In The Loupe

UCSF SURGERY NEWSLETTER

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. KYLE CROMER

On his journey as a PhD, offering insights into the challenges and triumphs of pursuing a career in research

UCSF CHESA & ITS GLOBAL REACH

How UCSF Fellows, like Dr. Alliance Niyukuri in Burundi, receive training through CHESA to improve global health equity and transform surgical care in underserved regions

DR. CARTER LEBARES SURGEON BURNOUT SURVERY

Help us address surgeon burnout and enhance workplace well-being

DR. LUCY KORNBLITH SAVES A 49ERS LIFE

A special highlight for her crucial role in the recovery of San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Ricky Pearsall

OCTOBER 2024

Chair's Message

Wednesday, 9 Oct., 2024

Fall has arrived, which means our faculty ranks have swelled with new colleagues at many levels. Some are already here and working, while others are on their way. Please join me in welcoming **Drs. Caitlin Collins** and **Tim Browder** (trauma/acute care surgery, ZSFG); **Dr. Lara Senekjian** (acute care surgery, UCSF Health); **Drs. Seung Ah Lee** and **Anna Zhou** (plastic surgery); **Drs. Jordan Jackson**, **Julia Chandler** and **Kimberly Badal** (breast surgery); **Drs. Chuck Rickert** and **Chris Hsiung** (transplant surgery); **Dr. Brittany Hasty** (pediatric surgery); **Drs. Genna Beattie** and **Adam Gutierrez** (East Bay); and **Dr. Catherine 'Cathy' Lee** (epidemiology and biostatistics). We are excited for our new colleagues and all that they will bring to our Department!

NEW FACULTY HIRES

Dr. Caitlin Collins

Dr. Seung Ah Lee

Dr. Anna Zhou

Dr. Kimberly Badal

Dr. Adam Gutierrez

Dr. Brittany Hasty

Dr. Chris Hsiung

Dr. Genna Beattie

Dr. Jordan Jackson

Dr. Timothy Browder

Dr. Lara Senekjian

Dr. Julia Chandler

Dr. Charles Rickert

Dr. Catherine "Cathy" Lee

Growth across all our academic missions will continue over the coming year, aligned in particular with UCSF Health's strategy to rapidly expand its regional footprint. Already **13** searches are open across many of our divisions; thanks to all our colleagues who are serving on these search committees! One of the most exciting recruitments is for a faculty leader for our planned **Health Services Research** initiative. We have heard clearly from both trainees and junior faculty an appetite for investment in health services, and we look forward to a leader and comprehensive research and training program in this space.

Meanwhile, we are heavily focused following up from our faculty retreat last spring. Several important themes emerged from those discussions, and our faculty meeting last week highlighted presentations from our vice chairs describing operationally how they plan to work together with our division chiefs and me to make actionable the themes elicited. We are committed to resourcing those strategic initiatives that rise to the top, and we look forward to continued, active input to inform our planning. The process is kinetic, and we will need to triage priorities, but together we can make decisions that best serve our community. If you missed the faculty meeting, the recording and slides can be reviewed **here**. If you missed the retreat, you will have more opportunities to contribute to our strategic planning. Please rsvp for our **Spring 2025 Faculty Retreat** to assure that we can maximize the number of attendees and voices that we want to hear **RSVP HERE**.

As we look to bring even more transparency to strategic decision-making (a theme we heard at the spring retreat), our inaugural Finance Committee led by **Dr. Michael Conte** and **Mike Panion** and made up of faculty at all levels and from different practice sites and tracks will begin meeting in the coming weeks. We look forward to their contributions.

Thanks to each and every member of our UCSF Surgery Community! We are striving to recognize and celebrate more and more of you and your incredible achievements in our newsletters, communications, and evolving, modern website **Surgery.ucsf.edu**. I am amazed by - and grateful for - everything you do for our patients and for each other.

Julie Ann Sosa

MEET YOUR *Colleagues*

Claudio Gamboa

Senior Clinical Research Coordinator, Division of Vascular Surgery

In my role as Senior Clinical Research Coordinator, I oversee all research activities at the ZSFGH campus, prioritizing recruitment from historically underserved communities, particularly non-English speaking patients.

I ensure regulatory compliance for active research studies and assist in training and supporting newer Research Coordinators within the Vascular Division, fostering a collaborative and effective research environment.

Mari Collings

Education Program Administrator

As the Education Program Administrator for the Thoracic Surgery residency program, I manage educational requirements, reporting, recruitment, onboarding, and various administrative processes.

Additionally, I provide comprehensive support to Dr. Johannes Kratz, Program Director, and Dr. Melissa Coleman, Associate Program Director, ensuring smooth operations and an effective educational experience for residents. This role involves collaborating with faculty and staff to enhance program quality and support resident development throughout their training.

Bekky Mangin

Program Operations Analyst (Surgery Moonlighting Coordinator)

In my role within the Surgery Education division, I manage and coordinate the moonlighting program for general surgery residents and external moonlighters, overseeing administrative needs and creating schedules. I collaborate with admin chiefs, Research Moonlighting coordinators, and program leadership to streamline processes and ensure compliance.

Furthermore, I maintain rotation schedules on Amion, analyze resident work hours in Medhub to mitigate risks, and manage the Nightfloat Appointment and onboarding processes with GME.

Sabrina Lum

Operations Manager, Office of the Chair

As Operations Manager, I oversee the responsibilities, projects, events, and staff of the Chair's Office. I also ensure that Dr. Sosa receives comprehensive support from our team, including managing her calendar, organizing travel arrangements, and assisting with her daily needs.

My focus is on facilitating smooth operations and helping her thrive in her role. I strive to create a positive and efficient atmosphere that allows our team to perform at its best.

In an effort to strengthen our team's engagement and foster camaraderie, we have initiated a new project aimed at highlighting the contributions of eight staff members representing diverse divisions within the Department of Surgery. We are enthusiastic about launching this exciting endeavor, allowing you to become better acquainted with your colleagues. If you find something intriguing about one of your fellow team members, don't hesitate to email them.

We will be maintaining this page for the time being, and as we progress, we hope to eventually feature every member of our staff. To all the staff members currently reading this message, please know that you are making a significant impact and contributing to the collaborative spirit that defines our work environment. Thank you for being an integral part of our team.

Snigdha Barua

Junior Specialist

I've recently joined the Division of Transplant Surgery under Transplant Surgeon Dr. John Roberts. My work involves analyzing data from liver transplant studies, creating visualizations, and assisting in protocol reviews to ensure compliance.

With a background in Molecular Environmental Biology from UC Berkeley, I am passionate about bridging socioeconomic and ethnic gaps in healthcare access through effective research dissemination. This role allows me to contribute to impactful research that can improve patient outcomes and equity in healthcare.

Mara Gallegos

Administrative Assistant

As an Administrative Analyst, my role encompasses providing support to faculty and residents, coordinating projects, and enhancing operational efficiency for the organization. This includes generating vascular reports for financial purposes and collecting patient demographics for M&M Meetings, Breast Tumor Board, and General Tumor Board.

In addition, I streamline administrative processes and collaborate across departments to ensure smooth project execution. I also identify areas for improvement, optimize workflows, and ensure schedules are accurately entered into AMION, contributing to the overall effectiveness of our operations.

Anna Lissa Halal

Laboratory Support Technician

As a laboratory support technician, I support the Immunogenetics and Transplantation Laboratory (ITL) by providing essential administrative services to clients, vendors, and lab staff, as well as performing technical laboratory tasks. I handle tasks like processing test orders and preparing and aliquoting samples for testing. I also manage the sample inventory system and respond to inquiries from healthcare providers.

Alongside that, I oversee the management of test reports, maintain accurate laboratory records, and ensure we have the necessary supplies on hand. I even assist with instrument calibration and maintenance.

Ahrles “AJ” Cajulao

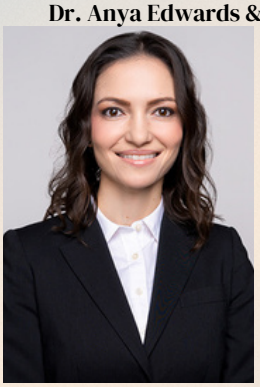
Clinical Laboratory Scientist

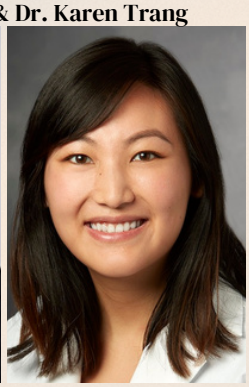
As a Clinical Laboratory Scientist in the Immunogenetics and Transplantation Laboratory (ITL) at UCSF, I collaborate with a skilled team to provide diagnostic HLA testing services for solid organ and bone marrow transplant programs. I conduct pre- and post-transplant antibody testing, which is critical for early detection of organ rejection and graft-versus-host disease (GvHD).

Moreover, I serve as the primary technologist for RT-PCR, a key methodology for HLA typing in deceased donors, essential for evaluating compatibility between donors and recipients to enhance transplantation success rates.

EDUCATION

Dr. Anya Edwards & Dr. Karen Trang





Dr. Anya Edwards, and **Dr. Karen Trang**, have published a new study with mentorship from **Dr. Mika Varma**, titled "**Association between gastrointestinal symptoms and specialty care utilization among colon cancer survivors: a cohort study**," as part of the **Lifestyle and Outcomes after Gastrointestinal Cancer** (LOGIC) study at UCSF. This prospective longitudinal cohort study examined colon cancer survivors to explore how gastrointestinal symptoms influence the use of specialized healthcare services. You can read the full article here: **https://doi.org/10.1007/s00384-024-04685-w**.

Dr. Ali Abbasi

Dr. Ali Abbasi has authored two significant articles in ***JAMA***. The first article discusses the need for the FDA to increasingly adopt pragmatic approaches to clinical trials, while the second advocates for greater support from insurers for clinical research. Dr. Abbasi, a T32 fellow in surgical oncology under the mentorship of **Dr. Laura Esserman**, is currently serving as a senior policy advisor to Commissioner **Robert Califf, MD**, at the FDA.

Dr. Jane Wang recently published a manuscript entitled "**A Computer Vision Algorithm to Predict Superior Mesenteric Artery Margin Status for Patients with Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma**" in the Annals of Surgery.

Dr. Colleen Flanagan, a resident in our Vascular Surgery program, won the **Best Presentation Award at the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society Meeting** in June.

Dr. Iris Liu has received an **NIH NRSA F32 Fellowship** totaling **$158,648** from the **National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute** (NHLBI) for her project "**Cardiometabolic disease and vascular aging: Klotho regulation of medial arterial calcification**."

Dr. Phoebe Miller, a resident in our General Surgery program, delivered a podium presentation at the **Inaugural Annual Women in Thoracic Surgery Conference** in San Diego on **September 6, 2024**. Her presentation focused on the risks associated with intra-operative hemorrhage and blood transfusion during heart transplantation, specifically investigating the associations with different mechanical circulatory assist device methods used to bridge to transplant.

Dr. Thomas Li, a resident in our General Surgery program, has recently published a study on **"Langerhans cell ADAM17 in lupus photosensitivity."** After six years of research, the study reveals how an interferon-rich environment impedes **ADAM17's** ability to liberate epidermal growth factor receptor ligands, thereby contributing to both local and systemic inflammation. This work provides valuable insights into inflammatory processes and sets the stage for future studies in surgical models. Read the full article here: **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38860651/**

Dr. Thomas Li

Dr. Caroline Stephens, a resident in our General Surgery Program, has published a new article in ***JAMA*** Open titled "**Extreme Weather Injuries and Fatalities, 2006 to 2021.**"

Dr. Nichole Starr

Dr. Nichole Starr has been honored as the **2024** recipient of the "**Resident Surgical Volunteerism Award**" by the **American College of Surgeons Health Outreach Program for Equity in Global Surgery** for her work with the **Lifebox Foundation** in Ethiopia. Dr. Starr joins a distinguished group of five award recipients whose remarkable accomplishments will be celebrated at **Clinical Congress 2024** in San Francisco, California.

Dr. Riley Brian

Dr. Riley Brian had a full podium presentation for his paper titled "**Sustained Impact of a "Just in Time" Educational Intervention for Opioid Overprescribing in Dialysis**" at the **2024 Western Vascular Society** meeting and won first prize in the fellow/resident/student competition.

Dr. Simon Chu

Dr. Simon Chu, a General Surgery Resident, has recently achieved several notable milestones. At the **2024 Association for Surgical Education Annual Meeting** in Orlando, Florida, Dr. Chu delivered an oral presentation in the "**Thinking Out of the Box**" session titled "**Simulating Goals of Care Discussions Prior to Major Surgery Using ChatGPT: A Generative Artificial Intelligence Approach.**" A recording of the presentation and the pre-print of the related paper are available at **syntheticpatients.org**.

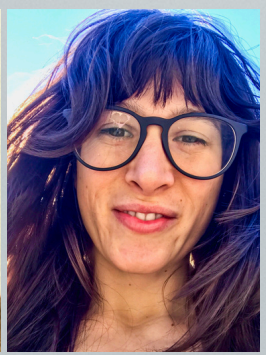
Additionally, Dr. Chu presented at the **2024 Metabolism, Obesity, and Diabetes Scientific Retreat** in Santa Cruz, California, which brought together leading investigators from UCSF, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, Touro University, and the Buck Institute on Aging. His presentation, titled "**Deciphering the Role of Aire-Expressing Cells: Implications for Immune Tolerance and Diabetes**," provided valuable insights into the role of these cells in immune tolerance and their implications for diabetes research.

Dr. Chu also participated in an interactive kidney transplant demonstration with the **Gardner Lab** and **UCSF Division of Transplant Surgery for ImmunoExplore**, a summer camp designed to engage URM Bay Area high school students in immunology. Alongside **Drs. Chuck Rickert, Seji Yamaguchi, Alex Gupta,** and **Eva Gillis-Buck**, he led a workshop on surgical skills, kidney anatomy, and the simulation of an arterial anastomosis.

In July 2024, Dr. Chu was an invited speaker at the "**Professional Skills for Researchers: Grant Writing for Postdocs Workshop**," where he shared his journey to securing the **NIH F32 Fellowship Award** and offered essential strategies for writing successful grant applications.

Furthermore, at the **American Transplant Congress** in Philadelphia this past June, Dr. Chu highlighted his translational research in Dr. James Gardner's lab with presentations titled "**Collaborative Efforts in Donor Tissue Acquisition for Biomedical Research: The UCSF-DNW Experience**" and "**Aire-Expressing Cells Support Allograft Tolerance in a Murine Heterotopic Heart Transplant Model.**" He was also honored with the American Society of Transplantation Transplant Administration and Quality Management Community of Practice Travel Award.

25-26 Trauma Fellows



Dr. Amandine Godier-Furnemont & Dr. Stas Amato

On August 30th, 2024 we proudly announced **Dr. Amandine Godier-Furnemont** from **UCSF** and **Dr. Stas Amato** from **The University of Vermont** as the successful matches for our **2025-26 Surgical Critical Care and Trauma Fellowship**!!

Dr. Kyle CROMER

A PHD IN THE WORLD OF SURGERY

By Rashad Benton

Dr. Kyle Cromer, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at UCSF, exemplifies the modern scientist—bridging the worlds of rigorous research and creative expression. A native of Virginia, he earned his Bachelor of Science at **Virginia Tech** before pursuing a PhD at **Yale University** under the renowned Richard Lifton.

Dr. Cromer's postdoctoral training began at **Harvard Medical School** in the lab of George Church, followed by an influential stint at **Stanford University** with Matthew Porteus, where he delved into advanced gene therapy techniques. Yet, what sets him apart is not just his scientific acumen; it's his passion for the arts. A painter and visual artist, he collaborates with his wife on collage art, pursuing creativity as a joyful endeavor rather than a career path.

How did your upbringing in the Appalachian Mountains and your family's background in veterinary medicine shape your path into scientific research and surgery? Growing up on a beef cattle farm in Churchville, Virginia, I was immersed in rural life, spending much of my childhood outdoors with my three younger brothers. My involvement with the Future Farmers of America provided early opportunities for travel, including a pivotal competition in Europe that broadened my perspective.

My family's veterinary background—my father and grandfather both practiced veterinary medicine—initially influenced my aspirations to follow in their footsteps. Despite my early interest in becoming a veterinarian, I grew increasingly aware of the challenges of large animal practice, including demanding on-call hours and physical risks. While studying Animal Sciences at Virginia Tech, I discovered a passion for biotechnology through a biochemistry research lab. This led to an internship at a biotech company focused on genetically modifying pigs for organ transplantation, which sparked my interest in surgery. Ultimately, I sought a career that balanced professional fulfillment with quality of life, steering me toward scientific research and surgical endeavors.

What motivated your decision to pursue a PhD rather than a medical degree, and how has this choice influenced your approach to research and collaboration within the field of surgery? By the time I entered graduate school, my path had diverged toward a PhD program. In the realm of biotechnology and biomedical science, one often faces a crucial decision: to pursue the clinical side of medicine or to delve into research. My decision was influenced by a lack of compelling role models in the medical field; my uncle's experiences as a physician revealed the emotional toll of patient care, suggesting to me that the profession could lead to either emotional burnout or desensitization. I also prioritized work-life balance and the freedom to explore various interests outside of a demanding medical career. My inclination toward abstract problem-solving and a preference for introspection made research a more appealing path. For instance, I appreciate the ability to work independently while engaging with scientific literature and podcasts. Interestingly, my younger brother has successfully navigated the medical field and serves as a positive role model for patient interaction, particularly in family and geriatric medicine. However, our differing approaches reaffirmed my desire to contribute to patient care in a less traditional manner, ultimately guiding my commitment to impactful research in surgery.

You've worked in some of the most prestigious labs across the country. How did your experiences at Virginia Tech, Yale, Harvard, and Stanford shape your approach to research and influence your current role in the field of surgery? Entering graduate school, I engaged in a rotation program that allowed for broad exploration across various scientific domains. At Yale, I encountered diverse research topics, ranging from fly genetics to genome sequencing and protein folding. However, I was resolute in my desire to focus on medical applications.

I sought to establish a strong rationale for my research, emphasizing the importance of addressing specific diseases. This clarity of purpose—understanding the significance of my work and its potential impact—has profoundly shaped my approach to research and informs my current contributions to the field of surgery.

Your research spans several prestigious institutions and includes diverse scientific approaches. How do you integrate these varied methodologies into your work, and what unique insights does this multidisciplinary experience bring to your role in a surgery department? At this point, I find that all of my experiences have converged into a cohesive approach. My six years at Stanford, where I was a second postdoc and later a junior faculty member, taught me valuable lessons about fostering a healthy lab environment that balances freedom with guidance.

As I run my own lab, I strive to take the very best from each of the various labs I've been part of. Stanford emphasized the importance of managing and motivating people while building them up, and I continue to draw from the foundational skills that were the bedrock of my early training. This multidisciplinary experience brings unique insights to my role in the surgery department, allowing me to integrate diverse scientific methodologies effectively.

In what ways do you find that your PhD perspective complements or contrasts with the clinical approaches of MDs in the surgical field? This is an insightful question. I find that my PhD perspective complements the clinical approaches of MDs in the surgical field quite effectively. My focus on cell biology allows me to consider how cells respond to gene-editing reagents, viewing them as intricate mechanisms in their own right. This foundational knowledge is applicable across various diseases, enabling us to explore treatments for conditions such as sickle cell disease, Huntington's disorder, and diabetes through engineered cell replacements. Collaborating with clinicians enhances this synergy; for instance, I work with **Dr. Julie Sneddon** on replacement cell therapy for diabetes and **Dr. Edward Hsiao,** who specializes in rare bone disorders. These partnerships exemplify how my research-driven insights can directly inform and impact clinical practices, creating a powerful combination of basic biology and targeted therapeutic interventions.

Lastly, creativity in science often manifests differently compared to the arts. How do you channel your creative impulses through your research, and can you share an example of a particularly innovative project or idea you've pursued? While my writing predominantly focuses on scientific papers and grants, I also explore my creative impulses through personal projects. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I engaged in a creative writing exercise that culminated in an unpublished novel, which remains a personal endeavor on my shelf. Although I have shared it with friends, I don't consider it ready for publication, but the experience was rewarding.

For me, this project was really fun, and I appreciated doing something simply for the joy of it, without attaching a monetary value. Writing creative fiction was much tougher than writing about science because I had to build characters and create a story with dialogue, which is inherently imaginative. In contrast, scientific writing tends to be more cut-and-dry. This experience has been a valuable reminder of the importance of creativity in all forms of writing.

RESEARCH

$3.8 Million

Dr. Minnie Sarwal has been awarded an **R01** grant from the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for her project "**Computational Drug Repositioning for Antibody Mediated Renal Allograft Rejection.**" This grant, valued at **$3,806,934**, will support her research through the end of April 2029.

$175k

Dr. Hirotake Komatsu has been awarded **$175,000** by the Nora Eccles Treadwell Foundation for his research project titled "**Cure of Diabetes.**" This funding will support his work through the end of June 2028.

$32k

Resident **Dr. Kara Faktor** has been awarded **$32,000** by the NIH John F. Fogarty International Center for her project titled "**2024-2025 GloCal.**" This D43 award will support her research through next summer.

$63k

Dr. Christopher Newton has received a grant worth **$63,000** from the Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center for his project titled "**TF-CBT for Violence Exposed Youth.**"

$451k

Dr. Adam Oskowitz has secured a substantial **R21** award of **$451,000** from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for his groundbreaking project titled "**Photodynamic Therapy for Aortic Aneurysms.**"

$7k

Dr. Laura Esserman has been awarded **$7,000** by the NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) through an R13 grant for her initiative titled "**RISE UP for Breast Cancer.**"

$1.3 Million

Dr. James Gardner has received a substantial grant of **$1,300,000** from the Keck Foundation for his project titled "**Precision Immune Education with Aire-Expressing Cells.**" This award will support his research through the end of June 2027.

$10k

Dr. Tasce Bongiovanni has been awarded **$10,000** by the Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI) for her project titled "**A Community-Based Approach to Combatting Anti-Asian Racism Experienced by Cantonese-Speaking Chinese Older Adults After Traumatic Injury.**"

$8.5k

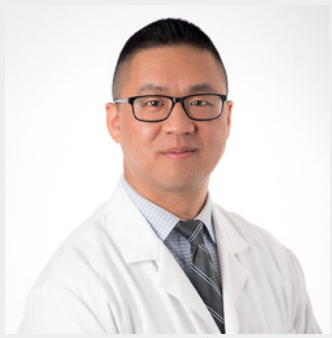
Dr. Kyle Cromer has been awarded **$8,500** through the UCSF 2024 Mary Anne Koda-Kimble Seed for Innovation Award for his project titled "**Engineering Erythropoietin-Free Erythropoiesis.**"

$50k

Dr. Amar Nijagal has secured two prestigious awards. He first received a **$30,000 P30 Pilot Award** from the NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for his work at the Liver Center. Following that, he was awarded **$20,000** from the UCSF Dean's Fund Liver Center Feasibility Grant.

$20k

Resident Research Fellow **Dr. Brandon Cowan** has been awarded **$20,000** by the Mt. Zion Health Fund for his innovative project titled "**What to Do When Things Go Wrong: A Perfused Model and Simulation for High-Volume Hemorrhage Control.**"



$86k

General Surgery Resident **Dr. Simon Chu** has been awarded **$86,000** by the National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases through an **F32 grant** for his project titled "**Enhancing Safety and Efficacy of Stem-Cell Derived Islet Transplantation Using CRISPR-Mediated Genome Engineering.**"

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In early July we announced exciting news from our **UCSF Lung Transplant program**! We reached an incredible milestone by surpassing **100 transplants** in a single fiscal year, achieving a record-breaking **116 cases** (113 LTX + 3 HLTx). This impressive **20% increase** underscores our unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation in patient care.

Dr. Caitlin Collins, Assistant Professor at UCSF and Trauma and Acute Care Surgeon at **Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center**, was named a **2024 John A. Watson Faculty Scholar**.

As a recipient of the **UCSF Medicine Dean's Diversity Fund**, she will receive **$75,000** per year for three years to advance her academic pursuits.

UCSF Associate Professor and General Surgery Residency Associate Program Director **Dr. Rita Mukhtar** has joined the prestigious **Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators** as a new member.

Dr. Mukhtar was inducted into the esteemed Academy on **September 11th, 2024**.

UCSF Vascular Surgeon **Dr. Shahram Aarabi** has been selected as the annual **University of California Visiting Early Career Faculty Mentorship & Sponsorship Program awardee**. He will be mentored by **Dr. Mahmoud B. Malas**, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at **UC San Diego Health**.

Furthermore, Dr. Aarabi was accepted into the **2025 UCSF Health Care Network Leadership Academy!**

Dr. Jade Hiramoto is our new **Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs** in the Department of Surgery!

With her impressive leadership experience and steadfast dedication to patient care, she has elevated excellence across UCSF Health. Her vision for innovative practices will undoubtedly enhance our commitment to delivering top-tier surgical care.

UCSF Surgical Oncologist and Director of our General Surgery Residency Program, **Dr. Kenzo Hirose** has been selected as an **Associate Member of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators**.

Dr. Hirose was inducted into the academy in Chicago on **September 27, 2024**. This honor recognizes his outstanding contributions to surgical education and mentorship.

Dr. Merisa Piper, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at UCSF, has been appointed as our new **Associate Program Director of Assessment and Wellness**. Her dedication to cancer reconstruction and resident education makes her an invaluable member of our department.

We look forward to her leadership and the positive impact she will have on our program!

Vascular Surgeon **Dr. Allan Conway** and MarinHealth's vascular surgical team successfully completed their **first aneurysm repair using advanced AI technology with Cydar Maps**.

This innovative approach marks a significant milestone in enhancing surgical precision and patient outcomes. Congratulations to the team for embracing cutting-edge techniques in patient care!

Dr. Michael Harrison, acclaimed **UCSF Pediatric Surgeon and Director Emeritus of the UCSF Fetal Treatment Center**, has been recognized as one of the recipients of the **2024-2026 UCSF Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professorship Award**. This prestigious honor highlights his remarkable contributions to Pediatric Surgery and his ongoing commitment to advancing the field.

The Thoracic Surgery Foundation has ranked UCSF #5 in the TSF Top 20 Institutional Honor Roll.

This prestigious ranking recognizes UCSF as one of the top institutions for receiving cumulative support from TSF for research & education projects.

UCSF Gastrointestinal and Acute Care Surgeon **Dr. Matthew Lin** has been admitted as an **Associate Member of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators**. He was inducted into the academy in Chicago on **September 27, 2024**.

Congratulations, Dr. Lin, on this well-deserved recognition of your exceptional contributions to surgical education!

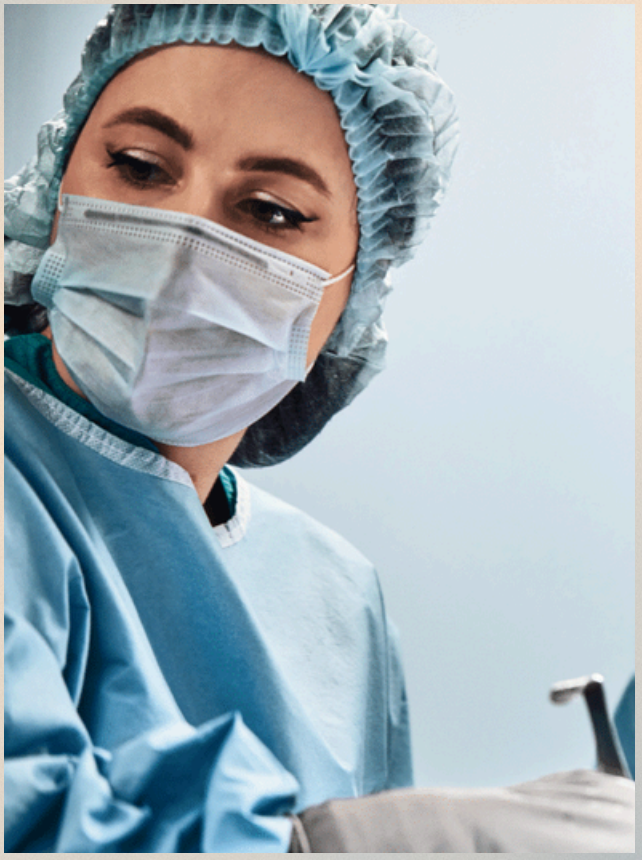
Trauma Medical Director and **Chief of Surgery at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center**, **Dr. Joseph Cuschieri** has earned a prestigious place as an **Associate Member of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators**.

Dr. Cuschieri was inducted in Chicago on **September 27th, 2024**.

We are proud to announce that **Dr. Carlos Corvera, Dr. Amar Nijagal, Dr. Jeffrey Velotta,** and **Dr. Peter Stock** have received **UCSF Medicine's 2024 Academy of Medical Educators "Excellence in Mentorship"** Award.

They have been recognized for their exceptional contributions to medical education, inspiring the next generation of healthcare professionals through their dedicated mentorship and commitment to excellence.

D.E.I



WOMEN IN MEDICINE MONTH

New Publication Highlight: "Elevating Female Surgeons Through Structured Award Nominations"

We are excited to announce the publication of **"Promoting Female Surgeons Through Structured Award Nominations"** in the Annals of Surgery, authored by a collaborative team including **Dr. Karen Trang, Dr. Caroline Stephens, Dr. Colleen Flanagan, Dr. Ava Yap, Dr. Audrey Brown, Dr. Yvonne Kelly, Dr. Heather Yeo, Dr. Julie Ann Sosa, Dr. Lucy Kornblith,** and **Dr. Madhulika Varma.**

Inspired by **Dr. Heather Yeo's** visit during the **April 2024 Muriel Steele Society** (MSS) Grand Rounds, this paper underscores the critical importance of sponsoring women and gender minority surgeons for awards, emphasizing the lasting impact on their careers. The team's findings aim to provide a transparent framework and practical tools for other institutions to implement similar initiatives. As MSS continues to grow, the team looks forward to expanding these efforts to more surgical subspecialties, ensuring broader recognition for the exceptional surgeons within the UCSF community.

Read the publication here

FREENI ACUESTA,

our incredible Medical Student Education Coordinator for the Surgery Clerkship, has been accepted into the **2024-2025 School of Medicine Leadership Development Program**! This is a fantastic opportunity for her to enhance her leadership skills and continue making a significant impact in our community.

UCSF-CHESA

This Global Health Initiative Improves Patient Care in 13 Countries

UCSF fellows are receiving training, mentoring, and funding for research as part of a global initiative aimed at building the next generation of frontline providers, from Burundi to San Francisco. Recently, **Dr. Alliance Niyukuri**, the **first pediatric surgeon in Burundi**, saved the life of a newborn boy with gastroschisis at **Kibuye Hope Hospital**. Previously, no newborn in rural Burundi had survived this condition. Using a specialized medical device, Niyukuri enabled the baby to survive his critical first 24 hours, offering hope for his future. He shared this success with colleagues 9,500 miles away in San Francisco. Niyukuri is a fellow with **UCSF's Center for Health Equity in Surgery and Anesthesia** (CHESA), which connects him to mentors and resources that have made such life-saving outcomes possible. "*In many low-income countries, people are disabled by or die from conditions that do not have the same impact in higher-income countries,*" says **Dr. Doruk Ozgediz**, a CHESA co-founder.

Since its establishment in 2020, CHESA has focused on improving access to safe surgical, anesthetic, and perioperative care in underserved areas. It is **one of eight core centers in the UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences** and co-leads the **UCSF-World Health Organization** (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Emergency, Critical and Operative Care. In 2021, CHESA launched a multidisciplinary fellowship for healthcare providers committed to health equity. Over 18 months, fellows gain knowledge about global health equity, access UCSF educational resources, and receive mentorship and funding for research projects.

CHESA's network includes **56** fellows and alumni across **14 medical specialties** in **13 countries**, including **Ethiopia, Haiti,** and **Uganda**. With over 5 billion people lacking access to safe surgical and anesthetic care, Dr. Ozgediz emphasizes that CHESA's work aims to transform this landscape, ensuring that more lives can be saved, one patient at a time >>> **Read the full story here**

Help tackle surgeon burnout with Dr. Carter Lebares - The American College of Surgeons is conducting a survey to improve well-being and workplace environments for surgeons. Your input will shape future standards and drive institutional change.

Help us https://tinyurl.com/423hks9r

Dr. Lucy Kornblith

We'd like to acknowledge and celebrate Dr. Lucy Kornblith, an Associate Professor of Surgery at UCSF and a trauma and acute care surgeon at Zuckerberg San Francisco General and Trauma Center. Recently, she played a crucial role in the recovery of San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Ricky Pearsall, who sustained a gunshot wound to the chest. Thanks to Dr. Kornblith's expertise and dedication, Pearsall is on the path to recovery from an injury that could have had a much more serious outcome.

We also want to recognize the first responders, emergency medicine team, critical care staff, and nurses at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital for their invaluable contributions. Pictured with Dr. Kornblith and Ricky is Sgt. Joelle Harrell, highlighting the collaborative effort that made this recovery possible. Their commitment to patient care exemplifies the highest standards of our profession and inspires us all.

AME Excellence in Teaching Award for UCSF Teaching Faculty!

In addition to her clinical accomplishments, Dr. Kornblith has received the annual peer-nominated Academy of Medical Educators Excellence in Teaching Award for UCSF Teaching Faculty 2024 (Academic Year 2023-2024). Her unwavering commitment to her patients and her community, coupled with her excellence in teaching, truly deserves our heartfelt recognition!