

**Board of Trustees
November 12, 2019
President's Report**

Honors and Awards to Members of the University Community

1. Jason Shepherd, Ph.D., Associate Professor of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy at University of Utah Health and Jon M. Huntsman Presidential Chair at the University of Utah has received the National Institutes of Health Director's Transformative Research Award. The prestigious award promotes cross-cutting, interdisciplinary approaches to research that could create or challenge existing paradigms. Shepherd's award comes from the NIH High-Risk, High-Reward Research program that catalyzes scientific discovery by supporting highly innovative research proposals that, due to their inherent risk, may struggle in the traditional peer review process despite their transformative potential. Program applicants are encouraged to think outside-the-box and to pursue trailblazing ideas in any area of research relevant to the NIH mission. Research in the Shepherd lab focuses on elucidating how the brain stores information from the molecular level through in vivo neuronal networks, and how these processes go awry in neurological disorders.
2. Viola Rieke, PhD, and Lubdha Shah, M.D., at the University of Utah School of Medicine, Department of Radiology have been awarded funding from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to develop a non-invasive, drug-free, and low-risk treatment option for lower back pain. The goal of this project is to develop a completely non-invasive, drug-free and low-risk treatment option for lower back pain. Chronic LBP can prove to be a challenge in diagnosis and pain management due to multiple potential pain sources with both biomechanical and inflammatory mechanisms. Opioids are ineffective due to their off-target toxicity, development of tolerance and potential for abuse, whereas interventional procedures are target-specific but may come with risks and lack long-term efficacy. Focused ultrasound (FUS) is a lower risk, completely non-invasive method that allows to treat axial LBP through neuromodulation. The central goal of this study is to understand how FUS can decrease nerve conduction, which can be used to alleviate pain sensation. NIH has awarded \$945 million in total fiscal year 2019 funding for grants, contracts and cooperative agreements across 41 states, of which, \$2.5 million has been awarded to U School of Medicine.
3. The University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law has been named a "Best Value Law School" in the fall 2019 issue of PreLaw magazine, a publication of The National Jurist. The list is designed to recognize schools where graduates have a great chance at passing the bar exam and getting a job without taking out significant debt. Also recognized for excellence in the latest issue are the criminal law, tax law, business law and pro bono programs.
4. University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law Professor Tony Anghie was elected an associate member of the Institut de Droit Internationale at its recent session at the Hague. The Institut consists of prominent international lawyers and is generally considered to be the most authoritative and prestigious world academy of international law. The Institut was founded in 1873 in Ghent, Belgium, and was conceived of as an institution independent of any governmental influence which would be able both to contribute to the development of international law and act so

that it might be implemented. In 1904, the Institute was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition of its action in favour of arbitration among States, a peaceful means of settling disputes.

5. Dr. Lauren Birgenhier and Dr. Carl Johnson have won a 2019 GRIT Award for She Persisted. The GRIT AwardsSM & Best Energy WorkplacesSM, sponsored by Medallia, were created to recognize women leaders in energy and the male allies who advocate for their advancement. Nearly 300 nominations poured in from across the world from oil and gas, utilities, and alternative energy companies, academia, and non-government organizations (NGOs). Best Energy WorkplacesSM were added in 2019 to give recognition to outstanding energy employers. Winners were selected through a blind application review by six external judges and announced live at an awards ceremony on October 10, 2019, in Houston, Texas, with portions broadcast online.

Distinguished Visitors, Research and Items of Interest

1. The Obert C. and Grace A. Tanner Humanities Center at the University of Utah presents the 2019 Tanner Lecture on Human Values given by artist and designer, Maya Lin, Wednesday, November 20th, 7 p.m. at Kingsbury Hall. Lin interprets the natural world through history, politics and culture, creating a body of work that balances art and architecture. Lin's installations, studio artworks, architecture and memorials, such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, become a part of the land, merging physical and psychological environments, presenting a new way of seeing the world. In 2009 she was awarded the National Medal of Arts — the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence. Lin was awarded in 2016 with the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the nation's highest civilian honor, presented to those who have made "an especially meritorious contribution to the United States," for her widely acclaimed memorials.