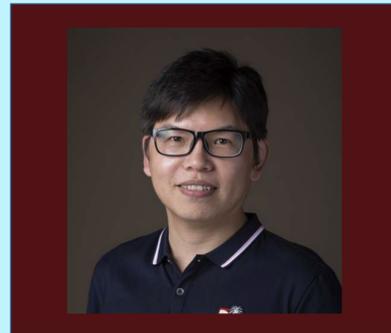


## TRANSLATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER FACULTY FELLOWS

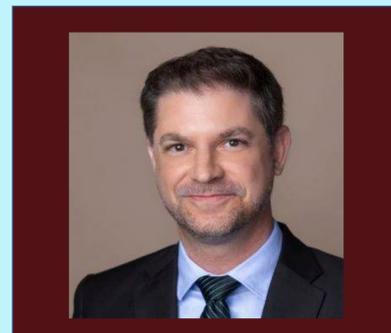
THRC Faculty Fellows conduct high-impact health and economic resilience research. We work with each Fellow to translate and share new knowledge from their research with public audiences and stakeholders through evidence-based trainings, media, public presentations, and community events.

The Faculty Fellows program aims to generate interdisciplinary research and sponsored programs that foster healthy and resilient people and places.



**Jacky Zhu, Ph.D.**  
College of Applied Arts

Dr. Zhu's research offers an innovative approach to precision medicine and nutrition for underserved populations. His fellows project aims to prevent and treat metabolic syndrome and improve health outcomes in diverse populations. This pilot study will inform future proposals to the National Institutes of Health.



**Josh Daspit, Ph.D.**  
McCoy College of Business

As Director of TXST's SCALEUP program, Dr. Daspit's research as the potential to expand the Texas economy by identifying ways that minority-owned businesses can grow at the same rate as non-minority businesses. During his fellowship, he has worked closely with THRC to reach participants from across Texas.



**Matt McAllister, Ph.D.**  
College of Education

Dr. McAllister leads the Metabolic & Applied Physiology (MAP) lab at TXST. His fellows project aims to understand the impact of stress and improve cardiometabolic health in firefighters through dietary and exercise interventions. This project improves community resilience by reducing burnout in first responders.



**Eduardo Pérez, Ph.D.**  
College of Science and Engineering

Dr. Pérez uses simulation models and decision theory analysis to improve planning for disaster events. The goal of his fellows project is to identify, evaluate, and recommend resource allocation, interventions, and policies to improve public health preparedness for individuals with chronic disease after a natural disaster.



**Francis Méndez, Ph.D.**  
McCoy College of Business

Dr. Méndez leads Data Science Pathway, a program that aims to increase skilled data science workers in the Texas Innovation Corridor through certification and credentialing. His THRC fellows project involves translating DSP learning modules so the program can reach Spanish-speaking and bilingual workers in Texas.



**Billy Fields, Ph.D.**  
College of Liberal Arts

For his THRC fellows project, Dr. Fields is creating a GIS-based StoryMap to highlight green infrastructure in Texas and provide a visual database with policy insights to create safe and resilient streets. Additionally, he is piloting a community engagement model to establish a model for ongoing resilience planning.



**Jelena Tešić, Ph.D.**  
College of Science and Engineering

Dr. Tešić is collaborating with Dr. Li Feng to create an interactive dashboard that contains a distinct storyline for each school district in Texas with data on the most prominent resilience predictors to improve learning loss for that school district. Dr. Tešić leads the machine learning and data science aspect of this joint fellows project.



**Li Feng, Ph.D.**  
McCoy College of Business

Dr. Feng is collaborating with Dr. Jelena Tešić to create the interactive learning resilience dashboard for school districts in Texas. Dr. Feng leads the policy aspect of this project, offering implications for strategic planning to help the Texas Education Agency and policy makers identify interventions to improve learning resilience.