

**RECOGNITION OF POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW AWARDS.....Dr. Hanna Broome  
Assistant Dean, School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences**

**Dr. Bhavisha Bakrania** (Physiology and Biophysics) – American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship. Juan Carlos Romero Postdoctoral Award Finalist.

**Dr. Jessica Bradshaw** (Physiology and Biophysics) – Finalist in the 2019 Juan Carlos Romero and Water & Electrolyte Homeostasis Section Postdoctoral Research Recognition Award Competition.

**Dr. Lais Fernanda Berro** (Psychiatry and Human Behavior) – 4th Annual Steven G. Holtzman Travel Award for Preclinical Investigators. Alkermes Pathways Research Award. Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner.

**Dr. Jeremy Duncan** (Physiology and Biophysics) – American Heart Association post-doctoral fellowship award titled “Role of cytokines in mediating cerebrovascular dysfunction in placental ischemia”.

**Dr. Pallabi Pal** (Biomedical Materials Science) – Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner.

**Dr. Edgar Torres Fernandez** (Cell and Molecular Biology) – Virendra B. Mahesh Award of Excellence in Endocrinology Award by the Endocrinology and Metabolism section of the American Physiological Society at Experimental Biology 2019. Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner. ELSE School of Management Scholarship. Travel and poster award for American Physiological Society. Cardiovascular, Renal and Metabolic Diseases: Sex-Specific Implications for Physiology.

**Dr. Erin Taylor** (Physiology and Biophysics) – Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner.

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS..... Dr. Michael Ryan  
Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences**

**2019 Fundamentals of Physiology Award – Sarah Klender**

Awarded for superior scholastic performance in the Fundamentals of Physiology course during the 2018-2019 academic year.

**2019 Excellence in Pharmacology Graduate Student Award – Kenji Maeda**

This award is presented to a Medical Pharmacology PhD Candidate who has demonstrated academic and research excellence, outstanding professionalism, and service to the UMMC community.

**2019 Regions Outstanding Graduate Research Award – Dr. Bhuvanewari Gurumurthy**

The Regions Graduate Research Award and cash prize are presented in recognition of outstanding research accomplishments by a Graduate Student.

**2019 Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Program Director's Award**

**Darby Whitney, Jody Morgan, Riley Alef, Rachel Royston, Blake Hill, and Tyler Holm**

This award is in recognition of an overall weighted numerical average in the top ten percent of the class as of April 1, 2019.

**2019 Trustmark Postdoctoral Publication Award – Dr. Xuan Li**

This award is in recognition of a single cutting edge publication that served to significantly advance biomedical knowledge with the fellow's area of research.

**2019 Randall-Trustmark Outstanding Graduate Research Award – Ramana Vaka**

The Randall-Trustmark Graduate Research Award and cash prize are presented in recognition of outstanding research accomplishments and scientific contributions by a Graduate Student.

**2019 Robert A. Mahaffey, Jr. Memorial Award – Edgar Meyer**

Established in the memory of the late graduate student, this certificate and cash prize are awarded in recognition of exceptional research potential of young investigators. The student's name will be added to the Mahaffey Memorial plaque.

**AWARD NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

*Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Awards*

**Dr. Eva Bengten**, Microbiology and Immunology

**Dr. Michael Hebert**, Cell and Molecular Biology

**Dr. Amol Janorkar**, Biomedical Materials Science

**Dr. Andrew Notebaert**, Clinical Anatomy

**Dr. Donna Platt**, Neuroscience

**Dr. Michael Ryan**, Physiology and Biophysics

**Dr. Jennifer Sasser**, Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology

**Dr. Mary Stewart**, Nursing



# ANNUAL HONORS DAY

•  
12:00 noon  
Thursday,  
April 25, 2019

•  
The Norman C. Nelson  
Student Union

•  
The University  
of Mississippi  
Medical Center

***Sponsored by the Graduate Studies Alumni Chapter and the  
UMMC Office of Alumni Affairs of the University of Mississippi***

**School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences**  
**HONORS DAY PROGRAM**  
**April 25, 2019**

**WELCOME.....Dr. Joey P. Granger**  
**Dean, School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences**

**April Overstreet**  
**Director, Alumni Affairs**

**RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES..... Dr. Joey P. Granger**  
**Dean, School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences**

**GRADUATES**  
2018-2019

**MASTER OF SCIENCE**

<b>Joseph Riley Alef</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Sarah Jayne Fitzgerald</b> Biomedical Materials Science	<b>Matthew Emery Kutcher</b> Clinical Investigation
<b>John Joseph Angel</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Alexandra Elizabeth Ferguson</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Austin Riley Kuykendall</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Devon Duane Ashley</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Jessica Marie Franklin</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Michael Alexander Lucas</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Skylarr Aron Beerman</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Shreyas Gangadhara</b> Clinical Investigation	<b>Sophia Halkias Maneck</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Melanye Teresa Bender</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Vishnu Vardhan Garla</b> Clinical Investigation	<b>Robert Blake McClure</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Amanda Diane Blackwell</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>William Henry Gladney</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Hannah Marie McCrory</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Henry Maxwell Bloomingburg</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Jesse Benjamin Graham</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Dallas Alis McKinnon</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Reynolds Whites Brantley</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Landen Georges Hajje</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Alison Paige McLendon</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Morgan Taylor Brasfield</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Queene Ariana Haymer</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Mackenzie Lynn Miller</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>James Benjamin Brock</b> Clinical Investigation	<b>Wilson Ryder Heath</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Jody Clellon Morgan</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Shamika Shanta Bryson-McAuley</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Blake Chandler Hill</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Tyler Richard Morton</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Lauren Selena Carney</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Rachel Franks Hill</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Anastasia Michelle Mosby</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Nikhil Nagaraj Chatakondi</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Tyler Elliott Holm</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Ashlyn Christine Myers</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>William Chen</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>J’Messia Deanna Jackson</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Kim Uyen Cong Nguyen</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Jesse Newton Cottrell</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Janika LaNelle James</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Thien Ly Thuy Nguyen</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>James Anthony Cutrer</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Logan Kyndall James</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Gregory Wayne Nickles</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Morgan Josephine Davis</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Courtney Nicole Jones</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Alabel Sybil Michelle Olinde</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Abigail Leah Easter</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Jasmine Ambreana Key</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Anne Blakele Palmertree</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Mohamed El Sammani El Gassim</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Kati Krishna</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Antonio Lenell Patterson</b> Biomedical Sciences
<b>Parker Steven Elliot</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Rachel Elise Kuespert</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>Aileen Marie Pfarrer</b> Biomedical Sciences
	<b>Lakshmi Narasimhulu Kurnutala</b> Clinical Investigation	<b>Judy Phan</b> Biomedical Sciences

**Elelia Rene’ Phillips**  
Biomedical Sciences

**William Austin Pierce**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Peyton Ross Richards**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Jamie Nicole Riggs**  
Biomedical Sciences

**John Elliot Rimmer**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Andrew Michael Risley**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Rachel Jeannette Royston**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Jacob Thomas Scoggin**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Jessica Michelle Seaborn**  
Clinical Investigation

**Haleigh Kathryn Smith**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Jennifer Raymundo Stapel**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Woodrow Preston Taylor**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Adam Bower Travis**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Sara Grace Valentine**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Jasmine Leigh Ware**  
Biomedical Sciences

**William Todd Weissinger II**  
Biomedical Sciences

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

**Karen Rolan Arrant**  
Nursing

**Angela Hollis Benton**  
Microbiology and Immunology

**Kayla Logan Carr**  
Nursing

**Cassie Mechelle Chandler**  
Neuroscience

**Gwendolyn Kirsten Davis**  
Physiology

**Bhuvaneswari Gurumurthy**  
Biomedical Materials Sciences

**Katherine Chancellor Hall**  
Nursing

**Lindsey Bishop Kuiper**  
Neuroscience

**Edgar Rayner Meyer**  
Clinical Anatomy

**Ashley Denise Newsome**  
MD/PhD – Physiology

**Carolann Risley**  
Nursing

**Ellen Monaghan Robertson**  
Clinical Anatomy

**Marcelo Jun Sakiyama**  
Pathology

**David Scott Sandlin**  
MD/PhD – Neuroscience

**Danyelle Nicole Wesley**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Amber Nicole White**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Austin Tyler White**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Darby Hughes Whitney**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Tyesha Thompson Younger**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Christian Su Yu**  
Biomedical Sciences

**David Andrew Spencer**  
Microbiology and Immunology

**Maryam Syed**  
Cell and Molecular Biology

**Venkata Ramana Vaka**  
Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology

**Sutton Ross Williams**  
Clinical Anatomy

**Victoria Lea Wolf**  
Physiology

**Valeria Zai-Rose**  
Cell and Molecular Biology

**Mohammad Hasan** (Microbiology and Immunology) – Second place award winner in the 2019 Mississippi Academy of Sciences (MAS) Student Manuscript Competition. Travel award for the 2018 Meharry Translational Research Center (MeTRC) Health Disparities Grantees’ Conference.

**Mary Darby Jackson** (Microbiology and Immunology) – Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner. Sigma Xi Honor Society Inductee.

**Kartikeya Jodha** (Biomedical Materials Science) – KULZER Travel Award winner, to be recognized at the International Association for Dental Research conference in Vancouver. North American Travel Award from the Academy of Dental Materials.

**Sara Klender** (Clinical Anatomy) – American Association of Anatomists’ Travel Award to present research at the annual conference.

**Tyler Lomax** (Physiology and Biophysics) – Martin Frank Diversity Travel Award to attend Experimental Biology 2019. Graduate Student Research Day Award.

**Kenji Maeda** (Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology) – Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner. Elected as a Trainee Advisory Subcommittee Member of the American Physiological Society Water & Electrolyte Homeostasis Section.

**Ciara McKnight** (Cell and Molecular Biology) – Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner.

**Edgar Meyer** (Clinical Anatomy) – Poster Award Finalist for an Anatomical Sciences Education Student/Postdoctoral Education Research Poster Award at the American Association of Anatomists Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2019. Selected for the Excellence Award as part of The 2019 Pillars: Recognition of Service & Inclusive Excellence sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

**Caroline Mueller** (Clinical Anatomy) – American Association of Anatomists (AAA) Travel Award for Experimental Biology 2019 and complimentary ticket to the AAA Closing Awards Ceremony for presenting an abstract at their annual meeting.

**Stacey Naylor** (Nursing) – Jonas Scholar award winner.

**Danielle Porter** (Neuroscience) – Awarded a F31 NIH grant.

**Katherine Rigdon** (Nursing) – Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society inductee.

**Carolann Risley** (Nursing) – Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society inductee.

**Ellen Robertson** (Clinical Anatomy) – American Association of Anatomists (AAA) Travel Award for Experimental Biology 2019. Finalist for ASE Student/Postdoctoral Education Research Poster Award.

**Marcelo Sakiyama** (Pathology) – Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner.

**Olivia Travis** (Physiology and Biophysics) – Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner. Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Inductee.

**Hannah Turbeville** (MD/PhD - Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology) – Travel award with mentoring program at Kidney Week 2018. Portland Press Predoctoral Research Recognition Award Finalist. Travel award to Experimental Biology 2019 from Water & Electrolyte Homeostasis Section of American Physiological Society (3 total awards) including oral presentation competition for selection of final award. NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (F30).

**Sydney Vita** (Neuroscience) – First place winner for her poster at the Mission Connect Symposium. First place winner at the 25th Annual Neuroscience Poster Session.

**Jamarius Waller** (MD/PhD - Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology) – Martin Frank Diversity Travel Award to attend Experimental Biology 2019.

**Shaouxun Wang** (Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacology) – Award winner in BioTek’s first Imaging Perspectives competition.

**Monica White** (Nursing) – Jonas Scholars award winner.

**James Walker Wiggins** (MD/PhD – Neuroscience) – Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner.

**Erika Guise Williams** (Physiology and Biophysics) – Finalist for the Water & Electrolyte Homeostasis Section Portland Press Predoctoral Research Recognition Award to present at Experimental Biology 2019. American Heart Association Predoctoral fellowship award.

**Victoria Wolf** (Physiology and Biophysics) – American Physiological Society Caroline tum Suden/ Frances Hellebrandt Professional Opportunity Awards. Travel Award for American Physiological Society Fall Conference on Cardiovascular, Renal and Metabolic Diseases: Sex-Specific Implications for Physiology. Abstract-based travel award from American Physiological Society. American Heart Association Predoctoral fellowship award.

**Subhi Talal Younes** (MD/PhD – Physiology and Biophysics) – American Heart Association Predoctoral fellowship award.

**Austin Zamarripa** (Neuroscience) – Awarded a NRSA F31 award from National Institute on Drug Abuse. Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner. Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society inductee.

**RECOGNITION OF GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS.....Dr. Michael Ryan**  
**Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences**

**Angela Benton** (Microbiology and Immunology) Sima Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research Award. National Eye Institute Travel Grant.

**Laura Blackmon** (Microbiology and Immunology) American Association of Immunologists Trainee Travel Award. NSF Travel Award, 14th Congress of the International Society of Developmental and Comparative Immunology. Best Poster Presentation, 14th Congress of the International Society of Developmental and Comparative Immunology.

**Jared Cobb** (Biomedical Materials Science) – Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society inductee.

**Gwen Davis** (Physiology and Biophysics) – American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship.

**Elena Dent** (Physiology and Biophysics) – American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship. American Physiological Society Caroline tum Suden/Francis A. Hellebrandt Professional Opportunity Award.

**Sonja Dragojevic** (Cell and Molecular Biology) – Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner.

**Adrian Eddy** (Physiology and Biophysics) – American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship.

**Jason Engel** (Physiology and Biophysics) – American Physiological Society Caroline tum Suden/Frances Hellebrandt Professional Opportunity Award. Finalist for the APS Renal Section Predoctoral Excellence in Renal Research Award. Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner.

**Sid Gaikwad** (Neuroscience) – Graduate Research Day Poster Presentation Winner.

**Dr. Bhuvaneswari Gurumurthy** (Biomedical Materials Science) – Selected as ‘Honorable Mention’ for the STAR Award by the Society for Biomaterials. Travel award for American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Fall Focused Symposium.