations?”

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

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

***Tiffany R. Hebert***

La Porte, Texas

“Community and Clinic-Based Smoking Cessation Programs  
for Pregnant Women: What Works?”

Major Professor: Shawn Jeffries, Ph.D.

***Justine L. Hines***

Webb City, Missouri

“Tobacco Company Sponsored Youth Smoking Prevention:  
A Review of the Evidence In Tobacco Control”

Major Professor: Shawn Jefferies, Ph.D.

***Joyce L. Hood***

Aledo, Texas

“Evaluation of a Hospital Decontamination Protocol for Mass Casualty Patient Surge”

Major Professor: Michael Larranaga, Ph.D.

***Venkateswar Rao Kapa \****

Kothagudem, A.P., India

“Water Fluoridation: A Policy Retrospective”

Major Professor: Peter Hilsenrath, Ph.D.

***Scott Bradley Lancaster, D.O. \****

Nacogdoches, Texas

“Characteristics of Primary Care Physicians Practicing in Underserved Areas in Texas”

Major Professor: Kristine Lykens, Ph.D.

***Amy L. Leider +***

Livermore, California

Comprehensive Exam

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

***Kindra V. Levels***

Fort Worth, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Yu-Sheng Lin, Sc.D.

***Eddy Frances Lewis***

Weatherford, Texas

“Sustaining Community Health: Outcomes for Primary Health Care Programs Serving  
People Who Are Homeless in Region VI (Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico)”

Major Professor: Nuha Lackan, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

***Kathryn Ann Lowery +***

Houston, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

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

***Yan Lu \****

Beijing, China

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Shande Chen, Ph.D.

***Merly Mathew***

Mesquite, Texas

“The Role of Health Literacy in Addressing Health Disparities:  
A Look at the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy”

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D.

***Marcus Joseph Mitias***

Atlanta, Georgia

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Nuha Lackan, Ph.D.

***Anita Vishvas Moghe \****

Bombay, India

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Karan Singh, Ph.D.

***Miranda Muzina +***

Tirana, Albania

“Association between Emergency Hospital Admissions of the Adult Population  
with Pre-Existing Respiratory Conditions and Ozone Air Quality Index”

Major Professor: Terrance Gratton, Ph.D.

***Swetha Nukala +***

Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Lori Fischbach, M.P.H., Ph.D.

***Ngozi M. Okoro \****

Enugu, Enugu State, Nigeria

“Characterization of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus Infection  
at Childrens Medical Center, Dallas (January 2005 to June 2005)”

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

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

***Otuonye Ezeribe Onyewuchi***

Udo-Mbaise, Nigeria

“Using Admission Characteristics to Predict In-Hospital Length of Stay”

Major Professor: Karan Singh, Ph.D.

***Jeannette A. Oshitoye, Ph.D.***

Garland, Texas

“Concordance with the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma in the State of Texas”

Major Professor: Karan Singh, Ph.D.

***Godavari D. Patil \****

Dharwad, India

“HIV Related Risk Behaviors: A Comparative Study of Urban, Suburban and Rural U.S. Adolescents”

Major Professor: Karan Singh, Ph.D.

***Carla Pezzia +***

Houston, Texas

“Is an Environmental Health Educational Intervention Sufficient to Change Behavior? Perceptions from an Indigenous Lake Community in Guatemala”

Major Professor: Terrance Gratton, Ph.D.

***Snehal D. Pingle***

Nagpur, India

Comprehensive Exam

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

***Deepak Prabhakar +***

Moradabad, India

Comprehensive Exam

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

***Donna A. Rodriguez \****

New Braunfels, Texas

“Evaluation of Spanish Cancer Prevention Education Materials”

Major Professor: Adela Gonzalez, Ph.D.

***Jessica Ann Rogers***

Plano, Texas

“Tackling Infant Mortality: A Profile of the Tarrant County Infant Mortality Task Force”

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

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

***Ana Guadalupe Romero-Gomez \****

Guadalajara JAL, Mexico  
“Recreational Justice and City Planning”  
Major Professor: Terrance Gratton, Ph.D.

***Ankur Rustgi***

Chandigarh, India  
Comprehensive Exam  
Advisor: Kathryn Cardarelli, M.P.H., Ph.D.

***Ana Luz Chiapa-Scifres***

Fort Worth, Texas  
“Differences in Pregnancy Intentions and Birth Outcomes:  
A Comparison of Black, Hispanic and White Women”  
Major Professor: Marcus Martin, Ph.D.

***Lee Sewell +***

Arlington, Texas  
“Social Demographic Differences in Selected Cardiovascular Disease  
Behavioral Risk Factor in a Bi-County Area”  
Major Professor: Sue G. Lurie, Ph.D.

***Anish Maheshkumar Shah***

Ahmedabad, India  
Comprehensive Exam  
Advisor: Raghbir Sandhu, M.D., Dr.P.H.

***Matthew Sean Stahl***

Fort Worth, Texas  
“The Population Dynamics of Dengue Vectors, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*,  
and Associated Geographic and Socioeconomic Factors in North-Central Texas”  
Major Professor: Joon-Hak Lee, Ph.D.

***Jennifer A. Sterba \****

Houston, Texas  
“Child Nutrition and Hygiene Practice Related to Dental Caries”  
Major Professor: Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, M.P.H., Dr.P.H.

***Heather Denise Tasa***

Lake Jackson, Texas  
“Effective Methods for Deterring Prescription Drug Abuse”  
Major Professor: Vicki Nejteck, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

***Shreeti R. Thobhani***

Grapevine, Texas

“Pharmaceutical Counterfeiting and the Technological Defenses Against It”

Major Professor: Liam O’Neill, Ph.D.

***Tanushree Tomer \****

Hisar, Haryana, India

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Sejong Bae, Ph.D.

***Vikas Tomer***

Hisar, India

“Prevalence of Obesity and Associated Factors for Diabetes in United States-2005”

Major Professor: Sejong Bae, Ph.D.

***Kelly S. Whitehead +***

Azle, Texas

“Comparative Literature Review of the Four Coordinated  
School Health Programs Approved for the State of Texas”

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D.

***Brandie Lane Williams***

Mesquite, Texas

“Birth Outcomes of Single vs Married Women”

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D.

***Brian Field Wittenmyer +***

Houston, Texas

“A Study of Disparities in the Receipt of Anti-Retroviral Drugs, Health Status  
and Insurance Coverage Among a Sample of HIV-Positive Adults”

Major Professor: Kristine Lykens, Ph.D.

***Jingsheng Yan \****

Plano, Texas

Comprehensive Exam

Advisor: Sejong Bae, Ph.D.

# Commencement

C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

## CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE

***Kimberly G. Fulda +***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Un-Met Health Care Needs Stratified by Socioeconomic Status: Results of the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs”

Major Professor: Karan Singh, Ph.D.

***Anita Kuriakose Kurian \****

Kottayam, Kerala, India

“Racial and Ethnic Differences in Cardiovascular Risk Factors in U.S. Older Women: Findings from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 2003 & 2004”

Major Professor: Sejong Bae, Ph.D.

***Cecily C. Luncheon +***

New York, New York

“Hispanic Female Adolescents at Risk for Suicide and the Use of Illicit Drugs”

Major Professor: Adela N. Gonzalez, Ph.D.

***Thaddeus L. Miller***

Stephenville, Texas

“A Cost Analysis of Tuberculosis and its Prevention in Tarrant County, Texas”

Major Professor: Peter Hilsenrath, Ph.D.

***Maria M. Montiel-Carbajal +***

Hermosillo Sonora, Mexico

“A Mixed Methods Approach to the Definition of Family Health Promotion Practices for Mexican Sonoran Mothers”

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

***Sharon E. Reese +***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Access to Health and Social Services for Poverty Level Adults with Chronic Disease or Disability”

Major Professor: Kristine Lykens, Ph.D.

***Larry W. Segars \****

Fort Worth, Texas

“Differences in Risk of Injury Between Stimulant-Treated and Untreated ADHD Patients”

Major Professor: Eric Johnson, Ph.D.

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2007

## CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

**Hany Ahmed Abdelfattah**  
El Paso, Texas

**Abianuju Aluka**  
Houston, Texas

**McDonald Sandefer Arnot**  
Abilene, Texas

**Justin Matthew Becker**  
Arlington, Texas

**Michelle L. Becker**  
Carrollton, Texas

**Ramakrishna V. Behara**  
McAllen, Texas

**Brian Biegler**  
Dallas, Texas

**Elizabeth Chacko**  
Mesquite, Texas

**Josh Kwong-Yao Chow**  
Houston, Texas

**Amy Chung**  
The Woodlands, Texas

**Alexander Jefferson Craft**  
Chicago, Illinois

**Risa Jean Curtis**  
Austin, Texas

**Lauren D'Angelo**  
Austin, Texas

**Cory Andrew Dean**  
Crowley, Texas

**Bobbie Jo Dodson**  
Arlington, Texas

**Tessa M. Dollar**  
Perryton, Texas

**Olubadewa A. Fatunde**  
Grapevine, Texas

**Tayton S. Finley**  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Britni René Foster**  
Mount Pleasant, Texas

**Jonathan C. Freeman**  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Maycie Mayfield Garibay**  
Waxahachie, Texas

**Teodik Haftvani Grigorian**  
Northridge, California

**Mark C. Hand**  
Waco, Texas

**Leslie M. Harrell**  
Dallas, Texas

**Patrice J. Hicks**  
Jacksonville, Arkansas

**David Ho**  
Rowlett, Texas

**Adityanant Jain**  
Sugar Land, Texas

**Khawer P. Khadimally**  
Missouri City, Texas

# Commencement

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CLASS OF 2007

**Scott Alan Letbetter, Jr.**  
Wall, Texas

**Asher Royden Light**  
Houston, Texas

**Humberto Lopez Jr.**  
Coppell, Texas

**Lindsey Marie Magdanz**  
Houston, Texas

**Elysia Anne Mallon**  
Flower Mound, Texas

**Erika Nicole McGrady**  
Houston, Texas

**Yasmin Aspy Mehta**  
Humble, Texas

**John Everett Mullins**  
New Braunfels, Texas

**Kenton Kumar Murthy**  
San Diego, California

**Kim Thuy Nguyen**  
Lewisville, Texas

**Janice Nhan**  
Waco, Texas

**Candice Marie Nolan**  
San Angelo, Texas

**Chelsea Elizabeth Price**  
Idaho Falls, Idaho

**Mohammad H. Rahman**  
Houston, Texas

**Nicole Ann Riojas**  
Rockport, Texas

**Taylor Boyd Strange**  
Keller, Texas

**Noah Nathaniel Stratton**  
Longview, Texas

**Jennifer Lauren Thompson**  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Jessica Ruth Toler**  
Hubbard, Texas

**Tram Huynh Tran**  
Houston, Texas

**Andrea Sue Wenner**  
Robinson, Texas

**James Frank Wright**  
Houston, Texas

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

## CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE (*continued*)

### ***Anthony Ted Chuang***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Absolute Quantitation of Cytokine mRNA in Dendritic Cells  
During Mycoplasma Pulmonis Infection”  
Major Professor: Jerry W. Simecka, Ph.D.

### ***Jamalia Junelle David***

Houston, Texas

“Validation of Applied Biosystems 3130xl Instrument  
Series Using Human Mitochondrial DNA”  
Major Professor: Joseph E. Warren, Ph.D.

### ***Allison King Heath***

Aledo, Texas

“Morphological and Proliferative Changes that Occur in Rat Retinal Progenitor Cells  
Following Incubation with Retinoic Acid and RPE-secreted Proteins”  
Major Professor: Harold Sheedlo, Ph.D.

### ***Donovan O'Brien James***

Houston, Texas

“Validation of the Powerplex 16 STR System at the  
Harris County Medical Examiners Office”  
Major Professor: Arthur Eisenberg, Ph.D.

### ***Jiyoung Lee***

Pusan, Korea

“Role of Tyrosine Phosphorylation of PKC Delta  
on Cisplatin-induced Cell Death”  
Major Professor: Alakanandra Basu, Ph.D.

### ***Krystle Marie Macurdy***

Sarver, Pennsylvania

“Resequencing of the Human Mitochondrial Genome to Aid in Human Identification  
Through the Separation of the Common Haplotype Groups”  
Major Professor: Arthur Eisenberg, Ph.D.

### ***Tory P. McFarlin***

Pasadena, Texas

“A Review of Dendritic Cell Vaccines in Cancer Treatment and  
a Managerial Focus on Issues Related to Subject Recruitment”  
Major Professor: LaChelle Arredondo, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

***Christy Elizabeth Mills***

Arlington, Texas

“Identification of Genes and Proteins Associated with Actin-Cytoskeletal Rearrangements in Glaucomatous and Dexamethasone Treated Human Traecular Meshwork Cells”

Major Professor: Abbot Clark, Ph.D.

***Brett H. Mueller***

San Antonio, Texas

“Medicare 2005 Demonstration Project: Patient Reporting of Nausea Symptoms and its Impact on Improving Quality of Patient Care”

Major Professor: Rustin E. Reeves, Ph.D.

***Kristi Anne Payne***

Valley View, Texas

“Evaluation of Kinship Indices for the Identification of Missing Persons”

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

***Glynis Nicola Rose Price***

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

“Evaluation of Unlabeled Primers in Sex Determination of Animal and Wildlife Samples”

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

***Krithi Rao ~***

Plano, Texas

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

Major Professor: Porunelloor Mathew, Ph.D.

***Sarah A. Rothwell***

Lubbock, Texas

“Validation of the Ampfistr® Yfiler™ PCR Amplification Kit”

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

***Myoung-gwi Ryou***

Sungnam, Kyunggido, South Korea

“Hypoxic Conditioning Suppresses Cytotoxic Nitric Oxide Production Upon Myocardial Reperfusion”

Major Professor: Robert T. Mallet, Ph.D.

***Jena Myren Sparling***

Seneca, Kansas

“Validation of Promega’s Differex and DNA IQ Systems for Extracting DNA in Sexual Assault Cases”

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

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 7

***Rachel LeiAnn Sutton***

Bedford, Texas

“A Comparison of Differential Extraction Methods”

Major Professor: Joseph E. Warren, Ph.D.

***Adrienne L. Warner***

Spring, Texas

“The Development of Quantitation Standards for the  
Determination of Mitochondrial DNA Copy Number”

Major Professor: Arthur Eisenberg, Ph.D.

***Allison M. Wright***

Victoria, Texas

“Validation of Applied Biosystems’ 3130XL Genetic Analyzer”

Major Professor: Joseph E. Warren, Ph.D.

***Laura Taylor Young***

Ashland, Texas

“A Review of DPP-IV Inhibitors in the Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus  
and a Look at Patient Adherence to Overall Care Plans During and After Clinical Trials”

Major Professor: James L. Caffrey, Ph.D.

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 7

## CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

### ***Robert Matthew Brothers***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Control of the Peripheral Vasculature During Exercise: Angiotensin II”

Major Professor: Peter Raven, Ph.D.

### ***Disha Dumka***

Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

“Cardiac Myofibrils Carrying Myopathy-Causing Mutation”

Major Professor: Julian Borejdo, Ph.D.

### ***Joshua W. Gatson***

Fort Worth, Texas

“The Role of a Membrane Androgen Receptor in the Brain”

Major Professor: Meharvin Singh, Ph.D.

### ***Shaoqing He***

Kunming, Yunnan, China

“Endothelin-1-induced Signaling Involved in Extracellular Matrix Remodeling”

Major Professor: Thomas Yorio, Ph.D.

### ***Paramjit Kaur***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms that Distinguish the Effects of Progesterone and Medroxyprogesterone Acetate on Neuroprotection”

Major Professor: Meharvan Singh, Ph.D.

### ***Tracey D. Minzenmayer***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Impact of the Transition from School to Work on Health and Behavior”

Major Professor: Warren Watson, Ph.D.

### ***Atul Raut, M.D.***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Opioid Receptors in Aging and Oxidative Stress”

Major Professors: James Simpkins, Ph.D., and Anna Ratka, Ph.D.

### ***Donald E. Selby***

Duncanville, Texas

“Differential Gene Expression Profiling in a Small Animal Model of Progressively Pacing-Induced Heart Failure”

Major Professor: Stephen R. Grant, Ph.D.

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 7

***Arti Bashu Sharma***

Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

“Pyruvate Mediated Cardio and Neuroprotection  
Following Cardiopulmonary Arrest and Resuscitation”

Major Professor: Robert T. Mallet, Ph.D.

***Thomas G. Valencia***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Urotensin II-mediated Cardiac Hypertrophic  
Gene Induction Involves CaM Kinase”

Major Professor: Stephen R. Grant, Ph.D.

# *Commencement*

C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

## CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES DEGREE

### ***Joni Michelle Barrow***

Jacksonville, Texas

“Examining Homocysteine and C-Reactive Protein as Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease in Women”

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

### ***Jana LaDawn Davis***

Mesquite, Texas

“A Review of Current Ovarian Cancer Screening Tools”

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

### ***Rebecca Denise DePalma***

Grand Prairie, Texas

“A Systematic Review of Prophylactic Therapies for Treating Migraine Headache”

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

### ***Jessica Leigh Dodge***

San Antonio, Texas

“Preventing Secondary Osteoporosis in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis:

A Proposed Web-Based Educational Program”

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

### ***Melissa Richey Encinas***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Case Studies of an Intervention Using the Theory of Implementation Intentions

and a Discussion of Barriers to Participation in a Research Study”

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

### ***Jennifer Dawn Erwin***

Brenham, Texas

“A Prevention Program to Improve Recognition of the Characteristics and

Problems Associated with Childhood Obesity”

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

### ***Mark Allen Flesher***

Galveston, Texas

“Caffeine Consumption, Calcium Consumption and Study-Defined Protective Factors: Charting Significant Differences with Regard to Bone Mineral Density (BMD) Values in Women between the Ages of 45-83”

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

### ***Liliana Garcia***

El Paso, Texas

“Case Studies of an Intervention Using the Theory of Implementation Intentions

and a Discussion of Barriers to Participation in a Research Study”

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

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

***Laura Ann Gonzales***

Bay City, Texas

“The Degree of Success of Lap Band Recipients Based on Objective and Subjective Data”

Advisor: Laurie Hill, M.H.S., P.A.-C.

***Sampreethi Pricilla Henric***

Garland, Texas

“Does Participation in Medical Missions have an Association with the Perceived Cultural Competence of Physician Assistants?”

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

***Neha Jain***

Dallas, Texas

“The Effectiveness and Side Effects of Certain Medications on Children with Seasonal Allergic Rhinitis”

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

***Jennifer Diane Jones-Nuessner***

Mansfield, Texas

“A Proposed Workshop Educating Physician Assistant Students on Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Related Sudden Death in Young Athletes”

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

***John Peter Kane***

Longview, Texas

“A Risk and Benefit Comparison of the Two Most Commonly Prescribed Surgical Interventions for the Morbidly Obese”

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

***Denise Kathryn Marquez***

Houston, Texas

“Prevalence of Nutritional Deficiency in Elderly Patients Undergoing Mohs Micrographic Surgery”

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

***Heather Martin***

Fort Worth, Texas

“How Does a Computer-Based Educational Program Affect Children at Risk for Type II Diabetes?”

A Proposed Educational Project”

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

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

***Britni Reann McBryde***

Victoria, Texas

“How Knowledge of Medication Regimens Influences Compliance  
in an Ambulatory Geriatric Population Taking Multiple Medications”

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

***Sarah Christyn McClendon***

Lubbock, Texas

“A Prevention Program to Improve Recognition of the Characteristics  
and Problems Associated with Childhood Obesity”

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

***Laura McCombs***

Corpus Christi, Texas

“An Interactive Self-Assessment Tool to Help Patients with Complications of  
Irritable Bowel Syndrome Understand, Identify, and Mitigate Their Symptoms”

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

***Suzanne Melville***

Houston, Texas

“The Degree of Success of Lap Band Recipients Based on Objective and Subjective Data”

Advisor: Laurie Hill, M.H.S., P.A.-C.

***Rachel Anne Miller***

Austin, Texas

“A Proposed Interactive Educational Program Aimed to Encourage  
Pregnant Adolescents to Include Folate in Their Daily Diets”

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

***Michael Shawn Nye***

Comfort, Texas

“Physical and Physiological Changes Observed Following the Lap-Band Surgical Procedure”

Advisor: Laurie Hill, M.H.S., P.A.-C.

***Julie Catherine Reeves***

Arlington, Texas

“Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction of the Knee:  
Patella Tendon Graft Versus Hamstring Graft”

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

***Atalie Irene Rivera***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Early Recognition and Intervention of Schizophrenia:  
An Understanding for the Primary Care Clinician”

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

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

***Mary Jane Rorick***

Plano, Texas

“Public Awareness of Type 2 Diabetes in Children and Adolescents”

Advisor: Laurie Hill, M.H.S., P.A.-C.

***Michelle Yvonne Sanchez***

San Antonio, Texas

“A Comparison on the Effectiveness of Platinum versus  
Non-Platinum Chemotherapy in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer”

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

***Roxanne Marie Simper***

Schulenburg, Texas

“Physical and Physiological Changes Observed Following the Lap-Band Surgical Procedure”

Advisor: Laurie Hill, M.H.S., P.A.-C.

***Joshua Stoner***

Krum, Texas

“Caffeine Consumption, Calcium Consumption and Study-Defined Protective Factors:

Charting Significant Differences with Regard to Bone Mineral Density (BMD)

Values in Women between the Ages of 45-83”

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

WITH HONORS

***Melissa Richey Encinas***

***Denise Kathryn Marquez***

***Britni Reann McBryde***

***Suzanne Marie Melville***

***Rachel Anne Miller***

***Mary Jane Rorick***

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2007

## CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

***John Philip Abraham***

Psychiatry  
Austin Medical Education Programs  
Austin, Texas

***Benjamin Donald Adams***

Emergency Medicine  
Beth Israel Medical Center  
New York, New York

***Georgia Aljawadi***

Family Medicine  
San Jacinto Methodist Hospital  
Baytown, Texas

***Zareen Amin***

Austin, Texas

***George Michel Atallah***

Anesthesiology  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, Texas

***Krystal Renae Batchelor***

Pediatrics  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, Texas

***Christy Anita Baze***

Family Medicine  
McLennan County Family Practice  
Waco, Texas

***Shimona Rajkumar Bhatia***

Pediatrics  
University of Florida Health Science Center  
Jacksonville, Florida

***Matthew Lee Blackburn***

Family Medicine  
McLennan County Family Practice  
Waco, Texas

***Ryschelle Renee Bolton***

Emergency Medicine  
University of Illinois – Saint Francis Medical Center  
Peoria, Illinois

***Jeffry Alan Brace***

Radiology – Diagnostic  
Michigan State University  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital  
Commerce, Michigan

***Jessica Rose Bruso***

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
University of California  
Davis Medical Center  
Sacramento, California

***Mark Thomas Burbridge***

Internal Medicine  
USAF Medical Center  
Biloxi, Mississippi

***Danielle Theresa Bair Burkett***

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Loyola University Medical Center  
Chicago, Illinois

***April M. Calderon***

Family Medicine  
McLennan County Family Practice  
Waco, Texas

***Lieu Ngoc Chau***

Family Medicine  
Christus Santa Rosa  
San Antonio, Texas

***Prateek Chaudhary***

Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2007

***Linda Xia Chen***

Internal Medicine  
Methodist Health System  
Dallas, Texas

***Chad Aaron Curlee***

Family Medicine  
Baylor Medical Center  
Garland, Texas

***David Robert Darrigan***

Emergency Medicine  
Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital  
Corpus Christi, Texas

***Randy J. Davis***

Internal Medicine  
Plaza Medical Center  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Chandra Malini Dondapati***

Internal Medicine  
Methodist Health System  
Dallas, Texas

***Melissa Anne Downs***

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Jessica Daughn Durst***

Pediatrics  
Children's Hospital – Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California

***Angela Nichole Edwards***

Dermatology  
Oakwood Southshore Medical Center  
Trenton, Michigan

***Amber Monique Ervin***

Internal Medicine  
Plaza Medical Center  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Ahmer Sean Faruki***

Internal Medicine  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, Texas

***Emilie Allison Fisher***

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Saint Joseph's Healthcare  
Clinton Township, Michigan

***Jason David Fisher***

Urology  
Botsford General Hospital  
Farmington Hills, Michigan

***Phillip Trent Fivecoat***

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Tripler Army Medical Center  
Honolulu, Hawaii

***John Anthony Flick***

Internal Medicine  
St. Johns Mercy Medical Center  
St. Louis, Missouri

***Matthew Allen Frederick***

Emergency Medicine  
Wake Forest University  
Baptist Medical Center  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

***Sahitya Gadiraju***

Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, Texas

***Amanda Rose Garcia***

Family Medicine  
Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital  
Corpus Christi, Texas

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2007

***Elizabeth Rachel George***

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Austin, Texas

***Kelly Gilliland***

Pathology  
University of Florida – Shands Hospital  
Gainesville, Florida

***Geoffrey Michael Giordano***

Emergency Medicine  
Saint James Hospital and Health  
Olympia Fields, Illinois

***Katherine Marie Grant***

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

***Linda Diane Gregory***

Emergency Medicine  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

***Zain A. Hakeem***

Internal Medicine – Pediatrics  
University of Illinois  
St. Francis Medical Center  
Peoria, Illinois

***Sarah L. Hardy***

Psychiatry  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Kimi Lehua Harnage***

ENT – Facial Plastic Surgery  
St. John Oakland Hospital  
Madison Heights, Michigan

***William Brian Hatten***

Family Medicine  
Methodist Health System  
Dallas, Texas

***Joseph Paul Heitzman***

Pathology  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas

***Jennifer Ann Kovaric Hendrix***

Family Medicine  
Bromenn Regional Medical Center  
Normal, Illinois

***Kim Elizabeth Higgins***

Family Medicine  
Methodist Health System  
Dallas, Texas

***Edmund Wing-Hong Ho***

Anesthesiology  
University of Arkansas  
Little Rock, Arkansas

***Long Ngoc Hoang***

Family Medicine  
KCOM/University of Missouri  
Kansas City, Missouri

***Jennifer Marie Hurrell***

Pathology  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

***Jasmin Ann Ignatius***

Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas

***Robert Alexander Jacobs***

Surgery – Preliminary  
Exempla St. Joseph Hospital  
Denver, Colorado

***Matthew Steven Jones***

Internal Medicine – Pediatrics  
University of Minnesota Medical School  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2007

***Natashia Takayasu Jones-Dobbins***

Family Medicine  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Amy Susan Kalina***

Internal Medicine  
Methodist Health System  
Dallas, Texas

***Himala Kashmiri***

Pediatrics  
Loyola University Medical Center  
Chicago, Illinois

***Christine Young Kim***

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

***Kimberly Ann Knaus***

Radiology – Diagnostic  
University of Mississippi  
Jackson, Mississippi

***Indira Doris Konanur***

Internal Medicine – Primary  
Brown Medical School  
Memorial Hospital  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island

***Anjali Kumar***

Family Medicine  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Derrick Wing Chung Lai***

Internal Medicine  
Legacy Emanuel/Good Samaritan  
Portland, Oregon

***Christine Quyen Lam***

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, Texas

***Paula Annette Lansford-Seabaugh***

Family Medicine  
Brazos Family Medicine  
Bryan, Texas

***Elias Flores Lara Jr.***

Family Medicine  
Plaza Medical Center  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Christopher Lee Larson***

Family Medicine  
Christus Santa Rosa  
San Antonio, Texas

***Bowlva Michael Lee***

Anesthesiology  
SUNY HSC – Brooklyn  
Brooklyn, New York

***Noelle Lucette Lee***

Family Medicine  
Brown University/Memorial Hospital  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island

***Peter K. Lee***

Internal Medicine  
Kaiser Permanente Medical Group  
Santa Clara, California

***Robert Nien Hua Lee***

Pediatrics  
University of California San Francisco  
Fresno, California

***Amanda Nicole Long***

Internal Medicine  
University of Tennessee  
Memphis, Tennessee

***Keli J. McCalman***

Surgery  
Botsford General Hospital  
Farmington Hills, Michigan

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2007

**James Christopher Meek**

Radiology – Diagnostic  
University of Arkansas  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Sarah Joanne Meredith**

Family Medicine  
Methodist Health System  
Dallas, Texas

**Keegan Vern Miller**

Emergency Medicine  
Pitt County Memorial Hospital/Brody SOM  
Greenville, North Carolina

**Saurabh Suresh Moonat**

Family Medicine  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Neal Robert Morgan**

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

**Marvin S. Moul**

Internal Medicine  
Brooke Army Medical Center  
San Antonio, Texas

**Kiran Khemchand Nangrani**

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**Tina Pariani**

Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas

**Payal V. Patel**

Internship  
UH Richmond Medical Center  
Richmond Heights, Ohio

**Katherine West Pearson**

Family Medicine  
San Jacinto Methodist Hospital  
Baytown, Texas

**Shannon Conley Peterson**

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center  
Hartford, Connecticut

**Kimberly Melissa Poole**

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

**Hatel Jayanti Rana**

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Austin, Texas

**Renee Marie Rice**

Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, Texas

**Stuart Lee Riding**

Anesthesiology  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

**Paul Anthony Schneider**

Psychiatry  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Yevgeny Shuhatovich**

Surgery  
Maimonides Medical Center  
Brooklyn, New York

**Khadija Siddiqui**

Internal Medicine  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

# Commencement

CLASS OF 2007

***Nisha Lakho Sidhwani***

Family Medicine  
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital  
Park Ridge, Illinois

***Kara Ann Starnes***

Pediatrics  
University of Arkansas  
Little Rock, Arkansas

***William J. Stith Jr.***

Emergency Medicine  
University of Illinois – Saint Francis Medical Center  
Peoria, Illinois

***Michael Ogden Stratton***

Anesthesiology  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
San Antonio, Texas

***Kimberly Lynn Strickland***

Family Medicine  
Plaza Medical Center  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Linda Jane Sullivan***

Family Medicine  
McLennan County Family Practice  
Waco, Texas

***Cynthia Janelle Sung***

Psychiatry  
University of Alabama Medical Center  
Birmingham, Alabama

***Gabriel Tarango***

Family Medicine  
Memorial Hermann Hospital  
Houston, Texas

***Shane Rollin Taylor***

Emergency Medicine  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

***Ashley Dawn Thomas***

Anesthesiology  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

***Matthew Pierce Thompson***

Pathology  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
Dallas, Texas

***Bret Richard Todd***

Anesthesiology  
University of Toledo  
Toledo, Ohio

***Juliette Anne Trinh***

Family Medicine  
Conroe Regional Medical Center  
Conroe, Texas

***Jayne Suzanne Truckenbrod***

Pediatrics  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Austin, Texas

***Radhika Vayani***

Internal Medicine  
Plaza Medical Center  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Melanie Anne Villanueva***

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

***Omar Villanueva***

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

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 7

***Matthew Scott Walton***

Family Medicine  
LECOM/Washington Hospital  
Washington, Pennsylvania

***Robby George Wesley***

Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas

***Beth Renee Wieser***

Family Medicine  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Garin Todd Winegeart***

Family Medicine  
John Peter Smith Hospital  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Michelle Jones Wood***

Surgery  
Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Doctors Hospital  
Columbus, Ohio

***Julie Anne Zacharias***

Family Medicine  
Pitt County Memorial Hospital/Brody SOM  
Greenville, North Carolina

***Tahira Zaidi***

Pediatrics  
Texas Tech University  
Health Science Center  
Lubbock, Texas

WITH HONORS

***Krystal Renae Batchelor***

***Danielle Theresa Bair Burkett***

***Angela Nichole Edwards***

***Amber Monique Ervin***

***Kelly Gilliland***

***Amy Susan Kalina***

***Noelle Lucette Lee***

***James Christopher Meek***

***Michael Ogden Stratton***

***Beth Renee Wieser***

***Michelle Jones Wood***

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 7

## CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE/ MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREES

### ***Shimona Rajkumar Bhatia***

Arlington, Texas

“Pilot Project Evaluation: Keep It Healthy – An Obesity-Prevention and  
Lifestyle-Modification Non-Profit Organization”

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D.

### ***Prateek Chaudhary***

Missouri City, Texas

“Access to Care and Hospitalizations for Diabetes Complications among  
Elderly Hispanics and African Americans in Texas”

Major Professor: Kristine Lykens, Ph.D.

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

### ***Nanette N. Allison***

Benbrook, Texas

### ***Robert Albin Bollinger II***

Fort Worth, Texas

### ***Glena June Davis***

Cypress, Texas

### ***Angela K. Brimhall***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Safety and Efficacy of Alefacept, Efalizumab, Etanercept, and Infliximab for  
Moderate to Severe Plaque Psoriasis: A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials”

Major Professor: John Licciardone, D.O., M.B.A.

### ***Daniel Clearfield***

Arlington, Texas

“Attitudes, Knowledge, and use of Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment by  
Osteopathic Sports Medicine Physicians: Is OMT Being Used in the Sports Arena?”

Major Professor: John Licciardone, D.O., M.B.A.

# Commencement

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C L A S S O F 2 0 0 7

***LaPonna Rae IrvineMoore***

Abilene, Texas

“Integration of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine into Differential Diagnosis Training:  
A Study Evaluating Teaching Strategies and Their Influence on Student Learning”

Major Professor: Frank Papa, D.O.

***Damien Webb Kinzler ~***

Rapid City, South Dakota

“Rib-Raising and Sympathetic Nervous System Activation During Intermittent Cold-Pressor Stimulus”

Major Professor: John Licciardone, D.O., M.B.A.

***Shelley Erin Martin***

Fort Worth, Texas

“Genetic Modulation of  $\beta$ -Amyloid Neurotoxicity and Protection by Nicotinic Agents”

Major Professor: Christopher de Fiebre, Ph.D.

***Sarah Elizabeth Ross***

Dallas, Texas

“The Influence of Acculturation and Psychosocial Factors on Glycemic Control  
in Mexican-Americans with Type 2 Diabetes”

Major Professor: Susan F. Franks, Ph.D.

***Elizabeth Ann Thyssen***

Lewisville, Texas

***Jeremy Dustin Urbanczyk ~***

Hereford, Texas

WITH HONORS

***LaPonna Rae IrvineMoore***

***Jeremy Dustin Urbanczyk***

# *Commencement*

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 7

CANDIDATE FOR DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE/  
MASTER OF SCIENCE/MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE

***Didi Elise Ebert***

Arlington, Texas

“Under-utilization of Cervical Cancer Screening by Women Residing in the Rural United States”

Major Professor: Claudia Coggin, Ph.D.

“Osteopathic Focus in the Biomedical Sciences”

Major Professor: John Licciardone, D.O., M.B.A.

CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE/  
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

***E. Marty Knott***

The Woodlands, Texas

“Pyruvate Fortified Cardioplegia Reduces Oxidative Stress During Cardioplegic Arrest”

Major Professor: Robert T. Mallet, Ph.D.

***Domalapalli Maneesh Kumar***

Sugar Land, Texas

“Role of Non-Feminizing Estrogen Analogues in Neuroprotection of Rat Retinal Ganglion Cells

Agaist Glutamate-Induced Cytotoxicity”

Major Professor: Neeraj Agarwal, Ph.D.

# Commencement

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C L A S S   O F   2 0 0 7

## *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.

## *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

# *Commencement*

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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.

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.



UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER