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Released: January 20, 2010

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Infectious Disease Expert Jose Lopez-Ribot to give lecture on Antifungal Drug Discovery Today at Health Science Center

(Jan. 20, 2010) ... [The University of Texas at San Antonio](http://www.utsa.edu) (UTSA) invites the community to attend a translational research seminar featuring Jose Lopez-Ribot at [The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio](http://www.utsa.edu) (Health Science Center) campus today. The seminar is the fifth in a monthly series of [Seminars in Translational Research](http://www.utsa.edu) (STRECH), which are jointly hosted by UTSA and the Health Science Center to foster innovative research collaborations between the two institutions.

From 1996-2005, Lopez-Ribot served as a faculty member in the Infectious Diseases Division at the Health Science Center's School of Medicine. In 2005, he joined UTSA's faculty and he is currently A professor of biology and a member of the South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Lopez-Ribot's research group studies *Candida albicans*, a natural fungus found in the body that often causes infections in individuals with weakened immune systems and is one of the leading causes of hospital-acquired infections. Lopez-Ribot's team studies how *C. albicans*

filaments lead to virulence and how the fungus forms harmful biofilms. He is also developing new antifungal agents to prevent and treat *C. albicans* infections.

A native of Spain with doctorates in Pharmacy and Microbiology, Lopez-Ribot has received more than \$14.3 million in funding as principal or co-investigator of infectious disease research projects. In addition, he has published more than 120 scholarly articles on a variety of topics in infectious disease and he serves on the editorial board of several scientific journals.

Lopez-Ribot's seminar, "High Throughput Screening for Antifungal Drug Discovery," is scheduled for Wed., Jan. 20, 2010, 4-5 p.m. in the Academic and Administration Building, Room 110 on the Health Science Center's Central Campus at 7703 Floyd Curl Drive in San Antonio.

At the Jan. 20 lecture, Lopez-Ribot will address the challenges faced by the antifungal drug discovery process, how biofilms play a complicating role in that process, and his laboratory's work in developing antifungal agents that prevent the formation of candidiasis biofilms.

STRECH is a collaborative project between the Health Science Center's Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science / Novel Clinical and Translational Methodologies, UTSA's [Research Center in Minority Institutions](#), and the Joint UTSA-Health Science Center Graduate Program in [Biomedical Engineering](#).

The monthly STRECH seminars bring together investigators from basic, clinical and social sciences to highlight the bidirectional and multiple stages of the scientific translation of research discoveries, from the laboratory bench to the bedside and, ultimately, the community.

To learn more about the Jan. 20 lecture and upcoming STRECH seminars, visit <http://translationalseminars.utsa.edu/>.

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The University of Texas at San Antonio is one of the fastest growing higher education institutions in Texas and the second largest of nine academic universities and six health institutions in the UT System. As a multicultural institution of access and excellence, UTSA aims to be a national research university providing access to educational excellence and preparing citizen leaders for the global environment.

UTSA serves nearly 29,000 students in 64 bachelor's, 48 master's and 21 doctoral degree programs in the colleges of Architecture, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Honors, Liberal and Fine Arts, Public Policy, Sciences and Graduate School. Founded in 1969, UTSA is an intellectual and creative resource center and a socioeconomic development catalyst for Texas and beyond. More information online at www.utsa.edu.

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