



Academy of Distinguished Researchers 2023 Inductees



Astrid E. Cardona, Ph.D.

Professor and Department Chair, Molecular
Microbiology and Immunology

Dr. Cardona is a scientist educator who joined the faculty at UTSA in 2009 and established a research program in neuroinflammation. Dr. Cardona's laboratory studies the interplay between the nervous and immune systems in diabetes and multiple sclerosis (MS). She is interested in clarifying the protective and detrimental roles of the innate immune system, determining the origin of tissue injury factors that account for disease progression, and testing neuroprotective therapies via modulation of immune cell function.

Dr. Cardona's team has generated novel experimental models to address the role of macrophages in disease processes that lead to blindness in diabetic retinopathy and the loss of nerve cells in MS. Her research has been supported by the NIH, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the San Antonio Area Foundation, and the San Antonio Medical Foundation.

Dr. Cardona received the TAMACC Women of Distinction Award and the UTSA Faculty Mentor Award for Undergraduate Research. Dr. Cardona is a member of the American Society for Neurochemistry and the American Association of Immunologists and a fellow of the Aspire Leadership Academy.



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Joycelyn Moody, Ph.D.

Sue E. Denman Distinguished Chair in American Literature

In 2007, Dr. Joycelyn Moody's joined the faculty at UTSA. Dr. Moody's research focuses on representations of Black people's lives and lived experiences, as constructed by themselves. As a professor of Black Auto/Biography, Dr. Moody teaches students how to read a variety of complex, multivocal narratives by people of African descent. More broadly, her research brings together issues from Life Writing, Black Studies, African American literature, and Black feminist theories. As a committed academic editor, Dr. Moody works with colleagues around the world who are also dedicated to creating opportunities for other scholars, especially faculty and independent scholars from underrepresented groups, to publish innovations in transnational Black literary and cultural studies.

In 2023, Dr. Moody received the "Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and the African Diaspora Faculty Fellow" and the "Fulbright Visiting Scholar Speakers Award."