

Curriculum Vitae

Kelly T. Varga, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Life and Health Sciences
School of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of North Texas at Dallas
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

MAY 2023- PRESENT

Associate Professor of Biology, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Department of Life and Health Sciences
School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2019 – PRESENT

Assistant Professor of Biology, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Department of Life and Health Sciences
School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2015 – 2019

Lecturer of Biology, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Department of Life and Health Sciences
School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2014-2015

Lecturer of Biology, ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY

School of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of Biological Sciences

EDUCATION

MAY 2014

Doctorate of Philosophy, THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Degree Program- Biological Sciences
Emphasis in Integrative Neurosciences

MAY 2007

Bachelors of Arts, ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY

Degree Program- Biological Sciences
Emphasis in Hormones and Behavior

MAY 2005

Associates of Science, DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2018-2024

Executive Director, Community Basket, Mobile Farmers Market, Center for Socioeconomic Mobility THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Founder and creator of a mobile food program aimed at engaging students, faculty and community in research in and around food insecurity in southern Dallas.

2017-PRESENT

Affiliated Faculty, The Urban SERCH Institute THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Worked in facilitating positive social change and citizen development in Dallas' southern sector through service, education, and research initiatives reflective of community values and needs.

2017-2017

Interim Department Coordinator, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

CULTIVATED EXPERIENCE

2017, 2018

Site Director for Girls Inc. Summer Eureka STEM Summer Camp, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Organized and executed a week-long STEM summer camp for the nationally recognized organization, Girls INC. Coordinated agenda, recruited UNTD faculty to volunteer time in participation and provided science instruction for roughly 50 young girls for two years.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

2009-2015

Graduate Research Assistant, Integrative Neurosciences Program, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

2009-2015

Laboratory Manager in Human Genomics, CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL RESEARCH CENTER, AFFILIATION WITH NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

2005-2007

Research Assistant, Undergraduate Neuroendocrinology Lab, ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023-PRESENT

Faculty Peer Mentor, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

2023-PRESENT

Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee Member, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

2023-PRESENT

LAS Peer Observation of Teaching Committee Member, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

2022--PRESENT

Core Curriculum Committee Member, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

2020-PRESENT

Faculty Senator, Tenure-Track Faculty, Faculty Senate, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

2019-2020

Secretary for Faculty Alliance, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

2017-PRESENT

Affiliate Faculty Member of SERCH Institute, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Promote SERCH's mission and position within the community to address community-driven solutions through University support.

2017-2020

Career Readiness (CRED) Program Implementation Council, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Assisted in the organization, implementation and execution of the University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for the 2018 SACSCOC reaffirmation of accreditation.

2018-2019

McNair Scholars Program, Faculty Mentor THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Served as a TRIO program faculty mentor to undergraduate students. This scholarship is a targeted academic, social and emotional support for low-income, first generation college students or underrepresented post-baccalaureate groups- African American, Hispanic or Native American students. The goal of this program is to encourage students to participate in research and enroll in graduate programs after successful degree completion.

COURSES TAUGHT (*DENOTES GRADUATE COURSE)

<i>Anatomy and Physiology, I & II</i>	<i>Biomedical Criminalistics</i>	<i>Urban Ecology</i>
<i>Applications of Learning Foundations</i>	<i>Cell Biology</i>	<i>Teaching College Biology for Educators*</i>
<i>Biology for Educators</i>	<i>Cell Biology Lab</i>	
<i>Biology I for Majors</i>	<i>Cellular Neurobiology Lab*</i>	
<i>Biology I for Majors Lab</i>	<i>Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy Lab</i>	
<i>Biology II for Majors</i>	<i>Environmental Science</i>	
<i>Biology II for Majors Lab</i>	<i>Environmental Science Lab</i>	
<i>Biology for Non Majors</i>	<i>Microbiology Lab</i>	
<i>Biology for Non Majors Lab</i>	<i>Neuropsychopharmacology</i>	
<i>Biology of the Brain</i>	<i>Neuroscience with Lab</i>	

HONORS AND AWARDS

2019

Honorable Mention, Undergraduate Student Mentorship, Undergraduate Research Symposium, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

2018

Excellence in Service Award, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

2015

Faculty Travel Award, ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY

"Synaptotagmin I and Phosphatidylserine: A necessary interaction for Clathrin-Mediated Endocytic Kinetics." Given in support of attendance to the Society for Integrated and Comparative Behavior- \$2000; Awarded.

2014

Graduate Student Travel Award, THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Given in support of attendance to present at the Society for Neuroscience- \$500; Awarded

2013

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Travel Award, THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Given in support of attendance to present at the Society for Neuroscience- \$1000; Awarded.

2012

Best Teaching Assistant THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Nominated by the undergraduate colloquium in Biological Sciences; only one award given per academic year.

2007

Excellence in Biological Research Award, ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY

Acknowledges one student per year who has excelled in the conduct of original research projects.

2007

St. Xavier University Research Award, ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY

Acknowledges one student per year who has excelled in the conduct of original research projects- \$500; Awarded.

GRANTS AND SPONSORED PROJECTS

2022-PRESENT

Santander Consumer Foundation, SANTANDER

“Community Basket: A Mobile Farmers Market”

Principal Investigator- \$75,000; Awarded.

2022-PRESENT

Women’s Philanthropy Institute, DALLAS FOUNDATION

“Community Basket: A Mobile Farmers Market”

Principal Investigator- \$50,000; Awarded.

2021-PRESENT

Toyota University Challenge Grant, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

“Community Basket: A Mobile Farmers Market”

Principal Investigator- \$386,000; Awarded

2019

United States Department of Agriculture, submitted through Food Maven, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

“Snap Market Program”

Partner- \$2,422,500- (Not Awarded).

2018-2019

Toyota University Challenge Grant, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

“Does Healthy Eating Promote Long-Term Healthy Living?”

Principal Investigator- \$268,000; Awarded

2017

United States Department of Agriculture, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

“Next Stop: Nutrition! Connecting City to Farm through a Mobile Market.”

Co-Principal Investigator- \$200,000- Not Awarded.

PEER REVIEW PUBLICATIONS

Lambrin C, **Varga K**, Livingston K, Lorusso N, Dudhia A, Basha R. *Therapeutic Applications of Curcumin and Derivatives in Colorectal Cancer*. Onco Therapeutics, *Accepted, June 2023. Reference holding number, OT-44575.*

Jiang ZJ, Li W, Yao LH, Saed B, Rao Y, Grewe BS, McGinley A, **Varga K**, Alford S, Hu YS, Gong LW. *TRPM7 is critical for short-term synaptic depression by regulating synaptic vesicle endocytosis*. Elife. 2021 Sep 27;10:e66709. doi: 10.7554/eLife.66709. PMID: 34569930; PMCID: PMC8516418. **Impact Factor: 8.14**

Varga K., Marion H. (2021) *Urban Food and Urban Community: A Case for Reinvention*. In: Farazmand A. (eds) Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-31816-5_4086-1

Varga K, Jiang ZJ, Gong LW. Phosphatidylserine is critical for vesicle fission during clathrin-mediated endocytosis. J Neurochem. 2020 Jan;152(1):48-60. doi: 10.1111/jnc.14886. Epub 2019 Oct 27. PMID: 31587282; PMCID: PMC6928437. **Impact Factor: 4.830**

McAdam, R, **Varga, K**, Jiang, X, Young, F, Blandford, V, Gong, L-W, Sossin, W. *The juxtamembrane linker domain of Synaptotagmin 1 is critical for vesicle fission during clathrin-mediated endocytosis*- J.Cell Sci 2015; 128(12): 2229-2235. **Impact Factor 4.220**

Varga, K, Jiang, X, Gong, L-W. *Cell-Attached Capacitance Measurements in Mouse Adrenal Chromaffin Cell*- JOURNAL OF VISUALIZED EXPERIMENTS: JoVE 2014, (92)
Impact Factor 1.050

Yao LH, Rao Y, Bang C, Kurilova S, **Varga K**, Wang CY, Weller BD, Cho W, Cheng J, Gong LW. *Actin polymerization does not provide direct mechanical forces for vesicle fission during clathrin-mediated endocytosis*. J. Neurosci 2013; 33(40): 15793-8. **Impact Factor 5.950**

Yao LH, Rao Y, **Varga K**, Wang CY, Xiao P, Lindau M and Gong LW. *Synaptotagmin 1 is necessary for the Ca²⁺ dependence of clathrin-mediated endocytosis*. J Neurosci 2012; 32: 3778-3785. **Impact Factor 5.950**

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2022

Invited Panelist, Association of University Technology Managers

“Craving Change: The Crossroad of Business and Education in Community”.

Social innovation has presented a unique opportunity of partnership across many traditional spaces. Now more than ever, connection to resources, shared learnings and collective impact is at the forefront of many siloed sectors. A presented case study of how Toyota is engaging with The University of North Texas at Dallas in addressing food insecurity in the southern Dallas region.

2022

Invited Presenter, Lunch and Learn, WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY INSTITUTE (WPI), THE DALLAS FOUNDATION

Presentation to WPI members on the mission and vision of Community Basket, Mobile Market. This was to inform them of our program after being selected as an awardee of one of their community grants.

2021

Invited Presenter, Environmental Science/Biology Colloquium, NEVADA STATE COLLEGE

“Food For Thought: Can Biology Help Solve Food Insecurity?”

Presentation to undergraduate students in the area of environmental and resource science regarding how students can serve the community through their undergraduate degrees.

2020

Invited Presenter, Undergraduate Student Presentation, Social Innovation Meeting, TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA

Undergraduate STEM students engaging on the Mobile Market Project presented to over 120 Toyota team members for their monthly social innovation meeting.

2019

Invited Presenter, Dallas City Council, Senior Affairs Commission, CITY OF DALLAS

“UNT D Fresh Mobile Market Initiative”

Invited presentation to inform the Senior Affairs Commission about the program and its potential partnership with local seniors.

2018

Invited Panelist, DALLAS MAYOR'S STAR COUNCIL

“UNT D Fresh Mobile Market Initiative”

One of five invited guest panelist to discuss programs that are currently tackling food insecurity in Southern Dallas.

2018

Invited presenter, EL CENTRO COLLEGE

"Where Does Undergraduate Research Take You"

2017

Invited Speaker, Texas Hunger Initiative, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

"Food Insecurity: How are we abating the problem?"

Invited Speaker to annual hosting by the THI to discuss the UNTD Mobile Market Program.

2017

Invited Panelist, Town Hall, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

"Food Choices for Healthy Living

Discussion surrounding food choices for disease prevention and the food environment in which you reside.

2015

Invited Speaker, ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY

"Down the Biology Rabbit Hole: A Consideration beyond the Undergraduate Degree".

Beta Beta Beta ("Tri-Beta") National Biology Honor Society internal conference.

2014

Keynote Speaker, ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY

"Reduce, Reuse, Synaptic Vesicle Recycling: a novel look at the kinetics of Clathrin-Mediated Endocytosis."

Beta, Beta, Beta National Biological Honors Society Annual Regional Research Conference.

2014

Departmental Talk, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

"Phosphatidylserine is important in CME."

Invited departmental talk.

2014

Departmental Talk, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

"Understanding the dynamics of clathrin-mediated endocytosis."

Invited departmental talk.

2012

Invited Speaker, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO, MEDICAL CAMPUS

"Reuse! Reduce! Recycle! The Synaptic Vesicle Cycle." Chicago Brain Bee annual conference.

CONFERENCE/POSTER PRESENTATION

2022

Research Appreciation Day, Judge, School of Biomedical Sciences, UNTHSC, DALLAS, TX

Selected to judge six graduate student and postdoc posters and presentations for scoring and grading.

2021

National Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA), DALLAS, TX

Varga, K. Marion, H, Fugitt, J. *"Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Story Maps: A Way for Students to Engage and Disseminate Local Food Insecurity."* Panelist Presentation; Undergraduate Research Presentation.

2020

National Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA), ATLANTA, GA

Varga, K. *"Leveraging Academic Capital to Alleviate Food Insecurity: A Socially Innovative Approach in Southern Dallas."* Panelist Presentation.

2019

UNT Dallas Undergraduate Research Symposium, DALLAS, TX

Marion, O, Ayeni, M, Davis, D, **Varga, K.**

“On The Go! Fresh Mobile Market: A Locally-Sourced Initiative to Combat Food Insecurity in Three Southern Dallas Zip Codes.”

2015

Society for Integrated and Comparative Behavior, WEST PALM BEACH, FL

Varga, K.; Yao, LH; Gong, LW.

“Synaptotagmin 1 and Phosphatidylserine: A necessary interaction for Clathrin-Mediated Endocytic Kinetics.”

2014

Chicago Brain Foundation, CHICAGO, IL

Varga, K.; Yao, LH; Gong, LW.

“Phosphatidylserine is Important for CME Kinetics.”

2014

Society for Neuroscience, SAN DIEGO, CA

Varga, K.; Yao, LH; Gong, LW.

“Phosphatidylserine is Important for Clathrin-Mediated Endocytosis.”

2007

Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, MONTEREY, CA

Varga, K.; Krohmer, R.

“Incidence and Density of Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone Immunoreactivity in the Forebrain of Adult Male Red-Sided Garter Snakes.”

2006

Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, PITTSBURG, PA

Varga, K.; Krohmer, R.

“Role of the Hypothalamus-Pituitary Adrenal (HPA) Axis on the Incidence and Density of Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone Immunoreactive (GnRH-ir) Cells in Adult Male Red-Sided Garter Snakes.”

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT/WORKSHOPS

2021-2022

Teaching and Learning Collective Series, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Academic calendar year series focused on covering topics aimed at improving the quality of learning and engaging practices among faculty at UNTD. Series topics included:

- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Classroom (October, 2021)*
- *Challenges of Teaching “Face to Face” in the aftermath of COVID-19 (November, 2021)*
- *Developing Students Writing Skills (February, 2022)*
- *Academic Dishonesty (April, 2022)*

2019

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Workshop. SAN DIEGO STATE COLLEGE, SAN DIEGO, CA.

2016

AP Sciences Curriculum Alignment Workshop. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, DALLAS, TX.

2016

Certificate of Completion, “Effective Teaching Practices” ONLINE COURSE

Association Supporting Computer Users in Education (ASCUE)

2016

Developing and Sharing Best Practices: "From Concept to Classroom" THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CAMPUS, DALLAS, TX.

American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB),

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2021-2024

Food Donation and Outreach to Communities for through Community Basket, Mobile Market DALLAS

Piloted a seven month trial on a tri-weekly schedule throughout the southern Dallas community to partner sites (City of Dallas recreation centers, Youthworld, and YMCA Oak Cliff). This project and program was aimed to understand food insecurity by way of cultivated, fresh produce donation that included nutrition and health education. The mobile market served roughly 4100 community members and donated over 48,500 lbs of healthy eating options to food desert areas in southern Dallas. Learn more about the pilot and program through our website, Community-basket.com

2020

Food Donation and Outreach to Communities Affected by COVID, DALLAS

Provided immediate food access to over 2900 community members during covid from COVID. Produce boxes were provided to families through a \$2000 donation from grant funding for the Mobile Market project in addition to emergency funds supplied through Toyota.

2018

Food Insecurity Think-Tank, DALLAS MAYOR'S STAR COUNCIL.

2017

Community Presentation, Texas Hunger Initiative, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

"Food Insecurity: How are we abating the problem?"

Attended to hear from community, non-profits, hospitals and the City of Dallas about how food insecurity is affecting Dallas; made connections for others in the community and offered university resources to address this need.

2017

Town Hall Presentation, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

"Food Choices for Healthy Living"

Provided a discussion on nutrition choices and how this leads to a healthy mind and body to students, faculty, and community members

2017, 2018

Volunteered at the Thanksgiving Day Giveaway, YOUTHWORLD

Invited and participated with students (50 in total) by volunteering for food donation into community at a Thanksgiving Drive through event.

2016

Student Volunteer Days with the Urban SERCH Institute, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Generated student groups up to 40 and 50 at a time to participate in community clean up at Mills City Community Garden and the Friends of Keist Park Clean Up.

2016

Attendance to National Night-Out, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

Attended National-Night Out event held on UNTD campus as well as out in the community helping with the Mayor's Star Council and VISTA programs that were taking place across south Dallas.

2015

Brighter Bites, O. M. ROBERTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Participated in a food donation drive of bagging produce to give away to community members.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

- *Core Curriculum Committee Member (2022-Present)*
- *Tenure and Promotion Committee Member (2022- present)*
- *Search committee for Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice (2022)*
- *Faculty Senator, Tenure-Track Faculty (2020-present)*
- *Chair, Committee on IRB Practices (2021-Present)*
- *Chair, Tenure and Promotion Policy Committee (2020- present)*
- *Chair, Biology Curriculum Committee (2020-present)*
- *Chair, Search Committee for Lecture of Chemistry (2021)*
- *Search committee for Lecture of Linguistics (2021)*
- *Search committee for Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences (2019)*
- *Search committee for the Director of the TrIO program (2017)*
- *Search committee for Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences (2018)*
- *Search committee for Assistant Professor of Psychology (2018)*
- *Search Committee for Assistant Professor of IT (2017).*
- *Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Planning Committee- worked on document for the re-accreditation of the university (2017-present)*
- *Career Readiness (CRED) Program Implementation Council (2017- present)*
- *Faculty Work Load Committee (2015-2018)*
- *Faculty Grievance Policy Committee- one of three members which rewrote the current handbook policy (2016-2017).*
- *Grade Dispute Committee (2018-present).*
- *Strategic Planning Committee- Developed action plan for recruitment and retention of outstanding teacher-scholars.*

University Club Advisor Roles

- *Faculty Founding Advisor of Biology Club (2015-present)*
- *Faculty Founding Advisor of TriBeta (Biological Honors Society (2017- present)*

BOARD POSITIONS

- *Feed The Streets (2024-present)*
- *Dallas Innerscity Growers Summit (2023-2024).*
- *Mills City Garden Education Board (2019-2024).*
- *University of North Texas at Dallas Fresh Mobile Market/Toyota Advisory Board (2018-present).*