

September
2024

NUTRITION



October

- 9 B/CS Youth Career Fair at Brazos County Expo
- 19 Nutrition Dietetic Career Workshop and Fair
- 19 The Gardens at Texas A&M University Fall Festival
- 24 Borlaug Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - 2 PM
- 26 13th Annual College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Tailgate
- 31 Halloween

November

- 7 Genome Editing Symposium
- 7 DPD Orientation
- 15 Nutrition 3 Minute Thesis Competition

NEWS



STUDY ABROAD TO BLUE ZONE SARDINIA, ITALY

A Blue Zone is a region of the world where people live significantly longer, healthier lives, due to lifestyle and environmental factors.

This summer, Texas A&M nutrition students, led by faculty member Christian Lynch, traveled to Sardinia, Italy, one of the world's renowned Blue Zones, to study the populations longevity and healthy living. The trip provided an invaluable opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the local culture, diet, and lifestyle that contribute to the remarkable health of the Sardinian people.

Faculty Highlights



Dr. Jenny Wu

Awarded New R21 Grant

Dr. Chia Shan (Jenny) Wu has been awarded a new R21 grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) for her project titled “The Impact of Organophosphate Flame-Retardant Exposure on Metabolic and Brain Aging.” The primary objective of this research is to investigate the functional consequences of triphenyl phosphate exposure in relation to metabolic and cognitive impairments associated with aging. Notably, her Ph.D. student, Katie Blankley, will be leading this important project.

Dr. Lauren Coheley Spain

Visited Dairy Management Inc.

Earlier this month, Dr. Coheley Spain had an exceptional experience visiting the headquarters of Dairy Management Inc. in Rosemont, IL! As part of the prestigious NextGen Scientist Program, she had the unique opportunity to immerse herself in the fascinating realm of dairy research and innovation. This visit allowed her to explore the latest advancements in the dairy industry and gain valuable insights into the future of dairy science.



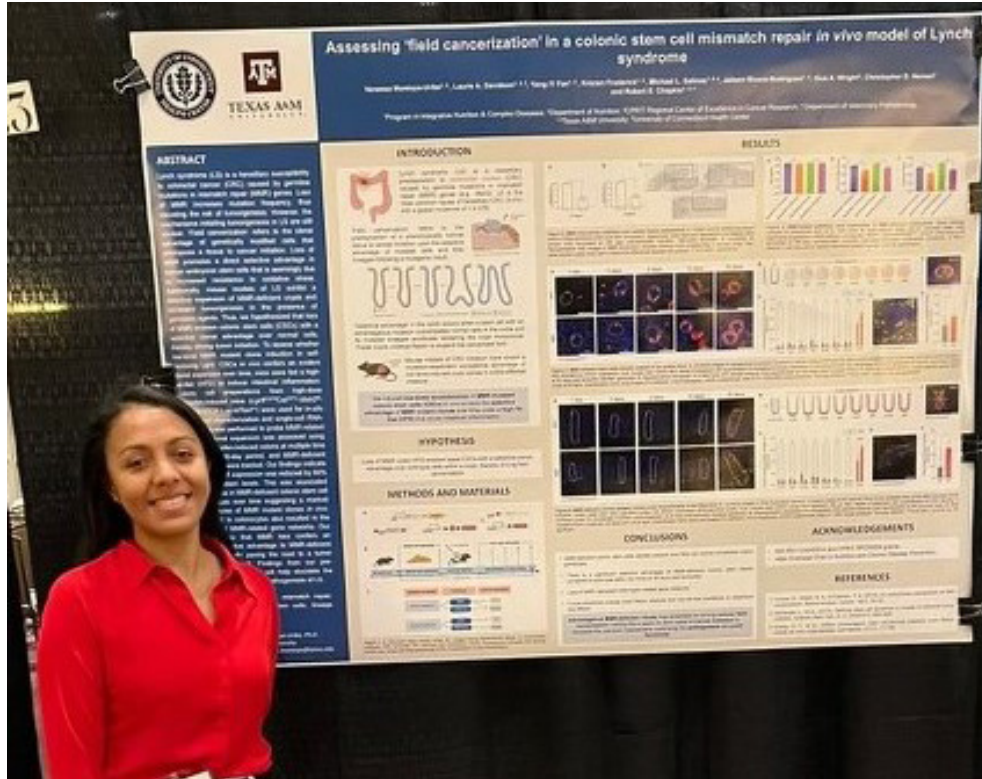
Dr. Wanbao Yang

University of Washington Training Course Attendance

Dr. Wanbao Yang, a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Shaodong Guo’s lab, attended the highly competitive 2024 NIA Annual Summer Training Course in Experimental Aging Research. This week-long program, hosted by the University of Washington, convenes leading experts in aging research along with program officers from the NIA to train the next generation of research scientists dedicated to the study of aging. Each year, only 20 postdoctoral fellows or early-career faculty members are selected for this prestigious opportunity nationwide. Dr. Yang’s research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of insulin resistance, sexual dimorphisms in metabolic diseases, and aging-associated metabolic disorders. His work has been published in several esteemed journals, including Diabetes, Diabetologia, Aging Cell, Nature Communications, and Heart Failure, during both his Ph.D. and postdoctoral training.



Lab Highlights



Dr. Montoya-Urbe Awarded 1st Place

Congratulations to Dr. Vanessa Montoya-Urbe for winning the 1st Place Award for *Distinguished Postdoctoral Poster Presentation* at the Texas A&M Postdoctoral Research Symposium on September 16. Dr. Montoya-Urbe’s research focuses on elucidating the mechanisms underlying the pathogenesis of Lynch syndrome in response to pro-inflammatory diets. Lynch Syndrome is one of the most common causes of hereditary colorectal cancer (CRC) that affects approximately 30 million people around the world. Lynch Syndrome patients have germline mutations in genes that regulate cellular DNA mismatch repair (MMR) in the body. However, the mechanisms underlying the pathogenesis of CRC in Lynch Syndrome have not been elucidated. Thus, Dr. Montoya-Urbe tracked the fate of DNA mismatch repair deficient-colonic stem cells lineages in mice fed a high-fat diet during the initial stages of CRC. Her novel findings demonstrate for the first time that MMR-deficient colonic stem cells have a selective advantage (compared to normal wildtype) and clonally expand over time. We propose that MMR-deficient crypts drive cancer initiation.

Undergraduate Student Spotlight



Jennie Kim Featured in COALS Aggies of AGLS Series

Jennie is an undergraduate Nutritional Sciences major at Texas A&M University from Houston, TX, with plans to pursue a career in medicine. She holds a leadership role in the Nutrition Honors Association and has been an undergraduate researcher in the Chapkin Lab since her freshman year, studying the effects of short-chain fatty acids on gene expression in mouse colonic organoids. In addition to her academic pursuits, Jennie has been

part of the Texas A&M Chamber Orchestra for three years, playing violin, and enjoys singing and playing piano in her free time. Passionate about medical missions, she serves as president of the Global Medical Missions Alliance. Jennie was recently selected for the Aggies of AGLS series on the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences YouTube channel and social accounts, so keep an eye out for her feature!

Graduate Student Spotlight



Lauren Gladwell

Celebrating Excellence and Hispanic Heritage Month

I was raised in the small town of Donna, Texas by my young, single mother who struggled to raise me on her own. We lived with my grandparents for most of my childhood where my grandmother made sure to instill in me that no matter how tough things got, I needed to keep going. She inspired me to surpass any expectations set upon me as she did, being one of the earliest known Hispanic females to complete a degree from Texas A&M. This kindled a resilient spirit in me as I worked full-time at the hospital and pursued my bachelor's at the same time for nearly 5 years. I even had to readmit to the university due to financial adversities, but I didn't let that stop me. I believe that due to my struggle and strife, I developed an understanding of the worth of an education as well as where my true passion lies, research.

I carry my grandmother's legacy with me every day as I do my research on diseases that disproportionately affect the Hispanic community. My focus of research is investigating the epigenetic

regulations that underline obesity, diabetes, metabolic dysfunction- associated steatotic liver disease, and preeclampsia. All throughout my undergraduate studies here in genetics, it seemed that our fates were sealed by our genes; however, epigenetics revealed that it wasn't so simple. It gave hope that through nutrition, we are not doomed to our ethnicity's statistics and that we can even epigenetically reverse the damage incurred over multiple generations.

Now I am in my third year of the Nutrition PhD program under the guidance of my mentor, Dr. Mahua Choudhury, with whom I began working during my undergraduate studies. I have presented our research at several symposiums, published two articles, and served as the president of the NSGA. In the future, we hope to provide an epigenetic foundation for precision nutrition and precision medicine that advances the health of all communities, especially my Hispanic community.

Alumni Spotlight



Carey Lindemann '01

We are proud to feature Carey Lindemann, a distinguished graduate of Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Science, class of December 2001. Currently, Carey serves as a Family Medicine Physician in Nacogdoches, TX, where she integrates her nutrition expertise into her medical practice.

Carey's passion for nutrition began in her youth as a 4-H member, where her fascination with how vitamins and minerals impact health naturally led her to pursue a degree in Nutritional Science. This foundation has proven invaluable in her career, as she emphasizes dietary counseling for patients dealing with various health issues. "A patient's diet is their first-line treatment for different medical conditions," she explains.

Among her many academic experiences, Carey fondly recalls her favorite class, "Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle," and praises her

most memorable faculty member, Karen Beathard, for her unwavering support throughout her educational journey.

Reflecting on her proudest moments, Carey cherishes her role as a mother to three children, crediting her medical training with enhancing her parenting skills.

For current students pursuing a similar path, Carey advises, "In medical school, you receive limited nutritional training, yet every disease process can be influenced by diet. The lessons I learned at TAMU are still essential in my practice."

Carey also emphasizes the importance of making lasting memories and maintaining connections with classmates and mentors, noting that the networking opportunities as an A&M graduate are unmatched.



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE FALL WELCOME RECEPTION!

And congratulations to our award recipients!

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

TRACY L. WINDER '88 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Arianna Vela
Yuridia Borja Yanez



Arianna Vela

KATIE MCLELLAN '04 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN NUTRITION AND FOOD SCIENCE

Jane Moore
Sydney Payton



Jane Moore

ANTHONY F GUADIANO '62 AND CHERYL ANN ENER '92 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Kim T Le
Magen Petroski



Sydney Payton

COADC-EDWARD A. HILER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Breanna Chavez
Bailee Chavez

GEOFFREY AND JAMES KUNKEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Rebecca Wagner
Ryme Elbouxhani



Rebecca Wagner

MELINDA HOOD HUGHES '81 AND DENNIS W. HUGHES '79 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN NUTRITION

Caleb Mankey

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

Ryme Elboukhani
Ella LaGrange
Emma Thomas

FELLOWSHIPS

DOCTORAL RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FELLOWSHIP

Laurel Goldston

AVILÉS -JOHNSON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Kevin Nguyen
Victoria Martinez



Laurel Goldston



Kevin Nguyen



Victoria Martinez



Suzuki Lab



Nutrition Ambassadors



Happy October!

Send your news to bea.bradley@agnet.tamu.edu to be included in the next Nutrition newsletter!