



Research Symposium 2023

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH DISPARITIES:
PSYCHIATRIC AND MEDICAL COMORBIDITIES RELATED TO
OPIOID AND ALCOHOL USE DISORDERS (ICHHD-RECOVER II)

MISSION EVENT CENTER

2425 Ruby Red Blvd. Mission, TX



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

7:45-8:30 AM
LOBBY

REGISTRATION + NETWORKING BREAKFAST

8:30-8:45 AM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Ihsan Salloum, M.D., MPH, Director, Institute of Neuroscience, UTRGV

Can Saygin, Ph.D., Sr. Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College, UTRGV

Michael Hocker, M.D., MHS, Dean, School of Medicine, UTRGV; Sr. Vice President, UT Health RGV

8:45-9:35 AM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

KEYNOTE LECTURE 1

Carlos Blanco, M.D., Ph.D.

Current Status of Substance Use Research: A view from NIDA

9:35-10:25 AM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

KEYNOTE LECTURE 2

Jonathan Jackson, Ph.D.

The Challenge of Health Equity in Addressing Health Disparities

10:25-10:35 AM
LOBBY

BREAK

10:35-11:35 AM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

SYMPOSIUM SESSION 1 (Concurrent)

Ihsan Salloum, M.D. Director, Institute of Neuroscience, UTRGV

Subhash Chauhan, Ph.D., Professor, Immunology & Microbiology, UTRGV

Kelsey Baker, Ph.D., *Use of Neuromodulation to Promote Recovery in Neurodegenerative Diseases*

10:35-11:35 AM
LEMON HALL

Research Admin Workshop (for all)

Jennifer Cahn, Ph.D., Director of Research Administration, SOM Research Office

Mrs. Veronica Vera, Sr. Research Services

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

10:35-11:35 AM
MANDARIN HALL

ORAL PRESENTATIONS- SESSION 1

***Detailed info on these sessions start on pg. 9 ***

1. Elvira Alanis
2. Felipe Andres Piedra, Ph.D.
3. Mariana Mendez
4. Sheema Khan, Ph.D.

11:35 AM-12:35 PM
VALENCIA HALL

POSTER SESSION #1

Judges will score posters from

Undergraduate, Graduate, Staff, and Faculty Categories.

12:35-1:15 PM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

NETWORKING LUNCH

1:15-2:05 PM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

KEYNOTE LECTURE 3

John R. Kelly, Ph.D. -*Expanding the Framework, Impact, and Cost-Effectiveness of Treatment through the Use of Recovery Support Services*

2:05-3:05 PM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

SYMPOSIUM SESSION 2

Luis Torres-Hostos, Ph.D., Dean, School of Social Work, UTRGV

Linda Nelson, DNP

Social Determinates of Health: Navigating Health Care Access in the Rio Grande Valley

Mr. Eduardo Olivarez, Administrator, Hidalgo County Health Department

Substance Abuse and Mental Health: A Public Health Perspective

2:05-3:05 PM
LEMON HALL

Children Mental Health Session

Adolescent Substance Use Disorders

Diana Chapa, M.D., Chair, Department of Psychiatry, UTRGV

Cynthia Garza, PsyD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, UTRGV

Alcides Amador, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, UTRGV

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

2:05-3:05 PM
MANDARIN HALL

ORAL PRESENTATIONS- SESSION 2

1. Anthony Alanis
2. Mark Lavering
3. Prakhar Jain
4. Ruayda Bouls

3:05-3:15 PM
LOBBY

BREAK

3:15-4:15 PM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

Scholars Oral Presentations – Session 1

Jorge Sanchez Ruiz, M.D., M.S.

Dissecting the clinical and genetic contribution of bipolar disorder to medical comorbidity

Cristina Banuelos, Ph.D.

The Status of Inhibitory Neuronal Populations in Normal Cognitive Aging

3:15-4:15 PM
LEMON HALL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION 2

Christian Corrales, Ed.D.

Transforming The RGV Through Community Engagement: A Cross Cutting Priority at UTRGV

Nathalie Chacon, M.D., Ph.D.

The Role of Physician Assistant Students in Empowering Teenager's Health

Noe Garza, DDS, MPH, DPH

Associate Research Scientist, Neuroscience, UTRGV

3:15-4:15 PM
MANDARIN HALL

ORAL PRESENTATIONS- SESSION 3

1. Moises Cisneros
2. Sara M. Reyna, Ph.D.
3. Satish Kumar, Ph.D.
4. Shabnam Malik, Ph.D.

4:15-5:15 PM
VALENCIA HALL

POSTER SESSION #2

Judges will score posters from

Medical Students, Residents, Fellows, & High School Categories.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

4:15-5:15 PM
LEMON/ MANDARIN
HALL

Scholar Groups meet with Dr. Jonathan Jackson & Dr. Edward Nunes

5:15- 8:00 PM
LOBBY

NETWORKING RECEPTION

Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

7:45- 8:30 AM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

REGISTRATION + NETWORKING BREAKFAST

8:30-8:45 AM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

OPENING REMARKS

Ihsan Salloum, M.D. MPH, Scientific Chair

8:45-9:35 AM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

KEYNOTE LECTURE 4

Edward V. Nunes, M.D. -Columbia University
*Medication treatment for opioid use disorder--
What does depression have to do with it?*

9:35-10:35 AM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

SYMPOSIUM SESSION 3

Robert Guevara, M.D.- Medical Director, Texas Tropical & Adam De La Torre- Clinical Director, Texas Tropical
Efforts to Address the Opioid Epidemic at Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
Alan Francis, Ph.D.- Asst. Professor of Neuroscience- UTRGV
Ms. Omoshola Kehinde
Assessing opioid overdose knowledge among college students: A pilot study.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

9:35-10:35 AM
LEMON HALL

Research Administration Workshop for Scholar Trainees

Jennifer Cahn, Ph.D., Director of Research Administration, SOM Research Office
Veronica Vera, Sr. Research Services Coordinator, SOM Research Office

10:35-10:45 AM
LOBBY

BREAK

10:45-11:45 AM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

Scholar Trainee Oral Presentations 2

Whitney Cordoba-Grueso, M.D.

Social Networks, Substance Use and Psychiatric Comorbidities: a series of epidemiological studies exploring the Intersection of health behaviors and mental health in the US

David Martinez Garza, M.D.

The Use of Biomarkers in the treatment of patients with alcohol use disorder

Andres Trevino Alvarez, M.D.

Metabolism and Mental Health: A Special Aim to FGF21

10:45-11:45 AM
LEMON HALL

Community Engagement, Population Health & Alzheimer's Disease

Gladys Maestre, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center, UTRGV

Silvia Mejia-Arango, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, UTRGV

Jose Melgarejo, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, UTRGV

10:45-11:45 AM
MANDARIN HALL

ORAL PRESENTATIONS- SESSION 4

1. **Ryan Bialaszewski**

2. **Vamsikalyan Borra, M.D.**

3. **Yong-Chan Kim, M.D.**

4. **Mohammed Sikander, Ph.D.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

11:45 AM-12:45 PM
LEMON HALL

Scholar Trainee Oral Presentations 3

Melissa Solares Bravo, M.D.

Unmasking Shared Genetic Correlations between Thyroid Dysfunction and Bipolar Disorder

Florida Owens

The Role of Epigenetic and Immune Factors in Opioid and HIV-induced Neuropathology

11:45 AM-12:45 PM
MANDARIN HALL

Community Engagement- AHEC Program

John Ronnau, M.D., Xavier Duran, Lizette Ingle, & Miguel Jimenez

Reducing health disparities in the RGV: AHEC Program impact

12:45- 1:30 PM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

NETWORKING LUNCH

1:30-2:20 PM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

KEYNOTE LECTURE 5

Kathleen Brady, M.D., Ph.D.

The Relationship Between Stress and Substance Use Disorders

2:20-3:20 PM
RUBY RED BALLROOM

Symposium Session 4

Manuel Gardea Resendez, M.D.

Antidepressants that increase mitochondrial energetics may elevate risk of treatment-emergent mania

Alfredo Cuellar Barboza, M.D.

Clinical and Genetic Features of Patients With Bipolar Disorder From Latin America

Ney Alliey Rodriguez, M.D., Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, UTRGV

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

**2:20-3:20 PM
LEMON/ MANDARIN
HALL**

**Special Session- Scholar Trainees meet & greet
with Dr. Jonathan Jackson & Dr. Edward Nunes**

**3:20-3:30 PM
LOBBY**

BREAK

**3:30-4:00 PM
RUBY RED BALLROOM**

AWARD CEREMONY

POSTER EXHIBIT- Valencia Hall

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

8:00 AM- 5:00 PM

**Viewing available for Poster Exhibit
Exhibitor's booths open**

11:45 AM- 12:45 PM

POSTER SESSION 1

**Judging for all High School, Undergraduate
Students, Graduate Students, Staff, Post-
Doc/ Fellows, and Faculty**

4:30- 5:30 PM

POSTER SESSION 2-

**Judging for all Medical Students & Medical
Residents**

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

8:00 AM- 5:00 PM

**Viewing available for Biomedical Poster
Exhibit**

9:30 – 10:30 AM

CATCH ALL POSTER JUDGING SESSION

**Exhibitor's booths will be in located in the Poster Exhibit
Room:**

- **Lab Animal Resources- UTRGV**
- **Institute of Neuroscience- UTRGV School of Medicine**
- **Nikon**
- **Eppendorf**

Research Oral Presentations- Session 1

September 8th, 10:35 AM-11:35 AM, MANDARIN HALL

Moderator: Dr. Juan C. Lopez Alvarenga

Elvira Alanis Rational Design of an Antimicrobial Peptide
Faculty

Felipe A. Piedra *Nurturing the Environment: Enhancing PET-
Faculty Plastic Degradation by a Miracle Microbe*

Mariana Mendez Impact of Fiber-Rich Foods on Glucose Levels in
Staff Relation to Liver Fat Infiltration: Preliminary
results.

Research Oral Presentations- Session 2

September 8th, 2:05-3:05 PM, MANDARIN HALL

Moderator: Dr. Mohammed Sikander

Anthony Alanis Treatment Strategies for Metabolic Associated
Medical Student Fatty Liver Disease (MAFLD) in Childhood: A
Systematic Review & Meta-Analysis

Mark Lavering Submental Intubation in Oral Maxillofacial
Medical Student Surgery: A Case Report and Review of
Indications and Complications

Prakhar Jain Signs of Rheumatoid Arthritis with Negative
Medical Student Serum Markers: A Diagnostic Challenge

Ruayda Bouls Results from an Association-Scan of the
Medical Student Extended MHC-class-II Region Establish that
DQ Allotypes and Race Independently
Influence the Risk of FVIII Inhibitor
Development in Hemophilia-A Patients

Research Oral Presentations- Session 3

September 8th, 3:15 -4:15 PM, MANDARIN HALL

Moderator: Ms. Staci Eaton

Moises Cisneros <i>Staff</i>	Effective Management and Implementation of a Coordinated Health Program - The STEPS SNAP-Ed Experience
Sara M. Reyna <i>Faculty</i>	Triterpenoid CDDO-EA Protects from Obesity and Insulin Resistance in an Animal Model of Type 2 Diabetes
Satish Kumar <i>Faculty</i>	Neurocellular ER Stress Response in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Risk
Shabnam Malik <i>Faculty</i>	Studying the molecular mechanism of hepatocellular carcinoma

Research Oral Presentations- Session 4

September 9th, 10:45- 11:45 AM, MANDARIN HALL

Moderator: Dr. Juan C. Lopez Alvarenga

Ryan Bialaszewski <i>Medical Student</i>	Perceived Outcomes of Periacetabular Osteotomy (PAO): a Social Media Analysis
Sheema Khan <i>Faculty</i>	Targeted Treatment for KRAS12D For PDAC Treatment
Vamsikalyan Borra <i>Resident</i>	Endophthalmitis in an Elderly Patient - A Case of Delayed Transfer and Successful Management
Yong-Chan Kim <i>Resident</i>	Managing Diffuse Alveolar Hemorrhage in a Critical Care Setting
Mohammed Sikander <i>Faculty</i>	Targeting β -catenin signaling pathway for cervical cancer therapy

A special thank you to our Sponsors

Hypothesis Partners:



eppendorf

A special thank you to our Exhibitors



UTRGV SOM- Institute of Neuroscience



UTRGV – Laboratory Animal Resources

Thank you to all our committees!

2022-2023 Scientific Program Planning Committee

Dr. Ihsan Salloum, Committee Chair, Professor & Chair, Neuroscience, SOM
Dr. Andrew Tsin, Co-Chair, Professor, Neuroscience, SOM
Dr. Luis Torres-Hostos, Dean, School of Social Work, UTRGV
Dr. Dae Kim, Associate Professor, Immunology & Microbiology, SOM
Dr. Adela Valdez, Associate Dean, SOM
Dr. Megan Keniry, Associate Professor, Dept. of Biology, School of Science
Dr. Juan Lopez Alvarenga, Assistant Professor of Research, Human Genetics, SOM
Dr. Beatriz Bautista, Associate Professor, School of Nursing
Dr. Subhash Chauhan, past Committee Chair, Immunology & Microbiology, SOM
Dr. Kevin Aranguri, Resident, PGY2, SOM
Ms. Karen R. Rodriguez, Data Coordinator, Behavioral Health Solutions

2022-2023 Event Planning Committee

Mr. Jorge Teniente, Chair, Director of Special Programs, SOM Research Office
Mrs. Aniella Perez, Co-Chair, Program Coordinator, SOM Research Office
Mrs. Edith Ramos Kolahdouz, Program Coordinator, SOM Research Office
Dr. Jennifer Cahn, Grant Research Officer, SOM Research Office
Mrs. Stephanie Sharpe, Access Services Librarian, SOM
Mr. Loren Clark, Program Manager, Population Health & Biostatistics
Ms. Rosa Pirela Mavarez, Research Associate I, Human Genetics, SOM
Dr. Mohammed Sikander, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Immunology & Microbiology
Dr. Noe Garza, Associate Research Scientist, Neuroscience, SOM
Dr. Kevin Aranguri, Resident, PGY2, SOM
Ms. Sonal Jha, SOM Medical Student, MS2

2022-2023 Finance Planning Committee

Dr. Angela Cook, Associate VP for Clinical & Translational Research, Interim Sr. Associate Dean of Research, SOM Research
Dr. Ihsan Salloum, Chair, Department of Neuroscience & Scientific Program Planning Committee Chair
Mr. Jorge L. Teniente, Chair of the Event Planning Committee, SOM Research Office
Mr. Travis McAlpine, Senior Director of Development, UTRGV
Mrs. Veronica Vera, Senior Research Service Coordinator, SOM Research Office
Mr. Rene Leonhardt, Dept. Administrator, SOM Research Office
Mrs. Aniella Perez, Program Coordinator, SOM Research Office

SPECIAL THANKS!

Abstract Reviewers

Presentation Judges

Oral Session Moderators

Staff Volunteers

Student Volunteers

On behalf of the 2022-23 UTRGV SOM Research Symposium Scientific and Event Planning committees, we thank each of you who attended the conference. A special thanks to The School of Medicine Research Office, NIH-NIDA, UTRGV's Department of Neuroscience, The City of Mission, and all our donors and sponsors.

Funding for this conference was made possible (in part) by 1 R13 DA056203-01 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention by trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Get access to all presentations and digital agenda!

To view all virtual symposium presentations
and live sessions, visit our online platform
by scanning the QR code below:



To access our digital program/agenda,
scan the QR code below:

