

Gabriel J. Villares, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Biology
Division of Natural Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics
School of Arts and Sciences; University of St. Thomas
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villargj@stthom.edu ; 713-525-3167

Academic Appointments and Professional Experience

<u>Associate Professor (Tenured)</u> Department of Biology, University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)	2020 – Present
<u>Director, Pre-Health Professions Program / HPAC</u> University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)	2017 – Present
<u>Board of Advisors</u> Case Western Reserve University – Masters in Anesthesia Program (Houston, TX)	2024 – Present
<u>Research Article Reviewer, Frontiers in Oncology Journal</u>	2023 – Present
<u>Research Article Reviewer, BMC Research Notes</u>	2025 – Present

Former Academic Appointments and Professional Experience

<u>Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track)</u> Department of Biology, University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)	2015 – 2020
<u>Co-Director, Pre-Health Professions Program / HPAC</u> University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)	2016 – 2017
<u>Health Professions Advisory Committee member</u> University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)	2016 – 2016
<u>Faculty Lecturer (Full-time, NTT)</u> Rice University – Biosciences Department (Houston, TX)	2013 – 2015
<u>Adjunct Faculty</u> University of St. Thomas – Biology Department (Houston, TX)	2012 – 2015

Education and Academic Degrees

<u>NIH – NIGMS IRACDA Postdoctoral Fellow</u> Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX)	2010 – 2013
<u>Postdoctoral Fellow</u> University of Texas GSBS – MD Anderson Cancer Center (Houston, TX)	2009 – 2010
<u>Ph.D. – Cancer Biology</u> University of Texas GSBS – MD Anderson Cancer Center (Houston, TX)	2003 – 2009
<u>Completed two years of medical school (no degree)</u> University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine (San Juan, PR)	1999 – 2001
<u>Bachelor of Science – Biology (Cum Laude)</u> St. Michael's College (Colchester, VT)	1995 – 1999

Teaching Experience

<u>University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)</u> BIOL 1352: Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biology BIOL 1152: Basic Lab Teachings in Biology BIOL 3345: Human Physiology BIOL 3362: Cancer Biology BIOL 3435: Human Anatomy and Lab BIOL 3448: Comparative Anatomy and Lab	2015 – Present
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BIOL 3461: Cell Biology and Lab
 BIOL 4333: Research Methods in Biological Investigation
 BIOL 4336: Cells, Genes and Molecules (Capstone of CMB major)
 BIOL 4193SA: Human Anatomy Cadaver Lab (Study Abroad: Costa Rica)

Rice University (Houston, TX)

2013 – 2015

BIOC 201: Introductory Biology
 BIOC 341: Cell Biology (undergraduate and graduate students)
 BIOC 460: Cancer Biology (undergraduate and graduate students)

MD Anderson Cancer Center/UT Health (Houston, TX) – Panelist

Spring 2023

College Teaching Academy Course for MD Anderson postdoctoral fellows and graduate students

University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX) – Adjunct Professor

2012 – 2015

Developed and taught Cancer Biology during Spring semesters. Other classes taught included Molecular Techniques, Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biology and Basic Lab Techniques in Biology.

University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX) – Guest Lecturer (3 lectures)

Fall 2011

Cell Biology – “Vesicular Traffic and the Secretory Pathway”

Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX) – Supervisory Teaching

2010 – 2013

Taught molecular biology techniques utilized in breast cancer research, including mammosphere assays, mouse surgeries and mammary fat pad injections, limiting dilution transplantation, real-time PCR, RNA isolation, and tissue culture techniques. Assisted in designing experiments and analyzing data obtained from these experiments. Mentees included undergraduate NCI fellows, Rice University graduate students and new research scientists.

Univ. of Texas GSBS – MD Anderson Cancer Center (Houston, TX) – Supervisory Teaching

2004 – 2009

Taught molecular biology techniques as well as concepts in molecular mechanisms of metastatic melanoma and cancer biology to several graduate students and research fellows. Assisted in the writing and preparation of manuscripts and oral presentations.

Research Experience**University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX) – Principal Investigator**

2015 – Present

Lead a team of undergraduate and post-bacc students developing projects to understand the effects of stress in the progression of human melanoma at a molecular level.

Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX) – NIH – NIGMS IRACDA Postdoctoral Fellow

2010 – 2013

Target mammary tumor-initiating cells in vitro and in vivo using high-throughput shRNA technologies. Mentor: Michael T. Lewis, Ph.D.

University of TX GSBS – MD Anderson Cancer Center (Houston, TX) – Postdoctoral Fellow

2009 – 2010

Determine the molecular mechanism of Maspin tumor suppressor gene regulation by PAR-1 in the progression of melanoma metastasis. Mentor: Menashe Bar-Eli, Ph.D.

University of Texas GSBS – MD Anderson Cancer Center (Houston, TX) – Graduate Student

2003 – 2009

Ph.D. Dissertation: *Protease Activated Receptor-1 Signaling Plays a Major Role in Melanoma Growth and Metastasis*. Developed siRNA/shRNA-based studies utilizing lentiviral methods and liposomal delivery approaches for melanoma therapies targeting PAR-1 both *in-vitro* and *in-vivo*. Determined the regulation of Connexin 43 and Maspin by PAR-1 in melanoma. Mentor: Menashe Bar-Eli, Ph.D.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (Memphis, TN) – Pediatric Oncology Education Prg.

Summer 2000

Interned with the Surgery Department. Research topic: Surgical procedures and outcomes of mediastinal masses in pediatric oncology patients. Mentor: Stephen Shochat, MD

St. Michael's College (Colchester, VT) – Undergraduate Research

1998 – 1999

Studied the growth, development and interaction of natural isolates of *Dictyostelium mucoroides* and *Polysphondylium violaceum* slime molds from Vermont. Mentor: Donna M. Bozzone, Ph.D.

Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals

Guven A, **Villares GJ**, Hilsenbeck SG, Lewis A, Landua JD, Dobrolecki LE, Wilson LJ, Lewis MT. *Carbon nanotube capsules enhance the in vivo efficacy of cisplatin* Acta Biomater. 2017 Aug; 58:466-478

Rosero R, **Villares GJ**, Bar-Eli M. *Protease-Activated Receptors and other G-Protein-Coupled Receptors: the Melanoma Connection* Front Genet. 2016 Jun 15; 7:112

Shoshan E, Braeuer RR, Kamiya T, Mobley AK, Huang L, Vasquez ME, Velazquez-Torres G, Chakravarti N, Bassett RL, Genevieve RF, Christina I, Prieto V, **Villares GJ**, Bar-Eli M. *NFAT1 directly regulates IL-8 and MMP-3 to promote melanoma tumor growth and metastasis* Cancer Res. 2016 Jun 1; 76(11):3145-55

Armaiz-Pena GN, Allen JK, Cruz A, Stone RL, Nick AM, Lin YG, Han LY, Mangala LS, **Villares GJ**, Vivas-Mejia P, Rodriguez-Aguayo C, Nagaraja AS, Gharpure KM, Wu Z, English RD, Soman KV, Shazhad MM, Zigler M, Deavers MT, Zien A, Soldatos TG, Jackson DB, Wiktorowicz JE, Torres-Lugo M, Young T, De Geest K, Gallick GE, Bar-Eli M, Lopez-Berestein G, Cole SW, Lopez GE, Lutgendorf SK, Sood AK. *Src activation by β -adrenoreceptors is a key switch for tumour metastasis* Nat Commun. 2013 Jan 29; 4:1403

Zigler M, Kamiya T, Brantley EC, **Villares GJ**, Bar-Eli M. *PAR-1 and thrombin: the ties that bind the microenvironment of melanoma metastasis* Cancer Res. 2011 Nov 1; 71(21):6561-6

Nick AM, Stone RL, Armaiz-Pena G, Ozpolat B, Tekedereli I, Graybill WS, Landen CN, **Villares G**, Vivas-Mejia P, Bottsford-Miller J, Kim HS, Lee JS, Kim SM, Baggerly KA, Ram PT, Deavers MT, Coleman RL, Lopez-Berestein G, Sood AK. *Silencing of p130cas in ovarian carcinoma: a novel mechanism for tumor cell death*. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2011 Nov 2; 103(21):1596-612

Zigler M, **Villares GJ**, Dobroff AS, Wang H, Huang L, Braeuer RR, Kamiya T, Melnikova VO, Song R, Friedman R, Alani RM, Bar-Eli M. *Expression of Id-1 is regulated by MCAM/MUC18: A missing link in melanoma progression*. Cancer Res. 2011 May 15; 71(10):3494-504

Villares GJ, Zigler M, Bar-Eli M. *The emerging role of the thrombin receptor (PAR-1) in melanoma metastasis – a possible therapeutic target*. Oncotarget. 2011 Jan-Feb; 2(1-2):8-17

Villares GJ, Zigler M, Dobroff AS, Wang H, Song R, Melnikova VO, Huang L, Braeuer RR, Bar-Eli M. *Protease Activated Receptor-1 inhibits the Maspin tumor-suppressor gene to determine the melanoma metastatic phenotype*. Proc Natl Acad Sci. 2011 Jan 11; 108(2):626-31

Braeuer RR, Zigler M, **Villares GJ**, Dobroff AS, Bar-Eli M. *Transcriptional control of melanoma metastasis: the importance of the tumor microenvironment*. Semin Cancer Biol. 2011; 21(2):83-8

Melnikova VO, Dobroff AS, Zigler M, **Villares GJ**, Braeuer RR, Wang H, Huang L, Bar-Eli M. *CREB inhibits AP-2alpha expression to regulate the malignant phenotype of melanoma*. PLoS One. 2010; 5(8):e12452

Melnikova VO, Balasubramanian K, **Villares GJ**, Dobroff AS, Zigler M, Wang H, Petersson F, Price JE, Schroit A, Prieto VG, Hung MC, Bar-Eli M. *Crosstalk between protease-activated receptor 1 and platelet-activating factor receptor regulates melanoma cell adhesion molecule (MCAM/MUC18) expression and melanoma metastasis*. J Biol Chem. 2009; 284(42):28845-55

Villares GJ, Dobroff AS, Wang H, Zigler M, Melnikova VO, Huang L, Bar-Eli M. *Overexpression of protease-activated receptor-1 contributes to melanoma metastasis via regulation of connexin 43*. Cancer Res. 2009; 69(16):6730-7

Dobroff AS, Wang H, Melnikova VO, **Villares GJ**, Zigler M, Huang L, Bar-Eli M. *Silencing cAMP-response element-binding protein (CREB) identifies CYR61 as a tumor suppressor gene in melanoma*. J Biol Chem. 2009; 284(38):26194-206

Melnikova VO, **Villares GJ**, Bar-Eli M. *Emerging Roles of PAR-1 and PAFR in Melanoma Metastasis*. Cancer Microenviron. 2008; 1(1):103-11

Villares GJ, Zigler M, Wang H, Wu H, Melnikova VO, Friedman R, Leslie MC, Vivas-Mejias P, Lopez-Berestein G, Sood AK, Bar-Eli M. *Targeting melanoma growth and metastasis with systemic delivery of liposomal incorporated PAR-1 siRNA*. Cancer Res 2008; 68(21):9078–86

Zigler M*, **Villares GJ***, Lev DA, Melnikova VO, Bar-Eli, M. *Tumor immunotherapy in melanoma: Strategies for overcoming mechanisms of resistance and escape*. Am J Clin Dermatol. 2008; 9(5): 307-11. *Co-first authors.

Kuwai T, Nakamura T, Sasaki T, Kim SJ, Fan D, **Villares GJ**, Zigler M, Wang H, Bar-Eli M, Kerbel RS, Fidler IJ. *Phosphorylated epidermal growth factor receptor on tumor-associated endothelial cells is a primary target for therapy with tyrosine kinase inhibitors*. Neoplasia. 2008; 10(5):489-500

Merritt WM, Lin YG, Spannuth WA, Flethcer MS, Kamat AA, Landen CN, Jennings N, Geest KD, Langley R, **Villares G**, Sanguino A, Lutgendorf SK, Lopez-Berestein G, Bar-Eli M, Sood AK. *Effects of IL-8 targeted therapy with liposome incorporated siRNA on ovarian cancer growth*. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2008; 100(15): 359-72

Blehm KN, Spiess PE, Bondaruk JE, Dujka ME, **Villares GJ**, Zhao YJ, Bogler O, Aldape KD, Grossman HB, Adam L, McConkey DJ, Czerniak BA, Dinney CP, Bar-Eli M. *Mutations within the kinase domain and truncations of the epidermal growth factor receptor are rare events in bladder cancer: implications for therapy*. Clin Cancer Res. 2006; 12(15):4671-7

Conference Proceedings

Cao K, Hoang T, Lam D, Lopez P, Rodriguez G, Phan K, Rosero R, Amomoy J, **Villares G**. (2025). *Chronic Stress Promotes Melanoma Progression Through Upregulation of MIF in the Tumor Microenvironment*. Journal of Biological Chemistry. 301. 108670. DOI:10.1016/j.jbc.2025.108670

Phan K, Rodriguez G, Lam D, Lopez P, Fajardo A, Contreras A, Amomoy J, Rosero R, **Villares G**. (2023). *Stress Upregulates Cytokines that Induce Melanoma Progression*. Journal of Biological Chemistry. 299. S723. DOI.org/10.1016/j.jbc.2023.104325

Fajardo A, Barkoudeh L, Contreras A, Gutierrez F, Diaz H, Phan K, Lam D, Rodriguez G, Rosero R, Klettke E, Amomoy J, Nguyen C, Phung V, Tran J, Zarghooni M, Armaiz-Peña G, **Villares G**. (2022). *Increased Levels of Stress Induces a More Metastatic Phenotype in Human Melanoma Cells*. The FASEB Journal. 36. doi.org/10.1096/fasebj.2022.36.S1.R5234

Amomoy J, Barkoudeh L, Phung V, Nguyen CM, Fajardo A, Zarghooni M, Rosero RA, Klettke E, Armaiz-Peña GN, **Villares GJ**. *Stress Promotes a More Aggressive Phenotype in Human Melanoma Cells* The FASEB Journal. (2020). 34. 1-1. doi.org/10.1096/fasebj.2020.34.s1.02067

Nam E, Ribes-Zamora A, Simmons-Nout A, Amin SR, **Villares GJ**, Bagnall RA, Rosell R, Ribes-Zamora A, Amin SR, Simmons-Nout A, Rosell R, Larios-Sanz M. *Comprehensive inclusion of an active and inquiry-based curriculum increases retention and persistence in Biology* EDULEARN18 Proceedings. (2018).5457-5464. 10.21125/edulearn.2018.1316

Book Chapters

Villares GJ, Zigler M, Bar-Eli M. *Protease Activated Receptor Family* in *Encyclopedia of Cancer* ed 2. Schwab, Manfred (ed.) Springer 2008. ISBN: 978-3540476498

Villares GJ, and Bar-Eli M. *Regulation of Melanoma Progression by the microenvironment: the roles of PAR-1 and PAFR* in *The Tumor Microenvironment 2 series; Regulation of gene expression in the tumor environment*. Menashe Bar-Eli ed. Springer 2008, p. 1-10. ISBN: 978-1402083402

Posters and Oral Presentation in Local, Regional and National Conferences

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting – Chicago, IL (2025)

Cao K, Hoang T, Lam D, Lopez P, Fajardo A, Contreras A, Amomoy J, Rosero R, **Villares GJ**. *Chronic Stress Promotes Melanoma Progression Through Upregulation of MIF in the Tumor Microenvironment*

University of St. Thomas Research Symposium – Houston, TX (2025)

Matthew R, Cao K, Hoang T, **Villares GJ**. *Stress Upregulation of Migration Inhibitory Factor Cytokine Involved in Melanoma Invasion*

University of St. Thomas Research Symposium – Houston, TX (2024)

Cao K, Hoang T, Lam D, Lopez P **Villares GJ**. *Stress Promotes Melanoma Progression through Upregulation of Cytokines*

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting – Seattle, WA (2023)

Phan K, Rodriguez GJ, Lam D, Lopez P, Fajardo A, Contreras A, Amomoy J, Rosero R, **Villares GJ**. *Stress Upregulates Cytokines that Induce Melanoma Progression*

University of Texas at Austin – American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium – Austin, TX (2022) Phan K, Rodriguez GJ, Amomoy J, **Villares GJ**. *Chronic Stress Upregulates Cytokines that Induce Melanoma Progression **

(Winner of the Outstanding Oral Presentation Award in Molecular Biosciences)

University of Texas at Austin – American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium – Austin, TX (2022) Rodriguez GJ, **Villares GJ**. *Stress and Melanoma (Science Slam)**

National Biological Honor Society (Beta-Beta-Beta) National Convention - Oklahoma City, OK (2022)

Fajardo A, Phan KH, Barkoudeh L, Contreras A, Rodriguez GJ, Lam DQ, Gutierrez F, Diaz H, Amomoy J, Nguyen CM, Phung V, Rosero RA, Klettke E, Tran JM, Armaiz-Pena GN, **Villares GJ**. *Chronic Stress Upregulates Cytokines that Induce Melanoma Progression*

University of St. Thomas Research Symposium – Houston, TX (2022)

Phan K, **Villares GJ**. *Pro-Inflammatory Cytokine Regulation Via Adrenergic Catecholamines in Melanoma Growth and Metastasis (Winner of the Outstanding Oral Presentation Award in Molecular Biosciences)*

National Biological Honor Society (Beta-Beta-Beta) South Central Regional Conference (2021; virtual due to Covid)

Fajardo A, Rosero RA, Amomoy J, Klettke E, Phung V, Tran JM, Barkoudeh L, Nguyen CM, Gutierrez F, Diaz H, Zarghooni M, Phan KH, Contreras A, Armaiz-Pena GN, **Villares GJ**. *Stress Induces the Tumor Microenvironment to Promote a More Aggressive Human Melanoma Phenotype **

(Winner of the Frank G. Brooks Award for Outstanding Oral Presentation)

Experimental Biology/American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting – San Diego, CA

(2020) Amomoy J, Barkoudeh L, Phung V, Nguyen CM, Fajardo A, Zarghooni M, Rosero RA, Klettke E, Armaiz-Pena GN, **Villares GJ**. *Stress Promotes a More Aggressive Phenotype in Human Melanoma Cells*

University of Texas at Austin – American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium – Austin, TX (2019) Amomoy J, Barkoudeh L, Phung V, Nguyen CM, Zarghooni M, Rosero RA, Klettke E, Tran JM, **Villares GJ**. *Stress Promotes a More Aggressive Phenotype in Human Melanoma Cells **

(Winner of the Outstanding Oral Presentation Award in Cell and Molecular Biology)

Experimental Biology/American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting – San Diego, CA

(2018) Martinez AE, Tirgar R, Krustchinsky R, Simmons AD, Ribes-Zamora A, **Villares GJ**. *Immersive STEM Summer Camp for Underprivileged Middle Schoolers*

University of St. Thomas Research Symposium – Houston, TX (2019)

Amomoy J, Rosero RA, Klettke E, Phung V, Tran JM, Barkoudeh L, Nguyen CM, Zarghooni M, Armaiz-Pena GN, **Villares GJ**. *Stress Promotes a More Aggressive Phenotype in Human Melanoma Cells*

University of St. Thomas Research Symposium – Houston, TX (2018)

Klettke E, Zarghooni M, Rosero R, Guevara A, James J, Armaiz-Pena GN, **Villares GJ**. *Stress Regulation of Cytokine Expression in Melanoma*

University of St. Thomas Research Symposium – Houston, TX (2018)

Guevara A, Klettke E, Rosero RA, Zarghooni M, James J, Villares, Gabriel. *Regulation of Cytokine Expression by Norepinephrine in Melanoma*

University of St. Thomas Research Symposium – Houston, TX (2017)

Paret H, Shoshan E, Huan L, Bar-Eli M, **Villares GJ**. *NFAT1 Contributes to Melanoma Tumor Growth & Metastasis by Regulating Follistatin*

University of St. Thomas Research Symposium – Houston, TX (2017)

Rosero R, Paret H, **Villares GJ**. *Regulation of MDM4 in Human Melanoma: A Potential Link to miR455p*

Baylor College of Medicine - Breast Cancer Research and Education Retreat – Montgomery, TX (2012)

Villares GJ, Jebb MH, Petrovic I, Landua J, Wilson LJ, Lewis MT. *Targeting in vivo tumor-initiating cells through Nanoparticle-facilitated magnetization*

National NIH-IRACDA Annual Conference – Philadelphia, PA (2012)

Villares GJ, Petrovic I, Lewis MT. *Determining accurate mammary TIC frequency for in vivo shRNA screens*

Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center/ Baylor College of Medicine Symposium – Houston, TX (2011)

Villares GJ, Petrovic I, Lewis MT. *Relevance of mammosphere assays in determining tumor-initiating cell frequency*

Baylor College of Medicine - Breast Cancer Research and Education Retreat – Montgomery, TX (2011)

Villares GJ, Petrovic I, Lewis MT. *In vivo tumor-initiating cell frequency fails to correlate with in vitro frequencies*

American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting – Washington, DC (2010)

Zigler M, **Villares GJ**, Dobroff A, Braeuer RR, Wang H, Huang L, Alani RM, Bar-Eli M. *The adhesion molecule MCAM/MUC18 regulates the expression of Id-1 and contributes to melanoma invasion and metastasis*

American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting – Denver, CO (2009)

Armaiz-Pena G, **Villares GJ**, Lin Y, Han L, Allen J, Sanguino A, Deavers M, Gallick G, Bar-Eli M, Lopez-Berestein G, Cole S, Lutgendorf S, Sood AK. *Src activation takes center stage in stress-induced tumor growth*

American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting – Denver, CO (2009)

Villares GJ, Wang H, Zigler M, Melnikova V, Dobroff A, Huang L, Bar-Eli M. *PAR-1 negatively regulates the tumor suppressor Maspin in human melanoma*

American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting – San Diego, CA (2008)

Villares GJ, Zigler M, Wang H, Wu H, Bar-Eli M. *Gene expression profile of PAR-1 depleted human melanoma cells identifies Connexin 43 as a target influencing growth and metastasis*

American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting – San Diego, CA (2008)

Melnikova V, **Villares GJ**, Zeidan A, Wang H, Bar-Eli M. *PAR-1 and PAF receptor regulate MCAM/MUC18 expression and contribute to melanoma metastasis*

Grants and Award Funding

UST Undergraduate Research Committee Grant (total funding ~ \$9500)	2016 – 2019, 2021, 2023, 2025
Beta Beta Beta Research Foundation Grant (funded - \$390)	2021
US Department of Education HSI-STEM initiative (P031C160118) grant awarded to UST	2017, 2019-2021
- Undergraduate Research Leader (total award \$20,000)	
Sid Richardson Foundation Grant (\$270,000 not funded)	2017
Charity Guild of Catholic Women Grant (funded \$11,500)	2016
NIH-NIGMS Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA)	2010 – 2013
(K12) GM084897 - Baylor College of Medicine (funded total cost of postdoctoral studies)	
McCarthy Fellowship in Skin Cancer Research, MD Anderson Cancer Center (funded \$5000)	2009 – 2010
Minority Scholar Award in Cancer Research, American Association of Cancer Research (funded \$1500/year)	2007 – 2009
University of Texas, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Travel Award (funded \$1200)	2009
Bob Smith Research Fellowship, MD Anderson Cancer Center (funded \$5500/year)	2004 – 2008

Awards and Recognitions

Joseph M. McFadden Excellence in Service Award Nomination – University of St. Thomas	2023, 2024
Saint Edit Stern Excellence in Research Award Nomination – University of St. Thomas	2022, 2023
Outstanding Oral Presentation Award in Molecular Biosciences – University of Texas – Austin	2022
Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium (research student – Kati Phan)	
Frank G. Brooks Award for Outstanding Oral Presentation – Beta Beta Beta Regional Conference (research student - Abigail Fajardo)	2021
Outstanding Oral Presentation Award in Cell and Molecular Biology – University of Texas – Austin	2019
Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium (research student – Jerry Amomoy)	
Saint Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award Nomination – University of St. Thomas	2019
Cum Laude, St. Michael's College – Colchester, VT	1999

Professional Service

Director, HPAC and Pre-health Professions Programs, UST	2017 - Present
Advisory Board, Case Western Reserve University Masters in Anesthesia Program	2024 - Present
Journal Article Reviewer, Frontiers in Oncology Journal	2023 - Present
Journal Article Reviewer, BMC Research Notes Journal	2023 - Present
Co-writer, Accreditation for Cell and Molecular Biology BS major, UST	2016 - Present
Chemistry/Biochemistry Department: Faculty Search Committee, UST	2025
Mathematics Department: Faculty Search Committee, UST	2025
Biology Department: Faculty Search Committee, UST	2019, 2023, 2024
UST Admissions Reviewer for Postbacc Pre-Health Profession Programs	2024 - Present
Panelist, MD Anderson Cancer Center/UT Health – Career Forum for Postdoctoral Fellows	2023
Library Committee, UST	2016 -2019
Co-Faculty Advisor, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Chapter, UST	2017 - Present
Faculty Advisor and Founder, Latino Medical Student Association, UST	2020 - 2021
Latino Medical School Association (LMSA) faculty advisor, UST	2020 - 2021
Judge, Dept of Biology Junior Review, UST	2015 - Present
Judge, Undergraduate Research Poster Competition, Experimental Biology National Conference	2017-2018
Judge, Undergraduate Research Symposium, Dept of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Rice University	2013
Biology Representative, Prospective Student Friday, UST	2018
HPAC Representative, Admissions Event for High School Advisors, UST	2018

Memberships

Texas Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (TAAHP)
 National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP)
 American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB)