



JUNE 2025 EDITION

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

UC San Diego School of Medicine

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Message from the Chair

Dear Faculty, Staff and Trainees,

As we near the end of another academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our departmental achievements as well as the challenges we have faced along the way. Despite some bumps along the way, the Department and its faculty continue to excel in so many ways.

UC San Diego Health was ranked the number 1 academic medical center in the region and top 20 in the nation, with 6 Department of Medicine specialties ranking earning top 50 rankings. None of this would have been possible without your unwavering efforts to ensure that our patients receive the highest level of care possible, so thank you.

We want to congratulate our graduating fellows, residents, and medical students on their hard work and wish them the very best in the next steps of their career. You have managed to finish strong and stay focused on your goals. You will all have a tremendous impact on your fields, and we cannot wait to see all the good things you all accomplish. To your faculty mentors and teachers, we thank you for the time and effort to ensure that our trainees get the best education possible.

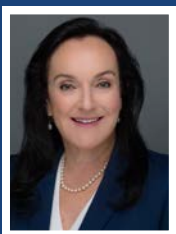
We also want to welcome our incoming trainee class of 2025! Your education is of utmost importance to us, and we look forward to working with you on your path to becoming independent practitioners and leaders in your fields.

We also want to say farewell to a few people that are retiring at the end of this month. After more than 20 years of service at UC San Diego, Dr. Ted Ball (Chief of the Bone & Marrow Transplantation Division) and Nancy Sills (Cardiology Division Administrator) will be stepping down from their roles. Thank you for everything you have done for the Department, and we wish you the absolute best in this next phase of your journey.

I want to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we will continue to do our best to ensure that we can offer a safe environment in which we all thrive. Despite the challenges, we still have a lot to be grateful for – and I am grateful for all that you do every single day to advance the tripartite mission.

Please give us your input and let us know of your accomplishments so that we can celebrate them in future newsletters.

Sincerely,
Zea



Zea Borok, MD
Helen M. Ranney Professor
Chair, Department of Medicine



Department of Medicine Annual Research Day

3rd Annual Research Day - April 30, 2025

A huge thank you to everyone that joined us for this year's Department of Medicine Research Day! We had an incredible lineup filled with dynamic speakers, and presentations that inspired conversations amongst the audience. We have received a lot of positive feedback for this event and look forward to seeing you at the next one.

Congratulations to the 3 poster winners for this year's Research Day!

- **Harris Siddiqi, BS:** Clinical and Socio Behavioral category
- **Stephanie Heimler, BS:** Basic Science category
- **Daraudom (Dom) Nhem, BS:** Computational category



Breakout room



1st Keynote presentation



Breakout room

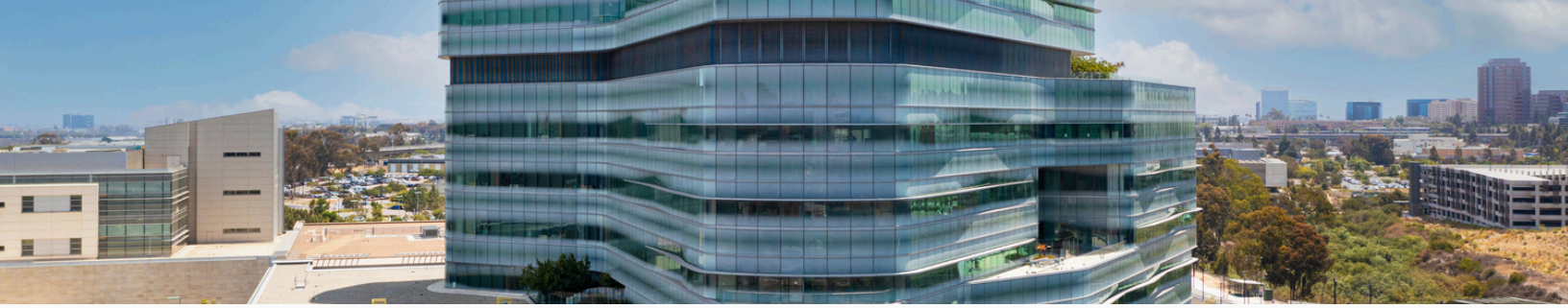


Harris Siddiqi, "Clinical and Socio Behavioral" poster winner with Drs. Borok and Malhotra



Stephanie Heimler, "Basic Science" poster winner with Dr. Borok

Not pictured: Dom Nhem, "Computational" poster winner



Department of Medicine Annual Research Day

Save the Date! 4th Annual Research Day.

We would love to see you at the next Department of Medicine Research Day, so please save the date for Wednesday, April 29, 2026!

More details to come on the chosen topic and the agenda for the day, but rest assured that we have heard your suggestions and will be incorporating them into the next event. Get ready for more breakout rooms, dedicated poster viewing time, and, as always, an enlightening speaker roster!

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

T. Denny Sanford Medical Education and Telemedicine Building
UC San Diego School of Medicine





Faculty Highlight - Dr. Lori Daniels



We want to take a moment to highlight Dr. Lori Daniels and her husband, Dr. Daniel Krummen, for their heroic act which resulted in saving someone's life.

Dr. Daniels and Dr. Krummen were walking along the shore with their son on a warm, summer evening, when they noticed someone floating in the water. They quickly jumped into action by performing bystander CPR, with Dr. Daniels providing compressions and her husband giving respiratory support. They continued this for 20 minutes before additional help arrived.

The individual was then taken to the hospital and made a **full recovery** without any neurological impact! We are incredibly proud of Dr. Lori Daniels courageous efforts and very happy to hear the positive outcome.

To read more about the UCSD news feature for this story, please [click on this link](#).

How bystander CPR can increase survival from cardiac arrest

As discussed in the article, the American Heart Association (AHA) states that CPR can double or triple the chance of cardiac arrest survival if performed immediately. To help expand training opportunities, the County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services and the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science at UCSD launched Revive & Survive San Diego. To date, they have trained more than 350,000 residents since they launched in 2024.

For more information on this program and how to enroll, please [click on this link](#).





Faculty Highlight - Dr. Rajat Suri



We also want to take a moment to share an expression of gratitude that was submitted by a patient regarding the care they received from Dr. Rajat Suri. Below is the submission that was received. Thank you, Dr. Suri!

"I am writing to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for Dr. Suri, who provided exceptional care to my mother-in-law, XXXX, during her battle with lung disease.

From the very beginning, Dr. Suri demonstrated not only his medical expertise but also an unparalleled level of compassion and attentiveness. He never made us feel rushed during appointments, always taking the time to explain things in a way that XXXX could easily understand. She felt confident in his care immediately, and as her family, we did too.



Dr. Suri's responsiveness on MyChart was incredible, ensuring that we never felt alone in navigating the challenges of her condition. Even after we had exhausted all possible treatments and made the difficult decision to transition XXXX to hospice care, Dr. Suri remained available to answer our questions and ease our concerns. His unwavering support provided much-needed comfort during an incredibly difficult time.

When we reached the point where we could no longer manage her care at home and brought her to the Emergency Department—where she passed two days later—Dr. Suri went above and beyond once again. He took the time to stop by and discuss her case with the ED doctor, offering a sense of reassurance and relief that meant the world to us.

In my experience, Dr. Suri is truly one of the best doctors I have ever encountered, and that is saying a lot, as I am a UCSD cancer survivor myself. His empathy, dedication, and kindness not only made a profound impact on Josie but also on our entire family. We are forever grateful for the care he provided, and I sincerely hope he receives the recognition he so deeply deserves.

With heartfelt appreciation,
XXXX"





Recognitions and Awards

American Kidney Fund Chief Medical Officer



Pranav Garimella, MBBS, MPH, FASN
Associate Clinical Professor
Nephrology

Dr. Garimella was appointed as the first Chief Medical Officer for his expertise in nephrology and rare kidney diseases. In this role, he will help advance the American Kidney Fund's Strategic Plan to provide high-level clinical authority and insight to better serve patients living with kidney disease. To read the official announcement, please [click on this link](#).

American Thoracic Society (ATS) Outstanding Educator Award



Jess Mandel, MD
Clinical Professor
Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep Medicine, & Physiology

Dr. Mandel was recognized by the American Thoracic Society Awards Committee which chose him to receive the annual ATS Outstanding Educator Award. This award recognizes outstanding achievements and excellence in clinical or research education and mentoring in the fields of pulmonary, critical care or sleep medicine. Congratulations!

2025 Health Sciences Women Leadership Awardees

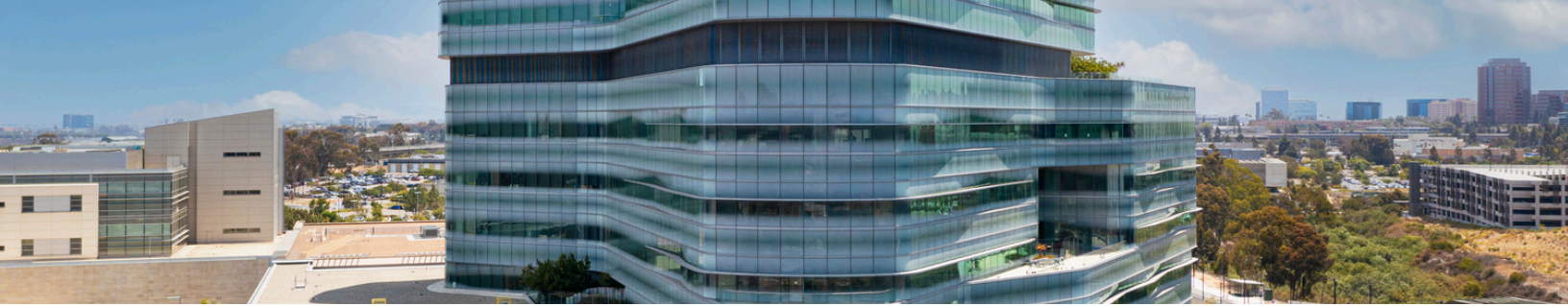


Kim Kerr, MD, FCCP
Professor of Medicine
Pulmonary, Critical Care,
Sleep Medicine, & Physiology



Francesca Torriani, MD, FIDSA
Professor of Medicine
Infectious Diseases & Global
Public Health

Each spring, this reception honors new UC San Diego Health Sciences women faculty. The celebration is an opportunity to learn about colleagues' research and clinical interests and provides an opportunity for professional networking with Health Sciences leadership and other faculty across schools, departments, and divisions. This year, two of the three awardees were our very own Department of Medicine faculty! Congratulations **Drs. Kim Kerr** and **Francesca Torriani**!



Recognitions and Awards

Inaugural Sony Women in Technology Award with Nature



Kiana Aran, PhD
Associate Professor
Geriatrics

Dr. Aran was one of the three inaugural winners of the Sony Women in Technology Award with Nature earlier this year. Her pioneering work fusing biology with electronics to enhance precision medicine—including the development of CRISPR-Chip, a CRISPR-powered electronic chip designed to detect genetic mutations in real time. Congratulations!

To read the news article, please [click on this link](#).

Photo Credit: David Baillot/UCSD Jacobs School of Engineering

2025 Physician of the Year Award



Ali Farkhondehpour, MD, FACP, FHM
Associate Clinical Professor
Hospital Medicine

Dr. Ali Farkhondehpour, an esteemed hospitalist at UC San Diego Health, is recognized as the 2025 Physician of the Year for his exceptional patient care, dedication to medical education, and leadership in hospital medicine. Congratulations!

To read more about this award, please [click on this link](#).

President-Elect of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS)



Alison Moore, MD, MPH, FACP
Chief & Professor
Geriatrics, Gerontology, & Palliative Care

Dr. Moore was recently elected as President-Elect of the American Geriatrics Society. She is deeply committed to caring for older adults and mentoring others to do the same as seen in her regular contributions as an AGS mentor. Congratulations!

To read more about this role (& Dr. Moore's experience throwing the first pitch at a Padres game!), please [click on this link](#).



Recognitions and Awards

Executive Officer of Alliance Respiratory Committee



Luda Bazhenova, MD
Professor of Medicine
Hematology-Oncology

Dr. Bazhenova has been appointed Executive Officer for Alliance Respiratory Research. Dr. Bazhenova is a Professor of Medicine at UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center and Program Director for the Hematology-Oncology Fellowship Training Program. With over 18 years of experience in lung cancer care, she specializes in treating patients with driver mutations, women, and nonsmokers, and leads the Lung Cancer Group at UC San Diego, including a weekly Lung Tumor Board. She has been a member of the Alliance Respiratory Committee since 2010 and is a recipient of the NCI Clinical Trial Leadership Award. Congratulations!

To read more about this accomplishment, please [click on this link](#).

Sleep Section Chief at the San Diego VA



Bob Owens, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep Medicine, & Physiology

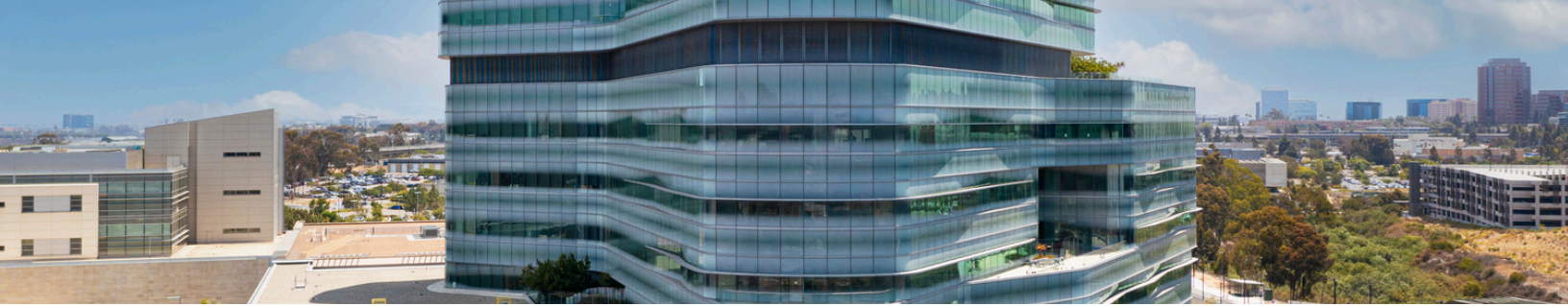
Dr. Owens has been named Sleep Section Chief at the San Diego VA and will be starting in this role in July 2025. While he will be relinquishing his outpatient sleep practice at UCSD, he will continue to attend in the UCSD MICU and serve as UCSD JMC MICU Director.

California Thoracic Society Woman of the Year



Angela Wang, MD
Clinical Professor
Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep Medicine, & Physiology

The California Thoracic Society (CTS) is a professional society committed to its mission of improving California lung health and, through advocacy and education, advancing the science and practice of pulmonary and critical care medicine. CTS is the largest Chapter of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) and they have named Dr. Wang as the 2024 CTS Woman of the Year. Congratulations!



Recognitions and Awards

2025 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award Recipient



Jess Mandel, MD

Clinical Professor

Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep Medicine, and Physiology

Dr. Mandel was named the recipient of the 2025 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award, presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation. This award is given annually to one School of Medicine faculty member at UCSD who “exemplifies clinical excellence, deep compassion, and unwavering respect for patients, families, and colleagues.”

To read more about this award, please [click on this link](#).

2025 Nursing Excellence Award



Sandee Lombardi, RN

Clinical Nurse

Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep Medicine, & Physiology

Sandee was recently named the recipient of a very well-deserved 2025 Nursing Excellence Award. Congratulations!

2025 Barbara and Paul Saltman Distinguished Teaching Award Recipients



Ida Wong-Sefidan, MD

Associate Clinical Professor
Hematology & Oncology



Laura Crotty Alexander, MD

Associate Professor in Residence
Hematology & Oncology

Dr. Wong-Sefidan and Dr. Laura Crotty Alexander have been selected by the Academic Senate Committee as the recipients of the 2025 Distinguished Teaching Award. The Committee on Distinguished Teaching seeks to select those who exhibit creativity, innovative teaching methods, the ability to motivate students to actively seek out knowledge, and an extraordinary level of teaching commitment. Congratulations!



Recognitions and Awards

Graduating House Staff Teaching Award Recipient



Dena Rifkin, MD
Clinical Professor
Nephrology-Hypertension

Dr. Dena Rifkin was selected by the graduating internal medicine and Med/Peds residents for the “Graduating House Staff Teaching Award” this year. Dr. Rifkin is an outstanding and committed teacher, so we are happy to see that her important work is being recognized. Congratulations!

2025 UCSD School of Medicine Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching



Brian Kwan, MD
Clinical Professor
Hospital Medicine

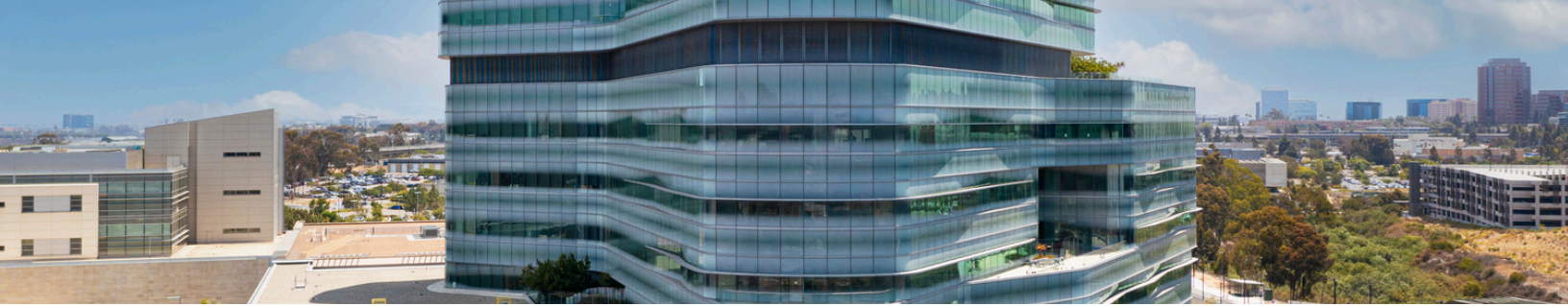
Dr. Brian Kwan was recognized as the recipient of the 2025 UCSD School of Medicine Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. The Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes one faculty or staff member each year who consistently excels in multiple facets of medical education, including excellence in teaching or mentorship, educational innovation and educational scholarship. Congratulations!

2025 Academic Senate Distinguished Research Award



Rohit Loomba, MD, MHS
Professor
Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Dr. Rohit Loomba was selected by the Committee on Senate Awards as one of the four recipients of the 2025 Academic Senate Distinguished Research Award. This award is a sign of the respect of peers for the ground-breaking research conducted by members of the UCSD faculty. Congratulations!



Recognitions and Awards

Kaiser “Excellence in Teaching” Award Recipients

The Kaiser Excellence in Teaching Award at UC San Diego is a prestigious honor presented to faculty and residents who excel in teaching medical students and residents. It is given annually by the UC San Diego School of Medicine and selected by medical students from different years. The award recognizes faculty members who have a positive impact on student learning and development.



William Cameron McGuire, MD, MPH

Associate Physician Diplomate
Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep Medicine, & Physiology

Dr. McGuire was selected for this award by second and fourth year medical students.



Joseph (Joe) Diaz, MD

Associate Clinical Professor
General Internal Medicine

Dr. Diaz was selected for this award by third year medical students.



Incoming Internal Medicine Class of 2025-2026!

UCSD INTERNAL MEDICINE 2025-2026

CATEGORICAL TRACK



Tanner Aldous MD
Drexel University



Beemnet Amdemicael MD
UC San Diego



Harsimran (Simran)
Bajwa MD MPH
UC San Diego



Manali Begur MD
Keck USC



Miaoli Bloemhard MD
UC Davis



Lana Bridi MD
UC San Diego



Lianne Chau MD
UC San Diego



Annie Chen MD
UC San Diego



Noah Davis MD
Indiana University



Henry Dong MD
Kaiser Permanente Tyson



Alma Fregoso Leyva MD
UC San Diego



Kimberly Gonzalez
Davalos MD
UC San Diego



Ryan Hsieh MD
University of Michigan



Elena Johnston MD MPH
George Washington
University



Amirali Kamgar MD
UC San Diego



Michael Karamardian MD
MBA
University of Pennsylvania



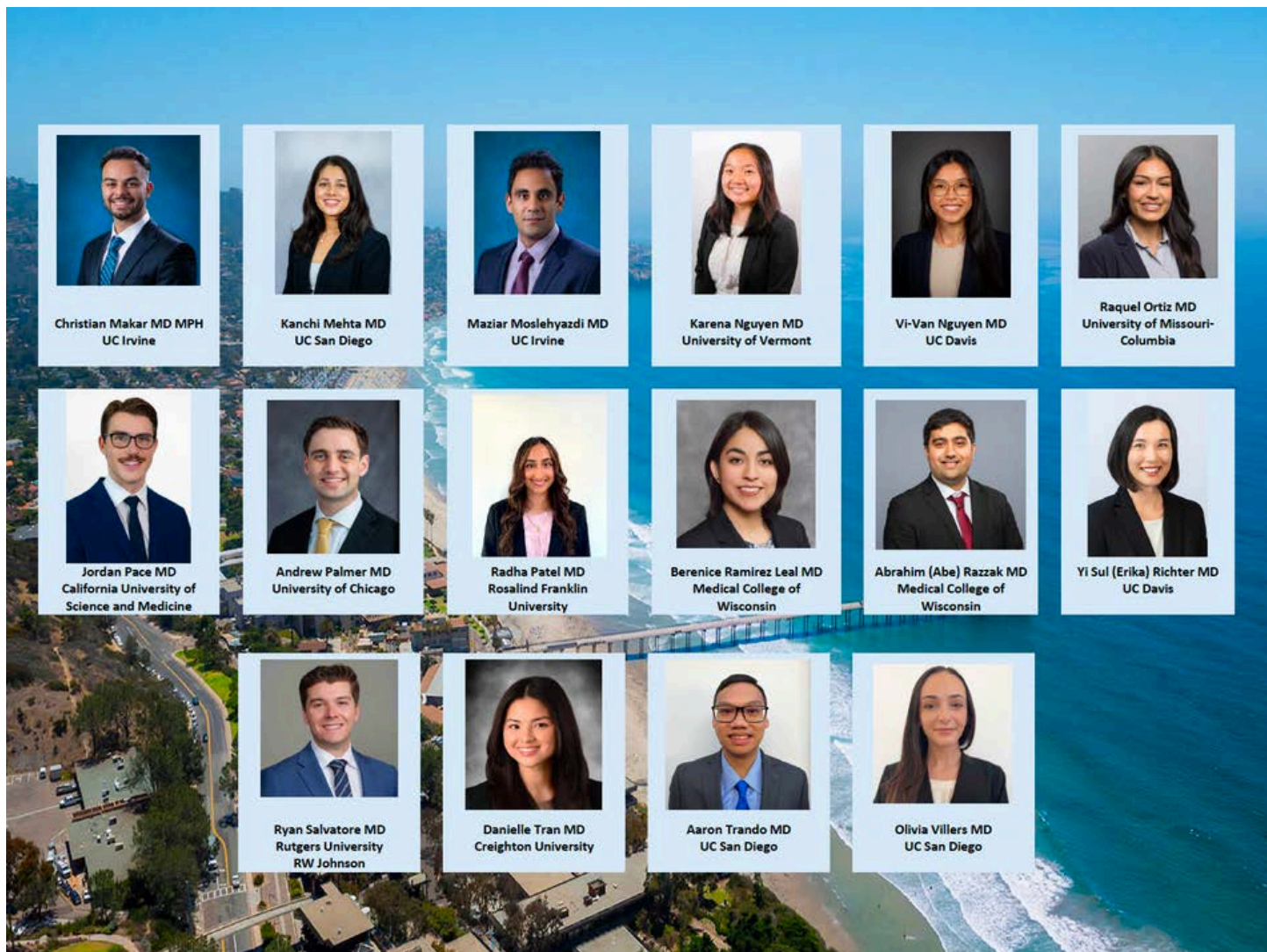
Joshua Kepler MD
University of Hawai'i



Kevin Ly MD
Quinnipiac University






Incoming Internal Medicine Class of 2025-2026!










Incoming Internal Medicine Class of 2025-2026!





PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING PATHWAY

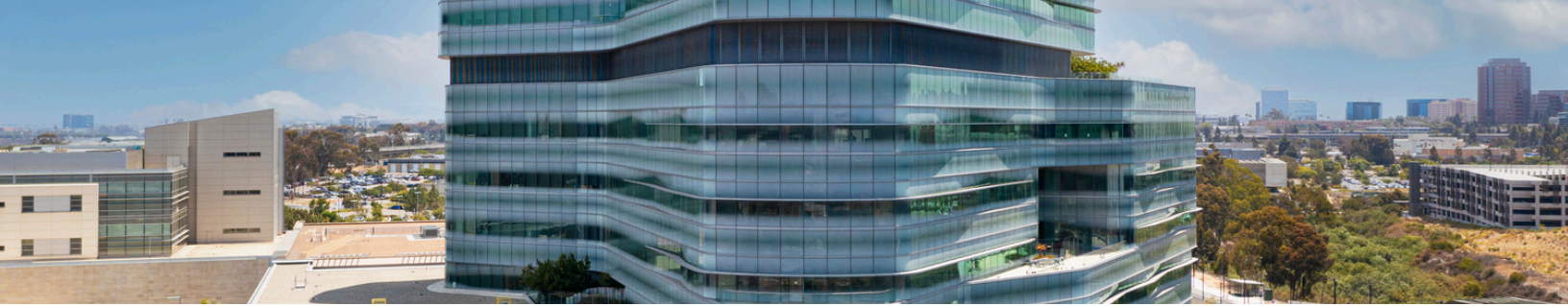
- 
Samuel Woldeyohannes MD
Anne Burnett Marion TCU
- 
Melinda Wong MD
UC Davis
- 
Patrick Zimmerman MD
University of Colorado

PRIMARY CARE TRACK

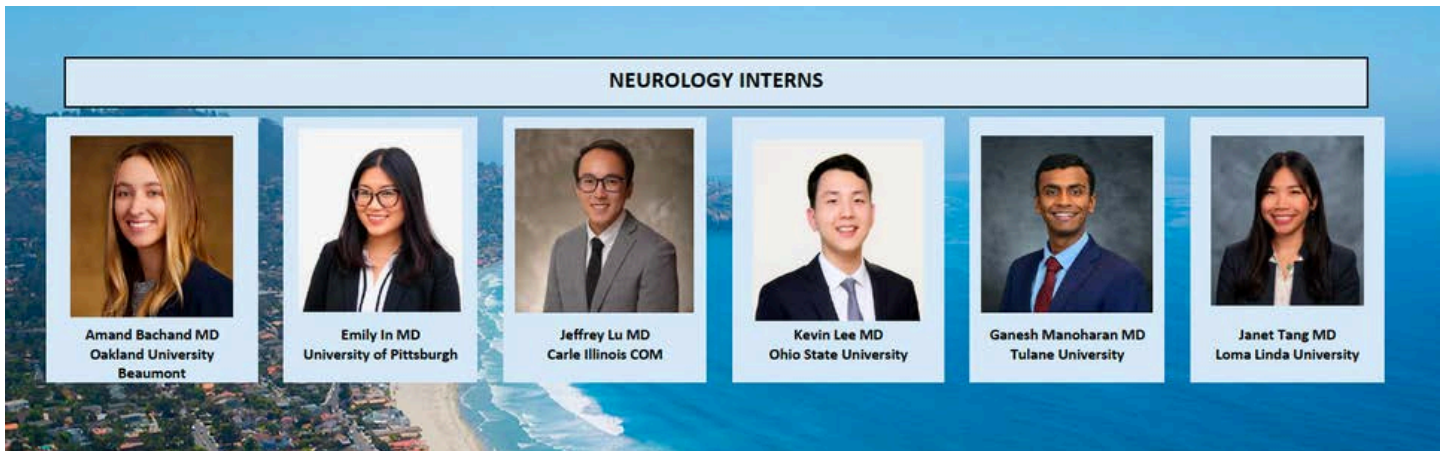
- 
Evan Ales MD PhD
Florida International University
- 
Elizabeth Bird MD PhD
UC San Diego
- 
Samuel Williams MD PhD
Weill Cornell Medicine
- 
Ciaran Murphy MD MPH
UC San Francisco
- 
Nandan Thakkar MD
University of North Carolina

COMBINED INTERNAL MEDICINE-PEDIATRICS PROGRAM

- 
Elizabeth Bixler MD
Texas A&M
- 
Michael Fink MD
UC San Diego
- 
Sarah Hsieh MD
Georgetown University
- 
Marissa Vander Missen MD
Indiana University



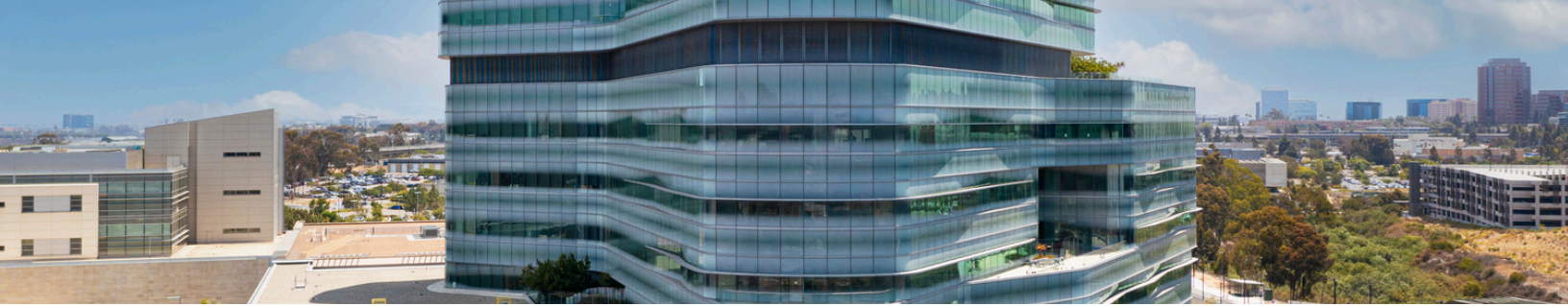
Incoming Internal Medicine Class of 2025-2026!





Graduating Internal Medicine Class of 2025!

- **Waseem Abdou**
 - University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals
 - Anesthesiology
 - Seattle, WA
- **Paul Michael Acosta II**
 - McGaw Medical Center-Northwestern University
 - Thoracic Surgery
 - Chicago, IL
- **Kaela Nicole Acuff**
 - University of Illinois at Chicago Eye and Ear Infirmary
 - Ophthalmology
 - Chicago, IL
- **Sarah Alsamman**
 - UC San Francisco Medical Center
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - San Francisco, CA
- **Beemnet Amdemicael**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Alan Aung**
 - Kaiser Permanente San Francisco
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Francisco, CA
- **Harsimran Kaur Bajwa**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Jazmin Bárcenas**
 - Scripps Mercy Hospital Chula Vista
 - Family Medicine
 - Chula Vista, CA
- **Nissma Bencheikh**
 - Duke University Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
 - Durham, NC
- **Liz Bird**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine – Physician Scientist
 - San Diego, CA
- **Lana Bridi**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Abigail Broughton**
 - Icahn School of Medicine Mount Sinai Hospital Elmhurst
 - Internal Medicine – Preliminary
 - Elmhurst, NY
 - New York University Grossman School of Medicine
 - Neurology
 - New York, NY
- **Jason Thomas Brown**
 - Nova Southeastern University
 - Psychiatry
 - Bay Pines, FL
- **Rhiannon Buchholz**
 - Scripps Mercy Hospital
 - Transitional
 - San Diego, CA
 - Lahey Hospital and Medical Center
 - Radiology - Diagnostic
 - Burlington, MA
- **Sophia Anna Bylsma**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Emergency Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Annika Kristin Carlson**
 - Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Andres Cedeño**
 - AdventHealth Florida
 - Transitional
 - Tampa, FL
 - UC Irvine Medical Center
 - Radiology - Diagnostic
 - Orange, CA



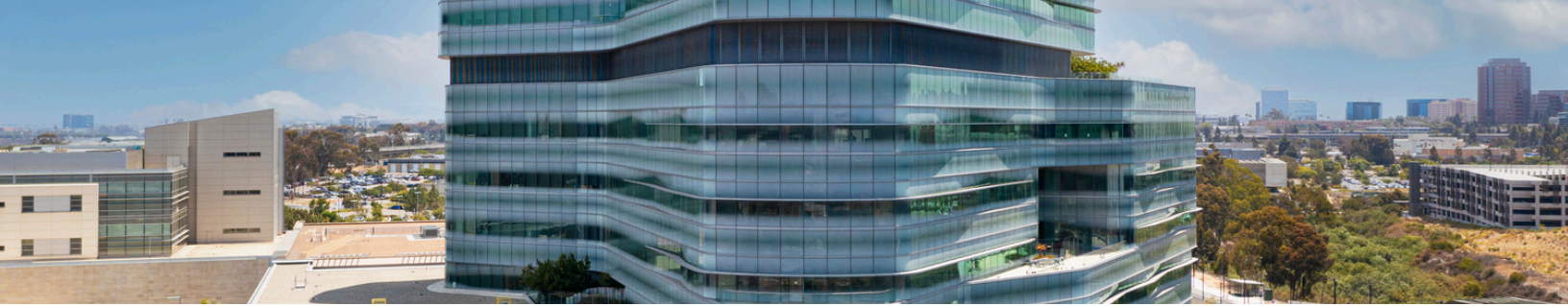
Graduating Internal Medicine Class of 2025!

- **Lianne Chau**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Annie Chen**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Ariana Maria Chirban Gatses**
 - Mount Auburn Hospital
 - Internal Medicine – Preliminary
 - Cambridge, MA
 - University of Michigan Hospitals
 - Radiation Oncology
 - Ann Arbor, MI
- **Kevin Jun Choi**
 - Mission Community Hospital
 - Transitional
 - Panorama City, CA
- **Noah J. Choi**
 - Stanford University
 - Internal Medicine
 - Stanford, CA
 - University of Southern California
 - Interventional Radiology
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Molly Chou**
 - Kaiser Permanente San Francisco
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Francisco, CA
- **Daniel Dongin Chung**
 - New York-Presbyterian / Columbia University Irving Medical Center
 - Anesthesiology
 - New York, NY
- **Carolyn Clark**
 - UC San Francisco - Fresno
 - Emergency Medicine
 - Fresno, CA
- **Víctor Alfonso de Cos**
 - University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals
 - Otolaryngology
 - Seattle, WA
- **Sophie Dickinson**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Emergency Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Jeffrey Ding**
 - UC Davis Medical Center
 - Anesthesiology
 - Sacramento, CA
- **Veena Minh Do**
 - Scripps Mercy Hospital
 - Transitional
 - San Diego, CA
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Anesthesiology
 - San Diego, CA
- **Sydney Dong**
 - Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine – Preliminary
 - Torrance, CA
- **Kelvin Heng Du**
 - Scripps Mercy Hospital
 - Transitional
 - San Diego, CA
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Ophthalmology
 - San Diego, CA
- **Emmanuel Oluwafemi Elijah**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - San Diego, CA
- **Esther Chioma Emenalom**
 - Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - San Jose, CA
- **Austin Fan**
 - Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
 - Urology
 - Chicago, IL



Graduating Internal Medicine Class of 2025!

- **Grace Feng**
 - New York University Grossman School of Medicine
 - Emergency Medicine
 - New York, NY
- **Michael Fink**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
 - San Diego, CA
- **Alma Valeria Fregoso Leyva**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Saeed Ghassemzadeh**
 - Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine – Preliminary
 - San Jose, CA
 - UC Irvine Medical Center
 - Radiology - Diagnostic
 - Orange, CA
- **Joshua Gieschen**
 - UC Irvine Medical Center
 - Emergency Medicine
 - Orange, CA
- **Benjamin Akio Goldstein**
 - UCLA Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Noah Cole Golestani**
 - McKinsey & Company: Global Management Consulting
- **Kimberly Anahy Gonzalez Davalos**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Cooper B. Haaland**
 - Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
 - Orthopaedic Surgery
 - Torrance, CA
- **Pearce Bradford Haldeman**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Orthopaedic Surgery
 - San Diego, CA
- **Josseline Herrera King**
 - University of Southern California
 - Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Lee Hsieh**
 - Desert Regional Medical Center
 - Transitional
 - Palm Springs, CA
- **Jefferson Einstein Philadelphia Hospital**
 - Radiology - Diagnostic
 - Philadelphia, PA
- **Dylan Hutson**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - San Diego, CA
- **Brianna Irons**
 - Children's Hospital Boston
 - Pediatrics
 - Boston, MA
- **Priyanka Jadhav**
 - UCLA Medical Center
 - General Surgery
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Tanya Jain**
 - Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - Torrance, CA
- **Amirali Kamgar**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Jessica Kang**
 - Johns Hopkins Hospital
 - Internal Medicine
 - Baltimore, MD
- **Jessica H. Kim**
 - University of Hawaii
 - Internal Medicine – Preliminary
 - Honolulu, HI
 - Stanford University
 - Radiology - Diagnostic
 - Stanford, CA



Graduating Internal Medicine Class of 2025!

- **Katherine Kim**
 - Adventist Health White Memorial
 - Internal Medicine – Preliminary
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Megan King**
 - Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - Torrance, CA
- **Millie Kirchberg**
 - UCLA Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Sergey Komzyuk**
 - UC Davis Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - Sacramento, CA
- **Caroline Lamb Kornelsen**
 - Southwest Healthcare Medical Education Consortium
 - Family Medicine
 - Temecula, CA
- **Sarah Elizabeth Lagan**
 - Yale New Haven Hospital
 - Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
 - New Haven, CT
- **Joanna Langner**
 - Stanford University
 - Urology
 - Stanford, CA
- **Amy Mei-Man Lee**
 - McGaw Medical Center-Northwestern University
 - Pediatrics
 - Chicago, IL
- **Danny Lee**
 - UCSF Health St Mary's Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine – Preliminary
 - San Francisco, CA
- **Katherine Lee**
 - UC San Francisco Medical Center
 - Psychiatry - Research
 - San Francisco, CA
- **Victoria Lewis**
 - Industry
- **Alex Liang**
 - UC Davis Medical Center
 - Anesthesiology
 - Sacramento, CA
- **Alexander Carleton Lieu**
 - University of Southern California/LA General Medical Center
 - Ophthalmology
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Estefania Lima Duran**
 - Kaweah Delta Health Care District
 - General Surgery
 - Visalia, CA
- **Christian Noel Majano**
 - Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
 - Orthopaedic Surgery
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Carmel A. Malvar**
 - Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
 - Neurology
 - Torrance, CA
- **Garnier Mani**
 - Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - Torrance, CA
- **Alyssa Martin**
 - University of Virginia
 - Internal Medicine
 - Charlottesville, VA
- **Emilie Mason**
 - New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center
 - Neurology
 - New York, NY



Graduating Internal Medicine Class of 2025!

- **James L. Mata**
 - Oroville Hospital
 - Psychiatry
 - Oroville, CA
- **Carson McCann**
 - UCLA Medical Center
 - Orthopaedic Surgery
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Shannan P. McClain**
 - UC San Francisco Medical Center
 - Psychiatry - Research
 - San Francisco, CA
- **Kanchi Jay Mehta**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Shivani Nilesh Mehta**
 - Zucker Hillside Hospital Northwell Health
 - Psychiatry
 - Glen Oaks, NY
- **Sahit Nallani Menon**
 - Vanderbilt University Medical Center
 - Psychiatry - Research
 - Nashville, TN
- **Kysha Mercader**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Family Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Ryan Matthew Miller**
 - UCLA Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Marjan Moghaddam**
 - Inova Fairfax Hospital
 - General Surgery
 - Falls Church, VA
- **Percival Nam**
 - North Colorado Medical Center
 - Family Medicine
 - Greeley, CO
- **Brian Nguyen**
 - Riverside Community Hospital
 - Internal Medicine
 - Riverside, CA
- **Ariadne Nichol**
 - Stanford University
 - Internal Medicine
 - Stanford, CA
- **Joshua A. Olson**
 - University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals
 - Anesthesiology
 - Seattle, WA
- **Maya Pai**
 - Kaiser Permanente San Francisco
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - San Francisco, CA
- **Valerie Palmer**
 - Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Rhea Palsule**
 - Children's Hospital Boston
 - Pediatrics
 - Boston, MA
- **Domonique Patterson**
 - Kaiser Permanente San Diego
 - Emergency Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Bradley Phillips**
 - Sutter Health
 - Transitional
 - Roseville, CA
- **Kurt Pianka**
 - Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
 - Surgery - Preliminary
 - Torrance, CA
- **Varsha Prakash**
 - Oregon Health & Science University
 - Internal Medicine
 - Portland, OR



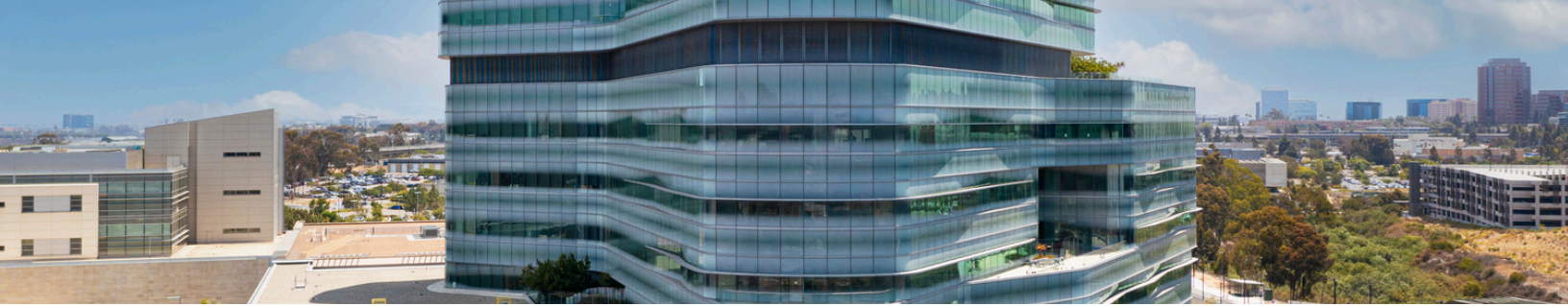
Graduating Internal Medicine Class of 2025!

- **Gautam Reddy Produturi**
 - KPC Health Hemet Valley Medical Center
 - Radiology - Diagnostic
 - Hemet, CA
- **Dhruv Puri**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Urology
 - San Diego, CA
- **Niloofar Radgoudarzi**
 - Eastern Virginia Medical School Old Dominion University
 - Ophthalmology
 - Norfolk, VA
- **Karthik Ramesh**
 - UCLA Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Niveda Rao**
 - Mission Community Hospital
 - Transitional
 - Panorama City, CA
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Anesthesiology
 - San Diego, CA
- **McKay D. Reese**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Plastic Surgery
 - San Diego, CA
- **Camila Citlali Reyes Martinez**
 - Icahn School of Medicine Mount Sinai Hospital
 - Pediatrics/General Psychiatry/Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Combined
 - New York, NY
- **Annabella Ribeiro de Oliveira**
 - Adventist Health White Memorial
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Adriana Richmond**
 - Kaiser Permanente Oakland
 - Internal Medicine – Preliminary
 - Oakland, CA
 - UC San Francisco Medical Center
 - Dermatology
 - San Francisco, CA
- **Ana-Lauren Rudin**
 - Christiana Care
 - Family Medicine
 - Newark, DE
- **Garrett E. Rupp**
 - University of Arizona
 - Orthopaedic Surgery
 - Tucson, AZ
- **John "Jack" Francis Ryan**
 - UC Davis Medical Center
 - Anesthesiology
 - Sacramento, CA
- **Soraya Sadeghi**
 - Loma Linda University
 - Internal Medicine – Primary Care
 - Loma Linda, CA
- **Elischa Sanders**
 - Massachusetts General Hospital
 - Psychiatry
 - Boston, MA
- **Manpreet Singh Sandhu**
 - UC Davis Medical Center
 - Urology
 - Sacramento, CA
- **Megana Alisha Saripella**
 - University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals
 - Surgery - Preliminary
 - Seattle, WA
- **Brandon David Scott**
 - Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles
 - Internal Medicine – Preliminary
 - Los Angeles, CA
 - VA Greater Los Angeles Health Systems/UCLA
 - Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Shamilka Seneviratne**
 - New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center
 - Psychiatry
 - New York, NY



Graduating Internal Medicine Class of 2025!

- **Aastha Shah**
 - University of Southern California
 - Internal Medicine
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Job Matthew Shiach**
 - University of Southern California
 - Internal Medicine
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Sophia Devinder Sidhu**
 - University of Southern California/LA General Medical Center
 - Ophthalmology
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Jin Su**
 - Family Health Centers of San Diego
 - Psychiatry
 - San Diego, CA
- **Jessica Tantivit**
 - Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Jose, CA
- **Sean Daniel Thomas**
 - Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
 - Orthopaedic Surgery
 - Torrance, CA
- **Blair Thompson**
 - University of Southern California
 - Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - Los Angeles, CA
- **Zachariah Tman**
 - Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
 - Surgery - Preliminary
 - Philadelphia, PA
- **Jagdeep Singh Toor**
 - St Joseph's Medical Center
 - Transitional
 - Stockton, CA
 - Stanford University
 - Anesthesiology
 - Stanford, CA
- **Haley J. Torres**
 - University of Utah Affiliated Hospitals
 - Internal Medicine
 - Salt Lake City, UT
- **Aaron Trando**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Sharon Kim Truong**
 - UC San Francisco Medical Center
 - Pediatrics
 - San Francisco, CA
- **Brigham Tucker**
 - University of Arizona
 - Orthopaedic Surgery
 - Tucson, AZ
- **Nisha Uppuluri**
 - Duke University Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
 - Durham, NC
- **Olivia Villers**
 - UC San Diego Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Diego, CA
- **Elizabeth Yelyzaveta Voloshyna Farber**
 - California Pacific Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine - Preliminary
 - San Francisco, CA
 - Stanford University
 - Neurology
 - Stanford, CA
- **Madeleine Elizabeth Wagner**
 - Denver Health Medical Center
 - Emergency Medicine
 - Denver, CO
- **Hannah Diane Wellington**
 - Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
 - Obstetrics and gynecology
 - Lebanon, NH
- **Emma Williams**
 - UCLA Medical Center
 - Internal Medicine
 - Los Angeles, CA



Graduating Internal Medicine Class of 2025!

- **Kyra Lee Yamamoto**
 - Kaiser Permanente San Francisco
 - Internal Medicine
 - San Francisco, CA
- **Andrea Yessaillian**
 - Harvard Mass General Brigham
 - Plastic Surgery
 - Boston, MA
- **Sijia Zhang**
 - UC San Francisco Medical Center
 - Psychiatry
 - San Francisco, CA



Congratulations

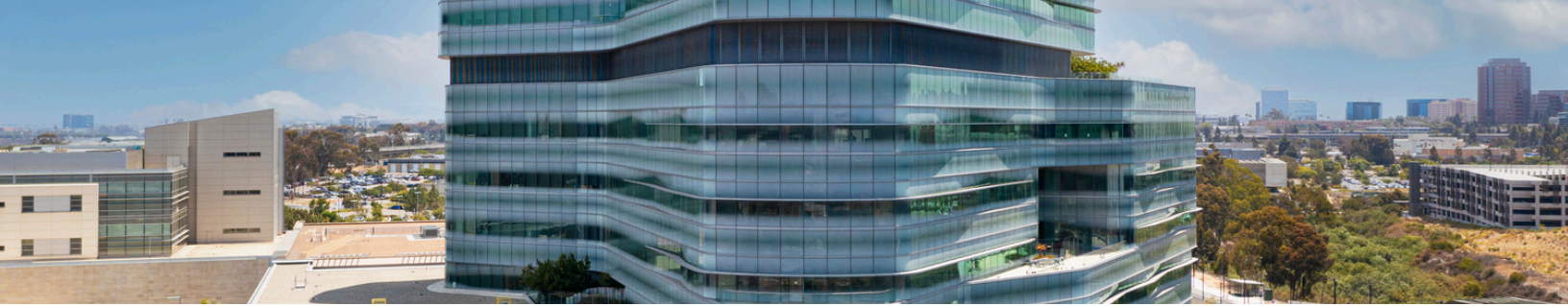




Clinical and Research Highlights

- Dr. Ian Neel was interviewed for KPBS article "FDA links deadly Listeria outbreak to frozen nutritional shakes." Read the full article [here](#).
- Dr. Ian Neel was interviewed in Medscape, "Tackling Overtreatment in Geriatric Patients Takes Sustained Efforts." Read the full article [here](#).
- Dr. Allison Kestenbaum's paper "Palliative Care Spiritual Assessment and Goals of Care Discussions in the Neurocritical Care Unit: Collaborating with Chaplains" is published in Neurocritical Care. Read it [here](#).
- Kudos **to the CTEPH team!** One of their patients went from dyspnea on minimal exertion, to running the San Diego Holiday Half Marathon less than two years post CTEPH surgery.
- Congratulations to **Drs. Gabe Wardi, Atul Malhotra, and the rest of their team** on their important recent sepsis article (the lead article, in fact) in the most recent Annals of Internal Medicine! The article is getting a lot of attention for the finding that no moderate- or high-level evidence supports that compliance with or implementation of CMS's Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock Management Bundle was associated with sepsis mortality and suggestion that CMS should reconsider the addition of this bundle to CMS's Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program. **Read the article here.**
- Congratulations to **Dr. Venkatesh Ramnath** on his powerful opinion piece in the LA Times. **Read the article here.**
- **Dr. Susan Little** and **Dr. Davey Smith** were featured on 10News to discuss the impacts to NIH grants and cuts. To read their article and watch the video, please **click on this link.**
- Congratulations to **Dr. Kerriann Van Nostrand** and **the whole IP team** on the very successful 9th Annual Southern California EBUS Course that we held in February! Photos below:





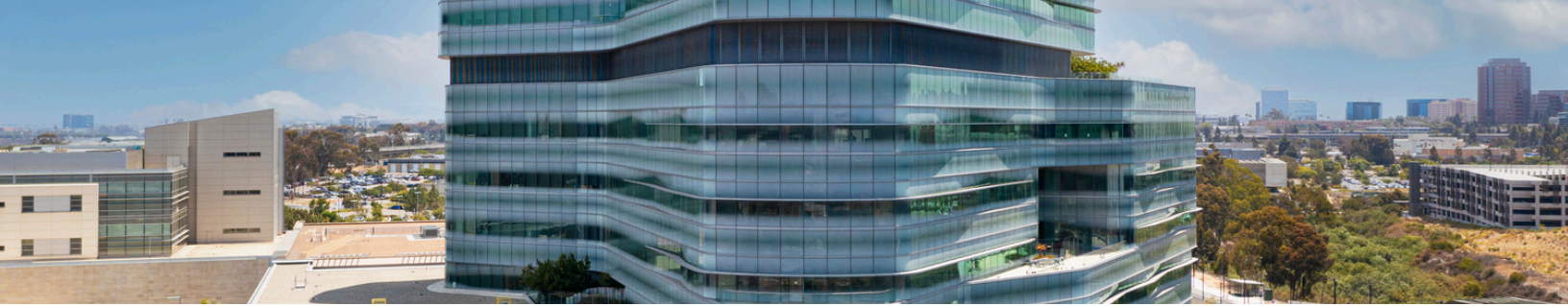
Clinical and Research Highlights

- Congratulations to **Dr. Jacob Bailey!** Dr. Bailey and his team received a highly competitive 3-year, 6-figure grant from NBME and the Association of STEMM Pathway and Bridge Programs to develop evidence-based best practices demonstrating how pathway programs successfully support recruiting, educating and retaining physicians, particularly those from populations underrepresented in medicine.
- **Dr. Jorge Muñoz-Pineda** was interviewed by Univision to discuss the American Lung Association's State of Cancer report. You can view it [HERE](#) & [HERE](#).
- Congratulations to **Dr. Brandon Nokes** and **Dr. Chris Schmick!** Both have recently attained board certification in Obesity Medicine.
- **Drs. Kyle Edmonds, Jenn Byrne, Paula Mesarwi, Jeremy Hirst, Rabia Atayee** co-authored a paper titled "Descriptive Analysis of Dexmedetomidine's Utility in a Palliative Care Unit at the End of Life" in the Journal of Palliative Medicine. Read it [here](#).
- **Dr. Alison Moore** was quoted in New York Times article "What a \$20,000 Longevity Clinic Really Buys You." Read the full article [here](#).
- **Dr. Aladdin Shadyab's** latest study in JAGS explores the link between accelerated epigenetic aging and the risk of mild cognitive impairment and dementia in older women. This research sheds light on biomarkers critical to understanding cognitive health and aging. Read it [here](#).
- **Dr. Ian Neel** and **co-authors** published their impactful study in the Journal of Medical Ethics. Their research shows how a hospital policy aligns feeding tube care with ethical guidelines. Read it [here](#).
- **Dr. Aladdin Shadyab** spoke with @NextAvenue (PBS) about the link between weight loss in older age and longevity. His research highlights how stable weight after 70 supports a longer lifespan. Read the full interview [here](#).
- The leadership of the ACC/AHA Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines commended **Dr. Pam Taub** for her extraordinary contributions to the development and publication of the *2025 ACC/AHA/ACEP/NAEMSP/SCAI Guideline for the Management of Patients with Acute Coronary Syndromes*.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Nick Hogan!** Nick has received a prestigious and highly sought-after two-year Sarnoff Scholar Award, which will permit him to continue his work with **Dr. Praveen Akuthota** and advance his research toward career toward independent takeoff velocity. Bravo!



Clinical and Research Highlights

- Congratulations to **Dr. Yonatan Dollin**! Yoni had a nice interview in the journal Mediastinum that you can view by [clicking on this link](#).
- Congratulations to **Dr. Jenny Doran**! Jenny will be next year's Tony Catanzaro Research Scholarship recipient. Thanks to Tony's extreme generosity, each year an outstanding fellow or junior faculty member receives this substantial support to further their research, ideally related to tuberculosis or other granulomatous lung diseases. Jenny will be working with Tim Rodwell and his team looking at looking at chest radiographs from Pakistan and using an AI pneumonia program developed at UCSD to identify correlations with severity of disease as well as whether the AI program can be reliably used to for TB diagnosis.
- **Dr. Alison Moore** shared insights on maintaining mental agility in retirement in a recent The New York Times article, "What Happens to Your Brain When You Retire?" Read it [here](#).
- **Dr. Toluwalase "Lase" Ajayi** was featured in SD Physician Magazine's article "The Healthcare Landscape in 2025," sharing insights on the future of healthcare. Dr. Ajayi continues to lead and innovate in our community. Read it [here \(16-17\)](#).
- **Dr. Michael J. Corley** explores the hidden role of ancient viruses in our DNA, the gut microbiome's impact on longevity, and how stress, diet & exercise shape aging. "Decoding the Dark Side of the Human Genome: How Ancient Viruses Shape Aging" on UCTV. Watch it [here](#).
- **Dr. Ian Neel** was interviewed in The New York Times on the risks of benzodiazepine use and its impact on health - an important read on a growing issue. Read it [here](#).
- In a new study in JAMA Network, **Dr. Aladdin Shadyab** and team found current osteoporosis screening tools miss younger postmenopausal women, highlighting the need for better detection methods. Read it [here](#).
- Congratulations to **Dr. Jill Mesirov** for receiving the Notice of Award for "Molecular Signatures Database: A knowledge base for gene set based analysis of genomic data". MSigDB is the critical database of gene sets for doing gene set enrichment analysis using our GSEA software but also used by other algorithms and projects. The combined GSEA/MSigDB ecosystem now has over 415,000 users world wide.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Praveen Akuthota**, who will be stepping in as Interim Director of the Cystic Fibrosis Program.



Clinical and Research Highlights

- **Dr. Atul Malhotra** and colleagues published an article in Lancet Respiratory Medicine suggesting that all-cause and cardiovascular mortality risks in OSA fall with positive airway pressure use. You can check out their interview by [clicking on this link](#).
- **Dr. Kiana Aran** is named a UC San Diego Faculty Ambassador. She'll help drive interdisciplinary collaboration and new funding opportunities across campus. Read more [here](#).
- Congratulations to the **VTC Allergy Team** for being selected as the recipient of the **2025 Patient Experience Highest Achievement Award**! This award recognizes clinics and units with the highest Likelihood to Recommend Percentile Ranks in calendar year 2024.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Avnee Kumar**! Avnee and colleagues recently published an article in Chest on US Physicians' Perceived Impacts of Abortion Bans in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine that has garnered a lot of attention, including an article in The Guardian. To read the article published in Chest, please [click on this link](#). To read the article published in The Guardian, please [click on this link](#).
- Congratulations to Dr. **Venktesh Ramnath**! Venktesh is emerging as a respected, thoughtful public voice on medical issues and policy. You can check out his recent piece on the importance of defending science [here](#), and his views about overcoming physician burnout in his substack [here](#).
- **Dr. Alison Moore** shared insights in The Guardian on the benefits and risks of cannabis use among older adults. Read it [here](#).
- **Dr. Ben Han** and **incoming Geriatrics Fellow Dr. Julia Larson**'s study looks at rising trends in stimulant-related ER visits in California from 2017–2021. Read it [here](#).
- **Dr. Aladdin Shadyab** co-authored a new JAMA Ophthalmology study showing that daily cocoa extract supplementation was linked to a 23% reduced risk of developing age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in the first two years. Read it [here](#).
- Congratulations to **Dr. Amber Sanchez** for being selected as the Vice President of the International Society for Apheresis. More details can be found [here](#).



Clinical and Research Highlights

- Congratulations to **Dr. Alex Pearce!** She has landed a nice plump DoD grant on Driving Pressure-Limited Ventilation in Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure (DRIVE-USA).
- Congratulations to **Dr. George Cheng!** George and his team have published two articles: one in Science Translational Medicine and one in NEJM. You can use the links below to access both articles.
 - Science Translational Medicine: [Click here](#)
 - NEJM: [Click here](#)
- Congratulations to **Dr. Julia Larson** (pictured below), current Internal Medicine resident at UC San Diego and incoming geriatric medicine fellow! Dr. Larson was awarded first place in the Education category for her presentation in the Resident Poster Session at the recent AGS meeting titled: "Opportunity for organizational health literacy to improve knowledge and use of the 4Ms framework of age-friendly care: results from a needs assessment within an internal medicine residency program."



- New findings from the landmark EXERT trial! **Dr. Aladdin Shadyab** & colleagues show that exercise may help slow cognitive decline in older adults with mild cognitive impairment. Read about it [here](#).
- **Dr. Aladdin Shadyab's** research shows that metformin use is linked to exceptional longevity among older women. Read more [here](#).
- We want to congratulate the following poster awardees for the GME Symposium. Congratulations!
 - **Dr. Tamar Wolinsky:** Quality Improvement/Research Category
 - **Dr. Natalie Colaneri:** Quality Improvement/Research Category
 - **Dr. Rebecca Luterman:** Innovations/Works in Progress Category

Please send us your recognitions and awards so we can highlight your accomplishments in our next edition!



Announcements and Reminders

Vacation Reporting

Summer is here, which means vacation time! Please remember to log your hours in Ecotime to ensure they are getting tracked. If you have any questions, please submit a case [via this link](#) or reach out to your Division Administrator. Thank you!

O-K Review Mock Study Sections

The Department of Medicine in conjunction with the Center for AIDS Research offers a mock study section program for early-stage investigators submitting NIH K, F, R01, and R21 applications. Faculty and postdocs from the Department of Medicine are invited to participate in this process. For more information on the O-K Review program, please email cfar@ucsd.edu or visit their website [HERE](#).

UCSD Physician Peer Support Program

As a physician, you face unique challenges and pressures. However, it's important to remember that you don't have to face them alone. The WE CARE Physician Peer Support Program is available to provide the help and support you need.

Peer Support is one component of actively transforming our UCSDH culture by giving us the opportunity to connect, share challenges, and support each other. When stressed and distressed, most physicians initially prefer to get support from peers rather than mental health providers. Someone who has been there or is there. [Learn more about this program here.](#)

Don't Miss Out on Receiving CME Credits: Create Your Profile in CloudCME Today!

In order to receive CME for attending accredited sessions (such as DOM Grand Grounds, Seminars and HIGH Rounds, aka HIV and Global Health Rounds) you are required to have a CloudCME profile. If you haven't already done so, create a profile in [CloudCME](#) so that you are able to earn CME. Follow this [guide to create your profile](#). While completing a financial disclosure is not necessary to earn CME credits, it is required for anyone involved in the planning and/or delivery of CME. Follow this [guide to complete/update your disclosure](#).

Sponsored Projects Office Guidelines

The Department of Medicine is committed to supporting successful grant proposal submission and ensure timely UCSD review of proposal packages. To review the guidelines, please visit the link below. [Sponsored Proposal Submission Guidelines](#)

