

## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

### Dr. Catalina Pislariu (Biology)

Awarded a grant in the amount of \$135,000 from the National Science Foundation for her project titled "CAREER: Deciphering the roles of nodule-specific PLAT domain genes in the nitrogen-fixing symbiosis and host strain specificity."

### Dr. Micah Thornton (Mathematics)

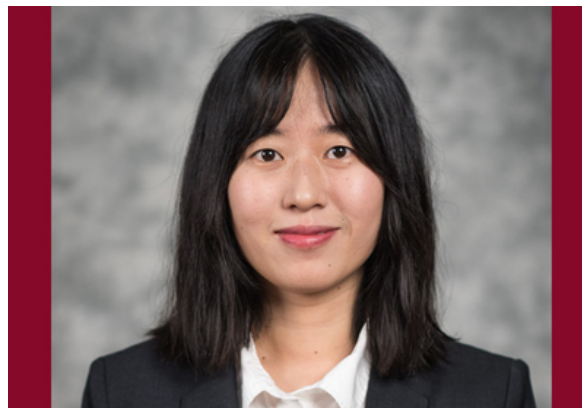
Awarded a grant in the amount of \$64,420 from Anametric, Inc, for his project titled "Characterizing Entropy Sources, Mixers, and Diffusers."

### Dr. Islam Akef Ebeid (Computer Science)

Awarded a grant in the amount of \$210,000 from the National Science Foundation for his project titled "Collaborative Research: CISE-MSI: RDP: SCH: Towards Prompt-Free Structured Textual Annotations Generation for Multimodal Medical Image Segmentation."

## Dr. Lin awarded three research grants

Dr. Shiru Lin, of Chemistry and Biochemistry has been awarded grants for three research projects, including two with colleagues from TWU's Nutrition & Food Sciences.



Lin earned a \$55,000 grant from the American Chemical Society for her project "Unravelling CO2 Reduction Pathway Selectivity: Computational Insights into Cu, Fe, and Ni-Doped Graphene and Fe, Ni-Doped Alloy Catalysts."

[Click here for more info](#)



## Dr. Verdin awarded Spencer Grant

Dr. Azucena Verdin of School of Human Sciences has been awarded a grant from the Spencer Foundation titled "A Pláticas Based Case Study Using the Coyolxauhui Framework"

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### Dr. Jim Alexander and Ms. Cassandra Fulton-Withrow (LEMIT)

Awarded a grant in the amount of \$667,840 on a Sam Houston State University on a grant from the State of Texas for their project titled "Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas"

### TWU Researchers Awarded Build Dairy Grant



Dr. Xiaofen Du from Nutrition & Food Sciences and Dr. Shiru Lin from Chemistry and Biochemistry have been awarded a grant from Build Dairy to investigate protein-flavor interactions in whey protein through an innovative combination of computational simulations, instrumental analysis, and sensory evaluation.

## TARGET (Equipment) Program Fall 2025 Awardees

- Dr. Dayna Averitt, Dr. DiAnna Hynds, & Dr. Lakeisha Lewter (Biology)
- Dr. Ashley Bender, Dr. David Gardner & Ms. Julie Libersat (Language, Culture, & Gender Studies, Computer Science, and Visual Arts)
- Dr. Islam Akef Ebeid (Computer Science)
- Dr. Ting Han, Dr. Yunxiang Li & Dr. Manal Omary (Chemistry & Biochemistry)
- Dr. Gustavo Salazar & Dr. David Gardner (Chemistry & Biochemistry and Computer Science)
- Dr. Danhui Wang, Dr. Xiaofen Du & Dr. Shiru Lin (Nutrition & Food Sciences and Chemistry & Biochemistry)

[Click here for more info](#)

## Recent Faculty Publications

<p><b>Physical Therapy</b></p>	<p>Rupal Patel, Sarah Luna, David Doupbrate, Byeong Yeob Choi, Bertha Flores and Lisa Pompeii: "High Amount of Physical Activity on Work Days Is Associated with More Intense Musculoskeletal Symptoms in Nurses: Seven-Day Observational Study"</p>
<p>Lee Warren Brown, Marwan Al-Shammari, Soumendra Banerjee: "The Impact of Managerial Ability on Firm Optimal Distinctiveness: The Moderating Effect of CEO Tenure"</p>	<p><b>Business</b></p>
<p><b>Health Sciences</b></p>	<p>Janice Kishi Chow, Noralyn Davel Pickens, Kendall Lin, Lindsey Hammond, Christian Phillips, Hui-Ting Goh, Madeleine Packer, Veronica Burrola: "Three-Point Perspective on Poststroke Fatigue: Grounded Theory Study"</p>

## CREATIVE ARTS & HUMANITIES GRANTS PROGRAM

The Creative Arts and Humanities Grants Program supports TWU faculty projects in areas which ordinarily have very limited opportunity to receive external grant funding yet have the potential to enhance scholarship and TWU's profile nationally and internationally.

### FALL 2025 COMPETITION AWARDEES

**Dr. Richard Shuster**  
(Music)

"Movement for Pianist & Dancer"

**Dr. Genevieve West**  
(Language, Culture, & Gender Studies)

"Women's Fiction from the Pittsburgh Courier"

To learn more about the important internal funding opportunities and deadlines [Click here](#)

For more information about Research Innovation and Corporate Engagement opportunities, contact Dr. Holly Hansen-Thomas (hhansenthomas@twu.edu) or the appropriate college's Associate Dean of Research.

## Research Enhancement Program

The primary purpose of the Research Enhancement Program is to provide seed funding (up to \$15,000) so that faculty members will be able to compete more successfully for larger research grants from external sources for continuation of their research.

- [Dr. Dowon Choi \(Psychology & Philosophy\)](#). "AI-Powered Chatbot (TXPsyBOT) for Supporting School Psychologists (Trainees) with State and Federal Regulations in Texas"
- [Dr. Shaochen Huang & Dr. Hui-Ting Goh \(Kinesiology and Physical Therapy - Dallas\)](#). "Beyond Motor Recovery: Detecting Perceptual-Cognitive Deficits via Coordination and Brain Network Analysis in Stroke Survivors"
- [Dr. Sushmita Sinha \(Biology\)](#). "Investigating P2RY8 mediated immune-modulation in pediatric multiple sclerosis"
- [Dr. Zhipeng Tao \(Nutrition & Food Sciences\)](#). "The role of dynamic palmitoylation in adipogenesis and adiposity"
- [Dr. Danhui Wang \(Nutrition & Food Sciences\)](#). "Enhancing the stability and functionality of whey protein via fermentation using exopolysaccharide producing lactic acid bacteria"
- [Dr. Helen Everts \(Nutrition & Food Sciences\)](#). "Role of Vitamin A metabolism in skin following ultraviolet light"

For more information [Click here](#)

### Save the Date:

The 2026 Student Creative Arts and Research Symposium will be held on the Denton campus and virtually Tuesday, April 21, and Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

[Click here for more info](#)

As a Carnegie-classified R2 university, TWU encourages our undergraduate and graduate students to actively participate in faculty-led research  
[Click here for more info](#)