

*Doctoral  
Hooding Ceremony*

— May 16, 2024 —



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

# *The Order of Ceremony*

## **University of Maryland, Baltimore Graduate School Doctoral Hooding Ceremony**

4:00 p.m. Thursday, May 16, 2024  
Leadership Hall

### **Processional**

#### **Greetings**

Kenneth Wong, PhD  
Dean, Graduate School

#### **Conferral of Degrees**

Roger Ward, JD, EdD  
Provost and Executive Vice President, University of Maryland, Baltimore

#### **Presentation of Dr. Patricia Sokolove Outstanding Mentor Award**

Soad Elziny, PhD  
President, Graduate Student Association

Haeyoung Lee and Phuong Tran  
Nominating Students

Susan dosReis, PhD  
School of Pharmacy  
Outstanding Mentor Awardee

#### **Presentation and Hooding of PhD Graduates**

Erin Golembewski, PhD  
Senior Associate Dean, Graduate School

Mentors and Graduate Program Directors

#### **Closing Remarks**

Violet Kulo, EdD  
Faculty Senator, Graduate School

## *The Doctoral Degree*

*D*octor means teacher or instructor; the term was used in ancient Rome to describe people who delivered public lectures on philosophical subjects. Since the 12th century, “doctor” has been a title of honor borne by men and women of great learning. It was first made an academic title at the University of Bologna in Italy, which received from the emperor the right to appoint *doctores legum* (doctors of laws).

The doctoral degree represents the most advanced earned degree conferred by American institutions. There are two distinct types: the professional or practitioner’s degree and the research degree. The former doctoral degree signifies advanced training for the practice of professions such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or law. The latter type of doctoral degree, the research doctorate, is awarded to individuals who have undertaken prolonged advanced study on a subject and who have made substantial and original contribution to the knowledge concerning that subject in the form of an extensive written document, the dissertation. The degree confers the title of doctor of philosophy (PhD), although the degree no longer is associated with the study of philosophy specifically.

## *Academic Regalia*

*T*he traditional black caps and gowns worn by students and faculty in the academic procession have been the costume of scholars since medieval times. A uniform code for academic costume was drafted by an intercollegiate commission in 1895 and has been adopted by the majority of colleges and universities in the United States. The gown or robe of the doctoral degree has a full, bell-shaped sleeve with three bars of velvet. The opening of the doctoral gown is faced with wide velvet bands that are either black or of a color indicating the wearer’s general field of learning. For the doctor of philosophy degree, robes have velvet of either black to match the gown, or blue representing the PhD degree.

The most colorful and distinctive item of the academic costume is the hood, which passes around the neck and extends down the back. The hood is hemmed in a bright or dark blue for the PhD degree. The colors of the silk lining exposed in the center of the hood are those of the college or university which conferred the degree. For the University of Maryland Graduate School, Baltimore, the hood is lined with black and gold. The doctor of philosophy candidates will receive their diplomas at the university commencement exercises.

The cap, or mortarboard, is uniform in design for all degrees. However, the PhD recipient may also wear an eight-sided tam. The tassel may be either black or gold for the doctoral degree. A person may tip the cap to show respect to a colleague. Additional medallions or decorative trim may be worn by individuals who have achieved specific honors.

# *Doctor of Philosophy*

## **Ebtehal Ghassan Albeshir**

*“Minimally Invasive Dentistry via Dual-Function Novel Bioactive Low-Shrinkage-Stress Flowable Nanocomposite”*

Mentor: Huakun Xu, PhD

Summer 2023

## **Abdullah Hussein A. Alhussein**

*“Novel Bioactive Low-Shrinkage-Stress Composite with Antibacterial and Remineralization Properties”*

Mentor: Huakun Xu, PhD

Fall 2023

## **Madeline Alizadeh**

*“Exploring the Role of the Intestinal Microbiome in IBD-Associated Arthritis”*

Mentors: Jacques Ravel, PhD and Erik von Rosenvinge, MD

Spring 2024

## **Jessica Allen**

*“Evaluation of Salmonella enterica Serovar Typhimurium Vaccines in the Context of Immunosenescence”*

Mentor: Sharon Tennant, PhD

Summer 2023

## **Ishraq Alshantiti**

*“Post-Traumatic Hyperalgesia and Degeneration of Temporomandibular Joints in Mice: The Role of Nociceptive Afferents”*

Mentor: Man-Kyo Chung, DMD, PhD

Spring 2024

## **Sydney Ashton**

*“A “Personality Test” for Rats Reveals Subtle but Distinct Effects of Sex and Early Life Inflammation on Brain and Behavior”*

Mentor: Margaret McCarthy, PhD

Spring 2024

**Hyang Baek**

*“Nurses’ Well-being and the Work Environment during the COVID-19 Pandemic”*

Mentor: Alison Trinkoff, ScD  
Summer 2023

**Todd Becker**

*“Attitudes Toward Medical Aid in Dying in a National Sample of Hospice Clinicians”*

Mentor: John Cagle, PhD  
Fall 2023

**Alexa Blanchard**

*“Mast Cell Modulation of the Developing Hippocampus”*

Mentor: Margaret McCarthy, PhD  
Spring 2023

**Sarah Brown**

*“The Effect of a Single Exposure to a Hyperosmolar Vaginal Lubricant on the Vaginal Microbiota and Bacterial Vaginosis”*

Mentor: Rebecca Brotman, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Hadley Bryan**

*“The Role of Bardet-Biedl Syndrome Protein 1 in the Pancreatic Beta Cell”*

Mentor: Megan Rizzo, PhD  
Fall 2023

**Garrett William Bunce**

*“The Fractal Brain: Investigating the Inc between Genetics, Architecture and Computation”*

Mentor: Alexandros Pouloupoulos, PhD  
Fall 2023

**Lillian Butler**

*“Rab27 in Tick Extracellular Vesicle Biogenesis and Infection”*

Mentor: Joao Pedra, PhD  
Fall 2023

**Alexandria Marie Carlson**

*“Conversion of Small-Molecule Inhibitors into Heterobifunctional Compounds  
in the Discovery of Novel Chemotherapeutics”*

Mentor: Steven Fletcher, PhD

Fall 2023

**Ana Coutinho**

*“Novel Methods to Assess the in vivo and in vitro Performance and Selection of  
Amorphous Solid Dispersions of Poorly-Water Soluble Drugs”*

Mentor: James Polli, PhD

Spring 2024

**Rachel Louise Cundiff-O'Sullivan**

*“Biological, Psychological, and Sociocultural Contributions to Pain Processing in the  
Central Nervous System: A Whole-Person Approach to Understanding Chronic Pain”*

Mentor: Luana Colloca, MD, PhD

Fall 2023

**Jennifer Dalton**

*“The Impact of Simulation-based Ethical Education on Prelicensure Nursing Students’  
Levels of Moral Distress”*

Mentor: Karen Gordes PhD, DScPT

Fall 2023

**Poorna Dharmasri**

*“Postsynaptic Control of Trans-synaptic Nanostructure”*

Mentor: Thomas Blanpied, PhD

Fall 2023

**Shannan Dixon**

*“From WHAT to HOW: An Exploration  
of How Genetic Counseling Program Directors Learn to Teach”*

Mentor: Violet Kulo, EdD and Christina Cestone, PhD

Summer 2023

**Hillary Anne Edwards**

*“Navigating the Unprecedented: A Study on How Senior Administrators in Higher Education Learned and Made Decisions During the COVID-19 Pandemic”*

Mentor: Violet Kulo, EdD  
Spring 2024

**Hephzibah Sophie Edwin**

*“Nurses’ Work Environment in Relation to Psychological Distress Symptoms, Intention to Leave and Health Promotion: A Structural Equation Modeling Approach”*

Mentor: Alison Trinkoff, ScD  
Spring 2024

**Soad Elziny**

*“Defining the Role of SLC35A2 in Cortical Development and Epilepsy”*

Mentor: Peter Crino, MD, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Patricia Erickson**

*“Pesticides, Telomere Length, & Cancer: Findings from the Agricultural Health Study”*

Mentor: Kathryn Barry, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Cara Felter**

*“Exploring the Design and Delivery of Sexual Health Education for US-Based Doctor of Physical Therapy Students”*

Mentor: Karen Gordes, PhD, DScPT  
Fall 2023

**Nancy Franke**

*“The Role of Relationships for Adults Who Served Long Prison Sentences that Began in Childhood: A Mixed Methods Approach”*

Mentors: Charlotte Bright, PhD and Geoffery Greif, PhD  
Summer 2023

**Jennifer French**

*“Advancing Genetic Studies in Latin American Populations: Enhancing Imputation and Investigation X Chromosome Associations with Alzheimer's Disease”*

Mentor: Timothy O'Connor, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Jon Gilgoff**

*“Comprehensive U.S. Federal Boys’ and Men’s Health Policy:  
Examining Barriers and Strategies Through a Mixed Methods Policy Delphi”*

Mentor: Dr. Fernando Wagner, DS

Spring 2024

**Bing Guo**

*“Practical Considerations for the Application of Identity-By-Descent  
to the Inference of Plasmodium falciparum Demography”*

Mentors: Timothy O'Connor, PhD and Shannon Takala-Harrison, PhD

Spring 2024

**Brittany Hazzard**

*“Characterization of Plasmodium vivax Transcriptome  
by Single Cell RNA-sequencing in a Non-human Primate Model”*

Mentor: David Serre, PhD

Fall 2023

**Shisi He**

*“Family History, Genetic Risk Factors, and Risk of Multiple Primary Cancers”*

Mentors: Braxton Mitchell, PhD and Kathryn Barry, PhD

Fall 2023

**Casey Hofstaedter**

*“Characterization of Pseudomonas aeruginosa Lipid A Structural  
Variants in Cystic Fibrosis”*

Mentor: Robert Ernst, PhD

Spring 2024

**Muddassar Iqbal**

*“Role of Galectin-3 in Airway Epithelial Barrier Integrity during Influenza A Viral Infection”*

Mentor: Gerardo Vasta, PhD

Fall 2023



**Tierra Johnson**

*“The Role of Plasminogen Activator Inhibitor Type-2 (PAI-2)  
in Modulating Venous Thrombus Resolution”*

Mentor: Toni Antalis, PhD

Fall 2023

**Adrienne Kambouris**

*“Altered Gene Expression Profiles and Immune Responses in a Murine Model of a  
Nonlethal Flame Burn with Pseudomonas aeruginosa Infection”*

Mentor: Alan Cross, MD

Fall 2023

**Thuli Katerere-Virima**

*“Moving Beyond ‘A white Man’s Thing’: A Case Study  
of Urban Kenyan Youth Mental Health”*

Mentor: Corey Shdaimah, PhD

Fall 2023

**Kyle Kihn**

*“HDX-MS, Molecular Dynamics, and Modeling: An Integrative Approach  
to Model Solution Structural Ensembles”*

Mentor: Daniel Deredge, PhD

Fall 2023

**Jennifer Kirk**

*“Individual, Neighborhood, and Provider Factors Associated  
with Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Osteoporosis Management”*

Mentor: Jennifer Albrecht, PhD

Spring 2024

**Ritika Kurian**

*“Role of Constitutive Androstane Receptor (CAR) and CYP2B6  
in Cyclophosphamide (CPA) Therapeutic Efficacy and Toxicity”*

Mentor: Hongbing Wang, PhD

Spring 2024

**Jackline Joy Lasola**

*“Nanoparticle-Driven Immunoengineering: Characterization of the Effects of Polymer-Based Nanoparticles in Regulating Macrophage-Mediated Inflammatory Responses”*

Mentor: Ryan Pearson, PhD

Fall 2021

**Tsung-Ying Lee**

*“Progression, Prognostic Factors, and Economic Costs of Loss of Independence in Parkinson Disease”*

Mentor: Eberechukwu Onukwuga, PhD

Spring 2024

**Shuhui Li**

*“Utilizing Pharmacometrics to Facilitate Generic Drug Development of Orally Inhaled Products and Optimize Pharmacotherapy of Antifibrinolytics”*

Mentor: Joga Gobburu, PhD

Fall 2023

**Kanwal Mahmood Hameed**

*“Targeting Serine Biosynthesis in Combination with Glutamine Modulation in Acute Myeloid Leukemia”*

Mentor: Ashkan Emadi, MD, PhD

Spring 2024

**Kayleigh Majercak**

*“Mitigating Evidence Gaps: A Survey Template to Inform Patient-Centered Value Assessment”*

Mentor: C. Daniel Mullins, PhD

Spring 2024

**Liron Marnin**

*“Regulation of Epidermal Skin Immunity by a Tick Bite”*

Mentor: Joao Pedra, PhD

Fall 2023

**Jorge Marquez**

*“PTGFRN as a Target for Antibody-Drug Conjugate Development  
in Mesothelioma and Medulloblastoma”*

Mentor: Ginette Serrero, PhD

Fall 2023

**Gillian Mbambo**

*“Host Immunotranscriptomics during Malaria Infection and  
Malaria-Schistosomiasis Co-infection in Malian Pediatric Cohorts”*

Mentors: Joana Silva, PhD and Kirsten Lyke, MD

Spring 2024

**Paige Noel McKeon**

*“Less is more: alcohol weakens inhibitory signaling to strengthen striatal complex output”*

Mentor: Brian Mathur, PhD

Summer 2023

**Mary Lynn McPherson**

*“The Effect of Medication Information Delivery Format  
on Informal Caregiver Medication Knowledge in Hospice Care”*

Mentor: Violet Kulo, EdD

Summer 2023

**Ashley Mitchell**

*“Age-Related Deficits in Natural Killer Cell-Derived Interferon-Gamma Production  
Contribute to Severe Bordetella pertussis in Infant Mice.”*

Mentor: Nicholas Carbonetti, PhD

Fall 2023

**Kareshma Mohanty**

*“Role of Social Determinants of Health  
on the HIV Testing and Treatment Cascade in Nigeria”*

Mentor: Kristen Stafford, PhD

Fall 2023

**Lamia Sami Mokeem**

*“Iron Oxide/Mesoporous Silica Core-Shell Nanostructures:  
Toward a New Platform for Improving Longevity of Bonded Restorations”*

Mentor: Mary Anne Melo, DDS, PhD  
Summer 2023

**Yulemni Morel**

*“Integration of Quantitative and Qualitative Mass Spectrometric Workflows to Evaluate  
the Role of Plasmalogen Glycerophosphoethanolamine in Disease Progression”*

Mentor: Jace Jones, PhD  
Fall 2023

**Makenzy Mull**

*“Mechanisms of Altered Calcium Signaling  
via ATP-Activated P2Y2 Receptor in Breast Cancer Cells”*

Mentor: Stuart Martin, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Zachary Ryne Noel**

*“The Effects of Graded Versus Ungraded Individual Readiness Assurance Tests on  
Pharmacy Students’ Assessment Performance and Achievement Goal Orientation in a  
Team-Based Learning Classroom”*

Mentor: Karen Gordes PhD, DScPT  
Summer 2023

**Kaila Noland**

*“Cellular, Molecular and Metabolic Variation Resulting from Skeletal-Muscle Specific  
High-Expression of the Thyroid Hormone Binding Protein Mu-Crystallin are Sex-Specific  
and Diet-Dependent”*

Mentor: Robert Bloch, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Eunsong Park**

*“Recovery Support Services for Opioid Use Disorder in Maryland:  
A Mixed Methods Study with a Two-Paper Dissertation”*

Mentor: Jay Unick, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Nandini Raghuraman**

*“The Effects of Socioeconomic Position on Endogenous Pain Modulation:  
A Quasi-Experimental Approach”*

Mentor: Luana Colloca, MD, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Sarah Julia Robbins**

*“Type 2 Diabetes, Sodium Glucose Cotransporter-2 (SGLT2) Inhibitors  
and the Vaginal Microbiota”*

Mentor: Rebecca Brotman, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Andrea Joy Romanowski**

*“Creating a CRISPR Toolkit to Investigate Neuropsychiatric Risk-Genes  
in the Developing Brain”*

Mentor: Alexandros Pouloupoulos, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Brianna Scotland**

*“Development of an Antigen-Specific Immunotherapy Using Antigen-Bioconjugate  
Nanoparticles for the Treatment of Allergy Diseases”*

Mentor: Ryan Pearson PhD  
Spring 2024

**Chintal Shah**

*“The Economic Burden of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Comparative  
Effectiveness of Maintenance Inhaler Medications in the United States”*

Mentor: Zafar Zafari, PhD  
Fall 2023

**Matthew Evan Sherman**

*“Bacterial Enzymatic Combinatorial Chemistry (BECC) Enabled Targeted Lipid A  
modification of Shigella Vaccine Strains to Reduce Endotoxicity Without Compromising  
Immunogenicity or Invasiveness”*

Mentor: Alison Scott, PhD  
Summer 2023

**Raquel Shortt**

*“Development of an In-Cell Footprinting Method Coupled with MS for the Study of Proteins in Three-Dimensional Cancer Models”*

Mentor: Lisa Jones, PhD

Summer 2023

**Edward So**

*“Complement Component C1q is an Immunological Rheostat That Regulates Fc:FcγR Interactions”*

Mentors: Scott Strome, MD and Martin Flajnik, PhD

Fall 2023

**Alexandra Soare**

*“Nitric Oxide in Mucormycosis Pathogenesis”*

Mentor: Vincent Bruno, PhD

Fall 2023

**Megan Stemberger**

*“Tumor Microenvironmental and Cell-Intrinsic Mechanisms of Microtubule Stabilization in Breast Cancer”*

Mentor: Stuart Martin, PhD

Spring 2024

**Christina Stennett**

*“Socioeconomic and Microenvironmental Factors Associated with the Vaginal Microbiota throughout the Adult Lifespan”*

Mentor: Rebecca Brotman, PhD

Fall 2023

**Lora Stojanovic**

*“The Role of Pathogen Mimicry Response Leading to Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Ovarian Cancer”*

Mentor: Feyruz Rassool, PhD

Fall 2023

**Kieran Tebben**

*“Characterization of Host-Pathogen Interactions  
during Symptomatic P. falciparum Malaria in Malian Children”*  
Mentor: David Serre, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Sharon Lois Thomas**

*“Resilient Factors and Their Relationship  
to Chronic Orofacial Pain and Patient Expectations of Analgesia”*  
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Summer 2023

**Anh Tran**

*“Development of Mass Spectrometric Methods  
for Analysis of Sphingolipids and Oligonucleotides”*  
Mentor: Jace Jones, PhD  
Fall 2023

**Nhu Truong**

*“Immunomodulatory Nanoparticles as a Multimodal Approach to Attenuate Immune  
Dysregulation in Severe Inflammation and Sepsis”*  
Mentor: Ryan Pearson, PhD  
Fall 2023

**Camilo Vanegas**

*“Microtubules as a Therapeutic Target in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy”*  
Mentor: Christopher Ward, PhD  
Fall 2023

**Jimmy Amakwa Vareta**

*“Impact of Host and Parasite Factors  
on Gametocyte Production in Plasmodium falciparum”*  
Mentor: Miriam Laufer, MD  
Fall 2023

**Alexandra Michelle Vlk**

*“TLR4-SNP Mice Reveal the Role of M2a Macrophages  
in Resolution of Chemically-Induced Colitis”*

Mentor: Stefanie Vogel, PhD  
Summer 2023

**Miriam Nechama Weiss**

*“Nocifensive Behavior and Transcriptomic Biomarkers  
in a Translational Pig Model of Spared Nerve Injury”*

Mentor: Eun-Shim Nahm, PhD  
Fall 2023

**Emily Werthman**

*“Characteristics of Pain in Survivors of Adverse Childhood Experiences”*

Mentor: Luana Colloca, MD, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Erin Wildermuth**

*“Cell-type Specific Transcriptomic Dysregulation in the Striatum are a Feature of  
Substance Use and Neurodegeneration  
That Can Be Used to Evaluate Preclinical Gene Therapy”*

Mentor: Seth Ament, PhD  
Spring 2024

**Rhea Williams**

*“The Impact of COVID-19 on the Relationship  
between Intrapartum Interventions and Cesarean Birth”*

Mentor: Jennifer Klinedinst PhD  
Spring 2024

**Gideon Wolf**

*“Novel Modules in the T Cell Signaling Circuit Which Enable Synergy Between  
Responses to Self and Foreign Peptides”*

Mentors: Nevil Singh, PhD and Daniel Douek, MD, PhD  
Summer 2022

**Saif Yasin Yasin**

*“Characterizing HIV-1 Genome Dimerization”*

Mentor: Michael Summers, PhD  
Spring 2024



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