

# IN THE LOUPE

## THERE'S A NEW CHIEF OF OUR DIVISION OF PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

**Dr. Scott Hansen** is now leading the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of California, San Francisco. Dive into our newsletter for an exclusive interview with him, covering his outlook and fascinating insights into the world of plastic surgery.

**Match Day 2024** took place on **March 15th**, inside you'll find names and snapshots of our talented incoming interns, showcasing the schools they hail from and the programs they've matched into at the University of California, San Francisco. From diverse backgrounds and experiences, each intern brings a unique perspective to our surgical community. Join us in welcoming these bright minds as they embark on their journey at UCSF. Browse to see the faces shaping the future of surgery with us!

See our **Castle Connolly Top Doctors!**

**Our Web Manager, Jason Powers leads us to Design Victory**

**Our Transplant Team Achieves Another Milestone in the First Quarter of 2024**

**37TH ANNUAL UCSF DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM TAKES PLACE ON MAY 8TH, 2024**



**WHAT'S ON OUR CHAIR'S MIND??**

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

## DR. JULIE ANN SOSA

Happy Spring to all! With the season comes a commitment to growth and ambition for bringing positive change. On Match Day, we met the newest members of our Department, and preparations have begun for their arrival in **June**. We are also in the midst of many recruitments across most of our practice sites and divisions. **Seven new faculty members** have already accepted offers to join our faculty, and several more are pending or about to go out. The involvement of everyone in our Department – faculty, staff (a special thank you to **Stephanie Lee** and her team!), and trainees – has been critical for attracting this incredible pool of talent, and I'm so thankful for the collective commitment to planning for our present and future. Meanwhile, as Women's History Month comes to a close, I'd like to celebrate new, critically important achievements.



For the **fifth** consecutive year, UCSF Surgery has achieved an **'Exemplary'** rating by the Chairs and Directors Council on Diversity for our efforts in this space; only a minority of departments and units receive this appraisal. I'd like to acknowledge and thank both **Dr. Campbell** and **Dr. Kornblith**, in particular, for the leadership roles they have played along the way. Another extremely important milestone reached this year was establishing for the first-time salary equity in our Department based on gender and UIM status. Importantly, there continue to be opportunities to do more and do better, and we are committed to working hard together with great ambition. Finally, in honor of **National Doctors' Day**, I'd like to acknowledge all the members of our Department for your hard work, commitment, and courage to press forward in the face of so many challenges to make UCSF Surgery the very best it can be. As you heard at Grand Rounds, efforts are underway at the Department and UCSF Health System levels to create a perioperative culture that better supports our faculty and trainees. We continue to work hard to obtain the resources needed to allow our teams to flourish and patients to be afforded the best possible outcomes. Many solutions will need to be created at the division and section levels, and our Leadership Group has begun to formulate planning. I very much look forward to our all-faculty retreat on **May 3rd-4th, 2024**, around the theme of **'Leveraging our strengths to redesign how we work and live,'** when we will spend time with each other, catching up, listening, and sharing, and strategically planning together for our future. - **With much respect and gratitude, Julie Ann**

## A DAY DEDICATED TO COLLABORATIVE WORK IN THE SKILLS LAB ALONGSIDE THE TEAM.



# EDUCATION

## 12 DAYS AGO WE CELEBRATED OUR 2024 MATCHES

Our General Surgery Residency Program celebrated a highly successful recruitment season, engaging with **75** candidates during interviews held throughout December and January to fill eight coveted positions within the program for the Match 2024 cycle. Applicants were afforded the unique opportunity to engage directly with our residents, emphasizing the dynamic research endeavors spearheaded by our research residents.

### Dr. Kenzo Hirose



**Dr. Kenzo Hirose** (our General Surgery Residency Program Director) presented the annual **"State of the Program"** during Grand Rounds on **January 24th**.

**Drs. Fernanda Romero-Hernandez** (General Surgery PGY1), **Patricia Conroy** (General Surgery PGY5), **Phoebe Miller** (General Surgery PGY2), **Lucia Calthorpe** (General Surgery PGY2), and **Jane Wang** (General Surgery Research Resident) were authors on a paper in **"Diseases of the Colon and Rectum on A Novel Machine Learning Approach to Predict Textbook Outcome in Colectomy."**

**Dr. Jane Wang's** work on the **"Ongoing Failure of Guidelines-Concordant Pancreatic Cancer Care in CA"** was presented by **Dr. Amir Ganjouei** on her behalf at the **2024 PCSA meeting**.

**Dr. Simon Chu** (General Surgery Research Resident) was a recipient of the **Diabetes Center's 2024 Klein-Kraft Fellowship**. Dr. Chu also presented his work on developing a **"CRISPR/AAV Genome Editing Strategy for ATM"** at the **2024 Academic Surgical Congress**.

**Dr. Nathan Brand** (General Surgery PGY4) presented his work on **"30-day Post-laparotomy Outcomes"** at **Muhimbili National Hospital** in Tanzania at the **2024 Academic Surgical Congress**.

**Drs. Caroline Stephens** (General Surgery Research Resident), **Caroline Melhado** (General Surgery PGY4), and **Ava Yap** (General Surgery PGY4) published a paper in the **Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery** on **"Factors Associated with Trauma Recidivism in Young Children."**

In the General Surgery Quickshot Session III, **Dr. Lara Senekjian**, a Critical Care Surgeon and faculty member at UCSF-East Bay, discussed **"Peritoneal Dialysis in a Safety Net Hospital: A Surgical Perspective."**

**Dr. Nathan Alcasid**, a General Surgery Research Resident at UCSF-East Bay, delivered his presentation on **"Investigating the Clinical Implications of Penetrating and Blunt Trauma After Temporary Abdominal Closure"** during the Trauma/Critical Care Quickshot Session X.

**Dr. Richard Gutierrez**, who recently matched into our **Vascular Surgery Residency**, delivered a Vascular Surgery Quickshot presentation. In it, he discussed the effects of social vulnerability on postoperative delirium following open abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, as outlined in his abstract, **"Social Vulnerability Impacts Postoperative Delirium Following Open Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair."**

Surgical Innovation Fellow **Dr. Tejas Sathe** shared insights on **"How to Build an Academic Powerhouse: Let's Study Who's Doing it"** during the Cross-Disciplinary Quickshot Session. Additionally, in the General Surgery Quickshot Session I, he presented findings from his research on **"Attitudes Toward Improving OR Sustainability: A Survey of U.S. Academic Surgeons."**

**Dr. Patricia Conroy** (General Surgery Chief Resident) published a paper in the **SURGERY Journal** on **"Nerve monitoring in endocrine surgery: Practice patterns differ among surgeons for parathyroidectomy and thyroidectomy."**

Fourth-year medical student **Aileen Gozali** delivered her presentation on **"Identifying Gaps in Education for Post-Mastectomy Autologous Breast Reconstruction Patients"** during the Plastic Surgery Quickshot Session.

**Nina Mehta**, a 2nd-year medical student, presented during the Plastic Surgery Quickshot Session at ASC 2024; her abstract was titled **"Shared Decision-Making Tool for Gender Affirming Mastectomy: Patient Satisfaction and Experience."**

### Dr. Hannah Decker



**Dr. Hannah Decker**, (General Surgery Research Resident, has made significant contributions to medical literature: She penned **"The Case for Rituals"** in the **Journal of Internal Medicine** and discussed **"Housing Status and Cancer Care Outcomes Among US Veterans in JAMA Network Open."** Additionally, her qualitative analysis on **"Surgical Care Challenges for Unhoused Patients"**, that was covered in **Healio**, sheds light on critical healthcare disparities.

Dr. Decker shared her insights on **Surgical Outcomes for Unhoused Patients at the Socially Responsible Surgery Research Seminar**. Her research on **"Screening for Intimate Partner Violence in Trauma,"** was published in the **Journal of Surgical Research**. Moreover, her presentation at the **2024 Academic Surgical Congress** emphasized **"The Impact of housing status changes on Cancer Outcomes in Veterans."**

During the Trauma/Critical Care and Oncology Quickshot Session, General Surgery Research Resident at UCSF-East Bay, **Dr. Cynthia Susai**, presented her study **"Is Repeat CT Angiography for Asymptomatic Grade 1 Blunt Cerebrovascular Injury Cost-Effective?"**

At the Global Surgery Oral Session, **Dr. Nikathan Kumar**, a General Research Resident from UCSF East Bay Surgery, presented his research on **"The Current State of Blood Availability in Mexico."**

# OUR NEW INTERNS

## General Surgery Categorical Interns



Megan Casey  
UCSF



Anna Fishbein  
Georgetown University



Jonathan Li  
UCSF



Willa Li  
University Of Chicago



Madeline Mattys  
UCSF



Helena Record  
UCSF



Fernanda Romero Hernandez  
Univ. Autónoma de Querétaro



Jacob Sonnenberg  
UCSF

## Plastic Surgery Categorical Interns



Michelle Benedict  
University of Michigan



Elizabeth Danial  
UCSF



Alex Joo  
Univ. of Massachusetts



Ricky Gutierrez  
UCSF

## Vascular Categorical Intern

## General Surgery Preliminary Interns



Brian Carlson  
Washington State Univ.



Youjin Cho  
Ohio State



Thomas Li  
Mount Sinai



Joshua Myszewski  
University of Wisconsin



William Shyr  
Albert Einstein



Deepthi Thadasina  
Indiana University



Taron Torosian  
Wake Forest



Samuel Vydro  
UCSF



# Dr. Scott Hansen Assumes Chief Role in Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

## 4 QUESTIONS WITH OUR NEW CHIEF

By Rashad Benton

**Dr. Scott Hansen**, a native of Manassas, Virginia, has defied the odds in his medical career. Emerging from humble beginnings, this husband and father of four has forged a path to success. Graduating from **Eastern Virginia Medical School**, a modest public institution in Norfolk, Virginia, his journey has taken him to unexpected heights.

On **February 1st, 2024**, he entered into his post as the Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery here at the University of California, San Francisco. To kick this off, he allowed us to pick his brain; here's what we've learned.

**As the new Chief of the UC San Francisco Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, could you share your vision for the department's future, including any plans for changes, enhancements, and new ideas?** Transitioning from Dr. William Hoffman's 18-year leadership marks a significant change. My vision is to build upon his foundation, expanding our **UCSF Plastic Surgery Program**. Specifically, I aim to strengthen our clinical areas, such as hand, gender-affirming, aesthetics, and breast and lymphedema surgery programs at Mission Bay. Additionally, centralizing research efforts by hiring research coordinators to support medical students, residents, and faculty in scholarly activities. Ultimately, I want to support a physician/scientist in overseeing research and securing funding to enhance our division's impact and growth.

**In your role as the Stephen J. Mathes, MD Endowed Chair, what initiatives do you have in mind to enhance recruitment within the department?** As the Stephen J. Mathes, MD Endowed Chair, I am committed to enhancing recruitment within the department through strategic initiatives. My first goal is to strengthen our microsurgical breast team, and we are potentially hiring **2** new faculty members who are microsurgery fellowship-trained. Another potential avenue for recruitment is the establishment of a new endowment named after a plastic surgery giant, **Dr. Mary McGrath**, and former UCSF faculty. This endowment will allow us to attract or retain a high-level academic surgeon to UCSF. This appointment will not only bring expertise and innovation to our team but also elevate our department's reputation on a national scale. Furthermore, we are focused on refining our recruitment strategies to ensure we continue attracting top talent in plastic and reconstructive surgery. I would also like to recruit a gender-affirming surgeon, a hand surgeon, and an adult craniofacial surgeon.



**As we explore your new position, Dr. Hansen, could you highlight key aspects of your strategic plans and how they might impact the day-to-day operations within the department?** I've pondered how best to approach my new role as Chief, especially given my existing relationships within the division and department at large. Rather than initiating immediate changes, I aim to foster cohesion and growth organically. On my first day, I met each faculty and staff member individually to understand their work, glean their ideas, and offer support where needed.

Adding new faculty isn't about disruption but enriching our community. My role is to gather insights from everyone, tailoring support to individual needs while fostering a unified community. Through this approach, I aim to shape a culture that may differ from the past but is embraced as positive and collaborative rather than imposing my own agenda. Shifting focus a bit, we're also intrigued by your expertise in the field.



**Could you share insights on some of the most challenging surgeries and the advancements or techniques you find particularly intriguing or promising?** I find microsurgical reconstructions among our field's most intricate cases. Take, for instance, scenarios where patients present with extensive defects in the upper or lower extremities. These cases pose unique challenges due to limited skin availability and compromised blood flow in those areas. Addressing large defects resulting from trauma or cancer requires intricate procedures involving tissue transplantation from one part of the body to another. This process involves disconnecting and then meticulously reconnecting the tissue to the local blood supply, often in the face of trauma-related complications.

Similarly, restoring functionality to a hand or an arm involves navigating through complex procedures. I must also acknowledge the demanding nature of breast reconstruction surgeries undertaken by my colleagues. These procedures can be prolonged and intricate, aiming to restore both form and function while preserving the integrity of other donor sites. In essence, these endeavors epitomize the delicate balance between restoring patients' well-being and navigating through formidable surgical challenges.

# MEET YOUR Colleagues



**Denice Kong**  
Clinical Lab Manager

As ITL's clinical lab manager, I oversee technical operations, personnel, and finances, ensuring accurate testing and regulatory compliance. My role involves implementing new protocols, enhancing efficiency, and strategic planning for long-term growth, supported by a dedicated team delivering high-quality testing services for over 900 therapeutic transplants annually at UCSF.

Together, we strive to innovate and advance patient care in the field of transplantation.



**Monica Diaz**  
HR Analyst | Admin Officer 3

As an HR Analyst in the Department of Surgery, I play a pivotal role in managing HR operations for our faculty and staff, with a special focus on overseeing academic recruitments. With dedication, I streamline our recruitment processes, ensuring efficiency while fostering a warm and supportive environment for all candidates engaged in the hiring process.

My goal is to facilitate a seamless experience that reflects positively on our department and leaves candidates feeling valued and respected.



**Jake Bornstein**  
Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC)

In the Division of Transplant Surgery, I focus on research within transplant nephrology and hepatology, collaborating closely with Dr. Garrett Roll and Dr. Flavio Vincenti to oversee various interventional drug and medical device studies. These studies aim to enhance liver and kidney transplant survival outcomes.

My role involves coordinating all facets of these studies, including participant recruitment and consent, data collection, protocol adherence, and regulatory compliance, ensuring the integrity and success of each research endeavor.



**Rodney Rogers**  
Clinical Research Manager

As the Clinical Research Manager in Transplant Surgery, I collaborate closely with a diverse team including surgeons, nephrologists, hepatologists, clinicians, APPs, nurses, faculty, residents/fellows, and research staff on various aspects of clinical trials within the division. My role encompasses overseeing and participating in grant writing/submissions, clinical trial budgeting, compliance, regulatory and IND submissions, and active trial management, working alongside compliance analysts, research supervisors, and clinical research coordinators.

It's a privilege to collaborate with such a dedicated and multifaceted group at UCSF, where our transplant researchers lead studies across a broad spectrum of topics.

**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.**



**Rudae Brown**  
Program Support Analyst

In my role as a clinical research coordinator for The Wraparound Project within the Trauma Surgery division, I support the Violence Prevention Team by facilitating daily data collection, ensuring quality assurance, and enhancing overall team structure.

This comprehensive approach enables us to streamline processes from start to finish, empowering the team to extend their assistance to more vulnerable adults and youth across San Francisco, ultimately reducing injury and criminal recidivism in our community.



**Yvonne Dunkley**  
Administrative Officer 3

As the Executive Assistant to Dr. Ajay Maker, Chief of Surgical Oncology, and Dr. Hobart Harris, I have the honor of working alongside two dedicated experts in their fields. My role encompasses efficiently managing their schedules, fostering connections, and collaborating with UCSF faculty and staff to uphold optimal patient care and departmental objectives.

Being part of the Department of Surgery Diversity and Inclusion Committee holds significant personal meaning, as I contribute to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment within our department.



**Anthony "Tony" Sun**  
Biomarker Analyst

As a Biomarker Analyst within the Breast Care Center division, I focus on leveraging machine learning models to explore treatment resistance and adverse effects in breast cancer patients using genomic, proteomic, and image data.

Additionally I develop user-friendly tools for querying, visualizing, and analyzing patient data collected during our clinical trials, facilitating smoother research processes and enhancing insights for improved patient outcomes.



**Sukhjit K. Dale**  
Senior Director

As Senior Director in the Department of Surgery, I am responsible for managing the finance and administrative operations across three divisions: General Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and Surgical Oncology.

Collaborating closely with Dr. Sosa and Mike Panion, I assess and analyze potential opportunities with our community hospital partners, while also overseeing all contracts with these institutions.

# LUNG TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

We are delighted to provide noteworthy updates on the remarkable success and continued progress of our UCSF Lung Transplant Program:

- **Program Success**
  - In 2023, our program maintained its position as the **#1** in volume leader on the West Coast. We achieved an outstanding total of **97 lung transplants**, including **2 heart-lung transplants**—an impressive increase of **20%** compared to the previous year (**2022 total of 77 cases**). We are **#5** for volume in the country up by 4-5 spots from last year.
- **2024 Highlights:**
- As of Feb 29, 2024, we are **#1** for volume on the West Coast
- As of March 25, 2024, we are at **29** transplants for the first **3** months of the year (including 1 Heart-lung)
- **Research Advances:** In December 2023, we initiated a groundbreaking randomized controlled trial examining the impact of temperature on donor lungs. **11** transplants have already been conducted under this trial, resulting in substantial savings of **\$100,000** with the promise of close to **\$750,000** in savings by year-end. We are closely monitoring the trial's data and progress.
- **Optimization Efforts:** Starting **January 1**, we successfully implemented a new perfusion logistic system, leading to an impressive **\$100,000** in savings within just one month for imported organs.
- **National and International Presence:**
  - We actively participated in the recent annual **STS meeting** in **San Antonio**, where **Dr. Jasleen Kukreja** had the honor of leading a Lung Transplant Symposium and moderating multiple sessions.
  - Dr. Kukreja has also been invited to deliver a keynote address at the **Ajmera Transplant Institute, University of Toronto, Canada**.
  - Looking ahead, she is scheduled to present and moderate at prominent international conferences, including **ISHLT, AATS**, and **ESTS, ECMO European Conference** in April and May and September. This ensures our program's solid visibility and representation on a global scale.

## 2024 Publications Thus Far

2024 | First author consensus statement on lung procurement and preservation put together by the AATS

2024 | Authoring consensus statement on ECLS for lung transplant put together by ISHLT



## 2023 Publications | 16 in Total

2023 Bromberger B, Brzezinski M, Kukreja J. **Prone Positioning after Lung Transplantation Remains Prone to Debate.** Ann Thorac Surg. 2023 Jul 19. PMID: 37479129

2023 Bromberger B, Brzezinski M, Kukreja J. **Lung Preservation: From Perfusion to Temperature.** Curr Opin Organ Transplant. 2023 Apr 13. PMID: 37053078

2023 Sawinski D, Lai JC, Pinney S, Gray AL, Jackson AM, Stewart D, Levine DJ, Locke JE, Pomposelli JJ, Hartwig MG, Hall SA, Dadhania DM, Cogswell R, Perez RV, Schold JD, Turgeon NA, Kobashigawa J, Kukreja J, Magee JC, Friedewald J, Gill JS, Loor G, Heimbach JK, Verna EC, Walsh MN, Terrault N, Testa G, Diamond JM, Reese PP, Brown K, Orloff S, Farr MA, Olthoff KM, Siegler M, Ascher N, Feng S, Kaplan B, Pomfret E. **Addressing Sex-based Disparities in Solid Organ Transplantation in the United States - A conference report.** Am J Transplant. 2023 03; 23(3):316-325. PMID: 36906294

2023 Bromberger B, Calabrese DR, Brzezinski M, Kukreja J. **Regadenoson is All the RAGE: Targeting the Inflammatory Cascade in Primary Graft Dysfunction.** Ann Thorac Surg. 2023 Apr 14. PMID: 3706234

2023 Luu HY, Santos J, Isaza E, Brzezinski M, Kukreja J. **Management of Primary Graft Dysfunction after Lung Transplantation with Extracorporeal Life Support: An Evidence-based Review.** J Thorac Dis. 2023 Jul 31; 15(7):4090-4100. PMID: 37559633. PMCID: PMC10407492

2023 Singer JP, Calfee CS, Delucchi K, Diamond JM, Anderson MA, Benvenuto LA, Gao Y, Wang P, Arcasoy SM, Lederer DJ, Hays SR, Kukreja J, Venado A, Kolaitis NA, Leard LE, Shah RJ, Kleinhenz ME, Golden J, Betancourt L, Oyster M, Brown M, Zaleski D, Medikonda N, Kalman L, Balar P, Patel S, Calabrese DR, Greenland JR, Christie JD. **Subphenotypes of Frailty in Lung Transplant Candidates.** Am J Transplant. 2023 04; 23(4):531-539. PMID: 36740192

2023 Desjardin JT, Svetlichnaya Y, Kolaitis NA, Hays SR, Kukreja J, Schiller NB, Zier LS, Singer JP, De Marco T. **Echocardiographic Estimation of Pulmonary Vascular Resistance in Advanced Lung Disease.** Pulm Circ. 2023 Jan; 13(1):e12183. PMID: 36618711. PMCID: PMC9817072

2023 Nguyen A, Chen J, Isaza E, Panchal N, Deiter F, Hoover J, Trinh B, Hays SR, Golden JA, Singer JP, Brzezinski M, Greenland JR, Kukreja J. **Biofire Pneumonia Panel in Lung Donors: Faster Detection but Limited Pathogens.** Transpl Infect Dis. 2023 Aug; 25(4):e14091. PMID: 37428868

2023 Odisho AY, Liu AW, Maiorano AR, Bigazzi MOA, Medina E, Leard LE, Shah R, Venado A, Perez A, Golden J, Kleinhenz ME, Kolaitis NA, Maheshwari J, Trinh BN, Kukreja J, Greenland J, Calabrese D, Neinstein AB, Singer JP, Hays SR. **Design and Implementation of a Digital Health Home Spirometry Intervention for Remote Monitoring of Lung Transplant Function.** J Heart Lung Transplant. 2023 Feb 02. PMID: 37031033

2023 Cypel M, Hötzenecker K, Campo-Cañaverl de la Cruz J, Kukreja J, Suarez E, Smith M, Bush EL. **Lungs Preserved on Ice or in a Refrigerator? Prolonged Static Lung Storage at 10 °C.** Ann Thorac Surg. 2023 May; 115(5):1095-1097. PMID: 36787842



Our Surgical Team



Dr. Howard Chen Visiting Scholar from Taiwan and Dr. Binh Trinh, UCSF

2023 Greenland JR, Guo R, Lee S, Tran L, Kapse B, Kukreja J, Hays SR, Golden JA, Calabrese DR, Singer JP, Wolters PJ. **Short Airway Telomeres are Associated with Primary Graft Dysfunction and Chronic Lung Allograft Dysfunction.** J Heart Lung Transplant. 2023 Aug 28. PMID: 37648073

2023 Calabrese DR, Chong T, Singer JP, Rajalingam R, Hays SR, Kukreja J, Leard L, Golden JA, Lanier LL, Greenland JR. **CD16+ Natural Killer Cells in Bronchoalveolar Lavage are Associated with Antibody-mediated Rejection and Chronic Lung Allograft Dysfunction.** Am J Transplant. 2023 01; 23(1):37-44. PMID: 36695619. PMCID: PMC10018437

2023 Santos J, Hays SR, Golden JA, Calabrese DR, Kolaitis N, Kleinhenz ME, Shah R, Estrada AV, Leard LE, Kukreja J, Singer JP, Greenland JR. **Decreased Lymphocytic Bronchitis Severity in the Era of Azithromycin Prophylaxis.** Transplant Direct. 2023 Sep; 9(9):e1495. PMID: 37575951. PMCID: PMC10414707

2023 Singer JP, Christie JD, Diamond JM, Anderson MA, Benvenuto LA, Gao Y, Arcasoy SM, Lederer DJ, Calabrese D, Wang P, Hays SR, Kukreja J, Venado A, Kolaitis NA, Leard LE, Shah RJ, Kleinhenz ME, Golden J, Betancourt L, Oyster M, Zaleski D, Adler J, Kalman L, Balar P, Patel S, Medikonda N, Koons B, Tevald M, Covinsky KE, Greenland JR, Katz PK. **Development of the Lung Transplant Frailty Scale (LT-FS).** J Heart Lung Transplant. 2023 Feb 20. PMID: 36925382

2023 Macrae TA, Lazo J, Viduya J, Florez R, Dewey K, Gao Y, Singer JP, Hays SR, Golden JA, Kukreja J, Greenland JR, Calabrese DR. **Frailty and Genetic Risk Predict Fracture after Lung Transplantation.** Am J Transplant. 2023 02; 23(2):214-222. PMID: 36695698. PMCID: PMC10037703

2023 Kolaitis NA, Chen H, Calabrese DR, Kumar K, Obata J, Bach C, Golden JA, Simon MA, Kukreja J, Hays SR, Leard LE, Singer JP, De Marco T. **The Lung Allocation Score Remains Inequitable for Patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, Even after the 2015 Revision.** Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2023 02 01; 207(3):300-311. PMID: 36094471. PMCID: PMC9896647

# SPOTLIGHT



## FISHBON ENDOWED CHAIRS IN AMBULATORY SURGERY



On **February 1st, 2024**, we announced both **Dr. Emily Finlayson** and **Dr. Wen Shen** as our **Fishbon Endowed Chairs**. These distinguished appointments, granted to surgeons primarily affiliated with the **UCSF/Mt. Zion Medical Center**, and signifies a commitment to advancing ambulatory surgery research, teaching, and service over a five-year term. On the afternoon of **March 14th**, faculty members, along with the families of Dr. Finlayson and Dr. Shen, gathered to celebrate and honor their remarkable achievements.





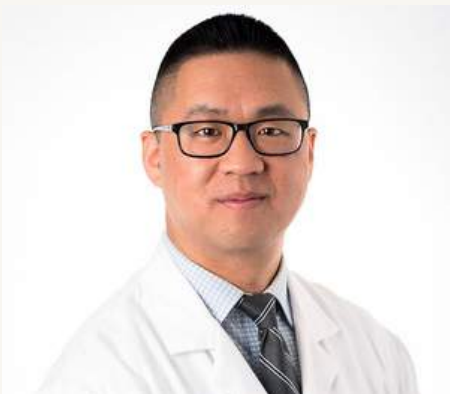
# RESEARCH

**Dr. Shahram Aarabi** hit a significant milestone with the **Air Force Phase IIB STTR Award** from **Tournitek Inc**, totaling **\$732,372**, for his groundbreaking project, **'TourniTek: Pre-Hospital Thermal Regulation For The Prolonged Field Care of Traumatic Injuries'.**



**Dr. Michael Conte**

The **University of California, San Francisco Diabetes Center** awarded General Surgery Resident **Dr. Simon Chu** the **2024 Kraft-Klein Fellowship in Type 1 Diabetes Research**, complemented by a generous **\$50,000** grant. The fellowship recognizes Dr. Chu's dedication to advancing research in type 1 diabetes .



**Dr. Simon Chu**

**Dr. Michael Conte** received a major research boost with the **U24DK122927 Award** from the **University of Michigan's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases**. With a first-year budget of **\$193,697**, this funding will propel his study, **'University of Michigan Data Coordinating Center for the Diabetic Foot Consortium,'** to new heights.



**Dr. Laura Esserman**

**Dr. Laura Esserman's** pioneering work received a boost with the prestigious **\$25,000 B30CS8521 Award** from **UC California Breast Cancer Research Program**, further empowering the transformative **RISE UP for Breast Cancer initiative**.



**Dr. Shahram Aarabi**

In recognition of his contributions to cardiovascular research, the **American Heart Association** honored Vascular Surgery Resident **Dr. Curtis Woodford** with the **24POST1198769 Award**, granting him their esteemed **AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship** valued at **\$155,824**. This honor highlights Dr. Woodford's commitment to advancing cardiovascular health.

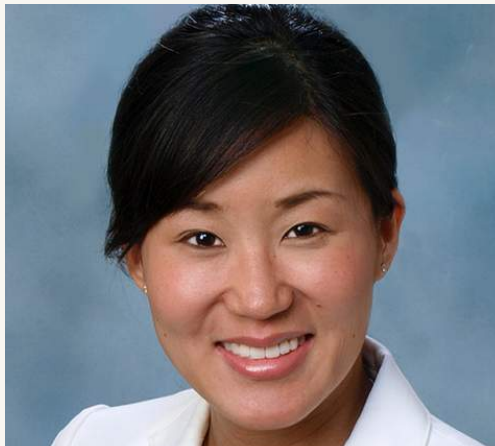


**Dr. Curtis Woodford**

## HIGHLIGHTS



**Dr. Ajay Maker** was named as the Surgeon in Chief at the **Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center**. This significant appointment marks the creation of a vital new role within our organization.



**Dr. Esther Kim**, Plastic Surgeon at UCSF, has been honored with the **2023-24 Short-Term Mentor Award**. This recognition, bestowed upon her by her mentee **Matthew McLaughlin**, underscores Dr. Kim's exceptional dedication to mentorship and professional development.



**Dr. Jeffrey Velotta**, Thoracic Surgeon, has been selected as the recipient of the **2023-24 Short-Term Mentor Award**. This accolade, nominated by his mentee **Katemanee Burapachaisri**, shines a spotlight on Dr. Velotta's exceptional dedication to mentorship and professional growth.

# HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D



**Dr. Tai Chau's** dedication to exceptional patient care and teamwork shines through as she receives the prestigious **UCSF Health Exceptional Physician Award for the 2023-24 academic year**. Her leadership and professionalism set a standard for excellence in healthcare.



**Dr. Stanley J. Rogers** commitment to professionalism, respect, and integrity in patient care plus his embodiment of UCSF Health's values earns him the esteemed **UCSF Health Exceptional Physician Award for the 2023-24 academic year**.



**Dr. Patricia Conroy's** dedication to patient care and embodiment of UCSF Health's PRIDE Values and outstanding contributions to healthcare excellence has landed her the **UCSF Health Exceptional Physician Award for the 2023-24 academic year**.



## VASCULAR SPOTLIGHT

Our Vascular Division was selected as the **Vascular Innovation Partner of the Month** by **The Society for Vascular Surgery Foundation**. Their pioneering efforts and commitment have earned them the spotlight as this month's distinguished VIPs <http://tinyurl.com/2act3pm3>



Associate Professor **Dr. Joyce Trompeta** has been honored with selection by **The U.S. Department of State & The Fulbright Program** as a **Fulbright U.S. Scholar for Japan for the 2024-2025 term**. This distinguished achievement represents her second tenure as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar.



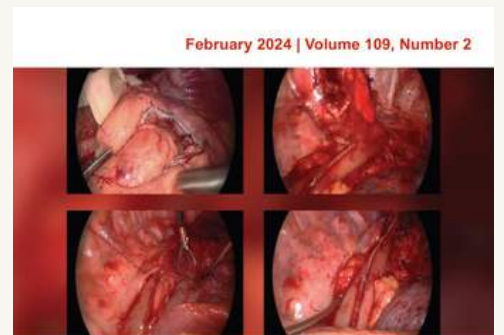
UCSF Investigators **Drs. Lucy Kornblith, Anthony Luke, Saul Villeda & Roland Bainton** received of **UCSF Lab Medicine's** funded **CTMCT pilot awards** for their research on using platelet-rich plasma for osteoarthritis, aiming to advance regenerative transfusion medicine.



First-year General Surgery resident, **Dr. Russyan Mabeza**, was featured on a **New England Journal of Medicine** podcast episode titled "**OK, Boomer**," where he discusses generational change, values, & cross-generational dialogue in medicine - **More** <https://tinyurl.com/4nzhmhzu>



The manuscript entitled, "**The Injured Monocyte: The Link to Chronic Critical Illness & Mortality Following Injury**" by Drs. **Joseph Cuschieri, Lucy Kornblith, Shibani Pati & Adrian Piliponsky** was chosen as **Editor's Choice, Best of Basic Science** for the February issue of the **Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery**.



## Surgeons Are Humanizing the Esophagectomy

Dr. Jeffrey Velotta and colleagues present technical

Our team graces the **February 2024** cover of **American College of Surgeons** for our work on "Surgeons Are Humanizing the Esophagectomy." Big thank you to UCSF Surgery Faculty member, **Dr. Jeffrey Velotta, UCLA Surgery Resident Dr. Haley Tupper**, and second-year UCSF Medical Student **Katemanee Burapachaisri**.

# SKILLS LAB

**24 Abstracts accepted (including Poster, Podium, and Plenary Presentations),  
5 Manuscripts, and 1 Grant awarded.**

**“Common Technical Errors Among Surgical Interns in the Simulation Lab”** Jacquelyn Knox, Aileen Gozali, Riley Brian, Patricia S. O’Sullivan, Hueylan Chern 2024 ACS Surgical Simulation Summit

**“Comparing Peer and Faculty Feedback for Asynchronous Laparoscopic Skill Acquisition”** Riley Brian, Brandon Cowan, Jacquelyn Alex Knox, Patricia O’Sullivan, David Bayne, Traci Ito, Jeannette Lager, Hueylan Chern 2024 ACS Surgical Simulation Summit

**“Comparing Observed and Preferred Instruction in Robotic Surgery”** Riley Brian, Alyssa Murillo, Daniel Oh, Hueylan Chern, Patricia O’Sullivan 2024 ACS Surgical Simulation Summit | PODIUM presentation

**“Common Technical Errors Among Surgical Interns in the Simulation Lab”** Jacquelyn Knox, Aileen Gozali, Riley Brian, Patricia S. O’Sullivan, Hueylan Chern 2024 ASE, Orlando, FL

**“Results from an Intraoperative Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) Assessment Tool Pilot: What Aren’t We Measuring?”** Hightet A, Murillo AD, Brian R, Gozali A, ten Cate O, Alseidi A, O’Sullivan PS, Vu LT 2024 ASE, Orlando, FL, PLENARY presentation

**“Characterizing Written Feedback and Predictors of Feedback Content on Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) Assessment Tool”** Murillo AD, Gozali A, Brian R, Hightet A, Alseidi A, ten Cate O, O’Sullivan PS, Vu LT 2024 ASE, Orlando, FL, PODIUM presentation

**“The Learners in the Room – A Multi-Institutional Needs Assessment of Medical Student Perceptions of Different Operating Room Learning Environments.”** Godley, FA., Palenzuela, D., Murillo, AD., Matthys, M., Wilhelm, AM., Dibrito, S., Alseidi, A., Joseph, J., Phitayakorn, R., Petrusa, E., Schumacher, L. 2024 ASE, Orlando, FL, PODIUM presentation



**“NBME Subject Exams as Predictors of USMLE Step 2 Performance”** Mandeep Kaur, Matthew Lin, Adnan Alseidi, Christy Boscardin, Karen E. Hauer, Camilla Gomes 2024 ASE, Orlando, FL | POSTER presentation

**“Successful Implementation of the LAPP Curriculum into General Surgery Residencies on Three Continents”** Nathan Brand, Rafael Selman, Riley Brian, Larry Akoko, Ally Mwanga, Seif Wibonela, Adnan Alseidi, Hueylan Chern, Isabella Montero, Cristian Jarry, Julian Varas 2024 ASE, Orlando, FL | POSTER presentation

**“NBME Subject Exams as Predictors of USMLE Step 2 Performance”** Mandeep Kaur, Matthew Lin, Adnan Alseidi, Christy Boscardin, Karen E. Hauer, Camilla Gomes 2023 WGEA, Riverside, CA | PODIUM presentation

**“Development and Implementation of an Aesthetic Surgery Curriculum for Integrated Plastic Surgery Residents”** Alap Patel, Jacquelyn Knox, Rebecca Small, Esther Kim ACEPS 2024, St. Louis, MO

**“Identifying Gaps in Education for Post-Mastectomy Autologous Breast Reconstruction Patients”** Aileen Gozali, Daniel Soroudi, Jacquelyn Knox, Jasmin Wilson, Merisa Piper ASC 2024, Washington, DC



**“Are Prophylactic Post-Operative Antibiotics Indicated for Implant-Based Breast Reconstruction?: A Randomized-Controlled Pilot Study”** Laura Barnes, Nisha Parmeshwar, Jacquelyn Knox, Catherine Dugan, Anne Patterson, Merisa Piper ASRM 2024, Denver, CO

**“Volume Augmentation of Autologous Microvascular Breast Reconstruction”** Jacquelyn Knox, Aileen Gozali, Jasmin Wilson, Laura Barnes, Nisha Parmeshwar, Merisa Piper ASRM 2024, Denver, CO

**“Characterizing Nipple Areolar Complex Necrosis after Nipple Sparing Mastectomy with Immediate DIEP Flap Breast Reconstruction”** Jasmin Wilson, Nisha Parmeshwar, Jacquelyn Knox, Daniel Soroudi, Aileen Gozali, Laura Barnes, Merisa Piper ASRM 2024, Denver, CO

**“Fat Necrosis after DIEP Reconstruction: An Analysis Of Over 400 Flaps”** Serena Bhaskerrao, Jacquelyn Knox, Aileen Gozali, Merisa Piper CSPS 2024, Carlsbad, CA

**“Another Look At The Medial And Lateral Rows: 18 Month Follow-up In Over 200 DIEP Flaps”** Jacquelyn Knox, Aileen Gozali, Serena Bhaskerrao, Daniel Soroudi, Merisa Piper CSPS 2024, Carlsbad, CA

**“Evaluating the Impact of Concurrent Risk-Reducing Gynecologic Surgery on Infection Rates after Breast Reconstruction”** Jacquelyn Knox, Daniel Soroudi, Aileen Gozali, Serena Bhaskerrao, Merisa Piper CSPS 2024, Carlsbad, CA

**“The Impact Of Augmented Venous Drainage On Outcomes After DIEP Flap Reconstruction”** Jacquelyn Knox, Aileen Gozali, Serena Bhaskerrao, Daniel Soroudi, Merisa Piper CSPS 2024, Carlsbad, CA

**“Comparing Patient-Generated Postoperative Inquires in Post-Mastectomy Flap-Based Breast Reconstruction versus Implant-Based Breast Reconstruction: A Call for Targeted Perioperative Patient Education”** Aileen Gozali, Jacquelyn Knox, Daniel Soroudi, Serena Bhaskerrao, Jasmin Wilson, Zuivanna Rivas, William Hoffman, Merisa Piper CSPS 2024, Carlsbad, CA

**“Comparing Provider And Artificial Intelligence Chatbot Responses To Breast Reconstruction Patient Question”** Daniel Soroudi, Aileen Gozali, Nisha Parmeshwar, Jacquelyn Knox, Ryan Sadjadi, Jasmin Wilson, Seung Ah Lee, Scott Hansen, Merisa Piper CSPS 2024, Carlsbad, CA

**“Development and Implementation of an Aesthetic Surgery Curriculum for Integrated Plastic Surgery Residents”** Alap Patel, Jacquelyn Knox, Rebecca Small, Esther Kim CSPS 2024, Carlsbad, CA

# SKILLS LAB II

**“Combating The Learning Curve For DIEP Flaps: Preliminary Results From A Cognitive Task Analysis Study”** Jacquelyn Knox, Aileen Gozali, Serena Bhaskerrao, Daniel Soroudi, Adnan Alseidi, Bao-Quyn Julian, Arash Momeni, Maura Sullivan, Merisa Piper PSRC 2024, Boston, MA

**“The Impact Of Augmented Venous Drainage On Outcomes After DIEP Flap Reconstruction”** Jacquelyn Knox, Aileen Gozali, Serena Bhaskerrao, Daniel Soroudi, Merisa Piper PSRC/AAPS 2024, Boston, MA (presenting at PSRC and AAPS meeting)

#### MANUSCRIPTS ACCEPTED:

Brian R, Oh D, Ifuku KA, Sarin A, O’Sullivan P, Chern H.

**“Experience matters for robotic assistance: an analysis of case data.”** Journal of Robotic Surgery. 2023 Oct;17(5):2421-6.

Wile RK, Brian R, Rodriguez N, Chern H, Cruff J, O’Sullivan PS.

**“Home practice for robotic surgery: a randomized controlled trial of a low-cost simulation model.”** Journal of Robotic Surgery. 2023 Oct;17(5):2527-36.

Zhou CJ, Edwards AL, Brian R, O’Sullivan PS, Shui AM, Cortella A, Alseidi A, Rapp JH, Chern H, Syed SM. **“Is participation enough? Impact of simulation curriculum structure on performance of basic surgical skills.”** Global Surgical Education-Journal of the Association for Surgical Education. 2023 Oct 21;2(1):98.

Whaley Z, Palenzuela D, Brian R, Golisch KB, Jones B, Lucy AT, Alseidi A, Corey B, Halverson AL, Fahey III TJ, Merianos D. **“Examining the mindsets of general surgery residents and faculty. Global Surgical Education”** Journal of the Association for Surgical Education. 2023 Nov 6;2(1):105.

Charondo LB, Brian R, Syed S, Chern H, Lager J, Alseidi A, O’Sullivan P, Bayne D. **“Confronting new challenges: faculty perceptions of gaps in current laparoscopic curricula in a changing training landscape.”** Surgery Open Science. 2023 Dec 1;16:1-7.

#### GRANTS AWARDED:

**“Curriculum Development for Robotic Training for Medical Students”** SAGES Robotic Surgery Grant **Awarded to Dr. Camilla Gomes**

## WEBSITE DESIGN WINNER

kanopi.com

surgery.ucsf.edu

We're thrilled to share the exciting news that the Department of Surgery main website ([surgery.ucsf.edu](http://surgery.ucsf.edu)) has been honored with the prestigious **Web Excellence Award** in not just one, but two categories: **Health Care Community** and **Health Care Services**. This achievement is a testament to the collaborative spirit that drives our team forward.

However, we're particularly proud to shine a spotlight on the outstanding dedication of our **Web Manager, Jason Powers**. His unwavering commitment and tireless efforts over the past 20 months have transformed our vision into a reality.

#### Curious about what's next?

We're rolling out this cutting-edge design across all of our **80+** Department of Surgery websites, ensuring a seamless and engaging online experience for our community. Stay tuned for more exciting updates!

**About the Web Excellence Award:** The Web Excellence Awards are exclusively for those who epitomize excellence on the web, showcasing their extraordinary talents and achievements. Our website earning this recognition shows an accomplishment of a remarkable feat, earning it a well-deserved position among the finest on the web. [More about WE-Awards](#) →

For any web-related inquires please reach out to Jason at [Jason.powers2@ucsf.edu](mailto:Jason.powers2@ucsf.edu)

# 37TH ANNUAL UCSF DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

ON MAY 8TH, OUR 2024 DUNPHY VISITING PROFESSOR WILL BE KATHERINE A. GALLAGHER, MD



**Wednesday, May 8, 2024 (7am – 4pm)**  
**37th annual UCSF Department of Surgery Research Symposium**

**Dr. Katherine Gallagher**, is Professor of Surgery, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, and the Leland Ira Doan Research Professor of Surgery at the **University of Michigan**. Dr. Gallagher is internationally known for her innovative translational research on epigenetic regulation of immune cells during normal and pathologic tissue repair and other cardiovascular disease processes. She is an expert in the molecular pathogenesis of wound repair and has contributed substantially to the understanding of epigenetics in immune cells associated with tissue repair, cardiovascular diseases, sepsis and most recently, COVID-19.

She is, most notably, an exceptionally well-funded researcher supported by multiple R01s and other foundation grants, a member of the **National Academy of Medicine, American Society of Clinical Investigation, American Surgical Association, Society of Clinical Surgery, a James IV International Scholar, a Distinguished Fellow of the Society of Vascular Surgery and a Taubman Scholar.**

**Dr. Gallagher is also the Vice Chair of Basic and Translational Science** in the Department of Surgery and foundational grants, including the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Wylie Scholars, among others. Her work is distinguished for its high quality and impact and has established the connection between epigenetic reprogramming of immune cells in normal and pathologic tissue repair as well as other disease states. She is the **Chair of the BTSS NIH-study section** and is an original member of the NIH-NIDDK Wound Consortium. She is a tremendous mentor to junior faculty and trainees in medical research and has trained many post-doctoral residents to be the next generation of scientists, who have all achieved NIH(F/K) and major society funding (AHA, ADA, ACS, AAS/SUS, SVS). She was awarded the **2022 MICHR mentor of the year for translational science mentoring efforts** at the University of Michigan.

Gallagher received a Bachelor of Science degree in physiology and neurobiology from the University of Maryland in 1998, graduating with Highest Honors. She was a Howard Hughes Fellow at the NIH for two years. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 2002. She pursued her general surgery training at the University of Maryland, followed by her vascular surgery training at Columbia University in New York. During her residency, she pursued a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. She has been tenure track faculty at the University of Michigan since 2011.

Her clinical expertise is in complex PAD, having previously directed the CVC multidisciplinary PAD clinic for many years. She currently runs a nationally known program for popliteal entrapment and other non-atherosclerotic pathologies associated with claudication/leg pain at the University. She is on the executive board for **Vascular Cures and the Taubman Institute**.

**Visit the event webpage frequently for the most up to date information (program, zoom links, etc):**  
**<https://surgeryresidentresearch.ucsf.edu/resident-research-symposium/j-engelbert-dunphy-resident-research-symposium.aspx>**