

DECEMBER - 2023

IN THE  
LOUP



Happy Holidays & Cheers to a  
Prosperous year in Surgery

UCSF SURGERY NEWSLETTER



# Chair's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Life is moving so fast – indeed, too fast, and the holidays provide a compelling rationale to pause, reflect, rest, regroup, refocus, and re-energize with family, friends, and loved ones for the start of **2024**. There are many successes to celebrate from the last year; so many members of our Department have achieved personal and professional milestones, buoyed at least in part by the energy and enthusiasm of our larger UCSF Surgery community that supports us. I would encourage us all to set our focus on the future and to think about how we, together, can be enterprising and aspirational around a few shared goals. In the words of Maya Angelou, *'It takes courage to be kind.'* So, I implore all of us to prioritize kindness – toward our patients and each other – in 2024 and beyond. Compassion has to be actively and intentionally practiced. Let's be ambitious, starting with professionalism and respect but extending to transformative innovation, compassionate inclusion, and change that will empower us all.

**Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! With very best wishes and much gratitude, Julie Ann**





*Surgery Staff at Exploratorium SF*

# MEET YOUR Colleagues



**Shreya Mall**

Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC)

As a Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) within the Transplant Nephrology Division, I collaborate with Dr. Flavio Vincenti on multiple interventional clinical drug studies. The focus of these studies is to enhance outcomes in kidney transplant recipients through innovative interventions.

My role encompasses a comprehensive scope of work dedicated to advancing research and contributing to the improvement of patient care in the field of Transplant Nephrology.



**Chris Tognotti**

Administrative Officer II

As an Administrative Officer II within the Pediatric Surgery Division at Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, I support the pediatric surgery team by managing QGenda scheduling, providing administrative support, planning on-site events, handling licensure filings, overseeing reimbursements, and essentially troubleshooting various details.

The goal is to address minor issues and ensure that our team can concentrate on their primary tasks and priorities.



**Stacey Ma**

Education Program Administrator

I function as the residency and fellowship coordinator overseeing three training programs within the Vascular and Endovascular Division. These programs include the Vascular Surgery Integrated Residency Program, Vascular Surgery Fellowship Program, and Limb Preservation Fellowship Program, collectively accommodating 10 trainees.

I lead the recruitment process for residents and fellows, ensuring compliance with accreditation standards. As the main contact for trainees, I provide support, coordinate educational activities, and facilitate communication among program stakeholders.



**Florinna Dekovic**

Quality Assurance Specialist

My role is to oversee the Islet Quality Assurance (QA) endeavors that the FDA requires to manufacture islet cells for patients at UCSF. I develop and write standard operating procedures and policies (SOPPs), train staff, and inspect lab materials and critical reagents. Furthermore, I monitor our manufacturing cleanroom for possible bacterial cross-contaminants, approve lab validations, conduct routine internal audits, and address various deviations or actions that might be considered "out-of-specification."

Additionally, I provide guidance to our Medical Director for Islet Manufacturing for incoming regulatory inquiries from either the SF City and County, California State, or US Federal agencies.

**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.**



**Nathan Q. Tran**

Program Support Analyst

As a Program Support Analyst in the Cardiothoracic Surgery Division, I manage Cardiothoracic Grand Rounds/ I also oversee the Thoracic Tumor Board, where I create agendas, send invites, and manage attendance links. Furthermore, I ensure the completion of Disclosure forms for presenters in both instances.

In addition to managing Cardiothoracic Grand Rounds and overseeing the Thoracic Tumor Board, I collaborate closely with multiple doctors to fulfill administrative duties. This encompasses calendar management, license renewals, meeting coordination, resource provision, and other assigned responsibilities.



**Fatima Gonzalez**

Clinical Laboratory Scientist

In my role as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist in the Immunogenetics and Transplantation Laboratory (ITL), my responsibilities encompass a variety of intricate tests crucial to supporting solid organ and bone marrow transplantations. Specifically, I conduct HLA-typing for both patients and donors, evaluating the compatibility of the match to assist in selecting the most suitable donor for individual patients.

Additionally, I carry out post-transplant monitoring analyses to detect organ rejections at the earliest possible stage.



**William Yau**

Post-Award Analyst

In my role, I work with Adult CT, Pediatric, Pediatric CT, and Vascular Principal Investigators, overseeing post-award activities for sponsored projects. I act as a liaison between Principal Investigators, Department Administrators, Office of Sponsored Research (OSR), and Contracts & Grants Accounting (CGA), facilitating effective communication and coordination.

One of my key responsibilities is to prepare and submit financial and progress reports to OSR, CGA, and the relevant awarding agencies.



**Mika Castro**

Administrative Officer

Within the UCSF East Bay Highland Hospital Department of Surgery, my role entails overseeing and coordinating a wide array of administrative support and operations. As the primary point of contact for the Chief of Surgery and Directors of the UCSF East Bay Surgery Department, my multifaceted responsibilities include providing guidance, research support, administrative support along with oversight of IT, facilities, student services, program coordination, grants and other essential functions.

# EDUCATION

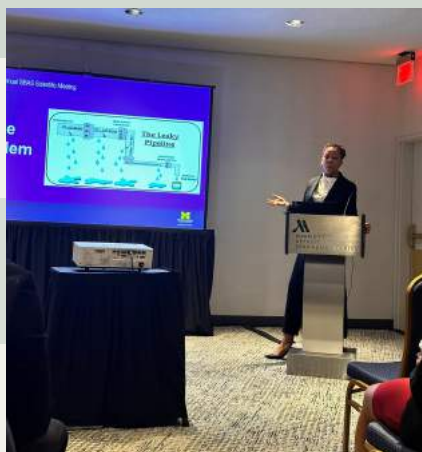


**Tom Sorrentino**, a resourceful general surgery research resident, gained recognition in the **November 2023 UCSF Maker's Lab** newsletter for his collaboration with the Makers Lab. Together, they designed and manufactured a low-cost portable home laparoscopic trainer, addressing the need for trainees of all heights to practice laparoscopic surgery in the correct ergonomic position.



**Juan Reyna**, a general surgery research resident, has been admitted into the **Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS) Diverse Surgeons Initiative (DSI) 2.0**.

**Nichole Starr**, a general surgery chief resident of the class of 2023 and a surgical critical care fellow, received the esteemed **Dr. Hilary Sanfey Outstanding Resident Award**. Furthermore, Dr. Starr presented her impactful work with the **Clean Cut program** at **ACSCC 2023**, showcasing her dedication to advancing surgical practices and patient care.



**Chelsie Anderson**, a general surgery PGY2 resident, shared her insights at the **Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS)** meeting by presenting her work on addressing the "leaky pipeline" to a career in surgery.

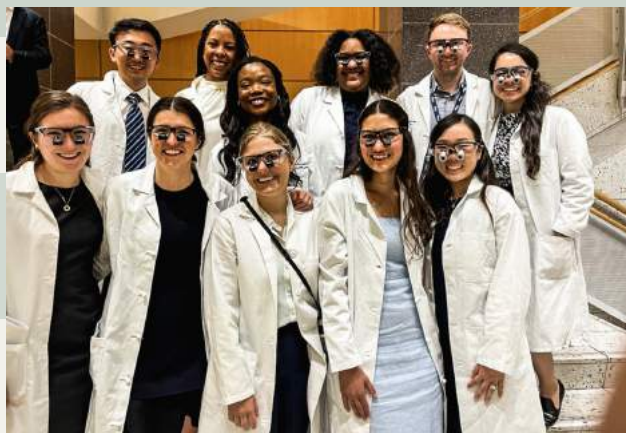
**Alison Baskin**, a general surgery PGY3 resident, has taken on the role of **Assistant Editor for Visual Abstracts and Social Media at the World Journal of Surgery**. Her commitment to advancing the field of surgery is further highlighted by winning the **UCSF C-SHORE scholarship** for her presentation at the Surgical Outcomes Club Annual Scientific Session on October 22nd.



**Pictured above** - General Surgery residents **Mignote Yilma, Makda Zewde, Chelsie Anderson, and Ashley Campbell**, together with vascular surgery resident **Eric Smith**, plastic surgery resident **Casey Tompkins-Rhoades**, and Trauma Fellow **Caitlin Collins**, collectively attended the **Society of Black Academic Surgeons** annual meeting in September.

**Fernanda Romero-Hernandez, Nicole Lee, and Anya Edwards** (general surgery interns) won the Surgical Skills Lab's annual "Foundational Skills Assessment" in September. A total of 38 interns and 14 faculty participated in the event.

**Keith Hansen**, a general surgery PGY5 resident, has played a pivotal role in the collaboration between the **National Kidney Foundation** and **Diatiro**, a medical technology company. Together, they aim to advance the development and deployment of the kidney pod technology.



During the **20th annual Loupes Ceremony** on September 20th, **PGY2** residents were honored with a special gift of loupes. This thoughtful gesture, in honor of distinguished UCSF Surgery alumni, marks a significant tradition in recognizing and supporting the next generation of surgical talent within the residency program.



**Hannah Decker and Karen Trang**, both general surgery research residents, co-authored a paper in **JAMA Network Open**. The paper, is titled "**Large Language Model-Based Chatbot vs Surgeon-Generated Informed Consent Documentation for Common Procedures**."

**Dr. Lan Vu**, our general surgery residency associate program director, has been honored with the **UCSF School of Medicine 2022-23 Henry J. Kaiser Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Inpatient Care Setting**. This recognizes Dr. Vu's exceptional dedication and contributions to teaching within the realm of inpatient care, highlighting her commitment to shaping the educational experiences of aspiring medical professionals.

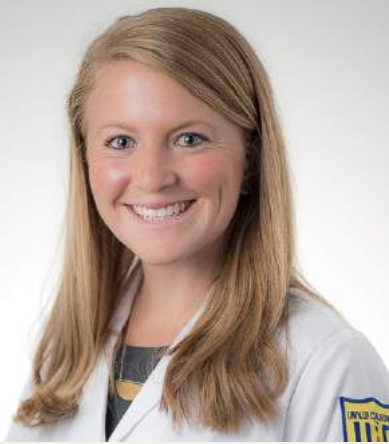


**Fernanda Romero-Hernandez**, a general surgery PGY1 resident, demonstrated leadership and expertise by serving as the moderator of the **International Medical Student Panel at ACSCC 2023**.



**Alyssa Murillo**, a general surgery research resident, along with **Dr. Johannes Kratz**, made notable contributions to the field of Robotic Surgery by being featured in a **WIRED Magazine** article.

# EDUCATION II



**Hannah Decker** a general surgery research resident, showcased her work at **ACSCC 2023** by presenting on patient-directed discharges among unhoused patients at UCSF. Dr. Decker also wrote a piece in the **Journal of Internal Medicine** titled, "The Case for Rituals"

**Anya Greenberg**, a general surgery PGY1, presented her work on *wellbeing interventions for surgery trainees* at **ACSCC 2023**.

**Alexis Colley**, a general surgery research resident, in collaboration with **Liza Wick, Rebecca Sudore, and Joseph Lin** (general surgery class of 2023) published a study in **The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety** on *Clinician Review of Advanced Care Planning for Older Surgical Patients Requiring Intensive Care*.

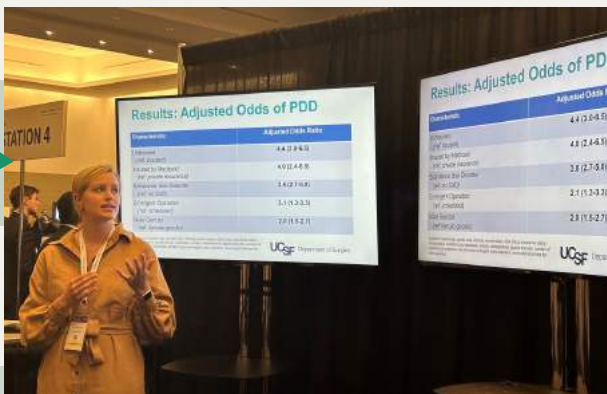


**Patricia Conroy**, a general surgery chief resident, has secured a position in our **UCSF Endocrine Surgery Fellowship**, commencing in August 2024.



**Caroline Melhado**, a general surgery PGY4 resident, had a remarkable quarter showcasing her impactful research. She presented her work on *health literacy among caregivers of injured children and the negative predictive value of CT for ruling out unstable ligamentous injury seen on MRI* at the **AAP National Conference & Exhibition**.

Dr. Melhado also unveiled findings on the *association between pediatric readiness scores and mortality for injured children treated at US trauma centers* at **ACSCC 2023**. At the **Pediatric Trauma Society annual meeting**, she delved into the *sensitivity of limited-sequence MRI in identifying clinically significant pediatric cervical spine injury* and discussed *national access to peds-ready trauma centers*. Additionally, Dr. Melhado presented her research on *Emergency Department pediatric readiness of US trauma centers*. Her outstanding contributions were recognized as she was named the **2023 Pediatric Trauma Society award winner for research in pediatric trauma**.

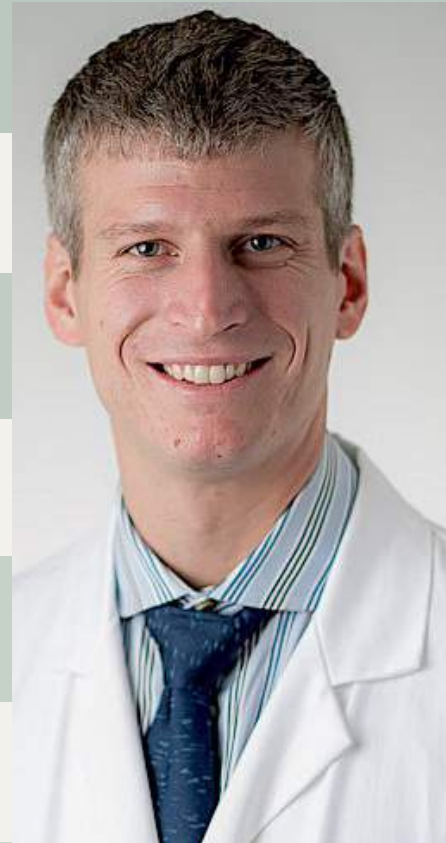


**Jane Wang**, a general surgery research resident, showcased her innovative work at **ACSCC 2023** by presenting on machine learning techniques to calculate the likelihood of achieving textbook hepatectomy outcomes.



**Caroline Stephens**, a general surgery research resident, has made significant contributions to the field of pediatrics. She authored papers in prestigious journals such as **JAMA Surgery** and the **Journal of Pediatric Surgery**, focusing on critical topics like *the association of transport time, proximity, and emergency department pediatric readiness with pediatric survival at US trauma centers*. Additionally, her work extends to international collaboration, as she participated in teaching advanced trauma resuscitation and management to interns in **Uganda**. Notably, she presented her research on *the impacts of climate events on children* at the **Pediatric Trauma Society Annual Meeting**. Caroline Stephens also played a key role in studies related to pediatric emergency surgery courses and the impact of bowel coverage and resuscitation protocols on *gastroschisis mortality in low-income countries*, specifically drawing lessons from Uganda.

Her dedication is further evident in addressing the need for a national pediatric trauma system, as seen in her paper titled "Setting an agenda for a national pediatric trauma system: Operationalization of the Pediatric Trauma State Assessment Score" in the **Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery**.



**Nathan Brand**, a general surgery PGY4 resident, presented his impactful research on *catastrophic expenditure in surgical patients in Tanzania* at **ACSCC 2023**.



**Audrey Brown**, a general surgery PGY4 resident, achieved the prestigious **2023 ACS Excellence in Research Award** for her work on *the association between T-cell proliferation in background liver parenchyma in hepatocellular carcinoma*. In addition to this accolade, Dr. Brown showcased her visionary research on the future of beta cell replacement at the **IPITA-IXA-CTRMS Joint Congress 2023**.



# RESEARCH



**F**unding plays a pivotal role in advancing the frontiers of scientific knowledge, and when directed towards academia, it becomes a catalyst for groundbreaking research within surgical departments. The marriage of financial support and academic pursuit in the realm of surgery not only fosters innovation but also enhances the overall capabilities and reputation of a department. This text explores the multifaceted benefits that funding brings to academia-driven science research in the field of surgery. Below we delve into this quarters research highlights.



**Dr. Hamin Lee** along with **Dr. Mike Harrison** leads the groundbreaking research project funded by the Food and Drug Administration through the award mechanism 1P50FD007967-01. The award, titled "**UCSF-Stanford Pediatric Device Consortium**," strives to advance pediatric medical device development.

With a substantial total award of over **\$7,000,000**, this sponsorship reflects a significant commitment to enhancing healthcare solutions for children through innovative technology and collaborative efforts between UCSF and Stanford.

Under the leadership of **Dr. Doruk Ozgediz**, the UCSF Institute for Global Health Services embarks on a transformative initiative sponsored by the Wyss Foundation. With a total award of **\$757,546**, this endeavor reflects a commitment to advancing global health solutions. Driven by innovation and expertise, the project is poised to make a meaningful impact on healthcare services on a global scale.



**Dr. Camille Jackson** assumes a pioneering role in the field of medicine with the support of the UCSF School of Medicine Dean's Diversity Fund. Through the prestigious Watson Scholar award worth **\$225,000**, Dr. Jackson embarks on a transformative journey aimed at advancing diversity and inclusion in medical research and practice.



**Dr. Alexander Lin** leads a new initiative with the generous support of the Plastic Surgery Foundation – The awarded grant of **\$50,000** reflects a commitment to advancing innovative solutions in plastic surgery.



Under the guidance of **Dr. Kyle Cromer**, the Living Therapeutics Initiative receives vital support from the University of California, San Francisco. This innovative project is worth a total award amount of **\$250,000**.



**Dr. Marissa Boeck** spearheads a pivotal project in the realm of translational science, supported by the **National Institutes of Health's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences**. The initiative, titled "*Clinical Translational Science Institute KL2 Career Development*," is being funded to the tune of **\$347,920**.



**Dr. Simon Chu**, a resident, embarks on a transformative journey with the support of the **California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)**. As the recipient of the Clinical Fellowship award, Dr. Chu is poised to contribute significantly to advancements in the field with a total award of **\$86,874.50**.



**Dr. Adnan Alseidi** spearheads an impactful research endeavor, generously supported by the Intuitive Foundation, Inc., through the OPTiMiSe Study. With a total award of **\$75,000**, this initiative focuses on assessing outcomes of patients in Tanzania undergoing open versus minimally invasive surgery.



**Dr. James Koh** leads an impactful research initiative generously supported by the **Mental Insight Foundation**. With a total award of **\$140,000**, Dr. Koh's project focuses on advancing the understanding of MEN4 through improved screening and functional assessment methods.

# RESEARCH II

## Simplified Review Framework for NIH Research Project Grant Applications for grants submitted after January 2025

### What is the problem?

Several concerns have been expressed about the peer review process for NIH research project applications:

- Overall complexity with 5 separate review criteria
- Responsibility for assessment of policy compliance which distracts and detracts from the assessment of scientific and technical merit
- Potential for reputational bias

### What is the solution?

NIH announced a simplified framework, aimed to focus peer reviewers on the key questions needed to assess the application's scientific and technical merit: "Can and should the proposed research project be conducted?"

By combining 2 of the 5 current review criteria, the new framework has only 3 categories:

1. Importance of the Research (Significance and Innovation), scored on a 1-9 scale
2. Rigor and Feasibility (Approach), scored on a 1-9 scale
3. Expertise and Resources (Investigator and Environment), sufficient or not sufficient

For more information: <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2023/10/19/announcing-a-simplified-review-framework-for-nih-research-project-grant-applications/>

## New Studies Submitted to the IRB are Required to use the new Plain Language Template

The IRB has developed a streamlined Plain Language Informed Consent Form Template and corresponding Companion Document. These materials were created with the intention of providing potential research participants with an understandable, plainly written consent form, and to help improve overall study activation time.

### Some key changes:

- streamlined to include only the information necessary for all studies in the template, with a companion document to provide further guidance, including language that is locked and cannot be altered.
- Font size 14 point in line with U.S. State Department's decision to use Calibri-14 point font to help readers who are visually impaired.
- Numbered sections, that cannot be re-ordered or changed.
- Removal of logos
- Includes memo to sponsor, signed by HRPP director, explaining locked statements that cannot be altered.

### More Information:

- Visit Plain Language Informed Consent Form Project for a detailed summary of changes, aims of the project, and more Q&As about the template, Companion Document, and Memo sponsor.
- Watch the 3-minute video for a demonstration on how to use the template and Companion Document.
- Access the new template and Companion Document at Consent and Assent Form Templates.

# MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

We're thrilled to share the resounding success of the Muriel Steele Society (MSS) Annual Research Symposium, held on **November 1st and 8th**, 2023. Themed "**Crafting Impactful Research: An Insider's Workshop Series on Manuscript Writing**," this year's symposium proved to be an invaluable resource for all participants.



Comprising two insightful panels, the symposium focused on crucial aspects of scientific writing. The first panel, "**Through the Editor's Lens: Insights and Guidance for Publishing in Academic Journals**," featured esteemed experts **Julie Ann Sosa, MD**, and **Sandy Feng, MD**. They shared invaluable insights on navigating the publishing process and maximizing acceptance in academic journals. The second panel, "**Mastering the Art of Scientific Manuscript Writing**," explored the nuances of crafting impactful research papers. Attendees gained practical tips and techniques from **Pamela Derish, MA**, enhancing their skills in scientific manuscript writing. The symposium was a tremendous success, providing a rich learning experience for all.

The workshop was meticulously crafted to empower researchers in enhancing their scientific writing skills, enabling them to communicate their findings effectively and contribute significantly to the advancement of their respective fields.



**Muriel Steele Society End of Year Holiday Gathering**

A special note of gratitude to **Katherine Miclau (MS2)**, **Vanessa Mora (MS4)**, and **Fernanda Romero (PGY1)** from the Research Committee of the MSS for their exceptional organization of this symposium. Their dedication has been instrumental in making this event a resounding success.

For those who were **unable to attend the symposium**, the recorded sessions of the event are now available for viewing. **You can access the recorded materials [here](#)**. We hope that you will find the recorded content informative and valuable.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The **National Academy of Medicine** unveiled its roster of new members – **Dr. Sandy Feng**, our Vice-Chair of Research UCSF Transplant Surgeon, was one of the 100 elected as new members of the National Academy of Medicine Class of 2023.



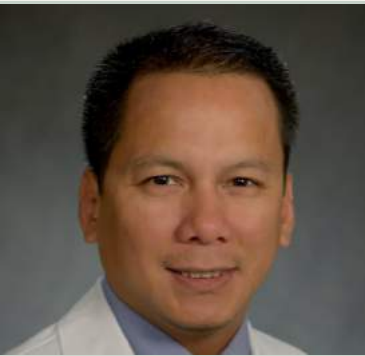
**Dr. Laura Esserman**, a distinguished Breast Cancer surgeon at UCSF, has been honored as the **No. 1 Healthcare Leader of 2023** by **Healthcare Digital**.



**Dr. Carter Lebares** has achieved a remarkable milestone by being inducted as a Full Member into the prestigious **American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators**.



Recognized by her mentee **Matthew McLaughlin**, Plastic Surgeon **Dr. Esther Kim** has been chosen for the **2023-24 Short-Term Mentor Award** & will be honored at the 2023 Mentor and Project Discovery Workshop designed for first-year medical students.



**Dr. Ian Soriano** was honored with an Honorary Fellowship from **The Philippine College of Surgeons**. Earlier this month, he relieved the well-deserved recognition in the form of a commemorative plaque.



**Dr. Doruk Ozgediz** has been honored as the recipient of the **UCSF Medicine's 2022-2023 Maxine Papadakis Award** for Faculty Professionalism and Respect in the Department of Surgery.



At the **American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) Business Meeting**, **Dr. Rochelle Dicker** was appointed **Manager-at-Large** for the next three years.



**Dr. Casey Tompkins-Rhoades**, a Resident Physician at UCSF Benioff Oakland Children's Hospital, is the recipient of the **BCH Oakland Research Scholars Award**.



Pediatric Surgeon **Dr. Lan Vu** was awarded **UCSF Medicine's prestigious 2022-2023 Henry J. Kaiser Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Inpatient Care Setting**.



**Dr. Ajay Maker, Dr. James Lee, and Dr. Jimmie Ye** secured a noteworthy **\$1.6 million** Federal Research Grant from the **Department of Defense Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs**.



**Dr. Johannes Kratz** and 4th-Year Resident **Dr. Alyssa Murillo** have been prominently featured in **WIRED Magazine!** The duo engaged in an insightful discussion with the publication, shedding light on the captivating realm of robot-assisted surgery and its revolutionary impact on education.



**Dr. Shahram Aarabi** received a substantial **\$1.75 million** **Department of Defense 2B STTR Award**. This award is dedicated to supporting his groundbreaking project **"Enhancing Thermal Control for Traumatic Injury Care in Pre-Hospital Settings"**



**Dr. Mignote Yilma** has successfully concluded her rigorous year-long training in the **Society of Black Academic Surgeons' Diverse Surgeons Initiative (DSI) 2.0**.



**Dr. Tasje Bongiovanni**, Trauma & Acute Care Surgeon, was chosen for the prestigious **2023-24 Short-Term Mentor Award**. This was spearheaded by her mentee and medical student **Natasha Gonzalez**.



**Dr. Elizabeth Wick**, our Vice Chair of Quality and Safety, in collaboration with **University of Minnesota Surgery, UC Irvine Surgery, and UCSF Geriatrics**, has secured a substantial 5-year grant amounting to **\$7 million** from **The National Institute on Aging**.



**Dr. Valerie M. Weaver**, alongside **31** esteemed colleagues from UCSF, has earned recent acclaim as one of the most influential figures in their respective fields, courtesy of Clarivate—a distinguished science and intellectual property company.

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



Dr. Andre Campbell, a distinguished professor of surgery at the UCSF School of Medicine and attending trauma surgeon at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (ZSFG), received Honors from the **Governor of California**, California Controller **Malia Cohen**, **Member Resolution 1455** from the **California Legislature** and **Mayor London Breed**.

**November 2nd** has been officially declared as Dr. Andre Campbell Day in San Francisco.

Dr. Campbell, recognized as one of the most decorated surgical educators and alumni, serves as the inaugural **Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** in the UCSF Department of Surgery. Additionally, he is the director of the **UCSF Surgical Critical Care Fellowship** and a founding member of the **UCSF Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators**.

Originating from Queens, N.Y., Dr. Campbell has utilized his firsthand experience in caring for gunshot victims to advocate and mobilize action against the national gun violence epidemic.



Cardiac surgeon **Dr. Amy Fiedler** has dedicated over a month of her time to working in Africa, particularly in **Rwanda**, collaborating with **Team Heart**. Their collective mission is to establish sustainable cardiac surgery practices aimed at alleviating the burden of heart disease in **Rwanda**. This involves a multifaceted approach, including training initiatives, skill transfer programs, and the meticulous analysis of data to enhance the overall impact and effectiveness of their efforts. In an impressive display of skill and dedication, Dr. Amy Fiedler, along with Team Heart, achieved remarkable results on only their second day in Rwanda. Their collective efforts led to the saving of three lives, and they successfully addressed cardiac issues by fixing a total of five valves. This early success underscores the immediate impact and crucial nature of their work, showcasing the profound positive influence that their expertise and commitment have on the lives of those in need of cardiac care in Rwanda. In the most recent update, Dr. Amy Fiedler shared significant progress from her mission in Rwanda. A total of **10** patients underwent crucial procedures in the operating room under her care highlighting the team's commitment to providing essential cardiac surgeries. Impressively, the medical team also replaced **17** valves, signifying a substantial impact on addressing cardiac issues and improving the overall heart health of those in need.

**Dr. Nichole Starr** who currently serves as a Trauma & Surgical Critical Care Fellow at UCSF/Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital has been working in **Ethiopia** since 2007, first as a Peace Corps volunteer and then as part of the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery during medical school, and as a Lifebox and NIH Fogarty Fellow during her research time at UCSF. Dr. Starr's work during that time was primarily on surgical infection prevention through implementation of a QI program called **Clean Cut**, which she built out the program from its pilot phase and implemented in **7** hospitals.

Through her Fogarty Fellowship, she worked as an advisor to the Ministry of Health and liaison to WHO to implement standardized trauma registries at several hospitals in Ethiopia and to build out trauma QI programs at several hospitals there. At the COSECSA meeting Lifebox, a charity organization aiming to improve the safety of surgery and anesthesia worldwide held a side event showing Clean Cut's program and results, which has now been implemented in **36** hospitals in **9** countries and continues to grow. Check out the research which was published in **JAMA Surgery** [here](#).

# Work in Africa

# DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS..



Chair's Office Dinner in the Marina District

This year there was an increase in fellowship within our department. As a team, we've not only achieved significant milestones in our work but have also fostered a strong sense of camaraderie that extends beyond the walls of UCSF.

Outings have played a crucial role in creating memorable experiences and reinforcing the bonds we share. Whether it's our team-building events, where we engaged in collaborative activities and shared laughter around the bonfire, or our trips to Ocean Beach, these moments have allowed us to connect on a personal level and appreciate the unique strengths each team member brings to the table. Within the hallowed halls of UCSF, we've celebrated various occasions that showcase the vibrant tapestry of our department's culture. From birthdays and work anniversaries, to holiday celebrations, and department-wide potlucks, these events have become cherished traditions that add warmth and joy to our daily lives. The support and encouragement we offer one another during these times speak volumes about the strong community we've built together.



The Kornblith Lab Holiday Celebration

Our impact doesn't stop within UCSF; we've extended our reach beyond the institution's walls to engage with the broader community. Our participation in several organizations demonstrated our commitment to making a positive difference beyond our immediate professional sphere. As ambassadors of both UCSF and our shared values, we actively contribute to the betterment of the world around us.



A Global health moment featuring **Dr. Mohamed Adam** during his visit to Basavarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital in Telangana, India.

Looking ahead, let's continue to build on the foundation of unity and collaboration that defines our department. Whether it's through upcoming team-building activities, outreach initiatives, or simple acts of kindness within the workplace, let's ensure that the spirit of camaraderie remains a driving force in all that we do. Here's to the continued success of our department and the enduring bonds that make us more than just colleagues – we are a community.



Above and below are outtakes from the Surgical Oncology Strategic Retreat featuring **Dr. Ajay Maker** (above blue sweater vest) and **Dr. Julie Ann Sosa** (seen standing below).



# SKILLS LAB

## KORET announcement:

Exciting News! The Surgical Skills Center has a new dedicated space in the **10 Koret Building** on the Parnassus campus—**room K-340**. This marks a "soft" opening, currently shared with an Ophthalmology research lab. Our goal is to transform it into a dynamic "Skills Lounge" once the lab completes its relocation. Intended for residents to hone "just in time" surgical skills, this space facilitates skill sharpening before cases. Faculty can also refer residents for skill practice before clinical operations. Conveniently located just minutes away from the Parnassus ORs. Stay tuned for more updates!

This space contains 2 FLS box trainers with monitors to practice FLS, a couple of iliac fossa (kidney) models to practice advanced open surgical skills (ATOSS), and a suturing kit to practice basic knot tying and suturing.

- Congratulations to our interns that have passed the FLS exam: **Anya Edwards, Natalie Escobar, Makda Zewde and Anna Zhao!**
- Congratulations to our interns that have completed the mandatory general surgery Robotic simulation modules: **Makda Zewde, Miguel Nunez, Anna Zhao, Natalie Escobar, Anya Edwards, and Russyan Mabeza!**



Urology Residents Dr. Mayra Lucas Ramirez and Dr. Grace Lee dedicated a morning to personalized one-on-one robotic skills training, guided by Dr. Hueylan Chern, a Colorectal Surgeon and the Director of our Surgical Skills Lab.



## "Envision" @OasisForGirls

Envision, a collaborative internship initiative with UCSF Department of Neurosurgery and non-profit organization **Oasis for Girls**, aims to expose high school students of color from under-represented communities in San Francisco to careers in medicine and health-science fields. Additionally, it helps them cultivate essential professional skills for a brighter future.

This quarter, our lab hosted several sessions, with a highlight being the participation of **13** talented high school girls from both public and private schools in San Francisco. During their visit, these students delved into our Surgical Skills Center, engaging in a two-hour exploration of surgical techniques and training.

Under the guidance of **Dr. Alex Highet, Dr. Maria Castro, Dr. Russyan Mark Mabeza, and Dr. Eric Smith**, UCSF Surgery residents and Neurosurgery faculty, the hands-on workshop featured three interactive stations: 1) gowning & gloving, 2) knot tying, + 3) laparoscopic tasks.





*Surgery Faculty at the California Academy of Sciences*



*Surgery Faculty at the California Academy of Sciences II*