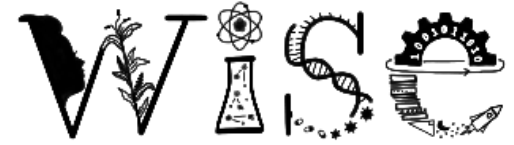




TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

College of Arts
& Sciences



Conference Schedule

**Attendees will choose one speaker per session*

February 22, 2025

9:00-9:30 a.m. Check-In/Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Welcome and WISE Introductions

9:45 a.m. Session I

Dr. Ivett Leyva, Department Head and Arthur McFarland Professor of Aerospace Engineering, Texas A&M University
MSC 2406 A – *Resilience, Perseverance and Humor in Aerospace Leadership*

Dr. Barbara Gastel, Professor of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences and of Humanities in Medicine, Program Director of Science & Technology Journalism, Texas A&M University
MSC 2406 B – *Bridging Boundaries: An Unconventional STEM-Related Career*

10:35 a.m. Break

10:50 a.m. Session II

Dr. Tatyana Igumenova, Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Texas A&M University
MSC 2406 A – *Five Decisions that Shaped my Scientific Career*

Dr. Tapasree Roy Sarkar, Assistant Professor of Biology, Texas A&M University
MSC 2406 B – *Fueled by Curiosity: My Journey as a Cancer Researcher and STEM Educator*

11:40 a.m. Break

11:45 a.m. Lunch and Keynote Speaker

Dr. Fuhui Tong, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School, Texas A&M University
MSC 2400 – *Breaking Barriers: A Journey of Growth, Leadership, and Empowerment*

12:45 p.m. Susan M. Arseven '75 'Make-a-Difference' Memorial Awards Presentation

1:00 p.m. Session III

Dr. Perla Balbuena, University Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry, Mike O'Connor Chair, Texas A&M University
MSC 2406 A – *Reflections on my Journey as a Professor and as a Scientist*

Dr. Natalie Johnson, Associate Professor of Environmental Health, Chair of the Interdisciplinary Program in Toxicology, Texas A&M University
MSC 2406 B – *Creating a Non-Toxic Career in the Field of Toxicology*

1:50 p.m. Break

2:00 p.m. Speakers' Panel

2:30 p.m. Closing Remarks