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# AGENDA

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## UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025

**TIME:** 10:00 AM

**PLACE:** Hilton University of Houston Hotel  
Conrad Hilton Ballroom, Second Floor  
4450 University Drive  
Houston, Texas 77204

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**Chair:** Beth Madison

**Vice Chair:** Durga D. Agrawal

**Members:** Alonzo Cantu  
Gregory C. King  
Tammy Murphy  
Tomas Bryan - Non Voting

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I. Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee

*Presenter: Vice Chair Durga Agrawal*

A. Call to Order

*Presenter: Vice Chair Durga Agrawal*

B. Approval of Committee Minutes

- February 19, 2025, Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee Meeting

**Action:** Approval

*Presenter: Vice Chair Durga Agrawal*

C. Approval of Faculty Promotion and Tenure in Academic Rank – University of Houston System 4

**Action:** Approval

*Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost*

D. Approval of Faculty Emeritus Appointments – University of Houston System 11

- Action:** Approval  
*Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost*
- E. Approval of Faculty Development Leave – University of Houston System 31
- Action:** Approval  
*Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost*
- F. Approval to delegate authority to the Chancellor to modify Test Optional Admissions standards for the University of Houston 34
- Action:** Approval  
*Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost*
- G. Approval of New Degree Program(s) – University of Houston System 39
- Action:** Approval  
*Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost*
- H. Request for Approval of Program Closures – University of Houston System 48
- Action:** Approval  
*Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost*
- I. Request for approval of transfer of the Specialist in School Psychology, S.S.P. program from the University of Houston-Victoria to the University of Houston-Katy campus 50
- Action:** Approval  
*Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost*
- J. Introduction of University Dean, C.T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston 52
- Action:** Information  
*Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost*

- K. Presentation from the Division of Energy and Innovation at the University of Houston 54

**Action:** Information

*Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost*

- L. Federal Funding Updates – University of Houston System 62

**Action:** Information

*Presenter: Dr. Claudia Neuhauser, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research*

- M. Success Story Presentation – University of Houston System 72

**Action:** Information

*Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost*

## II. **Executive Session**

*Presenter: Vice Chair Durga Agrawal*

- A. 1. Consultation with System Attorney Regarding Legal Matters, and/or Contemplated Litigation or Settlement Offers.  
Texas Gov't Code Section 551.071
2. Deliberations regarding the Purchase, Exchange, Sale or Value of Real Property.  
Texas Gov't Code Section 551.072
3. Deliberation Regarding a Prospective Gift.  
Texas Gov't Code Section 551.073
4. Personnel Matters Relating to appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Assignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Officers or Employees including but not limited to the Chancellor, Presidents, Vice Chancellors, in the Division of Athletics and members of the Board of Regents.  
Texas Gov't Code Section 551.074

## III. **Report and Action from Executive Session**

*Presenter: Vice Chair Durga Agrawal*

## IV. **Adjourn**

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Approval of Faculty Promotion and Tenure in Academic Rank – University of Houston System

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Board approval is requested for faculty promotion and tenure recommendations to be effective September 1, 2025. After rigorous review, the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and each respective President recommends promotions and tenure to the Chancellor who then makes recommendations to the Board.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** Faculty Promotion Information

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Administration recommends approval of this item

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System



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**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR**

Diane Z. Chase

\_\_\_\_\_  
05/05/2025

**DATE**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHANCELLOR**

Renu Khator

\_\_\_\_\_  
5/7/2025

**DATE**

## **Academic, Research and Student Success Committee Meeting**

**May 14, 2025**

### Promotion and Tenure Review Process

The candidates produced portfolios demonstrating their achievements and track-record of excellence during the review period in their performance domains - typically, scholarship and creative activity, teaching, and service. They must also demonstrate their potential for sustainable excellence and impact in scholarship and creative activity, teaching, and service. Candidate portfolios underwent evaluation based on a set of rigorous criteria by the respective department committee, department chair, college committee, dean, university committee, provost, and president. These faculty members presented today were found to have met or exceeded the performance expectations in all domains and were found to merit promotion/tenure.

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston-Clear Lake**  
**Effective September 1, 2025**

<b>College / Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>
College of Business			
	Dina Abdelzاهر	Associate Professor	Professor
	Leroy Robinson	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Education			
	Jennifer Grace	Assistant Professor	Associate *
College of Science and Engineering			
	Ahmed Abukmail	Associate Professor	Professor
	Manki Cho	Assistant Professor	Associate *
College of Human Sciences and Humanities			
	Michael Brims	Associate Professor	Professor
	Christina Cedillo	Associate Professor	Professor
	Alper Kayaalp	Assistant Professor	Associate *
	Brent Kice	Associate Professor	Professor
	Roberta Leal	Assistant Professor	Associate *
	Sarah Lechago	Associate Professor	Professor
	Valerie Morgan	Assistant Professor	Associate *
	Steven Sutherland	Associate Professor	Professor

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston-Downtown**  
**Effective September 1, 2025**

<b>College / Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>
Marilyn Davies College of Business	Zafor Ahmed	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Richard Conde	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Austin Dejan	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Paul Fulbright	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Shuaifu Lin	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Robert McKee	Associate Professor	Professor
	Nathan Neale	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	Laura Cesarco Eglin	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Peter Li	Associate Professor	Professor
	Paul Mandell	Associate Professor	Professor
	Reynaldo Romero	Associate Professor	Professor
	John Rountree	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Claude Rubinson	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Public Service	Liza Barros Lane	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Diane Miller	Associate Professor	Professor
	Ashwini Tiwari	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Science and Technology	Maria Benavides	Associate Professor	Professor
	Jean Nganou	Associate Professor	Professor
	Katherine Shoemaker	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Benjamin Soibam	Associate Professor	Professor
	Jacob Theruvathu	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Emre Yilmaz	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston-Victoria**  
**Effective September 1, 2025**

<b>College / Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>
Business	Alexandre Aidov	Associate Professor	Professor
	Tong Kang	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *
	Yingxu Kuang	Associate Professor	Professor
	Kaveh McAdam	Associate Professor	Professor
	Emmanuel Quansah	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *
	Ziyun Yang	Associate Professor	Professor
Education and Health Professions	Katherine Bacon	Associate Professor	Professor
	Rachel Martinez	Associate Professor	Professor
	Sneha Nayar-Bhalerao	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *
Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Esther Cuenca	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *
	Rebecca Heron	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *
	Brooks Sterritt	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *
Natural and Applied Science	Humberto Hernandez	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *
	Ricardo Teixeira	Associate Professor	Professor

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston**  
**Effective September 1, 2025**

<b>College / Department</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>
Architecture		William Dupont	Associate Professor	Professor
		Rafael Beneytez-Duran	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Business	Accountancy & Taxation	Yuping Zhao	Associate Professor	Professor
	Decision & Information Sciences	Funda Sahin	Associate Professor	Professor
	Management	Shih-chi Chiu	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Marketing & Entrepreneurship	Seshadri Tirunillai	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Education	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies	Detra Johnson	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences	Allison Master	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
College of Engineering	Civil & Environmental Engineering	Devin Shaffer	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Civil & Environmental Engineering	Kalyana Nakshatrala	Associate Professor	Professor
	Construction Management	Lu Gao	Associate Professor	Professor
	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Aaron Becker	Associate Professor	Professor
	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Miao Pan	Associate Professor	Professor
	Engineering Technology	Lei Fan	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Engineering Technology	Marino Lent	Associate Professor	Professor
	Engineering Technology	Zheng Fan	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Human Development & Consumer Sciences	Olivia Johnson	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Human Development & Consumer Sciences	Tomika Greer	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Industrial Engineering	Yisha Xiang	Associate Professor	Tenure Only
	Information Science Technology	Elizabeth Rodwell	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Information Science Technology	Peggy Lindner	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Mechanical Engineering	Jae-Hyun Ryou	Associate Professor	Professor
Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	Communication Sciences & Disorders	Monique Mills	Associate Professor	Professor
	Communication	Jennifer Vardeman	Associate Professor	Professor
	Economics	Vikram Maheshri	Associate Professor	Professor
	Health and Human Performance	Craig Johnston	Associate Professor	Professor
	Health and Human Performance	Michael Cottingham	Associate Professor	Professor
	Health and Human Performance	Stacey Gorniak	Associate Professor	Professor
	Hispanic Studies	Rodrigo Hasbun	Associate Professor	Tenure Only
	Modern & Classical Languages	Melody Li	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*

\* Tenure

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston**  
**Effective September 1, 2025**

<b>College / Department</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>
	Philosophy	Christy Mag Uidhir	Associate Professor	Professor
	Political Science	Eduardo Aleman	Associate Professor	Professor
	Political Science	Jason Casellas	Associate Professor	Professor
	Political Science	Jeronimo Cortina	Associate Professor	Professor
	Psychology	Jaye Derrick	Associate Professor	Professor
	Psychology	Michael Williams	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Sociology	Scott Savage	Associate Professor	Professor
	Sociology	Xavia Karner	Associate Professor	Professor
	Sociology	Zelma Tuthill	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
Natural Sciences & Mathematics	Biology & Biochemistry	Rebecca Zufall	Associate Professor	Professor
	Chemistry	Ding-Shyue Yang	Associate Professor	Professor
	Chemistry	Jakoah Brgoch	Associate Professor	Professor
	Chemistry	Judy Wu	Associate Professor	Professor
	Chemistry	Robert Comito	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Computer Science	Guoning Chen	Associate Professor	Professor
	Mathematics	Loic Capanera	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Physics	Andre Cardoso Barato	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Physics	Byron Freelon	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
College of Optometry	Vision Sciences	Lisa Ostrin	Associate Professor	Professor
	Vision Sciences	Nimesh Patel	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Pharmacy	Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences	Bin Guo	Associate Professor	Professor
	Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences	Mingfu Wu	Associate Professor	Professor
College of the Arts	School of Art	Joshua Unikel	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Moores School of Music	Andrew Staupé	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Moores School of Music	Cory Meals	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
Global Hospitality Leadership		Jason Draper	Associate Professor	Professor
Social Work		Jodi Berger Cardoso	Associate Professor	Professor
		Sharon Borja	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
Hobby School of Public Affairs		Miryá Holman	Associate Professor	Professor

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success  
**ITEM:** Approval of Faculty Emeritus Appointments – University of Houston System

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Board approval is requested for faculty emeritus appointments at the University of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake, University of Houston-Downtown, and University of Houston-Victoria. The emeritus title is conferred only upon retired tenured faculty who have made a significant contribution to the university through a long and distinguished record of scholarship, teaching, and/or service. Emeritus faculty are expected to remain willing to assist and advise the university as requested, particularly in their areas of competence.

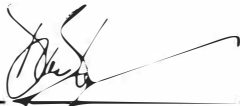
**SUPPORTING**

**DOCUMENTATION:** List of faculty recommended for emeritus appointments with brief biography.

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Administration recommends approval of this item

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System



\_\_\_\_\_  
**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR**

Diane Z. Chase

05/05/2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHANCELLOR**

Renu Khator

5/7/2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

## University of Houston-Clear Lake

### **Dr. George Guillen (College of Science and Engineering)**

Dr. George Guillen, retired professor of environmental science and retired executive director of the Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH), has long history of accomplishments in research, teaching, and service in his 20 years at UHCL. He joined UHCL in 2004 with an impressive resume of federal, state, and local government service, including research, management, and supervisory positions.

As the executive director of EIH, Dr. Guillen built the institute into an organization that became renowned statewide and nationally for its work in researching and monitoring the water quality of rivers and streams. Under his leadership, the EIH team provided valuable ecological information on endangered species and studied the challenges of development and climate change on coastal environments. His expertise in these areas equipped him to develop and teach eight different courses in aquatic and marine biology at the graduate and undergraduate level.

He also played a vital role in financially assisting students and staff after he received over 80 contracts and grants that brought over \$14 million to UHCL from major agencies. His admirable success in securing these contracts and grants provided continual funding and support for graduate students and a staff of well-qualified scientists and educators.

Dr. Guillen has been a leader in professional service throughout his career. He has served as a grant reviewer, on review panels, and a peer-reviewer for several journals. He hosted and moderated numerous public forums on local pollution issues and served in leadership roles for several national professional societies as well. Dr. Guillen also achieved recognition as an AFS Certified Fisheries Scientist and an ESA Certified Senior Ecologist.

### **Dr. Beth Hentges (College of Human Sciences and Humanities)**

Dr. Beth Hentges is a distinguished educator and leader whose career at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) spans nearly three decades. She earned her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, M.A. in Clinical Psychology, and B.A. in Psychology from the University of Houston. Following her academic accomplishments, she completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Texas-Houston, focusing on neuroimaging and medication treatment in children with ADHD.

Dr. Hentges began her career at UHCL as an adjunct faculty member in 1997 and transitioned to a visiting lecturer position in 2000. In 2002, she earned a tenure-track appointment as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2008. She has taught various subjects throughout her career, including child development, lifespan development, cognitive psychology, and critical thinking. Dr. Hentges pioneered the “Psychological Thinking” course, a core requirement for psychology majors designed to develop critical thinking skills related to psychological research. She taught over 4,000 students during her tenure and received the UHCL President’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 2015.

In addition to her teaching, Dr. Hentges demonstrated exemplary leadership in faculty governance and departmental management. She was a department leader for over 10 years, serving as Psychology Convener, Undergraduate

Program Director, and Department Chair. Moreover, she played a pivotal role in the Faculty Senate for 14 years, including serving as President and chairing multiple Faculty Senate committees. Dr. Hentges is renowned for her commitment to academic excellence, student mentorship, and her substantial contributions to the UHCL community.

### **Dr. Robert “Bobby” Jones (College of Education)**

Dr. Robert “Bobby” Jones made an indelible mark at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) and the broader educational community during his tenure from 1975 to 2024, after being recruited by the university's inaugural president, Dr. Alfred Neumann. Before joining UHCL, he distinguished himself at NASA as a missions planning and operations officer in the Public Affairs Office and served as a visiting professor at UH-Main. Notably, he developed a pioneering joint teacher education program between UH-Main and UHCL at NASA’s request, leading to the establishment of the Aerospace Institute.

In 1985, Dr. Jones published the influential research work "Teaming Up," drawing from his extensive experience with NASA teams and the classroom management model of Martha Piper. His academic contributions continued to flourish between 1998 and 2004, during which he co-authored 28 science textbooks, including the widely-used 1998 Harcourt Science text, enhancing science education for countless students.

From 2007 to 2018, Dr. Jones collaborated with astronaut and esteemed UHCL alumnus Dr. Bernard Harris to assess the ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp program, impacting over 220 middle school camps. His leadership extended to numerous initiatives, including chairing the establishment of the Martha Piper Award, directing the Energy Awareness Project, and overseeing the SACS Self-Study Program.

Above all, Dr. Jones’s legacy is defined by the success of his 9,000 students. He emphasized, “I want them to learn content, but more so, I hope they learn cognitive, lifelong skills that go way beyond the classroom. I hope they take what they learn from my class and use it as teachers to help their own students learn.” His dedication to education and student empowerment will resonate for generations to come.

### **Dr. Judith Marquez (College of Education)**

Dr. Judith Márquez has left a lasting impact as a faculty member of UHCL for over 30 years, achieving remarkable success across teaching, research, and service. As a passionate educator, she dedicated herself to fostering leadership skills in her students, demonstrating unwavering support for their growth, particularly for doctoral candidates, with extensive feedback and countless meetings.

Her research focused on bilingual education teacher preparation, yielding significant contributions through published works on topics such as gifted and talented education for language learners, Latinx parent involvement, and the development of academic Spanish skills among Spanish-speaking teacher education students. Dr. Márquez excelled in grant writing, co-authoring six funded Department of Education grants that amassed over six million dollars.

In addition to her research accomplishments, she served as the Studies in Language and Culture (SILC) Program Coordinator and Chair of the Counseling Special Education and Diversity (CSED) department, actively engaging in various college and university service committees. Dr. Márquez was especially proud to be a co-founder of the Minority Mentoring Association and contributed significantly to the Executive Board of the Texas Association for Bilingual Education for over a decade, including serving as President.

Her dedication and excellence have been recognized through numerous awards, including the President's Distinguished Service Award, the university's Hayes Diversity Award, a Faculty Fellowship, and the Texas Association for Bilingual Education Higher Education Award. Dr. Márquez's profound impact on the lives of alumni, faculty, and community members is a testament to her exceptional contributions in teaching, research, and service.

## **University of Houston-Downtown**

### **Dr. Michael Connell (College of Public Service)**

Dr. Michael Connell was a Professor of Mathematics Education in the Department of Urban Education from 2008 until his retirement in January 2025. He demonstrated excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service while at the University of Houston Downtown and demonstrated a strong commitment to mathematics education throughout his career. Some of his top accomplishments include, co-authoring a textbook, *Developing Deep Knowledge in Middle School Mathematics* (Springer, 2021) and a Best Paper Award from the Mathematics Education SIG of the Society for Instructional Technology and Teacher Education. Additionally, he has over 80 publications and over 90 presentations and invited talks on mathematics and technology education.

While at UHD, he served his department and the university through his commendable service work including serving on committees and mentoring new faculty. He taught a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses and was an active part of several externally-funded programs to recruit mathematics teachers. Beyond UHD, Dr. Connell was very active in a number of professional organizations and served in a leadership capacity in several including the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE), The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), and the National Council for Measurements in Education (NCME).

Through his teaching, service, and scholarship, Dr. Connell has made important contributions to the University of Houston-Downtown and his field. Dr. Connell is worthy of consideration for the status of Professor Emeritus.

### **Dr. Beth Pelz (College of Public Service)**

Dr. Beth Pelz was an Associate Professor at the University of Houston-Downtown in the Criminal Justice and Social Work Department in the field of Criminal Justice. She began her career at UHD in 1990 and throughout she was integral to the development of UH's Criminal Justice Program. She served as Department Chair of her Department as well as the Dean of the College during her tenure. Dr. Pelz was instrumental in the creation of the Master of Science in Criminal Justice and her leadership supported the growth of the program which became one of the leading graduate programs at UHD. Some of her major accomplishments while at UHD include developing important partnerships with community colleges allowing pathways for students with interest in criminal justice to continue

their education. Beth also created the Robert S. Browne Memorial Scholarship for criminal justice students helping numerous students be able to afford to continue their education.

As an instructor, Dr. Pelz brought her professional experience to her courses and helped to shape the curriculum to focus on important and contemporary issues in the criminal justice system. By teaching thousands of UHD students over her many years at UHD, she has had an impact at UHD but throughout the city of Houston, as well. Additionally, she created the UHD Bayou Connection a program that facilitates partnerships between UHD and universities in Taiwan. UHD has hosted almost 500 Taiwanese criminal justice students as a result. A unique scholar whose research sits at the nexus of scholarship and practice, Dr. Pelz's many publications and presentations have deeply impacted her field.

In consideration of her achievements in scholarship, teaching, and service, the University of Houston-Downtown wholeheartedly supports the granting of Emeritus Associate Professor status to Dr. Beth Pelz.

### **Dr. Ruth Robbins (Marilyn Davies College of Business)**

Dr. Ruth Robbins' career at UHD spanned forty-two years and her accomplishments during her tenure have been impactful to the Marilyn Davies College of Business. Dr. Robbins was one of the pioneers of UHD's Management Information Systems (MIS) program. She developed and taught a variety of MIS courses including the first graduate MIS courses. A flexible instructor, Dr. Robbins taught in a variety of modalities to meet the needs of her students and the department. According to her colleagues, she was always highly regarded by her students as well as her peers. Among her achievements include the publication of a book, an impressive collection of peer-reviewed journal articles, and conference presentations. Dr. Robbins leadership at UHD is perhaps her most lasting legacy. Dr. Robbins served as an Assistant Department Chair, Lead Professor, Program Coordinator for the MIS Program, and as an advisor to several student organizations. Outside of UHD, she was a member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Computer Educators in Texas for over 15 years.

Dr. Robbins' forty-two years of service to UHD have left a lasting legacy. With her numerous achievements in teaching and scholarship and her outstanding service and leadership record, we enthusiastically nominate Dr. Robbins for this wonderful honor of Professor Emeritus.

### **Dr. Dagmar Scharold (College of Humanities and Social Sciences)**

Dr. Dagmar Scharold began her career in the English Department at UHD in 1996 beginning as adjunct faculty and eventually as an Assistant Professor and then an Associate Professor. She served as the Director of the Writing and Reading Center from 2001 through 2016 helping countless students with writing. She was a favorite faculty member among her students and always demonstrated commitment to the success of her students. Dr. Scharold's scholarship focused on First-Year Composition pedagogy, university writing centers, college student mentoring, and university-community engagement. She demonstrated what it meant to be a practitioner researcher and brought her teaching expertise to her research and vice versa. In addition to numerous publications including book chapters and articles, Dr. Scharold also secured both internal and external grant funding to support her work.

Dr. Scharold's service record will have a long-lasting impact on the English department and on UHD. She served as Department Chair, the Director of First-Year Composition, multiple department-level committees as well as university committees. Outside of UHD, Dr. Scharold served her profession through various leadership positions in organizations, such as the International Writing Centers Association.

In sum, Dr. Scharold's commitment to student success seen through her teaching, research, and service is outstanding, and we find that she is more than worthy of earning the title of Emeritus Associate Professor.

## **University of Houston-Victoria**

### **Professor Horace "Bud" Fairlamb (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)**

After earning a Ph.D. in Intellectual History from Johns Hopkins University in 1983, Dr. Horace "Bud" Fairlamb joined the faculty at UHV in 1986. This was the start of a long and fruitful career that stretched for 38 years. During that time, Dr. Fairlamb helped nurture generations of students, engaged in important scholarships, and provided continuous service to UHV.

Teaching is one of the central tasks of faculty at UHV, and Dr. Fairlamb left an enduring legacy even as the university was changing. Dr. Fairlamb contributed to educating both graduate and undergraduate students. His teaching interests were varied because he contributed to the graduate and undergraduate programs in Interdisciplinary Studies and the English program. Extending beyond these contributions, Dr. Fairlamb taught numerous courses on film, some of which were part of the core curriculum. Students frequently described Dr. Fairlamb's classes as rigorous and accessible. He was committed to helping students engage in intellectual inquiry throughout his career at UHV.

Dr. Fairlamb's research can be best described as interdisciplinary because of his engagement with intellectual history and philosophy. More specifically, his research crossed the boundaries of Critical Theory and American Pragmatism. In 1994, he published *Critical Conditions: Postmodernity and the Question of Foundations* with Cambridge University Press, which is one of the most influential academic presses. In *Critical Conditions*, Dr. Fairlamb examined the work of some of the leading theorists and concluded that we must rethink the concepts of knowledge and meaning. Besides *Critical Conditions*, Dr. Fairlamb published multiple articles in high-quality journals. Dr. Fairlamb's search for knowledge has been steadfast because he attended conferences and published articles and reviews throughout his entire career. Until his retirement, he coordinated the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies. Prior to that, Dr. Fairlamb served as the Chair of Arts & Sciences before UHV reorganized its academics and appointed deans. He also served one term as chair of the Faculty Council.

### **Professor Linda Hayes (College of Business)**

Dr. Linda Hayes joined the business faculty at UHV as a visiting professor in 1998. Dr. Hayes taught more than 3,600 students in 20 different topics ranging from marketing-focused areas such as Principles of Marketing, Promotion Management, Business to Business Marketing, Services Marketing, International Marketing, Marketing Management, and Buyer Behavior to cross-discipline areas such as Business and Society, Business Finance, Managerial Finance, and Business Strategy and Policy. Dr. Hayes's primary research interests included strategy, assurance of learning,

perceptions, judgment, and choice. She relates her research to teaching in multiple areas such as global market strategies, trust, ethical stewardship, and program assessment.

As a business faculty member, she has published in many refereed journals, including Journal of Alternative Investments, Journal of Management, Journal of Business Ethics, Journal of Management Development, Journal of Applied Business Research, International Journal of Innovation, and many others. In addition to extensive University- and College-level committee service, Dr. Hayes provided significant contributions to the College of Business's initial AACSB accreditation in 2005 and has repeated those contributions as part of each re-accreditation effort every five years since. She supervised course assessments for both graduate and undergraduate programs and motivated faculty to participate in curriculum assessments to close the loops in assurance of learning. Her diligent efforts in collecting assessment data and putting together the required assessment reports for ACSB and SACS helped proactively prepare for the process of the AACSB accreditation for the College and the SACS accreditation for the University. A large part of the assessment framework used at UHV today is from what was put in place by Dr. Hayes during her time at UHV. Without her contributions, the College and University would not be where they are today in terms of assessment.

## **University of Houston**

### **Professor Claudine Giacchetti (McGovern College of the Arts)**

The Dean and Faculty of the College of the Arts request Professor Emeritus status for Dr. Claudine Giacchetti, Professor of French in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. Dr. Giacchetti has been on the faculty of the University of Houston since 1990. Her contributions and influence on the discipline, department, and university are substantial. Dr. Giacchetti published, 4 books, dozens of peer reviewed articles, and several chapters. Her research has received national and international acclaim, and she has received multiple awards in recognition of her excellent and important work. Most notably, the French government honored Dr. Giacchetti with one of its highest awards for an education when she was knighted as Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques (Chevalier of the Order of the Palmes Académiques).

Dr. Giacchetti also excels in the classroom. She is a master teacher and has received the college's highest teaching award as well as two university Teaching Excellence Awards and the UH Global Faculty Award, in part related to her 20+ years of Learning Abroad programming. Dr. Giacchetti has also served in many and various leadership roles in the university, community, and internationally for more than three decades, including currently serving (2022-2025 appointment) as a member of the Fulbright Program's National Screening Committee.

In recognition of 35 years of outstanding research, teaching and service, I strongly support granting Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Claudine Giacchetti, in acknowledgement of her accomplishments and contributions and in honor of the legacy she will leave at the University of Houston.

### **Professor Jon Lorence (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences support the nomination for Professor Emeritus status for Dr. Jon Lorence, Professor in the Department of Sociology. Dr. Lorence joined the faculty of the University of Houston in 1983 and retired in 2024. His contributions and influence on the discipline, department, and university are substantial. Dr. Lorence published 39 peer-reviewed articles (1 to 2 per year for the

first 30 years of his career) in the top Sociology journals, as well as more than a dozen funded studies reports for Texas Education Agency and several nonprofit agencies. Dr. Lorence also received several grants totaling more than \$420,000 during UH's pre-Tier 1 days, when many UH faculty were not seeking or receiving grants. He was valued by his departmental colleagues for his expertise and willingness to collaborate.

Dr. Lorence was also an excellent teacher, mainly teaching methods and statistical courses, and supervised or served on three dozen MA internship or thesis committees, as well as more than three dozen PhD committees in other departments and colleges – a definite sign of his ability and status as an educator and expert. Dr. Lorence has also served in many and various leadership roles in the university and was active in professional organizations, including the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research Southwest Region Federation and the American Sociological Association. In recognition of 41 years of outstanding research, teaching and service, I strongly support granting Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Jon Lorence, in acknowledgement of his accomplishments and contributions and in honor of the legacy he will leave at the University of Houston.

### **Professor Susan Rasmussen (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences support the nomination of Dr. Susan Rasmussen, Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies for Professor Emeritus status.

Susan Rasmussen spent her entire academic career at the University of Houston and significantly enhanced the university's reputation by her presence. Susan became interested in the peoples of Africa through being a member of the Peace Corps before her graduate training. This experience led her to focus on the countries of Mali and Niger and explicitly on the Tuareg peoples. She had 35 years of research experience in West Africa and has published extensively on the Tuareg. She is fluent in Spanish and French and also speaks Tamajaq and Hausa (all languages of northwest Africa).

In 1990 Susan arrived at the University of Houston as an Assistant Professor. She earned tenure and became an Associate Professor in 1996 and a Full Professor in 2000. Her rapid progress in promotions reflected her extraordinary productivity in terms of publications, something that did not abate after she earned promotion to Full Professor in 2000. Susan has authored some 110 articles and book chapters as well as published 6 books. She regularly taught her courses and engaged with both undergraduate and graduate students, being the committee chair for 24 MA theses. She earned grant monies from the Wenner-Gren Foundation on 3 occasions and was also the recipient of a 2-year Fulbright grant. Furthermore, throughout her time at UH, she always carried out committee work at the department level and also was engaged in committees at the university level.

In short, Susan Rasmussen's track record at UH and the prestige that her hard work has brought to the institution justifies her recognition as an Emeritus faculty member.

### **Professor Robert Buzzanco (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences support the nomination of Dr. Robert Buzzanco, Professor in the Department of History for Professor Emeritus status. Dr. Buzzanco joined the faculty of the University of Houston in 1995. His contributions and influence on the

discipline, department, and university are substantial. Dr. Buzzanco published two monographs, one of which received a major award, a co-edited volume, and a 2014 textbook on American History from the Civil War to present that remains in use today. He has also published many articles and chapters in peer reviewed journals and books, but in the last decade or so he has focused on more public outlets. The articles are written from an academic perspective and with academic rigor (i.e., based on fact, theory, and logic), but aimed at a public audience. Dr. Buzzanco also has a regular podcast and a blog and has contributed editorials to various newspapers and popular magazines. He received several internal and external grants in support of his work during his career.

Dr. Buzzanco is also an engaging and excellent teacher. While he taught many courses over the years, recently he is teaching large sections of the American History Core course to approximately 1200 students per year – he likely has taught more than 10,000 UH students. His lively and stimulating teaching style is appreciated by students, most of whom are not taking the course by choice, of course. He received a university Teaching Excellence Award in 2006. With respect to graduate studies, he chaired 15 PhD or MA committees.

Dr. Buzzanco served on many department and college committees and was Chair of History from 2007- 2009. He coordinated Noam Chomsky and Ralph Nader's respective visits to UH in the early 2000s. He has long served as a reviewer for many journals and presses. In recognition of 30 years of outstanding research, teaching and service, I strongly support granting Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Robert Buzzanco, in acknowledgement of his accomplishments and contributions and in honor of the legacy he will leave at the University of Houston.

### **Professor Karl Ittmann (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences support the nomination of Dr. Karl Ittmann, Professor in the Department of History for Professor Emeritus status. Professor Ittmann is a noted scholar in British and Imperial history, particularly the intersection of economic and social history in the 19th and 20th centuries. He has authored three monographs and several peer-reviewed journal articles, and he is also lead editor and contributor to an important collected volume. His books reflect top-notch scholarship and have been published by the leading presses in his field. Professor Ittmann's scholarly work is highly regarded by his peers and has made a significant impact on his field.

Across his entire career, Professor Ittmann has been a dedicated and popular teacher. He has taught everything from large Core courses like Western Civilization to advanced graduate seminars. His suite of undergraduate courses - which focus on British, imperial, and European history in the modern era - are sought after by students and nearly always full. Professor Ittmann has played a vital role in our graduate program, teaching a variety of both readings and research seminars on modern British, European, and Imperial history. He has directed eight PhD dissertations and five MA theses over the years, and he has served as a committee member for many more. Most of his doctoral mentees have gone on to hold tenure-line academic jobs at institutions in the US, the UK, and South Asia. He has been an asset to the department and has had an impact on many hundreds of our undergraduate and graduate students.

Throughout his career at UH, Professor Ittmann has been a good academic citizen. He has served on every one of the History Department's standing committees, both elective and appointive, as well as on several faculty search committees and other ad hoc committees and task forces. In addition to significant departmental service, he also

served on the UH Faculty Senate for a number of years, and he chaired the Faculty Senate's Faculty Affairs Committee for a year. Beyond the university, he also has engaged in professional service, including manuscript reviews for various presses and journals, review panelist for NEH and Fulbright, and multiple leadership activities in the Western Conference on British Studies.

Professor Karl Ittmann has, without a doubt, "made a significant contribution to the university through a long and distinguished record of scholarship, teaching, and/or service", the standard for emeritus status.

### **Professor Susan Robbins (Graduate College of Social Work)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of Graduate College of Social Work support the nomination of Susan Robbins for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Susan P. Robbins has devoted an extraordinary 45 years to our institution, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to teaching, scholarship, and service at the Graduate College of Social Work.

Dr. Robbins holds the prestigious title of Cele S. and Samuel D. Keeper Endowed Professor in Social Justice and has previously served as the Associate Dean for Doctoral Education at GCSW. Her remarkable career has been recognized at the highest levels, including her designation as an NASW Pioneer by the National Association of Social Workers Foundation—an honor reserved for those who have made significant and lasting contributions to the profession.

Her scholarly impact is vast, with appointments to the Executive Board of the American Board of Forensic Social Workers and the American College of Forensic Examiners, as well as service on multiple editorial boards of leading academic journals. As Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Social Work Education* (2013-2016), her editorials garnered widespread acclaim, further solidifying her reputation as a leading voice in social work education. Her textbook, *Comparative Human Behavior Theory: A Critical Perspective for Social Work Practice*, remains a cornerstone in social work curricula across the country.

Beyond her academic and research accomplishments, Dr. Robbins has significantly influenced social work education and practice. She has provided consultation and training for Children's Protective Services in Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, leading to numerous invited presentations at national, regional, and local conferences. Her expertise in forensic social work has also been recognized through certifications, including the Board-Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work and multiple advanced forensic social work certifications.

Dr. Robbins has been a pioneer in expanding access to social work education, having introduced the first online courses at GCSW utilizing television broadcasts to reach students. She remains a steadfast advocate for online learning, ensuring the continued evolution of our program to meet the needs of diverse learners. Her influence extends deeply into curriculum development, having designed and led the development of numerous courses, including but not limited to *Confronting Oppression and Injustice*, *Human Behavior and Social Environment: Social Work Perspectives*, *Comparative Human Behavior Theory*, *Drugs in Society*, and *Mediation for Social Work Practice*. As the foundation chair for the MSW curriculum in the early 2000s, Dr. Robbins developed a unique one-semester foundation curriculum, which gained national recognition among social work programs. Her leadership in

accreditation efforts has been instrumental not only at GCSW but also in guiding other MSW programs across the country through their reaccreditation processes.

Among her many accolades, Dr. Robbins has received the National Faculty Excellence Award for Outstanding Contribution to Distance Education (1998), the Outstanding Faculty Award at GCSW (1988, 1993, 2005), the Sol Gothard Lifetime Achievement Award in Forensic Social Work (2016), and the Hamline University Alumni Award for Making the World a Better Place (2019). She received the Tulane University School of Social Work's 1914 Distinguished Alumni Award in Academia and Research in November 2024. Dr. Robbins' mentorship has shaped the careers of countless social workers, including renowned researcher and author Brené Brown, whose dissertation she chaired. To this day, she continues to mentor and chair dissertations, demonstrating her lifelong dedication to fostering the next generation of social work leaders.

Given her exceptional contributions to academia, research, and the field of social work, Dr. Robbins is deserving of the honor of Emeritus Professor. Her legacy at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work is clear and this designation will ensure that her impact continues to be recognized for years to come.

#### **Associate Professor Romi Ghose (College of Pharmacy)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of College of Pharmacy support the nomination of Romi Ghose for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Romi Ghose joined the University of Houston College of Pharmacy as an Assistant Professor in 2006. She was granted tenure in 2014 and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. Dr. Ghose took early retirement from UH in 2025. Dr. Ghose received her PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Notre Dame in 1999. Prior to joining UH, she was a Post-doctoral Associate, Post-doctoral Fellow, and Instructor at the Baylor College of Medicine. She also briefly worked as a Staff Scientist in a small biotech company in Houston in between her two post-doctoral appointments.

Dr. Ghose's laboratory at UH focused on drug metabolism and drug toxicity research. Her research was funded by NIH, and grants from UH and other foundations. Her collaborators were spread all over the US, that included UH, Baylor College of Medicine, NASA, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, UT- Austin, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Emory University, and others. Dr. Ghose published over 55 articles in leading peer-reviewed journals that have been cited about 1000 times. She was invited to write review articles for four scholarly publications, including a book chapter. She gave several invited lectures at national and international institutions, conferences and chaired a session at one of the national meetings. Dr. Ghose received UH Provost's Faculty Travel Award twice, in 2008 and 2016. In 2014, one of her publications received the outstanding honor of being selected as a Journal Highlights by the American Association of Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET).

Dr. Ghose developed and taught several Pharmaceutics courses at UH, both for the graduate (PhD) and professional (PharmD) programs. She was also the Course coordinator for 2 graduate-level courses and 1 PharmD course. She mentored 6 doctoral students, 1 post-doctoral fellow, 1 research technician, several PharmD students, and numerous undergraduate students in her laboratory at UH. Her doctoral students received extramural awards and other awards from UH for their research work. She also served in the dissertation committees of 20+ graduate

students at UH and UT-Austin. In 2010, Dr. Ghose received a Faculty Development Initiative Program (FDIP) Teaching Award at UH.

Dr. Ghose was an active member of the faculty at UH and served on several Departmental, College and University-wide committees. She was a long-standing member of the Graduate Education Committee, Faculty Evaluation Committee, and PPS Scholar-in-Residence Symposium Committee at the Departmental level. She chaired the Faculty Development Committee at the College level for 3 years and served on the Information Technology Committee, Curriculum Committee and Experiential Committees for 3-5 years. At the University level, she was elected to serve in the Faculty Senate and served for 3 years. Dr. Ghose was the Department nominee for Cougar Chairs Leadership Academy in 2017.

Dr. Ghose served in the Editorial board of three peer-reviewed journals. She also reviewed manuscripts for about 20 peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Ghose was a regular grant reviewer for NIH and reviewed grants for several UH programs (e.g., Gear Grant and Vision Science Grants to Advance Research).

### **Professor Ke-He Ruan( College of Pharmacy)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of College of Pharmacy support the nomination of Ke-He Ruan for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Ke-He Ruan, M.D., Ph.D., retired on January 15, 2025, after 37 years of scientific contributions to Texas universities, including the last 18 years at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy (UHCOP). His tenure as a professor, researcher, and mentor has made significant contributions to pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, vascular biology, and drug discovery. His work has advanced scientific understanding and therapeutic development in these fields.

Dr. Ruan earned an M.D. from Fujian Medical University and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science from the Medical College of Miyazaki. He completed a fellowship in biochemistry at Baylor College of Medicine before beginning his independent career at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth), where he served as a faculty member from 1991 to 2007, rising through the ranks to tenured Professor. He also held leadership roles as Associate Director and later Director of the Vascular Biology Course at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, jointly operated by UTHealth and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. In 2007, he joined UHCOP as a Professor and served as Director of the Center for Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacoinformatics. He was also an adjunct faculty at UTHealth's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences for several years. Additionally, since 2005 he has been affiliated with the Texas Heart Institute.

Dr. Ruan's research focused on the molecular and cellular regulation of lipid metabolites in diseases such as inflammation, heart disease, cancer, and vascular disorders. His work on prostacyclin (PGI<sub>2</sub>), prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> (PGE<sub>2</sub>), and thromboxane A<sub>2</sub> (TXA<sub>2</sub>) has illuminated their critical roles in vascular, cancer, and neuronal diseases. One of his most groundbreaking achievements was the development of Biolink Technology, such as an Enzymelink—innovative single-chain hybrid enzyme complexes with triple catalytic functions that revolutionize the control of arachidonic acid metabolites. This technology selectively enhances PGI<sub>2</sub> biosynthesis while suppressing TXA<sub>2</sub> and PGE<sub>2</sub> production, offering therapeutic potential for preventing endothelial dysfunction and ischemic heart disease. It can also enhance inflammatory PGE<sub>2</sub> production, serving as a specific drug target for developing next-

generation anti-inflammatory drugs with fewer side effects. Additionally, Enzymelink selectively boosts TXA2 production, making it a potential anti-bleeding agent and a tool for studying TXA2 effects on cancer immunity. Enzymelink can also be used for screening compounds targeting downstream pro-inflammatory mPGES-1 paving the way for next-generation anti-inflammatory drugs overcoming the side effects associated with NSAIDs. He has also extended this technology to active single-chain GPCR-G-protein complexes by linking G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) to specific G-proteins. These platforms have opened new therapeutic pathways for vascular diseases and GPCR-related conditions. Finally, Dr. Ruan identified the negative impact of aspirin on heart repair due to their suppression of human stem cell growth, which could delay tissue regeneration and reduce the heart's healing after a myocardial infarction.

Dr. Ruan has filed numerous patents. In 2024, he was granted a patent for Biolink, a single polypeptide chain insulin capable of stabilizing glucose levels up to three times longer than conventional insulin. This innovation could reduce production costs while extending injection intervals for patients with Type 1 diabetes. He also has multiple U.S. patents pending approval from the U.S. Patent Office, which include mPGES-1 inhibitors, Enzymelink gene, cell lines, hybrid proteins, and the Vaccine-Link platform.

As an educator and mentor, Dr. Ruan has influenced medical professionals and Ph.D. students. He served as the graduate advisor for more than ten Ph.D. students and mentored numerous M.D., Ph.D., and M.D./Ph.D. postdoctoral fellows, as well as medical and pharmacy professional students. Additionally, I have trained dozens of postgraduate students who were successfully accepted into medical or pharmacy schools through programs like the UH Summer Research Fellowship Program (SURF). He was also dedicated to train high school science teachers through NIH supplemental grants.

Dr. Ruan received numerous grants from prestigious organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, U.S. Army, private companies, and the Siemens Foundation. His groundbreaking discovery of "Super Enzymes" has been featured in prominent outlets like American Chemical Society News, ScienceBased.com, UHealth news, UH news, and more than ten national and international news sources. Dr. Ruan authored or coauthored over 100 articles in leading peer-reviewed journals such as Circulation, Nature Communications, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Cancer Research, Biochemistry, and International Journal of Cardiology.

Dr. Ruan's career is defined by dedication to integrating academic pharmacological and medicinal chemistry to understand patient-centered innovation for drug discovery. His discoveries in lipid metabolite regulation and GPCR signaling have deepened scientific understanding while paving the way for therapeutic strategies that will inspire future generations. Although retired from UHCOP, Dr. Ruan's pioneering spirit remains focused on refining his multiple patents toward commercialization. This ongoing work will define his retirement as he continues contributing to biomedical science.

#### **Associate Professor Janet Meade (Bauer College of Business)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of Bauer College of Business support the nomination of Janet Meade for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

After over 36 years of distinguished service to the Department of Accountancy & Taxation, the Bauer College of Business, and her profession, Dr. Meade retired on January 1, 2025.

Dr. Meade had an excellent teaching record. She taught across the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. In particular, she taught corporate tax, individual tax, tax research, and other advanced-level tax courses to undergraduate and the graduate students. In addition, she taught research design seminars to Ph.D. students. She won numerous College and Department teaching awards. She had strong teaching evaluations and many of her students have had highly successful professional careers.

Dr. Meade made significant research contributions in numerous scholarly publications in the taxation area. She was also active in co-authoring works in pedagogy and instruction. Dr. Meade served on editorial boards of leading academic journals in her field, such as the Journal of the American Taxation Association (the leading academic tax journal).

Dr. Meade also had a long and distinguished record of service to her Department and the College. She served as the Director of the MS in Accountancy program; Member or Chair of the Bauer College Masters Curriculum Committee; Member of the MS Accountancy Curriculum Committee; and Member of the Department Promotion & Tenure Committee. For her service contributions, Dr. Meade won the College Service Award.

### **Professor Thomas Noland (Bauer College of Business)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of the Bauer College of Business support the nomination of Thomas Noland for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

After distinguished service to the Department of Accountancy & Taxation and the Bauer College of Business for 32 years, Dr. Noland retired on September 1, 2024.

Dr. Noland had a distinguished teaching record and taught across the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. He taught courses in financial accounting, managerial accounting, financial statement analysis, and auditing to students at both the undergraduate and the graduate level. In addition, he taught a seminar in empirical financial accounting research to Ph.D. students. Dr. Noland received several teaching awards, including the Payne Teaching Excellence Award and the El Paso Faculty Achievement Award. He also received the Houston Alumni Organization Outstanding Faculty Award.

Dr. Noland published numerous scholarly articles and his research interests included the study of the economic value of accounting information and independent audits. One of his papers received the Notable Contribution to the Auditing Literature Award.

Dr. Noland had a strong service record. He served as Chair of the Department of Accountancy and Taxation (2001-2004 and 2021-2024) and as Director of the Certificate in Accountancy Program (2004-2013). He also served as the Bauer College Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs (2013-2014 and 2018-2019).

**Professor Robert Keller (Bauer College of Business)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of the Bauer College of Business support the nomination of Robert Keller for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

After over 45 years of distinguished service to the Department of Management & Leadership, the Bauer College of Business, University of Houston, and his profession, Dr. Keller retired on January 1, 2025.

Dr. Keller has an excellent research record. He has over 60 scholarly publications, many of them in highest quality journals in his field. Some of his papers are among the most cited papers in the high-quality journals they were published in. Dr. Keller has a distinguished record of service to his profession, having served on the editorial boards of some leading journals in his field as well as on executive committees of major professional organizations. Notably, Dr. Keller is a charter member of the Academy of Management Journal's Hall of Fame, one of the most prestigious designations in his field.

Dr. Keller has a highly distinguished service record to the Department, College, and the University. At the University-level, Dr. Keller served on many important committees and was a member of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Keller also served on numerous College and Department committees.

**Professor Leanne Atwater (Bauer College of Business)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of Bauer College of Business support the nomination of Leanne Atwater for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston. After nearly 17 years of distinguished service to the Department of Management & Leadership, the Bauer College of Business, University of Houston, and her profession, Dr. Atwater retired on January 1, 2025.

Dr. Leanne Atwater is a world-renowned scholar in the area of leadership. As an Endowed Chaired Professor, Full Professor, and former Department Chair, she has been recognized by the University as a top scholar. She joined the faculty in July, 2008. She is one of the most highly cited faculty in the College of Business. The University of Houston would greatly benefit from her continuing to be affiliated with it. She does research in the areas of leadership, self-perception, and gender. She has published over 60 papers in highly respected journals. In 2021, she won the Eminent Leadership Scholar Award from the Network of Leadership Scholars for her intellectual contributions to the field of leadership studies – a prestigious national award. She is the former editor of *The Leadership Quarterly*, the world's best academic journal on leadership.

Dr. Atwater has an excellent research record. She has over 80 scholarly publications and is one of the most cited scholars in the Bauer College. Dr. Atwater has received numerous awards for research. She also has a distinguished record of service to her profession. Dr. Atwater has served on the editorial boards of some leading journals in her field as well as on executive committees of major professional organizations.

Dr. Atwater also is an excellent teacher. She has won the University of Houston Excellence in Teaching Award (2018) and the Bauer College Teaching Award (2015). She has also served on a large number of advisory and dissertation committees for doctoral candidates. Dr. Atwater's service record to the Department, College, and the University is

highly distinguished, having served on numerous University, College, and Department committees, including the College and Department Promotion and Tenure Committees.

**Professor Thomas Oldham (UH Law Center)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of UH Law Center support the nomination of Thomas Oldham for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

By the date of his retirement, Professor Tom Oldham will have been with the University of Houston Law Center for 45 years. Oldham earned his J.D. from the University of California Law School in 1974 and worked in private practice in Beverly Hills, California until 1980. Professor Oldham joined the University of Houston Law Center faculty in 1980 as an untenured associate professor. The faculty recommended him to the University for tenure in 1984, and in 1986 he was promoted to full professorship.

Professor Oldham held two professorships during his tenure. He was appointed the Law Foundation Scholar in 1992 and then in 1997 was appointed the John H. Freeman Professor of Law, which professorship he has continuously held since then. The terms that established the John H. Freeman Professorship stated that the holder “shall be a person who maintains a reputation for excellence in scholarship and concurrently maintains a reputation for excellence in teaching.”

Professor J. Thomas Oldham has certainly maintained that standard as he has been a prolific scholar for over 45 years. He is the author of 8 books, numerous book chapters, and over 54 law review articles. His article, What If The Beckhams Move To L.A. And Divorce? Marital Property Rights of Mobile Spouses when They Divorce in the United States, 42 FAMLQ 263 was cited by three Texas appellate cases, eighteen journal articles, and the American Law Institute’s Restatement of the Law-Conflicts of Law and Arizona and Kansas practice guides.

He was invited by the Uniform Law Commission to join drafting committees for the “Uniform Recognition of Community Property Disposition at Death Act” and the “Uniform Premarital and Marital Agreement Act.” He was a member of multiple American Law Institute’s Consultative Groups. He served on Board of Editors for the ABA Family Law Quarterly, the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section of the American Association of Law Schools, and the Executive Committees of the Marital Property and Family Law Sections of the American Bar Association. Professor Oldham’s scholarship was cited by law journal articles over 700 times and in over 60 cases, which demonstrates his enormous influence on family law and other areas of law. In 2015, Professor Oldham selected as a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Sydney and Australia National University. In 2000, Professor Oldham was selected to receive the University of Houston’s Excellence in Research and Scholarship Award.

Professor Oldham’s teaching is nothing short of exemplary as well. He has taught family law and Texas marital property rights for more than 30 years and authored three textbooks and numerous articles in those fields. He also has taught courses in mediation, Business Associations, Agency and Unincorporated Associations. Professor Oldham has also served as a visiting professor of law at Colorado, Cambridge, and George Washington law schools.

Throughout his time at the Law Center, Professor Oldham has served on almost every committee including the Ad Hoc “Other” Faculty Committee (implement University non-tenure track policy at the Law Center.), Ad Hoc New

Building Art Committee, Admissions, Appointments, Curriculum, Executive, Facilities, Faculty Development, Graduate Studies Council, Library, Post Tenure Review, Post Tenure/CEA Review (Chair), Promotion & Tenure, and Student Affairs

**Professor Scott Gilbertson (College of Natural Science and Mathematics)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of College of Natural Science and Mathematics support the nomination of Scott Gilbertson for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

The Department of Chemistry Executive Committee has voted unanimously to support Professor Scott Gilbertson's request for Emeritus Status upon his retirement from the University of Houston in September 2025. Scott has distinguished himself as a creative and productive scientist and scholar, a dedicated and effective teacher, and an exemplary citizen of the department, college, and university.

Over his 15 years at UH, Professor Scott Gilbertson, the M. D. Anderson Chair in Chemistry and Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, has conducted nationally and internationally recognized synthetic organic chemistry research; taught superbly at the undergraduate level, including sophomore-level Honors Organic Chemistry and junior/senior-level Organic Chemistry of Biological Molecules, a course he developed; and performed exceptional service to the department, college, university, and scientific community.

He has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Chemical Society, and since 2021, he has been a Faculty in Residence at Moody Towers, where he and his wife mentored and tutored our undergraduates daily. In further service to the university, he has served and will continue to serve as an emeritus faculty member, as a bridge for UH to the Texas Medical Center through his work with the Gulf Coast Consortia. As an emeritus faculty member, Professor Gilbertson will undoubtedly continue to be a valuable source of advice and counsel to his colleagues in the Department of Chemistry and the College of NSM. Professor Gilbertson's exemplary academic career is entirely consistent with being named as a Professor Emeritus upon his retirement.

Scott has contributed substantially to the growth of the department, college, and university by conducting impactful, well-regarded research, serving as a dedicated, hands-on mentor and respected undergraduate instructor, and performing meaningful service. Undoubtedly, Scott's counsel will be sought by his colleagues for many years to come because of his extensive academic experience and success. It is fitting that we honor Scott's career by naming him Professor Emeritus upon his retirement in the fall.

**Professor John Wolfe (Cullen College of Engineering)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of College of Engineering support the nomination of John Wolfe for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Wolfe joined the University of Houston in 1976 and has held every academic rank from Visiting Assistant Professor to Full Professor. He was honored as the Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2010, a recognition of his sustained excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service. His extensive leadership roles include:

- Chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (1995-1996)
- Interim Dean, Cullen College of Engineering (1996-1998)
- Associate Dean for Research (1999-2000)
- Interim Chair, ECE Department (2009-2010)

Dr. Wolfe also directed several key research facilities including the Nanosystem Manufacturing Center and the Scanning Electron Microscope Facility, contributing to research capacity-building within the college.

Dr. Wolfe has demonstrated a commitment to education across multiple decades, having taught an exceptionally broad range of undergraduate and graduate courses in electronics, microfabrication, superconductivity, and electron beam technologies. His instructional influence extended to non-majors and interdisciplinary audiences, reinforcing his philosophy of inclusive, innovative education. He has supervised more than 25 Ph.D. students and over 35 M.S. students, many of whom have advanced to prominent roles in academia, national labs, and industry leaders such as Intel, NASA, and Applied Materials. His mentorship has had a transformative impact on generations of engineers and researchers.

Dr. Wolfe's research legacy is profound. His contributions to ion beam lithography, neural interfaces, superconducting electronics, and nanofabrication techniques have influenced both fundamental science and applied engineering. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, numerous conference presentations, and 18 U.S. patents. His work has been continuously funded for decades by agencies including NSA, NSF, DARPA, AFOSR, and various industrial partners. Notably, he pioneered key advances in neutral particle lithography and neural probe design, positioning UH as a national leader in micro- and nanoscale device fabrication.

### **Associate Professor Shirley Ezell (College of Engineering)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of Cullen College of Engineering support the nomination of Shirley Ezell for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Shirley Ezell joined the University of Houston September 1, 1970. For 55 years Dr. Ezell has worked tirelessly connecting students with career and personal growth opportunities. Her multiple roles within UH during that time have extended curricular and professional programs for students' success. Dr. Ezell has served UH in the following leadership roles:

- \* Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs (10 years),
- \* Interim Dean of the College of Technology (1 year),
- \* Associate Dean of the College of Social Sciences (7 years),
- \* Chair of Human Development and Consumer Sciences (6 years),
- \* Retailing Internship Director (20+ years),
- \* Classroom teacher and mentor (55 years)

Two aspects of Dr. Ezell's service as a champion for students, faculty, and programs, in addition to her long and meritorious service as a UH administrator, clearly illustrate her concern for student growth and development. First, Dr. Ezell directed the Retailing and Consumer Science (RCS) Internship. She interacted in very personal ways helping students select internships and monitoring their growth and progress. Many, if not most, secured jobs with their sites

upon graduation. Second, for more than a decade, Dr. Ezell organized and executed the Movers and Shakers Event, which hosted retail recruiters for a very focused retail career fair to benefit RCS students. This event was very complimentary to her role in developing and leading the Retailing and Consumer Science Advisory Board throughout her history at UH.

### **Associate Professor Rachel Hecker (College of the Arts)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of McGovern College of the Arts support the nomination of Rachel Hecker for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Professor Hecker will retire at the end of the spring 2025 semester, which will be the conclusion of a distinguished 33-year career on the university faculty. Over those many years Professor Hecker has ardently pursued her research, provided invaluable service to the School of Art, and taught and mentored generations of enthusiastic art students.

As a researcher, Professor Hecker has long been interested in the confluence of “high” and “low” culture. She has created a range of work effectively addressing how hierarchies are determined, and how images and communities are activated. In the past 40 years her work has been exhibited in twelve solo exhibitions and over 120 group exhibitions, regionally, nationally, and internationally. In concert with her exhibitions, her work has been reviewed and cited in numerous journals and publications including *Art in America*, *ArtForum*, *ArtNews*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Out Smart*, and *Art Review*. Professor Hecker’s work is also held in a number of public collections including The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, The New Orleans Museum of Art, The Federal Reserve Bank, Dallas, The Menil Collection, The University of Houston Public Art Collection, and the Dallas Museum of Art.

Over the length of her tenure Professor Hecker’s service to the School of Art has been exemplary and considerable. Rarely if ever would she refuse a request for her assistance or expertise. She provided vision and leadership for eight years as the Painting Program Coordinator, and for six years as the Associate Director of the school. She organized and administered the complicated 1999 move of the painting program from the ARA Building to the current facilities in the Fine Arts Building, and she composed a comprehensive analysis of the painting program for the recent and successful NASAD accreditation process. Professor Hecker also served on the School of Art executive, curriculum, facilities, and awards committees, bringing guidance and wisdom to each appointment.

Last, during her 33 years on the faculty Professor Hecker has been an outstanding teacher, mentor, and role model for an incalculable number of undergraduate and graduate students. She has stated that she regards teaching as “a sacred trust”, and she has consistently followed that ethos as an educator. Professor Hecker has always been regarded by her students with a calm respect, admiration, and attention—and that is the same regard she has afforded them. Her dedication and stature were confirmed in 2009 when she was given the Ross M. Lence Award for Teaching Excellence.

### **Professor Jerome Schultz (College of Engineering)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **Cullen College of Engineering** support the nomination of Jerome Schultz for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Schultz was actively recruited to the University of Pittsburgh in 1987 as Director of the interdisciplinary Center for Bioengineering and Biotechnology. He also founded a new Department of Bioengineering and served as its first chairman. In 1988 he became Editor-in-Chief of journal *Biotechnology Progress*, which he served on for several decades. He was also a founding fellow and past president of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering. He arranged the first meeting of American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering in 1992. Dr. Schultz continued his work on biosensors to develop a concept for the first implantable optically based glucose sensor. In 1994, Dr. Schultz was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering “for integration of biological membrane transport and molecular recognition mechanisms for practical separation devices and bioanalytical sensors.” During his tenure at the University of Pittsburgh he was awarded the Marvin J. Johnson Biotechnology Award, American Chemical Society, which wrote that his work contributed to “bridging the gap between biochemical and biomedical engineering”. In 1997, Dr. Schultz also became a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Schultz has additionally served over the years as the chair of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers’ Food, Pharmaceutical and Bioengineering Division and the American Chemical Society’s Biochemical Technology Division. He has also served at the National Science Foundation as the Deputy Director, Division of Cross-Disciplinary Research and the Section Head, Emerging Engineering Systems.

In 2005, Dr. Schultz became a Fellow of the Biomedical Engineering Society. In 2008 the AIChE, in celebrating its centennial, has recognized Schultz’ contributions by naming him one of the “One Hundred Engineers of the Modern Era” in the category of “New Frontiers” He was cited for his work with biorecognition and bioreceptor sensors, synthetic membranes, transport in tissues, immobilized enzymes, and pharmacokinetics. In 2013 he became a Fellow of the American Chemical Society as well as the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. In 2017 he was recruited to his current position at the University of Houston as the Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering.

Dr. Schultz has published >150 journal articles, many in high impact journals, edited 6 books and holds 5 patent awards. Over his illustrious career, he has trained and inspired a large number of students, fellows and faculty members. Dr. Schultz has been bestowed a long list of distinguished awards, invited named lectureships, nominated as a fellow of 4 prestigious national societies, including the National Academy of Engineers (NAE). He has also been named as one of “100 Chemical Engineers of the Modern Era” by the American Institute of Chemical Engineering.

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Approval of Faculty Development Leave – University of Houston System

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Faculty Development Leave (FDL) proposals. FDL's enable the faculty member to undertake "study, research, writing, and similar projects for the purpose of adding to the knowledge" in ways that improve the productivity and competitiveness of the faculty, university, and state.

**SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTATION:**

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Administration recommends approval of this item

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System



\_\_\_\_\_  
SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR

Diane Z. Chase

\_\_\_\_\_  
05/05/2025

DATE



\_\_\_\_\_  
CHANCELLOR

Renu Khator

\_\_\_\_\_  
5/7/2025

DATE

**Faculty Development Leave  
University of Houston-Downtown**

Name	College	Department	Faculty Title	Term	Year	Pay (full/1/2)	Leave Reason	Request Status
Baird, Amy	College of Sciences and Technology	Natural Sciences	Professor	Spring	2025-2026	Full Pay	Compile and analyze over 10 years' worth of data on bowhead whale population genetics and write a paper to present to the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) Scientific Committee meeting in 2026. The analysis conducted and presented comprise part of the bowhead whale implementation review, which takes place every 7-8 years to evaluate the sustainability of the Alaskan Natives' bowhead subsistence harvest.	Pending BOR Approval
Cao, Qing (Ray)	Marilyn Davies College of Business	General Business, Marketing, and Supply Chain Management	Professor	Fall	2025-2026	Full Pay	Develop a research model that establishes a nomological network across the key constructs of mindfulness, reliability, and performance of the hospital and to test the research model using textual data collected from multiple sources (social media, websites, blogs, documents, etc.) of a random sample of US hospitals.	Pending BOR Approval
Crone, Travis	College of Humanities and Social Sciences	Social Sciences	Professor	Spring	2025-2026	Full Pay	Develop measurement tools and publish on the impact of religion on attitudes related to decision-making. The project will involve cleaning, analyzing, and writing up for publication a substantial dataset.	Pending BOR Approval
Gascoigne, Carolyn	College of Humanities and Social Sciences	History, Humanities, and Languages	Professor	Fall	2025-2026	Full Pay	Examine the presence of non-English (as well as non-Standard English) linguistic tokens within the linguistic landscape of target areas of Houston. As a linguistically and ethnically diverse city, we know that tokens of linguistic vitalities will be present. However, a mapping of their presence will inform research related to the intersection of language, power, identity, and place. The following projects will be undertaken: a linguistic landscape study of Houston, a study of public tokens of translanguaging, a study of UHD students' translingual dispositions, and a student linguistic landscape symposium.	Pending BOR Approval
Yuan, Shengli	College of Sciences and Technology	Computer Science and Engineering Technology	Professor	Fall	2025-2026	Full Pay	Write a new textbook that covers all the basic theories and fundamentals, as well as the latest tools and findings, in the field of cybersecurity. This proposed textbook will incorporate experience, insights, and findings of a long-time educator and researcher in this field, helping students of UHD and other universities to establish a strong footing in their study of cybersecurity.	Pending BOR Approval

**Faculty Development Leave  
University of Houston**

<b>Name</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Faculty Title</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Pay (full/1/2)</b>	<b>Leave Reason</b>	<b>Request Status</b>
Nicol, Mattew	Natural Sciences and Mathematics	Math	Professor	Spring 2026	Full Pay	Leverhulme Visiting Professorship- University of Warwick.	Pending BOR Approval
Varadarajan, Navin	Cullen College of Engineering	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering	Professor	Fall 2025	Full Pay	Shadow melanoma oncologists at the MD Anderson Cancer Center	Pending BOR Approval
Boger, Carl	Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership		Professor	Spring 2026	Full Pay	Develop an expertise related to identifying how to reduce stress related barriers for individuals to become successful in the workplace.	Pending BOR Approval
Gist, Conra	College of Education	Curriculum and Instruction	Professor	Fall 2025	Full Pay	To shift research focus from studying grow your own program designs in general, to now begin investigating more specifically, the creation of restorative educator development and practitioner networks that better equip and sustain future and current educators.	Pending BOR Approval

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Approval to delegate authority to the Chancellor to modify Test Optional Admissions standards for the University of Houston

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:** August 20, 2020; May 20, 2021, May 2022, May 2023, May 2024

**SUMMARY:**




Approval is requested to delegate authority to the Chancellor to extend test optional undergraduate admissions standards for the University of Houston for five (5) years.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** None

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

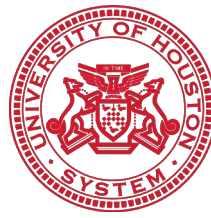
**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Administration recommends approval of this item

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston

	
_____ <b>PRESIDENT</b>	Renu Khator
	<u>5/7/2025</u> <b>DATE</b>
	
_____ <b>SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR</b>	Diane Z. Chase
	<u>05/05/2025</u> <b>DATE</b>
	
_____ <b>CHANCELLOR</b>	Renu Khator
	<u>5/7/2025</u> <b>DATE</b>

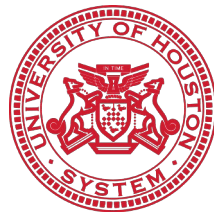


# Test Optional Admissions



## **Approval Requested for Test Optional Policy Extensions**

University of Houston – 5-Year Extension



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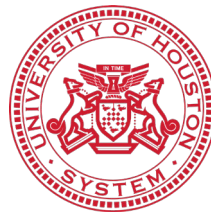
**Permanent Test Optional Policy Approved by the Board of Regents on May 18, 2023**

University of Houston-Clear Lake

University of Houston-Victoria

**Permanent Test Optional Policy Approved by the Board of Regents on May 15, 2024**

University of Houston-Downtown



## Impact of Test Optional Admissions

- Current extension approved by the Board of Regents ends in Fall 2025.
- UHS institutions will remain competitive in the Texas and National admissions markets.
- UHS institutions will continue to attract a broad range of academically talented applicants.

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Approval of New Academic Program(s) – University of Houston System

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Approval is requested for the following new academic programs:

- Master of Arts in Applied School Psychology at the University of Houston-Victoria

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** Excel Spreadsheet  
Executive Summaries  
Pro Forma  
Budget and Enrollment Spreadsheets

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Administration recommends approval of this item

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston



\_\_\_\_\_  
**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR**

Diane Z. Chase

05/05/2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHANCELLOR**

Renu Khator

5/7/2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

University of Houston System  
 Summary of New Academic Programs  
 Academic, Research and Student Success Committee  
 Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Component	Program	Proposed Implementation Date	Purpose	Comments
UHV	Master of Arts in Applied School Psychology	Fall 2025	<p>The University of Houston – Victoria requests approval to establish a Master of Arts in Applied School Psychology. The proposed degree is 36 semester credit hours and allow education professionals to complete the necessary coursework to retrain and meet licensure requirements set by the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council for school psychologists in the state of Texas. The program would be marketed toward educational diagnosticians who are certified by the Texas Education Agency. These individuals have prior graduate degrees, applied experience in schools, and already have some of the foundational coursework to become school psychologists. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a projects a 7% employment growth for psychologists between 2023 and 2033, a career that is growing faster than average. In Texas, the shortage of school psychologists is evident with currently 1 school psychologist for every 2,597 students, whereas the recommended national ratio is 1:500. An analysis indicated that at the current rate of training, it would take Texas 45 years to meet the recommended ratio of school psychologists. Three public institutions in Texas offer an MA in School Psychology - Stephen F. Austin University, UT-San Antonio, and UT-Rio Grande Valley. UHV, UH-Clear Lake, West Texas A&amp;M, and Sam Houston State University offer Specialist in School Psychology (SSP) programs. However, the proposed MA in Applied School Psychology aims to serve as a different audience than a traditional SSP program The program expects to generate revenue in the fourth year of operation.</p>	In-Person

## **Executive Summary: Proposed MA in Applied School Psychology, University of Houston-Victoria**

### **Congruence with System Goals and University Mission**

The UHV MA in Applied School Psychology will advance UH System goals by educating professionals in a high-demand profession that serves the needs of students in a variety of educational settings across the state. The United States is experiencing a critical shortage of school psychologists (NASP, 2021). School psychologists are professionals trained in education and psychology to comprehensively meet the academic, behavioral, emotional, and social needs of students in school settings. School districts must have access to school psychologists on staff, as they are some of the only mental health professionals trained to comprehensively assess children for special education services. They ensure that schools meet state and federal guidelines for assessing and supporting students with special needs and all ensure that all students are receiving a free and appropriate public education based on legal mandates.

Given UHV's specific mission to serve the region, this program will be particularly important as it will train highly qualified professionals who are equipped to promote effective learning and education for all. Rural areas are particularly impacted by the shortage, given that these areas do not have training programs nearby to facilitate the training of those individuals. Hendricker (2023) noted that most traditional school psychology programs in Texas are in urban areas. Rural areas of the state, such as West Texas, experience a greater demand for school psychologists and an even higher ratio than most of Texas (El Paso currently has 1 school psychologist for every 5,942 students; Midland currently has 1 school psychologist for every 8,352 students). Providing an online program that has reach across the state of Texas, including rural areas, has the potential for school districts to "grow their own" school psychologists by targeting individuals already living and working in those communities.

### **Program Description**

The M.A. in Applied School Psychology would allow education professionals to complete the necessary coursework to retrain and meet licensure requirements as school psychologists in the state of Texas. The program would be marketed toward educational diagnosticians who are certified by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). These individuals have prior graduate degrees, applied experience in schools, and already have some of the foundational coursework to become school psychologists. The program is needed due to the shortage of school psychologists in the state. Recent state licensure changes have made it possible for allied professionals to retrain in school psychology in an expedited manner.

The proposed 36-credit-hour MA in Applied School Psychology at UHV offers a comprehensive curriculum to help existing educational diagnosticians use their foundational knowledge and retrain to become school psychologists. This enables these individuals to provide more comprehensive services to children, families, and schools. The curriculum builds upon educational foundations and covers skills necessary to work as a school psychologist. Students can complete the program within two academic years. Offered online, the program provides flexibility for working professionals and is distinguished by its balance of evidence-based curriculum and applied experiences in an expedited manner.

The first year of the program will focus on foundational coursework necessary to transition into a school psychology career, including emotional and behavioral assessment, school consultation,

counseling interventions, and ethics and law for school psychologists. Students will participate in an applied practicum experience under the supervision of a school psychologist. In the second year of the program, students would be employed full-time by local school districts as school psychology interns and enrolled in an internship course at UHV. During internship, students receive both field-based and university-based supervision.

The requirements of the program are directly aligned with the licensing requirements set forth by the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council to earn licensure as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology. This license allows for practice in the school as a school psychologist. Expected outcomes for students include (1) completing all coursework, practicum, and internship requirements set forth by the state of Texas; (2) earning licensure as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology upon graduation; and (3) working in school districts to provide comprehensive school-based psychological services to students.

### **Program Demand and Labor Market Information**

The demand for school psychologists is rapidly increasing for various reasons: the rise in mental health needs in children and adolescents, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2024); lack of access to mental health care in the private sector (Canady, 2021); and the graying of the profession (Castillo et al., 2014). The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS, 2024) projects a 7% employment growth for psychologists between 2023 and 2033, a career that is growing faster than average.

In Texas, the shortage of school psychologists is evident. There is currently 1 school psychologist for every 2,597 students, whereas the recommended national ratio is 1:500 (Hendricker, 2023). This results in Texas being five times over the recommended ratio, leaving school districts unable to recruit or retain school psychologists. As a result, children and adolescents do not receive necessary school-based services to meet their educational needs. This shortage also has an economic impact on school districts, as they are subject to losing state and federal funds if they are not in compliance with legal mandates related to special education, which school psychologists are heavily involved in. An analysis indicated that at the current rate of training, it would take Texas 45 years to meet the recommended ratio of school psychologists (Hendricker, 2023), which necessitates university programs to create more options to expedite training and placement of individuals interested in becoming school psychologists.

### **Student and Job Market Demand**

According to Hendricker (2023), there are approximately 2,100 individuals with a school psychology license in Texas working in public schools. Conversely, there are approximately 5,700 educational diagnosticians working in public schools (Texas Education Agency, 2024). This creates a large pool of individuals who already have foundational skills to transition into a new career.

UHV has had success in its current school psychology program with retraining educational diagnosticians, as 20% of its graduates over the last 5 years have been educational diagnosticians. However, the main difference is the length of time it currently takes educational diagnosticians for retraining in a traditional program. In a current school psychology program, it still takes 3 years for students to complete the program due to the high number of credit hours (60+ hours) and the limit on transfer credit coursework. UHV has informally polled our current students in the School Psychology program who are educational diagnosticians and asked if they

would enroll in a program like the one proposed to reduce the amount of time and credit hours needed to be licensed (2 years versus 3 years; 36 hours versus 60+ hours). 100% of currently enrolled students said they would have preferred the two-year, expedited option. Given the high number of educational diagnosticians in the state, if 20% of the current educational diagnostician population were interested in retraining as school psychologists in a more expedited fashion, this would equate to more than 1,000 individuals, indicating strong market demand.

There are currently no other programs in the state of Texas that have capitalized on this change in licensing requirements, which makes this program unique, while simultaneously addressing a critical market and public need. The online format is expected to attract educational diagnosticians from across the state, particularly in rural and less-densely populated areas where access to traditional school psychology programs is unavailable. This demand is further evidenced by the number of school psychology positions that are going unfilled in public schools due to few candidates with proper training.

### **Program Duplication**

According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board program inventory, there are several institutions offering an *MA in School Psychology* (Stephen F. Austin University, UT-San Antonio, UT-Rio Grande Valley). There are quite a few other *Specialist in School Psychology* programs (including UHV, UH-Clear Lake, West Texas A&M, Sam Houston State University). However, as described above, the proposed MA in Applied School Psychology aims to serve as a different audience than a traditional SSP program.

### **Faculty Resources**


Dr. Elise Hendricker (PhD, School Psychology) is Professor of Psychology; she has been with the University of Houston-Victoria since 2013 and serves as the program director for the School Psychology program. Dr. Shannon Viola (PhD, School Psychology) is Associate Professor of Psychology with UHV since 2014. Dr. Dierdre Wood (PhD, School Psychology) holds a position as visiting assistant professor. All three hold an LSSP license. In addition, qualified adjuncts will be utilized as course loads and student enrollment requires.

### **State or National Need**

There are no existing programs in Texas that are retraining educational diagnosticians as school psychologists. Curriculum requirements were designed with the licensing rules defined by the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council in mind. The requirements for licensure as a school psychologist in the state of Texas can be found on page 93:

<https://bhec.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-November-PSY.pdf>

**PRO FORMA FOR MA in Applied School Psychology**

FY2026		Operating Years							
		Year 0	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030		
			Fall25	Fall26	Fall27	Fall28	Fall29		
<b>Enrollments</b>									
Cohort 1			15	13					
Cohort 2				15	14				
Cohort 3					20	18			
Cohort 4						25	23		
Cohort 5							25		
Total			15	28	34	43	48		
<b>Expenses</b>									
<b>Faculty (9 month)</b>		Salary	% effort	Year 0	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
Position 1 (Hendricker)		75,000	75%		56,250	57,375	58,523	59,693	60,887
Position 2 (Viola)		65,000	75%		48,750	49,725	50,720	51,734	52,769
Position 3 (Allen-Duran)		60,000	50%		30,000	30,600	31,212	31,836	32,473
Position 4					-	-	-	-	-
Position 5					-	-	-	-	-
Position 6					-	-	-	-	-
Adjuncts					-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal		200,000	200%	-	135,000	137,700	140,454	143,263	146,128
<b>Faculty FTE</b>					2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
<b>Staff (12 month)</b>									
Position 1--college-level shared administrative support		40,000	5%		2,000	2,040	2,081	2,122	2,165
Position 2					-	-	-	-	-
Position 3					-	-	-	-	-
Position 4					-	-	-	-	-
Position 5					-	-	-	-	-
Position 6					-	-	-	-	-
Graduate Students					-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal		40,000	5%	-	2,000	2,040	2,081	2,122	2,165
<b>Staff FTE</b>					0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Total Salaries				-	137,000	139,740	142,535	145,385	148,293
Benefits @ 20.5%				-	28,085	28,647	29,220	29,804	30,400
Total Personnel				-	165,085	168,387	171,754	175,190	178,693
<b>Non-Personnel</b>									
Marketing/Recruiting					5,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Scholarships & Tuition Assistantships						-	-	-	-
Annual maintenance & operations					1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Library and Information Technology					1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Accreditation					-	-	-	-	-
Facilities						-	-	-	-
Laboratory and other equipment					3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Other					-	-	-	-	-
Total Non-Personnel				-	10,000	9,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Allocated to university operations	10%				9,542	17,811	30,723	36,448	45,906
Total Annual Expense				\$ -	\$ 184,627	\$ 195,198	\$ 210,477	\$ 219,638	\$ 232,599
<b>Revenue</b>									
Formula Funding Generated					-	-	112,250	112,250	189,718
Statutory Tuition Applied to Formula					-	-	(21,300)	(21,300)	(36,000)
Subtotal: State General Revenue					-	-	90,950	90,950	153,718
UH Tuition and Fees					105,300	196,560	238,680	301,860	336,960
Allocated to set aside per student					(9,882)	(18,446)	(22,399)	(28,328)	(31,622)
Total Revenue from Enrollment					95,418	178,114	307,230	364,481	459,055
Philanthropy and other External Revenue					-	-	-	-	-
Net Revenue					95,418	178,114	307,230	364,481	459,055
Net Annual Gain/(Loss)				-	\$ (89,209)	\$ (17,084)	\$ 96,753	\$ 144,844	\$ 226,456
Cumulative Gain/(Loss)				-	\$ (89,209)	\$ (106,293)	\$ (9,540)	\$ 135,303	\$ 361,760
Campus Signoff								Date:	2/6/2025
Daniel Chang, Program Director, Office of the Provost Signature:					_____			Date:	_____
Vivianne Do, Executive Director, Office of the Provost Signature:					_____			Date:	_____

**Table 3: Projected Five-Year Enrollments**

Provide projected 5-year enrollments in the table below.

For programs with targeted national or international recruitment plans, please provide estimates of out-of-state and out-of-country students. These estimates should be aligned with projected tuition.

For all other programs, if no out-of-state/out-of-country enrollment estimates are available, list enrollments under in-state.

**For doctoral and professional programs, complete Table 4 below in addition to this table.**

Enrollment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>Full-Time</b>					
In-state	15	15	20	25	25
Out-of-state					
Out-of-country					
FTSE Semester Credit Hours	360	360	480	600	600
<b>Part-Time</b>					
In-state					
Out-of-state					
Out-of-country					
FTSE Semester Credit Hours					
<b>Total New Students</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total FTSE Semester Credit Hours</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>600</b>
Attrition Headcount		2	1	2	2
Graduates			13	14	18
<b>Cumulative Headcount</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>

**Full-Time Student Equivalent (FSTE) Guide**

FTSE should be calculated using the following criteria:

Enrollment Type	FTSE
Full time	1
Part time	0.5
Degree Level	SCH
Undergraduate	30
Master's	24
First Professional	24
Optometry	34
Doctoral	18

**For doctoral & professional only**

**Table 4: Projected Five-Year Enrollments by Race/Ethnicity**

Please provide projected enrollments by the IPEDS reporting categories below.

Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
African American					
American Indian or Alaskan Native					
Asian or Pacific Islander					
Hispanic					
International					
White					

THECB recognizes that additional costs such as housing, childcare, etc., are needed for many students. However, because these costs are highly variable by student, they are not included in the costs and funding tables.

**Table 1: Estimated Annual Required Per Student Costs**

Please provide the estimated average annual required **per student** costs for students in the degree program. Averages from similar programs or disciplines, or even institutional averages, may be used if no other information is available.

Cost Type	Dollar Amount
<b>Per Student Annual Costs</b>	
Resident Tuition	\$ 9,360
Non-Resident Tuition	\$ 19,200
Required Fees	\$ 1,696
Health Insurance Fee*	\$ 3,561
Course Materials	\$ 700
<i>Other annual fees [please specify]</i>	
Estimated Annual Resident Tuition & Fees	\$ 11,756
Estimated Annual Non-Resident Tuition & Fees	\$ 21,596

Estimated Time to Degree (in years, assuming full-time enrollment)	2
Per Student One-Time Required Fees (if applicable) [e.g., clinical fieldwork semester fees]	
Estimated Post-Graduation Licensure Fees (if applicable)	

\*Because health insurance fee requirements vary by student, it will not be included in the calculation for total *required* fees.

**Table 2: Estimated Average Total Student Funding**

Please provide the estimated average annual **total student** funding available to students in the degree program.

Funding Type	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	5-Year Total
Scholarships						\$ -
Teaching Assistantships						\$ -
Research Assistantships						\$ -
Other funding [please specify]						\$ -
<b>Total Funding</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Table 5: Projected Total Costs & Funding**

Please provide the applicable costs and funding items below.

<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>5-Year Total</b>
Faculty Salaries & Benefits	\$ 162,675	\$ 165,929	\$ 169,247	\$ 172,632	\$ 176,085	\$ 846,567
Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$ 2,410	\$ 2,458	\$ 2,507	\$ 2,558	\$ 2,609	\$ 12,542
Teaching Assistantships						\$ -
Research Assistantships						\$ -
Other Student Scholarships/Funding						\$ -
Library & Instructional Technology	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000
Facilities & Capital Investments	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 15,000
Miscellaneous (supplies/materials/program administration)	\$ 10,542	\$ 18,811	\$ 31,723	\$ 37,448	\$ 46,906	\$ 145,430
Other (Marketing)	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 18,000
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$ 184,627</b>	<b>\$ 195,198</b>	<b>\$ 210,477</b>	<b>\$ 219,638</b>	<b>\$ 232,599</b>	<b>\$ 1,042,539</b>
<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>5-Year Total</b>
Formula Funding			\$ 90,950	\$ 90,950	\$ 153,718	\$ 335,617
Other Non-Formula Tuition Funding	\$ 95,418	\$ 178,114	\$ 216,281	\$ 273,532	\$ 305,338	\$ 1,068,683
Federal Grant Funding (in hand only)						\$ -
Other Grant Funding (in hand only)						\$ -
Anticipated Grant Funding *						\$ -
Required Fees Collected	\$ 25,434	\$ 47,477	\$ 57,650	\$ 72,911	\$ 81,389	\$ 284,861
Other [please specify]						\$ -
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$ 120,852</b>	<b>\$ 225,590</b>	<b>\$ 364,881</b>	<b>\$ 437,392</b>	<b>\$ 540,444</b>	<b>\$ 1,689,160</b>
<b>Net Funding</b>	<b>\$ (63,775)</b>	<b>\$ 30,392</b>	<b>\$ 154,404</b>	<b>\$ 217,755</b>	<b>\$ 307,846</b>	<b>\$ 646,622</b>

\* THECB expects that anticipated grant funding would be a supplemental funding source to support new degree programs.

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Request for Approval of Program Closures – University of Houston System

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Request for approval of program closures at University of Houston-Victoria and University of Houston.

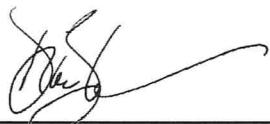
- Master of Science in Publishing at the University of Houston-Victoria
- Master of Arts in World Cultures and Literature at the University of Houston

**SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTATION:**

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Administration recommends approval of this item

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System



\_\_\_\_\_  
SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR

Diane Z. Chase

\_\_\_\_\_  
05/05/2025

DATE



\_\_\_\_\_  
CHANCELLOR

Renu Khator

\_\_\_\_\_  
5/7/2025

DATE

**Academic, Research and Student Success Committee Meeting  
May 14, 2025**

**Program Closures**

Master of Science in Publishing  
*University of Houston-Victoria*

The University of Houston-Victoria requests approval to close the Master of Science in Publishing. The program was launched in 2009, but shifts in the priorities of the College, as well as the publishing industry have caused the program to languish. During the 2021-2022 academic year, five students completed the program. One student completed the program in 2022-2023 and seven students completed in 2023-2024. Many of these students were double majors (MS Publishing and MFA Creative Writing). Class enrollments are also low. In Spring 2025, only eight students, plus two internship students, had enrolled. During Fall 2024, of the 17 enrollments across the two classes offered, only one was a declared Publishing major. Before the close of registration for the Fall 2024 semester, academic advisors will contact the students in the program, informing them of the closure and providing a degree map/timeline for completion of degree requirements. The Interim Provost will announce the program closure during regular meeting(s) of the Executive Committee and President's cabinet. This program does not maintain close ties to community partners that would be impacted by the program closure. There is one faculty member assigned to the Publishing program and in accordance with Board of Regents policies, has been issued a 12-month notice, leading to an August 31, 2026 termination date.

Master of Arts in World Cultures and Literature  
*University of Houston*

The University of Houston requests approval to close a Master of Arts in World Cultures and Literature. The program closure is requested due to low student demand. The department enrolled its last new student in spring semester 2023, and after that date it stopped considering new students for admission to this program. All students enrolled in the program have now graduated from the program, so no teach-out plan is required. No faculty or student implications. The department will continue to offer a Global Cinema Graduate Certificate and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Linguistics in Teaching Chinese. Department faculty and the department chair are aware of the proposed closure and were involved in the decision to close it due to low demand. This program is not separately accredited, and no community partners are directly involved in this degree.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Request for approval of transfer of the Specialist in School Psychology, S.S.P. program from the University of Houston-Victoria to the University of Houston-Katy campus.

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Requesting approval of transfer of the Specialist in School Psychology, S.S.P. program from University of Houston-Victoria to the University of Houston-Katy campus. The UHV Specialist in School Psychology (S.S.P.) program is a 63 SCH program designed to train entry-level school psychology practitioners, namely, Licensed Specialists in School Psychology (LSSP), in accordance with the standards set by the Texas State Board of Examiners (TSBEP). The UHV S.S.P. program is accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and is currently offered at the Katy campus.


**SUPPORTING**

**DOCUMENTATION:** Summary

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Administration recommends approval of this item


**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**PRESIDENT** Robert K. Glenn

5/7/25  
**DATE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR** Diane Z. Chase

05/07/2025  
**DATE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHANCELLOR** Renu Khator

5/7/2025  
**DATE**

## **Academic, Research and Student Success Committee Meeting**

May 14, 2025

Transfer of the Specialist in School Psychology, S.S.P. program from University of Houston-Victoria to the University of Houston-Katy campus.

The UHV Specialist in School Psychology (S.S.P.) program is a 63 SCH program designed to train entry-level school psychology practitioners, namely, Licensed Specialists in School Psychology (LSSP), in accordance with the standards set by the Texas State Board of Examiners (TSBEP). The UHV S.S.P. program is accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and is currently offered at the Katy campus.

Administratively, the transfer will involve closing the UHV S.S.P. program and seeking approval and NASP accreditation for UH to offer the S.S.P. program at the Katy Campus. At UH, the S.S.P. program will be administered by the College of Education which currently offers a NASP accredited School Psychology PhD program on the main campus.

UH College of Education will assume responsibility for the teach-out of the 41 currently enrolled UHV S.S.P. students.

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Introduction of University Dean, C.T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**


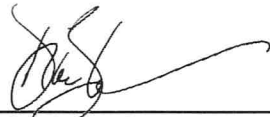

Introduction of Dr. Xianjun Geng, Dean of the C.T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston. Dean Geng began his duties on May 1, 2025.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** Bio

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Information

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston

	<u>5/7/2025</u>
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
	<u>05/05/2025</u>
<b>SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR</b>	<b>DATE</b>
	<u>5/7/2025</u>
<b>CHANCELLOR</b>	<b>DATE</b>

# University of Houston System Board of Regents

## Introduction

Organization: University of Houston

---

Type of Appointment: Appointment  
Name: Dr. Xianjun Geng  
To Title: Dean, C.T. Bauer College of Business  
Effective Date: May 1, 2025

### Biographical Sketch:

Xianjun Geng is the Dean of the Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston, starting May 1, 2025. Previously, Geng was a Professor of Management Science and Freeman School Distinguished Chair in Business at the A. B. Freeman School, Tulane University.

In Tulane, Geng served as the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs, overseeing all aspects of both undergraduate and graduate educational programs in the Freeman School of Business. Under his leadership, the Freeman full-time MBA program was redesigned as a STEM-designated program with pillars in data-driven decision making and cross-functional experiential learning and saw its ranking in US News moved up 38 spots from 2021 to 2025. Geng also led the STEM-designation of all of Freeman's specialized master's programs, the revision of their curricula including specializations to align with market trends, and the creation of new online and flexible programs. He also oversaw the launch of multiple market-driven minor and certificate programs at the undergraduate level, the newest of which is a certificate program in artificial intelligence. Externally, Geng led in rebuilding, strengthening and expanding Freeman's international partnership programs post pandemic.

Geng has extensive teaching experience in business analytics and information technology management at undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels, and has received multiple student-voted teaching awards. Geng's research interests include pricing, supply chain management, business analytics, information security and behavioral economics. His work has appeared in *Management Science* (in IS, Marketing and OM departments), *Information Systems Research*, *MIS Quarterly*, *Journal of Management Information Systems*, *Production and Operations Management*, *Journal of Marketing*, *Marketing Science*, *Journal of Retailing* and other academic journals. He has received multiple awards for his research. Geng's previous editorial services in the leading business journals include Senior Editorship for *Production and Operations Management* and Associate Editorship for *Management Science*, *Information Systems Research* and *MIS Quarterly*.

Geng received his Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Economics and Master of Engineering from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, and Ph.D. in Information Systems from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to Tulane University, he served on the faculty at the University of Texas at Dallas and at the University of Washington.

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Presentation from the Division of Energy and Innovation at the University of Houston

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Presentation by Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti, Vice President from the Division of Energy and Innovation at the University of Houston, on Promoting Growth of UH Start-Ups.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Information

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston



**PRESIDENT**

Renu Khator

5/7/2025

**DATE**



**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR**

Diane Z. Chase

05/07/2025

**DATE**



**CHANCELLOR**

Renu Khator

5/7/2025

**DATE**

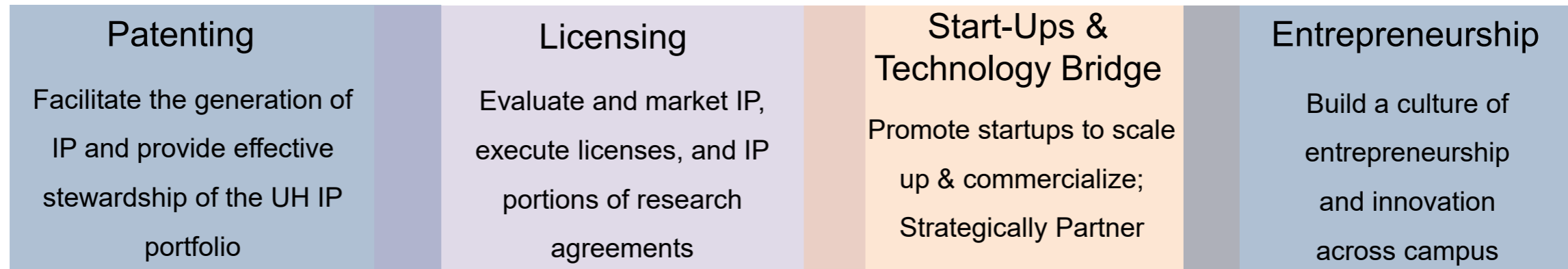
The background of the slide is a faded, grayscale image of a university campus. In the center, there is a large, multi-story building with a prominent central tower. In the foreground, there is a large, calm pond that reflects the building and the sky. Several trees are scattered around the building, and a few people can be seen walking on the paths. The overall atmosphere is serene and academic.

# Accelerating Start-Ups & Entrepreneurship at UH

Ramanan Krishnamoorti  
Division of Energy and Innovation

# Innovation at UH: Mission and Activities

Foster research and scholarship through the culture of entrepreneurship and effective transfer & commercialization of University technology in:



**Mike Harold**

AVP – Intellectual

Property and Industrial

Engagement

**Haleh Ardebili**

AVP –

Entrepreneurship &

Startup Ecosystem

# Start-Ups & Entrepreneurship

- 76 Companies Start From UH IP or partnered with UH
- 50+ UH Start-Ups incubated @ UH Technology Bridge since 2008
- ~\$855 + MM Capital raised by UH startups
- Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship Ranked #1 Undergraduate Program for 6 consecutive years – #1 nine times, and in the Top 10 since 2007\*



2014 IEP DESIGNEE

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**

5-YEAR EXTENSION  
2023



# Education

# Creation Programs

# Support

# Exits

# Partnerships

**BRAINSTORM YOUR START UP**  
Ready to Bring Your Idea To Life?  
Join forces with experienced Product Curve Made Profiler for dynamic 1:1 person one-on-ones. Whether you're just starting out or refining your marketing message, it's time to help you speak your vision into action.  
MAY 23, 2025 | 10 AM - 5 PM  
UH Technology Bridge  
Innovation Center | Bldg. 4  
5000 Gulf Freeway | Houston, Texas 77023  
[REGISTER HERE](https://tinyurl.com/2Znamky)  
<https://tinyurl.com/2Znamky>

**UH Technology Bridge**  
**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
**FACULTY TO FOUNDER FORUM**  
Join us as we explore how faculty can contribute to the future of tech through innovation, research, and trademark opportunities. Engage with thought leaders and discover how to integrate your academic expertise with groundbreaking technological advancements.  
FREE TO ATTEND  
DATE: Oct. 23, 2024 | TIME: 11:00 AM | FACULTY CAFE | E-GELLEN BUILDING

October 9, 2024 | 1 PM | Innovation Center | UH Tech Bridge Bldg. 4 | 5000 Gulf Fwy. | **UH Technology Bridge**  
**NAVIGATING SBIR FUNDING**  
With Bioscience Writers & StimulusBio

Mimi Healy (StimulusBio), Deborah Mansfield (National Science Foundation), Susan Marriott (Bioscience Writers), Rebecca Berdeaux (CellCensus)

Join us for a panel presentation that levels the playing field and empowers investigators to seek small business innovation research funding. There will also be a Q&A session with moderated content, audience expertise, and needs, while inspiring them to start serious planning for an SBIR proposal.

**29 AUGUST** 12-1 PM  
STUDENT CENTER SOUTH BAYOU CITY ROOM (R235)  
**INNOVATION LUNCH AND LEARN**  
Lunch is on us!  
Learn about the Innov8 Technology Bridge Mentoring Program, designed to help craft SBIR/STTR grants and formulate value propositions for inventions, while becoming part of a growing startup ecosystem.

**innov8 hub**  
UH Technology Bridge

**Innovator to Founder**  
(5 cohorts since inception 2023)

**Discovery Lab**

**SPRING 2025 INNOVATOR TO FOUNDER STARTUP ACCELERATOR**  
COHORT BEGINS February 10!  
NOVEL IDVD: <https://uh.edu/uh-energy-innovation/uh-innovation/technology-bridge/innovator-to-founder/>  
APPLY NOW!

**Investor Insights Program**  
Meet investors and mentors for University of Houston-affiliated startups and projects, gaining valuable feedback, data-driven insights, and relationship-building opportunities!

**Who should sign up?**  
• Has filed intellectual property through UH Technology Transfer Office  
• Graduates of any other accelerator or incubator program  
• Insect Hub graduates

SCAN CODE TO SIGN UP NOW!

**NATIONAL STEM DAY AT UH FEST EXPO**  
UH Technology Bridge  
**START-UP RESOURCES**  
A SERIES OF WEBINARS OFFERING STRATEGIES FOR PROSPECTIVE STARTUPS  
THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO TRADEMARKS FOR STARTUPS  
REGISTER <https://innovation.uh.edu>

**ANGEL INVESTING 101: SHAPING INNOVATION AT UH**  
UH is pleased to announce its partnership with Houston Angel Network and Houston Exponential to develop a unique, UH-focused angel community. Join us for exclusive business and collaboration opportunities with alumni and future game-changers!  
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:  
• Angel 101 Intro session hosted by Houston Angel Network  
• Light Bites  
• Unveiling the new UH Media Center and Alumni Business Lounge  
• Networking  
• AND MORE!  
MARIO H. CANTU (Houston Angel Network)

**UH Technology Bridge**  
**START-UP RESOURCES**  
A SERIES OF WEBINARS OFFERING STRATEGIES FOR PROSPECTIVE STARTUPS  
THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: NAVIGATING THE IMMIGRATION LANDSCAPE FOR STARTUPS  
REGISTER <https://innovation.uh.edu>

**fibrobiologics**

**TEXPOWER**

**DRYLET**  
helping nature do its job®

**Revo Chem**

**AMERICA'S SBDC**  
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
TEXAS GULF COAST NETWORK  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON | BAUER

**SBA** U.S. Small Business Administration

**Houston Exponential**

**HAN** HOUSTON ANGEL NETWORK

# Partnership with Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship

- Converting UH IP to Start-ups
- Every year a cohort (~ 30 - 40 UG students) goes through four semesters of highly experiential entrepreneurship development training
- Seven (7) student teams compete on building a technology startup utilizing UH IP provided by OTTI
  - CarbonX
- Pitch Competitions (Chevron Innovation; Coogs For Energy)



# What's Next

- Partnership with Houston Angel Network & Houston Exponential
  - Bringing Mentor and Investor Network
- UH Alumni Engagement
  - Alumni Lounge, Innovation Podcast & Fund Creation
- Follow the Metrics – Six Top-50 Metrics Included
  - Disclosures, Patents, Start-Ups, Exits, Number of Licenses, Licensing Revenue

# Thank you!

- Thank you for the support and Engagement
- Feedback is welcome



**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Federal Funding Updates

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

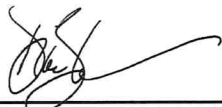
Dr. Claudia Neuhauser, Vice Chancellor for Research, will provide an update on federal funding for the University of Houston System.

**SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTATION:**

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Information

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System



\_\_\_\_\_  
SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR

Diane Z. Chase

05/07/2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE



\_\_\_\_\_  
CHANCELLOR

Renu Khator

5/7/2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

# Federal Funding Updates

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Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee

University of Houston System Board of Regents Meeting  
May 14, 2025

# — Federal Higher Education R&D Expenditures: FY 23

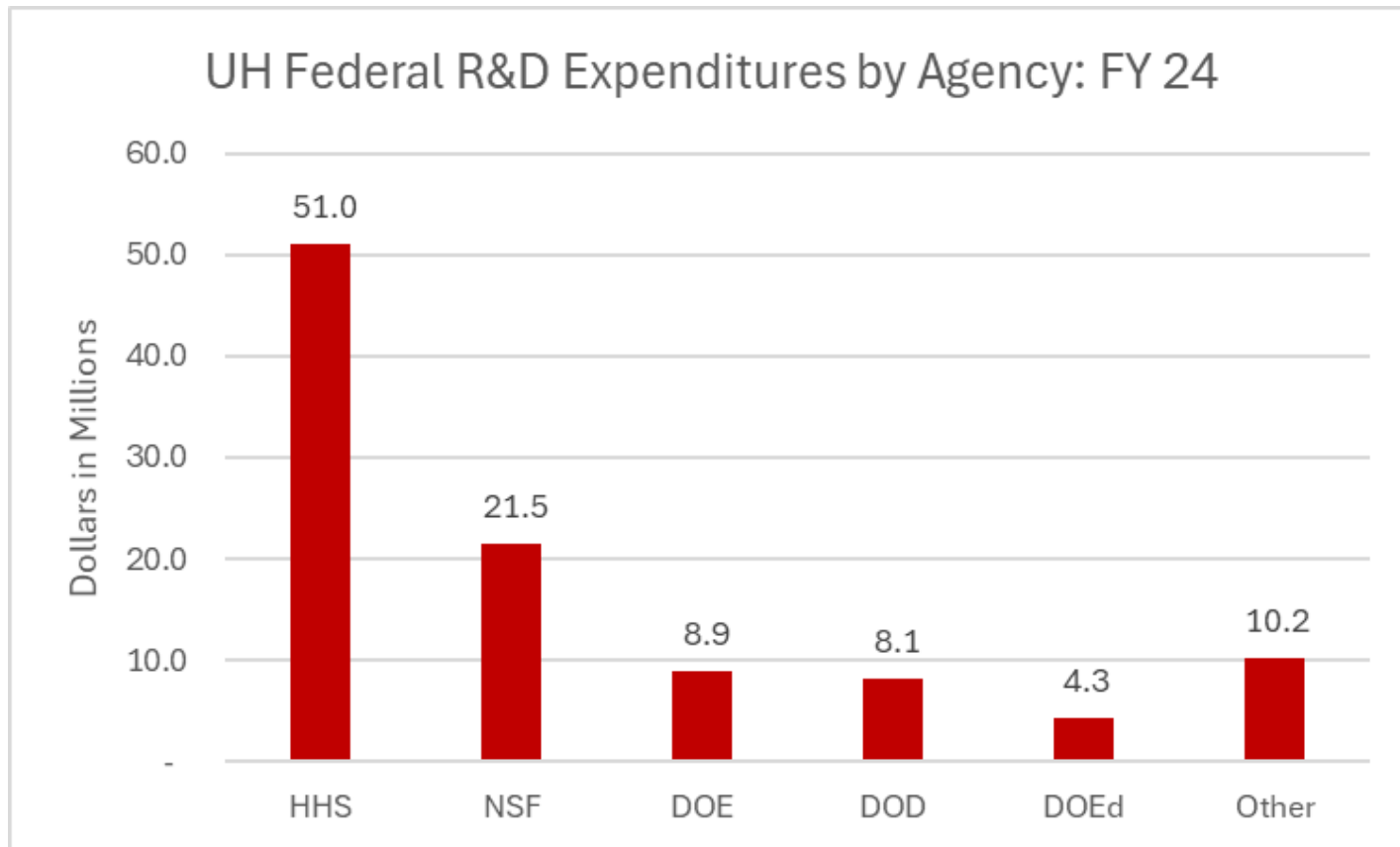
- **All Institutions**

- Total Expenditures: \$108.7 B
- External: \$81.0 B
  - Federal: \$59.6 B
  - **%Federal among External: 73.6%**

- **UH**

- Total Expenditures: \$231.9 M
- External: \$147.6 M
  - Federal: \$99.5 M
  - **%Federal among External: 67.4%**

# UH Federal R&D Expenditures: FY 24

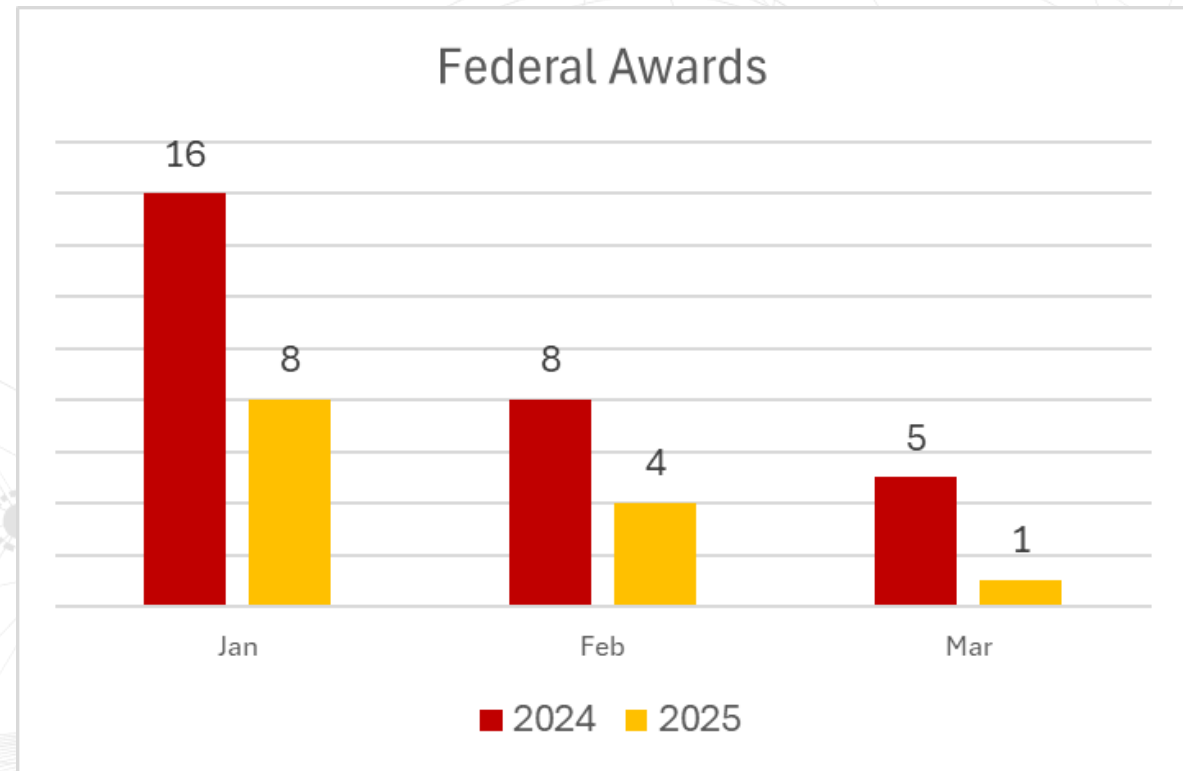


HHS (mostly, NIH) and NSF contribute 69.8% of total federal R&D expenditures at UH

# Awards and Terminations

- Significant decline in FY 25 federal awards

	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>NIH</b>	1	1	1
<b>NSF</b>	4	1	
<b>DOD</b>		2	
<b>DOE</b>	1		
<b>Other</b>	2		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>



- Terminations: 24 (as of May 2)

# — Indirect Cost Recovery

- Indirect Cost (IDC)
  - Pays for Administration, Utility Cost, Library, O&M, Equipment and Building Depreciation
  - Currently (on campus research): 57%
- **NIH:** February 7, 2025: 15%
  - Permanent injunction on April 4
  - NIH appealed on April 8
- **DOE:** April 11: 15%
  - Temporary Restraining Order on April 14
- **NSF:** May 2: 15%

## Supplemental Guidance to the 2024 NIH Grants Policy Statement: Indirect Cost Rates

**Notice Number:**  
NOT-OD-25-068

### Key Dates

**Release Date:**  
February 7, 2025

### Related Announcements

None

### Issued by

Office of The Director, National Institutes of Health (OD)

### Purpose

#### Purpose

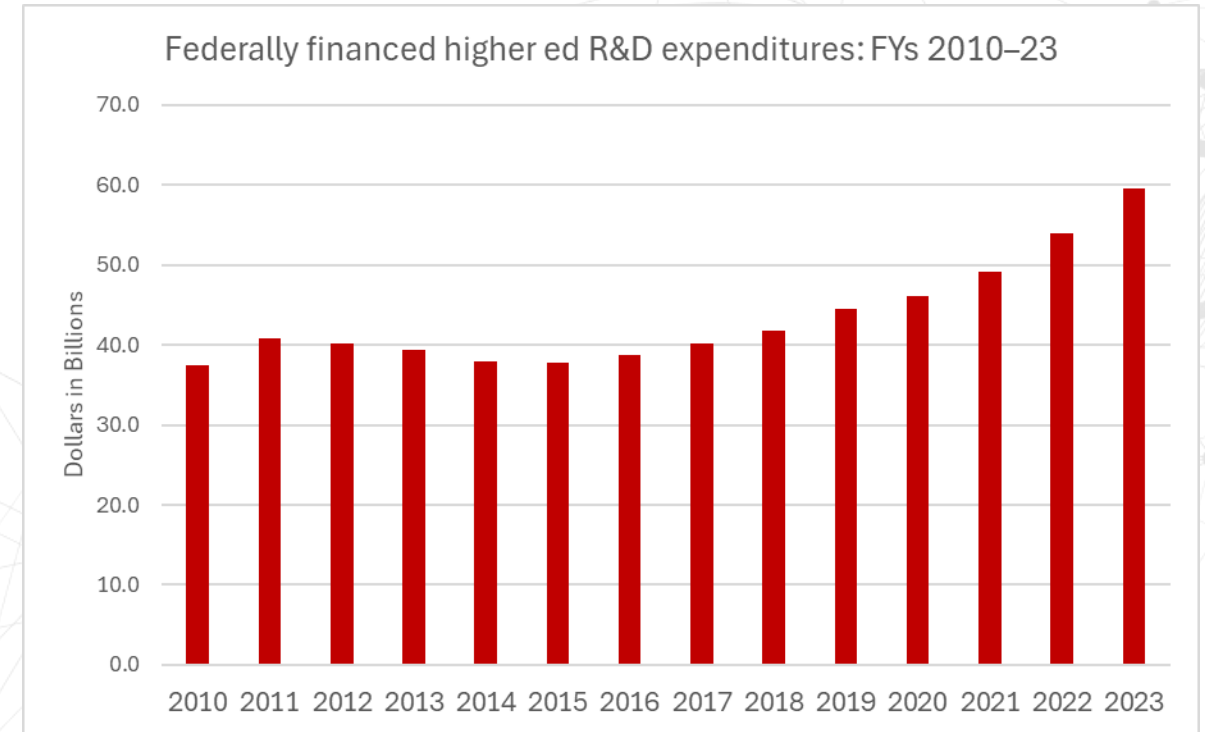
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awards a large number of grants providing substantial federal funding for research purposes. These grants include significant payments for "indirect costs," defined as "facilities" and "administration." 45 CFR 75.414(a). The "facilities" category is "defined as depreciation on buildings, equipment and capital improvements, interest on debt associated with certain buildings, equipment and capital improvements, and operations and maintenance expenses." *Id.* And the "administration" category is defined as "general administration and general expenses such as the director's office, accounting, personnel, and all other types of expenditures not listed specifically under one of the subcategories of 'Facilities'" (including cross allocations from other pools where

# — Impact of 15% on IDC Recovery

- Total IDC recovered in FY 24: \$29.6 M on total direct of \$74.4 M
- If the IDC rate had been 15% in FY 24, the impact would have been
  - Total loss: \$20.1 M
    - HHS (mostly NIH): \$11.1 M
    - NSF: \$4.2 M
    - Department of Energy: \$1.7 M
    - Department of Defense: \$1.7 M
    - Other: \$1.4 M

# FY 26 White House R&D Budget

- Federally financed higher education R&D expenditures have **grown by almost 50%** since 2017
- FY26 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) plans for federal R&D:
  - **HHS:** Overall budget from approximately \$127 B to \$93.8 B
    - **NIH:** from \$47 B to \$27 B
  - **NSF:** from \$8.8 B to around \$3.9 B
  - **DOE Office of Science:** from \$8.3 B to \$7.1 B
  - **NEH/NEA:** elimination
  - **DOD Research and DARPA:** Unclear



# — Changes and Opportunities: NIH and NSF

- **HHS restructuring**
  - A new **Administration for a Healthy America (AHA)** will be created to improve coordination of health resources for low-income Americans and focus on areas, including Primary Care, Maternal and Child Health, Mental Health, Environmental Health, HIV/AIDS, and Workforce Development
- **New HHS priorities to end America's epidemic of chronic illness**
  - Focus on safe, wholesome food, clean water, and the elimination of environmental toxins
- **NIH: Letter from Jay Bhattacharya, M.D., Ph.D.**
  - Focus on Improving Population Health
  - Reproducibility and Rigor
- **NSF priorities**
  - Critical technologies: AI and quantum
- **DOE priorities**
  - Strengthen the reliability of our energy system, and bolster America's manufacturing competitiveness and supply chain security

# TO SERVE

**We serve** the research community by satisfying client requirements, ensuring research compliance, and protecting the University's intellectual and financial interests.

# TO LEAD

**We lead** the university by managing institutional research priorities and supporting a broader view of individual and small-group research.

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Success Story Presentation

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Presentations from students who participated in Undergraduate Research Day. The University of Houston Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards in collaboration with the Honors College hosted the 20th annual Undergraduate Research Day on Thursday, April 10, 2025. The event featured the work of UH undergraduate researchers who participated in independent research and faculty-mentored projects over the past year.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** PowerPoint Presentation

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Information

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston

*Renu Khator*

**PRESIDENT**

Renu Khator

5/7/2025  
**DATE**

*[Signature]*  
**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR**

Diane Z. Chase

05/07/2025  
**DATE**

*Renu Khator*  
**CHANCELLOR**

Renu Khator

5/7/2025  
**DATE**

# Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

Research opportunities through faculty-mentored research programs

\$760K in scholarships given last year

Guidance for applications to major fellowships and awards

Undergraduate Research Day with 292 poster presentations

---

## Victoria Blake, English

Mentor: Ann Christensen  
*English*

Folklore and Mythology of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

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## Paul Daniel, Biology

Mentors: Wa Xian and Frank McKeon  
*Biology and Biochemistry*

Clonal Analysis of Pancreatic Cancer Stem Cell Subtypes Using Ascites

---

## Natalie Linde, Biomedical Engineering

Mentors: Marzia Cescon and Daniel Joseph DeSalvo  
*Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Baylor College of Medicine, Pediatrics*

Evaluating Glycemic Outcomes in Youth With Type 1 Diabetes Using Omnipod 5 AID System

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# Folklore and Mythology of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

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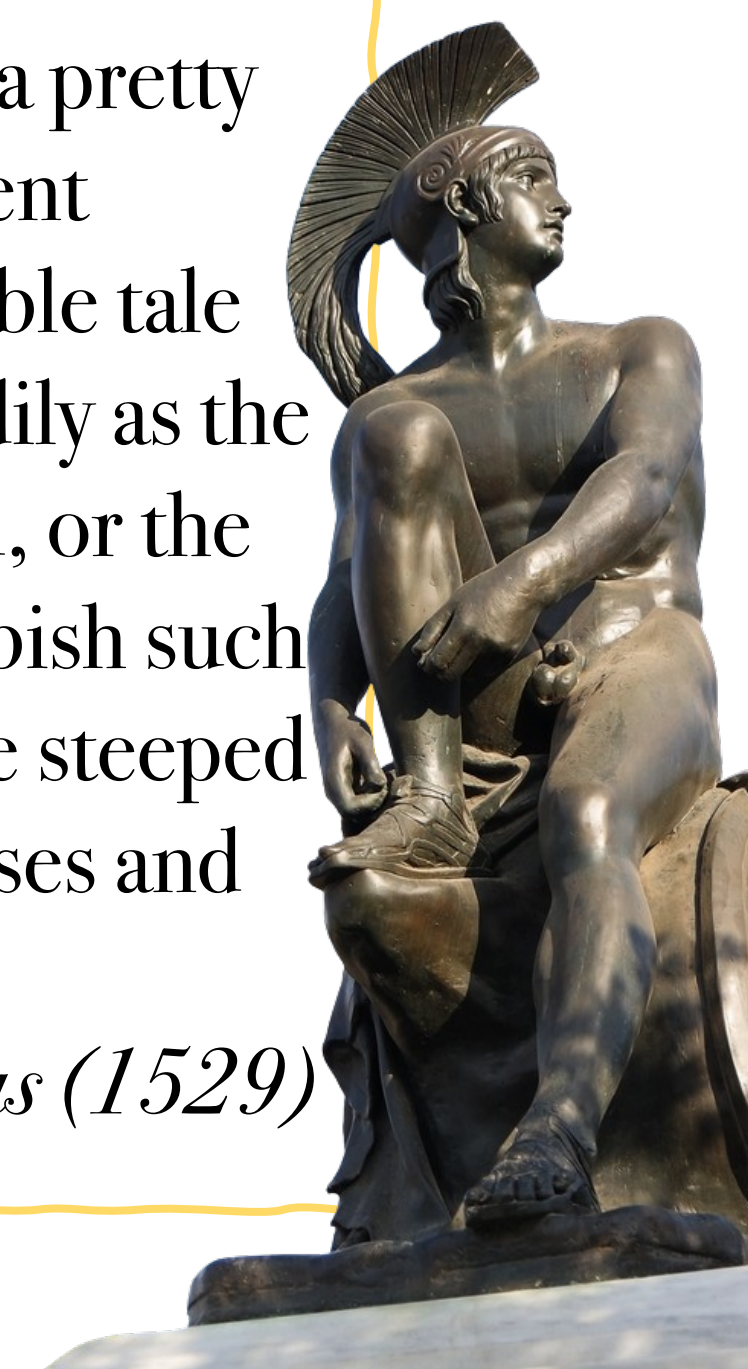
## Background

The setting of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is split across two locations: a legendary Athens and the forest that surrounds it. While the city draws inspiration from classical literature and mythology, the forest is inspired by folklore, populated by fairies and English folk heroes like Robin Goodfellow.



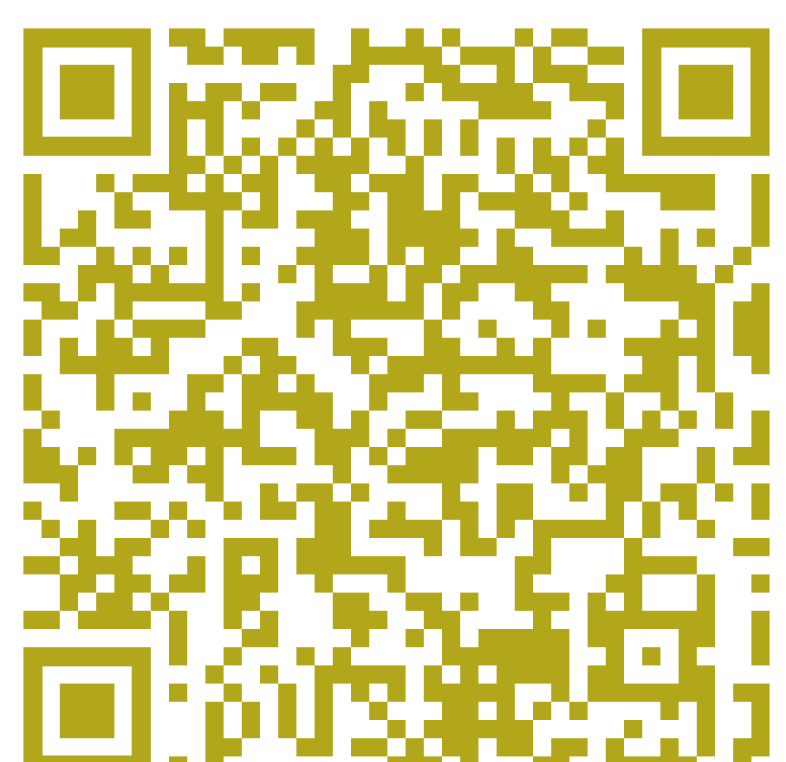
“A boy [may] learn a pretty story from the ancient poets, or a memorable tale from history as readily as the stupid vulgar ballad, or the old wives’ fairy rubbish such as most children are steeped in nowadays by nurses and serving women.”

*Desiderius Erasmus (1529)*



Due to early modern perceptions of these traditions, this hybridization struck me as unusual. Familiarity with classical tradition was a class signifier, the mark of a proper education. Folklore, on the other hand, was considered vulgar, relegated to the uneducated lower class (especially women).

## References



## Methodology

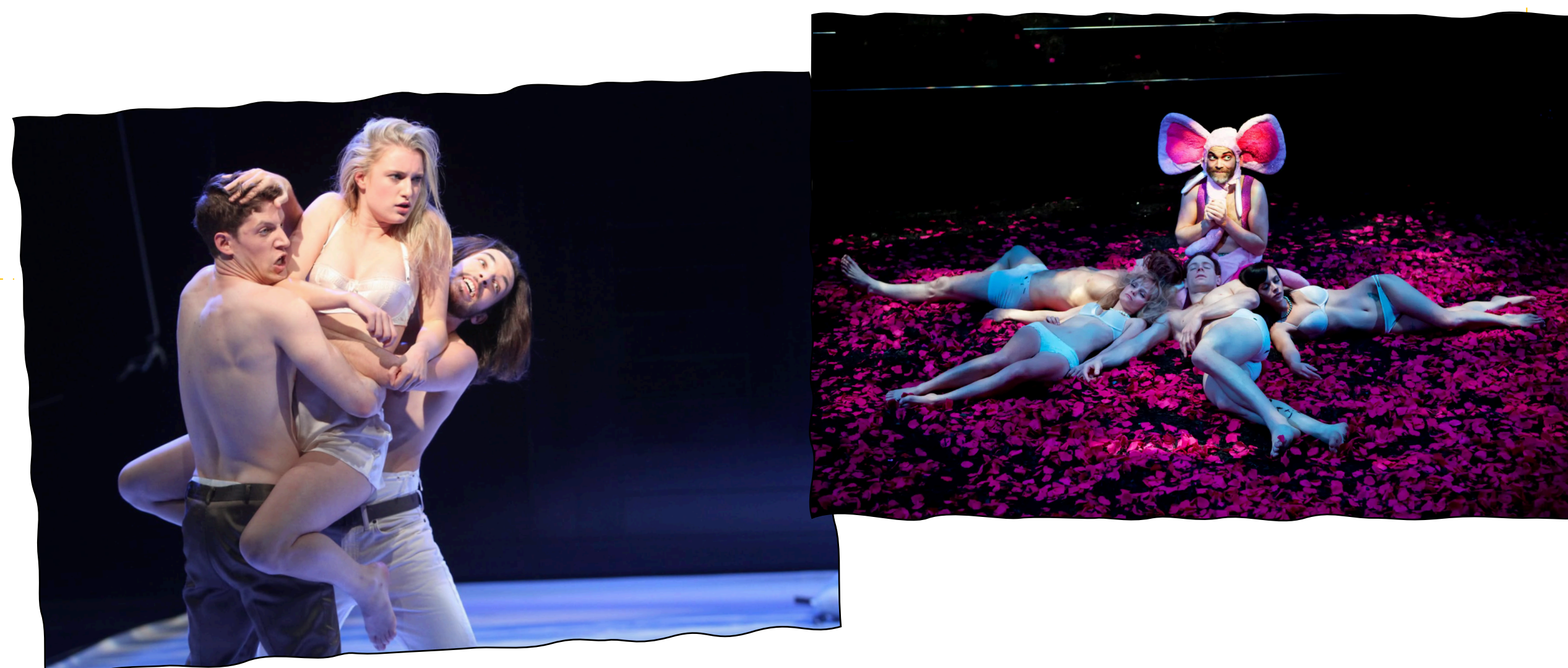
My goal for this project was to explore how these traditions related to each other in the play, and whether they reflected a clash, collaboration, or hierarchy between these two traditions. To accomplish this, I set out to investigate the lore and literary traditions Shakespeare was drawing from. I conducted a review of social history and literary criticism. I also engaged with some primary sources as well as close reading the play and engaging with its productions.

## Findings

### Different Perspectives

More favorable views of folklore begin to emerge when we expand our scope beyond the elites:

- The early modern period’s growing middle class used fairies to reaffirm domestic virtues and criticize the consumerism of those above them.
- Rebellions appropriated/self identified with fairy iconography.
- Amongst the lower sort, fairies could also be used as a form of ‘community assent’ (Lamb), allowing for members of the in group to cover for and protect each other. This could be used in cases of theft, bribery, infant death, and sexually illicit affairs.



## Acknowledgements

A sincere thanks to Dr. Ann Christensen for her wonderful mentorship and encouragement. I would also like to thank Dr. Carl Lindahl for his guidance and folklore expertise early in the project. A massive thank you to OURMA and the Mellon Scholars Program- especially Drs Bettinger and Long- for the opportunity, as well as Dr. Dawson for encouraging me to pursue it. And of course, thanks to the rest of my Mellon cohort for making me feel less alone when things didn’t go as planned.

## Conclusion & Continued Research

Though the hybrid setting initially struck me as odd, it seems it may be a more accurate reflection of the early modern period than any singular representation would be. In future research, I look forward to continue exploring the overlap of folklore and classical mythology, as well as expanding on their role within the play itself.



“[...] A neat solution is so satisfactory to our sense of logic. But too much neatness, however satisfactory, gives the lie to the complexity and intricacy of human life, and to the twisted strands of emotions, impulses, instincts, and submerged reason which govern our simplest action.”

*Katherine Briggs (1957)*

### Blurring Boundaries

The more you research, harder it is to support an elite/popular binary, or even a classical/folkloric one.

- Elite children grew up hearing these stories from servants, and changeling stories were popular with ladies of the court.
- Fairy lineage was used to legitimize the Tudor lineage.
- ‘Elite’ culture was disseminated to the rest of the population through clergy, ballads, art, rising literacy rates, etc.
- Much of what was considered standard fairy lore at the time was initially imported through medieval literature.
- As long as attempts to classify fairies have existed, a classical framework has been used to do so.





# Clonal analysis of pancreatic cancer stem cell subtypes using ascites

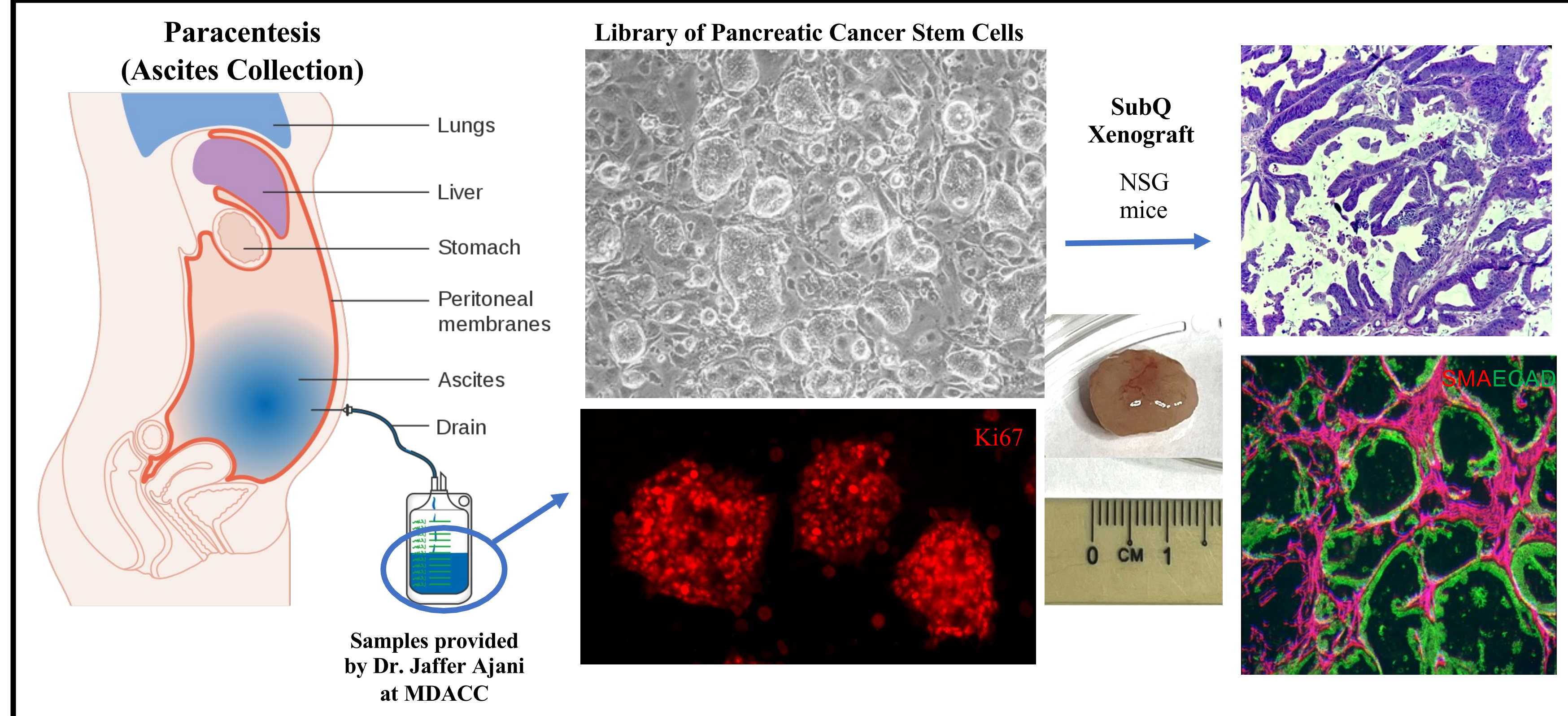
Paul Daniel<sup>1</sup>, Saeed Khan<sup>1</sup>, Ferhad Mongal<sup>1</sup>, Aisha Khan<sup>1</sup>, Mustafa Alshahristani<sup>1</sup>, Ashley Hoffman<sup>1</sup>, Caycel Desales<sup>1</sup>, Frank Mckeon<sup>1\*</sup>, Wa Xian<sup>1\*</sup>  
University of Houston Xian-Mckeon Lab<sup>1</sup>, MD Anderson Cancer Center<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction

The prognosis of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinomas (PDACs) is dismal, with a 5-year survival rate of less than 10%. PDAC shows significant heterogeneity that impacts tumor behavior and treatment response. Using stem cell cloning from patient ascites, we identified distinct clonal populations that, despite sharing driver mutations, differed in morphology, immune signaling, and stromal features. These findings suggest epigenetic divergence within the classical PDAC subtype and underscore the complexity of its stem cell hierarchy.

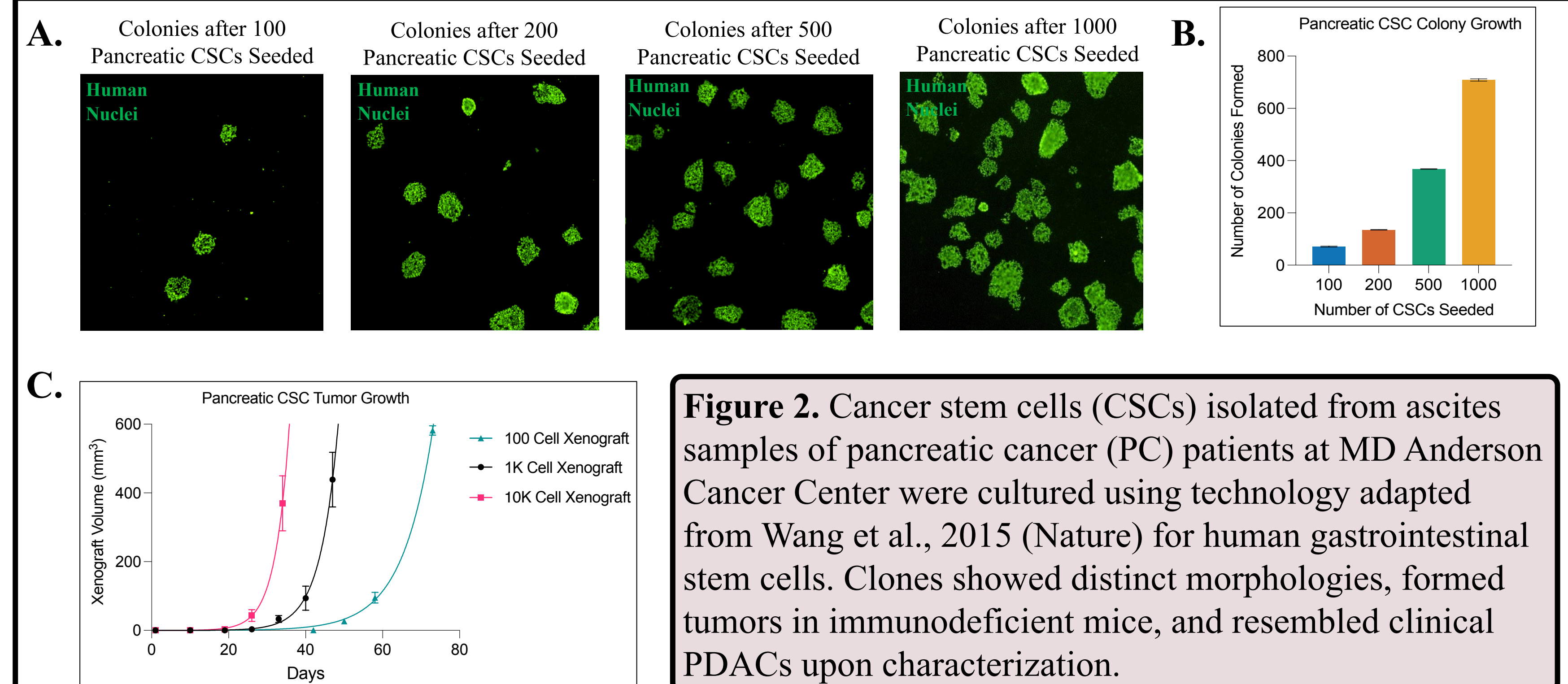
## Methodology

### Cloning of Patient-Derived Pancreatic Cancer Stem Cells



**Figure 1.** Cancer stem cells (CSCs) isolated from ascites samples of pancreatic cancer (PC) patients at MD Anderson Cancer Center were cultured using technology adapted from Wang et al., 2015 (Nature) for human gastrointestinal stem cells. Clones showed distinct morphologies, formed tumors in immunodeficient mice, and resembled clinical PDACs upon characterization.

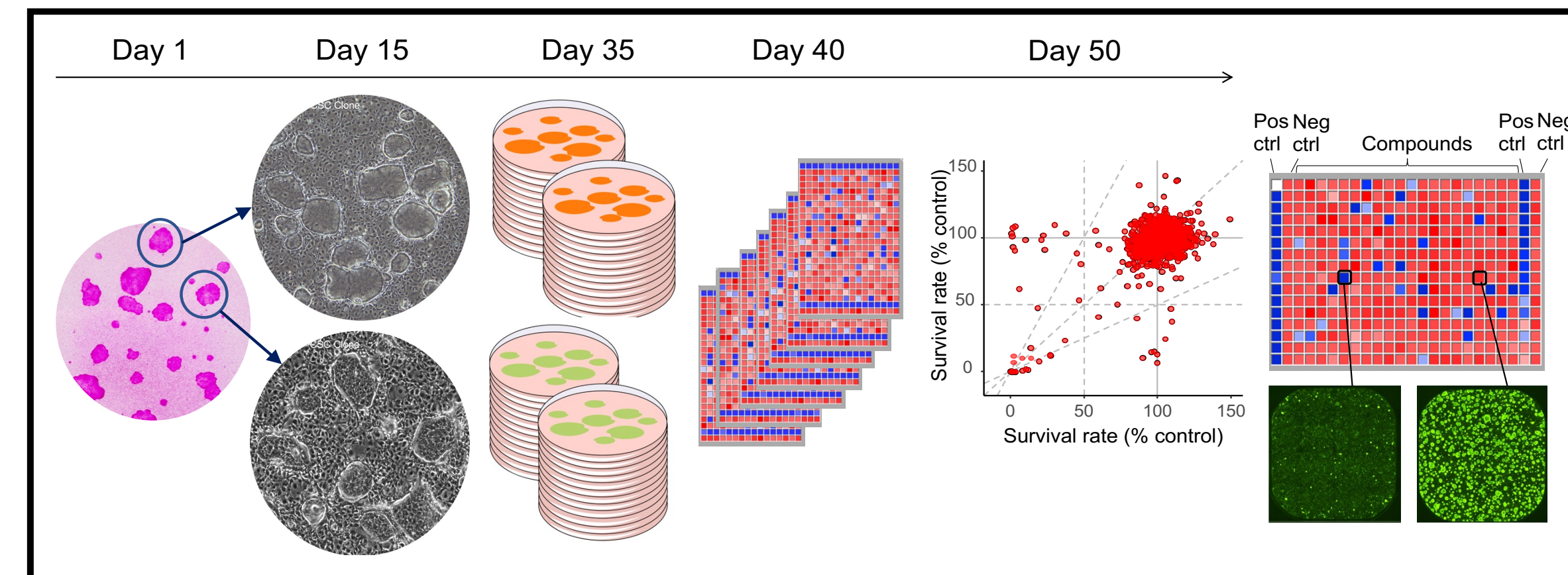
### Pancreatic Cancer Stem Cells Are Highly Clonogenic and Tumorigenic



**Figure 2.** Cancer stem cells (CSCs) isolated from ascites samples of pancreatic cancer (PC) patients at MD Anderson Cancer Center were cultured using technology adapted from Wang et al., 2015 (Nature) for human gastrointestinal stem cells. Clones showed distinct morphologies, formed tumors in immunodeficient mice, and resembled clinical PDACs upon characterization.

## Methodology (cont.)

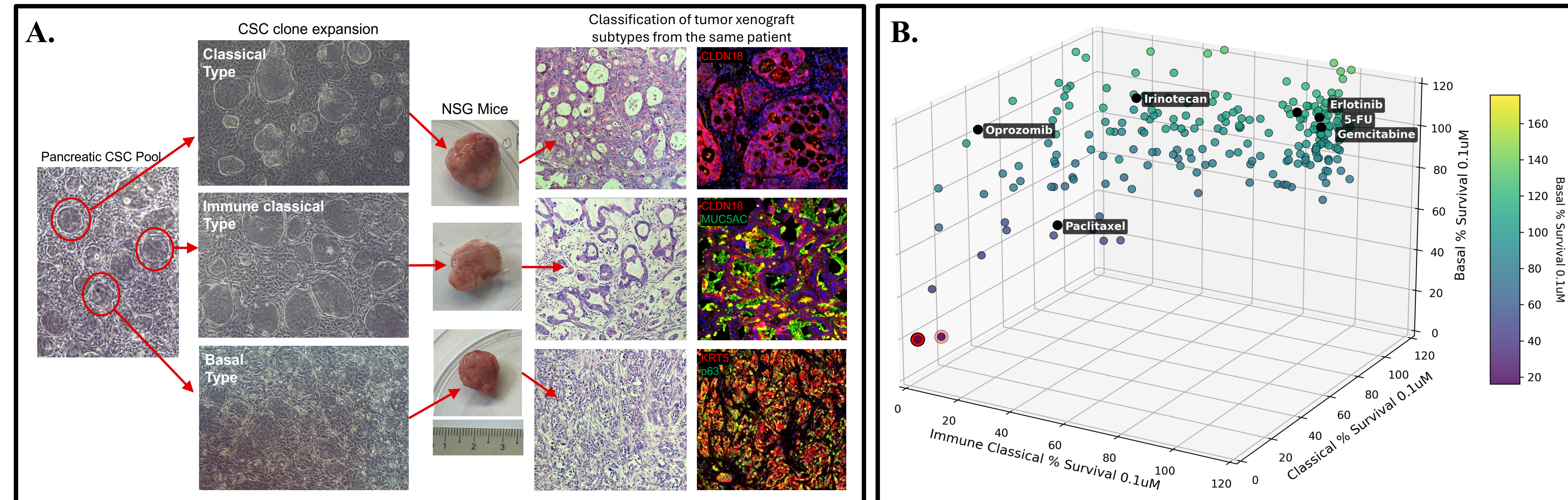
### Distinguishing Unique Subtypes From the Same Patient



**Figure 3.** Clonal CSC populations derived from pooled pancreatic cancer cells were expanded and used for high-throughput drug screening. Survival responses were visualized via scatter plots and heatmaps to identify compounds that selectively target CSC viability.

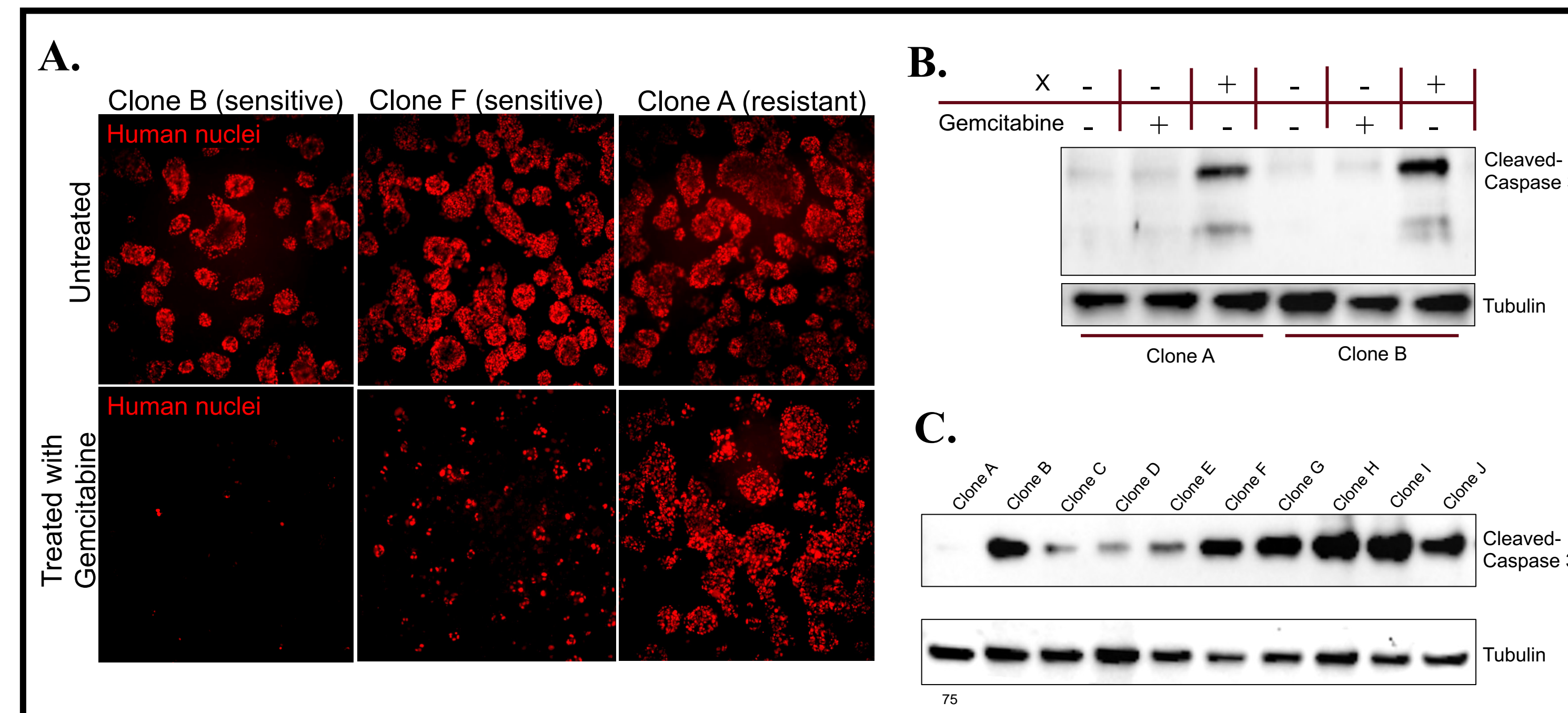
## Discussion and Results

### Distinguishing Unique Subtypes From the Same Patient



**Figure 4. A.** Clonal CSC lines derived from a single patient were expanded and injected into NSG mice, forming tumors with distinct histological subtypes. H&E and immunofluorescence revealed classical, immune classical, and basal features. **B.** High-throughput drug screening across these subtypes showed that several standard-of-care therapies were largely ineffective, while a subset of compounds reduced survival in all three, highlighting candidates for broader therapeutic impact.

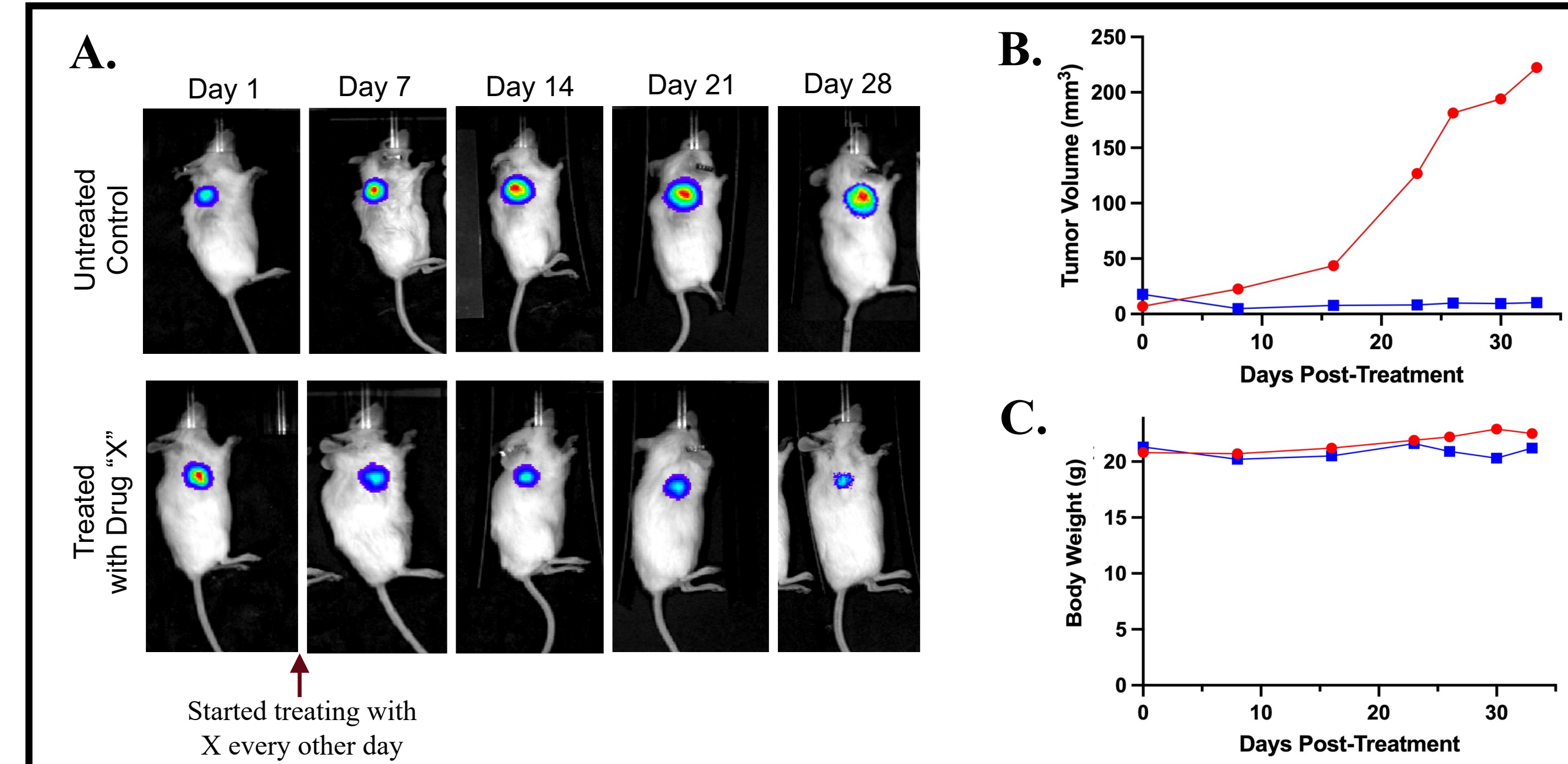
### Pedigrees Exhibit A Wide Range of Sensitivity to the Standard of Care



**Figure 5. A.** CSC clones from a single patient show variable sensitivity to gemcitabine. Viability is reduced in sensitive clones B and F, but not in resistant clone A. **B.** Clone A shows minimal apoptosis with gemcitabine but responds strongly to drug “X” alone, indicating selective sensitivity. **C.** Broader screening across clones reveals heterogeneous apoptotic responses to “X,” emphasizing the need to profile CSC subtypes for targeted therapy.

## Future Directions

### Drug “X” Efficacy In PDAC Stem Cell Xenograft Model



**Figure 6. A.** Bioluminescent imaging shows rapid tumor growth in untreated mice, while those treated with drug “X” every other day (starting Day 7) displayed significant tumor regression over 28 days. **B.** Tumor volume measurements confirm sustained suppression in treated mice versus exponential growth in controls. **C.** Stable body weight in both groups suggests drug “X” is not systemically toxic.

## Conclusion

Using ascites-derived cancer stem, we established distinct classical PDAC subtypes from a single patient and characterized their histology, tumor behavior, and drug responses. High-throughput screening revealed subtype-specific vulnerabilities and identified drug “X” as a promising, non-toxic candidate. These findings support a precision approach to PDAC treatment through individualized subtype analysis and targeted therapy development.

## References



## Questions?



## Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Dr. Wa Xian, Dr. Frank McKeon, and the whole Xian-McKeon Lab for their support in this project. Additional thanks to Dr. Ajani Jaffer for providing ascites samples from MDACC and the UH OURMA for their support through the SURF and PURS programs.





# Evaluating Glycemic Outcomes in Youth With New-Onset Type 1 Diabetes Using Omnipod 5 Artificial Insulin Delivery System

Natalie Linde | Dr. Marzia Cescon, UH Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Dr. Daniel DeSalvo, Baylor College of Medicine

## Introduction

The Omnipod 5 is one of the latest engineering advancements towards a true Automated Insulin Delivery (AID) system, increasing quality of life for those affected with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D).

Omnipod's 'Automated Mode' receives glucose data from a sensor and increases, decreases or suspends insulin basal rate under the guidance of settings determined by the user. This study aims to evaluate its effect on newly-diagnosed adolescents, who may have poor glucose control as they adjust to T1D diagnosis (1).

## Methods

Clinical and demographic data were collected from youth with Type 1 Diabetes at the Texas Children's Diabetes Center who initiated Omnipod 5 AID system within the first 3 months after diagnosis (N = 73).

### Inclusion Criteria

- Diagnosed between 10/2021 and 10/2023
- CGM Active > 80%
- Initiated Omnipod 5 within 3 months
- Use of Automated Mode > 70%

### Clinical Outcomes Measured

Baseline data were obtained from Dexcom Clarity. A Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) collected sensor glucose (mg/dL) every five minutes. Glooko, a cloud-based software, provided information about CGM and Omnipod 5 usage as well as percent time in ranges, insulin use, and Glucose Management Indicator (GMI), an estimation of HbA1c that indicates glucose control. Demographic and clinical data obtained from Electronic Medical Record.

Age at T1D Diagnosis [years]	9.48 ± 4.0
Aggregate GMI [%]	7.08 ± .55
Users meeting ISPAD GMI/A1c target <7%, N (%)	34 (46.5%)
Total Daily Insulin [U/d]	17.89 ± 14.15

## Results

Figure 1. GMI By Month.

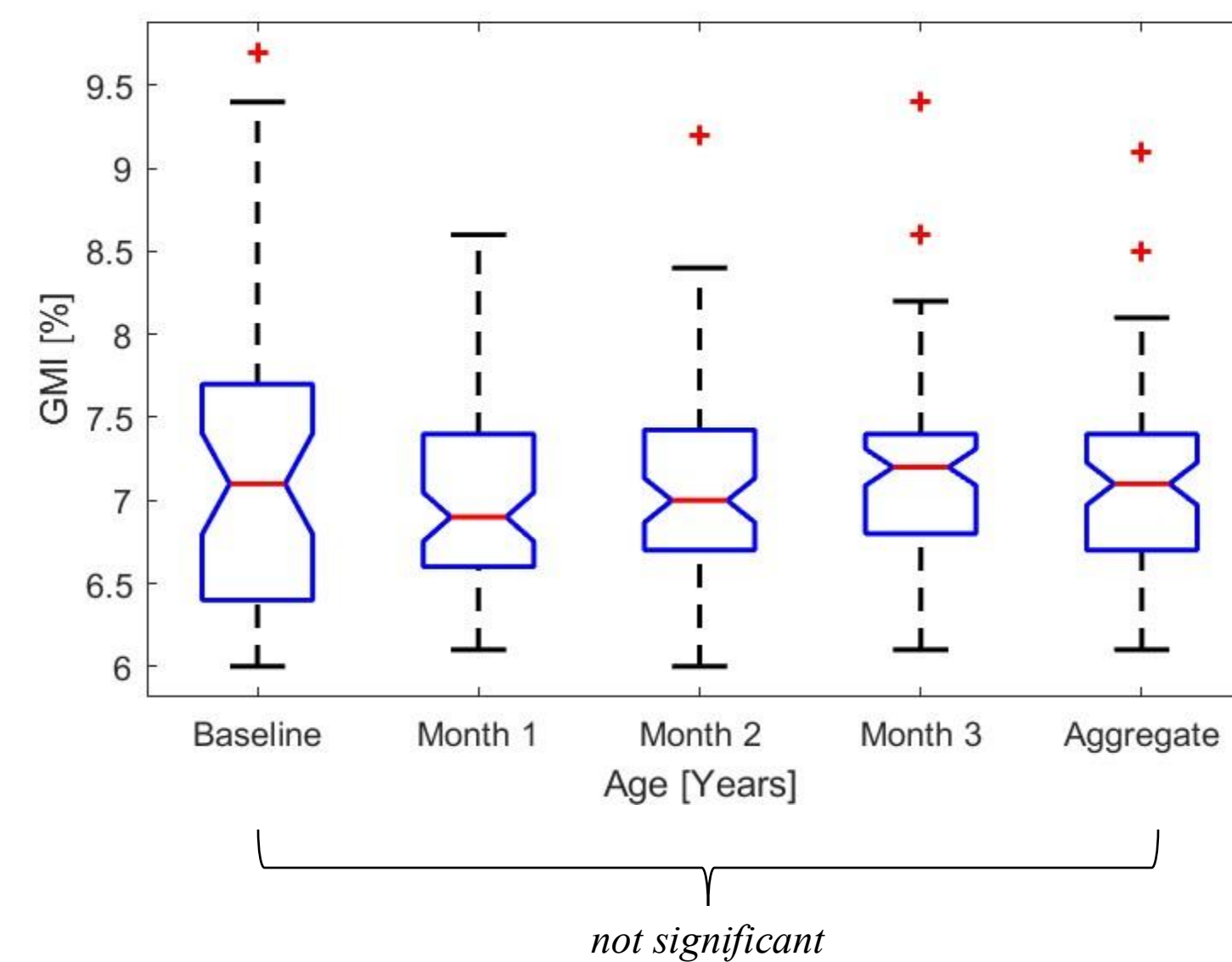


Figure 2. GMI By Age Group.

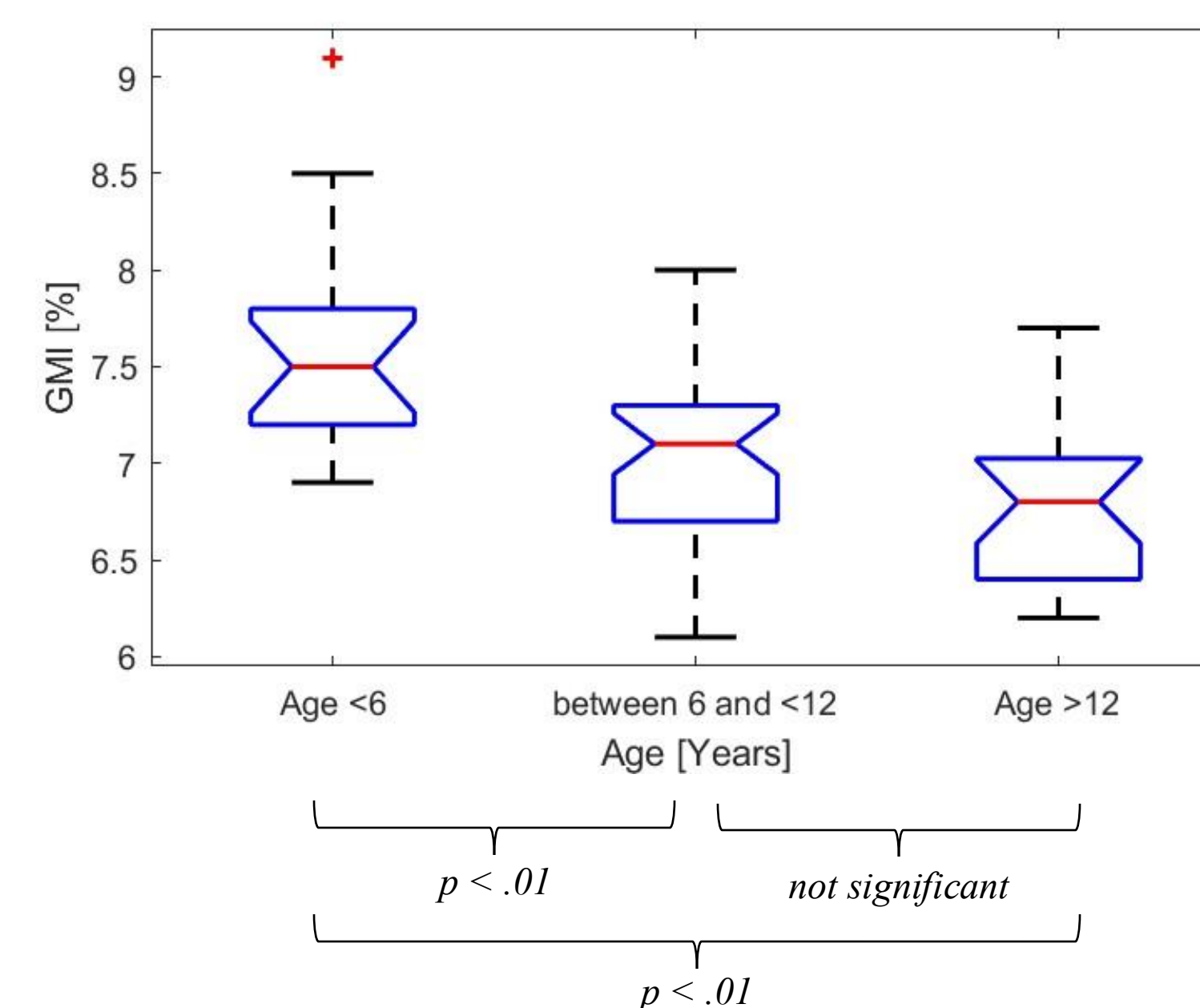


Figure 3. Visual Representation of Percent Time in Ranges.

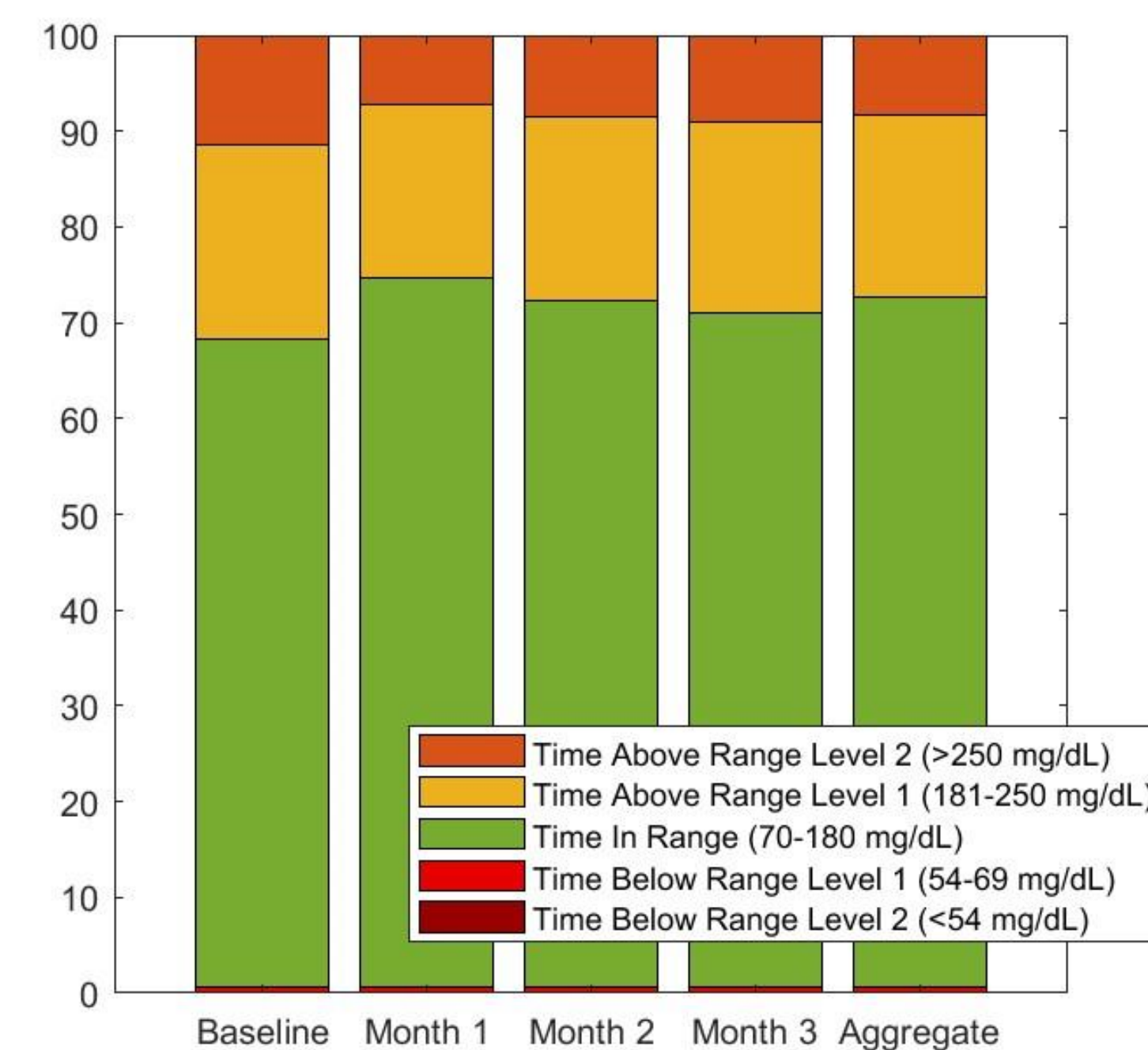


Figure 4. Glucose Target Settings Stratified by Age Group.

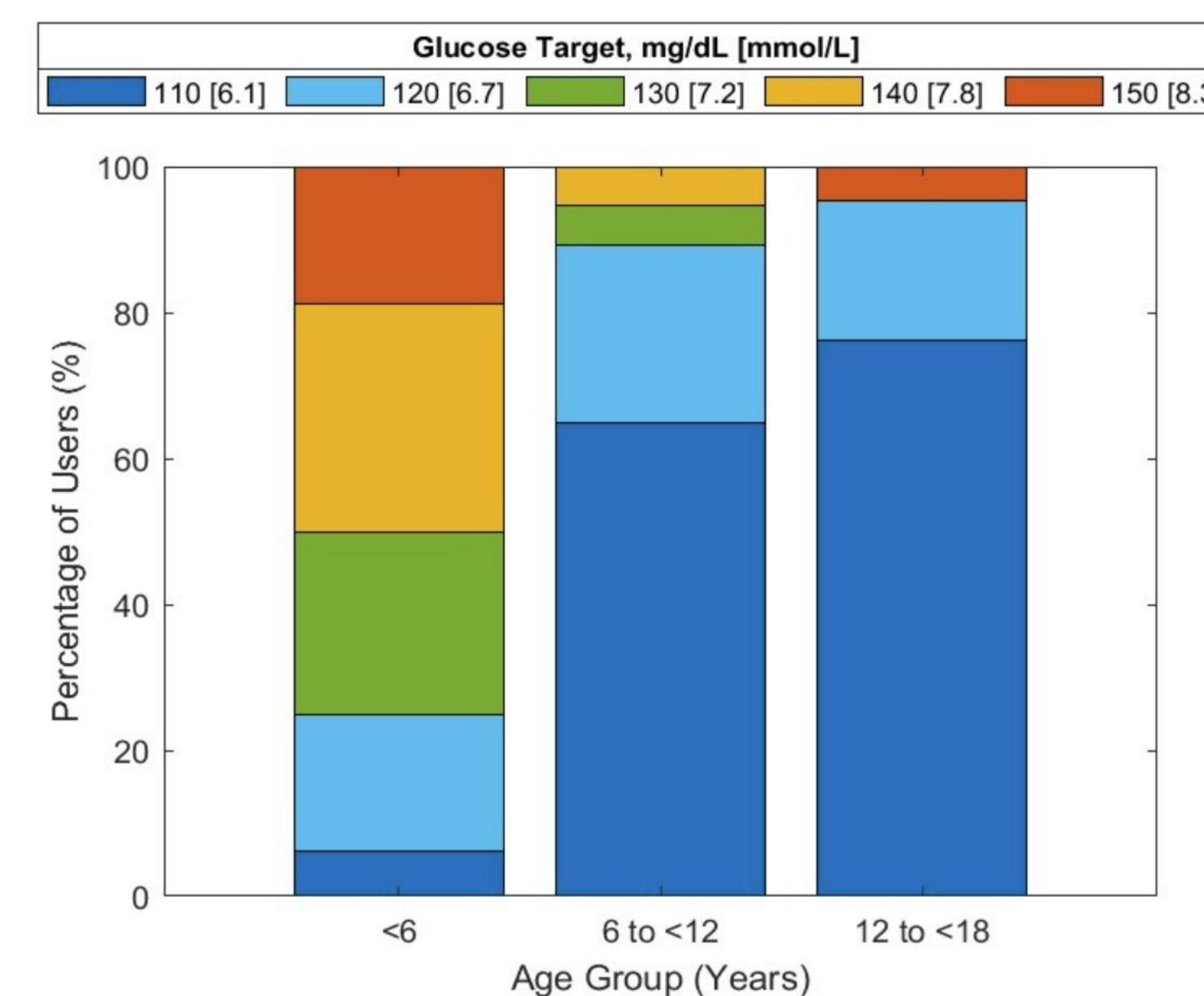


Figure 1 shows the trend in GMI for all participants by month. An Analysis of Variance test (ANOVA) indicated no statistically significant change in GMI over the three months ( $p = .39$ ).

Figure 2 shows the trend in GMI by age group (<6 years, 6 to <12 years, and 12 to <18 years). The difference in GMI between age groups indicates age of diagnosis and glucose control are positively correlated ( $p < 0.01$ ), as visible in Fig. 4. as well.

Participants experienced minimal hypoglycemia (Time Below Range Level 1 of  $0.6 \pm 0.6\%$  and TBR Level 2 of  $0.0 \pm 0.2\%$ ), seen in Fig.3.

Figure 4 shows the variability in user-chosen glucose targets across age groups. Younger participants (<6 years) used higher targets (130–150 mg/dL) to minimize hypoglycemia risk, while older groups commonly used the lowest target (110 mg/dL). Notably, over 60% of users with the lowest target met the GMI goal ( $\leq 7\%$ ) compared to 47.3% overall, with minimal hypoglycemia: median 1.0% Level 1 TBR and 0.0% Level 2 TBR.

## Conclusion

In this study, the Omnipod 5 AID system demonstrated safe and effective control, supporting use directly after T1D diagnosis. All 73 participants on the Omnipod 5 AID System reported no episodes of DKA or severe hypoglycemia and achieved minimal time below range (Fig. 3) during the first 3 months post-diagnosis. Customizable glucose targets proved effective and safe even at the lowest level (Fig. 4).

While the GMI improvement over three months was not significant, 47.3% of participants met the ISPAD GMI target of less than 7%, and GMI outliers were reduced after the baseline time period. In the future, a larger sample size and longer data collection post-diagnosis could show significant long-term trends in both youth patients and low-needs youth patients.

## Acknowledgments

Insulet Investigator-Initiated Award to Baylor College of Medicine, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship from the OURMA at the University of Houston.  
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 2: Mittal M, Porchezian P, Kapoor N. Honeymoon phase in type 1 diabetes mellitus: A window of opportunity for diabetes reversal? World J Clin Cases. 2024 Jan 6;12(1):9-14. doi: 10.12998/wjcc.v12.i1.9. PMID: 38292619; PMCID: PMC10824181.

