

## University of North Texas Health Science Center Leads the Country with AIM-AHEAD Program



Dr. Jamboor K. Vishwanatha, PhD



Dr. Sylvia Trent-Adams, President, UNTHSC

The University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) is leading once again! A Federal Executive Order that establishes regulations and standards for the use of artificial intelligence has selected UNTHSC, under the direction of Dr. Jamboor Vishwanatha, VP, at HSC's Institute for Health Disparities as the program's leadership core.

AIM-AHEAD's goal is ensuring that underrepresented communities and minority groups are being included and fairly represented in AI and Machine Learning technology sectors and consists of several cores at various institutions across the nation.

[Read full press release](#)

## In Bloom: The Gwen Lily Research Foundation



(from left to right) Aaron BenComo, MD, Elaine Song, MD, Heather Hughes, Deaf Action Center, Tara Robinson, Black Heart Foundation, Heather Joshua, MSN, Tania Martin-Mercado, MS, MPH, Phronetik, Marvin Martin, DPT, and Sureka Gattu, PhD, Perspectum

Recently, BioNTX had the privilege of speaking at Gwen Lily Research Foundation's inaugural Lily in Bloom event. The event served as a community introduction for the foundation's mission and vision; highlights of which include catalyzing positive change in marginalized populations through disease research, education and outreach.

Aaron BenComo, MD, Director of Business Development and Industry Liaison for BioNTX, highlighted the importance of public health education regarding resource availability as well as the value of a career as a vehicle for personal growth in these populations. BioNTX is currently part of a regional, grant-funded, academic consortium that is developing pathways and training programs for careers in biotechnology and healthcare.

[Learn more about the Gwen Lily Research Foundation](#)

## Baylor University: Building Local Partnerships for Tomorrow's STEM Leaders



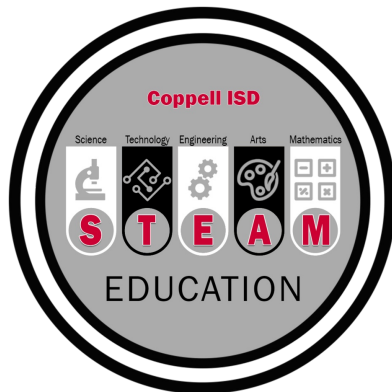
Baylor University, seeing the value and importance of STEM education; connects with local schools on National STEM Day to provide engaging science presentations for area students and teachers and mobilize Baylor researchers in the community.

Baylor research faculty presented grade-aligned, experiential projects on National STEM Day to students at local schools to encourage the love for science, technology, engineering and math.

“Baylor University is ensuring that we are helping to raise up a community of students interested in science, technology, engineering and math, and promoting a diverse STEM workforce,” said Stacey Smith, Ph.D., assistant vice provost for research and research development at Baylor.

[Read full press release](#)

# Ahead of the Curve: Coppell Launches Elementary School STEAM Program



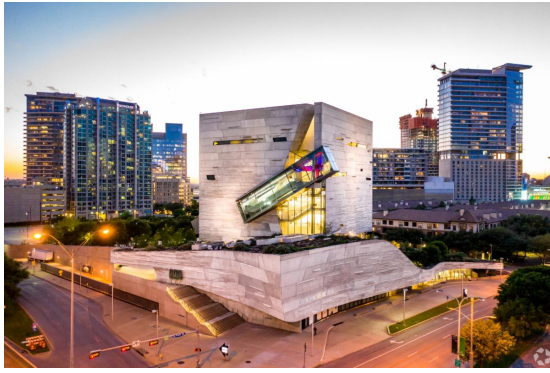
It is well-established that young minds are in fact sponges for knowledge. To leverage this and maintain their status at the forefront of STEM education; Coppell ISD has created a first-of-its-kind program to bring STEAM education to every elementary school student this academic year.

"There are other programs out there, but nothing like we are doing here," said Mike Yakubovsky, STEAM instructional coach for Coppell ISD. "Every student in the district is involved."

[Read full press release](#)

## Next Level: DeSoto ISD Students Celebrate STEM Fest at Perot Museum





DeSoto ISD in Dallas, recognizes that the future leaders of STEM and biotechnology require nurturing across their K-12 journey.

To foster STEM in children, the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, together with Texas Instruments, the Mr. Cooper Group, and supporting sponsor Vistra, hosted STEM Fest at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

With the help of more than 150 volunteers, 400 fifth through eighth grade DeSoto Independent School District students engaged in interactive science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities to challenge their minds and inspire their imaginations.



[Read full press release](#)

## Northwest ISD Supporting STEM Students with Military-backed Grant Funding



Northwest ISD announced this week, that it has earned grants from the National Math & Science Initiative (NSMI) and Department of Defense STEM Education & Outreach Office. With dedicated funding from the DoD, the NMSI has launched its College Readiness Program at three comprehensive high schools in North Texas.

“NMSI’s College Readiness Program has proven to be exemplary in engaging students in STEM, especially students who are historically underrepresented in these subject areas,” said Louie Lopez, DoD STEM Director. “The Department of Defense offers unique and immersive internship and career opportunities across the defense laboratories and centers, including uniformed civilian roles”.

[Read full press release](#)

## High-Tech High Heels Connecting Girls to STEM Opportunities

This North Texas based not-for-profit, created by Texas Instruments employees over 20 years ago continues to introduce girls to STEM fields through programs that expose young women to opportunities in STEM fields.

“We started High-Tech High Heels by funding STEM opportunities for girls because we saw there was a need. At that time, there were no specific science camps for girls,” says Britney Keepes, President of the North Texas chapter.



[Read full press release](#)

## ARPA-H Needs You to Catalyze Transformative Health Solutions

BIONTX INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE  
**ARPA-H CUSTOMER  
EXPERIENCE HUB**

**ARPANET-H**, is a new nationwide health innovation network which will take a human-centered approach to designing products and services for all Americans.

The Customer Experience Hub forms part of the ARPANET-H nationwide health innovation network and is dedicated to the needs of the people: listening to, learning from, and building trust with communities to enable access to critical health innovations for all Americans.

[Learn more about the ARPANET-H](#)

[Join the ARPA-H Customer Experience Hub](#)

## BIONTX MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### Island Pharmaceuticals Begins ISLA-101 Dengue Study



Dallas-based Island Pharmaceuticals has been granted human research ethics approval to commence its ISLA-101 Single Ascending Dose study. The aim of the study is to ensure that administered doses can safely achieve blood concentrations of ISLA-101 that are predicted to be effective against the dengue virus. Recruitment and dosing will commence imminently, with the data read out expected in early 2024.

“This new patent adds to the growing intellectual property thicket that is being established around ISLA-101,” Foster said. “This Australian patent, together with the equivalent patents granted in other key markets, underpin the investment we are making in bringing forward ISLA-101 as a potential new approach to combating the world’s growing problem with dengue fever and other mosquito-borne viral diseases.”

[Read full press release](#)

## How Lantern Pharma and Code Ocean Partnered on Drug Development



When Peter Carr, principal software architect of Lantern Pharma, stepped into his full-time role in September 2020, the company was on the cusp of a transformation. In a prior position, Carr served as a senior software engineer at the Broad Institute, which used GenePattern, an open-source tool for reproducible research in genomics. “When I came to this company, I thought, ‘Oh, we need something like that,’” Carr recalled. “But GenePattern is not a commercial product, so it lacks a bit of polish.” This led Carr to explore other options, ultimately landing on Code Ocean as the best fit for Lantern Pharma.

[Read full press release](#)

## Nanoscope Therapeutics Wins 'Best of Show'



(from left to right) Jared Stephens, Vice President, Strategy & Business Development, Sam Mohanty, PhD, President & Co-Founder, Samuel Barone, MD, CMO, Sulagna Bhattacharya, CEO & Co-Founder, Michael Marquez, CFO

Nanoscope Therapeutics was awarded the 'Best of Show in Retina' award at this year's American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Eyecelerator conference. During the conference, Samuel Barone, MD, Nanoscope's CMO, delivered a presentation

titled *"Pioneering a New Wave of Optogenetic Therapeutics for Vision Restoration."* He unveiled clinical results from the company's optogenetic therapy, MCO-010, which targets inherited retinal diseases (IRDs) such as retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and Stargardt disease in a gene mutation agnostic fashion.

MCO-010, developed by Nanoscope Therapeutics co-founders Sam Mohanty, PhD, and Sulagna Bhattacharya, offers the potential to treat a multitude of ocular diseases by restoring light sensitivity to the retina and enhancing vision in patients with progressive and permanent photoreceptor and outer retinal degeneration.

[Read full press release](#)

## UTA Researchers Discover Secret to Improving Health Outcomes



(from left to right) Tiffany Kindratt, PhD, MPH, Grace E. Brannon, PhD, and Kyrrah Brown, PhD

Using data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, the researchers examined feedback of nearly 500 non-pregnant women between the ages of 18 and 45 and living with diabetes. Results showed that patients who reported experiencing optimal patient-centered communication were more likely to adhere to a diabetes care regimen.

[Read full press release](#)

## Meet the UTD Researcher Unraveling Life's Embryonic Mysteries





Dr. Dave Dingal uses zebrafish to better understand how developmental signaling is coordinated in animal embryos. Zebrafish are ideal models for observing signaling proteins because of their similarity with the human genome and their size.

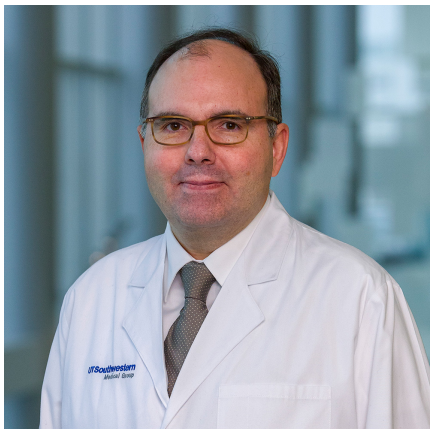
A University of Texas at Dallas bioengineer has developed synthetic enzymes that can control the behavior of the signaling protein Vg1, which plays a key role in the development of muscle, bone and blood in vertebrate embryos. A team of researchers is using a new approach to study how Vg1 is formed.

By learning the molecular rules of signal formation in a developing animal, researchers aim to engineer mechanisms — such as giving cells new instructions — that could play a role in treating or preventing disease.

[Read full press release](#)

## UTSW Researchers Create Novel Bypass Technology to Preserve Brain Circulation

**UT Southwestern**  
Medical Center®



Researchers at UT Southwestern have developed a device that can isolate blood flow to the brain, keeping the organ alive and functioning independent from the rest of the body for several hours.

The device, tested using a pig brain model could lead to new ways to study the human brain without influence from other bodily functions. It also could inform the design of machines for cardiopulmonary bypass that better replicate natural blood flow to the brain.

Isolating the brain will allow researchers to manipulate inputs to this organ to study how they



UTSW's Juan Pascual, MD., PhD, is a Professor of Neurology, Pediatrics, and Physiology, and in the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development. He holds the Ed and Sue Rose Distinguished Professorship in Neurology and The Once Upon a Time Foundation Professorship in Pediatric Neurologic Diseases.

change brain function without the body's influence. For example, Dr. Pascual said, he and his colleagues have already used this system to better understand the effects of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) in the absence of other factors.

[Read full press release](#)

## NORTH TEXAS NEWS

### ACS Launches Resource for Patients & Families



The American Cancer Society (ACS) is reminding the North Texas community of their new cancer care navigation program, ACS CARES (Community Access to Resources, Education and Support). The new program is designed to provide curated information, resources and patient navigation support personalized to those fighting cancer and their families.

"ACS CARES is a resource available to everyone to help promote health equity and reduce disparities to make sure historically underserved communities and populations are getting access to the resources and care they need," said Dr. Arif Kamal, chief patient officer at ACS. "This is about people feeling engaged and being a part of their improved outcome story."

[Read full press release](#)

## FUNDING & MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### ARPANET-H Network Activation Call

Application ends on December 1, 2023



The Advancing Clinical Trial Readiness (ACTR) initiative seeks to improve the nation's ability to conduct clinical trials safely, quickly, and equitably. The ACTR initiative will develop, evaluate, and integrate new tools and technologies to enable faster, less expensive, decentralized trials operating closer to/at points of care that are more representative across geography, age, gender, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

[Apply now](#)

## PSC Grants Funds for New Therapy Discovery

Application ends on January 15, 2024



PSC Partners and affiliate PSC Partners Canada award annual grants that drive research to identify treatments and a cure. Their Research Grants Program seeks to encourage investigators to conduct research in promising new areas, with the goal that data generated will lead to further seed funding from additional sources.

[Apply now](#)

## HSC Next SBIR Phase 0 Program



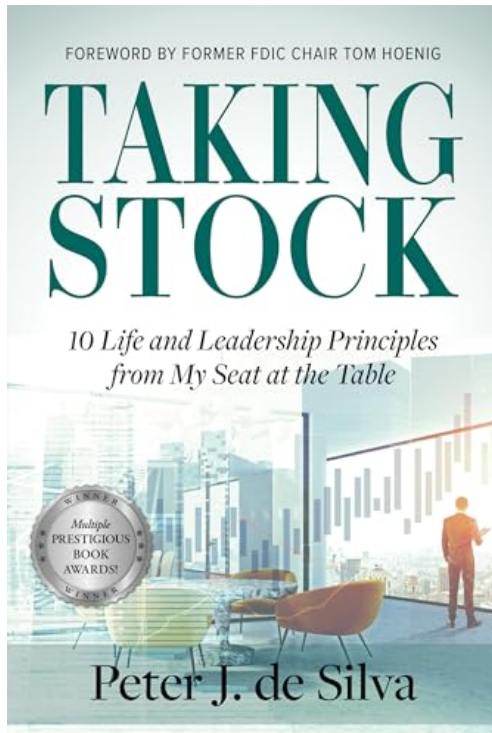
The HSC Next SBIR Phase 0 Program provides innovative Tarrant County companies with one-on-one guidance, beginning with technology assessment. Select companies will enter a comprehensive one-month, cohort-based program that meets weekly and guides them through the grant writing processes. Additionally, participants receive one-on-one mentorship with SBIR experts that help founders fine-tune their proposals to increase the likelihood of receiving federal funding.

[Apply now](#)

## INDUSTRY EVENTS

### Transforming Leadership: Journey with Peter J. de Silva





RSVP now

Embark on a transformative journey with Peter J. de Silva, a seasoned leader with over three decades of invaluable experience in the financial services industry. In "Taking Stock: 10 Life and Leadership Principles from My Seat at the Table," de Silva invites you to explore his remarkable leadership odyssey. Unveiling battle-tested insights, he provides a roadmap to ignite personal and professional growth while revolutionizing your approach to overcoming challenges.

Don't miss the opportunity to join a presentation by de Silva himself and receive an autographed copy of "Taking Stock." Immerse yourself in the wisdom gained from years at the forefront of the financial world, and let these principles guide you on your own journey to success. Seize this chance to glean knowledge from a leader who has navigated the complexities of leadership with resilience and innovation.

## Shine for a Cause: A Night of Awareness and Support



Join To Cure a Rose Foundation for an intimate concert, small bites, festive drinks, and philanthropy at its finest.

Proceeds benefit To Cure a Rose Foundation & their pursuits to finding cures for rare childhood diseases.

RSVP now

# Upcoming Events & Opportunities in North Texas



## Health Wildcatters Pitch Day

Join Health Wildcatters to celebrate the 2023 Cohort's successful completion of the nationally-ranked Health Wildcatters program.

November 14, 2023

[Learn more](#)



## EmpowHERment Pitch Competition

Join Eosera for their pitch competition where 3 small businesses will pitch live to compete for the first-place \$15,000 prize and second-place \$10,000 prize!

November 14, 2023

[Learn more](#)



## HiFi Data to Insights: Characterization, AI and More for Accelerated Gene Therapy

Join Form Bio to learn more about HiFi Data and AI can help reveal invisible issues that can significantly impact the safety, efficacy, and manufacturability of cell and gene therapies.

November 15, 2023

[Learn more](#)



## DFW Small Business Tech Day

Join TriQuest Technologies, Inc. to listen to well-known business leaders, tech experts and leading minds showing small businesses how to compete and succeed in many aspects of their business with a concentration on utilizing technology to be productive, profitable and protected.

November 16, 2023

[Learn more](#)



## Dallas Cup of Capital

Join Capital Factory at their most popular coffee networking event that makes it easy for you to meet your next co-founder, investor, mentor, or Capital Factory champion.

November 17, 2023

[Learn more](#)



## Techstars Startup Weekend Fort Worth

Join Techstars to learn how to launch a business in one weekend, create relationships and build your network, get coached by great mentors who have launched their own businesses and get access to valuable startup resources.

November 17 - 19, 2023

[Learn more](#)



## Tech Together Holiday Party and 25th Anniversary Celebration

Join TechFW to celebrate the holiday season,



LAUNCHBIO

## Internship Informational

connect with our community, hear from portfolio companies, and honor the 25-year anniversary of TechFW.

December 5, 2023

[Learn more](#)

Join LaunchBio to learn how easy it can be for your startup to offer student internships in 2024.

December 6, 2023

[Learn more](#)



### 2023 ACS CAN North Texas Policy Forum

Join American Cancer Society to hear what is being done across Texas to detect cancers early, increase equitable access to screenings and policy solutions to advance cancer prevention.

December 7, 2023

[Learn more](#)



### Dallas Cup of Capital

Join Capital Factory at their most popular coffee networking event that makes it easy for you to meet your next co-founder, investor, mentor, or Capital Factory champion.

December 8, 2023

[Learn more](#)

## Autumn Happy Hour at Cresa

# BIONTX



The BioNTX Facilities Committee invites you for an evening of networking at Cresa Real Estate's office overlooking the Cowboys practice field in The Star.

We'll be joined by special guest, Gloria Salinas, Vice President and Jeremiah Anderson, Director of Innovation at the Frisco Economic Development Corporation.

Thank you for your support!



Register now

## We Remember Our Veterans!

Let us never forget the sacrifices of our veterans, both past and present. Today, and every day, we stand together in appreciation, admiration, and respect for their service.



**THANK YOU VETERANS**

NOVEMBER 11, 2023

November 14, 2023

Stay Connected!



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