



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
Senate Resolution 25.02

(Stating the sentiments of the TTUHSC Student Senate regarding recipient Dr. Susan Bergeson of the 2025 Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award)

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson, a distinguished member of the TTUHSC faculty, has been recognized with the prestigious Distinguished Teaching Award, granted by the Chancellor's Council through its Academic Affairs & Recognition initiative, an honor that represents the highest level of academic excellence and dedication to student success within the TTU System;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson has been a dedicated and exceptional member of the faculty at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the academic and professional growth of students; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson has exemplified the value of visionary leadership as Program Director for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Biotechnology Master's Program, notably by expanding the program to our Abilene campus and pioneering a dual M.S./M.B.A degree program in collaboration with Texas Tech University's School of Law and Rawls College of Business, further creating opportunities for students and expanding the program's impact; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson's innovative approach involves modifying existing antibiotics to eliminate antimicrobial properties while retaining anti-inflammatory effects, demonstrating her commitment to repurposing known compounds for novel therapeutic applications; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson has demonstrated a commitment to advancing scientific knowledge through her leadership in developing novel treatments for Alcohol Use Disorder, focusing on innovative research in drug development and sex differences in Alcohol Use Disorder, which has resulted in securing over \$13 million in funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, including a \$7.25 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to further this critical research; and,

1. Bergeson, Collaborators Developing Novel Treatment for Alcohol Use Disorder.  
<https://dailydose.ttuhscc.edu/2020/november/bergeson-collaborators-developing-novel-treatment-for-alcohol-use-disorder.aspx>.
2. TTUHSC Faculty Receive Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching and Research Awards.  
<https://dailydose.ttuhscc.edu/2024/december/chancellors-awards.aspx>
3. Pillars of peer support: advancing the role of peer support specialists in promoting recovery  
<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/17556221211236457/full/html>
4. NIAAA Scientific Review Group Rosters  
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5. Initiatives of The Chancellor's Council  
<https://www.give2tech.com/s/1422/c22/interior.aspx?sid=1422&gid=1005&pgid=3827>

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson's NIH awards were jointly funded by TTUHSC and South Plains Biotechnology, Inc., a Texas Tech University System HUB start-up company in which she was previously a part owner, highlighting her role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship within the academic community; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson, in collaboration with her team, has filed patent protection for 72 compounds and is currently funded by two NIH grants to identify the best lead compound and complete pharmacology and toxicology studies for Investigational New Drug approval by the FDA; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson's research exemplifies a comprehensive translational pipeline, encompassing drug design, manufacturing standardization, safety evaluations, and progression to FDA Phase I clinical trials, underscoring her dedication to advancing treatments from the laboratory to patient care; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson has served on 35 master's and dissertation committees, contributing to the academic growth and research development of numerous students; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson has an extensive publication record, with 59 research works that have garnered over 2,400 citations, reflecting her profound impact on the field of neuroscience; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson has served on multiple NIH study sections, including the Epidemiology, Prevention and Behavior Research Study Section (AA-2) and the Neuroscience and Behavior Study Section (AA-4)<sup>4</sup>, and numerous special review panels, contributing her expertise to the evaluation of scientific research proposals; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson was the organizing author of a pivotal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences paper in 2006, which conducted meta-analyses of high-throughput genomic datasets from multiple alcohol researchers across the U.S., shifting the field's focus toward neuroimmune functioning as a translational target; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson has been recognized with numerous awards, including the TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy Research Days Distinguished Lecturer, Outstanding Biotechnology Teach Award, Dean's Douglas M. Stocco Scholarship/Research Award, and the Mortar Board Apple Polishing Award from TTU, reflecting her excellence in teaching and mentoring; and,

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WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson holds the title of University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry at TTUHSC School of Medicine, reflecting her exceptional contributions to academia and research; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson's dedication to education and research has significantly contributed to the prestige and impact of the TTUHSC community, inspiring both colleagues and students alike; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson has served as an outstanding research mentor, emphasizing critical thinking and bridging basic science with real-world clinical applications to inspire the next generation of scientists and healthcare professionals; and,

WHEREAS, Over her 18 years at TTUHSC, Dr. Bergeson has mentored numerous students including PhD, M.D/PhD, masters, and undergraduate students, guiding them in their academic and research endeavors; therefore,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson has co-authored significant studies, including "Pillars of peer support: Advancing the role of peer support specialists in promoting recovery," which examines and develops principles of peer support services, contributing to the enhancement of mental health care practices<sup>3</sup>; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson is the only Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences faculty member to receive the GSBS Researcher and Mentor of the Year award twice<sup>2</sup>, clearly demonstrating her exceptional contributions to student membership and scientific advancement; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson's work has garnered significant recognition, including the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award, reflecting her dual commitment to pioneering research and excellence in education; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson's research exemplifies strong collaborative leadership, working with diverse teams including clinical investigators, pharmacologists, statisticians, and experts in AUD treatment, demonstrating her ability to bring together multidisciplinary expertise for complex research challenges<sup>1</sup>; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson has demonstrated entrepreneurial leadership in translating academic research into potential clinical treatments through South Plains Biotechnology, showcasing the potential for university research to impact patient care directly; and,

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WHEREAS, Dr. Bergeson has held key editorial roles, including Editor-in-Chief of Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly, and actively contributes to the advancing education and research within the TTUHSC. Dr. Bergeson has played a significant role in helping and advancing towards excellence within the scientific community and within TTUHSC; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center congratulates Dr. Bergeson on receiving the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award and expresses its heartfelt gratitude for her ongoing commitment to excellence in teaching, research and her remarkable contributions to the TTUHSC community; therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the Journal and that copies be sent to **Lori-Rice Spearman Ph.D.**, *President of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center*; **Darrin D'Agostino, D.O., MPH, MBA.**, *Provost and Chief Academic Officer*; **Brandt Schneider Ph.D.**, *Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Science*; **Michael Blanton Ph.D.**, *Senior Associate Dean*; **Kari Wood Dickson Ph.D.**, *Associate Academic Dean of Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences*; **Tedd L. Mitchell M.D.**, *Chancellor, Texas Tech University System*; **John C. DeToledo M.D.**, *Dean of the School of Medicine*; **Susan Bergeson Ph.D.**, *Director, Biotechnology Master's Program*; **Komaraiah Palle Ph.D.**, *Biotechnology Graduate Student Advisor*; **Marianna Souriall**, *Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Toreador*, and to the students of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

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Passed the Senate, 4 February 2025



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Jesse Burnett  
President, Student Government Association

CC: Journal

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