Welcome from the Department Chair

It is a great pleasure to see this first newsletter of our newly formed department of Nutritional Sciences (NS). Many aspects of this newsletter deserve a special mention. Ms. Shao Hua Chin (shao-hua.chin@ttu.edu), a bright graduate student from NS has agreed to lead this effort as the editor. Her service to NS is truly appreciated.

A key purpose of the newsletter is to share many professional accolades and achievements that our faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students and staff receive so often. News about new funding, awards, scholarships, scientific presentations and publications, and just about any significant professional achievement is welcome and worth sharing. While the editor will seek such news from you for future issues of the newsletter, please do feel free to proactively volunteer such information to her. Please do not consider this as self-promotion. In our department with such diverse professional background, interest and focus, it is important to remain informed about the achievements, publications, and emerging and diverging research interests of our colleagues. Departmental newsletter is an effective means to achieve this. Importantly, please note that your achievements can be inspiring to many others, in addition to possibly starting new collaborations, dialogues or interactions.

I trust that you will find this new activity of value for yourself and for the department and that you will help in achieving the intended goal of the newsletter. I am positive that our editor will appreciate your constructive comments and suggestions about any aspect of the newsletter that would better serve the needs of Nutritional Sciences.

Best wishes
Nik Dhurandhar
Chair, Department of Nutritional Sciences

EDITORS NOTE: This is our first newsletter and it dates back to November 2014 (and the arrival of our new Chairman). As such please excuse the length – our students and faculty have been VERY busy. Future editions will be published more frequently and will be briefer. Look for Issue 2 in early June!

Sincerely,
Shao-Hua Chin

In This Issue

Departmental Announcements
This month learn more about our undergraduate dietetics and graduate dietetic internship programs; congratulate faculty members receiving promotion and tenure; meet new faculty members in our department; find out who defended their theses and dissertations. READ MORE.

Student Achievements
Be impressed with the many accomplishments of our TTU NS students. READ MORE.

Faculty Awards
Our faculty members received prestigious awards from TTU and international scientific organizations. READ MORE.

Funding
Learn more about funded projects in the department. See what your colleagues have achieved. READ MORE.

Patents and Publications
Our students and faculty members obtained patents, gave countless presentations and have been very busy publishing. READ MORE.

In the Media
Our students and faculty members appeared in TTU, local and national media including Texas Tech Today, FOX34 News and CNN. An impressive amount of high quality exposure for TTU. READ MORE.

GNO Events
See what your Graduate student organization has been up to! Learn more about what’s coming up and get involved now. READ MORE.

Other Announcements and Notices
See more upcoming events, information about Obesity Research Cluster (ORC), US. Foods Seminar and Graduate Center Satellite Services for Graduate Students. READ MORE.
Nutritional Sciences Undergraduate Program

The Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics Program received official notification in January 2015 that the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) granted full accreditation to the Dietetics program for seven years. It is the longest period of time that a program can be granted accreditation. One of the significant factors reviewed in the accreditation process is performance of TTU students on the Registration Exam for Dietitians. The undergraduate program tracks their graduates who were accepted into a dietetic internship to analyze the passing rate of the Registration Exam for Dietitians. Although the graduates performed their internship in 33 different programs in 17 different states, it still was a good indicator that the undergraduate curriculum and faculty in Texas Tech University were strong.

According to Lydia Kloiber M.S., R.D., L.D., the director of Didactic Program in Dietetics, the consistency of program scores and steady improvement over 5-year averages is exciting, especially since the program continues to grow. Learn more about Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD).

- Registration Exam Results from Undergraduate Program (pass rate goal 80 %):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>#Taking Exam First Time</th>
<th>Students Passing the CDR Exam</th>
<th>Pass Rate Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#Passing First Try</td>
<td>#Passing within One Year of First Try</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current 5 Year 2010-2014</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summer Study Abroad in Barcelona

Allison Childress M.S., R.D., L.D., has collaborated with an ESS faculty to offer NS 2330 Nutrition for Health, Fitness and Sport and ESS 3305 Exercise Physiology in Barcelona called ‘Sports and Nutrition in Spain’ during the Summer 2 session. Students will experience one of the world’s largest outdoor markets, cooking classes and tours of state of the art fitness training and sports competition facilities. This is an excellent, first of a kind opportunity for our NS majors and minors to study exercise and nutrition abroad.
Changes to the Nutrition Health & Wellness Degree Plan

Started in 2011, with current enrollment of over 150 students, major changes have been made to the program for Fall 2015! The new degree plan now has several guided electives and more writing and counseling/coaching courses. Together these improve students’ ability to tailor their experience to a wider range of career paths. We have also expanded our collaborative efforts that now include:

- Human Development and Family Studies
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Community, Family, and Addiction Services
- Hospitality and Retail Management
- English
- Exercise Sports Science & Health
- Business Marketing
- College of Media & Communications

Nutritional Sciences Graduate Dietetic Internship Program

In January 2015, the Nutritional Sciences Dietetic Internship received official notification that the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) granted full accreditation to the Dietetics program for seven years.

The dietetic internship class of 2014-15 began their supervised practice rotations in January 2015. There are now a total of 18 interns with 10 interns in Lubbock, 4 in Amarillo and now 4 in Midland/Odessa. Learn more about TTU Dietetic Internship (DI).

- Registration Exam Results form Graduate Dietetic Internship Program (pass rate goal 80 %):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>#Taking Exam</th>
<th>#Passing First Try</th>
<th>#Passing within One Year of First Try</th>
<th>First-Time Pass Rate</th>
<th>One-Year Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>94 %</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current 5 Year 2010-2014</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>91 %</td>
<td>94 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results of the Registration Exam for Dietitians continue to be strong!

Current and former TTU students attended 2015 TAND FNCE (Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Food and Nutrition Conference & Expo) in Houston. [http://goo.gl/zyqQQ7](http://goo.gl/zyqQQ7)
EndNote X7

The desktop version (EndNote X7) of the Endnote reference manager software has advanced features (not available on web version). EndNote X7 now is available in the Nutritional Sciences Department on the computer located in 402E. You can also set up an EndNote Web account to access your references everywhere. Click here for more information about creating EndNote Web account, setting up EndNote Web account, EndNote X7 guidebook and getting start videos. If you need help with this program, please contact your personal librarian Cynthia Henry or Thomson Reuters Product Support Analyst.

Promotion and Tenure

Dr. Wilna Oldewage-Theron

Received tenure and became a new professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences, College of Human Sciences. http://goo.gl/g3Nbw8

Dr. Jamie Cooper

Received promotion and tenure, from assistant professor to associate professor, Department of Nutritional Sciences College of Human Sciences. http://goo.gl/i4PIF

New Faculty and Staff Members

Dr. Latha Ramalingham

Research Assistant Professor in Dr. Moustaid-Moussa’s Laboratory. She brings expertise in diabetes research to further the research program in the NS department and the Obesity Research Cluster. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University School of medicine and completed two short postdocs at IU and at TTU (with Dr. Moustaid-Moussa) prior to taking her current position.

Shane Scoggin

Research Laboratory Safety Officer. He received his Cell and Molecular Biology degree from Texas Tech University and he has over 10 years lab experience. His previous work includes 5 years working in the Simmons Cancer Center at UT Southwestern running a microarray core facility; 1 year working at the biotech company Tannox before returning to UT Southwestern to work in a Molecular Biology lab studying stem cells in Drosophila.
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Peradeniya

The MOU that will form the basis for expanding collaborations between the two institutions was signed between Texas Tech University and the University of Peradeniya in November 2014. This MOU was developed by Dr. Moustaid-Moussa and Dr. Nishan Kalupahana, Professor at Peradeniya and deputy director of the Center for International Exchange at Peradeniya. Dr. Kalupahana was a visiting Associate Professor at TTU in the Dept. of NS Fall 2014.

Master’s Theses and Doctoral Dissertations

Priyanka Bapat

- Degree: Ph.D.
- Defense Date: November 10, 2014
- Dissertation Title: Cytotoxic Effects of Selenium Conjugated Trastuzumab on HER2+ Breast Cancer Cell Lines
- Dissertation Committee: Dr. Julian E. Spallholz (Committee Chair), Dr. Mallory Boylan, Dr. Barbara Pence, Dr. Leslie Thompson and Dr. Chad Paton.

Kelli Kaufman

- Degree: M.S.
- Defense Date: March 24, 2015
- Thesis Title: A Cross Sectional Descriptive Study with Further Analysis of Body Mass Index, Psychosocial Correlates and Pain as Predictors of Activities of Daily Living in African American Adult Sickle Cell Disease Clinic Patients
- Dissertation Committee: Dr. Martin Binks (Committee Chair), Dr. Michael San Francisco, Dr. Mary Murimi and Dr. Christopher L. Edwards (Duke University)

Tiffany McAllister

- Degree: Ph.D.
- Defense Date: March 25, 2015
- Dissertation Title: Perceptions of Promoting Physical Health by Selected Christian Leaders: A Multi-Denominational Study
- Dissertation Committee: Dr. Mary Murimi (Committee Chair), Dr. Jessica Alquist, Dr. Martin Binks, Dr. Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo and Dr. Debra Reed.
Representatives at EB2015

Faculty and graduate students were well-represented at the Experimental Biology 2015 meeting through posters, oral presentations, awards and session attendance. Our department had a strong presence at the university mixer designed to provide a visibility, networking and recruiting for Nutritional Sciences Department.

2015 Graduate Research Poster Competition

Graduate students in our department, Kembra Albracht-Schulte, Arwa Aljawadi, Chathurika Samudani Dhanasekara, Chanaka Kahathuduwa, Kelli Kaufman, Teresia Mbogori, Mandana Pahlavani, Michael Rogowski and Jada Stevenson, participated in the poster competition on Friday, April 10th at the Helen DeVitt Jones Sculpture Court at the Museum of Texas Tech University. Their posters were evaluated by 3 judges from different departments. The result of the poster competition will be announced at Graduate Students Awards Ceremony at 2 pm on April 16, 2015 at International Culture Center.
Students Achievements

**Michael Rogowski,** Ph.D. student
Selected as an ARCS Scholar for the 2014-2015 year and honored at a banquet in Fall 2014.

**Kelli Kaufman,** M.S. student
Accepted into the highly ranked Physician Assistant Program at the Baylor College of Medicine. She was chosen as one of 40 students out of over 1200 applicants and will start June, 2015.

**Richard Garrison,** Ph.D. student
Received an award for his oral abstract submitted and presented to the Southeast Sun Grant Conference. Title: ‘Anti-Inflammatory Effects of Extracts from a Bioenergy Crop, Switchgrass, in Adipocytes’ in Auburn, AL. February 4, 2015.

**Monique Lemieux, Tiffany McAllister and Jada Stevenson,** Ph.D. students
Selected to participate in the prestigious TTU TEACH (Teaching Effectiveness And Career enhancement) program for 2015. This program assists Ph.D. students to develop teaching skills and to explore faculty roles.

**Nadeeja Wijayatunga and Richard Garrison,** Ph.D. students
Awarded each an ASBMB (American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) 2015 Graduate/Postdoctoral Travel Award for their abstracts submitted to the Experimental Biology (EB) 2015. Nadeeja’s title was ‘Inflammatory and Metabolic Changes following Bariatric Surgery’ and Richard’s title was ‘Anti-Inflammatory Effects of Extracts from a Bioenergy Crop, Switchgrass, in Cultured Adipocytes’.

**Richard Garrison,** Ph.D. student
Received CDR Diversity Scholarship from the national Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation for 2014-15.

**Ashlee Taylor,** Ph.D. student
Received the Lois M. Jackson Scholarship from the national Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation for 2014-15.
Monique Lemieux, Ph.D. student
Awarded a FASEB MARC travel award to present her research at Experimental Biology 2015. Title: ‘Inactivation of Adipose Angiotensinogen Reduces Inflammatory Adipokines and Adipose Tissue Macrophages’.

Lori Boyd, M.S. student
Received the Helen C. Brittin Endowed Scholarship for through the Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (TAND). She attended a recognition dinner at the TAND Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE) in Houston on April 9, 2015.

Chanaka Kahathuduwa, Ph.D. student
Received Helen DeVitt Jones Graduate Fellowship which provides funding for 3 years.

Lori Boyd, M.S. student
Received Dr. William J. Carter Scholarship Endowment. This scholarship is awarded to COHS undergraduate or graduate students who demonstrate excellence in academic performance and leadership skills in nutritional sciences.

Jia Zhang, Ph.D. student
Received Phenolic Student Research Award for her abstract submitted to the Experimental Biology (EB) 2015. Title: ‘The Effects of EGCG and EGCG Nanoparticles on Body Weight and Body Composition in LDL Receptor Null Mice’.
Faculty Awards

Dr. Martin Binks

Received The Obesity Society’s Atkinson-Stern Award for Distinguished Public Service. The Award recognizes an individual or organization whose work has significantly improved the lives of those affected by obesity, whether through research, public policy, patient care, or other means. He received the award and presented the award lecture ‘Silos are for Corn: A Call to Action’ at ObesityWeek2014 in Boston MA November 2014.

Dr. Martin Binks presented the award lecture 'Silos are for Corn: A Call to Action'.

Dr. Shu Wang

Received 2014 Chancellor's Council Distinguished Research Award. The Chancellor’s Council recognizes and selects top research faculty at TTU, TTU-Health Sciences Center, Angelo State, and TTU-Health Sciences Center-El Paso. Only 8 faculty members at TTU are selected as Chancellor's Council Award recipients every year.

Dr. Shu Wang attended Chancellor's Council Award Ceremony on February 11, 2015.

Dr. Debra Reed

Selected as an Integrated Scholar for 2014-15. Office of the Provost defines integrated scholars as those ‘who are not only outstanding in teaching, research and service, but they are also able to generate synergy among the three functions’. Only 11 faculty members were selected from the nominations received by deans, department chairs and colleagues.

Allison Childress, M.S., R.D., L.D.

Received the 2015 Professing Excellence Award. The award gives TTU students the opportunity to nominate outstanding faculty members who go above and beyond, both inside and outside the classroom, to impact their students' learning and academic success.

Allison Childress, M.S., R.D., L.D.
Dr. Debra Reed
Received the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award for 2015. This award represents faculty members’ excellence in teaching and it will be presented at the Faculty Honors Convocation on April 28, 2015.

Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa
Chosen as the recipient of the 2015 Pfizer Consumer Healthcare Nutritional Sciences Award. This award was given for recent investigative contributions of contemporary significance to the understanding of human nutrition. Dr. Moustaid-Moussa attended ASN Awards Ceremony on March 29, 2015 at Experimental Biology 2015.

Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar
Received the 2015 Osborne and Mendel Award. This award is given for outstanding recent basic research accomplishments in nutrition. Dr. Dhurandhar attended ASN Awards Ceremony on March 29, 2015 at Experimental Biology 2015.

Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa
Elected Fellow of the American Heart Association (FAHA) conferred by the Council on Lifestyle and Cardio-metabolic Health. Dr. Moustaid-Moussa was honored at the Annual Dinner held during the EPI/Lifestyle conference in San Francisco on March 5, 2015.
Funding

Online M.S. Program
Funding Source: Texas Tech University
Amount: $20,000
Recipient: Shelley Fillipp
Purpose of Funding: Developing a new online Master’s degree in Nutrition and Dietetics and including five new ‘practice-focused’ graduate courses.

Online Class Development
Funding Source: Texas Tech University
Amount: $15,000
Recipient: Lydia Kloiber
Purpose of Funding: Developing three online classes - Texas Tech University Worldwide eLearning as part of a full online Nutritional Sciences minor.
Significant Contributor: Allison Childress

Title: Biomarkers of Insulin Resistance, Fatty Liver and Obesity in Southeast Asian Population.
Funding Source: University of Peradeniya ($2,000) and TTU’s Office of International Affairs & the OVPR ($2000)
Amount: $4,000
Principal Investigators: Naima Moustaid-Moussa and Nishan Kalupahana
Co-Investigators: Latha Ramalingam, Debra Reed, Vijay Hegde and Leslie Shen

Title: Does Higher Protein Quality Breakfast Reduce Energy Intake when Following a Weight Loss Diet Plan?
Funding Source: Egg Nutrition Center
Amount: $67,195
Principal Investigators: Nikhil Dhurandhar
Co-Investigators: Jamie Cooper, John Dawson, Allison Childress

Title: Empowering Women by Improving Health Literacy Level, Food Insecurity, and Reducing Maternal and Child Malnutrition Among Low Income Rural Populations Through Nutrition Education.
Funding Source: TTU’s Office of International Affairs & the OVPR
Amount: $2,000
Principal Investigators: Mary Murimi

Title: Effects of Bioactive Compounds (Tocotrienols and Geranylgeraniol) on Type 2 Diabetic Rats.
Funding Source: American River Nutrition
Total Amount: $99,830
TTU Portion: $38,000
Funding Period: 2/1/2015-7/31/2016
Principal Investigators: Leslie Shen, Naima Moustaid-Moussa, Eunhee Chung
Co-Investigators: J. Dufour, G. Brackee
Title: Establishing C Elegans as a Model for Nutritional Studies: Mechanisms by which Omega 3 Fatty Acids Reduces Obesity-Associated Inflammation.

Funding Source: USDA ANIFA AFRO
Amount: $100,000
Principal Investigators: Naima Moustaid-Moussa
Co-Investigators: Shu Wang, Siva Vanapalli, Jerzy Blawzdzewicz

Title: Anti-Obesity Effects of Adipose-Targeting Resveratrol Nanocarriers.

Funding Source: NIH
Amount: $395,239
Funding Period: 04/01/2015 – 03/31/2018
Principal Investigators: Shu Wang
Co-Investigators: Guigen Li, Yehia Mechref, Ling Zhao
Consult: Gordon Brackee

Title: Preventing Obesity in Military Families with Preschool Children (Operation Jump2Health).

Funding Source: Pilot and Feasibility (P&F) Program
Amount: $3,500
Principal Investigators: Autumn Shafer
Co-Investigators: Jason Van Allen, Debra Reed, Julie Chang, Barry McCool, Susan Mengel

Title: Unrestricted Educational Grant- Fund for Excellence.

Funding Source: The Coca Cola Company
Amount: $5,000
Recipient: Martin Binks

Title: Long Term Effects of Early Exposure to Olanzapine on Weight, Metabolism and Behavior and Nutritional Interventions to Prevent these Effects.

Funding Source: Pilot and Feasibility (P&F) Program
Amount: $7,500
Principal Investigators: Paul Soto
Co-Investigators: Kitty Harris, Naima Moustaid-Moussa

Title: Browning White Adipose Tissue Using Resveratrol Nanoparticles Carried by Hydrogel Templates.

Funding Source: Pilot and Feasibility (P&F) Program
Amount: $7,000
Principal Investigators: Shu Wang
Co-Investigators: Zhaoyang Fan, Naima Moustaid-Moussa

Title: Development of a Microfluidic and Other Culture Systems to Study Adipocytes / Their Exosomes Interactions with Breast Cancer Cells.

Funding Source: Pilot and Feasibility (P&F) Program
Amount: $7,000
Principal Investigators: Naima Moustaid-Moussa
Co-Investigators: Shu Wang, Fazle Hussain, Latha Ramalingam, Zeina Khan, Preethi Gunaratne, Surangani Dharmawardhane
**Patents and Publications**

- **Patents Obtained** • **Students’ Oral Paper Presentations**
- **Professors’ Oral Paper Presentations** • **Students’ Posters**
- **Professors’ Posters** • **Journal Articles and Books**
- **Most requested JNB articles in 2014** • **Invited Lectures by Students**
- **Invited Lectures by Professors** • **Miscellaneous Board and Other Appointments**

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**Patents Obtained**

**Nikhil Dhurandhar**

New Zealand. # 606236

Title: Adenovirus Ad36 E4orf1 protein for prevention and treatment of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

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**Students’ Oral Paper Presentations**

- **LeMieux M**, Kalupahana NS, **Scoggin S**, **Moustaid-Moussa N**. Eicosapentaenoic acid induces adipocyte hypotrophy and reduces adipocyte inflammation in an adiposity-independent manner. Proceedings of the 32th Ann. Scientific Meeting of The Obesity Society; 2014 Nov; Boston, MA.

- **Albracht-Schulte KD**, Ramalingam L, Kalupahana NS, **Brocard C**, **Moustaid-Moussa N**. Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) supplementation regulates hepatic lipid metabolism and inflammation in diet Induced obese mice. Annual Scientific Meeting of Experimental Biology; 2015 Mar; Boston, MA.

- **Zu Y**, **Zhang J**, Nie S, **Wang S**. The effects of EGCG and EGCG nanoparticles on body weight and body composition in LDL receptor null mice. Annual Scientific Meeting of Experimental Biology; 2015 Mar; Boston, MA.

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**Professors’ Oral Paper Presentations**


Students’ Posters


- **LeMieux M, Polizzi C, Mynatt R, Kalupahana NS, Quignard-Boulange A, Moustaid-Moussa N.** Inactivation of adipose angiotensinogen alters metabolic and inflammatory phenotypes in diet-induced obese mice. 2nd ICAN Conference on Diabetes, Obesity & Heart Diseases; 2014 Dec; Paris, France.

- **Kahathuduwa C, Weerasinghe B, Amarakoon T, Dassanayake T.** Synergistic effect of theanine and caffeine on visual reaction time, evoked potentials and cognitive event-related potentials. Annual Scientific Meeting of American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS); 2015 Feb; Houston, TX.


- **Cao J, Zhang J, Li C, Wang S.** Effects of epigallocatechin gallate nanocarriers on liver cholesterol content in LDL receptor null mice. Annual Scientific Meeting of Experimental Biology; 2015 Mar; Boston, MA.


- **Li C, Zhang J, Nie S, Cao J, Wang S.** Comparing effects of native and nanoencapsualted epigallocatechin gallate on liver fat content in LDL receptor null mice. Annual Scientific Meeting of Experimental Biology; 2015 Mar; Boston, MA.

- **Pahlavani M, Razafimanjato F, Kalupahana NS, Scoggin S, Ramanlingam L, Moustaid-Moussaa N.** Eicosapentaenoic acid increase brown adipose tissue thermogenic markets in high fat fed mice. Annual Scientific Meeting of Experimental Biology; 2015 Mar; Boston, MA.

- **Shastri A, Boylan M, Spallholz JE.** Generation of superoxide and toxicity of amino alcohols to K562 and HepG2 cancer cells. Annual Scientific Meeting of Experimental Biology; 2015 Mar; Boston, MA.


- **Razafimanjato F, Pahlavani M, Kalupahana NS, Scoggin S, Ramanlingam L, Moustaid-Moussa N.** Effect of omega-3 fatty acids, eicosapentanoic acid, on brown adipose tissue as a novel target for obesity and metabolic disorders. 2015 TTU Undergraduate Research Conference; 2015 Apr; Lubbock, TX.
Professors’ Posters


Journal Articles and Books


Most requested JNB articles in 2014

The 2nd most popular article:


- Requested: 5,201 times

The 12th most popular article:


- Requested: 2,017 times

The 15th most popular article:


- Requested: 1,631 times

Invited Lectures by Students

**Monique LeMieux**, Ph.D. student

Boston University. ‘The Role of Adipose-Specific Angiotensinogen in Obesity, Insulin Resistance, and Inflammation’. Boston MA. April 2015.

**Monique LeMieux**, Ph.D. student

Texas Woman's University. ‘Anti-Inflammatory Effects of Eicosapentaenoic Acid in Adipose Tissue and Obesity’. Denton TX. April 2015.
Invited Lectures by Professors

**Dr. Martin Binks**


Dr. Martin Binks


Dr. Martin Binks


Dr. Mary Murimi


Dr. Martin Binks

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). ‘Staying active across the lifespan: The importance of physical activity to our health.’ January 27, 2015.

Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar


Dr. Martin Binks

TOS-Eisai TwitterChat #ObesityRisks; #ObesityCauses March 2015.

Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa

Texas Woman’s University. ‘The role of the adipocyte renin angiotensin system in obesity-associated inflammation and insulin resistance.’ Denton TX. March 25, 2015.
Miscellaneous Board and Other Appointments

**Dr. Martin Binks**

- Invited to extend his term on the Editorial Board of The International Journal of Obesity for 3 years.

**Dr. Martin Binks**

Invited as a founding member of 2 new international organizations:


**Dr. Martin Binks**

Appointed to the newly created ‘World Obesity Federation: Corporate Responsibility Advisory Committee’ Nov 2014.

**Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar**

Invited as a founding member of the new international organization Global Energy Balance Network (GEBN) March 2015.

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**In the Media**

- [Students in the Media](#) • [Professors in Local Media](#) • [Professors in National Media](#)

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**Students in the Media**

**Monique LeMieux,** Ph.D. student

Professors in Local Media

**Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa, Dr. Jamie Cooper and Dr. Martin Binks and Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar**


**Dr. Jamie Cooper**


**Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar**

Texas Tech Today on February 9, 2015 entitled ‘Infectobesity Researcher Becomes First Chair of Nutritional Sciences Department’. [http://goo.gl/lhRSP5](http://goo.gl/lhRSP5)

**Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar and Dr. Vijay Hegde**


**Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa and Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar**


**Dr. Debra Reed**


**Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa and Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar**

Professors in National Media

**Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar**


**Dr. Jamie Cooper**

Mother Nature Network on February 26, 2015 entitled ‘How to shed winter weight before winter is over’. [http://goo.gl/aAoSbe](http://goo.gl/aAoSbe)

**Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar**

Provided comment on the topic of Puerto Rico proposed law to fine parents of obese children. The syndicated story was picked up by dozens of international news outlets resulting in significant coverage (partial list below):

- CNN television on February 26, 2015 entitled ‘Should parents be punished for obese kids?’ [http://goo.gl/hV8Z1j](http://goo.gl/hV8Z1j)

**Dr. Martin Binks**

Provided comment through multiple syndicated international news outlets (partial list below) on New FDA approvals of pharmacological agents and devices for obesity treatment and also the topic of ‘healthy obesity’

- Reuters (syndicated news service)
GNO Events

• Walking Group  • Wellness Day  • Arbor Day  • Cinco de Mayo

Graduate Nutrition Organization (GNO) is an organization for graduate students in the Nutritional Sciences Department at Texas Tech University, under the guidance of Dr. Debra Reed. GNO manages meetings and events for members and also seeks to enhance TTU campus-wide awareness of nutrition-related issues.

Walking Group

GNO has organized a walking group to increase physical activity and networking among graduate students and faculty across departments. The walking group meets every Tuesday and Friday at noon. They meet at the Preston Smith Statue on the south side of the Administration Building--- come join us!

Wellness Day

GNO collaborates with the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) to provide Wellness Day for all TTU graduate students on the last Wednesday of each month at the new TTU Graduate Center in the basement of the Administration building from 5:00-6:00 pm. The topic for Wellness Day varies from month to month, and it is a good opportunity for graduate students to learn varied topics related to health and nutrition.

Arbor Day

Arbor Day 2015 is on April 24, and it is an annual planting tradition event. It provides an opportunity for students and faculty members to beautify the Tech campus. Contact Seth Klobodu (selorm.klobodu@ttu.edu) to volunteer.

Cinco de Mayo

Nutritional Sciences undergraduate and graduate students will be involved in a partnership with NS alumna, Robin Lucky and TTU Hospitality Services, to provide an educational event on avocados at the TTU Leisure Pool on May 5, 2015.
Other Announcements and Notices

- **Obesity Research Cluster (ORC)**
- **35th Annual US. Foods Seminar**

### Obesity Research Cluster (ORC)

The Obesity Research Cluster fosters and enhances interdisciplinary basic clinical translational and community translational research; to understand the causes and complications of obesity; and develop methods that will help prevent and treat obesity along with its related complications. Click here to join ORC and the Listserv to receive the seminar reminder and ORC events information:

- Join ORC Listserv: [http://goo.gl/n3IJQ4](http://goo.gl/n3IJQ4)

### Nutrition and Obesity Seminars

The Obesity Research Cluster Weekly Seminar series highlights presentations from faculty and students at TTU and HSC as well as invited speakers who are experts in obesity and related disorders. Seminar series are being held this spring semester from 4:00-5:00 pm every Thursday in room HS212. A world-renowned obesity expert, Dr. David Allison, will give a lecture on Obesity, Myths and Facts as an external speaker on April 30, 2015.

### The ORC second annual meeting

This meeting will be held on May 6, 2015. Highlights will include networking activities, ORC progress report, student poster competition and awards.

The deadline for graduate students to submit their abstracts for the poster competition is 5pm on April 24, 2015. More information will be posted at this link: [http://goo.gl/eiwtv7](http://goo.gl/eiwtv7)

### 35th Annual US. Foods Seminar

This annual seminar will be held on May 19-20, 2015 in College of Human Science Room 169. In this seminar series, internal and external experts will present the various topics in food and nutritional sciences. Learn more about [US Foods](http://www.usfoods.com).

### Contact Us

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