



UT Tyler™

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Associate Director Mycobacteria/Nocardia Clinical Reference Laboratory

LEADERSHIP PROFILE

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WittKieffer





CONTENTS

- 01** Organization Overview
- 06** Position Summary
- 10** Procedure for Candidacy



ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

THE MYCOBACTERIA/NOCARDIA CLINICAL REFERENCE LABORATORY

Founded in 1982, the Mycobacteria/Nocardia Clinical Reference Laboratory at The University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine is a nationally and internationally recognized center of excellence specializing in the identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing of nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM), Nocardia, and other aerobic actinomycetes. For more than four decades, the laboratory has served as a trusted diagnostic and research resource for healthcare providers, hospitals, public health agencies, and reference laboratories throughout the United States.

One of only a few dedicated laboratories of its kind in the nation, the laboratory combines conventional microbiology, advanced molecular diagnostics, DNA sequencing, and emerging next-generation sequencing technologies to deliver accurate organism identification and comprehensive susceptibility testing for complex infectious diseases. The laboratory maintains CLIA certification and CAP accreditation and is widely recognized for its expertise in mycobacteriology and antimicrobial resistance testing.

Led by internationally respected experts in the field, the laboratory integrates clinical service, translational research, and scientific discovery to advance the diagnosis, treatment, and understanding of NTM and related pathogens. Research efforts focus on improving diagnostic methodologies, evaluating novel antimicrobial therapies, monitoring emerging resistance patterns, and supporting epidemiologic investigations of infectious disease outbreaks.

As part of the UT Tyler Health Science Center and the Center for Biomedical Research, the laboratory is uniquely positioned at the intersection of academic medicine and clinical practice. Through national and international collaborations, consultation services, and innovative research, the laboratory continues to play a significant role in advancing patient care and infectious disease management while supporting the School of Medicine's mission of improving health through discovery, education, and clinical excellence.

KEY FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES

- Identification of NTM, Nocardia, and other aerobic actinomycetes using culture, molecular diagnostics, and gene sequencing
- Antimicrobial susceptibility testing for established and investigational therapies
- DNA sequencing and molecular characterization of clinical isolates
- Consultation for complex clinical and epidemiologic cases
- Outbreak investigation and molecular epidemiology studies
- Diagnostic assay development and validation
- Translational and clinical research focused on emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

The University of Texas at Tyler is a public research university and member of The University of Texas System. Following its 2021 merger with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, the university became a fully integrated academic health institution and is home to the first medical school in East Texas. Today, UT Tyler enrolls approximately 11,600 students and offers more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degree programs. Designated as an R2: Doctoral University – High Research Activity, UT Tyler is the highest-ranked Carnegie research institution in East Texas.

The University of Texas at Tyler owes our reputation to the talent, strength, and determination of our faculty and staff. Together, we strive to make this institution bigger and better through creative problem-solving, a spirit of service, unwavering collaboration, and an investment in the next generation of East Texas professionals.

UT Tyler's strategic plan is driven by three guiding priorities; student success, teaching excellence, and service to East Texas.

Student SUCCESS

We exist to ensure that every student who enrolls with us not only completes their degree but also graduates truly prepared to enter the workforce – all while enjoying the journey. We'll prepare our students for a lifetime of success and meaningful impact.

Teaching EXCELLENCE

Faculty-student interactions lay the foundation for the development of knowledge and critical thinking. We recognize the critical role of innovative and effective instruction in preparing students for real-world challenges and lifelong success. We'll be known for teaching excellence.

Serve EAST TEXAS

We are only as strong as our community. By fostering economic growth, advancing healthcare and creating vibrant cultural communities, we will forge a strong bond with our community and serve as a trusted partner for years to come.

OUR MISSION

UT Tyler is a comprehensive public university. We help our students, patients, and community members achieve their educational and health goals by offering a combination of excellence in higher education, research, public service, and advanced healthcare delivery.

OUR VALUES

Servant Leadership: We put the needs of our students, patients, colleagues, and community first.

Excellence: We work collaboratively every day to be better and strive to establish and achieve exemplary outcomes.

Accountability: We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards and manage the resources of UT Tyler wisely.

OUR VISION

We aspire to be an impactful, values-centered institution unified in common purpose; a community that fosters opportunity, committed to providing a uniquely balanced student experience and improving the quality of human life.

EIGHT ACADEMIC COLLEGES & SCHOOLS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Students in the College of Arts and Sciences are a community of innovators and creators. With programs spanning the humanities, natural and social sciences, communications, the arts and career preparation, our students not only launch their careers or pursue graduate studies but also serve and grow the East Texas region and beyond.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Our students are taking the next step toward making a positive impact in the community. The School of Education equips students with the tools and preparation for becoming caring, service-oriented educational professionals and leaders in schools.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Students in the College of Engineering are innovating our world by solving problems using scientific skills, technical creativity, and business knowledge. We are ranked No. 62 in the nation in the U.S. News and World Report's 2025 Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs (no doctorate) and are the third-best undergraduate program in the state.

SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The Soules College of Business gives students the knowledge and experience needed to launch their careers and advance the economy of East Texas and beyond. Our students are prepared after graduation to become business leaders, thinking critically and strategically on every business decision they make.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The School of Health Professions trains students to become driven, caring problem-solvers. Our students are prepared for careers in public health, healthcare administration, psychology, rehabilitation, or exercise and movement science through hands-on instruction that examines existing challenges and equips them to propose forward-looking solutions.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

From registered nurses on the front lines of healthcare delivery to clinicians and researchers contributing to nursing's scholarly output, the UT Tyler School of Nursing prepares students for careers as caring, community-oriented professionals serving East Texas and the nation. Ninety-five percent of our students already have a job or pursue graduate studies after graduation.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Emphasizing a community-centered approach, the UT Tyler School of Medicine combines advanced research, hands-on learning, and partnerships with regional healthcare providers to cultivate a new generation of physicians prepared to improve healthcare outcomes and enhance the quality of life in East Texas. We are the first medical school in East Texas and seventh in The University of Texas System. We offer a robust graduate program with 22 residency and fellowship training programs in areas such as family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, psychiatry, surgery, and anesthesia. Our Master of Biotechnology program's interdisciplinary curriculum emphasizes medical research and biotechnology innovation and prepares students for careers in medical research, diagnostics, and therapeutic development. The new, five-story, 248,000-square-foot Medical Education Building (MEB) in Tyler's Midtown District will support interdisciplinary education for medical students and resident training and will be part of a medical education program expansion throughout the UT Health East Texas Health System.

BEN AND MAYTEE FISCH COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Our PharmD program is at the forefront of pharmacy education, teaching future pharmacists the solutions-oriented skills used every day in the healthcare field — preparing them to become an asset to any healthcare team and to deliver compassionate and effective patient care.

LEADERSHIP



Julie V. Philley, MD President, The University of Texas at Tyler

On June 1, 2024, Julie V. Philley, MD became the sixth president of The University of Texas at Tyler and the first woman to lead the university. A Professor of Medicine and board certified in internal, pulmonary, and critical care medicine, Dr. Philley served as UT Tyler's Executive Vice President for Health Affairs following the 2021 merger of UT Tyler and the UT Health Science Center at Tyler, which created a single, integrated university. She also served as Vice Provost from 2022 until she was appointed President. Dr. Philley played an instrumental role in launching the UT Tyler School of Medicine — the UT System's seventh medical school, which welcomed its first cohort in 2023. Previously, she was Chair of the Department of Medicine and Professor of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center at Tyler.

A native of East Texas, Dr. Philley was raised in Overton. She returned to the region in 2012, serving as Assistant Professor of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center at Tyler, where she continued research efforts in nontuberculous mycobacterial disease and bronchiectasis. An accomplished researcher, Dr. Philley has led numerous studies and published book chapters and articles. She earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Woman's University and her MD at UT Health Houston's McGovern Medical School, completing an internal medicine residency program at Johns Hopkins University/Sinai Hospital and a fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Dallas. Dr. Philley is an active member of the East Texas community. In addition to her board leadership with UT Health East Texas, she also serves on the boards of Hospice of East Texas, the East Texas Quality Care Network, the East Texas Medical Center Foundation, UT Health Tyler, and Teaching Hospitals of Texas, among other community service activities. She and her husband, Richard Lee, live in Tyler, where Lee serves as Music Director of the East Texas Symphony Orchestra.

ABOUT TYLER AND EAST TEXAS

Renowned as the Rose Capital of the United States, Tyler is a growing mid-size city located less than 100 miles east of Dallas. As a regional focal point for entertainment, retail, healthcare, dining, arts, and outdoor recreation, Tyler offers small-town affordability with the comforts of a big city. Whether you want to take an afternoon to hike through Tyler State Park, shop at the Village at Cumberland Park, or eat your way through all the local Tex-Mex joints, Tyler is a vibrant place to live and work. Plus, it was named the no. 1 city in Texas to move to by USA Today. So, beat the crowd and discover Tyler for yourself.

For more information about UT Tyler and East Texas visit: [About | The University of Texas at Tyler](#) and [ut-tyler-profile.pdf](#)





POSITION SUMMARY

The University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine seeks an outstanding physician (MD/DO) or doctoral scientist (PhD) to serve as Associate Director of the Mycobacteria/Nocardia Clinical Reference Laboratory, one of the nation's premier clinical reference laboratories specializing in the identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing of non-tuberculous mycobacteria, nocardia and other aerobic actinomycetes.

The Associate Director will work closely with the Laboratory Director to provide scientific, medical, and operational leadership for a high-complexity clinical laboratory that performs advanced diagnostic testing for healthcare institutions throughout the United States. The successful candidate will participate in all aspects of laboratory medicine, including clinical consultation, quality management, regulatory compliance, assay development and validation, translational research, and graduate medical education.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

CLINICAL LABORATORY LEADERSHIP

- Assist in the medical and scientific oversight of a high-complexity CLIA-certified clinical reference laboratory.
- Interpret and review complex mycobacterial and nocardial identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing results.
- Provide consultation to infectious diseases physicians, clinical microbiologists, pulmonologists, pathologists, and other healthcare providers regarding diagnostic testing and result interpretation.
- Participate in laboratory sign-out and reporting of clinical results.
- Assist in oversight of molecular, phenotypic, microbiologic, and sequencing-based diagnostic testing.



QUALITY ASSURANCE AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

- Assist with compliance under:
 - CLIA
 - CAP Accreditation
 - New York State Department of Health
 - California Department of Public Health
 - College of American Pathologists standards
- Participate in quality management activities including:
 - Quality indicators
 - Proficiency testing
 - Corrective and preventive actions
 - Internal audits
 - Competency assessments
- Assist in preparation for regulatory inspections and accreditation surveys.

LABORATORY OPERATIONS

- Assist with daily laboratory operations and workflow optimization.
- Participate in development and implementation of laboratory policies and standard operating procedures.
- Evaluate and implement new technologies to improve diagnostic accuracy and turnaround times.
- Assist in oversight of laboratory information systems and reporting platforms.
- Collaborate with laboratory supervisors regarding staffing, workflow, instrumentation, and process improvement.

TEST DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

- Develop, validate, and implement new diagnostic assays.
- Expand molecular diagnostic capabilities including sequencing-based technologies.
- Evaluate emerging technologies applicable to mycobacterial and nocardial diagnostics.
- Participate in method verification, validation, and performance improvement studies.



RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

- Participate in clinical and laboratory-based investigations involving mycobacterial and nocardial diseases.
- Publish scholarly work in peer-reviewed journals.
- Present findings at regional, national, and international scientific meetings.
- Collaborate with investigators across the School of Medicine and external institutions.

EDUCATION

- Teach medical students, residents, fellows, graduate students, and laboratory personnel.
- Participate in infectious diseases and pulmonary/critical care fellowship education, and clinical microbiology training.
- Develop educational materials and laboratory teaching conferences.
- Mentor trainees interested in clinical microbiology, infectious diseases, and translational research.

STRATEGIC GROWTH

- Assist with expansion of national reference laboratory services.
- Develop collaborations with healthcare systems, public health laboratories, and academic institutions.
- Participate in strategic planning for laboratory growth and new service development.
- Contribute to grant development and research infrastructure initiatives.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must possess:

- MD, DO, or PhD in Microbiology, Clinical Microbiology, Molecular Biology, or related discipline.
- Eligibility to serve as Associate Director of a high-complexity CLIA laboratory.
- Board certification or eligibility through the American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM), American Board of Pathology (Clinical Pathology), or other appropriate certifying board.
- Demonstrated expertise in clinical microbiology.
- Experience with molecular diagnostic techniques and diagnostic assay validation.
- Excellent communication and interdisciplinary collaboration skills.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

The following qualifications are desirable; however, they are not required. Candidates who demonstrate the ability and commitment to develop expertise in these areas are still strongly encouraged to apply.

- Clinical mycobacteriology
- Nocardia diagnostics
- Antimicrobial susceptibility testing
- Whole genome sequencing
- MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry
- Quality assurance
- Clinical laboratory regulatory compliance
- Laboratory information systems
- Clinical assay development and validation
- Clinical research
- NIH-funded or externally funded research
- Teaching and mentorship

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

The successful candidate will receive a faculty appointment within the Department of Medicine or another appropriate department at the University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine, commensurate with qualifications and experience.





PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

All applications, nominations and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV/resume and a letter of interest.

Nominations, inquiries, and application materials can be directed to:

Andrew Bean, Ph.D.

Principal

abean@wittkiewfer.com

Alana Penley

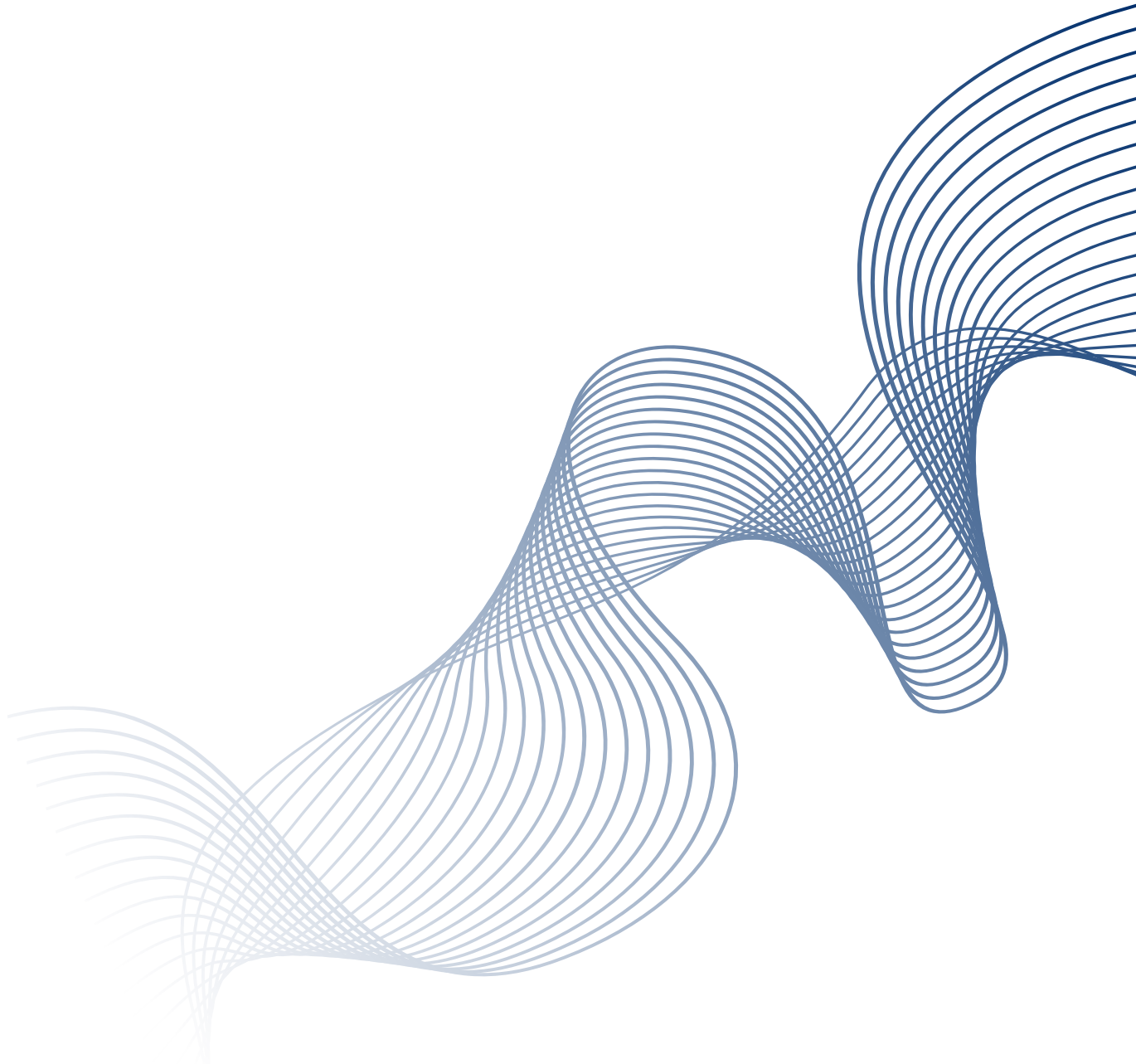
Senior Associate

apenley@wittkiewfer.com

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