

June 2024

In The Loupe

UCSF Department of Surgery Newsletter



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

By Dr. Julie Ann Sosa

Last week was marked by the summer solstice, and the process of perennial change has begun in anticipation of the start of the new academic year. Our new interns have arrived and started work; please say 'hello' when you see a new face in the hallway, on the wards, or in the OR and offer a warm welcome and helping hand.

Our leadership is fully engaged in the follow-up from our Department-wide retreat, demonstrating their commitment to the strategic priorities that have been identified and supported by our faculty. Our division chiefs have diligently summarized their takeaways across our clinical, research, and education missions. Now, our vice chairs are in the process of reviewing the common themes to help decide what should be prioritized at departmental vs divisional levels. To help inform our path forward, research and education committees are being planned by **Dr. Sandy Feng** and **Dr. Adnan Alseidi**, and **Mike Panion**, our associate chair for finance, is assembling a finance committee. These groups will play a crucial role in informing our strategy by amplifying the voice of departmental representatives, a priority that was clearly expressed by our faculty at the retreat. We have reviewed and revised our department's quality and safety platform under the guidance of **Dr. Liza Wick** and **Dr. Ian Soriano**, and our morbidity and mortality conferences are taking on a new look. Restoring bonds and relationships with UCSF Surgery colleagues will be a priority going forward; please look for the upcoming announcement of Departmental support for division/section team-building events.



As a Department, we look forward to several exciting clinical opportunities on the horizon, including the opening of the ambulatory surgery center at Bayfront later this summer and the development of St. Mary's and St. Francis Hospitals as clinical platforms. Finding ways to expand access to surgical beds and operating rooms (at Moffitt Long in particular) will be a priority for our Department and UCSF Health. A new vice chair of clinical affairs will help lead our planning. Close monitoring of the impact of revised funds flow arrangements will be critically important as an engine for our academic missions.

We look forward to increased investment in science this coming year along with the build-out of our residency leadership teams as we prioritize our trainees and their professional development. It is an exciting time for UCSF Surgery, and I look forward to working with you all to inform and invest in our collective future.



Very best, **Julie Ann**

EDUCATION

Graduating Chief Residents

UCSF General Surgery



Dr. Mark Barry
Seattle Children's,
Pediatric Surgery Fellowship

UCSF General Surgery

UCSF General Surgery



Dr. Yadin Bornstein
NYU, Colorectal Surgery
Fellowship

UCSF General Surgery

UCSF General Surgery



Dr. Patricia Conroy
UCSF, Endocrine Surgery
Fellowship

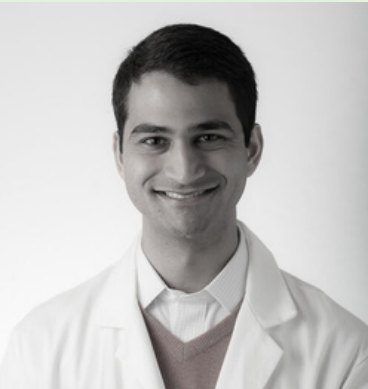
UCSF General Surgery

UCSF General Surgery



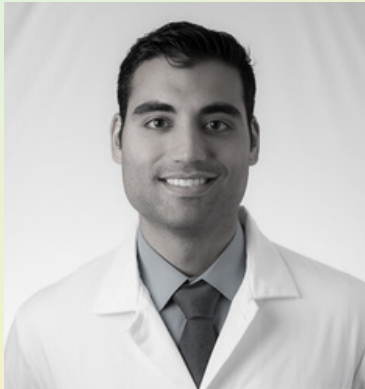
Dr. Keith Hansen
University of Colorado, Transplant Surgery
Fellowship

UCSF Plastic



Dr. Alexander Gupta
UCSF, Transplant Surgery
Fellowship

UCSF Plastic



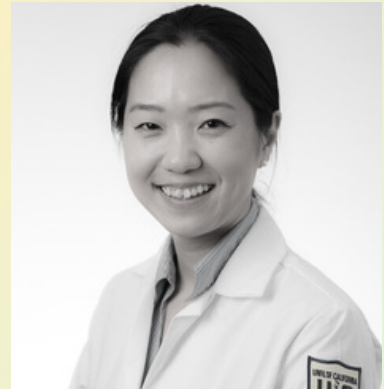
Dr. Mohammad Karimzada
Providence Portland Medical Center,
Complex Gastrointestinal Surgery/Foregut
Fellowship

UCSF Plastic



Dr. Sarah Mohamedaly
Columbia University, Abdominal Wall
Surgery Fellowship

UCSF East-Bay



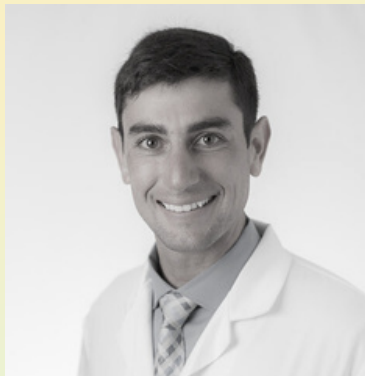
Dr. Keon Min Park
UCSF, Microsurgery Fellowship

UCSF East-Bay



Dr. Annie Do
UC Irvine, Craniofacial Fellowship

UCSF East-Bay



Dr. Adam Wallace
Stanford, Microsurgery Fellowship

UCSF East-Bay



Dr. Christopher De Boer
PENN, Trauma Critical Care

UCSF East-Bay



Dr. Sidney Le
Kaiser Oakland, Community Practice,
Surgical Researcher

UCSF East-Bay



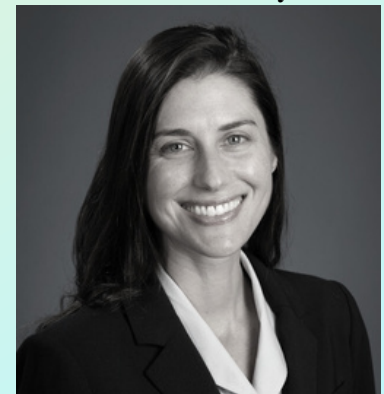
Dr. Valerie Mai
Harbor-UCLA, Trauma Critical Care



Dr. Kirea Mazzolini
UT Southwestern, Trauma Critical Care



Dr. Colin Mooney
Albany, Colorectal Surgery



Dr. Katherine Stern
USC, Colorectal Surgery

EDUCATION

Dr. Mignote Yilma



At the **American Transplant Congress** in Philadelphia earlier this month **Dr. Mignote Yilma** gave a Plenary talk on “**Early barriers to liver transplantation - a multi-center cohort study of 8300 patients referred for liver transplant.**” Dr. Yilma showcased how the newly created California

Liver Network database, a multi-center cohort of 6 major liver transplant centers in California, was utilized to demonstrate that large-scale and systemic data collection of social determinants of health during the LT referral and evaluation process is feasible and can identify barriers to LT access. In addition, she won the **Plenary Presentation at ATC Young Investigator Award**.

Dr. Alexis Colley graduated this month from her **UCSF Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship training program**. This program trains top physicians in a fully transdisciplinary environment to become compassionate, clinically excellent leaders in all areas of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.



Dr. Tom Sorrentino secured victory in the prestigious **Shark Tank pitch competition at SAGES 2024**, earning a **\$30,000** prize. At Sages 2024 Dr. Sorrentino was in attendance representing **Diatiro**, a UCSF spin-out company specializing in intraoperative organ preservation technology, where he serves as Head of Clinical Development.



Dr. Daniel Kent



Dr. Raghav Chandra

2024 Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship Residency Matches

Drs. Riley Brian, Alyssa Murillo, Camilla Gomes and **Adnan Alesidi** have authored an article on AI and robotic surgical education in Global Surgical Education. You can access the article [here](#).

Dr. Jonathan Freise, one of our General Surgery Residents, has been accepted into **Stanford's Biodesign Fellowship** for the **2024-2025** cohort.




Dr. Brandon Cowan, a UCSF East Bay General Surgery Resident and ACS-AEI Surgical Education Research Fellow, developed a high-fidelity simulator to better prepare trainees for unexpected hemorrhages, a major cause of preventable death. Collaborating with **Dr. Clara Gomez-Sanchez**, he created a 3D printed abdomen with removable organs and a pump to mimic human blood flow. This simulator received excellent feedback from second-year residents. Dr. Cowan plans to refine the model and curriculum further, significantly improving surgical training and patient safety.

Dr. Jane Wang was recognized with a **SAGES 2024 Recognition of Excellence Coin** for her contributions as a candidate member with the HPB/Solid Organ Committee. Her presentation titled “**Laparoscopic, Spleen-Preserving Radical Antegrade Modular Pancreatectomy with ICG Imaging for PDAC**” secured Second Place in the Top 10 Residents/Fellows Best Presentation Competition at the **SAGES 2024 Annual Meeting**.

Additionally, Dr. Wang was awarded “**Best Presentation in Clinical Research**” at the UCSF Department of Surgery **37th Annual Research Symposium**.

Drs. Hemal Kanzaria, Margot Kushel, Patricia O'Sullivan, Logan Pierce, and Elizabeth Wick were honored with the Department of Surgery's Mentorship Achievement Award at the Resident Research Symposium held on **May 8, 2024**.

These recipients were nominated by surgical residents and chosen by Departmental leadership for their exceptional support and mentorship of residents during their research endeavors! 

Dr. Alyssa Murillo received the **Academy of Medical Educators Cooke Award for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning** for her work titled “**Characterizing Written Feedback and Predictors of Feedback Content on an Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) Assessment Tool.**” Additionally, she delivered a podium presentation on this research at the **Association for Surgical Education National Meeting**.

Dr. Karen Trang had the opportunity to present a study titled “**Promoting Resident Education Priorities with an Emergency General Surgery Service Dashboard**” at the **2024 Association of Program Directors in Surgery (APDS) Annual Meeting** in Orlando, FL, on April 26th, 2024. This research was a joint effort with **Drs. Logan Pierce, Elizabeth Wick, Rochelle Dicker, Marissa Boeck, Kent Garber, and Kenzo Hirose**.

Dr. Camilla Gomes co-first authored this article with **Dr. Brandon Cowan** (East Bay Surgery Resident) on robotic classification, recently published in Surgical Endoscopy: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00464-024-10861-4>

2024 Research Symposium Awards



Best Presentation in Clinical Research
“**An Artificial Intelligence Model to Predict Superior Mesenteric Artery Margin Status for Patients with Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma**”
Jane Wang, MD, Resident, Lab Year 2, UCSF General Surgery



Outstanding Presentation in Clinical Research
“**Intravascular Volume Assessment with Novel 4D Volumetric M-Mode Ultrasound Technique in Trauma Patients**”
Sahil Patel, MD, Resident, Lab Year 1, UCSF East Bay Surgery



Best Presentation in Basic & Translational Science Research
“**Development of an Autonomous Platform for Tissue Culture and Storage in Low Earth Orbit**”
Juan Reyna, MD, Resident, Lab Year 1, UCSF General Surgery



Best Presentation in Global/Education/Innovation Research
“**Impact of Reducing Time with Colostomies on Experience of Social Stigma for Children with Anorectal Malformations in South-Western Uganda**”
Caroline Stephens, MD, Resident, Lab Year 2, UCSF General Surgery



Best Medical Student Presentation
“**Aire-expressing Tumor Associated Macrophage (ATAM) Gene Signature associated with Reduced Survival in Multiple Human Cancers**”
Han Yin, Medical Student, UCSF School of Medicine



Naffziger Surgical Society Resident Research Travel Award
“**The Association of Housing Status Changes with Lung, Colorectal, and Breast Cancer Outcomes in a National Sample of Veterans**”
Hannah Decker, MD, Resident, Lab Year 2, UCSF General Surgery

MEET YOUR Colleagues



Usha R Thekkedath, M.D

Executive Director, UCSF Surgical Innovations and UCSF-Stanford Pediatric Device Consortium

As the Executive Director for two MedTech innovation programs, my role encompasses overseeing operations, strategic alliances, and educational initiatives such as the Biodevice Innovation Pathway for surgical residents and the Clinical Immersion-Senior Design Accelerator for engineering students.

Additionally, I support the UCSF-UC Berkeley Master of Translational Medicine program and direct outreach activities to the innovator community through symposia, innovation forums, newsletters, websites, and social media platforms.



Louis Solis
Lab Tech

As a Lab Tech in The Surgical Skills Center, my role centers on maintaining and setting up surgery simulations for surgical residents to practice and refine their skills.

In addition, I collaborate with outreach programs, like Envision, that work with young students. I set up laparoscopic trainers with basic tasks and knot tying stations to give students a glimpse of what surgery residents learn.



Alexi Callen
Program Manager

Within the Education Office Division, I oversee multiple facets of the general surgery residency program. This includes managing program accreditation, developing evaluations, and implementing policies to enhance program quality.

I also maintain content for the Resident Portal website and produce the monthly newsletter for the general surgery residency. Collaborating closely with program leadership, I translate ideas into actions aimed at improving and streamlining residency operations.



Michael Texada

Supervisor Violence Prevention, Professional

In 2005, Mike joined the Wraparound Project at San Francisco General Hospital, led by Dr. Rochelle Dicker, aiming to reduce injury recidivism among at-risk youth citywide. The program addresses gaps in existing services by offering culturally sensitive mentoring and rapid access to support for victims of interpersonal violence.

Mike plays a key role on the case-management team, collaborating with employers to secure stable employment, facilitating mental health services enrollment, navigating legal issues, advocating for clients, and promoting violence prevention education.

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.



Leah P Sabacan

Data Manager/Scrum Master

Within the PMO, I serve as the data manager for the WISDOM Study and Athena Breast Health Network. I collaborate with various working groups needing data for analyses.

As the scrum master, I oversee our database system, manage its features and data capturing workflows, and facilitate communication of database requirements between the PMO and IT teams. Additionally, leveraging my experience in the Athena/WISDOM PMO, I train, assist, and educate new staff members.



Armida De Paez

Academic Officer 2

In the Trauma & General Surgery division, I provide executive-level administrative and analytic support to Dr. Joseph Cuschieri, Chief of Trauma & General Surgery, and Dr. Andre Campbell, Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. I manage administrative tasks and serve as a liaison between faculty leadership, administrators, colleagues at national institutions and universities, public officials, and external stakeholders.

My responsibilities include supporting their leadership and research activities at local and national levels, as well as their essential clinical and academic work at ZSFG.



Frenni Acuesta

Medical Student and Surgery Clerkship Coordinator

As the Surgery Clerkship Coordinator, I oversee clerkship coordination and program management, including scheduling, rotation assignments, and feedback collection. I monitor student progress and address rotation issues promptly.

I manage fourth-year electives enrollment for internal and visiting medical students, handling applications, interviews, and onboarding. I support internal students in residency application preparation. Additionally, I coordinate as the First-Year Surgery Interest Group Coordinator, managing event logistics.



Damaris Loyd

Business Operation Analyst/Executive Assistant

In the Division of Surgical Oncology, I provide comprehensive administrative support, manage general operations, and oversee substantive assignments, projects, and tasks of moderate scope and complexity.

I am responsible for maintaining smooth and efficient daily operations within the surgical oncology division, offering project guidance, overseeing program planning and development, and providing administrative support to university and medical staff.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

In April, we were honored to host **Dr. Heather Yeo** from **New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center**, who delivered a presentation titled **"Disparities in the Surgical Workforce: Lessons Learned and the Path Forward."** Dr. Yeo provided invaluable insights into gender, racial, and ethnic disparities in surgery.

In May, the **MSS (Muriel Steele Society)** co-hosted the welcome reception for this year's **J. Englebert Dunphy Visiting Professor, Dr. Katherine Gallagher**, and organized our annual Spring Research Symposium focused on **"Best Practices in Designing and Presenting Posters."** The MSS Wellness Committee also hosted a delightful cookie decorating social in May, and we extend our gratitude to all who joined and participated. For the latest news and events, please visit our updated website at murielsteelsociety.ucsf.edu.



Dr. Andre Campbell



Dr. Andre Campbell, our **Vice-Chair of DEI** and a distinguished trauma surgeon, has had an eventful six months. In May, during **Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center Care's First Annual Equity Awards**, the **"Dr. Andre Campbell Career Achievement Award"** was announced in recognition of his outstanding contributions.

On **June 7th**, Dr. Campbell was invited to the White House, where he joined approximately 70-80 physicians from the **'Doctors for America'** group. This diverse group represented specialties ranging from Emergency Medicine and Trauma to Pediatric Trauma Surgery, gathering to discuss critical healthcare issues, including gun violence prevention and advocacy.



PRIDE MONTH

June is PRIDE Month, a time to celebrate and honor the LGBTQ+ community. This month holds special significance as it commemorates the **Stonewall Uprising of 1969**, marking a pivotal moment in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights.

At **UCSF Surgery**, we embrace diversity because we know that it makes us stronger as a team and as a community. PRIDE Month gives us the opportunity to reflect on the progress made toward LGBTQ+ equality while acknowledging the challenges that still exist. Let's use this month to celebrate the diversity that makes us who we are and to reaffirm our commitment

to creating an inclusive workplace where everyone feels accepted and valued. By supporting each other and learning more about LGBTQ+ history and issues, we can continue to foster a culture of respect and understanding. **Happy PRIDE Month!**



JUNETEENTH

This Juneteenth, incoming interns, current and graduating residents, and several of our faculty gathered at **Presidio Tunnel Tops Park** to reflect on and celebrate this important historical milestone of emancipation for African Americans in the US.



Department of Surgery Muriel Steele Society 2024 Honor Roll Recipients



Dr. Tasce Bongiovanni



Dr. Seung Ah Lee



Dr. Elizabeth Lancaster



Dr. Sabreea Parnell



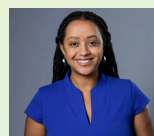
Dr. Patricia Conroy



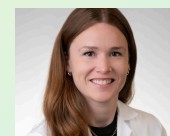
Dr. Oluseyi Akintorin



Dr. Monica Goodstein



Dr. Mignote Yilma



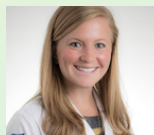
Dr. Kelsey Rankin



Dr. Karen Trang



Dr. Chelsie Anderson



Dr. Caroline Melhado



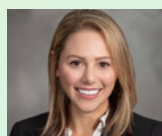
Dr. Caroline Stephens



Dr. Audrey Brown



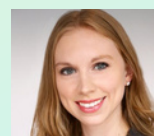
Dr. Amandine Godier-Furnemont



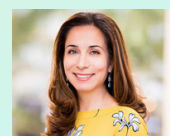
Dr. Alison Baskin



Dr. Alexandra Hight



Dr. Jessica Thiesmeyer



Dr. Rita Mukhtar



Dr. Heidi Nafday



Dr. Laura Esserman



Dr. Ava Yap



Dr. Lan Vu



Dr. Marissa Boeck



Dr. Jasleen Kukreja

Dr. Julie Ann Sosa Covers Endocrine News



RESEARCH

FUNDING OUR WORK



3.99 Million

Dr. Kimberly Kirkwood has been sponsored by the NIH National Cancer Institute to the tune of **\$3,991,395** for her study "Using Microvolumetric Cyst Fluid Proteolysis for Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer."



\$799,998

Dr. Tobias Deuse, Heart Surgeon and the Director of Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery at UCSF, has received nearly **\$800,000** in funding from JDRF to aid his "Allogeneic hypoinnimmunogenic Pancreatic Islets for Treatment of Diabetes in the Intra-Muscular Site" research.



\$151.6k

Dr. Iris Liu has been granted a two-year **American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship Award** for her project titled "Diabetes and Vascular Aging: Klotho Regulation of Medial Arterial Calcification." This award supports her research under the guidance of Dr. Michael Conte and Dr. Matthew Kutys.



\$50k

Colorectal Surgeon **Dr. Emily Finlayson** has been sponsored to the tune of **\$50,000** by the NSF for her research titled "I-Corps: Translation Potential of Prehabilitation, a Pre-surgery Intervention to Improve Postsurgery Outcomes."



1.37 Million

The University of California President's Office has awarded **Dr. Kimberly Badal**, a Post-Doc in our department, **\$1,374,850** in funding for her research where she is "Investigating the Relationship between Chemical Exposures, DNA Methylation, and Breast Cancer Risk."



\$497,234

Dr. Laura Esserman secured almost **\$500,000** in grant funding from BCRF for her Project - "WISDOM 2.0: Expanding access to younger women (WISDOM Study - Bridging 1.0 and 2.0)."



\$52.5k

UCSF Innovation Ventures awarded Assistant Professor **Dr. Kyle Cromer** their **2024 Catalyst Award** worth an estimated **\$52,500**.



\$517k

Trauma Surgeon **Dr. Lucy Kornblith** has received an **R01** worth **\$417,117** in funding from the University of Pittsburgh; NIH for her study "Endothelial Dysfunction and Restoration in Trauma Induced Coagulopathy." Additionally Dr. Kornblith secured an **\$100,000 CTMCT Award** for her "The Platelet Function, Transcriptome, and Proteome in Platelet-Rich Plasma for Intra-Articular Therapy in Knee Osteoarthritis" research.



\$34.9k

SAGES presented **Dr. Camilla Gomes** their **2024 SAGES Research Grant Award** worth **\$34,900** for her study "Curriculum Development for Medical Student Robotic Training."



\$124k

Dr. Matthew P. Arvedson, a Post-Doc in our department, received an **F31 Award** worth **\$124,479** from the NIH for his work on "Elucidating the Role of AIRE and Tumor Associated Aire-expressing Cells in Tumor Growth and Immune Evasion."



\$24.6k

UCSF Innovations Funding Program awarded Pediatric Surgeon **Dr. Lan Vu** **\$24,644** for her research "Nested Entrustable Professional Activities as a Framework to Provide Graded Entrustment: Surgery Education as an Exemplar."



\$100k

Dr. Charles "Chuck" Rickert, under the mentorship of **Dr. James Gardner & Dr. Mark Anderson**, received the **2024 \$100k ImmunoX Hellman Family Award** for his project: "Precision Mapping of the Transplant Recipient Antibody Landscape Using Phage-Display Immunosuppression Sequencing."

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



!!Did you hear that UCSF Health reached a major milestone with our 15,000th robotically assisted surgery?

Gastrointestinal cancer surgeons at the UC San Francisco have performed the health system's 15,000th robotically assisted minimally invasive surgery, making it the first University of California health center to reach this milestone. UCSF Health has the busiest robotic surgery program in the UC health system and is the leading academic medical institution for robotic surgeries in the western U.S.

The milestone surgery was a robotically assisted duodenal resection performed by **Dr. Mohamed Adam**, a UCSF Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Cancer Surgeon who specializes in using minimally invasive robotic techniques. The patient was a woman with a gastrointestinal stromal tumor and Dr. Adam performed the surgery with the **da Vinci Surgical System**, in use for many robotic procedures at UCSF.

Trauma NPs and Wraparound Project Colleagues awarded 2024 Inaugural ZSFG Equity Awards



Kwai Moon Li



Vagn Petersen



Meghan Berger



Rebecca Menza



Brigid Donovan



Enrique Ayalde

On May 15th, Zuckerberg SF General Hospital & Trauma Center hosted its **First Annual Equity Awards** in Carr Auditorium! Our Trauma Nurse Practitioners and UCSF Wraparound teams both won Inaugural Equity Awards. Pictured above and to the right are the **16** individuals (3 not pictured) who each took one home.



Michael Texada



Sharmaine "Starr" Quinnine



Rafael "Al" Losno



Felicia Cantu

Nurse Practitioners Not Pictured:

**Jennifer Leggett
Jessica Aldaz
Christine Quinn**

Wraparound Members



Rudae Brown



Gaynor Siataga



Raymond Whitley

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The achievements within our Department are truly boundless, with countless milestones and successes to celebrate. We are dedicated to ensuring that every individual's contributions are recognized and celebrated. The "accomplishment" pages serve as a testament to the unwavering dedication and expertise that permeates our Department.



Dr. Patricia O'Sullivan was chosen as an ASE Distinguished Master Educator by the Association for Surgical Education.

She was recognized for this at the ASE Awards Banquet in Orlando, FL on April 24th.



Dr. Hirotake Komatsu, who brings a wealth of experience and expertise in the field of surgical research, was appointed as Associate Adjunct Professor in the Department of Surgery at UCSF.

Emeritus Professor, Dr. Olle Ten Cate has been granted the esteemed UCSF Presidential Chair Award. This year, he is one of three distinguished scholars to receive this prestigious honor for the 2024-25 academic term.



Dr. Caitlin Collins will be joining our Department as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery this fall at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center.



Dr. Jessica Santos-Parker, a dedicated General Surgery resident with a passion for thoracic surgery and healthcare equity, has been selected to join UCSF's prestigious National Clinician Scholars Program for the 2024 cohort.



Dr. Lucy Kornblith was announced as the Inaugural Director of Research for UCSF at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center. On 9.1.24, she will step into this pivotal role in the ZSFG Dean's Office.



Dr. Brittany Hasty, a Pediatric Surgeon, will be joining our department as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery within the UCSF Division of Pediatric Surgery at Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland this Fall.



Dr. Brandon Cowan has been awarded a sizable grant from the Mount Zion Health Fund! This funding bolsters his project on "What to do when things go wrong: A perfused model and simulation for high-volume hemorrhage control."

Dr. Charles "Chuck" Rickert, currently an instructor in our Department, will be stepping into a new role soon as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery within our UCSF Transplant Surgery Division starting on July 1st, 2024.



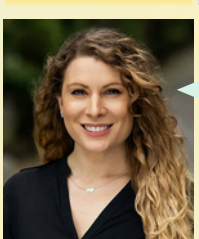
Dr. Garrett Roll, working w/ Dr. Tara Sigdel, have been awarded a \$50,000 Pilot/Feasibility Grant from UCSF Liver Center for his project titled "Study of Molecular Markers of Early Allograft Dysfunction in Liver Transplantation."



Dr. Adam Gutierrez will soon join us from Miami as Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery & Trauma/Critical Care Surgeon at East Bay Surgery at Highland Hospital, starting Sept 1st, 2024.



Dr. Seung Ah Lee, a skilled plastic and reconstructive surgeon, will be joining our department as Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery in UCSF Plastic this Fall.



In early April the Department of Surgery announced the appointment of Dr. Clara Gomez-Sanchez as the new Associate Program Director of Compliance and Logistics for our General Surgery Program.



Dr. Marissa Boeck has been selected as a 2024 Health Disparities Research Institute Scholar.



On September 15th, 2024, Breast Surgeon Dr. Jordan Jackson will join our Department and will assume the role of Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery.



Dr. Anna Zhou will be stepping into her new role as Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery within our UCSF Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Division starting on September 1st, 2024.



Dr. Julia Chandler, an innovative Breast Surgeon will be joining our Surgery Department this Fall as Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery.



Dr. Michael J. Terry has been named Interim Chief of Plastic Surgery at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.



Trauma Surgeon Dr. April Mendoza will assume the role of Trauma Medical Director at Alameda Health System starting July 1, 2024.

Dr. Lara Senekjian will be transitioning from the East Bay to our West Bay Department of Surgery at Parnassus this Fall as an Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery, joining the Section of Acute Care Surgery in the Division of General Surgery.



Dr. Matthew Lin's exceptional dedication & expertise have led to his appointment as the Endowed Chair in Surgical Education, a prestigious 5-year role set to commence on July 1st until 2029.



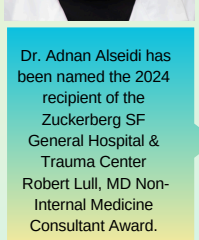
Dr. Genna Beattie has been appointed as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery, specializing in Trauma & Critical Care, effective this Fall. Dr. Beattie will be bringing her expertise to UCSF East-Bay Surgery at Highland Hospital.



Dr. Rita Mukhtar, a Breast & Acute Care Surgeon at UCSF, who also leads a Lobular Breast Cancer Research Program, received a \$50,000 Spring 2024 REAC Award from UCSF Research Allocation Program to support analyses in her B-BRITE Study: Bariatric Breast Results in Testing Experience.



Dr. Jeffrey Velotta has been inducted as Distinguished Member of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery.

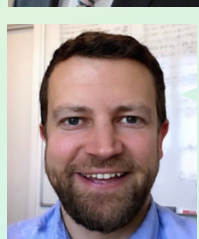


Dr. Adnan Alseidi has been named the 2024 recipient of the Zuckerberg SF General Hospital & Trauma Center Robert Lull, MD Non-Internal Medicine Consultant Award.

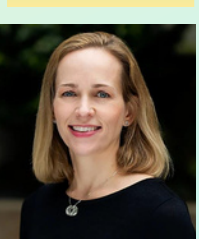
Dr. Laura Esserman, Breast Cancer Surgeon and Director of the UCSF Breast Surgery Care Center, has been honored with the 2024 Prize for Scientific Excellence in Medicine by the American-Italian Cancer Foundation.



Each achievement reflects the hard work, innovation, and commitment of our team members, contributing to our shared goal of delivering exceptional healthcare and making a meaningful impact on the lives of our patients.



Dr. James Gardner & Dr. Tiffany C. Scharshmidt won the 250K Kenneth Rainin Foundation Innovator Award, "Pioneering single-cell intracellular metagenomics" - marking an exciting collaboration between UCSF Dermatology and Surgery, facilitated through Immunox.



Dr. Tasce Bongiovanni & Medical Student Kelsey Ogomori received a CTSI RAP Pilot for their Anti-Racism Research: "A Community-Based Approach to Combating Anti-Asian Racism experienced by Cantonese-speaking Chinese Older Adults After Traumatic Injury."



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT



CELEBRATING DR. JOSEPH RAPP'S RETIREMENT

This month, we joyously celebrated the retirement of **Dr. Joseph Rapp** from the Skills Lab. Dr. Rapp has been an integral part of our team, dedicating countless hours to training and mentoring our interns. His expertise and passion for surgical education have left a lasting impact on all of us. Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Rapp has not only shaped the future of **vascular surgery** but has also inspired generations of medical professionals. His commitment to excellence and his compassionate approach have set a standard that few can match. We extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Rapp for his invaluable contributions to our institution and the field of vascular surgery. His leadership and wisdom have guided us through numerous challenges, and his dedication to patient care has touched the lives of many. As Dr. Rapp embarks on this new chapter in his life, we reflect on the countless lives he has impacted and the legacy he leaves behind. Thank you, Dr. Rapp, for your unwavering commitment and exceptional service. May your retirement be filled with joy, fulfillment, and well-deserved relaxation.



FOR MORE ABOUT DR. RAPP'S REMARKABLE JOURNEY, YOU CAN VISIT HIS PROFILE [HERE](#).

SKILLS LAB

Celebrations are in order for our Laparoscopic Evaluation Champions! Join us in applauding **Dominique Tucker, Joseph Dao, and Fernanda Romero Hernandez** for their outstanding performance. Their remarkable skills have not only set a new benchmark but also inspired their fellow peers.



This achievement stands as a testament to their relentless effort, unwavering dedication, and the exceptional training they have received.



Congratulations to General Surgery Resident **Dr. Riley Brain** and Plastic Surgery Resident **Dr. Alex Knox** for successfully completing the **American College of Surgeons #ACS-AEI simulation fellowship**. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and grateful for their outstanding contributions to teaching at UCSF Skills Lab. We have no doubt that both are destined to become leaders in surgical education within their respective fields.

New Funding and an R2 session

A special congratulations to Brandon Cowan, a surgical simulation fellow, who has been awarded a Mount Zion Health Fund grant to develop a perfused model to simulate stressful bleeding scenarios. This innovative model was successfully utilized in the May R2 session, providing our residents with invaluable hands-on experience in managing bleeding in the operating room.



Furthermore, we are delighted to announce the expansion of our laparoscopic skills training within the skills lab intern curriculum. This year, a significant majority of our categorical interns have excelled in the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) exam before entering their R2 year.

FACULTY RETREAT

The Department of Surgery leadership, including the Vice-Chairs and Division Chiefs, has been working on defining our 2024 goals in Clinical work, Community and Leadership, Education, and Research. During the **May 4-5th Faculty Retreat**, faculty met within and across divisions to provide their perspectives and inform priorities. We appreciate everyone who attended for their engagement and feedback.

Based on this input and internal needs, divisions have chosen one priority in each domain and submitted support requests to the Department. These requests are under review by Vice Chairs, and we will be sequencing priorities and infrastructure investments this summer. We thank the faculty and leadership for their time and effort in defining these goals.

We look forward to growing the Department of Surgery together, reducing silos and increasing transparency.

