



UCSF FRESNO ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

IMPROVING
HEALTH IN THE
SAN JOAQUIN
VALLEY



UCSF Fresno



UCSF Fresno

2020-2021

Annual Report

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Care.
heal.



Message

from the Associate Dean



physician leaders and patient advocates ready to meet the needs of the Valley's diverse populations and the health challenges that exist in the region.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed challenges and disparities that exist in the San Joaquin Valley like never before – from the shortage of physicians to the lack of physicians who look like, understand and come from the communities they care for. Faculty, learners and staff at UCSF Fresno responded.

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Each year, UCSF Fresno trains nearly 300 residents, fellows and physician assistants to join the physician workforce, and roughly 50% of our graduates remain in the Central Valley and about 70% stay in California to care for patients, teach future physicians or continue their medical education. But this is not enough. With just 47 primary care physicians per 100,000 population, the San Joaquin Valley continues to fall short of the 60 to 80 primary care physicians recommended by the Council on Graduate Medical Education; and with a rapidly growing population and one-third of physicians at or near retirement age, we simply can't keep pace. It takes at least 11 years or more to produce a practicing physician after high school, including four years of undergraduate education, four years of medical school and three to seven years of residency depending on the specialty. UCSF Fresno provides training every step of the way.

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- Faculty, residents and fellows at UCSF Fresno treated more COVID-19 patients in Fresno than in many other areas of California.
- UCSF Fresno brought new treatments to the region before they were available more broadly. For example, UCSF Fresno, in partnership with Community Regional Medical Center, was the first in the area to make remdesivir available as a treatment for COVID-19.
- Thanks to federal funding, we started the UCSF Fresno COVID-19 Equity Project (CEP) in collaboration with the City, County and community-based organizations to make testing and ultimately, vaccines, available to communities of color and other underserved communities. CEP administered nearly 38,000 vaccines from Feb. 10, 2021, to June 30, 2021, and 72% identified as a person of color. Between Aug. 31, 2020, and June 15, 2021, CEP gave nearly 30,000 COVID-19 tests and 82% of those tested identified as a person of color.

Question.
discover.



Teach.
inspire.

Our focus is on training the highest quality physicians to improve health and expand access to care in the diverse and medically under-resourced San Joaquin Valley. We do this through physician training, outstanding patient care, exceptional clinical research and community partnerships. Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are at the heart of UCSF and the School of Medicine. As a regional campus, UCSF Fresno emphasizes DEI and promotes physician wellness.

UCSF Fresno's pathway to practicing physicians starts with our Junior Doctors Academy, Doctors Academy, Summer Biomedical Internship Program, ROAD for the San Joaquin Valley and Mini Med School. These programs inspire, motivate and prepare students for careers in medicine. UCSF's San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education (SVJ PRIME) admits medical students from the Valley who are committed to providing culturally appropriate care in the region and working with underserved populations. By training them here and offering them the opportunity for residency training, they are much more likely to stay to practice. Our residency and fellowship programs train not only outstanding clinicians but

The partnerships we made, the research we pioneered, some of the physicians we trained and other accomplishments are highlighted in this annual report. In the face of repeated surges in the pandemic, we remain steadfast. UCSF Fresno is rooted in the community. We are committed to it. Every day and especially during the pandemic, UCSF Fresno steps forward to care for the Valley community. We are your doctors. We are your neighbors. We are your UCSF Fresno.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Peterson, MD, FCCP, MACP
Y. Frank and Roxie Moradian Chair in Medicine
UCSF Professor of Medicine
UCSF Fresno Associate Dean

Engage.
enrich.



Updates

from the Assistant Deans



Eyad Almasri, MD

Assistant Dean for Research

Research is integral to UCSF Fresno's mission to improve health and wellbeing in Central California. This includes investigating health conditions specific to the region as well as clinical trials that bring new treatments to the area before they are available more broadly.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, UCSF Fresno and Community Regional Medical Center (CRMC) emerged as the region's leading health care alliance to deal with the challenges of COVID-19. UCSF Fresno and CRMC were the first in the region to offer remdesivir as a treatment for COVID-19. Additionally, UCSF Fresno is participating in many National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded clinical trials that gave Valley patients access to state-of-the-art treatments. The ACTIV-3 trial, which tests synthetic antibodies as a treatment to fight COVID-19 was one of these trials. The trial has more than 50 participants and is still enrolling. In many COVID clinical trials, UCSF Fresno took a leading role and was the first center in the world to enroll in some of the multicenter trials. UCSF Fresno was selected as a "Vanguard site" for a trial which is testing a new treatment for advanced COVID disease. A "Vanguard site" is a site that is identified to enroll the first patients to pilot enrollment and modify the trial to suit additional sites. Despite COVID challenges, faculty at UCSF Fresno through the UCSF Fresno Clinical Research Center continue to be at the forefront of active clinical research. Liver diseases, pulmonary hypertension, vascular diseases, Valley fever, hematologic malignancies, lung cancer, neuro and vascular surgeries are some examples of active research trials currently underway at UCSF Fresno. As assistant dean, I see myself as a facilitator and my focus will be on encouraging more multidisciplinary work, which strengthens UCSF Fresno's ability to take on important clinical trials. In addition to overseeing clinical trials, I work with UCSF Fresno and CRMC leadership to ensure adequate resources to advance research at UCSF Fresno.

We are also looking to increasing collaboration with sister institutions such as UC Merced and Fresno State who share our mission in advancing science and health care in Central California.

Kenny Banh, MD, FACEP

Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education (UME)

As Assistant Dean for UME, I oversee the training of medical students and other allied health student programs at UCSF Fresno (e.g. physician assistant, nurse practitioner and oral and maxillofacial surgery). The goal at UCSF Fresno is to train students to care for our underserved patient populations while addressing health care disparities in the San Joaquin Valley. Under my leadership, UME has grown from less than 100 students rotating here on an annual basis to almost 400. In 2018, UCSF Fresno was accredited as a regional campus of the UCSF School of Medicine. The designation made UCSF the degree-granting institution for SJV PRIME and paved the way for students to spend most of their medical school training at UCSF Fresno. In 2021, the first students in the new UCSF SJV PRIME began clinical training in the Valley. In 2020, we expanded our medical school program to include planning for a four-year medical Valley program and in the past year, we recruited fifteen physicians to specific SJV PRIME academic roles. Meanwhile, pre-COVID-19 pandemic, we grew clinical opportunities for students and increased our offerings in student services, community outreach as well as research. The learning environment looked different for much of this year. As always, we encourage trainees to consider careers in the Valley and are working with regional partners to expand training opportunities and increase medical and educational outreach throughout the region.



Updates

from the Assistant Deans



Roger Mortimer, MD

Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs

I took over as Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs in February 2020. In my portfolio are faculty promotion and advancement and continuing medical education. UCSF assures the quality of teachers in the academic appointment process. We assess and monitor teaching, clinical care and service. Our role is to oversee who will be teaching our residents and students as well as seeing that faculty get the recognition they deserve within the university. One of UCSF's roles is also providing continuing education in the Valley. The people who live here deserve the finest clinical care which requires ongoing training and education. We adapted to the COVID-19 situation in spring 2020 by converting our education from traditional in-person conferences to a virtual format. We continued the virtual format in 2021 and even added three new educational events. In between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, we held nine online continuing medical education and community events. More than 1,500 people took part including international participants. We strive to remain the foremost provider of continuing education in the Valley. We will continue to develop our CME offerings to meet the needs and demands of local, state, national and global medical community as well as offer community events aimed at engaging and educating community members about health and medical issues and empowering participants to improve their own health with information and free screenings.

Lori Weichenthal, MD, FACEP, RYT

Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education (GME)

As Assistant Dean for GME, I oversee the continued accreditation and growth of nine specialty and 19 sub-specialty graduate medical education programs at UCSF Fresno. The goal of GME at UCSF Fresno is to train skilled, caring physicians who are interested in caring for an underserved patient population while addressing health care disparities. As a result of the GME program at UCSF Fresno, roughly half of our trainees stay and establish practices in the San Joaquin Valley. At UCSF Fresno, we have a holistic approach to training future physicians that includes a strong emphasis on physician wellness and diversity and inclusion. This past year has been a difficult one for our trainees and faculty, with many of them serving on the front line of the pandemic. We continue to work to support physician wellness during these stressful circumstances with special care packages for our residents, fellows, and faculty, access to virtual mental health resources 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and special appreciation days to recognize everyone's hard work. We also continue to offer many of our wellness opportunities, including yoga and mindfulness meditation in a virtual format. The pandemic has also highlighted the issue of health inequity that exists in our nation and in our community. At UCSF Fresno we work to train physicians for the 21st century who are prepared to be leaders in dealing with this issue and many others that plague our health care system. Our Health Equity Action Lab has served as a hub for trainees to get involved in outreach projects and research that will help to address the health disparities that exist in Fresno County and beyond.



Partners

and Affiliates

As a regional graduate and undergraduate medical education campus of the UCSF School of Medicine, UCSF Fresno conducts its training and patient care through a network of affiliated partners. Medical students, residents and fellows work and train in a variety of training sites with an impressive list of specialists at major hospitals, health agencies and programs, clinics and physicians' offices and wilderness medicine settings. With the only Level 1 Trauma Center between San Francisco and Sacramento in the north and Los Angeles to the south, a regional burn center, acute care hospitals and numerous non-hospital programs, Fresno is the center of health care in the San Joaquin Valley.

UCSF Fresno's Major Clinical Partners

Community Health System
Community Regional Medical Center
Clovis Community Medical Center
Fresno Heart & Surgical Hospital
Community Behavioral Health Center
Community Cancer Institute
Family HealthCare Network Deran Koligian
Ambulatory Care Center
Family HealthCare Network – Disease Management Center
Family HealthCare Network – Surgical Services Center
VA Central California Health Care System

UCSF and UCSF Fresno

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital
UCSF Medical Center
UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion
UCSF Liver Transplant Program at Parnassus
UCSF Fresno Alzheimer & Memory Center

Community Health Partners

Community Gynecologic Oncology Specialists
Community Medical Oncology Specialists
Community Pediatric Specialists
Community Specialty Surgery Associates

University Centers of Excellence

University Cardiovascular Center
University Dermatology Associates
University Diabetes and Endocrine Specialists
University Gastroenterology & Hepatology Associates
University Medicine Associates
University Obstetrics & Gynecology Center
University Orthopaedic Associates
University Perinatal Associates – Clovis
University Psychiatry Associates
University Pulmonary Associates
University Sleep and Pulmonary Associates
University Surgical Associates
University Urogynecology Associates
University Women's Specialty Center
Valley Vascular Surgery Associates

Other Affiliated Health Care Institutions and Training Sites

Advanced Laparoscopic Surgical Associates
Anther Pediatric and Adult Sleep Center
Baz Allergy & Asthma Institute
Sang Pediatrics
Nirmal Brar, MD
California Poison Control System
Cardiovascular Consultants Heart Center
Central Valley Breast Care
Central Valley Regional Center
Chestnut Pediatrics
Children's Health Center Behavioral Clinic
County of Fresno Department of Behavioral Health
County of Fresno Department of Public Health
County of Fresno Sheriff Coroner's Office
CPMC Mission Bernal Campus - Sutter Health
EPU Children's Center
Eye-Q Vision Care, Fresno
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
Holy Cross Clinic – Poverello House
Kaiser Permanente Fresno Medical Center
Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Visalia
Neurosurgical Associates Medical Group, Inc.
Optimal Hospice Care
Orthopaedic Associates Medical Clinic, Inc.
Peachwood Medical Group
Raintree Convalescent Hospital

Saint Agnes Medical Center
Sequoia Surgical Pavilion, Visalia
Sierra Pacific Orthopedics & Spine Center
Summit Surgical
Tushar Patel, MD
Transitions Children's Services
Turning Point of Central California Rural Mental Health Clinics
Valley Children's Hospital
Valley Health Team, Fresno
Valley Surgical Specialists
West Hills Medical Group
Women's Specialty and Fertility Clinic
Yosemite Medical Clinic at Yosemite National Park

Rural Training Sites

Camarena Health Centers, Madera
United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley, Parlier and Mendota Health Centers

Undergraduate Medical Education Training Sites

Community Health System
Community Medical Centers North Medical Plaza, Fresno
Clovis Community Medical Center
Fresno Heart & Surgical Hospital
Camarena Health, Madera
Central Valley Indian Health, Clovis Clinic
Clinica Sierra Vista, Fresno
Family HealthCare Network Deran Koligian
Ambulatory Care Center
Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health, Children's Services at Heritage Center
Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health, Metro Services Clinic, Fresno
Kaiser Permanente Fresno Medical Center
Kaweah Delta, Visalia
Livingston Community Health, Livingston
Madera Community Hospital
Madera Rural Health Clinic
The Terraces at San Joaquin Gardens, Fresno
United Health Center, Parlier
United Health Center, Mendota
University Centers of Excellence, North Medical Plaza, Fresno
Valley Health Team, Kerman Health Center
Valley Health Team, San Joaquin
Valley Health Team, Firebaugh, Sablan Health Center
Valley Health Team, Dinuba
VA Central California Health Care, Fresno Medical Center



UCSF Fresno received 9,922 applications from residents and fellows and conducted 1,390 interviews for 90 positions.

Residency Programs

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

Physician Assistant Residency Programs

Acute Care/Trauma Surgery
Emergency Medicine
Orthopaedic Surgery

Fellowship Programs

Acute Care Surgery
Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging
Cardiovascular Disease
Community Pediatrics
Emergency Medicine Education
Emergency Ultrasound
Gastroenterology
Head and Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction
Hematology/Oncology
HIV
Hospice and Palliative Medicine
Hospital Medicine
Infectious Disease
Interventional Cardiology
Maternal Child Health
Pulmonary Disease/Critical Care
Sleep Medicine
Surgical Critical Care
Wilderness Medicine

2020-2021 Academic Year as of 6/1/21

School of Medicine Residency Programs	# Trainees
Emergency Medicine	44
Family Medicine	38
Internal Medicine - Categorical	69
Internal Medicine - Chief Residents	3
Obstetrics/Gynecology	17
Orthopaedic Surgery	20
Pediatrics	30
Psychiatry	23
Surgery	25
Total	269

School of Dentistry Residency Programs	# Trainees
OMFS - Preliminary	0
OMFS	16
Total	16

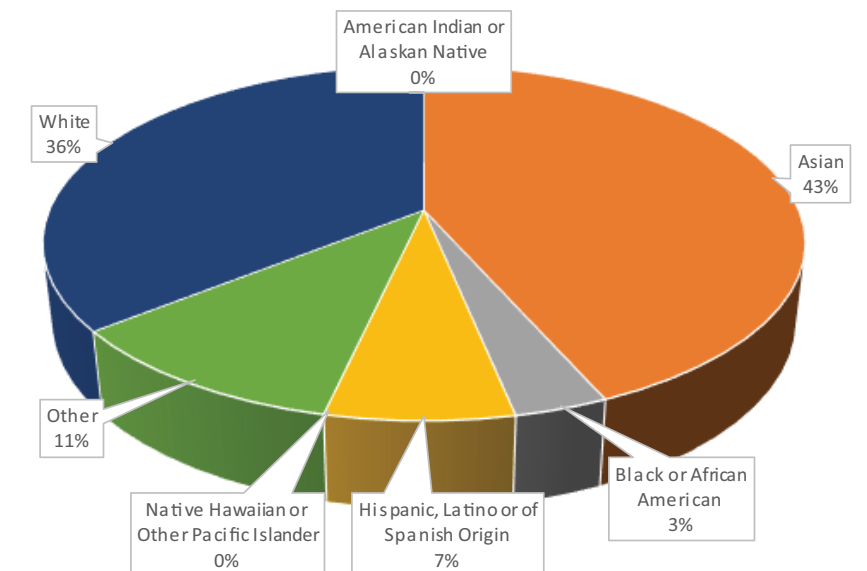
Accredited Fellowship Programs	# Trainees
Acute Care Surgery fellow	1
Cardiovascular fellow	9
Gastroenterology fellow	6
Hematology/Oncology fellow	6
Hospice/Palliative Care fellow	4
Infectious Diseases fellow	4
Interventional Cardiology fellow	1
Pulm/Critical Care fellow	8
Sleep Medicine fellow	2
Surgery Critical Care fellow	0
Totals	41

Non-Accredited Programs	# Trainees
Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging Fellowship (IM)	0
Community Pediatrics Fellowship (PEDS)	0
Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship (EM)	0
Head & Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction (OMFS)	2
HIV Fellowship (FM)	0
Hospital Medicine Fellowship (IM)	0
Maternal Child Health Fellowship (FM)	0
Medical Education Fellowship (EM)	1
Pediatric Chief Residents (PEDS)	2
Wilderness Medicine Fellowship (EM)	2
Total	7

Total 2020-2021 GME Trainees	
Residents (SOM)	269
Residents (SOD)	16
Accredited Fellows	41
Non-Accredited Fellows	7
Total	333

2020-2021 Academic Year

Resident and Fellow Diversity



UCSF Fresno Graduates to Care for Patients and Teach Future Physicians

One hundred medical residents and fellows along with four oral and maxillofacial surgery dental residents and five physician assistants completed training at UCSF Fresno this year for a total of 109 graduates. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UCSF Fresno celebrated the occasion for the second year in a row with a virtual commencement on June 10. Many of the graduates stayed in the Central Valley to care for patients, teach future physicians or continue their medical education.

“Under the leadership of our faculty, trainees pivoted and persevered during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent surge,” said Michael W. Peterson, MD, associate dean at UCSF Fresno. “They continued their critical work in learning environments, at bedsides and in the community, while addressing the renewed movement for social justice that calls on each of us to recognize, reject and break down systemic barriers and racism. We are pleased to have helped them fine tune their skills. We are incredibly proud of the health professionals they are today and particularly delighted that so many are staying in the Central Valley.”

Graduates from Community Medical Centers’ General Dentistry Residency program also were recognized.

2021 Commencement Highlights

- 60% of residents and fellows completing training in the Department of Emergency Medicine stayed in the Central Valley to provide care
- 47% of residents and fellows who completed training in the Department of Family and Community Medicine stayed in the region to provide much needed primary care
- 50% of Internal Medicine residents stayed in the Valley
- Both fellows in the Infectious Diseases Program stayed in Fresno as faculty at UCSF Fresno to train physicians and provide desperately needed expertise in the community to address COVID-19 and other infectious diseases
- 46% of residents who completed training in the Department of Pediatrics stayed in the region
- 25% of residents who completed Psychiatry training stayed in the Valley and 75% stayed in California or 1 out of 4 graduating Psychiatry residents stayed in the Valley and 3 stayed in California
- 40% of all UCSF Fresno 2021 graduates stayed in the Central Valley
- 75% of all graduates stayed in California to provide care, teach or continue their education



Monica Gaines, DO
UCSF Fresno Internal Medicine Residency Program, “Outstanding First-Year Resident,” Community Medical Centers (CMC)



Chirag Rajyaguru, DO
UCSF Fresno Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship, “Outstanding Resident or Fellow Teacher,” CMC



Eyad Almasri, MD
UCSF Fresno Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship, “Outstanding Teacher,” CMC



Nadine Musullam, PharmD
Community Regional Medical Center, “Outstanding Non-Physician Teacher,” CMC



Leigh Ann O'Banion, MD
UCSF Fresno Department of Surgery, “Borba Faculty Research Award”



Aalam Sohal, MD
UCSF Fresno Internal Medicine Residency Program, “Borba House Staff Research – Resident Award”



Sunny Sandhu, MD
UCSF Fresno Internal Medicine Residency Program, “ICare Award,” VA Central California Health Care System



Amitpaul Gill, MD
UCSF Fresno Internal Medicine Residency Program, “Leon S. Peters Resident of the Year Award,” Leon S. Peters Foundation



Kinsely Hubel, MD
UCSF Fresno Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship, “Leon S. Peters Fellow of the Year Award,” Leon S. Peters Foundation



Mohammed Bukari, MD
UCSF Fresno Hematology/Oncology Fellowship, “Kaiser Award for Excellence in Teaching”



Mackensie Yore, MD
UCSF Fresno Emergency Medicine Residency Program, “Steven N. Parks Leadership Award,” Fresno Madera Medical Society

UCSF Fresno Graduating Class of 2021



Hebah Ghanem, MD, completed a two-year fellowship in Infectious Diseases at UCSF Fresno. Fellowships are advanced training in a sub-specialty after residency. Dr. Ghanem, who is Jordanian, was born in Kuwait and lived in various countries. After the Gulf War, she moved to Jordan where she went to medical school, completed residency training and became board certified in Dermatology. She and her husband moved to the United States in 2013 for her husband to finish his nurse practitioner degree. They moved to Orange County in California to be near family. At that time, she shifted her focus from Dermatology to Internal Medicine. When her husband finished his nursing program, they decided to stay in the U.S. and applied for Permanent Resident Cards. Meanwhile, Dr. Ghanem applied to Internal Medicine residency training programs and matched with Trinitas in New Jersey. Following residency, her plan was to go back to Orange County, but an interview at UCSF Fresno would change her course. "I like the people at UCSF Fresno the best. The staff are very friendly and make me feel at home," she said. "My co-fellow, Dr. Michele Maison-Fomotar, it felt like we knew each other for a long time. Dr. Naiel Nassar, our program director, we can go to him with any concerns. And Lorna Tahan (program coordinator), emailing her was one reason I chose this program. She was so friendly, so great. When I came here for the interview, I felt like 'yes, I want to be here' from day one when I did my interview." Dr. Ghanem is currently Infectious Disease faculty at UCSF Fresno and is pleased to provide care and teach residents and fellows. Her co-fellow in the Infectious Diseases program also is stayed in Fresno, where the medical expertise is desperately needed.



Fresno native **Walid Hamud-Ahmed, MD**, completed a four-year emergency medicine residency program at UCSF Fresno, fulfilling a childhood dream. "As a kid, my dad was a big influence in my life and he would always joke, 'My son, when I get old and sick, I need you to be my doctor and take care of me,'" said Dr. Hamud-Ahmed. "It really stuck with me." Sadly, his father died tragically in a car accident when Hamud-Ahmed was 11. His mom, Nor, was left to raise six boys alone, including Dr. Hamud-Ahmed, who was third oldest. His family ran a small grocery store in Fresno County that served many migrant farmworkers. Dr. Hamud-Ahmed's brother, Ghasan, the oldest of the six boys, stepped up to run the family business. A graduate of Central East High School, Dr. Hamud-Ahmed graduated from Fresno State as part of the Smittcamp Family Honors Program. Attracted by its Program in Medical Education for the Urban Underserved (PRIME-US), Dr. Hamud-Ahmed was admitted to the UCSF School of Medicine. At UCSF Fresno, he loves the faculty, residents, and patients and is thankful for the people who encouraged him to become a physician, including Kenny Banh, MD, emergency medicine physician and assistant dean for Undergraduate Medical Education at UCSF Fresno. He met Dr. Banh when Hamud-Ahmed was a premedical student as part of the UCSF Fresno Academic Research Associates Program while at Fresno State. Dr. Hamud-Ahmed is grateful to his mom and brother and most proud of being a husband to wife Haleema and father to Ismael and Noora. Dr. Hamud-Ahmed currently works in the Emergency Department at Clovis Community Medical Center and is part-time faculty at UCSF Fresno.

Leslie Littlefield, MD, completed a three-year fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care (PCC), a division within the UCSF Fresno Department of Internal Medicine. Fellowships are advanced training in a sub-specialty following residency. PCC fellows receive extensive training in pulmonary medicine with dedicated faculty in all subspecialties in pulmonary medicine such as cystic fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, interstitial lung disease, asthma/COPD, lung infection, lung cancer, interventional pulmonary and general pulmonary medicine. Dr. Littlefield, a self-described first-generation Mexican American, grew up all over California, moving with her mother about 20 times before she was 16 to escape an abusive background. They settled in Orangevale near Sacramento, where she graduated from Casa Roble High School at age 16 and became a certified nurse's aide. With the goal of becoming a doctor, she became a licensed vocational nurse and took courses at nearby community colleges – wherever she could find classes that fit her schedule. When a chance came up to go to medical school in Mexico, she seized the opportunity. Dr. Littlefield returned to the U.S. and completed residency training in Internal Medicine at Alameda Health System in Oakland. There, she developed an interest and passion for Pulmonary and Critical Care. She did an elective at UCSF Fresno and fell in love. The Pulmonary and Critical Care Division was on the front lines during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent surge in 2020. Dr. Littlefield accepted a position with the Kaiser Permanente Medical Group in South Sacramento. "I would like to tell every impoverished person from every ethnicity, if I can do it, if one person can do it. They can all do it. Never give up. Whatever your dreams are – go for it."



Michele Meime Maison-Fomotar, MD, completed a two-year fellowship in Infectious Diseases (ID) at UCSF Fresno and joined UCSF Fresno as Internal Medicine faculty. Dr. Maison-Fomotar completed a three-year residency in Internal Medicine at UCSF Fresno before continuing as an Infectious Diseases Fellow. "I am happy to have been a part of the UCSF Fresno family since 2016, and I look forward to staying on as ID faculty," she said. "I hope I can inspire people to love ID as I do." Dr. Maison-Fomotar grew up in Cameroon, Africa, where she went straight to medical school from high school for a seven-year program at the Faculte de Medecine et des Sciences Biomedicales Universite de Yaoundé. Her biggest challenge, as an immigrant, was getting into residency and "learning how to adapt in a new educational system here in the United States, especially since I learned medicine mostly in French," she said. But at UCSF Fresno, she felt a sense of belonging to a large family, and the best part of her training experience has been the collegiality of her co-residents, fellows and faculty, she said. She drew inspiration to become a physician from the strong women in her life. Her godmother was a midwife, one of her close family friends is a physician and her older sister is a physician. Watching her mother struggle with diabetes inspired her to become an internist, she said. She also found Internal Medicine fascinating. "The complexity of dealing with the adult patient has always called to me. As a physician in Cameroon, I worked mostly with adult patients, especially patients with HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. Dr. Maison-Fomotar and her co-fellow in the Infectious Diseases program stayed in Fresno, where medical expertise is desperately needed for valley fever, increasing rates of sexually transmitted diseases and for COVID-19. In her spare time, Dr. Maison-Fomotar enjoys cooking, traveling, dancing, playing the piano, event planning and décor – and just spending time with family. Her plans after graduation included taking a vacation before she joined the Infectious Diseases team at UCSF Fresno. "I am so excited."



Graduation Profiles



Eric Rabey, DDS, grew up in Fresno. He graduated from Clovis West High School, UC Irvine and the USC School of Dentistry. He also completed a two-year General Dental Practice Residency Program (GPR) at Community Regional Medical Center and recently completed a four-year residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) at UCSF Fresno. In dental school, he planned on practicing Orthodontics but as time went by, Dr. Rabey changed his focus to General Dentistry. A one-month rotation in UCSF Fresno's OMFS program during General Practice Residency and he set his sights elsewhere. He liked the scope of practice in OMFS and the variety of patient cases. Following his GPR, he applied and was accepted to the OMFS residency program at UCSF Fresno. Residents train and operate mostly downtown at Community Regional Medical Center and the UCSF Fresno OMFS Clinic Care Center. Residents also rotate and operate at the VA Medical Center in Fresno, Clovis Community Medical Center, Saint Agnes Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente's Fresno Medical Center. Dr. Rabey was one of four chief residents. He served as the clinic chief. "The attendings are the best part of training at UCSF Fresno," said Dr. Rabey, referring to OMFS faculty Robert Julian, DDS, MD; Brian M. Woo, DDS, MD; and George Zakhary, DDS, MD. "You're not going to find them anywhere else. They have a ton of experience and are more than willing to share. They foster a really positive environment, and they all inspire you to be a better resident and person. They're just good people." Dr. Rabey was excited to stay in Fresno after graduation and join a local practice Premier Valley Oral Surgery & Dental Implants.



Monika Thomas-Urbe, MD, MPH, completed a three-year residency training program in Pediatrics at UCSF Fresno. The patients she serves in Fresno remind her of the patient population in Valle de Bravo, the small town in Mexico where she grew up. "My father is a surgeon. He did surgeries, but also delivered babies, cared for patients of all ages and was often paid with chickens and pigs. That's what I thought it meant to be a doctor, she said. I always wanted to be a doctor. She attended medical school at the Universidad Anáhuac in Huixquilucan, State of Mexico, Mexico. During medical school, she volunteered to go to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. After medical school, she did visiting rotations at Oxford in England and in Germany. Her passion for public health led her to Emory University where she earned a master's in public health. It was then she decided to stay in the United States, moving to California for a job as a research assistant at Stanford University. There, she met her husband. While applying to residency programs, a mentor at Stanford and a colleague both recommended UCSF Fresno. She applied and matched. The colleague who recommended UCSF Fresno – Mackenzie Yore, MD – completed residency training in the UCSF Fresno Department of Emergency Medicine. The end of training comes with bittersweet moments, too. She had her final medical visit recently with the very first pediatric patient she saw in residency. He's almost three years old now. Some of her patients even bring her whatever fruit is in season, a fond reminder of the special bonds she recalls her father having with patients when she was growing up. Looking back, she is reminded that the path wasn't always easy. It was hard to get into medical school. It was expensive and it was emotionally draining, she said. She acknowledges the help of family, her husband, mentors and friends and is grateful for everyone who supported her along the way. After graduation, Dr. Thomas-Urbe is staying in Fresno to care for patients at Kaiser Permanente's Fresno Medical Center.

Fast Facts

UCSF Fresno was established in 1975 and housed at the VA Central California Health Care System. In 2005, UCSF Fresno opened in downtown Fresno, consolidating all UCSF Fresno residency programs and administrative staff under one roof for the first time. In 2018, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education approved UCSF Fresno as a regional campus of the UCSF School of Medicine to lead the San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education (SVJ PRIME), a training program to prepare medical students to address the unique health needs of the region's growing, diverse and underserved populations. In 2020, we celebrated our 45th anniversary.

300+
Physicians trained
each year

650+
UCSF core and
volunteer faculty in Fresno

9
Residency
specialties

19
Fellowship
sub-specialties

3
Physician assistant
residencies

roughly **50%**
Of UCSF Fresno trained
physicians stay in the
Central Valley to
practice

11-15
Years average time to
train a physician
(after high school)

\$143k
Average amount borrowed by UCSF
School of Medicine students in 2019

550k+
Patient visits
annually
at clinical partner sites

Pathway to Becoming a Practicing Physician...



Grade School

Junior High School

High School

College/ University

- UCSF Fresno Junior Doctors Academy

- UCSF Fresno Doctors Academy: Caruthers and Sunnyside high schools
- UCSF Fresno Mini Med School
- UCSF Fresno Summer Biomedical Internship Program
- ROAD for the San Joaquin Valley

- Fresno State Health Careers Opportunity Program
- UCSF Fresno Mini Med School
- ROAD for the San Joaquin Valley

Medical School (4 years)

- UCSF Fresno trains 3rd and 4th year students
- San Joaquin Valley PRIME
- LIFE Program

Residency Training (3-5 years)

- UCSF Fresno Residency Programs:
- Emergency Medicine
 - Family and Community Medicine
 - Internal Medicine
 - Obstetrics/Gynecology
 - Oral Maxillofacial Surgery

- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Surgery

Optional Fellowships (1-3 years)

- UCSF Fresno Fellowship Programs:
- Acute Care Surgery
 - Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging
 - Cardiovascular Disease
 - Community Pediatrics
 - Emergency Medicine Education
 - Emergency Ultrasound
 - Gastroenterology
 - Head and Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction
 - Hematology/Oncology
 - HIV
 - Hospice and Palliative Medicine
 - Hospital Medicine
 - Infectious Disease
 - Interventional Cardiology
 - Maternal Child Health
 - Pulmonary/Critical Care
 - Sleep Medicine
 - Surgical Critical Care
 - Wilderness Medicine

Practicing Physician

Continuing Medical Education

- UCSF Fresno offers continuing education for practicing physicians and health care professionals to advance their knowledge and improve patient outcomes



- Training and Pathway Programs Offered by UCSF Fresno

Support UCSF Fresno

Support UCSF Fresno in Training Future Physicians for the San Joaquin Valley

UCSF Fresno aims to improve access to quality health care for underserved populations through health education and workforce training and by providing road maps for students to pursue careers in the health professions. As illustrated by the Pathway to Practicing Physician, it takes at least 11 to 13 years after high school to produce a practicing physician.

Programs like our Doctors Academy (DA) and Junior Doctors Academy, Summer Biomedical Internship (SBI), Reaching Out to Aspiring Doctors (ROAD) for the San Joaquin Valley inspire and prepare students, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds, for careers in health and medicine. These pathway programs are working. One hundred percent of graduates from the UCSF Fresno Doctors Academy programs are admitted to a college or university. Current faculty, residents and medical students in the San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education (SJV PRIME) are alumni of the DA and SBI programs. Three students in the 2021 graduating class of SJV PRIME matched with UCSF Fresno residency programs this year.

Current and future students of the UCSF SJV PRIME will benefit from the \$1.2 million raised last year for scholarship support. To recruit and retain the best and brightest future physicians in the San Joaquin Valley, ongoing financial support for SJV PRIME and other pathway programs is needed. To support UCSF Fresno in training future physicians, please consider making a gift. For more information, please contact kathleen.smith@ucsf.edu or call (559) 499-6426.



New residents or interns typically start their training at UCSF Fresno with a week-long orientation and clinical skills boot camp. This year, for the second year in a row due to COVID-19, the traditional format was not possible. Instead, the Graduate Medical Education Department implemented a hybrid orientation, onboarding interns by department over a few dates and staggering times each department was on site. New residents were fit tested for masks and participated in hands-on donning and doffing among other activities. All new residents gathered online for workshops led by UCSF Fresno and Community Regional Medical Center leadership as well as a virtual boot camp.



Media often turn to faculty physicians and residents at UCSF Fresno for their expertise on health and medical issues. Over the past year, UCSF Fresno experts have been interviewed by local, state, national and international outlets on topics ranging from air quality and wildfires, air quality and respiratory problems, Alzheimer's and dementia, back to school and online learning, blood donations and shortage, colon cancer, congenital syphilis, COVID-19 Equity Project, COVID-19 testing, COVID-19 variants, ECMO, Doctors Academy, fentanyl, graduating residents, gun safety, Health Equity Action Lab, health disparities during COVID, heat illness and stroke, ICU, long-haul COVID, masks, medical mistrust, physician shortages and retention, remdesivir, residency training during the pandemic, sickle cell clinic, SJV PRIME, sleep and COVID, social determinants of health during COVID, summer activities and travel during COVID, stroke and COVID, spread of COVID-19, holiday gatherings and COVID-19, vaccines and mobile events, and vitamin D. Between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, UCSF Fresno was mentioned 1,422 times in print, broadcast and online media outlets, reaching an estimated audience of 318,347,313 resulting in a publicity value of \$9,601,573.



UCSF Fresno Pediatricians Collaborating with Community Partners to Provide Trauma-informed Awareness and Care



The UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics is collaborating with community partners and leveraging grant funding to increase awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), pilot ACEs screening protocols, provide training in trauma-informed care (TIC) and develop a strong network of support for children and adults affected by ACEs.

“All of us, as providers recognize that an awareness of ACEs and screening patients for ACEs are important, but there was no infrastructure in place for provider training,” said John Moua, MD, interim chief of the UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics.

Last year, the California Department of Health Care Services (DCHS) began paying Medi-Cal providers for conducting ACEs screening of children and adults, and this year DCHS and the California Surgeon General’s office are providing ACEs Aware initiative grants for training of providers. The UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics received \$180,000 to train Pediatric, OB/GYN and Family and Community Medicine providers in Fresno County. It is collaborating with two Fresno community-based organizations – Exceptional Parents Unlimited Children’s Center (EPU), and Every Neighborhood Partnership (ENP) – for the project.

“We are excited to be participating in these initiatives that are going to broaden or expand the incorporation of ACEs screening into pediatric practices all over the state,” said Aimee Abu-Shamsieh, MD, a UCSF Fresno pediatrician and UCSF clinical professor. “We are able to pilot practices in our clinic and be a part of the development of best practices for ACEs screening that can be shared with our pediatric colleagues throughout the state.”

Adversities experienced by age 18 from physical abuse, sexual abuse, exposure to violence and/or household dysfunctions are linked to an increased risk for chronic health problems, including heart disease, diabetes, and premature death. Many of the patients seen by UCSF Fresno pediatricians have experienced four or more ACEs, said Christian Faulkenberry-Miranda, MD, UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics program director, ambulatory residency clinic director and UCSF associate

clinical professor. In its application for the ACEs Aware Supplemental Implementation Grant, the department said the COVID-19 pandemic has placed even more stress on families, increasing the need for partnerships in the training of providers to be able to recognize and respond to a surge of traumatic experiences.

EPU and ENP are helping produce an ACEs video that can be shown in physician offices to increase acceptance of the screening process. The video will explain why physicians screen for ACEs and highlight examples of protective factors for children. The ability to adapt to adverse experiences – resilience -- during childhood can be an offset to toxic stress that children experience when they are exposed to traumatic experiences often and/or over long periods of time. EPU and ENP found volunteer families to videotape regular family moments, such as taking a walk or eating dinner together that illustrate how even small activities of daily living can help reduce stress.

“When parents go in to see the provider and the provider has a conversation with them about ACEs, we want to have already planted the seed for the focus to be on positive things, not necessarily over the negative things,” said Dana Riley, PhD, a licensed clinical psychologist, and manager of clinical services at the Assessment Center for Children at EPU. EPU serves children with medical, mental health and developmental needs and provides support to parents.

ENP Executive Director Andrew Feil has seen positive effects of resiliency. ENP connects churches and community groups to serve at elementary schools. “From our youth program that pairs students with mentors, we have seen kids from age five who now are graduating college,” he said. “We really wanted to be a part of the education on ACEs for ourselves to grow and learn, and also for the community.”

The UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics also will provide training on the clinical response to ACEs, including clinic workflows and information about local resources for patients in the Central Valley. The

ACEs training sessions will be conducted virtually, and will include physicians, nurse practitioners, medical assistants and office staff. “In many cases, medical assistants may be doing the ACEs screening and they may not quite understand why this is important because no one stops to tell them why it is important,” said Dr. Abu-Shamsieh.

With an \$80,000 California ACEs Learning and Quality Improvement Collaborative (CALQIC) grant, the UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics will help providers implement PEARLS, the new ACEs screening tool developed by the Bay Area Research Consortium on Toxic Stress and Health (BARC), a partnership between the Center for Youth Wellness, UCSF and UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland. UCSF Fresno is one of only 15 organizations throughout California to be awarded a CALQIC grant. CALQIC was launched in cooperation with the UCSF Center to Advance Trauma-Informed Healthcare to identify promising practices, tools, resources and partnerships to further inform California’s ACEs Aware initiative.

UCSF Fresno pediatricians adopted PEARLS screening in December at the 1-, 3- and 5-year well-child visits. “We have incorporated trauma-informed care into our curriculum for the past few years,” said Amy Parks, DSW, LCSW, CLEC, and lead for the ACEs Aware grant. Parks is coordinator of Development and Behavioral Pediatrics, Community Pediatrics, Adolescent Medicine & Child Advocacy and director of Pediatric Healthy Steps at the UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics. “UCSF Fresno is really amazing in how supportive our faculty are of trauma-informed care practices and the time that has to be invested to make that culture change to provide trauma-informed care,” she said.

The UCSF Fresno Department of Family and Community Medicine, as part of the CALQIC grant, will soon implement PEARLS screening in its clinic for 1-, 3- and 5-year well-child visits, said Ila Naeni, DO, a UCSF Fresno Family and Community Medicine associate program director and UCSF associate clinical professor. Long-term, the screening can be expanded to adults. “The screening is such an important part of making sure our patients in the Valley get the full, comprehensive care that they deserve,” Dr. Naeni said. “We serve a population at risk that could definitely benefit from the resources that go along with screening for ACEs.”

The UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics also is a partner in a \$2.6 million ACEs Aware Implementation Grant that is being administered by Saint Agnes Medical Center. Funding will allow community health workers to be placed in clinics, including those staffed by UCSF Fresno pediatricians and Family and Community Medicine physicians, Dr. Parks said. The workers will help link patients to resources, and inform physicians of resources their patients have accessed, she said.

The ACEs Aware and CALQIC grants are fostering new partnerships between community-based organizations and UCSF Fresno, Parks said. “It’s creating more receptive and effective and efficient linkages. And ultimately, it’s going to create a healthier Fresno – a more resilient Fresno.”

Partnerships are essential to successfully implementing the ACEs grants, Dr. Moua said. “One of the strengths of the UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics is we are doing community-based medicine. We are mission-driven to take care of the community we serve; and we collaborate with community partners instead of just being in a silo by ourselves.”

UCSF Fresno Psychiatry Residency Program Pivots Outpatient Care and Training to Telemedicine During COVID-19 Pandemic

A couple of years ago, the UCSF Fresno Department of Psychiatry began using webcams for outpatient care and training purposes. The early implementation of such equipment has been a godsend in the pandemic, allowing outpatient training to continue with residents seeing patients in video sessions rather than in their offices to prevent potential exposure risks to COVID-19.

A 30-45-minute session with a patient in a small office is a high-risk interaction and UCSF Fresno halted outpatient training for residents last March when the COVID-19 pandemic started. Luckily, outpatient resident training was not disrupted for long because computer video equipment was available at University Psychiatry Associates (UPA), the faculty practice and residency training clinic. The pandemic had forced physician practices across the country to pivot to telemedicine and seemingly overnight, webcams became a scarce commodity. “You couldn’t buy them,” said Craig C. Campbell, MD, program director, UCSF Fresno Psychiatry Residency. “But we already had the equipment that we needed so we didn’t really skip a beat.”

Within two weeks of stopping in-person sessions, UCSF Fresno had converted 100% to telehealth psychiatry with help from Central California Faculty Medical Group (CCFMG) in securing a telehealth platform for the video sessions, Dr. Campbell said. “We had a lot of luck and tremendous support from CCFMG and their leadership and their IT (Information Technology). They made us look good, they made us look nimble,” he said.

(continued on next page)

It was important that training and care not be interrupted. The San Joaquin Valley has among the lowest per capita ratios of behavioral health professionals to the population, according to the UCSF Healthforce Center. UCSF Fresno residents provide much needed mental health care while in training and about 60% of the UCSF Fresno residents remain in the region at completion of residency, Dr. Campbell said.

The challenge has been adapting faculty supervision protocols to an outpatient training model. Residents now connect with patients by logging into the telehealth system, and faculty can join sessions virtually for purposes of clinical oversight. During the early months of the pandemic, residents worked out of the UPA offices, but in the late fall, as COVID-19 cases surged, all residents began working from their homes.

“All of sudden, you’re working with patients and residents over a Zoom link, Dr. Campbell said. “Most of it has been a very steep, hands on learning curve; and I was learning right along with residents and with my patients, along with supervising residents’ work.”

This year, the UCSF Fresno Department of Psychiatry has a complement of 24 residents (six residents across four years, which completes a four-year expansion to increase class size in the department from four residents to six per class. Residents have adjusted to telemedicine but some have embraced it more than others, Dr. Campbell said.

Fourth-year resident who grew up in Fresno, Lisa Wise, MD, found it difficult to find suitable space to hold telemedicine sessions at home. Her 7-year-old son is online-learning at home so she opted to come into her office at UPA for telemedicine sessions. For some patients, finding a confidential space in which to have a session also has been a challenge, Dr. Wise said. “We (residents) had to catch on pretty quickly to ask ‘are you in a place where you can talk now? Is anyone else in the home with you?’”

Patients overall have been accepting of telemedicine, she said. For some, telehealth is more convenient, especially for those with transportation issues or who live far from the clinic. For others, however, an unfamiliarity with the technology has been an obstacle and some patients, especially among the elderly population have no internet connection, requiring telephone sessions. Surprisingly, these have gone well, Dr. Wise said. “Patients can feel self-conscious on video but talking on the telephone can help for some patients”, she said. “There’s a sense of anonymity and some open up about things they might not on video or even in person.” For others, particularly very paranoid patients, they might imagine others

are in the room with you listening to the conversation and feel more guarded.

Before the pandemic, the UCSF Fresno Department of Psychiatry offered telemedicine as an elective for residents in their fourth year. Given an option, Dr. Wise said she would not have chosen telemedicine, but under the circumstances, she said, “I see it as a necessary part of training. We all need to understand how to do this now.”

Telemedicine was a big change, said Nicholas Betchel, DO, a third-year resident who grew up in the Central Valley and who plans to remain after residency. “We really relied on Dr. Campbell to navigate us through this,” he said. “And as a resident, I felt very cared for throughout all of this. They (UCSF Fresno) found the resources needed and provided them to us. Dr. Betchel has become comfortable using telemedicine and is open-minded about incorporating it into a practice in the future. “Patient outcomes haven’t worsened,” he said. “I’ve had some really good outcomes with video therapy and medication management.”

Residents who began their second year at UCSF Fresno in January were doing inpatient rotations when the pandemic started and have experienced only telemedicine in their outpatient training. Andrew Shiovitz, MD, a second-year resident, is thankful he does not have to worry about exposure to COVID-19 and of bringing the virus home to his pregnant wife and toddler son. Telemedicine is not without flaws. “But as long as COVID-19 is going to be a concern, I think this is the best thing to make sure we’re adept at doing this,” he said. As for whether he will prefer outpatient telemedicine over in-person sessions, it is too soon to tell, Dr. Shiovitz said. “This to me is outpatient work. I have nothing else to compare it to.”

As COVID-19 cases decrease and more people are vaccinated for the coronavirus, the need for training residents in telemedicine loses some urgency, but “very few people expect things to return to 100% pre-pandemic status,” Dr. Campbell said. People who have difficulty traveling to a clinic are very appreciative of telemedicine and are hoping it remains an option, even when the pandemic is over, he said. UCSF Fresno’s Department of Psychiatry is well-prepared for training physicians to provide excellent patient care by telemedicine to serve patients through this pandemic and beyond.



Craig Campbell, MD on a telemedicine conference

UCSF Fresno Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is First in Nation to Use Robotic, 3D Microscope for Reconstructive Surgery

Patients with oral cancer in the San Joaquin Valley have been coming to the UCSF Fresno Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) Residency Program for two decades for state-of-the-art surgery and reconstruction. Now, the program is the first nationwide to use a robotic three-dimensional digital microscope for surgery to rebuild head and neck defects after tumor surgery.

Before we got here there was no one in the Valley doing this (microvascular free flap reconstructive surgery), on a regular basis for larger resections, said Brian Woo, DDS, MD, UCSF Fresno OMFS program director. The complex reconstructive surgery entails transplanting soft tissue, muscle or bone taken from elsewhere in the body to rebuild tongues, cheeks or jaws; and UCSF Fresno surgeons do several of these free flap surgeries a week. The procedure results in a better return of function for patients.

UCSF Fresno OMFS is committed to patient care. It takes cancer patients from start to finish (cancer resection to reconstruction) to get them back to their original form and function, Dr. Woo said.

For the past eight months, UCSF Fresno OMFS surgeons have been using the 3D Modus V digital microscope in free flap surgeries. Free flap surgery can take 10 to 14 hours. Transplanted tissues and bones need a blood supply – and the surgeon must sew blood vessels together that can be less than three millimeters in diameter or slightly larger than a pencil point. The 3D Modus V microscope gives surgeons increased visualization and an enlarged view of tissue during surgery, which can reduce surgery time and surgeon fatigue. “It’s better ergonomics for surgeons,” Dr. Woo said.

“Indeed, UCSF Fresno’s OMFS team is definitely the first in California and the nation to use our system for free flap reconstructive microsurgery,” Synaptive Clinical Applications Specialist Vatche Baboyan said in an email.

UCSF Fresno OMFS full-time faculty are fellowship trained (two in head and neck surgery and one in craniofacial surgery) and UCSF Fresno was the only OMFS service on the West Coast during microvascular reconstruction from 2010 through 2020, said Robert Julian, DDS, MD, OMFS program chief. “We are the only surgical service in central California that offers microvascular reconstruction after severe head and neck trauma or after cancer surgery,” he said.

OMFS faculty and residents provide a wide range of oral and maxillofacial care in the Valley. They respond to head and facial trauma at Community Regional Medical Center, one of the



Brian Woo, DDS, MD,

busiest Level 1 trauma centers in California. They also treat and operate on patients at Valley Children’s Healthcare, the VA Central California Health Care System, Saint Agnes Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Fresno, and Clovis Community Medical Center. In addition, about 15,000 patients a year are treated as outpatients.

We offer services that are rarely handled by any other OMFS or ear, nose and throat surgeons in central California, Dr. Julian said. The services include: Vagal Nerve Stimulator placement for seizure, Hypoglossal Nerve stimulator for sleep apnea, skull base surgical access for neurosurgery, head and neck cancer, microvascular reconstruction of head and neck, major reconstructive procedures of head and neck in general, an application of embryonic tissue grafting in head and neck reconstruction.

Oral and pharyngeal cancer is the 12th most common cancer in California. The American Cancer Society estimates there will be 5,320 new cases in 2021. According to the 2020 oral health assessment of Fresno County by the Central Valley Health Policy Institute, there were 93 newly diagnosed oral and pharyngeal cancers in 2016 in the county.

UCSF Fresno OMFS faculty and residents work with UCSF Fresno oncologists at the Community Cancer Institute in Clovis in providing care before and after surgery for oral and pharynx cancer. “We formulate a plan for the patient all together,” Dr. Woo said.

UCSF Fresno OMFS provides services to a broad patient population and turns no patient away for care, Dr. Julian said. “We are well trained, very experienced and always up-to-date and innovative,” he said, emphasizing, ‘always.’ This is what is required to ensure the best possible outcomes for our patients.”

Faculty Awards, Honors, Achievements and Appointments



Kenny Banh, MD, FACEP, assistant dean of Undergraduate Medical Education, associate professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine, director of the Mobile Health and Learning COVID-19 Equity Project (Mobile Heal CEP), was awarded the 2021 UCSF School of Medicine Dean's Commendation for Exceptional Volunteerism and Community Service for his work with the CEP bringing free education, testing, and vaccines to the Fresno County community.



Rais Vohra, MD, FACEP, FACMT, professor of Emergency Medicine and Clinical Pharmacy, medical director of California Poison Control System, Fresno-Madera Division and interim Fresno County health officer, was awarded the City of Fresno's 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Committee Community Service Award for his service to the Fresno community.



In April 2021, **Rene Ramirez, MD**, was appointed County Health Officer by the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors. Dr. Ramirez is a Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at UCSF Fresno and Scribe Director and Emergency Medicine Advanced Provider Practitioner Liaison at CRMC.



Eyad Almasri, MD, UCSF Fresno Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship, received the "Outstanding Attending Teacher Award" from Community Medical Centers. Residents and fellows vote for members of faculty who exemplify standards of teaching excellence deserving of special recognition.

In the UCSF Fresno Department of Family and Community Medicine, awards and honors include: **Jasmine Garcha, MD**, **Ila Naeni, DO**, and **Arlin Venturina, MD**, each became a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. **M. Shoalb Khan, MD**, became an American Academy of HIV Medicine Specialist. Dr. Naeni, also received the UCSF Family and Community Medicine Alliance Excellence in Collaboration Award and Dr. Venturina received the UCSF Family and Community Medicine Alliance Excellence in Education & Advocacy Award.

Faculty in the UCSF Fresno Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology received the following awards:

Dennis DeSimone, DO, received the Kenneth J Cooke Award (Memorial award for a past faculty). This award acknowledges a faculty member who exemplifies leadership in resident education, leadership skills, infinite depth of knowledge, approachability, bedside manner and ability to take command of any situation.

Brian Morgan, MD, received the UCSF Medical Student Award for Best Teacher in OB/GYN Department. This award acknowledges a faculty member who exemplifies overall excellence and dedication in teaching medical students.

Dr. Morgan also received the UCSF Outstanding Faculty Award in Medical Student Teaching. -This award recognizes faculty members who received between three to nine evaluations and an average score of 4.5 or higher.

Christopher Downer, MD, received the UCSF Outstanding Faculty Award in Medical Student Teaching. This award recognizes faculty members who received between three to nine evaluations and an average score of 4.5 or higher.

Mokhtar El Deeb, MD, was awarded the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology National Faculty Award for Excellence in Resident Education. This award- acknowledges a faculty member who exemplifies overall excellence in teaching residents.

Carolina Sueldo, MD, received the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics Award, which recognizes outstanding teachers in OB/GYN medical education.



Leigh Ann O'Banion, MD, assistant clinical professor in the UCSF Fresno Department of Surgery, received the 2021 Borba Faculty Research Award. This award is given to recognize creative research judged to be the most significant and meritorious during the academic year.



Mohammed Bukari, MD, assistant clinical professor in the UCSF Fresno Oncology Fellowship Program, received the 2021 Henry J. Kaiser Award for Excellence in Teaching. Each year, the UCSF School of Medicine presents the Kaiser Award to four members of the clinical faculty. The award recognizes outstanding teaching, motivational skills and communication abilities. One of the prestigious awards is reserved for a member of the clinical faculty at UCSF Fresno.



Anil K. Agarwal, MD, FACP, FASN, FNKF, FASDIN, was appointed Chief of Medicine, VA Central California Health Care System. Dr. Agarwal, professor and nephrologist at UCSF Fresno, received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology (ASDIN). This is given to one person every year for their contributions to development of Interventional Nephrology.

Scholarly Activity

1500+

Participants in UCSF Fresno continuing education and community events

54

Active clinical trials

9

CME and community conferences hosted

186

Research studies and public service projects

81

Publications by faculty at UCSF Fresno



Eyad Almasri, MD

Research at UCSF Fresno Brings Cutting-Edge Treatments to Patients

Associate Dean Michael W. Peterson, MD, who earlier this year announced Dr. Almasri's appointment as assistant dean for Research, noted that among other attributes, Dr. Almasri's leadership in building COVID-19 research during the pandemic.

This past year, UCSF Fresno was selected as the only site for phase 1 of the COVID-19 Stem Cell Therapy: A Phase 1 Study of Intravenous Administration of Allogenic Adipose Stem Cells. The study has shown promising benefits and has prompted further study internationally and here at UCSF Fresno. The single arm, non-randomized study, led by Dr. Almasri, enrolled 10 patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) who had moderate or severe illness. Each received three intravenous infusions of stem cells on three separate days. These COVID-19 patients all had serious and life-threatening ARDS and were struggling to breathe. With ARDS, tiny air sacs in the lungs (alveoli) fill up with fluid, reducing the lungs' ability to transport oxygen into the blood. And in severe cases, the body's immune system responds by flooding the lungs with inflammatory cells and proteins, further restricting passage of oxygen into the blood and to organs. The hope is the adipose stem cells, collected from an adult donor, will reduce lung inflammation when infused in a patient.

"It is not a bragging point that we have more COVID patients than other places in California, Dr. Almasri pointed out. "Do I wish to be third to enroll patients instead of the first one? Yes, I wish we didn't have as many COVID-19 patients here," he said.

Dr. Almasri would like to increase the involvement of residents and fellows in research projects at UCSF Fresno, and in the future, he would like to make research opportunities available to more students (i.e. medical, high school and undergraduates), researchers at other institutions and possibly community members. Being embedded in the community opens opportunities for us to help the next generation of scientists, especially from underrepresented and underserved communities, he said.

We are in the Valley, for the Valley and we are tackling issues that local people care about like air quality and valley fever among others, said Dr. Almasri. It takes trust to participate in clinical trials and community-based research. We also understand that trust is earned and takes time.

We want people to know that when it comes to caring for our community, we advocate for our patients and we hope they will advocate and support us.

Research at UCSF Fresno is vital to our focus on improving health in the San Joaquin Valley. This includes investigating health conditions specific to the Valley as well as clinical trials that bring new treatments to the area before they are available more broadly, such as clinical trials of novel COVID-19 therapies.

More than 50 clinical trials were at various stages of investigation this year at UCSF Fresno, including a study of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) in children, led by Marina Roytman, MD, FACP, a UCSF Fresno hepatologist and director of the Liver Program; a retrospective evaluation of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH) by UCSF Fresno Pulmonologist Vijay Balasubramanian, MD, MRCP; regulatory T Cell function in preventing valley fever outcomes by Mohamed Fayed, MD, a pulmonary and critical disease specialist; and a heart failure study by UCSF cardiologist Richard Kiel, MD.

As a regional campus of UCSF, an institution that is world-renowned for its research, faculty at UCSF Fresno lead projects across a range of medical disciplines. UCSF Fresno's expertise and growing reputation for world-class research allows it to bring cutting-edge treatments to the area and offer them to people who need them most.

"We are moving from tagging along in nationwide trials to equal partners at the table with centers such as UC Davis, UCLA, UCSF main campus, Stanford and others," said Eyad Almasri, MD, assistant dean for Research at UCSF Fresno. Dr. Almasri is faculty in the Department of Internal Medicine - pulmonary and critical care and sleep medicine. He is medical director of the intensive care unit at CRMC. In addition, Dr. Almasri is a member of the Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation or ECMO team.

Continuing Medical Education and Community Events

As the largest academic medical education institution in the San Joaquin Valley, UCSF Fresno hosts many continuing education conferences and events each year to elevate clinician knowledge and share best practices with the goal of enhancing health care and patient outcomes in the region. In addition, UCSF Fresno holds community events aimed at engaging and educating community members about health and medical issues and empowering participants to improve their own health with information and free screenings. UCSF Fresno offered nine CME and community events in between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. Three of these were new educational events, and we continued our virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020 Virtual Mini Med School series was held on consecutive Tuesdays from Sept. 15 through Oct. 20, 2020. More than 800 people from across the United States, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica and Iraq registered for this series of community lectures and about 650 people ranging from students to adults participated. An annual favorite, Mini Med School shares the latest trends and topics in health care and medicine with general audiences. Subjects included: response to COVID-19, critical care in the sky and on land, being healthy on the inside and outside, mental health, internal medicine and medical education. Sukhjit Dhillon, MD, clinical instructor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, was the program director.

The 2020 Virtual Integrative Medicine Symposium was held on Oct. 3, 2020. The event was the first for the Department of Family and Community Medicine's Palliative Medicine Division. About 70 people participated online. The event was designed to increase awareness of the latest end-of-life interventions, including medical aid in dying in California, advances in evidence-based prescribing practices and more. Patrick Macmillan, MD, chief of the Palliative Medicine Division, was the program director.

The Second UCSF Fresno Liver Expo was held virtually on Oct. 10, 2020. This community event focused on prevention and management of fatty liver disease and steps attendees can take to improve liver health. In addition to liver health lectures, the expo included an exercise class and cooking demo from Trelio Restaurant in Clovis, California. About 200 people participated online. Marina Royman, MD, director of the UCSF Fresno Liver Program, was the program director.

The Second Annual Autism Symposium for Primary Care Providers was held online on Jan. 23, 2021. Led by foremost experts and co-hosted by the Central Valley Regional Center, this virtual program gave providers and allied health professionals the information and tools needed to initiate early diagnosis, intervention and provide community support resources for children with autism or related neurodevelopmental disorders. Nearly 130 health care professionals participated. John Moua, MD, interim chief of the UCSF Fresno Department of Pediatrics, was the program director.

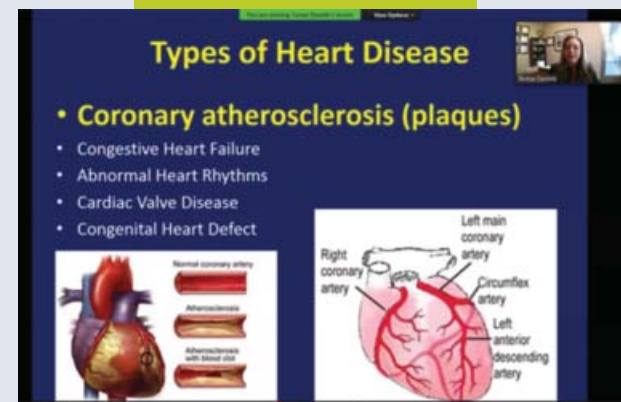
To increase awareness and improve heart health among women of all ages, UCSF Fresno hosted the **Women's Heart Fair at Home** on Feb. 27, 2021. The 2020 event was canceled due to the pandemic. This year's Women's Heart Fair was a virtual version and represented the sixth annual community event. About 165 people took part online. In addition to hearing from experts in heart health, participants heard from local experts, participated in a yoga class for all levels, watched a live cooking competition, and entered a drawing to win prizes. Teresa Daniele, MD, chief of Cardiology at UCSF Fresno, was the program director.

The 2021 Pulmonary Vascular Symposium was held April 16, 2021. This first-time event drew about 115 medical professionals from across the United States. An esteemed panel of experts from around the country presented as part of this virtual symposium, which was designed to increase awareness of pulmonary vascular disease and encourage the timely diagnosis, assessment of severity and appropriate intervention strategies for all health professionals. Vijay Balasubramanian, MD, medical director of pulmonary hypertension, was the program director.

The 2021 Wilderness Medicine Conference, which usually takes place at Bass Lake each year, was held virtually for the first time in the conference's history. About 80 people took part in the event on May 21, 2021. Attendees participated in live simulation activities including a knot tying course and emergency medicine lectures. Susanne Spano, MD, program director of the UCSF Fresno Wilderness Medicine Fellowship and Arielle Filiberti, MD, graduate of the Wilderness Medicine fellowship, were the program directors.

Celebrating its 16th year, the **Cardiology in the Valley Symposium** was hosted virtually on May 8, 2021 and was attended by nearly 80 physicians and allied health providers. The 2021 program covered challenging issues in the evaluation and treatment of mitral and tricuspid valvular regurgitation and examined the diagnosis and management of syndromes related to COVID infection and myocardial injury. John Ambrose, MD, professor of Medicine, was the program director.

Assessing the Needs of Opioid Seeking Patients was held virtually on June 18, 2021. This first-time program was created to help opioid prescribers develop a comprehensive approach to address the needs of all opioid-seeking patients. The focus of the sessions included patient-centered care, a harm-reduction approach to substance use disorders, best practices in Buprenorphine prescribing, and how to decrease physician discomfort in the management of opioid seeking patients. Liana Milanese, MD, and M. Shoaib Khan, MD, faculty in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, were the program directors.



UCSF Fresno Clinical Skills Lab Expands and Upgrades to Provide State-of-the-Art Training for Learners



UCSF Fresno enhanced learning opportunities for medical students and trainees this past year with improvements to the Clinical Skills Lab, which provides a safe environment for students, residents and fellows to learn and practice procedural skills, sharpen decision-making processes and build team leadership abilities.

The installation of a new SimCapture™ learning management system now provides advanced education, assessment and training experiences. “This state-of-the-art system revolutionizes the way we use simulation for Graduate Medical Education experiences. It allows us to record each training session from multiple camera angles and include data from patient monitors. These recordings can then be reviewed and debriefed by faculty and trainees,” said Jessica Fujimoto, MD, co-director of the Clinical Skills Lab, director of Emergency Medicine Simulation Education and clinical instructor of Emergency Medicine at UCSF Fresno. Dr. Fujimoto graduated from the UCSF Fresno Emergency Medicine Education Fellowship program in 2020, before joining the faculty.

The SimCapture™ learning management system also gives medical students in the San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education (SJV PRIME) an assessment equitable to that at the UCSF School of Medicine. “We are able to recreate the same experience if they had tested up at UCSF,” said

Amy Kwok, MD, MPH, FACS, co-director of the UCSF Fresno Clinical Skills Lab, director of Surgical Simulation Education, UCSF associate clinical professor of surgery at UCSF Fresno, associate program director of the UCSF Fresno General Surgery Residency and medical program director of the UCSF Fresno Acute Care/Trauma Surgery Physician Assistant Residency Program. Dr. Kwok graduated from the UCSF Fresno Acute Care Surgery Fellowship in 2012, before joining the faculty.

“We just did our first standardized physical exams for our third-year medical students,” Dr. Kwok said. “It was the first time we were able to do the exams in our simulation center. Normally, we have had to go to UCSF.”

The UCSF Fresno simulation lab boasts three new high-fidelity mannequins, in addition to multiple new task trainers that provide interactive learning opportunities for medical students, as well as training experiences for residents and fellows. “They (mannequins) are more realistic for the learner to really engage in a patient simulation,” said Lee Hagerty, medical simulation educator.

The new mannequins have also been used in community outreach, helping educate Emergency Medical Services (EMS) community partners at American Ambulance and to educate local high school students in the Doctors Academy program, Dr. Fujimoto said.

Moreover, simulation education at UCSF Fresno has responded to significant changes due to COVID-19 and the dramatic effects to clinical experiences during the pandemic. Faculty have relied more heavily on simulation to anchor their curriculum for students and trainees, Dr. Fujimoto said.

Scenario-based training sessions continued to be offered on site, with reduced group sizes to allow social distancing while providing learning opportunities and time to bond with classmates. An expansion into adjacent space doubled the size of the Simulation Center to allow dedicated simulation rooms for Emergency Medicine/Surgery/ICU scenarios separate from OB/GYN/Pediatric scenarios.

“It’s really quite amazing how much we have expanded,” Hagerty said.

Drs. Fujimoto and Kwok said the dramatic changes to the Clinical Skills Lab revolutionizes the way simulation is used in the training of medical students, residents and fellows, helping propel UCSF Fresno’s mission to train the next generation of high-quality physicians for the region and to improve the health of the San Joaquin Valley’s rapidly growing population.

Hildebrand Medical Library at UCSF Fresno Has New, Modern Design and Function

The Hildebrand Medical Library at UCSF Fresno is being transformed into a new, modern common space for research, study, collaboration, creativity and relaxation.

The inviting interior design by Tangram, a local interior design company, was made possible through SJV PRIME state funding.

While still under construction the library has been closed, but new features include a reconfigured space for computer stations, space for laptops, a treadmill desk, a quiet pod, a modular meeting room, an Innovations Lab, a Makers Lab with 3D printer and scanner and a 3D virtual reality station.

“It’s a much better use of space and there are certain areas where you can relax,” says Robyn Aguiar, MSLS, medical library professional.

The renovations provide upgrades to the nearly 20-year-old medical library, which was made possible with a generous donation in 2002 from Dr. and Mrs. Edward Hildebrand. Dr. Hildebrand was a long-time Fresno resident with a passion for medical science and education.

Due to the pandemic, the remodeled library is not open to the public, but library patrons hopefully in the near future will notice the long bookshelves are gone that dominated the library space. The text collection has been weeded and books given away for a transition to electronic resources, which coincides with a move in 2020 to an electronic resources library system at UC San Francisco School of Medicine, says Emy Lopez Phillips, medical library director at UCSF Fresno. “Journals, periodicals and books can be accessed remotely.”

The library continues to be space for study and reflection, and a modular wall around the front desk area of the library provides a quiet space for Sharon McClain, C-IAYT, library professional, and Aguiar to talk with patrons. The front desk area also will have space for an archival room that includes a photo scanner and document scanner. “I recently took an intensive archival training program and UCSF Fresno library

staff will be creating and managing an institutional archival system for UCSF Fresno,” McClain says.

Inside the main space of the library, four rooms can be reserved as quiet, study rooms and a “quiet pod” in the center of the library is available. “When you are inside the pod, it is very quiet,” Phillips said. “If someone needs to make a telephone call or have a private conversation with another person, it gives them that space to do that in the library.”

At the back of the library that had been occupied by couches and chairs, a modular wall encloses an Innovations Lab, where Phillips says there are plans to have workshops for patrons to participate in hands-on activities. “We have robotics kits and even some knitting kits. And then we have clay modeling kits where clay can be used to model and construct different organs in the body,” she says. The addition of a 3D printer and 3D scanner also have the potential for patrons to create simulated heart valves or prosthetics. “There is definitely a lot of opportunity there,” Phillips says.

The library also will have a room with a green screen for video interviews and a podcasting station with podcasting microphone equipment.

The library is 21st Century, Aguiar says with pride.

It’s definitely a paradigm shift from books all around to information at your fingertips on a keyboard, but a modern library is designed to be more than a book depository, Phillips says. “It’s a place for people to come together and collaborate and communicate and be creative – all the things we want to promote at UCSF Fresno.”



UCSF Fresno Provides Much Needed Wellness and Support for Campus Community



This past year has been difficult for everyone, but especially for faculty and trainees (and their support staff) at UCSF Fresno who have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 battle.

Wellness needs to be a priority of everyone, said Lori Weichenthal, MD, FACEP, assistant dean of Graduate Medical Education and Designated Institutional Officer, associate program director of Emergency Medicine, professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine at UCSF Fresno. “We’ve been engaged in this pandemic for almost two years now and that has taken an extra toll on people. Providing support is hugely important,” she said.

“In the spring we recognized, as we hit this year mark of dealing with COVID, that there was a lot of COVID fatigue among people,” said Andrew Field, Wellness manager at UCSF Fresno. And the goal became providing as much support as possible, in as many ways as possible given restrictions of remote working, social distancing and other pandemic guidelines.

Some services, such as yoga and meditation classes switched to virtual formats, but providing other types of support for medical students, trainees, faculty and staff during the pandemic required modifications. Campus Life Services handed out care packages at a walk-up and drive-in appreciation event in the UCSF Fresno parking lot in March. “We organized what I thought were pretty generous care packages, and tried to make them as thoughtful as possible,” Field said. “We had care packages for single people on campus, for couples and for families that were specific to what we believed would be engaging and supportive.”

More than 350 appreciation packages were handed out at the spring event. This summer, the Associate Dean’s Office organized an equally well-attended appreciation event in the

parking lot, which included food and giveaway of bags containing gifts.

UCSF Fresno, with support of Associate Dean Michael W. Peterson, and Community Health Systems leadership, opened a weekly farmer’s market in early June at Community Regional Medical Center. The market makes fresh fruits and vegetables easily accessible to all at UCSF Fresno, hospital employees and people in the surrounding neighborhoods. “Every Friday, residents, faculty and staff can step outside and get fresh air and get fresh fruits and vegetables,” Field said. “It’s been very pleasing to get emails saying thanks for getting the farmer’s market in place and that ‘It’s really helping my wellness.’”



Other wellness initiatives included a walking challenge in early 2021 that had 150 participants; creation of a wellness newsletter that provides quick wellness tips and other information – the direct result of feedback from members of the UCSF Fresno LIVE wellness committee. And in May, UCSF Fresno hired Amanda De Lima Croft, as wellness specialist, who brings a new perspective to wellness, including experience of being the spouse of a UCSF Fresno resident.

Field and De Lima Croft provide a smorgasbord of different wellness activities and all are needed, said Dr. Weichenthal. “Every individual will need something different and when people need something, whether it’s to go to yoga or to access mental health, we want them to feel that we have something here at UCSF Fresno that works for them.”

UCSF Fresno Promotes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Education, Training, Recruitment and Patient Care



Andrea Long, MD and Kamell Eckroth-Bernard, MD (left to right)

UCSF Fresno, as a regional campus of UCSF, recognizes the importance of increasing and promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in education, training programs, resident and faculty recruitment and patient care to achieve its mission of improving health in the San Joaquin Valley.

Faculty and staff at UCSF Fresno participate in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Champion Training, a UC San Francisco School of Medicine program to increase awareness of implicit biases, microaggressions and discrimination and provide skills for faculty and staff who interact with trainees and learners to make a more supportive, equitable and inclusive environment for all.

This past year, UCSF Fresno surgeon Andrea Long, MD, and Aimee Abu-Shamsieh, MD, a pediatrician, became the first two DEI Champion Ambassadors to be trained to coach faculty and staff onsite at the UCSF Fresno regional campus. “We needed someone in Fresno to champion the efforts, and it is helpful to have someone who knows the Fresno culture and the Fresno environment,” said Dr. Long.

The goal of the training is for participants to be able to recognize bias and microaggressions in the learning environment; use a shared language to talk about bias and discrimination with learners; implement skills to address bias and microaggressions as an ally and apply practical tools for addressing bias and discrimination in day-to-day teaching encounters.

The training provides a DEI foundation of understanding for faculty and staff to build on, Dr. Long said. “Overall, it’s an introduction to these topics and kind of spurs you on. I still have so much to learn and this has just taught me how much more I need to learn.”

UCSF’s commitment to DEI Champion Training extended to revamping the program this past year to a virtual format to maintain the need for physical distance learning while allowing faculty and staff to personally connect during the training. Virtual training has given increased access to the training. Between Sept. 1, 2020, to Aug. 31, 2020, a total of 153 faculty and staff at UCSF Fresno participated in DEI Champion Training.

UCSF Fresno has an active DEI Committee, whose members voted in February to have 100% of staff and faculty at UCSF Fresno complete DEI Champion Training by 2023. The DEI Committee, originally was under the leadership of Lori Weichenthal, MD, FACEP, assistant dean of Graduate Medical Education and DIO at UCSF Fresno. In May, Dr. Long was appointed to the new position of UCSF Fresno Director of Diversity. “We have to do more than talk, we have to walk the walk,” Dr. Long said of UCSF Fresno’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. “We are focusing on action, making actionable goals, evaluating our curriculum and recruitment systems for implicit biases and creating effective changes.”

The DEI website is being updated to highlight local and online communities and resources and an internal resource sharing site now allows for better collaboration amongst faculty and staff on DEI initiatives.

One goal is to ensure that UCSF Fresno has more access to DEI and anti-racism trainings and workshops and to integrate that training into residency curriculums, Dr. Long said. Several departments have started this curriculum change, and this has sparked projects focused on intentional recruitment and anti-racism initiatives. All UCSF Fresno interns underwent enhanced education on LGBTQ Health that involved a knowledge café education session and simulated patient encounters with LGBTQ standardized patients, for example, she said.

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This past fall, the UCSF Fresno Department of Surgery formed an Intentional Recruitment Coalition (IRC) with a mission to increase diversity in the surgery program to better reflect underserved and underrepresented patients, and in so doing, improve the health of the community.

“We know that people of color, people of minority communities, have long had issues of trusting doctors. Survey studies show that if medical providers look like their patients, the patients are more trusting. In fact, patients get better care because of better relationships and more trust with the medical providers,” said James W. Davis, MD, FACS, chair of the UCSF Fresno Department of Surgery, chief of surgery at Community Regional Medical Center and the Steven N. Parks, MD, Endowed Chair.

Creating the IRC grew from a grand rounds lecture entitled, “Time for Change,” given by Kamell Eckroth-Bernard, MD, FACS, a UCSF Fresno residency alumnus and vascular surgeon, and UCSF Fresno associate professor of surgery, along with Ibironke Adelaja, MD, FACS, also faculty in the Department of Surgery. Dr. Eckroth-Bernard called on the department to enhance its diversity recruitment efforts and championed the establishment of the IRC in September. “I am very proud of my clinical work as a vascular surgeon, but if I can make some real, positive changes for our society and for our community, I think long-term this will be more important than any of the things I do from a clinical perspective.”

The coalition is divided into subcommittees for residency recruitment, pre-medical surgical internship, health disparity research and underrepresented minority (URM) medicine. The IRC is committed to increasing matriculation and retention of underrepresented minority surgical residents and faculty; providing opportunities for education and teaching with respect to the underserved population in the San Joaquin Valley; providing ongoing conferences dedicated to diversity training and cultural awareness; and improving and fostering relationships between the UCSF Fresno Department of Surgery and the underserved community.

The IRC is a team effort. Surgery faculty, other department faculty, surgery staff, community physicians, surgery residents, community leaders and Fresno State leadership are members of the coalition.

“The best thing about this is we have the support of Dr. Davis,” said Dr. Eckroth-Bernard. “And we have support of General Surgery Residency Program Director Mary Wolfe, MD, FACS, as well as support of Associate Program Director Amy M. Kwok, MD, MPH, FACS.”

The IRC has attracted a diverse group of members since September, said Milena Ocon, administrative manager of the UCSF Fresno Department of Surgery and IRC coordinator. “As our IRC has rooted and grown legs (subcommittees) it’s become this amazing kaleidoscope of diversity and hence diverse solutions,” she said.



COVID-19 Vaccines

In December 2020, Fresno County received the first doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and distributed them to local hospitals. Faculty members at UCSF Fresno were among the first to receive the vaccine as part of a pilot clinic at Community Regional Medical Center (CRMC) on Dec. 18 to help work out vaccine distribution logistics. Over the following weeks, CRMC held several clinics to vaccinate those most at risk, including faculty, residents, fellows and other health care workers and staff.



UCSF Fresno COVID-19 Equity Project Cares for the Community During Pandemic



The UCSF Fresno Covid-19 Equity Project Team with US representative Jim Costa

In the year since the City of Fresno approached UCSF Fresno and community-based organizations to provide free COVID-19 tests, outreach, contact tracing, social support – and ultimately vaccines – for the most vulnerable and underserved populations, the UCSF Fresno Mobile Heal COVID-19 Equity Project (CEP) has become a vital partner and leader in the pandemic fight.

From August 2020 through June 2021, CEP gave nearly 30,000 COVID-19 tests and 82% of those tested identified as a person of color.

In late winter, CEP signed a contract with Fresno County for administering vaccine through this fall. From Feb. 10, 2021, to June 30, 2021, nearly 38,000 vaccines were administered and 72% of those who received vaccine identified as a person of color.

With \$5 million in federal CARES Act funding secured from the city, UCSF Fresno launched a drive-thru, first-come, first-served testing service in September 2020, which would include vaccine beginning in February 2021. The no-appointment model helps to eliminate barriers to health access experienced most often by people of color, such as transportation constraints, limited English proficiency, and limited technological literacy or no computer access. “We really did not want to do an appointment system because it really didn’t fit the mission to serve the underserved and vulnerable population,” said Kenny Banh, MD, assistant dean of undergraduate medical education and CEP medical director.

UCSF Fresno, a regional campus of the UCSF School of Medicine, was uniquely positioned to quickly begin COVID-19 testing and vaccine injections. In 2018, Dr. Banh started a mobile health service for the central San Joaquin Valley. UCSF Fresno’s Mobile Health and Learning (HeaL) provides

flu shots and health screenings for patients while providing learning opportunities for medical students and pre-health students under the guidance of medical residents and faculty physicians. In addition to training physicians and teaching medical students and providing clinical and volunteer experiences for pre-health students, UCSF Fresno is committed to improving the health of the San Joaquin Valley, and Mobile HeaL and now CEP, are means of providing needed care outside of hospital and clinic walls, said UCSF Fresno Associate Dean Michael W. Peterson, MD, FCCP, MACP.

UCSF Fresno’s mission is to provide high-quality health care but also to train the next generation of physicians for the San Joaquin Valley. And CEP consciously looks to hire people from the Valley who are representative of the patients being served, Dr. Banh said. “We want to get people who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, people who are underrepresented. And, as we are serving communities of color, we want to make sure we have language access and the staff to represent the communities that we were treating.”



Corina Jefferson, medical assistant, UCSF Fresno CEP draws a vaccine

Hiring from the community also is how you address health inequities, he said. “If you’re not doing some active part to address inequity, you’re part of the problem. This is not just about being trusted, this is actually about serving the community.”

CEP Medical Assistant Vanessa Lopez-Jimenez can identify with the people she is helping. “I grew up with a struggle,” she said. “My mother didn’t have resources; she was always needing help as a single mother of five kids.” Lopez-Jimenez, who is fluent in Spanish, said patients are grateful when she talks with them in Spanish, the language they are most comfortable speaking. “It makes me feel good, especially when they say that they love us,” she said. “One day there was a patient I was observing, and he said, ‘you guys are angels. We love you. And you remind me so much of my granddaughter.’ Lopez-Jimenez said she replied, “If it wasn’t for COVID, I would give you a hug.”

Working at CEP has influenced several staff to consider the pursuit of careers in health or to return to school for higher degrees in health care fields.

More than a dozen community-based organizations (CBOs) spread the word about UCSF Fresno CEP, helping to build trust in communities with systemic inequities and longstanding mistrust of government and health care. The partnership with CBOs has been immeasurable to the success of the project. And the collaboration has attracted the attention of state and national organizations that are interested in the project as a model of best practices.

Organizations involved in UCSF Fresno CEP include: African American Clergy Taskforce, Black Wellness & Prosperity Center, Central Valley Health Policy Institute, Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxoqueño, Centro La Familia, Cultiva La Salud, Cultural Brokers Inc., Fresno Building Healthy Communities, The Fresno Center, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries, Fresno Black Metro Chamber of Commerce, Go Public Schools Fresno, Jakara Movement, Reading and Beyond, Take a Stand Committee and West Fresno Family Resource Center. Some of these organizations make up the Immigrant Refugee Coalition, the African American Coalition, and the Disability Equity Project, which implement COVID-19 Equity Projects in tandem and focus on specific underserved populations in Fresno County.

UCSF Fresno CEP is a good example of what it really means to invest in equity,” said Christine Barker, executive of FIRM, a faith-based non-profit serving primarily refugees of Hmong, Laotian, Slavic, African and Syrian communities.

CEP has greatly strengthened UCSF Fresno’s alliances in the community, Dr. Peterson said. “In order to really try to achieve our goal of improving the health of the community, we cannot do that alone,” he said. “We have to do that by engaging with community-based organizations and the community as a whole about how to provide preventative services and how we help support the work they are doing in the community so that we’re really impacting the health of people before they get sick and need to see a doctor.”

Fresno City Councilmember Esmeralda Soria has been a supporter of CEP and advocated for the allocation of \$5 million from the CARES Act for the project. “I have always highlighted the need that exists for health services in our underserved areas, Councilmember Soria said. “We have sadly witnessed the detrimental effects this pandemic has had in these communities. In an effort to facilitate access to health services, I had the pleasure of working with the UCSF



Vanessa Lopez-Jimenez, medical assistant, UCSF Fresno CEP vaccinates a patient

Fresno team to provide our residents with COVID -19 testing and flu vaccines. The COVID Equity Project has proven to be successful in providing COVID testing, contact tracing, community outreach, and now much needed COVID-19 vaccines.”

Fresno City Council Member Nelson Esparza, who represents the district where UCSF Fresno resides, said, “COVID-19 testing in our communities has been key to mitigating the spread in Fresno. The COVID-19 Equity Project has proven to be an invaluable resource to folks in my district and across the city. The testing and vaccines provided at the CEP’s sites have been easily accessible to our residents and played a major role in beating back this pandemic.”

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Young girl is swabbed for COVID-19 test by her aunt at UCSF Fresno CEP mobile testing



Jolene Woods, RN, vaccinates a patient



Husband and wife Damien Ruiz, LVN, and September Ruiz, LVN

Likewise, Fresno City Councilmember Miguel Arias, who was Council President when the CARES Act allocation was approved, said, “the City of Fresno is privileged to partner with a trusted community provider like UCSF Fresno, to ensure we are meeting the needs of our most vulnerable communities during this pandemic.”

Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD, co-director of the Central Valley Health Policy Institute at Fresno State, said CEP has shown “vaccine hesitation is not an issue with our most vulnerable in this community – it’s just access.”

Outreach and education are essential, particularly in the African American community where people have not necessarily had good relationships with the health care system, said Heather M. Brown, chief administrative officer at Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission. “The real value is having both people in the community talking about the vaccine, answering questions about the vaccine and really honoring vaccine hesitancy, acknowledging historical problems that the African American community has had.”

“For the Southeast Asian community, it was really important to offer testing in familiar and accessible locations,” Barker said. “We saw that once UCSF Fresno started testing at FIRM, the number of Asian positive tests started to grow. That tells me that before UCSF Fresno was testing at FIRM, Southeast Asians were not going to be tested anywhere. We were able to find positive cases that others were not able to catch in our community.”

The Jakara Movement, which serves the Punjabi Sikh community in Fresno, has worked to dispel misinformation and rumors about COVID-19, said Preet Singh Grewal, the CEP project manager at Jakara Movement. “We have used our own platform to not only share what the city and county were sharing and the CDC guidelines translating into Punjabi, but we have provided them in a very easily understandable way,” he said. “Dr. Banh is a very helpful resource. He has made himself available to help our coalition.”

Through CEP, relationships have been built with CBOs and local and regional government, Dr. Peterson said. “Hopefully, we can be recognized by them in the future as a partner in working to address some of the things that they are constantly trying to deal with at the county and city level in terms of access to care,” he said. “This is one of the silver linings of COVID-19 – we developed new partnerships to help our community respond to the pandemic. Together, we showed determination, collaboration and resiliency. And we are better for it as a community and my hope is that this spirit of partnership around diversity, equity and inclusiveness continues in the future.”

UCSF Fresno Oversees California’s AHEC Program, Expands Access to Care and Trains a Diverse Workforce



South Bay AHEC

The California Area Health Education Center’s (AHEC) mission is to improve access to quality health care for underserved populations of California through academic community partnerships. UCSF Fresno administers the grant that supports the 13 centers located in different geographic areas of the state. Center staff collaborate with regional advisory boards to plan and conduct programs to provide community-based health professions training programs, increase the diversity of California’s health workforce, teach medical residents and students to conduct community health education, and provide continuing professional education. Centers partner with over 700 educational institutions, including the UCSF Fresno Department of Family and Community Medicine, community clinics and others to conduct their activities.

During 2020-2021, the California AHEC and its AHEC centers were able to provide professional education and support to over 4,500 health professionals. They were also able to provide health careers promotional activities to over 5,700 pipeline students. We were also able to provide placement sites for rotations, clerkships and internships to over 680 students.

Additionally, over 260 health professions students enrolled in our AHEC Scholars Program in Community Health, a two-year longitudinal, interdisciplinary curriculum designed to supplement students’ professional training with knowledge about the experiences in community health.

UCSF Fresno Orthopaedic Surgeon Travels to Armenia to Lend Skills and Expertise

The 2020 war between Armenia and Azerbaijan left thousands of people dead and wounded and overwhelmed the trauma care facilities of the region. Armen Martirosian, UCSF associate professor and UCSF Fresno Orthopaedic Surgery Residency program director, traveled to Armenia in February 2021 to lend his skill and expertise in orthopedic trauma.

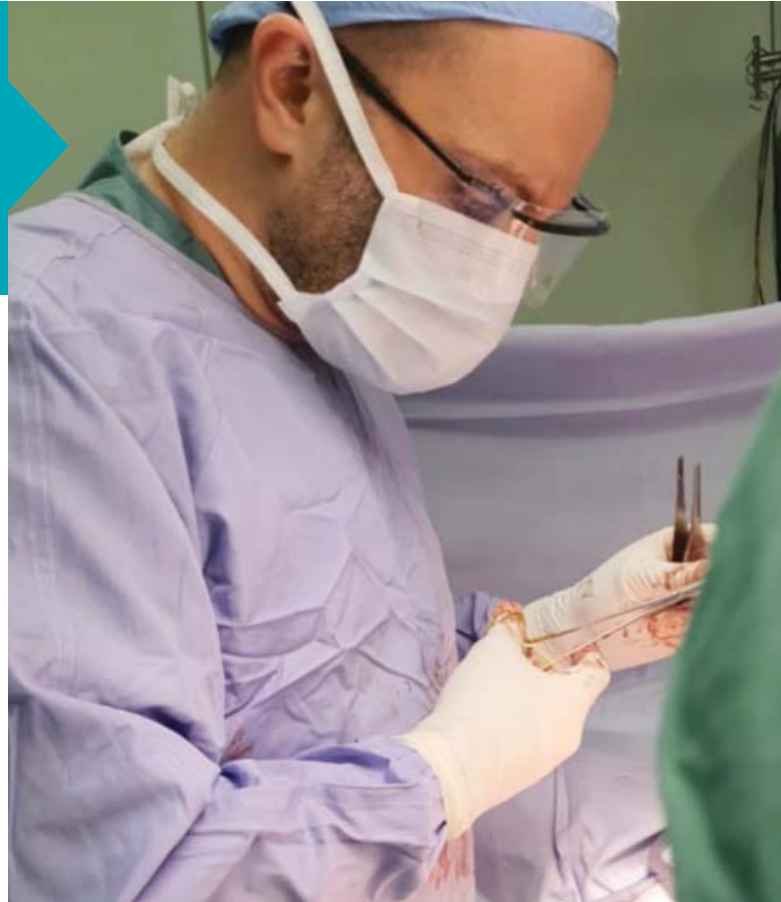
“In the early days of the war, October 2020, we donated large amounts of orthopedic equipment from Fresno to help stabilize and temporize the huge number of injuries. Trek2Share, a nonprofit created by an orthopedic oncologist from San Diego, Anna Kulidjian, was instrumental in getting the implants there early on. Three months later, Dr. Kulidjian and I traveled to Armenia with other health care providers taking with us additional implants and instruments,” said Dr. Martirosian.

Over nine days, from Feb. 1-10, 2021, Dr. Martirosian helped evaluate and treat soldiers and civilians with sequelae of complex battlefield injuries at several trauma centers as well as a military rehab center in Yerevan.

“Most of the injuries were three or more months out, many from high energy gunshots and explosions. We operated on patients with nonunions and malunions of complex open fractures, often with persistent soft tissue defects and osteomyelitis,” Dr. Martirosian said. “The patients were extremely grateful and understanding, despite frequently devastating injuries, such as amputations, some - missing multiple limbs.”

All of the operating was performed with local orthopedic surgeons, who also scrubbed in. “The local doctors were very welcoming - full of enthusiasm and know-how even if lacking resources, high-end modern equipment and implants,” Dr. Martirosian said. “... very talented and eager to learn and teach. We all learned from each other.”

During the trip, on a Sunday, Dr. Martirosian had the opportunity to give citywide grand rounds on open fracture care followed by a three-hour interactive review of his own complex cases and their management. More than 30



Armen Martirosian, MD

attending level orthopedic surgeons and residents were in attendance from the capital and smaller surrounding towns, some even Zooming in from remote locations like Moscow. “Medical terminology can be tricky. At times we had to resort to using Armenian, Russian and English, often in the same sentence,” said Dr. Martirosian who is fluent in all three languages. “Judging by the sustained interest and minimal early departures, even at the four-hour mark (despite the planned two-hour total conference time) I believe the event was a success,” he said.

“Sadly, the goal of our mission was to help local doctors and patients deal with the aftermath of another war in the region. I am glad I was able to help in a small way and I am grateful to the organizers, rest of the team, the local doctors and nurses and, especially, the patients who allowed me to become a part of their life. The trip has given me a new perspective on patient care we provide here, the medical education that we are involved in at UCSF Fresno, the surgeries that we perform and the infrastructure that we enjoy. My only regret is that I was not able to go sooner and stay longer. I will continue to develop and deepen the friendships that I started there and plan to go again in the future.”

The Future of Medical Education at UCSF Fresno

UCSF Fresno was established as a graduate medical education campus of the UCSF School of Medicine in 1975. Initially, we trained medical residents, followed by fellows and third and fourth year rotating medical students. The future of medical education at UCSF Fresno includes continued medical student education tied to strong residency programs.

Since the UCSF School of Medicine became the degree-granting institution for the San Valley Program in Medical Education (SJV PRIME) in 2018, medical students enrolled in the track spend much more time training with us. SJV PRIME students now conclude their undergraduate medical education here in the Valley and can conduct residency training in the region.

After spending 18 months at the main campus in San Francisco, the first cohort admitted to UCSF SJV PRIME in 2019 began training at UCSF Fresno in January 2021. The third cohort of students was admitted this summer. The training of medical students is inextricably linked to residency training. The two go hand in hand and must grow together.

Key findings from the 2019 American Association of Medical Colleges Medical School Enrollment Survey include:

- Enrollment to medical degree granting institutions has grown by 33% since 2002
- Leadership at many medical schools expressed concerns about the availability of graduate medical education training opportunities (residency training)
- Medical school leadership also expressed concerns about the availability of clinical training sites and preceptors (practicing physicians who give supervision and training to medical students)

Without residency training, medical students may be forced to go elsewhere, even out of state, to complete the training required in the United States to practice medicine independently. If medical students leave the Valley, they are far less likely to come back. The two biggest predictors of where

physicians practice are where they complete their training and where they grew up.

To keep pace with increasing demands for clinical skills training on campus and make the latest simulated experiences available, UCSF Fresno's Clinical Skills Lab expanded and is acquiring new equipment. Practice for various patient scenarios and team building exercises in a realistic and safe environment are crucial to medical student education and residency training.

To create a more dynamic and user-friendly environment, the UCSF Fresno Hildebrand Medical Library was recently renovated with new furniture, treadmill desk, collaboration rooms and 3D makers' lab. New computers, computer stations and printers are on the way and an official reopening of the library is expected in the fall.

Wellness continues to be a priority at UCSF Fresno. Faculty and learners must take care of themselves before they can care for others, and we are committed to providing them with the support and resources needed. Additional staff was hired and special initiatives were launched such as care packages for our residents, fellows, and faculty, access to virtual mental health resources, appreciation days and we continued virtual yoga and meditation in virtual formats.

As the largest academic physician training program in the region, we have the expertise and an obligation to share evidence-based best practices and enhance clinical care. We will continue to offer and develop continuing medical education programs that anticipate and serve the needs of the local, state and broader medical community.

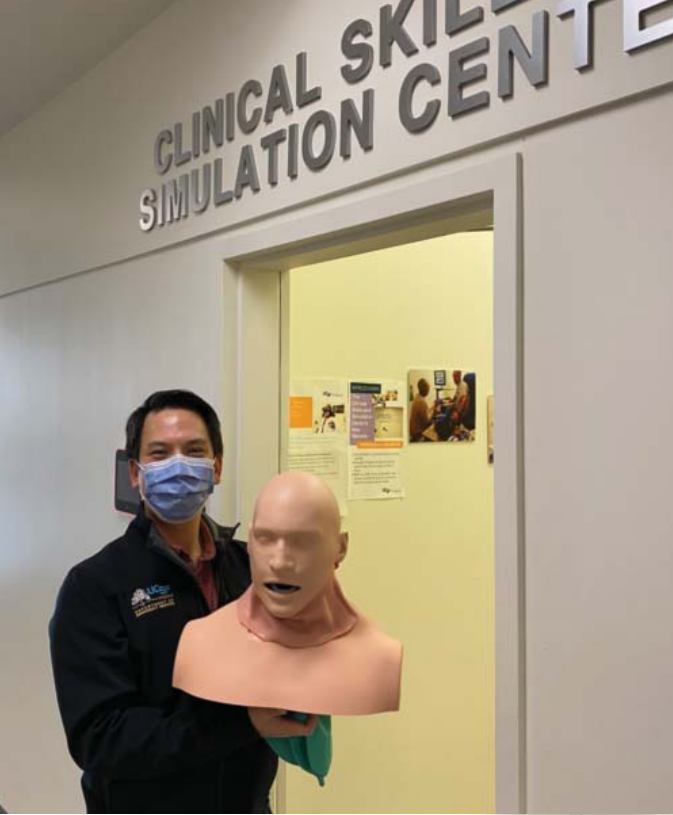
We will continue to remember our oath to our patients - to treat them as people, not diseases. And we stand ever ready to meet the challenges ahead to advocate for our diverse patients and address the health consequences of poverty, discrimination and limited opportunities. An emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion will continue to be at the core of UCSF Fresno training, patient care, research and service to the community.





Spotted on Campus







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