

UTRGV College of Health Professions
HEALTH FORWARD
CONFERENCE



April 11 & 12, 2024
Brownsville, TX

UTRGV™



UT Health
Rio Grande Valley

.....
College of Health Professions

Health Forward

Dean of the College of Health Professions

Michael Lehker, PhD



Dr. Michael Lehker, Founding Dean of the College of Health Professions, is a professor of microbiology in the Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Dr. Lehker is committed to enhancing and promoting allied health professional students' education, research, and clinical practice at the College of Health Professions.

A particular focus is on innovative educational approaches in healthcare education to enhance student engagement and effectiveness and the establishment of new programs to increase participation of Rio Grande Valley students in the allied health, medical and biomedical workforce. Building research capacity is another passion of Dr. Lehker.

Why Health Forward?

Welcome to Health Forward 2024! It is the mission of the College of Health Professions to be the leading institution of excellence in health and human services, education, health care and research, producing highly skilled practitioners, educators, and researchers through high quality educational programs, meaningful experiential learning opportunities and the development of scientific and intellectual inquiry for the promotion of health equity in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

Health Forward brings together the South Texas Community to explore, share and motivate the health professionals and communities in the region to review current health research, disperse innovative health pedagogy techniques for all, train in the best practices of interprofessional education that leads to interprofessional practice and bring together the community to move **Health Forward!**

Conference Agenda

Overview

Thursday, April 11, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Registration Opens & Poster Set Up	BSTUN 2.36
7:30 a.m.	Social and Light Breakfast	BSTUN 2.36
8:30 a.m.	Opening Remarks Michael Lehker, PhD Dean College of Health Professions Luis H. Zayas, PhD	BSTUN 2.36
9:00 a.m.	Research Keynote Speaker	BSTUN 2.36
10:30 a.m.	Research, Teaching Innovations, and Interprofessional Education Poster Session	BSTUN 2.36
11:30 a.m.	Lunch (<i>on your own</i>)	BSTUN 2.36 & BSTUN 1.00
12:30 p.m.	Breakout Presentations Research Teaching Innovations Interprofessional Education	BSTUN 2.36 BSTUN 2.224 BSTUN 2.22A
1:45 p.m.	Breakout Presentations Research Teaching Innovations Interprofessional Education	BSTUN 2.36 BSTUN 2.224 BSTUN 2.22A

Conference Agenda

Overview

Friday, April 12, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Registration Opens & Poster Set Up	BSTUN 2.36
7:30 a.m.	Social and Light Breakfast	BSTUN 2.36
8:00 a.m.	Student Research Poster Session	BSTUN 2.36
9:00 a.m.	Teaching Innovations Keynote Speaker	BSTUN 2.36
10:30 a.m.	Breakout Presentations	
	Research	BSTUN 2.36
	Teaching Innovations	BSTUN 2.224
	Interprofessional Education	BSTUN 2.22A
11:45 a.m.	Lunch (<i>on your own</i>)	BMAIN 1.224
	Interprofessional Education Student Competition	BSABH 1.108
12:30 p.m.	Breakout Presentations	
	Research	BMAIN 1.224
	Teaching Innovations	BMAIN 1.502
	Interprofessional Education Student Competition	BSABH 1.108
1:45 p.m.	Interprofessional Education Student Competition	BSABH 1.108
3:00 p.m.	Closing Session	BMAIN 1.224
	Student Research & IPE Award Presentations	

Conference Map

The University of Texas
Rio Grande ValleyTM
 Brownsville Campus

UTRGV Brownsville parking permits are valid in the following ZONES:

Student - Zone 1 & Zone 2 (Zone 3 after 5pm)
 Faculty/Staff - Zone 1, Zone 2 & Zone 3



All vehicles parked on campus must be registered with UTRGV Parking & Transportation and must properly display an appropriate permit.

1. Main Building
2. Sabal Hall
3. University Library
4. Biomedical Research & Health
5. Luis V. Colom Biomedical Research Facility
6. Life & Health Sciences Biology Wing
7. Life & Health Science
8. Student Union
9. Casa Bella
10. Science, Engineering & Technology

- BMAIN
 BSABH
 BLIBR
 BBRHB
 BLCBR
 BLHSB
 BLHSB
 BSTUN
 BCASA
 BSETB

11. Vocation Trades Shops
12. Cortez Hall
13. Cavalry Hall
14. Rustenberg Hall
15. Bookstore
16. Intramural Fields
17. Academic Support Facilities
18. Gymnasium Annex
19. Garza Gymnasium
20. Research Office Building

- BVOTS
 BCRTZ
 BCAVL
 BRUST
 BSTOR
 BIMFD
 BASFC
 BGYMA
 BGYMN
 BROBL

21. The Arts Center
22. University Police
23. Recreation, Education and Kinesiology Center
24. Portable Buildings
25. UHealth Houston RAHC
26. North Office Building
27. Vaquero Plaza (Buildings A, B & C)
28. Music Science & Learning Center
29. Interdisciplinary Academic Building

- BTACB
 BUNPB
 BUREK
 BPOB1
 BPOB2
 BRAHC
 BNOBL
 BVAQP
 BMSLC
 BINAB

UTRGV



UT Health
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College of
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Research Keynote

See the person, not the patient: The art and science of occupation

Laura Novak, OTD, OTR



This presentation will explore existing evidence and current trends in research for people living with dementia and their caregivers. The presenter will specifically discuss evidence-based, non-pharmacological interventions which address behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia. The presenter will discuss how occupational engagement through client-centered care can be utilized to address these symptoms.

Laura Novak, OTD, OTR, BCG Assistant Professor at University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Short Bio: Dr. Novak received her Doctor of Occupational Therapy from Creighton University in Nebraska. She is board certified in gerontology with the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). In her 22 years of practice as an occupational therapist, she has become an expert in productive aging and in working with people with dementia and their caregivers. She received the Presidential Clinical Excellence Award while working with people living with dementia and their caregivers at the UT Health San Antonio Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases.

Conference Agenda

Research Sessions

April 11, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Research Poster Session

BSTUN – 2.36

An Evaluation of the Effect of Goalsetting on Student Performance *Samuel Buchanan, Health & Human Performance*

Cluster Analyses of Biomarkers Differentiate Metabolic Risk in Hispanic Adolescents of South Texas *Saraswathy Nair & Michelle Covarrubias, Health & Biomedical Sciences*

12:30 p.m.

Research Breakout 1

BSTUN – 2.36

Moderators – Ivan Figueroa Monsivais & Wen-Pin Chang

Perceived Discrimination, Genetic Liability and Mental Health; An Example of All of Us Data Use *Bassent Abdelbary, Physician Assistant Studies*

PLGA Scaffolds Fabricated with an Easy and Economical Mold-Less Technique for the Treatment of Cancer *Marco Arriaga & Dean Michael Enriquez, Health & Biomedical Sciences*

Impact of COVID-19 on the Mental Health and Emotional Well-being of UTRGV Students *Suad Ghaddar, Sheila Mordan, Elizabeth Asonye, Abby Davila, Debra Murray, & Ashley Butler, Health & Biomedical Sciences*

1:45 p.m.

Research Breakout 2

BSTUN – 2.36

Healthy Aging: Exploring Different Perspectives for Improving Quality of Life *Session leaders: Kim Nguyen-Finn, Ruth Crutchfield & Murat Karabulut*

3:00 p.m.

Research Breakout 3

BSTUN – 2.36

Moderators – Ruth Crutchfield

Cross-Generational Collaboration: Bridging Junior and Senior Faculty in Research Excellence *Panelists: Suad Ghaddar, Jean McLaughlin & Gladys Maestre*

Conference Agenda

Research Sessions

April 12, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Student Research Poster Session

BSTUN – 2.36

Alteration of the Interferon Alpha Signaling Pathway Significantly Affects Alzheimer's Disease Pathology in APP/PS1 Mouse Model *Ranjit Kumar Das, Deepa Roy, Nirakar Sahoo, Chun Xu, Hansapani Rodrigo, Michael Paul Murphy, & Upal Roy*

Effect of Spaceflight on Inflammasome Signaling and Neuroinflammation *Angel Rodriguez, Erika Cabrera Ranaldi, Alen Saju, Deepa Roy, Mario Gil, Xiao Mao, Juan Pablo de Rivero Vaccari, Upal Roy*

Evaluating the Impact of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program on Food Insecurity and Health Outcomes in the United States: A Comprehensive Review *Miguel Trevino*

In Female Patients with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), is a Low-Glycemic Index (LGI) Diet More Effective Than Birth Control, for the Reduction of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) Signs and Symptoms *Monica Vadillo*

Ferrous Sulfate Supplementation in Women During Pregnancy Has a Positive Correlation with Fetal Neurodevelopment Within the First 1,000 Days *Daniela Rodriguez*

Injectable Alginate Scaffolds for the Delivery of Minocycline for the Treatment of Glioblastoma *Serenade Trevino, Kaitlyn D. Ybanez, Theresia Rookstool, Rene N. Rico, Marco A. Arriaga & Sue Anne Chew*

Applying Dosage for Type 1 Diabetes Through Reinforcement Learning *Younna Galal & Youssef Galal*

The Application of Porous Polycaprolactone Scaffolds for Bone Tissue Engineering *Clara Elliott, Paola Aguirre, Lauren Serra, Shainah Vidal, Dean Michael Enrique, Marco A. Arriaga, & Sue Anne Chew*

Evaluating the Combination of Y15 and Metformin for the Treatment of Platinum-Resistant Ovarian Cancer *Kristal Garcia, Manuel Duarte, Isabela Mendez, Marco A. Arriaga, Arkene Levy, & Sue Anne Chew*

Electrosprayed Minocycline and Temozolomide-loaded PLGA Microparticles with PEG for the Treatment of Glioblastoma *Alma Rodriguez, Juan Amieva, Marco A. Arriaga, Jaqueline Quintanilla, Ivan Davila, Karen S. Martirosyan, & Sue Anne Chew*

Unraveling the Impact of Familism, Lifestyles and APOE Gene on Risk Alzheimer's Diseases in Low-Resource Ethnic Hispanic Community *Daniela Ollervides Charles, Daniela Gamez, Jaime Miguel Saveron, Erika Guajardo, Luis Aguillon, KeSheng Wang, Gladys Maestre, & Chun Xu*

Conference Agenda

Research Sessions

April 12, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Student Research Poster Session

BSTUN – 2.36

Exploring Neuroplasticity Changes in Neurotoxin-induced Parkinson's Disease: A Preliminary Analysis using Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation *Tomas Gomez, Kelsey Baker, Nawaz Hack, Daniel Salinas, & Vadukapuram Ramu*

Nutrition Education in Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and Effect on Adherence to Reference Daily Intake (RDI) to macronutrients *Jacqueline Reyes*

Exploring the Impact of Social Stimulation and Deprivation on Neuronal Activity in the *Monodelphis Domestica* Brain *Cristian Botello, Mariela Garcia, Esperanza Alaniz, Jatziry Escobedo, John VandeBerg, & Mario Gil*

Analysis of Muscle Imbalance in Females who have Undergone ACL Reconstruction *Rebekah Schlatter, Jorge Bejar, Jennifer Lopez, & Murat Karabulut*

Development of Liposomes Using Microfluids for Delivery of miR-205 *Victoria Herrera, Murali Yallapu, Rahul Tiwari, Meghana Kolli, Amber Garza, Eswara Naga Hanuma Kumar Ghali, & Neeraj Chauhan*

Effects of Psychological Stress on Lifestyle In Hispanic College Students *Jordan Escobar & Hongxing Lu*

The Relationship Between Arterial Elasticity and Anthropometric Variables in Hispanic Population *Bryan Mixumi, Alaynna Ramos, Christian Solis, Nidia Salinas, Martha Villanueva, Ulku Karabulut, & Murat Karabulut*

Building Bridges: Enhancing Social Integration for Individuals with Disabilities *Md Mozadded Hossen*

Latino Men's Barriers and Obstacles Towards Treatment Seeking Attitudes *Rebecca N. Gonzalez*

Conference Agenda

Research Sessions

April 12, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Research Breakout 4

BSTUN – 2.36

Empowering Tomorrow's Researchers: Student-Faculty Collaborative Research Initiatives – Session
leader: Sue Anne Chew

1:45 p.m.

Research Breakout 5

BMAIN – 1.224

Student Research

Moderators – TBD

Utilizing Fluorescent Nanodiamonds for Targeted Drug Delivery Toward Microglial Cells *Ebenezer Owusu, Deepa Roy, Shizue Mito, Masoud Zarei, Elena A. Rozhkova, & Upal Roy.*

Dolutegravir-Induced NLRP3 Inflammasome Activation in GALT-Derived HIV-Infected and Combination Antiretroviral Drugs Treated Human T&B Cells *Blessed Ofori & Yonghong Zhang*

Bangladeshi International Graduate Students' Perspectives on Physical Disabilities: An In-depth Exploration *Md Mozadded Hossen*

3:00 p.m.

Student Research Award, Student Poster Competition Award and Interprofessional Education Student Competition Award Presentation

BMAIN – 1.224

Teaching Innovations Keynote

Bettyjo Bouchey, Ed.D., MBA



As the pace of introduction and adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) continues at an unprecedented pace, it is critical for educators to both understand its promise and its downsides. Applications related to teaching, learning, and student support could revolutionize how we teach and improve student success, so too is it our responsibility to educate our students on the responsible and ethical use of AI in their areas of study. This session will provide an overview of opportunities to incorporate AI into teaching, learning, and student support and will also allow time for group dialog on applications related to the health professions as we seek to better prepare our students for a future where AI will likely proliferate their intended careers.

Dr. Bouchey is Chief Officer of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) at University of Vermont. As one of the longest-standing PACE units in higher education, the team serves the institution offering high-quality online and hybrid non- and degree offerings in collaboration with the university's academic units and institutes, workforce development, and lifelong learning opportunities to Vermont residents and beyond. She was most previously Associate Professor and Vice Provost of Digital Strategy and Operations at National Louis University where she was responsible for standards of quality and service for online programming across the institution, alternative graduation pathways, learning experience design, and academic innovation, overall.

Dr. Bouchey holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University at Albany, an M.B.A. in Entrepreneurship from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a Doctorate in Education from Northeastern University. She is a co-founder of the CORAL Research collaborative focused on online leadership and scholarship; her personal research interests include the nature and future of organizational structures of online units in institutions of higher education, as well as inventive and high-impact pedagogical practice in online teaching, inclusive of artificial intelligence and machine learning. Dr. Bouchey writes and is widely quoted in the academic and popular press; her articles and curriculum vitae can be accessed here: www.drbouchey.com.

Conference Agenda

Teaching Innovations Sessions

April 11, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Teaching Innovations Poster Session

BSTUN – 2.36

Diagnosing the Future: AI-Driven Clinical Scenarios in PA Education *Christina Gonzales & Lisa Kuhn, Physician Assistant Studies*

Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Enhance Teaching and Learning in the OTD Classroom *Thelma Ochoa, Occupational Therapy*

Transitioning Into Higher Ed: How Universities Can Welcome Students on the Spectrum *Jennifer Martinez, Curriculum & Instruction*

Building Cultural Competence Using Mixed Reality Simulated Learning Environments *Roel Garcia, Criselda Garcia & John Luna, Occupational Therapy*

12:30 p.m.

Teaching Innovations Breakout 1

BSTUN – 2.24

Moderators – TBD

Creative Movement Arts for All Bodies *Zelma Mata, Health & Human Performance*

Games as a Learning Tool in the Online Environment: Evidence From an Introductory Epidemiology Course *Cherity Ysquierdo & Suad Ghaddar, Health & Biomedical Sciences*

Conference Agenda

Teaching Innovations Sessions

April 11, 2024

1:45 p.m.

Teaching Innovations Breakout 2

BSTUN – 2.24

Moderators – TBD

Creating a Student-centered, Inclusive Classroom Using Research-based Instructional Strategies

Saraswathy Nair, Sue Anne Chew, Alyssa Cavazos, Lorena Lopez, Daniel Hanley & Shannon Warren, Health & Biomedical Sciences

An Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Scientific Writing for Undergraduate Students *Sue Anne Chew, Saraswathy Nair & Randall Monty, Health & Biomedical Sciences*

3:00 p.m.

Teaching Innovations Breakout 3

BSTUN – 2.24

Moderators – TBD

A Guide To Chatgpt (AI) For Medical And Health Educators *Frank Ambriz & Cassandra Whetstone, Physician Assistant Studies*

Enhancing Critical Thinking in Physician Assistant Education: Leveraging AI for Test Question Creation *Nathalie Chacon & Hilda Baesa, Physician Assistant Studies*

Conference Agenda

Teaching Innovations Sessions

April 12, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Teaching Innovations Breakout 4

BSTUN – 2.22A

Moderators – TBD

Increasing Diversity of the Future Public Health Informatics and Technology (PHIT) Workforce: Tailored Approaches to Training Students at UTRGV *Suad Ghaddar & Tracia Forman, Health & Biomedical Sciences*

UTRGV Sports Science Initiative: Engaging the RGV Community Using Redlight Therapy While Teaching Student to Bridge the Gap Between Theory in the Classroom and Application to Health Disparities in the RGV *Juan Gonzalez, Alayna Mora & Yuliana Trinidad, Health & Human Performance*

12:30 p.m.

Teaching Innovations Breakout 5

BMAIN – 1.502

Moderators – TBD

Large Language Models Assisting Large Learning Methods: Gen AI as your Own Personal TA *James (Art) Brownlow & George Handley, Faculty/Senior Fellow for Academic Innovation*

Assessing Students Service Learning *Phillip Conatser, Health & Human Performance*

Conference Agenda

Interprofessional Education
Sessions

April 11, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Interprofessional Education Poster Session

BSTUN – 2.36

Preliminary Findings: Impact of AHEC Program on Exercise Science Seniors' Perceptions of Interprofessional Education *Guillermo Perez, Health & Human Performance*

Interprofessional Teams and Effective Communication: A Hospital Simulation Activity *Shirley Wells, Occupational Therapy*

Healthcare Professional's Attitudes Towards Interprofessional Collaboration *Martin Ekoumou & Jerome Fisher, Physician Assistant Studies*

12:30 p.m.

Interprofessional Education Breakout 1

BSTUN 2.22A

Workshop

Creating an effective IPE Activity Using a Practical Template *Workshop Leaders: Eva-Maria Anger & Diana Paz*

1:45 p.m.

Interprofessional Education Breakout 2

BSTUN – 2.22A

Developing Simulations for IPE *Session Leader: John Luna*

3:00 p.m.

Interprofessional Education Breakout 3

BSTUN – 2.22A

STEPS Through an IPE Lens *Session Leader: Zasha Romero*

Conference Agenda

Interprofessional Education
Sessions

April 12, 2024

10:30 a.m.	Interprofessional Education Session The Evolution of Healthcare Professions for Collaborative Practice Session Leader: Lydia Aguilera	BSTUN – 2.24
11:45 a.m.	Interprofessional Education Student Competition Presentations	BSABH – 1.108
3:00 p.m.	Student Research Award, Student Poster Competition Award and Interprofessional Education Student Competition Award Presentation	BMAIN – 1.224

Conference Planning Committees

Planning Committee

Michael Lehker - Dean
Christopher M. Ledingham - Sr. Assoc. Dean
Lydia Aguilera - Assoc. Dean IPE
Murat Karabulut - Assoc. Dean Research
Lin Wang - Assoc. Dean Student Success
Zelma Mata - Assoc. Dean Assessment,
Affiliations & Accreditation
Sandra Guajardo - College Administrator
Rosalinda Rubio - Administrative Associate
Dominga Delgado - Senior Office Assistant
Janey Pizana - Administrative Coordinator
Adriana Vela Roman - Accountant
Bianca Farrell – Program Specialist
Romeo Ortega - Administrative Assistant I
Jean McLaughlin - Grant Proposal Writer
Jennifer Martinez - Research Services
Coordinator

College of Health Professions Office of the Dean

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College Research Committee

Bassent Abdelbary
Wen-Ping Chang
Ivan Figueroa Monsivais
Upal Roy
Ruth Crutchfield
Kim Nguyen-Finn

Innovations in Teaching Committee

Thelma Ochoa
Lorena Lopez
Denise Silcox
Janet Martinez
Sandy Magallan
Juliann Garza-Castillo

Interprofessional Education Committee

Eva Anger
Blanca Robles
Leonardo Longoria
Norma Beardwood-Roper
Guillermo Perez
Sonio Garcia
Diana Paz
Doreen Garza

UTRGV College of Health Professions
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College of Health Professions

The College of Health Professions prepares students to contribute to improving the health and well-being of the Rio Grande Valley, the state, the nation, and the world.

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