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STATE of the INDUSTRY

Wednesday, October 29, 2025
Tobin Center
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STATE of the INDUSTRY

An Evening of Storytelling Celebrating Healthcare and Bioscience in San Antonio



Maria A. Gonzalez Porras, PhD
UT San Antonio

Dr. Gonzalez Porras, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, leads research on engineering adipose tissue (fat) cell function for obesity and cancer. She did her undergraduate work in her hometown of Medellin, Colombia, and completed her PhD at the Mayo Clinic. She received the Voelcker Fund Young Investigator Award in 2024 and the Mays Cancer Center Early Career Pilot Award in 2023.



COL (Dr.) Kevin Kelly
Brooke Army Medical Center

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, COL Kelly completed medical training at the Ohio State University College of Medicine. He earned Master's degrees in Business Administration and Natural Resources Planning. Commander of Brooke Army Medical Center since May of 2025, he has served for 20+ years as a physician and leader, including the COVID response and Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Ricardo Carrion, Jr., PhD
Texas Biomedical Research Institute

With more than 15 years of experience in microbiology and parasitology, and degrees from St. Marys Univ, UIW and UT Health San Antonio, Dr. Carrion's lab aims to advance vaccine and therapy development for illnesses caused by viruses. Many have no current cure, and no approved vaccines. The team safely studies pathogens using the Institute's maximum containment biosafety level 4 laboratory.



Ratna Vadlamudi, PhD
**UT Health San Antonio and
VA Medical Center**

The Tom C. and Patricia H. Frost Endowed Chair for Cancer Research and Education, Dr. Vadlamudi also leads the Mays Cancer Center's cancer development program. His research focuses on therapeutics for breast, ovarian, and other gynecological cancers. His research is funded by grants from the Department of Defense, the National Cancer Institute, and the VA Merit Award.



Lauren Cornell, PhD
US Air Force 59th Medical Wing

Lauren Cornell is Lead Scientist of Diagnostics and Therapeutics at 59th Medical Wing. She earned a BS at Texas A&M Univ, and a Master's in Biomedical Engineering and a PhD at UT Health San Antonio. She previously conducted research at Oxford University and the Army Institute of Surgical Research, and has received numerous honors for her work as a scientist and as the co-founder of a start-up company.