



RAJESH RAMAKRISHNAN, PH.D.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
DIVISION OF NATURAL SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS
UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS, HOUSTON, TEXAS**

**ADJUNCT PROFESSOR
CAROL AND ODIS PEAVY SCHOOL OF NURSING**
3800 Montrose
Houston, TX 77006-4626
Center for Science and Health Professions, Room 313
Office: 713-831-7275
Fax: 713-831-6984
ramakrr@stthom.edu

EDUCATION

<u>Year</u>	<u>Institution – City, State</u>	<u>Degree/Major</u>
2005 - 2012	Baylor College of Medicine Houston, TX	Postgraduate Training Department of Molecular Virology & Microbiology
2005	University of Arizona Tucson, AZ	PhD Microbiology & Immunology,
1995	University of Mumbai Mumbai, India	M. Sc. Microbiology
1991	University of Mumbai Mumbai, India	B.Sc. Microbiology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Position/Title</u>
2025	University of St. Thomas Biology Department Houston, TX	Associate Professor

2023- to date	University of St. Thomas Peavy School of Nursing Houston, TX	Adjunct Professor
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(NURS 3372, Nursing Pathophysiology (ABSN); NURS 3344, Nursing Pathophysiology; NURS 2393, Special Topic in Nursing-Pathophysiology & Pharmacology; NURS 7217/7317, Behavioral Neuroscience, NURS 5300- Advanced Pathophysiology). Courses are part of the BSN program (NURS 7317 is an elective for MSN/DNP students, NURS 5300 is a core course for MSN students). Responsible for planning and explaining concepts to the class including conducting examinations, and giving, and grading regular assignments. Also, Coordinator for NURS 3372 and NURS 3344 Nursing Pathophysiology courses.

2019 - 2025	University of St. Thomas Carol and Odis Peavy School of Nursing Houston, TX	Manager, Graduate Nursing Student Success Center (GNSSC)
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I set up and coordinated the student success center for graduate Nursing students. Funded by the Department of Education under a Title V grant, the Center aims to support graduate nursing students with wraparound services like peer mentoring and tutoring, among others. I assisted the Dean of the School of Nursing in curriculum development, course implementation, and outreach in the MSN program. I coordinated with the Project Director and Grants Director in compiling reports for internal audits and annual performance reviews.

2018 – 2025	University of St. Thomas Biology Department Houston, TX	Adjunct Professor
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(Biol 2333/2033, Introduction to Microbiology; Biol 2445, Anatomy & Physiology-1; Biol 2446, Anatomy & Physiology-2; Biol 2372, Introduction to Microbiology). Courses are prerequisites for pre-nursing students. Responsible for planning, explaining concepts, and overseeing laboratory experiments to the class including conducting examinations, giving, and grading regular assignments based on the laboratory concepts parallel to the theory classes.

Subject Matter Expert (SME). Developed and implemented **Biol 2372, Introduction to Microbiology** in collaboration with ORBIS. This is a prerequisite lecture and laboratory course for the ABSN program at Peavy School of Nursing, UST.

2013 – 2019	Baylor College of Medicine Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynecology Houston, TX	Study Coordinator & Institutional Review Board (IRB) & AALAS Protocol Management
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2013 – 2019	Baylor College of Medicine Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynecology Houston, TX	Laboratory Manager
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I managed and coordinated the activities of the laboratory including budgeting and assisting Dr. Van den Veyver in research programs and/or teaching. I helped mentor graduate students, postdoctoral scientists, clinical research fellows, and visiting research fellows on a day-to-day basis in their research and career development. The research was translational combining the study of patients and other experimental models. The Van den Veyver laboratory located at the Jan & Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children's Hospital studied X-linked neurodevelopmental disorders like Aicardi syndrome, the link between prenatal stressors, and the manifestation of autism spectrum disorder in infants. The lab also investigates epigenetic regulation of hydatidiform moles, a serious placental abnormality. My personal research interest was investigating the molecular basis of placenta accreta, a severe obstetric complication in pregnancy.

2019	University of St. Thomas Biology Department Houston, TX	Assistant Professor
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(Biol 2333/2033, Introduction to Microbiology; Biol 2445, Anatomy & Physiology-1; Biol 1151, Introduction to Biology Practicum). The course is a prerequisite for pre-nursing students. Responsible for planning, explaining concepts, and overseeing laboratory experiments to the class including conducting examinations, giving, and grading regular assignments based on the laboratory concepts parallel to the theory classes.

Spr 2018 – Spr 2019	University of St. Thomas Biology Department Houston, TX	Adjunct Professor
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(Biol 2333/2033, Introduction to Microbiology). The course is a prerequisite for pre-nursing students. Responsible for planning, explaining concepts, and overseeing laboratory experiments to the class including conducting examinations, giving, and grading regular assignments based on the laboratory concepts parallel to the theory classes.

Spr 2014 – Fall 2018	Houston Community College, Southwest Biology Department Houston, TX	Adjunct Professor
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(Biol 2420/2320/2120- Microbiology). The course is a prerequisite for students applying to Nursing or Allied Health Schools. Responsible for planning, explaining concepts, and overseeing laboratory experiments to the class including conducting examinations, and giving and grading regular assignments based on the laboratory concepts parallel to the theory classes.

July 2001 – Dec 2001	University of Arizona Dept. of Molecular and Cellular Biology Tucson, AZ	Graduate Teaching Assistant
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Jan 2002 – June 2002	University of Arizona Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology, College of Medicine Tucson, AZ	Graduate Teaching Assistant
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July 1999 – July 2000	University of Arizona Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology, College of Medicine Tucson, AZ	Graduate Teaching Assistant
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(Medical Microbiology course for 2nd-year medical students). Responsible for conducting weekly tutorials and setting up and conducting laboratory experiments (medical microbiology) including isolation and identification of bacterial pathogens from clinical samples.

Oct 1997 - June 1999	Rhone-Poulenc (I) Ltd. Microbiology, Quality Assurance Dept. Mumbai, India	Officer
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Responsible for ensuring microbiological aspects of quality assurance in manufacturing parenteral, liquid, and solid oral pharmaceutical formulations, including maintaining documentation per regulatory norms.

Jan 1995 – Oct 1997	Franco-Indian Pharmaceuticals Laviest Department Ltd. Mumbai, India	Microbiologist
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Responsible for meeting production targets, supervision of manufacturing and production of probiotic yeast capsules, operation of lab and pilot scale fermenters, large-scale lyophilizers, strain maintenance, and quality control.

Sept 1994 – Jan 1995	K. J. Somaiya Medical College Hospital and Research Centre Department of Microbiology Mumbai, India	Junior Lab Tech
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Responsible for the isolation and identification of etiological agents from clinical samples.
Assessment of antibiotic sensitivity spectrum of the isolated etiological agent.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX

Fall 2026

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)
BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology and Lab
BIOL 2333-B, Introduction to Microbiology and Lab
BIOL 3333-A, Microbiology
NURS 7317-A, Behavioral Neuroscience

Spring 2026

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)
BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology and Lab
BIOL 2333-B, Introduction to Microbiology and Lab
BIOL 2333-C, Introduction to Microbiology and Lab
BIOL 3333-A, Microbiology

Fall 2025

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)
BIOL 2333-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology
BIOL 2333-LB, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
BIOL 2333-B, Introduction to Microbiology
BIOL 2446-A, Anatomy & Physiology II
NURS 7317-A, Behavioral Neuroscience
NURS 3344-A, Nursing Pathophysiology

Spring 2025

NURS 5300-A, Advanced Pathophysiology
NURS 7317- Behavioral Neuroscience
NURS 3344-A, Nursing Pathophysiology
NURS 3372-A, Nursing Pathophysiology
NURS 3372-B, Nursing Pathophysiology
NURS 3372-Course Lead Nursing Pathophysiology
BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)
BIOL 2333-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology
BIOL 2333-LB, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
BIOL 2333-B, Introduction to Microbiology

BIOL 2333-LC, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)

BIOL 2333-C, Introduction to Microbiology

Fall 2024

NURS 5300-A, Advanced Pathophysiology

NURS 7317- Behavioral Neuroscience

NURS 3344-A, Nursing Pathophysiology

NURS 3372-A, Nursing Pathophysiology

NURS 3372-Course Lead Nursing Pathophysiology

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)

BIOL 2333-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)

BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

BIOL 2333-LB, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)

BIOL 2333-B, Introduction to Microbiology

Summer 2024

NURS 3372-A, Nursing Pathophysiology

NURS 3372-Course Lead Nursing Pathophysiology

Spring 2024

NURS 3372-A, Nursing Pathophysiology

NURS 3372-B, Nursing Pathophysiology

NURS 3372-E, Nursing Pathophysiology

NURS 3372-Course Lead Nursing Pathophysiology

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)

BIOL 2333-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)

BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

BIOL 2333-LB, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)

BIOL 2333-B, Introduction to Microbiology

Fall 2023

NURS 2393-A, Special Topic in Nursing- Pathophysiology & Pharmacology

NURS 3372-A, Nursing Pathophysiology

NURS 3372-B, Nursing Pathophysiology

NURS 7217-A, Behavioral Neuroscience

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)

BIOL 2333-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)

BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

BIOL 2333-LB, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)

BIOL 2333-B, Introduction to Microbiology

Summer 2023

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)

Spring 2023

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)
BIOL 2333-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

Fall 2022

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)
BIOL 2333-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

Summer 2022

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)

Spring 2022

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)
BIOL 2333-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

Fall 2021

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)
BIOL 2333-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

Summer 2021

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)

Spring 2021

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)
BIOL 2333-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology
BIOL 2333-LB, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
BIOL 2333-B, Introduction to Microbiology

Fall 2020

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)
BIOL 2033-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

Summer 2020

BIOL 2372-A, Introduction to Microbiology (Lecture)

Spring 2020

BIOL 2446-B, Human Anatomy & Physiology-2

BIOL 2033-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
 BIOL 2033-LB, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
 BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

Fall 2019

BIOL 2033-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
 BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology
 BIOL 2445-D, Human Anatomy & Physiology-1
 BIOL 1151-G, Introduction to Biology Practicum

Spring 2019

BIOL 2033-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
 BIOL 2033-LB, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
 BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

Fall 2018

BIOL 2033-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
 BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

Spring 2018

BIOL 2033-LA, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
 BIOL 2033-LB, Introduction to Microbiology Lab (Laboratory)
 BIOL 2333-A, Introduction to Microbiology

HONORS AND AWARDS

Award	Awarding Organization	Date
Nominated (22 nominations) for the 2025-2026 St. Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award	University of St. Thomas Houston, TX	2026
Nominated (35 nominations) for the 2024-2025 St. Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award	University of St. Thomas Houston, TX	2025
Nominated (3 nominations) for the 2023-2024 St. Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award	University of St. Thomas Houston, TX	2024
Nominated for the 2022-2023 St. Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award	University of St. Thomas Houston, TX	2023
Nominated for the 2019-2020 St. Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award	University of St. Thomas Houston, TX	2020

Nominated for Student Choice Professor Appreciation Award	University of St. Thomas Houston, TX	2020
International Science Reserve (ISR) member	New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) New York City, NY	2022
Academy Ambassador	New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) New York City, NY	2018- 2022
Fellow PI: William Shearer, M.D. Mentor: Andrew P. Rice, Ph.D.	Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) Training program for clinical research on AIDS (T32 AI007456-17)	2009 - 2012
Outstanding research abstract at the Center for Reproductive Medicine (CRM) Reproductive Health Research Day	Baylor College of Medicine Houston, TX	2016
Nominated by a student for the Faculty Teaching Excellence Award	Houston Community College Houston, TX	2016
Certificate of Appreciation	Contribution to reviewing candidate research for the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)	2015, 2016, 2019, 2022,2023
2 nd Prize for best research presentation for postdoctoral scientists.	Dept. of Molecular Virology & Microbiology Annual retreat, Baylor College of Medicine Houston, TX	2012 and 2007
3 rd Prize for best research presentation for postdoctoral scientists.	Dept. of Molecular Virology & Microbiology Annual retreat, Baylor College of Medicine Houston, TX	2010 and 2006
Sigma Xi Scientific Society Conference Travel Award		2001

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES/UST RESEARCH

Dissertation

2005

Dissertation: Molecular Mechanisms of HIV-1 Infection: Entry, Post-Entry, and Gene Expression

Advisor: Nafees Ahmad, Ph.D.

1995

Thesis: Use of A Submerged Biofilm Reactor In The Treatment Of Industrial Effluent

Thesis Advisor: P.D. Desai, Ph.D.

Professional Development

1. The Role of Early Volunteer Experience in Career Motivation among Nursing and Pre-Nursing Students. **Faculty research sponsor** for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenter: Khanh L. Tran. **(2026)**
2. Presented talk on Mother to Child Transmission of HIV-1 in African American Women and on Expert panel, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc, Houston Chapter **(2024)**
3. Presented talk on Mother to Child Transmission of HIV-1 in African American Women and on Expert panel, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc, Houston Chapter **(2024)**
4. Coordinated Nursing session with Student Nursing Association students, Discovery U Success Fest, Rice University **(2024)**
5. Started and running a regular series of creative reflections for and by PSON nursing students, faculty, and staff, "Soft Heart Steel Spine" for the Creative Reflections in Education and Nursing (CRIED) Journal **(2022- 2025)**
6. Conceptualized, developed, and administered module for summer Nursing camp: Role of herd immunity and importance of vaccination **(2024)**
7. Preventing Never Events: Strategies for Enhancing Patient Safety in Hospitals. **Faculty sponsor** for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenters: Tina Nguyen, Mindy Tran, Rocio Hernandez, Tracy Ochoa, Rajesh Ramakrishnan **(2024)**
8. Represented Peavy School of Nursing at the Admitted Student Reception **(2024)**
9. Rothko chapel, Personal reflection talk on end-of-life decisions and dealing with grief during holidays **(2023)**
10. Reviewer for Manuscripts – Cureus (<https://www.cureus.com/>) **(2022- to date)**
11. Attended National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) Director's Lecture virtual series, "Social Determinants of Health" **(2022)**
12. International Science Reserve (ISR) member, New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS), New York City, NY **(2022- to date)**
13. Participated in the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU) Diversity, Equity & Student Success virtual conference **(2021)**
14. Participated in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Diversity: Essential for Inclusive Excellence virtual conference **(2020)**
15. Participated in Coaching Fundamentals course, UST STEM Center **(2020)**

16. Organized and Participated in the Nursing Coaching Through Change course, at UST Peavy School of Nursing **(2020)**
17. Academy Ambassador, New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS), New York City, NY **(2018-present)**
18. 1st Annual Therapeutic Innovation Center Symposium on Therapeutics of Gene Regulation at Baylor College of Medicine **(2018, 2019)**
19. Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children's Hospital symposium on "Neurodegeneration: from cellular concepts to clinical applications" **(2015, 2016)**
20. Managing to the mission at Baylor College of Medicine **(2014)**
21. Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children's Hospital symposium on "When Epilepsy is catastrophic: Molecular causes and their consequences" **(2014)**
22. Baylor College of Medicine Center for Reproductive Medicine "Reproductive Health Research Day" **(2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)**
23. Aicardi Research Symposium, Duncan NRI at Texas Children's Hospital **(2013)**
24. Understanding HIV Dynamics **(2011)**
25. Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center symposium on "Genomic instability and Cancer" **(2009)**
26. Life Science Entrepreneurship (MGMT/BIOE 633) course at Rice University **(2008)**
27. Curriculum management for microbiology- seminar and panel discussion at Department of Microbiology, Bhavan's College, University of Bombay, India **(1999)**

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Bibiana K.Y. Wong, Jaclyn B. Murry, Swathi Anikar, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Cecilia Ljungberg, Roy Sillitoe, Surabi Veeraragavan, Ignatia B. Van den Veyver. Maternal fluoxetine exposure in *Shank3^{ex4-9}* mice alters serotonergic and dopaminergic neurotransmitter levels with mild effects on offspring behavior. Manuscript submitted to Genes, Brain, and Behavior. (2023).
2. Sara Arian, Jessica Rubin, Imen Chakchouk, Momal Sharif, Sangeetha K. Mahadevan, Hadi Erfani, Katharine Shelly, Lan Liao, Isabelle Lorenzo, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Ignatia B. Van den Veyver. Reproductive Outcomes from Maternal Loss of Nlrp2 Are Not Improved by IVF or Embryo Transfer Consistent with Oocyte-Specific Defect. *Reproductive Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43032-020-00360-x> PMID: 33090377. (2020).
3. J. B. Murry, F. He, **R. Ramakrishnan**, A Balasa, G. Stinnett, S. Pedersen, R. Pautler, I.B. Van Den Veyver. Pre-conceptional and gestational chronic unpredictable mild stress (CUMS) exposure influences maternal care and neurodevelopmental outcomes in male *shank3^{ex4-9}* offspring. *PLOS One* 14(11): e0224876. PMID: 31703095. (2019).
4. Dana Larsen, Ma Jingmei, Melissa Strassberg, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Ignatia Van den Veyver. The uptake of pan-ethnic expanded carrier screening is higher when offered during preconception or early prenatal genetic counseling. *Prenatal Diagnosis*. 39 (4);319-323. PMID: 30731021. (2019).

5. Randy F. Crossland, Alfred Balasa, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Sangeetha K. Mahadevan, Marta L. Fiorotto, and Ignatia B. Van den Veyver. Chronic maternal low-protein diet in mice affects anxiety, night-time energy expenditure, and sleep patterns, but not circadian rhythm in male offspring. *PLoS One* 12(1): e0170127. (2017)
6. **Ramakrishnan R**, Liu H, Rice AP. Short communication: SAHA (vorinostat) induces CDK9 Thr-186 (T-loop) phosphorylation in resting CD4+ T cells: implications for reactivation of latent HIV. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses*. Jan; 31 (1):137-41. (2015)
7. Bashyal BP, Wellensiek BP, **Ramakrishnan R**, Faeth SH, Ahmad N, Gunatilaka AA. Alkyltoxins with potent anti-HIV activity from *Alternaria tenuissima* QUE1Se, a fungal endophyte of *Quercus emoryi*. *Bioorg Med Chem*. Nov 1; 22(21):6112-6. (2014)
8. Wellensiek BP, **Ramakrishnan R**, Bashyal BP, Eason Y, Gunatilaka AA, Ahmad N. Inhibition of HIV-1 Replication by Secondary Metabolites from Endophytic Fungi of Desert Plants. *Open Virol J*. Jul 26; 7:72-80. (2013)
9. **Ramakrishnan R**, Liu H, Donahue H, Malovannaya A, Qin J, Rice AP. Identification of novel CDK9 and Cyclin T1-associated protein complexes (CCAPs) whose siRNA depletion enhances HIV-1 Tat function. *Retrovirology*. Oct30; 9: 90. (2012)
10. Budhiraja S, **Ramakrishnan R**, Rice AP. Phosphatase PPM1A negatively regulates P-TEFb function in resting CD4(+) T cells and inhibits HIV-1 gene expression. *Retrovirology*. Jun 22; 9:52. (2012)
11. **Ramakrishnan R**, Chiang K, Liu H, Budhiraja S, Donahue H, Rice AP. Making a Short Story Long: Regulation of P-TEFb and HIV-1 Transcriptional Elongation in CD4+ T Lymphocytes and Macrophages. *Biology (Basel)*. Jun 15; 1(1):94-115. (2012)
12. **Ramakrishnan R**, Rice AP. Cdk9 T-loop phosphorylation is regulated by the calcium signaling pathway. *J Cell Physiol*. Feb; 227(2):609-17. (2012)
13. **Ramakrishnan R**, Yu W, Rice AP. Limited redundancy in genes regulated by CyclinT2 and Cyclin T1. *BMC Res Notes*. Jul 26; 4:260. (2011)
14. **Ramakrishnan R**, Donahue H, Garcia D, Tan J, Shimizu N, Rice AP, Ling PD. Epstein-Barr virus BART9 miRNA modulates LMP1 levels and affects growth rate of nasal NK T cell lymphomas. *PLoS One*. 6(11): e27271. (2011)
15. **Ramakrishnan R**, Dow EC, Rice AP. Characterization of Cdk9 T-loop phosphorylation in resting and activated CD4 (+) T lymphocytes. *J Leukoc Biol*. Dec; 86(6):1345-50. (2009)
16. Wellensiek BP, **Ramakrishnan R**, Sundaravaradan V, Mehta R, Harris DT, Ahmad N. Differential HIV-1 integration targets more actively transcribed host genes in neonatal than adult blood mononuclear cells. *Virology*. Mar 1; 385(1):28-38. (2009)

17. Wang Y, Dow EC, Liang YY, **Ramakrishnan R**, Liu H, Sung TL, Lin X, Rice AP. Phosphatase PPM1A regulates phosphorylation of Thr-186 in the Cdk9 T-loop. *J Biol Chem*. Nov 28; 283(48):33578-84. (2008)
18. Yu W, **Ramakrishnan R**, Wang Y, Chiang K, Sung TL, Rice AP. Cyclin T1-dependent genes in activated CD4 T and macrophage cell lines appear enriched in HIV-1 co-factors. *PLoS One*. Sep 5; 3(9):e3146. (2008)
19. Mehta R, **Ramakrishnan R**, Doktor K, Sundaravaradan V, Ahmad N. Genetic characterization of HIV type 1 long terminal repeat following vertical transmission. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses*. Mar; 24 (3):437-45. (2008)
20. Sundaravaradan V, Das SR, **Ramakrishnan R**, Sehgal S, Gopalan S, Ahmad N, Jameel S. Role of HIV-1 subtype C envelope V3 to V5 regions in viral entry, coreceptor utilization and replication efficiency in primary T-lymphocytes and monocyte-derived macrophages. *Virology*. Nov 24; 4:126. (2007)
21. **Ramakrishnan R**, Ahmad N. Derivation of primary sequences and secondary structures of rev responsive element from HIV-1 infected mothers and infants following vertical transmission. *Virology*. Mar; 359(1):201-11. (2007)
22. Sundaravaradan V*, Saxena SK*, **Ramakrishnan R***, Yedavalli VR, Harris DT, Ahmad N. Differential HIV-1 replication in neonatal and adult blood mononuclear cells is influenced at the level of HIV-1 gene expression. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. Aug 1; 103(31):11701-6. (2006). * Equal contribution first authors.
23. **Ramakrishnan R**, Mehta R, Sundaravaradan V, Davis T, Ahmad N. Characterization of HIV-1 envelope *gp41* genetic diversity and functional domains following perinatal transmission. *Retrovirology*. Jul 4; 3:42. (2006)
24. Wellensiek BP, Sundaravaradan V, **Ramakrishnan R**, Ahmad N. Molecular characterization of the HIV-1 *gag* nucleocapsid gene associated with vertical transmission. *Retrovirology*. Apr 6; 3:21. (2006)
25. **Ramakrishnan R**, Hussain M, Holzer A, Mehta R, Sundaravaradan V, Ahmad N. Evaluations of HIV type 1 *rev* gene diversity and functional domains following perinatal transmission. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses*. Dec; 21(12):1035-45. (2005)
26. Hahn T, **Ramakrishnan R**, Ahmad N. Evaluation of genetic diversity of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 *nef* gene associated with vertical transmission. *J Biomed Sci*. Jul-Aug; 10(4):436-50. (2003)

Research Abstracts & Presentations

1. Khanh L. Tran and **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**. "The Role of Early Volunteer Experience in Career Motivation among Nursing and Pre-Nursing Students." **Faculty research sponsor** for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenter: Khanh L. Tran. (2026)

2. Faith Nishimoto, Meseille Faye C. Calonia, Jessica Garcia and **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**. “The Human Microbiome After Death: An Emerging Aid in Forensic Techniques.” **Faculty research sponsor** for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenters: Faith Nishimoto, Meseille Faye C. Calonia, Jessica Garcia. **(2026)**
3. Kevin Reyes, Dustin Huynh, Gustavo Lerma, Emely Gaytan and **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**. “Microbial Life in Extreme Environments: Implications for Astrobiology.” **Faculty research sponsor** for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenters: Kevin Reyes, Dustin Huynh, Gustavo Lerma, Emely Gaytan. **(2026)**
4. Andrew Duong, Caelyn Pham, Emily Pham, Jacqueline Tran and **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**. “Study of Bacteria Under Conditions of the International Space Station”. **Faculty research sponsor** for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenters: Andrew Duong, Caelyn Pham, Emily Pham, Jacqueline Tran. **(2026)**
5. Bryanna Barbosa, Shiza Azeem, Aryana Duenez, Stephanie Reyes and **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**. “Microbial Contributions to Soil Fertility and Sustainable Agriculture”. **Faculty research sponsor** for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenters: Bryanna Barbosa, Shiza Azeem, Aryana Duenez, Stephanie Reyes. **(2026)**
6. Michael Harkins, Amber Hall, Quan Trinh, Samantha Vo and **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**. “Water Quality and Public Health: Microbial Indicators and Treatment Methods”. **Faculty research sponsor** for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenters: Michael Harkins, Amber Hall, Quan Trinh, Samantha Vo. **(2026)**
7. Dua Nayab, Theresa Nguyen, Angelica Romero, Moosauddin Ahmed and **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**. “Fermentation Microbiology: From Ancient Practices to Modern Science”. **Faculty research sponsor** for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenters: Dua Nayab, Theresa Nguyen, Angelica Romero, Moosauddin Ahmed. **(2026)**
8. Denise Pineda, William Pham and **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**. Microbial Genetics and Biotechnology: Tools for Innovation. **Faculty research sponsor** for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenter: Denise Pineda, William Pham. **(2026)**
9. Michael Harkins and **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**. Investigations of the viability and feasibility of *in vivo* reimplantation procedures as treatment for ectopic pregnancy. **Faculty research sponsor** for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenter: Michael Harkins. **(2026)**
10. Sara Arian, MD**, Sangeetha Mahadevan, Ph.D., Hadi Erfani, MD, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan, Ph.D.**, Lan Liao, Katharine Shelley, Ignatia Van den Veyver, MD. Maternal loss of *Nlpr2* results in abnormal reproductive outcomes independent of maternal uterine environment. **Society for Reproductive Investigation (SRI) Annual Conference, Paris, France. (2019). **Winner of Pfizer-SRI President’s Presenter’s Award**

11. Sara Arian, MD, Sangeetha Mahadevan, Ph.D., **Rajesh Ramakrishnan, Ph.D.**, William Gibbons, MD, Ignatia Van den Veyver, MD Comparison of the oocyte ultrastructure in the wild type and *Nlrp2* null oocyte: A transmission electron microscopy study in the mouse ovary. **Clinical Scientist Training Program (CSTP) Annual Retreat, Houston, TX, USA. (2018).**
12. Sara E. Arian, Sangeetha Mahadevan, Isabel Lorenzo, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, William Gibbons, Ignatia B. Van den Veyver. Maternal Effect Mutations in *Nlrp2* Result in Abnormal Embryonic Phenotypes Independent of the Maternal Uterine Environment. **23rd Texas Forum for Reproductive Sciences (TFRS), Houston, TX, USA. (2018).**
13. **Rajesh Ramakrishnan****; Jaclyn Murry; Fang He; Alfred Balasa; Gary Stinnett; Steen Pedersen; Robia Pautler; I. Van den Veyver. Prenatal maternal stress and *Shank3^{ex4-9}* mutation alter hippocampal stratum radiatum white matter (WM) in male mouse offspring. **Baylor College of Medicine Center for Reproductive medicine's "Reproductive Health Research Day", Houston, TX, USA. (2016) **Award winner.**
14. **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**; Randy Crossland; Alfred Balasa; Sangeetha Mahadevan; Marta Fiorotto; I. Van den Veyver. Chronic maternal low-protein diet affects anxiety, night-time energy expenditure and sleep patterns, but not circadian rhythm in male offspring. **Baylor College of Medicine Center for Reproductive medicine's "Reproductive Health Research Day", Houston, TX, USA. (2016).**
15. **R. Ramakrishnan**, J. B. Murry, F. He, A. Balasa, G. Stinnett, S. Pedersen, R. Pautler, I. B. Van Den Veyver. Prenatal maternal stress and *Shank3^{ex4-9}* mutation alter hippocampal stratum radiatum white matter (WM) in male mice offspring. **22nd Texas Forum for Reproductive Sciences (TFRS), Houston, TX, USA. (2016)**
16. D. M. Larsen, J. Ma, M. Strassberg, **R. Ramakrishnan**, I. B. Van Den Veyver. The timing of reproductive genetic counseling is the most important factor influencing acceptance of expanded carrier screening. **American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting in Tampa, Florida, USA. (2016)**
17. J. B. Murry, **R. Ramakrishnan**, F. He, A. Balasa, G. Stinnett, S. Pedersen, R. Pautler, I. B. Van Den Veyver. Prenatal maternal stress and *Shank3^{ex4-9}* mutation alter hippocampal stratum radiatum white matter (WM) in male mice offspring. **Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine Annual Pregnancy Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. (2016)**
18. J. B. Murry, D. Engler, **R. Ramakrishnan**, I. B. Van Den Veyver. Pre and perinatal fluoxetine (FLX) exposure of *Shank3^{ex4-9}* mutant and WT mice affects neurobehavior in offspring and indicates gene-environment (GXE) interaction. **Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Annual Pregnancy Meeting Atlanta, Georgia, USA. (2016)**
19. Randy Crossland, Alfred Balasa, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan***, Sangeetha K. Mahadevan, Marta L. Fiorotto, and Ignatia Van den Veyver. Chronic maternal low-protein diet affects anxiety, night-time energy

expenditure, and sleep patterns, but not circadian rhythm in male offspring. ***Talk presented at 21st Texas Forum for Reproductive Sciences (TFRS), Houston, TX, USA. (2015).**

20. **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, David Garcia, A.P. Rice, and P.D. Ling. Cellular and viral microRNA expression and function in EBV-associated NK T cell lymphomas. **Poster presented at 35th Annual International Herpesvirus Workshop, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. (2010)**

21. **Rajesh Ramakrishnan***, E.C. Dow and A.P. Rice. Phosphorylation of the T-loop of Cdk9, a co-factor for HIV-1 Tat protein, is regulated in resting and activated CD4⁺ T-cells. ***Poster presented at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Retroviruses meeting, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, USA. (2009)**

22. **Rajesh Ramakrishnan***, E.C. Dow and A.P. Rice. Regulation of Cdk9 T-loop phosphorylation in resting and activated CD4⁺ T-cells. ***Talk presented at 15th Westcoast Retrovirus Meeting, Palm Springs, CA, USA. (2008)**

23. **Rajesh Ramakrishnan** & Andrew P. Rice. Role of Cdk9 in CD4⁺ T-cells and its impact on HIV-1 replication. **2nd Annual Baylor College of Medicine Center for AIDS Research Retreat, Houston, TX, USA. (2007)**

24. Tzu-Ling Sung, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Yan Wang, Karen Chiang, Eugene C. Dow, and Andrew P. Rice. Identification of mechanisms that regulate HIV-1 Tat function in CD4⁺ T-cells and monocytes/Macrophages. **8th Annual Symposium on antiviral drug resistance, Richmond, VA, USA. (2007)**

25. Wendong Yu, Yan Wang, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, and Andrew P. Rice. Identification of novel HIV-1 co-factors in a set of cellular mRNAs that require Cyclin T1 for up-regulation in activated CD4⁺ T lymphocytes and Macrophages. **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Retroviruses meeting, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, USA. (2007)**

26. **Rajesh Ramakrishnan** & Andrew P. Rice. Role of Cyclin T2 in gene regulation and kinases affecting HIV-1 Tat function. **1st Annual Baylor College of Medicine Center for AIDS Research Retreat, Houston, TX, USA. (2006)**

27. Brian Wellensiek, Vasudha Sundaravaradan, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, and Nafees Ahmad. Molecular characterization of the HIV-1 *gag* nucleocapsid gene associated with vertical transmission. **Symposium on HIV/AIDS- Pathogens versus host in the progression to AIDS, Palm Springs, CA, USA. (2006)**

28. Vasudha Sundaravaradan, Shailendra K. Saxena, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Roshni Mehta, Venkat R.K. Yedavalli, David T. Harris, and Nafees Ahmad. Differential HIV-1 replication in cord and adult blood mononuclear cells is influenced at the level of HIV-1 gene expression. **Symposium on HIV/AIDS- Pathogens versus host in the progression to AIDS, Palm Springs, CA, USA. (2006)**

29. **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Wendong Yu & Andrew P. Rice. Role of Cyclin T2 in gene regulation. **Department of Molecular Virology & Microbiology Annual Retreat, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, USA. (2005)**
30. Brian Wellensiek, Vasudha Sundaravaradan, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, and Nafees Ahmad. Molecular characterization of the HIV-1 nucleocapsid and p6 genes associated with vertical transmission. **24th Annual meeting of American Society for Virology, College Park, PA, USA. (2005)**
31. **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Shailendra Saxena, Venkat Yedavalli, Roshni Mehta, David Harris, and Nafees Ahmad. Post entry events influence differential kinetics of HIV-1 replication in cord and adult blood mononuclear cells. **23rd Annual Meeting of American Society for Virology, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (2004)**
32. Shailendra Saxena, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Venkat Yedavalli, Vasudha Sundaravaradan, David Harris, and Nafees Ahmad. Differential HIV-1 replication in cord and adult blood mononuclear cells is influenced at the level of HIV-1 gene expression. **23rd Annual Meeting of American Society for Virology, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (2004)**
33. Roshni Mehta, Katherine Doktor, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, and Nafees Ahmad. Molecular and biological characterization of HIV-1 LTR associated with vertical transmission. **23rd Annual Meeting of American Society for Virology, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (2004)**
34. Vasudha Sundaravaradan, Suman R. Das, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Shahid Jameel, and Nafees Ahmad. Biological characterization of HIV-1 subtype C envelope. **23rd Annual Meeting of American Society for Virology, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (2004)**
35. **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Tobias Hahn, and Nafees Ahmad. Characterization of HIV-1 *nef* sequences from mothers and infant isolates following vertical transmission. **21st Annual Meeting of American Society for Virology, Lexington, KY, USA. (2002)**
36. A.S. Bhat, R. LaBell, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, D. O'Brien, Nafees Ahmad, and J. Gervay-Hague. Synthesis and antiviral activity of glycolipid conjugates: novel HIV-1 entry inhibitors targeting gp120/host cell interactions. **221st American Chemical Society National Meeting, San Diego, CA, USA. (2001)**
37. R. Y. LaBell, S. W. Jeong, **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, Nafees Ahmad, J. Gervay-Hague and D. O'Brien, Biological activity of liposomes incorporating synthetic Gal-Cer analogs. **221st American Chemical Society National Meeting, San Diego, CA, USA. (2001)**
38. **Rajesh Ramakrishnan**, R. LaBell, A. Bhat, D. O'Brien, J. Gervay-Hague, and Nafees Ahmad. Antiviral activity of glycolipid conjugates and liposomes incorporating Synthesis and antiviral activity of glycolipid conjugates incorporating synthetic Galactosyl Ceramide analogs: novel HIV-1 entry inhibitors. **20th Annual Meeting of American Society for Virology, Madison, WI, USA. (2001)**

Research Details

2026: Spring 2026 UST Research Symposium Student Research Faculty Mentor to Khanh L. Tran for the research project: The Role of Early Volunteer Experience in Career Motivation among Nursing and Pre-Nursing Students.

2024: Spring 2024 UST Research Symposium Student Research Faculty Mentor for the research project: Preventing Never Events: Strategies for Enhancing Patient Safety in Hospitals. Faculty sponsor for UST Research Symposium Project. Presenters: Tina Nguyen, Mindy Tran, Rocio Hernandez, Tracy Ochoa.

February 2013- July 2019: (Laboratory of Dr. Ignatia Van den Veyver). Effect of prenatal stressors like diet and medication on development of autism spectrum disorder in children. Molecular mechanisms of placenta accreta including training clinical fellows in laboratory techniques.

August 2005- February 2013: (Laboratory of Dr. Andrew P. Rice). Regulation of Cdk9 (P-TEFb) in primary human T-cells. Role of Cyclin T2 in global gene regulation and following HIV-1 infection. Role of kinases, phosphatases, and other host factors in HIV-1 latency. Mechanisms of HIV-1 replication in tonsillar tissues. Role of miRNAs in AIDS-associated malignancies.

July 1999–June 2005: (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Arizona, Laboratory of Dr. Nafees Ahmad). Kinetics of HIV-1 replication in cord and adult blood mononuclear cells, FACS analysis to measure the cell surface expression of HIV-1 receptor (CD4), co-receptor (CXCR4, CCR5). Role of post-entry events including reverse transcription, translocation of PIC, and gene expression in disease progression in HIV-1 infected infants. Characterization of nef, rev, gp41, and Rev responsive element (RRE) in HIV-1 infected mothers and their infants following perinatal transmission. Effect of glycolipid analogs (gp120 inhibitors) on HIV-1 replication in various cell lines and primary cells.

Sept 1991-1995: (M.Sc. research at University of Bombay). Isolation and characterization of bacteria capable of degrading industrial effluents. Design and optimization of an immobilized biofilm cell bioreactor to treat industrial effluents and purification of beneficial by-products.

Research/ Program Support

1. Technical Title of Project: Training program for clinical research on AIDS

Name of Funding Agency: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Grant Number: T32 AI007456-17

Investigator Relationship or Role on Project: Fellow

Dates of Funding: 2009-2012

Annual Direct Cost: \$259,602

2. Technical Title of Project: University of St. Thomas (Houston, Texas) Expanding Graduate Nursing Programs for Hispanic Students

Name of Funding Agency: United States Department of Education

Grant Number: P031S190336 - 22

Investigator Relationship or Role on Project: Manager

Dates of Funding: 2019-2025

Annual Direct Cost: \$3,000,000

National Scientific Participation
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Journal Editorial Boards:

2022 to present	Reviewer – Cureus
2012 to Present	Associate Editor, Health Sciences – BMC Research Notes
2014- 2019	Editorial Board member- Drug Development and Therapeutics
2011- 2014	Editorial Board member- Chronicles of Young Scientists

Positions Held

2020 to 2025	Member, PSON Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee
2020 to 2025	Ad-Hoc Member, Peavy School of Nursing RN-MSN and MSN Program Admissions Committee, University of St. Thomas
2020 - 2025	Member, Peavy School of Nursing MSN Program Planning Committee, University of St. Thomas
2012 - Present	Associate Editor, Health Sciences - BMC Research Notes
2011- 2019	Editorial Board member- Chronicles of Young Scientists
2013 –2019	Volunteer Fire Warden, Duncan NRI Floor 10, Texas Children’s Hospital
2016- 2018	Elected to Faculty Senate, Houston Community College
2008- 2010	President, Baylor Postdoctoral Association
2008- 2013	Member, Baylor College of Medicine Diversity Council
2006- 2010	Ex-Officio member, Baylor College of Medicine Graduate School Academic Council
2006 –2013	Volunteer Fire Warden, Jewish Building Floors 8 and 9, Baylor College of Medicine
2007- 2012	Member, Baylor Postdoctoral Advisory Committee
2007- 2008	Representative of Dept. of Molecular Virology & Microbiology to Baylor College of Medicine Postdoctoral Advisory Council
2006-2008	Secretary- Baylor Postdoctoral Association
2007	Noonan Award selection committee, Dept. of Molecular Virology & Microbiology, Baylor College of Medicine

2006-2007	Postdoctoral Affairs Advisory Committee, Baylor College of Medicine
2005-2006	Executive Committee Member- Baylor Postdoctoral Association

Science Education / Community Service

2024	Presented talk on Mother to Child Transmission of HIV-1 in African American Women and on Expert panel, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc, Houston Chapter
2024	Coordinated and participated in Discovery U Expo at Rice University. BSN student volunteers worked with high school students to teach the community about vital signs.
2024	Conceptualized, developed and administered a teaching module on vaccines and herd immunity for UST PSON Summer Nursing camp for high school students.
2015 – 2021	Volunteer Compassionate caregiver for NODA (No One Dies Alone) at Texas Children's Hospital
2018 – 2020	Remote mentor to Dr. Onur Duygu, MD, Kent Hospital, Izmir, Turkey, part of New York Academy of Sciences Mentor-mentee program
2018 – 2019	Remote mentor to Ijeoma Obi, Graduate student, part of the New York Academy of Sciences Mentor-mentee program
2017 – 2018	Remote mentor to Justin Calise, Graduate student, part of the New York Academy of Sciences Mentor-mentee program
2018	Faculty Judge for 18 th Annual Henry J. N. Taub & James K. Alexander Medical Student Research Symposium, Baylor College of Medicine
2017 and 2018	Faculty advisor for Baylor College of Medicine Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine Program seminar workshop groups on 'Elevator Speech' to graduate students
2017 and 2018	Faculty Judge for J. David Holcomb Allied Health Student Research Day, The Orthotics and Prosthetics Program Masters' Research Projects, Baylor College of Medicine
2014 – 2015	Member- Westbury Community Garden, Houston

SERVICE

Professional Societies

2025- Present	Fellow Member- Applied Microbiology International (UK)
2014 - Present	Sigma-Xi Scientific Research Society
2012 - Present	Member- New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS)
1998 - Present	American Society of Microbiology (ASM)
2006 - Present	Associate member- Baylor College of Medicine Center for AIDS Research (CFAR)

2014 - 2019	Associate member – Center for Reproductive Medicine (CRM), Baylor College of Medicine
2006 - 2019	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
2006 - 2010	National Postdoctoral Association (NPA)
2007 - 2009	Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS)

Elected Positions

2016 – 2018	Elected to Faculty Senate at Houston Community College, Houston, TX.
2014 - Present	Elected Member Sigma-Xi Research Society, Rice University, Houston, TX

Invited Lectures, Presentations, Seminars, Advanced Training/Experience

2024	Presented talk on Mother to Child Transmission of HIV-1 in African American Women and on Expert panel, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc, Houston Chapter
2023	Rothko Chapel-Institute of Spiritual Health: Dealing with grief during holiday season talk.
2022	Invited by faculty teaching NURS 3553- Holistic Nursing: Care of the Childbearing Family course to present students with concepts of infectious disease and its role in pregnancy.
2022	Presented refresher seminars on COVID and Infectious Disease Control to BSN program students of Holistic Nursing: Care of the Childbearing Family and Med-Surg.
2019	Invited by Office of President, UST, to present a seminar titled, “Run Silent Run Deep- HIV Latency and AIDS Associated malignancies” as part of faculty research symposium.
2016	Presented seminar titled, “HIV-1 infection in mother to child transmission and latency” to students of Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honors Society, Houston Community College, Spring, TX
2015	Presented seminar titled, “Vaccines: The truth is in us..not out there”, on the vital importance of childhood immunization to Mothers of preschoolers (MOPS)
2014	Managing to the mission at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
2008	Life Science Entrepreneurship (MGMT/BIOE 633) course, Rice University, Houston, TX