



Celebrating

50

Years

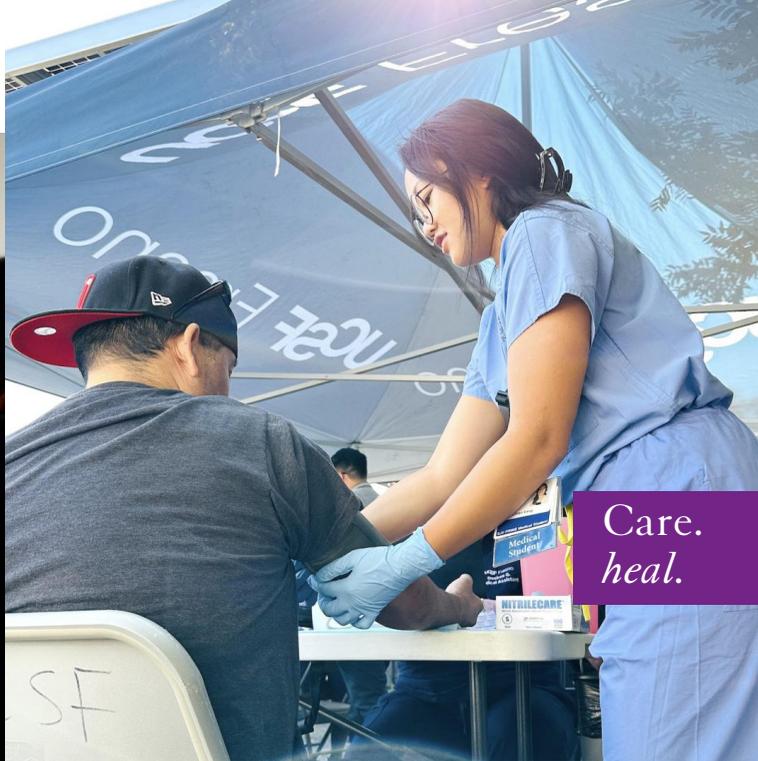


2024-2025  
Annual Report  
Improving Health  
in the San Joaquin Valley

UCSF Fresno



Engage.  
*enrich.*



Care.  
*heal.*

## Contents

- 1 Message from Campus Leadership
- 2 Partners and Affiliates
- 4 Graduate Medical Education Training Programs
- 6 Commencement Highlights, Awards and Graduate Profiles
- 9 SJV PRIME/SJV PRIME+
- 10 50th Anniversary
- 12 Timeline
- 14 Awards, Achievements, Appointments and Milestones
- 19 Fast Facts and Scholarly Activity
- 20 In the News
- 21 In Memoriam
- 22 Spotted on Campus

Teach.  
*inspire.*



Question.  
*discover.*

## Message from Campus Leadership

UCSF Fresno was founded in 1975 in response to a critical shortage of physicians in the San Joaquin Valley. In 2025, we celebrated our 50th anniversary. UCSF Fresno is now the largest academic physician training program between Sacramento and San Francisco to the north and Los Angeles to the south. We remain committed to our mission of improving health in the San Joaquin Valley and Central California by training exceptional physicians to deliver the highest quality of care.

As a regional campus of the UCSF School of Medicine, UCSF Fresno brings the full impact and benefit of UCSF to improving health in the region through excellent education, patient care, research, and community service.

We are proud of the tremendous progress we have made over the past 50 years. Thanks to the partnership of our clinical affiliates, including our primary teaching hospital Community Regional Medical Center, we are the leading contributor to the regional physician workforce.

We also are partners with UC Merced in SJV PRIME+, the eight-year BS-to-MD program, which, starting in 2027, will enable students to pursue all their medical education in the San Joaquin Valley and earn a medical degree from the UCSF School of Medicine right here close to home.

In May 2025, Jose M. Barral Sanchez, MD, PhD, started as Vice Dean for UCSF Fresno. With a career dedicated to academic leadership, faculty mentorship, promotion of research, and community-driven medical education, Barral Sanchez is committed to advancing UCSF Fresno's mission.

In addition, Dimitris A. Sakellariou, MBA, MSc, was appointed Chief Administrative Officer to oversee the core business and operational functions at UCSF Fresno.

In this Annual Report, we highlight some of our many accomplishments during the 2024-2025 period, which were driven by the dedication of our faculty, fellows, residents, students, staff, partners, and friends. Our continued success is due to their collaboration, commitment, and innovation.

We are excited about the opportunities ahead for UCSF Fresno in the coming year.



**Jose M. Barral Sanchez, MD, PhD,**  
Vice Dean  
Y. Frank and Roxie Moradian  
Chair in Medicine



*I look forward to deepening existing partnerships and forging new ones to strengthen UCSF Fresno's role as a premier academic medical center and a vital contributor to the region's health care workforce.*



L to R: **Eyad Almasri, MD,** Assistant Dean for Research; **Kenny Banh, MD, FACEP,** Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education; **Roger Mortimer, MD,** Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs; **Stacy Sawtelle Vohra, MD, FACEP,** Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Designated Institutional Official; **Dimitris A. Sakellariou, MBA, MSc,** Chief Administrative Officer



“ Our partnership with UCSF Fresno coupled with VA’s mission of academics and research allow us to provide the very best care for our veterans.

— Wessel H. Meyer, MD,  
Chief of Staff, VA Central California Health Care System



## Partners and Affiliates

UCSF Fresno trains physicians and provides patient care through affiliated partners. Training takes place in rural hospitals, clinics, faculty physicians’ offices, even the remote wilderness – and at the region’s only Level 1 trauma and burn center at Community Regional Medical Center, our primary clinical partner. We train clinicians and patient advocates to work in multidisciplinary teams and to practice high quality, accessible care.

### UCSF Fresno Major Clinical Partners

- Clovis Community Medical Center
- Community Behavioral Health Center
- Community Cancer Institute
- Community Health Partners
- Community Health System
- Community Outpatient Rehabilitation Center
- Community Regional Medical Center
- Fresno Heart & Surgical Hospital
- United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley
- VA Central California Health Care System – Fresno Medical Center

### UCSF and UCSF Fresno

- UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital
- UCSF Fresno Alzheimer & Memory Center
- UCSF Health Mission Bay
- UCSF Health Mount Zion
- UCSF Health Parnassus
- UCSF Medical Center

### Inspire Health Medical Group

- Inspire Health Medical Group – Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Inspire Health Medical Group – Cardiology
- Inspire Health Medical Group – Dermatology
- Inspire Health Medical Group – Endocrinology
- Inspire Health Medical Group – Orthopaedics
- Inspire Health Medical Group – Perinatology
- Inspire Health Medical Group – Pulmonology
- Inspire Health Medical Group – Psychiatry
- Inspire Health Medical Group – Sleep Medicine
- Inspire Health Medical Group – Specialty Kashian
- Inspire Health Medical Group – Vascular Surgery

### Other Affiliated Health Care Institutions and Training Sites

- American Ambulance
- Anther Pediatric and Adult Sleep Center
- Bristol Hospice
- California Pacific Medical Center – Mission Bernal Campus
- California Poison Control System

“ From the beginning, we’ve had the great privilege of partnering with UCSF by providing much of the physician workforce who teach and lead in the medical education program, training the next generation of physicians. We look forward to our continued collaboration in the years to come.

— Joyce Fields-Keene, MPA, CMPE,  
CEO, Inspire Health Medical Group



“ I’m excited for the future and eager to continue our strong partnership, ensuring that together we can help meet the growing health needs of our community for years to come.

— Craig Wagoner,  
President and CEO, Community Health System

“ Our partnership reflects our long-standing commitment to medical education and high-quality patient care. By training the next generation of physicians right here in the Valley, we are improving access today and building a healthier tomorrow.

— Justin Preas,  
President and CEO,  
United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley

- Camarena Health Centers, Madera
- Central CA Endoscopy Center
- Central CA Gynecologic Oncology
- Central CA Heart and Lung Surgery
- Central Valley Breast Care
- Chestnut Pediatrics
- Children’s Health Center Behavioral Clinic
- Clinica Sierra Vista
- Comprehensive Pain Management
- County of Fresno Department of Behavioral Health
- County of Fresno Sheriff Coroner’s Office
- Dizon Pediatrics
- EPU Children’s Center
- Family Planning Associates Women’s Health – Fresno
- Fowler Care Center
- Fresno Oral Maxillofacial Surgery & Dental Implant Center
- Fresno State University Health and Psychological Services
- Fresno Surgical Hospital
- Fresno Unified School District
- Heritage Crossing Inpatient Hospice

- Hinds Hospice
- Kaiser Permanente Fresno Medical Center
- Kaizen Surgery Center
- Navajo Area Indian Health Service
- Neurosurgical Associates Medical Group, Inc.
- Optimal Hospice Care
- Orthopaedic Associates Medical Clinic, Inc.
- Peachwood Medical Group
- Raintree Convalescent Hospital
- Saint Agnes Medical Center
- Seattle Children’s Hospital
- Sequoia Surgery Center
- Sierra Pacific Orthopedics & Spine Center
- Summit Surgical
- The Fresno Collective for Inclusive Medicine, Inc.
- Transitions Children’s Services
- Valley Children’s Hospital
- Valley Foot & Ankle Specialty Providers
- Valley Health Team, Fresno
- Valley Osteopathic Holistic Health, Inc.
- Valley Vascular Surgery Associates
- Women’s Specialty and Fertility Clinic
- Yosemite Medical Clinic at Yosemite National Park

# Graduate Medical Education Training Programs

## Residency Programs

- Emergency Medicine
- Family and Community Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Oral Maxillofacial Surgery\*
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Surgery

## Fellowship Programs

- Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Endocrinology, Diabetes, & Metabolism
- Gastroenterology
- Global Emergency Medicine Education
- Medical Education Fellowship
- Head & Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction (OMFS)\*
- Hematology/Oncology
- Hepatology
- Hospice/Palliative Care
- Infectious Diseases
- Interventional Cardiology
- Orthopaedic Trauma
- Pediatric Chief Residents
- Pulmonary Disease/Critical Care
- Sleep Medicine
- Surgical Critical Care/Acute Care Surgery
- Wilderness Medicine Fellowship

\*School of Dentistry

## 2024-2025 Academic Year as of 8/1/24

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAMS	TRAINEES
Emergency Medicine	46
Family and Community Medicine	36
Internal Medicine - Categorical	69
Internal Medicine - Chief Residents	4
Obstetrics/Gynecology	17
Orthopaedic Surgery	19
Pediatrics	22
Psychiatry	24
Surgery	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263</b>

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY RESIDENCY PROGRAMS	TRAINEES
OMFS - Preliminary	1
OMFS	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>

ACGME ACCREDITED FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS	TRAINEES
Cardiovascular Disease	9
Endocrinology, Diabetes, & Metabolism	3
Gastroenterology	7
Hematology/Oncology	6
Hospice/Palliative Care	4
Infectious Diseases	4
Interventional Cardiology	1
Pulmonary Disease/Critical Care	9
Sleep Medicine	2
Surgical Critical Care/Acute Care Surgery	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>



NON-ACGME ACCREDITED FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS	TRAINEES
Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging (IM)	1
Global Emergency Medicine Education (EM)	1
Head & Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction (OMFS)	1
Hepatology (IM - GI)	1
Medical Education (EM)	1
Pediatric Chief Residents (PEDS)	2
Orthopaedic Trauma (ORTHO)	1
Wilderness Medicine Fellowship (EM) (FM)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>

TOTAL 2024-2025 GME TRAINEES	TRAINEES
Residents (School of Medicine)	263
Residents (School of Dentistry)	17
ACGME Accredited Fellows	48
Non-ACGME Accredited Fellows	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>337</b>

# Commencement Highlights and Awards

UCSF Fresno Celebrates the Class of 2025



## 2025 Commencement Highlights

**100%**  of graduating Psychiatry residents stayed in California for the second year in a row.

**50%**  of graduating Emergency Medicine residents remained in the Valley; **40%** stayed at UCSF Fresno as faculty.

**40%**  of Family and Community Medicine graduates stayed in the Valley.

**Almost 40%**  of Internal Medicine graduates stayed in the Valley.

## Among the Graduates

**Delvin J. Akins II, MD**

While serving as a medic in the U.S. Army, Delvin J. Akins II, MD, from Southern California, found deep purpose in caring for others in high-stakes situations. He was promoted six times in seven years in the military, served as a staff sergeant leading other combat medics, and was a Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year candidate. But becoming a physician felt out of reach. Thankfully, senior leaders recognized his commitment and discipline and encouraged him to take his training further. Akins completed a four-year residency program in Emergency Medicine (EM) at UCSF Fresno and is currently EM faculty at the UCSF Fresno Regional Campus.

**Mandeep K. Gill, DO**

Mandeep K. Gill, DO, originally from Bellingham, Washington, was the first fellow to graduate from UCSF Fresno's two-year Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Fellowship. After graduation, she joined the faculty in the Endocrinology fellowship program as part of Inspire Health Medical Group. Gill completed residency training in Internal Medicine at UCSF Fresno prior to entering the fellowship program. According to a GoodRX report, nearly 70% of U.S. counties lack access to an endocrinologist.

**Cecilia Rangel-Garcia, MD, MPH**

Inspired by her family, mentors, and her own desire to create change, Cecilia Rangel-Garcia, MD, MPH, completed a four-year residency program in Psychiatry at UCSF Fresno. After graduation, Rangel-Garcia, who is from Fresno, stayed in the Central Valley to complete a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at UC Davis in Sacramento. All six graduating Psychiatry residents at UCSF Fresno stayed in California, where nearly 1 in 7 adults experience mental illness and 1 in 26 has a serious mental illness.

**Liliana Samano, MD**

Growing up in Fresno, Liliana Samano, MD, noticed very few Latino physicians. As a child, Samano understood that by becoming a physician, she could help make health care more accessible. According to the American Association of Medical Colleges, in 2022, about 6% of physicians in California were Latino, where the Hispanic/Latino population is about 39%. With her parents as inspiration, she set out to become a physician. This year, Samano completed a four-year residency program in Emergency Medicine. After graduation, she stayed in the community to work at Clovis Community Medical Center.

**UCSF Fresno's first Endocrinology fellow** graduated this year and stayed to join the faculty in the division.



Nearly **40%** of graduates stayed in the Central Valley to provide care, teach the next generation, or continue their education.

About **60%** of graduates stayed in California in 2025.



## Commencement Awards

- **Jeff Thomas, MD**, Chief Medical Quality Officer, Community Regional Medical Center, presented the **Community Medical Centers Resident and Fellow Awards and Teaching Awards:**
- Outstanding First-Year Resident: **Campbell Veasey, MD**, UCSF Fresno Emergency Medicine Residency Program
- Outstanding Resident or Fellow Teacher: **Lala Grigori, DMD**, UCSF Fresno Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program
- Community Health System Teaching Excellence Award: **Robert Julian III, DDS, MD, FACS**, Professor, UCSF Fresno Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Outstanding Non-Physician Teacher: **Kaitlyn Loi, PharmD, BCP**, Community Regional Medical Center
- **Naman Jain, DO**, Internal Medicine Resident and Resident Council Member, presented the **Leon S. Peters Resident and Fellow Awards:**
- Leon S. Peters Resident of the Year: **Victoria Ford, MD**, UCSF Fresno Pediatrics Residency Program
- Leon S. Peters Fellow of the Year: **Ahmed Zaidi, DDS, MD**, UCSF Fresno Head and Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction Fellowship
- **Wessel Meyer, MD, FACEP, MBChB**, UCSF Clinical Professor, UCSF Fresno, and Acting Chief of Staff, Fresno VA, VA Central California Health Care System, presented the **VA ICARE Award:**
- VA ICARE Award: **Ashleigh Wong, DO**, UCSF Fresno Internal Medicine Residency Program
- **Pamela Kammen, MD**, President, **Fresno Madera Medical Society**, presented the **Steven N. Parks Leadership Award:**
- Steven N. Parks Leadership Award (FMMS): **Cecilia Rangel-Garcia, MD**, UCSF Fresno Psychiatry Residency Program
- **Eyad Almasri, MD**, Assistant Dean for Research at UCSF Fresno, presented the **Borba Resident, Fellow, and Faculty Research Awards:**
- Borba Faculty Research Award: **Laxmi Ghimire, MD**, Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor, UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics, Pediatric Cardiology
- Borba Fellow Research Award: **Faisal Nasrawi, MD**, UCSF Fresno Department of Medicine, Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship
- Borba Research Award, **Kadee-Kalia Tamashiro, MD**, UCSF Fresno Surgery Residency Program
- **Stacy Sawtelle Vohra, MD**, Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education, UCSF Fresno, presented the **Outstanding Program Director Award:**
- Outstanding Program Director Award: **Kathryn Bilello, MD**, Health Sciences Clinical Professor, Program Director, UCSF Fresno Pulmonary Critical Care Fellowship Program, UCSF Fresno Department of Medicine
- **Jose M. Barral Sanchez, MD, PhD**, Vice Dean, UCSF Fresno, announced the **Henry J. Kaiser Award for Excellence in Teaching:**
- Kaiser Award for Excellence in Teaching: **Liana Milanés, MD**, Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor, UCSF Fresno Department of Family and Community Medicine



Liana Milanés, MD

## SJV PRIME/SJV PRIME+



Celebrating **50** Years



**SJV PRIME+ BS  
Class of 2029/MD  
Class of 2033**

### SJV PRIME

SJV PRIME is a tailored track for UCSF medical students committed to improving health in the San Joaquin Valley. The third class of SJV PRIME students participated in the National Residency Matching Program Match Day. Seven of the 11 SJV PRIME students matched to residency programs in California, including three programs in the Central Valley. Six of the students matched in University of California-affiliated programs.

### SJV PRIME+

SJV PRIME+, the eight-year baccalaureate to MD program in partnership with UC Merced and UCSF, admitted the third cohort of 15 students — all from the San Joaquin Valley. The first SJV PRIME+ class will graduate in 2027 with bachelor's degrees from UC Merced where they will then spend the first 1.5 years of medical school. After that, they will move to UCSF Fresno for clinical training for 2.5 years before graduating with UCSF medical degrees. The SJV PRIME MD class of 2031 will be the first cohort to complete all their medical education in the San Joaquin Valley.

**On May 5, UCSF Fresno leadership attended the beam signing ceremony for UC Merced's new Medical Education Building, which will be home to SJV PRIME+.**





# Celebrating UCSF Fresno Celebrates an Incredible Past, Vibrant Present, and Exciting Future



In 1975, UCSF Fresno was established with the support of the Veterans Administration and California legislature. The mission was clear: to address the physician shortage in the San Joaquin Valley and meet the region’s growing health care needs. Fifty years later, UCSF Fresno is the largest academic physician training program between San Francisco and Sacramento to the north and Los Angeles to the south — and the leading contributor to the regional physician workforce. Forty percent of UCSF Fresno graduates stay in the region to provide care and 70% stay in California.

Elected officials, community leaders, partners, friends, faculty, residents, and staff gathered at the UCSF regional campus in Fresno on May 9 to mark three major milestones:

- the 50th anniversary of UCSF Fresno
- to welcome UCSF Fresno’s new Vice Dean Jose M. Barral Sanchez, MD, PhD
- to unveil the recently remodeled Clinical Skills and Simulation Center.

UCSF School of Medicine Dean Talmadge E. King, Jr., MD, noted the exceptional work being done every day by people at UCSF Fresno.

“UCSF Fresno extends the School of Medicine’s mission of education, patient care, research, and community service across the Valley,” said King. “We would not be here without the steadfast leadership and support of our



UCSF Fresno extends the School of Medicine’s mission of education, patient care, research, and community service across the Valley. — Dean Talmadge E. King, Jr., MD

elected leaders, which has led to significant investments, including funding for the UCSF Fresno building, the expansion of SJV PRIME, and the creation of SJV PRIME+, our joint BS to MD program with UC Merced.”

Congressman Jim Costa, Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula, and Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria attended, and State Senator Anna Caballero sent a representative. Each presented proclamations and certificates of recognition of UCSF Fresno’s 50th anniversary and for Vice Dean Barral Sanchez. Congressman Costa presented a Congressional Resolution.

“From small, inspirational beginnings to a vibrant regional campus of the UCSF School of Medicine, UCSF Fresno has stood as a model of academic and clinical commitment to the people of California’s heartland by training physicians, advancing health equity and building healthier communities,” said Rep. Costa in the Congressional Resolution.

Assemblymember Dr. Arambula presented a resolution in honor of UCSF Fresno’s Golden Anniversary, signed by him and fellow Assemblymembers Soria and David Tangipa and State Sens. Anna Caballero and Shannon Grove.

The importance of clinical and educational partners to UCSF Fresno’s growth and development was also emphasized.

Craig Wagoner, President & CEO of Community Health System, UCSF Fresno’s primary clinical partner, shared a video message. Other clinical and educational partners attended and shared words of welcome for Barral Sanchez, including Joyce Fields-Keene, President & CEO of Inspire Health Medical Group; Justin Preas, President & CEO, United Health Centers; and UC Merced Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz. Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval also attended.

Barral Sanchez emphasized his interest in hearing from stakeholders to learn about the needs, aspirations, and opportunities that build on UCSF Fresno’s history and shape its future. “It is truly an honor to join UCSF Fresno at such a pivotal time in its history,” he said. “I am energized by the opportunity to oversee the regional campus during its next phase of growth and excellence.”

The evening ended with a viewing of the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center with demonstrations led by Co-Directors for Simulation Amy Kwok, MD, and Scott Reichelderfer, MD, and Surgery and Emergency Medicine residents.

The UCSF Fresno Clinical Skills and Simulation Center was the brainchild of former UCSF Fresno Associate Dean, the late Joan Voris, MD. Her vision became a reality when the Clinical Skills Lab opened in 2015. The Center has grown from an objective structured clinical examination, OSCE environment, to a GME- and UME-focused scenario-based simulation training and task training center. From January to September 2024, the UCSF Fresno Clinical Skills and Simulation Center staff provided training for nearly 3,400 clinical skills participants. The new space will further enhance UCSF Fresno’s ability to provide simulation training and evaluation for future physician leaders.

Over five decades, the overarching goal of UCSF has been to improve health in the San Joaquin Valley. It accomplishes this by training exceptional physicians, providing the highest quality patient care, leading research discoveries that better the lives of people in the Valley, and cultivating partnerships that enhance medical care and benefit the community.

# Highlights from the Last Half Century



1975

Funding and the site approved for what would become UCSF Fresno.



1979

A small group of physicians employed by Fresno County formed Central California Faculty Medical Group (now Inspire Health Medical Group).



1981

UCSF Fresno opened offices at the Fresno VA.



1989

The UCSF Fresno Alzheimer & Memory Center opened.



1999

The UCSF Fresno Sunnyside High School Doctors Academy was established.



2005

UCSF Fresno Center for Medical Education and Research opened.



2007

UCSF Fresno training programs moved from University Medical Center to Community Regional Medical Center.





2011

The UC San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education (SJV PRIME) established to train medical students from the region for the region.



2013

UCSF Fresno Clinical Research Center opened.



2015

The UCSF Fresno Clinical Skills Lab (now the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center) opened.



2018

UCSF Fresno Mobile Health and Learning (Mobile Heal) established.



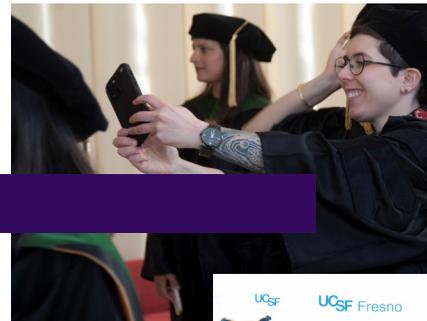
2019

The first UCSF SJV PRIME medical students admitted.



2020

UCSF Fresno COVID-19 Equity Project established.



The first students in new SJV PRIME graduated with UCSF medical degrees.



2023



2025

Jose M. Barral Sanchez, MD, PhD, became the first Vice Dean at UCSF Fresno.



First students admitted to SJV PRIME+, the eight-year BS-to-MD pathway.

## Awards, Achievements, Appointments, and Milestones

**Kenny Banh, MD**, received the 2024 Community Partner of the Year California Farmworker Foundation National Presentations. Banh also received the Distinguished Asian American & Outstanding Community Service Award from The Fresno Center. In addition, he received a Certificate of Recognition from City of Fresno Councilmember Nelson Esparza.



**Elizabeth Black, MD** (above), and **Mohamed Fayed, MD** (below), received 2024 Academy of Medical Educators Excellence in Teaching Awards. Fayed also was named program director for the Pulmonary Critical Care Program.



**Jennifer Camacho**, Information Technology, earned a Professional Certificate in Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence from UC Berkeley Executive Education.

**Karen Chung, MD, PGY-4**, won the CalEMRA election to become President-Elect in 2024-2025 and is serving in the 2025-2026 year as President.



**Jim Comes, MD** (above), was selected as the California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, 2024 Education Awardee.

**Lourdes DelRosso, MD, PhD**, was part of the task force that created important guidelines for treating restless leg syndrome.

**Leyla Farshidpour, MD, PGY-3**, was selected as a Resident Reviewer for the 2025 grant review for the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) Grants Committee and the SAEM Foundation.

**Hebah Ghanem, MD**, was named program director for the Infectious Diseases Fellowship effective July 1. Thank you to **Geetha Sivasubramanian, MD**, for having served as program director. Dr. Sivasubramanian continues as division chief.

**Sumaya Hammami, MD**, received The Top Ten Internists Sante Medicare STARS Quality of Care Program 2024.

**Joshua D. Kamimoto, PhD**, was appointed director of the Clinical Research Center, effective May 15.

**Lily Hitchner, MD**, was in the 2023-2024 cohort of The Teaching Scholars Program and completed the program in September 2024. Hitchner also accepted the inaugural role of Director of Student Success at UCSF Fresno.

**Krista Kaups, MD**, was named Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Reviewer of the Month in 2025 by *The Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* for exceptional contributions to the Journal.

**Caroline Render-Teixeira, MD**, was named program director for the Family and Community Medicine Residency Program effective July 1. Thank you to **Sireesha Reddy, MD**, for having served as program director. Dr. Reddy continues as faculty.

**Rawnica Ruegner, MD**, was appointed program director for the Emergency Medicine Residency Program in September 2024.



**Joseph Sanford, MD** (above), and **Geetha Sivasubramanian, MD** (below), were inducted into the Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators Class of 2024.



**Stacy Sawtelle Vohra, MD**, was appointed as UCSF Fresno Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Designated Institutional Official effective Sept. 1, 2024.



**Andrea Long, MD** (above) was named one of the Marjaree Mason Center’s Top 10 Professional Women in October 2024.

**Fred Wu, PA-C**, was awarded the Breitman-Dorn Research Fellowship from the Physician Associate Foundation.

The UCSF Fresno Department of Emergency Medicine Residency Program celebrated its 50th anniversary in fall 2024 with two receptions – one at ACEP24 in Las Vegas in September and one at Community Regional Medical Center in October.



**UCSF Fresno** was recognized by City Councilmember Miguel Arias, Mayor Jerry Dyer and all the City of Fresno Councilmembers on our 50th anniversary and proclaimed May 22, 2025, UCSF Fresno Day in Fresno.

## 2024-2025 Excellence in Teaching and Mentorship Awards

### UCSF Fresno Department of Emergency Medicine

- Stephen Haight, MD
- Miranda Lewis, MD
- Fernando Macias, MD
- Scott Reichelderfer, MD

### UCSF Fresno Department of Medicine

- Hiral Patel, DO
- Hebah Ghanem, MD

### UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics

- Cynthia Curry, MD
- Janice Kezirian, MD
- Tamiko Kido, MD

## Academy of Medical Educators Inductees at UCSF Fresno

### Department of Medicine

- Varsha Babu, MD
- Lin Li, MD

### Department of Family and Community Medicine

- Liana Milanés, MD

### Department of Pediatrics

- Christine Nelson, MD

## 2025-2026 UCSF Teaching Scholars

### Department of Pediatrics

- Claire Gibson, MD

### Department of Surgery

- Leigh Ann O’Banion, MD

## Faculty Milestone Service Awards



### 40-Year Milestone

**Katherine A. Flores, MD**, was recognized for 40 years of service as of 2024, and the campus community celebrated her retirement on June 25. Flores also received an Unsung Heroes Award from the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

**Randall Stern, MD**, was recognized for 40 years of service as of 2024.



### 30-Year Milestone

- **Craig Campbell, MD**, Psychiatry, in 2025
- **Krista Kaups, MD**, Surgery, in 2025
- **Roger Mortimer, MD**, Family and Community Medicine, in 2025
- **Carolyn Chooljian, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2024
- **James Comes, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2024
- **James W. Davis, MD**, Surgery, in 2024
- **Helen Wong, MD**, Medicine, Gastroenterology, in 2024



### 25-Year Milestone

- **Brian Chinnock, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2025
- **Ivan Gomez, MD**, Family and Community Medicine, in 2025
- **Loren I. Alving, MD**, Neurology, in 2024
- **Kathryn Bilello, MD**, Medicine, Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care, in 2023
- **Steven Stoltz, MD**, Medicine, in 2023

### 20-Year Milestone

- **John Ambrose, MD**, Medicine, in 2025
- **Juan Ruvalcaba, MD**, Family and Community Medicine, in 2024
- **Aimee Abu-Shamsieh, MD**, Pediatrics, in 2024
- **Michael Tom, MD**, Medicine, in 2023

### 15-Year Milestone

- **Haifaa Abdulhaq, MD**, Medicine, in 2025

- **Eyad Almasri, MD**, Medicine, in 2025
- **Ryan Berg, MD**, Medicine, in 2025
- **Scott De Shields, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2025
- **Stacy Sawtelle Vohra, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2025



- **Gregory Simpson, MD**, Medicine, in 2025
- **Uzair Chaudhary, MD**, Medicine, Hematology/Oncology, in 2024
- **Wessel Meyer, MD**, Medicine, in 2024
- **Rawnica Ruegner, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2024
- **Jeanette Rylander, MD**, Medicine, in 2024
- **Susanne Spano, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2024
- **Rais Vohra, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2024
- **Hagop Afarian, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2023
- **Kenny Banh, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2023
- **Danielle Campagne, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2024

- **Vipul Jain, MD**, Medicine, in 2023
- **Cho Cho Khine, MD**, Medicine, in 2023
- **Armen Matirosian, MD**, Orthopaedic Surgery, in 2023

### 10-Year Milestone

- **Paul Do, MD**, Pediatrics, in 2025
- **Amir Fathi, MD**, Surgery, in 2025
- **Patrick Macmillan, MD**, Medicine, in 2025
- **Ankit Rathod, MD**, Medicine, in 2025
- **Sireesha Reddy, MD**, Family and Community Medicine, in 2025
- **Lidia Rodriguez-Carranza, MD**, Medicine, in 2025
- **Michelle Storkan, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2025
- **Gail Ajanaku, MD**, Medicine, in 2024
- **Thianchai Bunnalai, MD**, Pediatrics, in 2024
- **Christopher Downer, MD**, OB-GYN, in 2024
- **Nathan Hoekzema, MD**, Orthopaedic Surgery, in 2024
- **Stutee Khandelwal, MD**, Medicine, in 2024
- **Manjit Singh, MD**, Medicine, in 2024
- **Michael Darracq, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2023
- **Kamell Eckroth-Bernard, MD**, Surgery, in 2023

- **Janice Kezirian, MD**, Pediatrics, in 2023
- **Ila Naeni, DO**, Family and Community Medicine, in 2023
- **Ivance Pugoy, MD**, Medicine, in 2023
- **Rene Ramirez, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2023
- **Elbert Tun, MD**, Medicine, in 2023
- **Jeffrey Uller, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2023

### Five-Year Milestone

- **Waqas Aslam, MD**, Medicine, in 2025
- **Vijai Daniel, MD**, Medicine, in 2025
- **Omer Ilyas, MD**, Medicine, in 2025
- **Sammy Siada, DO**, Surgery, in 2025
- **Geetha Sivasubramanian, MD**, Medicine, in 2025
- **Jessie Werner, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2025
- **Kulraj Dhah, DO**, Family and Community Medicine, in 2024
- **Karamjit Dhaliwal-Binning, MD**, Medicine, in 2024
- **Anil Ghimire, MD**, Medicine, in 2024
- **Daniel Kirsten, MD**, Psychiatry, in 2024
- **Alka Lamsal Ghimire, MD**, Medicine in 2024
- **Jeffrey Nahn, MD**, Emergency Medicine, in 2024

- **Arbi Nazarian, MD**, Orthopaedic Surgery, in 2024
- **Tim Nguyen, DO**, OB-GYN, in 2024
- **Richard Quan, MD**, Pediatrics, in 2024
- **Caroline Render-Teixeira, MD**, Family and Community Medicine, in 2024
- **Daa Xiao, MD**, Family and Community Medicine, in 2024
- **Varsha Babu, MD**, Medicine, in 2023
- **Jordan Beshore, DO**, Emergency Medicine, in 2023
- **Jason Gravano, PhD**, Neurology, in 2023
- **David Jeffcoach, MD**, Surgery, in 2023
- **Eyup Keles, MD**, Pediatrics, in 2023
- **Nicole Kopari, MD**, Surgery, in 2023
- **Lin Li, MD**, Medicine, in 2023
- **Jordan Lilienstein, MD**, Surgery, in 2023
- **Shreela Mishra, MD**, Medicine, in 2023
- **Almira Oparidija, MD**, Medicine, Infectious Diseases, in 2023
- **Hiral Patel, DO**, Medicine, in 2023
- **Steven Ratcliff, DO**, Medicine, in 2023
- **Nitin Thinda, MD**, Medicine, Cardiology, in 2023
- **Antonio Toribio, MD**, Medicine, in 2023
- **John Tran, MD**, Psychiatry, in 2023
- **Jacquelyn Wagoner, DO**, Pediatrics, in 2023

## Staff Milestone Service Awards

### 25-Year Milestone

- **Brandy Ramos Nikaido**, 2025

### 20-Year Milestone

- **Vanessa Gonzalez**, 2025
- **Dieu Nguyen**, 2025
- **Nancy Oloizia**, 2025
- **Nick Rubalcaba**, 2024

### 15-Year Milestone

- **Gerri Cortez-Ahart**, 2025
- **Sandra Ortega**, 2025
- **Valerie Pamatmat**, 2025
- **Kelly Noorani**, 2023

### 10-Year Milestone

- **Breana Dennie**, 2025
- **Lee Hagerty**, 2025
- **Barbara Price**, 2025
- **Ariana Zaghmouri**, 2025
- **Monica Meza**, 2024
- **Milena Ocon**, 2024
- **Tiffany Robinson**, 2024
- **Natasha Saleem**, 2024
- **Ana Zarate**, 2024

### Five-Year Milestone

- **Patti Bianchi**, 2025
- **Paz Delsid**, 2025
- **Marie Martinez**, 2025
- **Jeanette Naranjo**, 2025

- **Casey Cassady**, 2024
- **Summer Connery**, 2024
- **Sydney Farnesi**, 2024
- **Antonette Horacio**, 2024
- **Karina Banuelos Reyes**, 2024
- **Juanita Sprowell**, 2024
- **Carmen Vargas**, 2024
- **Denise Wells**, 2024
- **Barbara Anderson**, 2023
- **Jannet Castaneda Sanchez**, 2023
- **Maribel Flores**, 2023
- **Melissa Gonzales**, 2023
- **Trina Hughes**, 2023
- **Joshua Kamimoto**, 2023
- **Ashley Perea**, 2023
- **Noel Sandoval**, 2023
- **Bob Standing**, 2023

## UCSF School of Medicine Achievement Awards at UCSF Fresno

### Individual Staff Achievement Awards

- Lorena Davis
- Nicholas Dennie
- Rebecca Miller
- Anthony Sali

### Team Achievement Award: Communications

- Barbara Anderson
- Lucero Benitez
- Brandy Ramos Nikaido

### SPOT Award Winners

- Angela Allison
- Summer Connery
- Stephanie Covacevich
- Sydney Farnesi
- Ka Her
- Stephanie Huerta-Alvarez
- Trina Hughes
- Kasan Jones
- Shannon Kremer
- Marie Martinez
- Rebecca Miller
- Jeannette Naranjo
- Brandy Ramos Nikaido

- Jesus Pimentel
- Alex Reyes
- Denise Wells
- Carmen Vargas
- Fue Xiong
- Seeka Yang

### UCSF Facilities Services SPOT Award Winner

- Eric Acuna

## Faculty Development

In 2024–2025, faculty development opportunities were expanded across the UCSF Fresno Regional Campus. Educator Essentials Parts I and II were offered locally, along with many faculty development activities that supported core teaching skills. The 10th annual Education Symposium, held in March 2025, featured over 20 abstracts that highlighted innovation in teaching and assessment.

In April 2025, a MESH meeting addressed the use of Artificial Intelligence in medical education. The Medical Education and Scholarship Hub (MESH) is a faculty lunch group dedicated to building community among medical educators at UCSF Fresno and UC Merced Department of Medical Education, fostering collaboration in educational scholarship and curriculum development, and supporting career growth and mentorship across all career stages.



# Fast Facts

 **18** Fellowship Sub-Specialties

 **9** Residency Specialties

 **2** Physician Assistant Postgraduate Training Programs

 **280** Core Faculty  
**367** Volunteer Appointments <sup>+</sup>

 **29K** Veterans cared for at Fresno VA

 **3,250** Clinical Skills session participants

 **500K+** Patient visits annually at clinical partner sites

**40%** of UCSF Fresno graduates stay in the Central Valley to practice. About 70% stay in California



## 2025 Scholarly Activity

 **9** Continuing Medical Education and Community Events

 **213** Faculty Publications

 **28** Teaching/Instruction Awards and Grants

 **12** Public Service and Patient Care Grants

 **38** Clinical Trials

## In the News

Media often turn to faculty, fellows, residents, and advanced practice providers at UCSF Fresno for their expertise on health and medical issues. Over the past year, UCSF Fresno experts have been interviewed by local, state, and national outlets. Between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, **UCSF Fresno was mentioned 605 times on TV, radio, online, and in print media reaching an audience of 2.39 billion for a publicity value of \$22 million.**



**605**  
mentions in  
print, broadcast,  
and online  
media outlets



**2.39** billion  
estimated  
audience  
members  
reached



**\$22**  
million  
in publicity  
value

### Topics

- Aging
- Alzheimer's and Dementia
- COVID 19
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Diabetes
- ECMO
- Epilepsy
- Fatty Liver
- GLP 1/Weight Loss Medications
- Geriatric Medicine
- Gynecological Cancer
- Heat
- Male Breast Cancer
- Mobile Heal/Rural Mobile Health
- Osteoporosis
- Prostate Cancer
- Sleep Medicine
- Sunscreen
- Trauma Survivor - Emergency Medicine resident's role in caring for the patient
- Tonsillitis
- UCSF Fresno's 50th Anniversary
- Valley Fever



## In Memoriam



Vipul Jain, MD



Betty Liao, PhD

While there was much to celebrate, UCSF Fresno mourned the loss of community members this reporting period. Our hearts and deepest sympathies go out to their family and friends.

**Vipul Jain, MD, Chief of Medicine at UCSF Fresno**, passed away in May 2025. Jain was appointed Chief of Medicine at UCSF Fresno and Vice Chair of the UCSF Department of Medicine in September 2023. This appointment came after having served a year as Interim Chief and as Executive Vice Chief since 2018. A proud alumnus of the UCSF Fresno Internal Medicine Residency Program, he completed his Pulmonary and Critical Care fellowship at UC San Diego before returning to UCSF Fresno to join the faculty. Jain's leadership, warmth, and unwavering commitment to our mission will be missed beyond measure. His legacy will endure through the countless lives he touched.

**Betty Liao, PhD**, passed away in December 2024. A clinical psychologist, Liao joined UCSF Fresno in 2016. As Director of Wellness and Mental Health Support Services, she provided mental health support for learners at UCSF Fresno. Dr. Liao made a significant impact at UCSF Fresno through her dedication and positive attitude. She was an integral part of UCSF Fresno and the Undergraduate Medical Education, Psychiatry and Wellness teams. Her contributions will always be remembered.

**Mrs. Patty Parks**, mother of Surgery faculty member Nancy Parks, MD, and wife to Steven N. Parks, MD, longtime Surgery faculty member and namesake for the Steven N. Parks, MD, Endowed Chair of Surgery at UCSF Fresno, passed away in June 2024. Patty was an important extended family member to the UCSF Fresno Department of Surgery and devoted many years of service to the faculty and trainees.

# Spotted on Campus











Celebrating  
**50**  
Years



# UCSF Fresno

155 North Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93701  
(559) 499-6400

fresno-info@ucsf.edu  
fresno.ucsf.edu

