

IND Success in North Texas: FDA Approves Human Trials For AyuVis Drug Candidate



Suchi Acharya, PhD

**Congratulations AyuVis Research!
Here's to More 2024 Breakthroughs!**

North Texas' AyuVis Research, received FDA approval for human clinical trials with its lead compound, AVR-48. The company is developing immunotherapies that offer a well-balanced immune response, combining mild activation and controlled suppression for effective disease treatment.

Dr. Suchi Acharya, AyuVis Co-Founder and CEO, expressed excitement about the new IND approval, considering it a major milestone for the company's small molecule immunotherapy platform.

Ayuvis Research is dedicated to employing rigorous scientific research to innovate and bring new therapies to market.

[Read full press release](#)

North Texas' Lifecycle Biotechnologies Attracts International Specialty Manufacturing



The latest indicator that the North Texas region is entering a Biomanufacturing Hub status comes via news of the acquisition of Cleburne-based, Lifecycle Biotechnologies. The company has been providing innovative life sciences reagents and custom solutions for over 40 years, supporting many of the world's leading companies in biopharmaceuticals, regenerative medicine, diagnostics, agriculture, environmental, and research industries.

Lifecycle Biotechnologies - a pillar institution in North Texas biopharma manufacturing, was recently acquired by an international life sciences firm with a portfolio of manufacturing and distribution of research products, specialty chemicals, reagents, and analytical testing solutions. While details of the acquisition are undisclosed, the deal is an early win in 2024 for the North Texas industry.

Congratulations Lifecycle Biotechnologies on a Successful Exit!

[Learn more](#)

Start Your February with North Texas

Innovators at BIO BREAK!



Deloitte. **BIONTX**

BIO BREAK: Dallas' Life Sciences Happy Hour

Pegasus Park
3000 Pegasus Park Drive
Dallas, TX 75247

RSVP

Thursday
February 1, 2024
5:00pm - 7:00pm

Kiss Boring Thursday Nights Goodbye! Join McDermott Will & Emery, Deloitte and BioNTX and meet us for BIO BREAK! The ONLY monthly happy hour with the Dallas Life Sciences community! Grab a friend and join us at Pegasus Park for an opportunity to connect with like-minded industry professionals and innovators.

[Register now](#)

BioNTX Lands in Lubbock for All-Star AI Program with Texas Tech University

BIONTX



Left image from left to right: Werner Kuhr, PhD, TTU, Phil Sizer, PhD, TTUHSC.

Center image from left to right: Panna Sharma, Lantern Pharma, Siva Vanapalli, PhD, NemaLife, Daniel Hargrove, JD, Texas Biotech Ventures, David Miller, JD, MBA, TTU. Right image: Mike Stebbins, PhD, ATI

Thank you to everyone who attended our *'Breaking Boundaries: AI's Role in Advancing Science and Innovation'* program last week. It was illuminating to explore AI's role in shaping industries, devising creative solutions to challenges, and expanding research capabilities. Highlights of the event included an exclusive overview of the ARPA-H Customer Experience Hub with the Lubbock community, an engaging audience Q&A, and a networking happy hour.



TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.

Data Risks: Resilience in the Age of AI

BIONTX

In a world where AI has imploded, cyberbiosecurity is increasingly a priority. Where does AI play a role in your business and how does stronger resilience factor in? In the latest installment of our Cybersecurity Series with Ishca Health, experts will explore the challenges & opportunities in protecting data and help understand the risks specific to bioscience.



Hazel Chappell
CEO & Founder
ishca health
(Moderator)



Gurshaman Baweja, PhD, MBA
General Partner
Enterprise Venture



Susan Butler
Director of
Product Management
Kerv.ai



Panna Sharma
CEO & President
Lantern Pharma

[Register now](#)

Building Consumer Trust: Is Privacy the New Currency in the Digital Economy?



Privacy, the currency exchanged for digital services, demands a delicate balance—organizations must not only comply with regulations but also go beyond, ensuring a secure and trustworthy digital environment for all stakeholders.

[Learn more](#)

Are You Hiring? Join Our Career Expo to Find Top Talent!

**Register Now for the 3rd Annual
BioNTX Career Expo on February 9th**

Do not miss this unique opportunity for employers to engage with top-tier local talent actively seeking new opportunities. Whether you are a growing start-up or an established company in the field, join us to connect with skilled professionals ready to contribute to the advancements in life sciences.

We have a booth prepared and waiting for you!

[Register now!](#)



BIONTX MEMBERS NEWS

Bridging Societal Gaps: Baylor Innovates First-of-its-kind Tactile Learning Device



Dr. Bryan Shaw and high-school students with the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired conduct lab experiments at Baylor University

Baylor University chemistry professors, led by Dr. Bryan F. Shaw, have introduced a ground-breaking tactile learning device designed to make science accessible for students with blindness or low vision (BLV). For the first time, blind students can visualize nanoscopic and microscopic imagery at the same resolution as their sighted peers, thanks to innovative technology developed at Baylor University.

[Read full press release](#)

UNTHSC Spearheading Community-based Opioid Intervention Effort



UNT Health Science Center's School of Public Health and SaferCare Texas have received a grant from the City of Fort Worth for opioid intervention education. The program includes train-the-trainer sessions with community-based organizations, HSC students, and health workers, along



with virtual reality training for a holistic prevention approach in various settings.

HSC leads the way in opioid and fentanyl awareness with the launch of its 'One Pill Kills' campaign. The initiative features a dedicated website offering resources for individuals dealing with addiction, those supporting loved ones, and those interested in prevention efforts.

[Read full press release](#)

Tarleton State Secures Grants for Environmental Water Quality Research



Michael Machen, PhD

Tarleton State researchers operating under the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER), announced a series of grants awarded to the university from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The Surface Water Quality Monitoring (SWQM) project, backed by a TCEQ grant, assesses aquatic systems' physical, chemical, and biological characteristics to inform effective environmental policies.

The research, led by Dr. Michael Machen, is a collaboration between TIAER and Tarleton State faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates involving collecting, analyzing, and interpreting samples from over 1,800 surface water sites in Texas.

[Read full press release](#)

Cell Reports: UTA Researchers Shed Light on Critical Immune Checkpoint

Researchers at the University of Texas at Arlington, in a collaborative study, have unveiled a critical immune system checkpoint, NKG2A, explaining why certain cancers resist immunotherapy. The findings, published in Cell Reports, offer valuable insights into the limitations of immunotherapy, particularly in cancers like colon, pancreatic, prostate, and brain cancers.

Dr. Jon Weidanz, UTA Associate Vice President for Research, underscores the ongoing challenge of understanding why



immunotherapy varies in effectiveness across different individuals and cancer types.

Jon Weidanz, MPH, PhD

[Read full press release](#)

UTARI Researcher Recognized for Novel Contributions to Polymer Composite Research



Partha Pratim Das

Partha Pratim Das, a UTARI research assistant from UTARI's Institute for Predictive Performance Methodologies, recently received recognition for his doctoral research proposal on predicting durability and damage tolerance of polymer composites under combined hygrothermal-mechanical loading, earning him the distinction of 'Most Novel Contributions'.

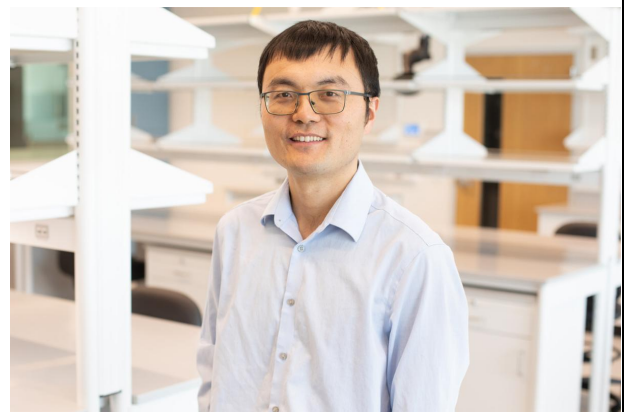
North Texas maintains a strong presence in polymer science due to the distinguished researchers from institutions like UTARI. BioNTX Thanks You for your contributions!

[Read full press release](#)

North Texas Collaboration: UTD Researcher Brings Brain Therapy Research Lab to UTSW



In line with the collaborative spirit that has come to characterize North Texas, Dr. Zhenpeng Qin, a mechanical engineer and professor at UT Dallas is establishing his lab on the UT Southwestern Medical Center campus. By collaborating closely with UT Southwestern physicians, Qin aims to advance a promising technique for delivering medication through the blood-brain barrier. The move is expected to enhance collaboration with clinical partners and facilitate research.



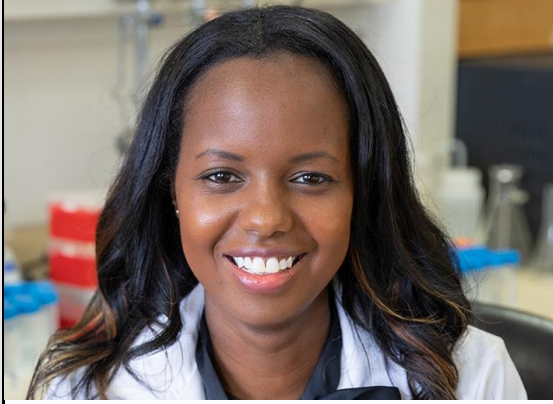
Zhenpeng Qin, PhD, MS

[Read full press release](#)

UTSW Researcher Links Neurodevelopmental Disorder Enzyme to Viral Protein Degradation



UT Southwestern researchers, building on the work of the late Beth Levine, have discovered that an enzyme associated with a



Josephine Thinwa, MD, PhD

neurodevelopmental disorder plays a key role in digesting viral proteins during infection. Published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, the study goes beyond viral infection, exploring broader implications.

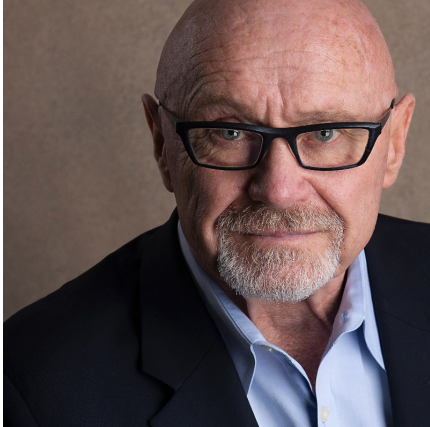
Lead author Josephine Thinwa, MD, PhD, emphasizes the research origin in Levine's lab, indicating a comprehensive investigation into the enzyme's functions beyond its involvement in viral infections, potentially extending to neurodevelopmental disorders and other cellular processes.

[Read full press release](#)

BIONTX MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

From Lab to Point-of-Care: A Look at IVD Logix

Lawrence Worden is not originally from North Texas. The native New Englander, Principal and Founder of IVD Logix has called Dallas home for decades while travelling the globe providing expert opinion on industry sector markets and trends. Worden has previously enjoyed success co-founding Market Diagnostics International, and CaseBauer & Associates, as well as holding senior legislative & regulatory affairs positions with Becton Dickinson and Company, AdvaMed and IQVIA. He currently serves on the boards of *Inside Precision Medicine* and the *Cambridge HealthTech Institute*.



Lawrence Worden, MPA, IVD Logix

Worden's expertise provides the basis for IVD Logix's consulting services. Backed by custom and syndicated market information for medical and scientific technologies, the company's core expertise is in vitro diagnostics (IVD), though also covers life science research tools common to IVD, and therapeutics related to companion diagnostics. IVD Logix is international in scope; with capabilities in over 25 countries and a proprietary database of over 66,000 US clinical laboratories datapoints.

[Learn more](#)

INDUSTRY EVENTS

Bridge Labs at Pegasus Park: Today's Ideas. Tomorrow's Standards.

Bridge Labs at Pegasus Park will feature 135,000 square feet of purpose-built research and development space. Boasting as the first institutional quality, non-incubator space in the region with best-in-class specifications.



See brochure for more information

Make an IMPACT: Nominate Champions Changing the Rare Disease Community



NORD[®]
National Organization
for Rare Disorders

Nominate now

Deadline

Thursday, February 1, 2024

NORD is extending an invitation to nominate individuals for the Rare Impact Awards, recognizing Rare Disease Champions whose exceptional contributions have left a positive imprint on the community. Open to the public, these nominations will culminate in a celebratory event, where honorees will gather to applaud the dedicated efforts and groundbreaking advancements made by those driving progress in the rare disease landscape.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities



Coffee and Conversation

Join Tech Titans to kick off your Tuesday morning with some light breakfast, coffee and networking before heading into the office.

January 30, 2024

[Learn more](#)

BIOHOUSTON

Breakfast Forum: MedTech Startup

Join BioHouston to hear speakers share their perspectives on the process and importance of identifying and leveraging these fundamentals to build companies that hit milestones. Fundraising, assembling management teams, and how to select credible partners for startups will be the focus of this discussion.

January 31, 2024

[Learn more](#)



2024 Virtual Biopharma Career Fair

Join NIIMBL for their 2024 Virtual Biopharma Internship, Co-op, and Entry Level Career Fair to engage directly with students and entry-level talent across the United States and find your next qualified candidate.

February 1, 2024

[Learn more](#)



5th Annual Women's Cardiovascular and Brain Health Symposium

Join UNTHSC at their Women's Cardiovascular and Brain Health Symposium, which promotes research addressing women's cardiovascular and brain health, and raises awareness about the importance of women's health research.

February 1 - 2, 2024

[Learn more](#)



It Takes A Village

Join NAMI North Texas to learn the different ways to support your loved ones through their mental health, discuss different coping strategies, and ways each of you can support one another when challenges arise in your relationship.

February 6, 2024

[Learn more](#)



Live Demonstration Showcasing AI-Powered Healthcare Navigation Assistant

Join DFW Hospital Council Foundation to give a live demonstration of Mediktor's AI medical assistant that directs patients to the right level of care at the right time.

February 8, 2024

[Learn more](#)



Career Expo

Join BioNTX to explore ways to transform and elevate your career in Life Sciences and Healthcare. The Career Expo is a comprehensive and enriching experience designed to provide you with valuable insights, networking opportunities, and help to boost your career.

February 9, 2024

[Learn more](#)



Career Roadmaps in Biomedical Engineering and the Medical Devices Industry

Join HBA to hear invaluable insights and personal experiences, providing a roadmap for those aspiring to carve a successful career path in biomedical engineering and the dynamic realm of medical devices.

February 13, 2024

[Learn more](#)



Enhancing AI and Cyber Awareness for Optimal Security

In a world where AI is everywhere, cyberbiosecurity is becoming increasingly a priority. The challenges and opportunities in protecting your biggest asset - your data - will be explored and will help you begin to understand the risks specific to bioscience.

February 15, 2024

[Learn more](#)



AI Panel Discussion

Join Healthcare Think Tank to learn implement AI efficiently and securely in the healthcare industry.

February 15, 2024

[Learn more](#)



Utilizing AI in Gene and Cell Manufacturing

Join ASGCT to explore the roles of AI and automation in propelling the latest advances in genetics and regenerative medicine and the rapid pace of progress.



The Future of Venture Forum

Join The DEC Network for an evening filled with insights, networking, and inspiration as we delve into the forefront of the entrepreneurial landscape.

February 16, 2024

[Learn more](#)



2024 Texas Healthcare Challenge

Join Health Wildcatters to be apart of groundbreaking series of healthcare hackathons that bring together individuals from various backgrounds and professions.

February 23 - 24, 2024

[Learn more](#)

February 21, 2024

[Learn more](#)



Women Driving Innovation

Join BioNTX to celebrate International Women's Day and connect with the women leaders in the North Texas life sciences sector!

March 8, 2024

[Learn more](#)

Join the Movement at BioNTX

BioNTX provides opportunities for Members to connect and collaborate across Texas, obtain industry insights, and increase market visibility. We are the voice and champion of the life sciences community in North Texas.



January 29, 2024

Stay Connected!



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