



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

UC San Diego School of Medicine

## In this Issue

**Message from the Chair**  
Page 02

**Upcoming and Recent Events**  
Pages 03 - 05

**Meet the New Division Chiefs**  
Page 06

**Meet the New Department of Medicine Fellows**  
Pages 07 - 12

**Recognitions and Awards**  
Pages 13 - 20

**Clinical and Research Highlights**  
Pages 21 - 23

**Announcements and Reminders**  
Page 24

Please email **Mayra V. Rodriguez** with any items or topics that you would like us to include in our next DOM newsletter (December 2024). Thank you!

**[mvrodriguez@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:mvrodriguez@health.ucsd.edu)**

# Message from the Chair

Dear Faculty and Staff,

In the enclosed Fall newsletter, we celebrate the many accomplishments of our faculty and staff and welcome our new trainees. These quarterly newsletters are intended to be for you and about you! So please keep sending us news about your accomplishments both locally and nationally. As you can see from this newsletter, our faculty continue to achieve recognition across the tripartite mission.

We have had a number of leadership changes in the Department. I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to our new division chiefs: Dr. Tim Wilkin joins us from Cornell University leading the Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health, and Dr. Ottar Lunde assumes the role of permanent Chief for the Division of General Internal Medicine. I would also like to welcome Dr. Pedro Ramos to his new role as Interim Chief of the Division of Hospital Medicine.

As we embark on a new academic year, I would also like to welcome all new residents and fellows that joined us in July. Their diverse backgrounds and fresh perspectives will undoubtedly enrich our team and enhance the quality of care we provide. We look forward to collaborating with you, sharing knowledge, and supporting your professional journeys.

We're excited to share some encouraging news about our collective wellness journey! Recent survey results show that many of our divisions are making strides to enhance work life integration. Whether through improved communications, better workflow, or as simple as enhanced access to food and water, it's clear that our efforts are paying off – although we recognize that we still have a lot of work to do. Thanks to many of you who completed both the wellness and climate surveys – the data gathered help direct us towards areas that need more attention.

## **\*\*Highlights of Our Progress\*\***

- Decreased burnout rates for a majority of the Divisions
- Many divisions have seen improvements with regard to having a PCP and financial pressures
- Average hours worked per week decreased by over 10 hours per week

## **\*\*But We Can Do Better!\*\***

While we celebrate these accomplishments, we recognize that there's always room for improvement. Here are a few areas where we can enhance our wellness journey together:

- Physicians report that they require additional support for administrative tasks and interactions with insurance companies
- Turnover intent, while still in the excellent range, increased since the last survey
- New leadership initiatives

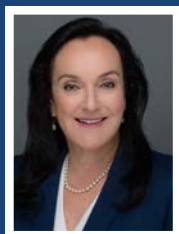
As we embrace new beginnings, we also take a moment to recognize the retirement of our esteemed colleague, Dr. Dan Bouland. After many years of dedicated service, Dan has decided to embark on this new chapter of life. His contributions have left a lasting impact on our organization, and he will be greatly missed. Join us in wishing him a happy and fulfilling retirement!

While a lot of this work happens in the background, budget season is always a challenge which we successfully navigated during the last quarter of FY 2024. This required a lot of work on the part of the Business Office, the MSOs and the Division Chiefs. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and effort to ensure a smooth process. Your hard work is vital to our continued success and growth. We will provide some updates on departmental finances at the upcoming Faculty meeting on October 7th at 1:00 pm as part of the State of the Department presentation.

As we welcome new faces and bid farewell to a beloved colleague, let's continue to support one another and continue to strive for excellence.

Thank you for all that you do.

Dr. Zea Borok



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





## Upcoming Event

### 6th Annual Transgender Health Symposium

The 6th Annual Transgender Healthcare Symposium is the only multi-disciplinary, comprehensive learning day in San Diego that brings together medical professionals with the trans and non-binary community, to increase knowledge and competency in affirming clinical practices. The Symposium is an exciting day of plenary and breakout sessions spanning the breadth of behavioral, medical, and surgical care – whether you are new to gender-affirming care or a seasoned professional, all are welcome. Participants will have the opportunity to network with peers and community partners, attend a variety of expert-led educational sessions, showcase current and developing research as well as participate in a highly anticipated patient panel. We are proud to be a queer and trans-led conference, bringing community and education together to advance quality, affirming care for all. The Department of Medicine is once again proud to be a co-sponsor of this event.

Please reach out to Drs. Ravi Iyengar ([riyengar@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:riyengar@health.ucsd.edu)) & Jill Blumenthal ([jblumenthal@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:jblumenthal@health.ucsd.edu)) for more details.

**Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 7:30am**





## Recent Event

### Special Department of Medicine Grand Rounds

On August 28, 2024, we held a special UCSD Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, where we highlighted two clinical trials led by UCSD physician scientists that were recently published in the New England Journal of Medicine related to new uses for tirzepatide. It is indeed an incredible accomplishment to have not one, but two NEJM publications in close proximity led by UCSD faculty!

Dr. Loomba, Professor and Chief of Gastroenterology at UCSD, was the lead author on a paper investigating the role of tirzepatide for treatment of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis in patients with liver fibrosis.

Dr. Malhotra, Professor and Vice Chair of Medicine for Research at UCSD, was global PI and lead author on a paper investigating the use of tirzepatide on the treatment of sleep apnea and related metabolic disease.

Tirzepatide is currently FDA approved for obesity and for diabetes mellitus but is likely to have a much broader therapeutic role in the near future. The two studies have received considerable attention and showcase UCSD's leadership in translating new discoveries to the benefit of our patients.

#### Tirzepatide for Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis with Liver Fibrosis.

**Loomba R**, Hartman ML, Lawitz EJ, Vuppalanchi R, Boursier J, Bugianesi E, Yoneda M, Behling C, Cummings OW, Tang Y, Brouwers B, Robins DA, Nikooie A, Bunck MC, Haupt A, Sanyal AJ; SYNERGY-NASH Investigators. *N Engl J Med*. 2024 Jul 25;391(4):299-310. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2401943. Epub 2024 Jun 8. PMID: 38856224

#### Tirzepatide for the Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Obesity.

**Malhotra A**, Grunstein RR, Fietze I, Weaver TE, Redline S, Azarbarzin A, Sands SA, Schwab RJ, Dunn JP, Chakladar S, Bunck MC, Bednarik J; SURMOUNT-OSA Investigators. *N Engl J Med*. 2024 Jun 21. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2404881. Online ahead of print. PMID: 38912654



**Left:** Dr. Atul Malhotra  
**Center:** Dr. Zea Borok  
**Right:** Dr. Rohit Loomba





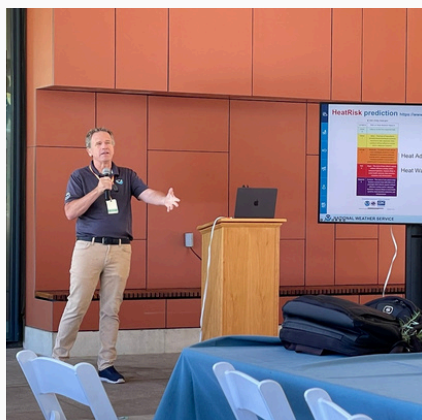
## Recent Event

### 2024 Heat and Human Health Summit

Many Department of Medicine faculty participated in this year's 2024 Heat and Human Health Summit, which was hosted by UC San Diego School of Medicine and Kaiser Permanente and sponsored by several entities, including the UC San Diego Department of Medicine. Dr. Luis Castellanos gave the opening remarks and led a breakout session on Cardiopulmonary Health, Dr. Christine James led a breakout session on Legislative Advocacy, Dr. Pranav Garimella led a breakout session on Extreme Heat Research, and Drs. Shira Abeles helped organize the summit.

The mission of this group is to protect the welfare of children's health, especially safeguarding their respiratory health through advocacy for clean air. Their goal is to educate the public regarding the dangers of air pollution, tobacco use, and vaping that threatens children's respiratory health. Please visit the link below to learn more about the Heat and Human Health Summit, and view photos from this year's event.

For any questions, please reach out to Dr. Luis Castellanos ([lrcastellanos@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:lrcastellanos@health.ucsd.edu)).



## Meet the New Division Chiefs!



### General Internal Medicine Division Chief

Ottar Lunde, MD  
Professor

Dr. Lunde joined UCSD in 2007 and was promoted to HS Clinical Professor in 2019. His clinical and research expertise focuses on prevention and treatment of cardiometabolic syndrome, as well as obesity, with the goal of preventing and treating cardiovascular disease. In Population Health at UCSDH, he is clinic lead for cardiovascular disease and collaborates closely with other UCs in hypertension management across the State. He served as Chief of Clinical Services in the Division of General Internal Medicine from 2019 until he was named interim Chief in October, 2022.



### Infectious Diseases & Global Public Health Division Chief

Timothy (Tim) Wilkin, MD, MPH  
Professor

Dr. Wilkin joined the faculty of Weill Medical College at Cornell University in 2002, and was recruited to UCSD as the Chief of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health at UC San Diego in 2024. He has extensive experience with international clinical trials through prior and ongoing AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) work, investigator-initiated collaborations, and being contact PI for U awards from the National Cancer Institute. His prior leadership work within the ACTG includes chairing the co-infections and malignancy committee, being a member of the Scientific Agenda Steering Committee (2018-present) and ACTG Executive Committee, and being the current chair of Comorbidities Transformative Science Group. He has been honored by the ACTG with the John E. Carey Young Investigator Award and the Constance P. Wofsy Women's Health Investigator Award.



### Hospital Medicine Interim Division Chief

Pedro Ramos, MD  
Professor

Dr. Ramos joined UCSD in 2006 and was promoted to HS Clinical Professor in 2019. He is a full-time hospitalist dedicated to continuously improving the quality of patient care. He was heavily involved in the groundwork for glycemic control at UCSD, as well as developing national benchmarking guidelines and serving as a mentor to numerous health systems across the country. He was instrumental in launching UCSD's first Academic Fellowship in Hospital Medicine, and leads a national committee of program directors through the Society of Hospital Medicine. He was appointed as Interim Chief of the Division of Hospital Medicine in June 2024.





## Meet the Incoming Department of Medicine Fellows

### Allergy & Immunology



Christian Toribio Dionicio, MD



Kelly Robinson, MD

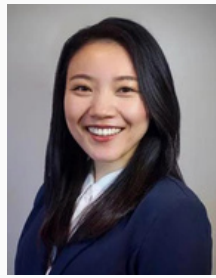
### Cardiovascular Medicine: Cardiovascular Diseases



Theodore Curran, MD



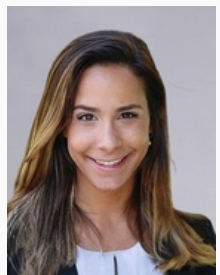
Jessica Hong, MD



Melody Huang, MD



Apurva Khedagi, MD, MS



Emily Margolin, MD



Rebecca Ocher, MD



Shelief Robbins-Juarez, MD



# Meet the Incoming Department of Medicine Fellows

## Cardiovascular Medicine: Interventional Cardiology



Daniel Chu, MD



Daniel Kim MD, MS

## Cardiovascular Medicine: Electrophysiology



Francis Hartge IV, MD



Andrew Lin, MD

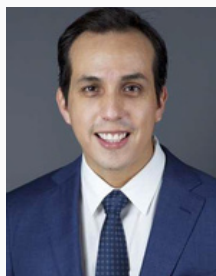


Wasiq Sheikh, MD

## Cardiovascular Medicine: Heart Failure & Transplant



Alexander Hajduczuk, MD



Miguel Martillo Correa, MD





# Meet the Incoming Department of Medicine Fellows

## Endocrinology



Anita Dhulipalli, MD

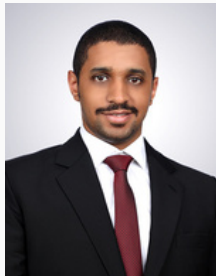


Tamar Wolinsky, MD

## Gastroenterology



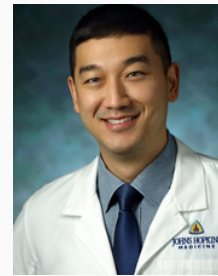
Maria Abrahan



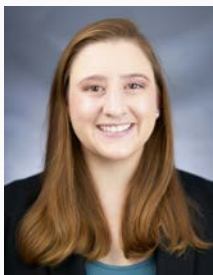
Omar Belfaqeeh



Jonathan Dounel



Sa Do kang

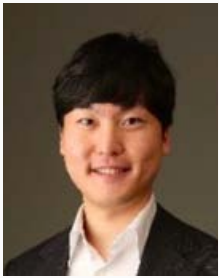


Katherine Jordan

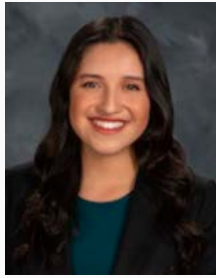


## Meet the Incoming Department of Medicine Fellows

### Geriatrics



Jaeyoun Choi, MD



Daney Lozano, MD



Angelica Suarez-Ramirez, MD

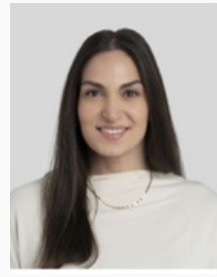
### Hematology-Oncology



Ahmed Ali, MD



Harshitha Dudipala, MD



Nicole Farha, MD



Christopher Grant, MD



Erin McGillivray, MD



Karen Resnick, MD





# Meet the Incoming Department of Medicine Fellows

## Hematology Track



Tro Sekayan, MD



Parthiv Sheth, MD



Terrence Sun, DO

## Coagulation Medicine

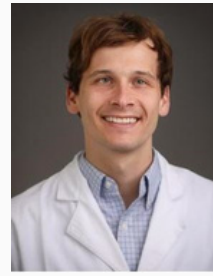
## Infectious Diseases



Sara Brenner, MD



Renato Bobadilla-Leon, MD



Benjamin Redpath, MD



Thomas Smith, DO

## Nephrology



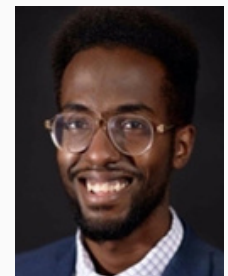
Danielle Aliano



Jonathan Keyes



Daniel Mai



Muhammad Mire



## Meet the Incoming Department of Medicine Fellows

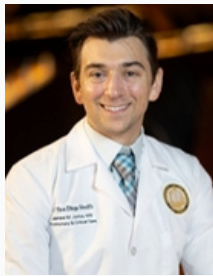
### Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine



Christina Cheng



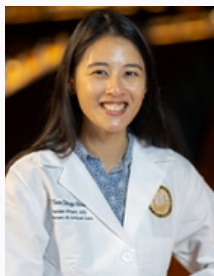
Rahul Gomez



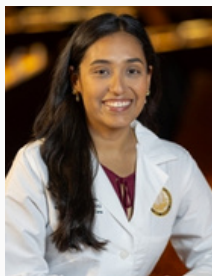
James Jurica



Emily Mitchell

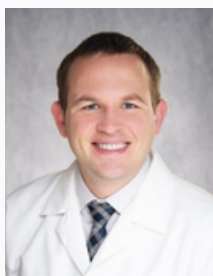


Thaidan Pham



Arianna Rodriguez

### Interventional Pulmonology



Bryce Dutchman

### Rheumatology



Larabe Farrukh, MD  
Rheumatology



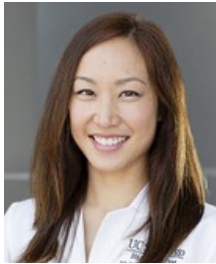
Giancarlo Valiente, MD  
Rheumatology





## Recognitions and Awards

### 2024 Graduating House Staff Teaching Award- Continuity Clinic



Melissa Wong, MD  
Assistant Professor  
General Internal Medicine

### 2024 Graduating House Staff Teaching Award- VA Specialty

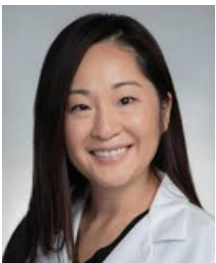


Gobind Anand, MD  
Associate Professor  
Gastroenterology & Hepatology



Ida Wong-Sefidan, MD  
Associate Professor  
Hematology & Oncology

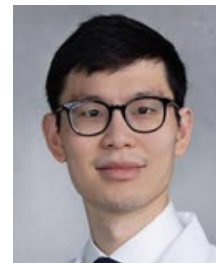
### 2024 Graduating House Staff Teaching Award- Hospital Medicine



Yuri Shindo, MD  
Associate Physician  
Hospital Medicine



Dana Toy, MD  
Associate Physician  
Hospital Medicine



Alan You, MD  
Associate Physician  
Hospital Medicine



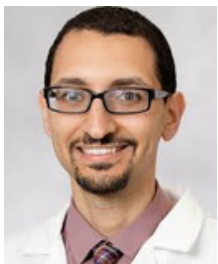
## Recognitions and Awards

### 2024 Graduating House Staff Teaching Award- Nephrology



Dinna Cruz, MD, MPH  
Professor  
Nephrology-Hypertension

### 2024 Chief Medical Resident Teaching Award

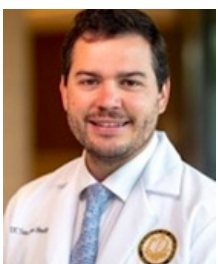


Joseph Abdelmalek, MD  
Associate Professor  
Nephrology-Hypertension



Dena Rifkin, MD  
Professor  
Nephrology-Hypertension

### 2024 Whitehill Prize for Exceptional Junior Faculty



Cameron McGuire, MD, MPH  
Associate Physician  
Pulmonary, Critical Care





## Recognitions and Awards

### 2024 Graduating House Staff Teaching Award- Pulmonary



Erica Lin, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Pulmonary, Critical Care

### Top Fellow Award



Guillermo Jimenez, MD  
Fellow  
Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

### 2023-24 Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching



Ali Farkhondehpour, MD  
Associate Professor  
Hospital Medicine



## Recognitions and Awards

### 2024 PCCSM Faculty of the Year



Naveen Gupta, MD  
Professor  
Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

### 2024 PCCSM Faculty Teaching Award



Praveen Akuthota, MD  
Professor  
Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

### 2024 PCCSM Mentor Award



Kim Kerr, MD  
Professor  
Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

### Staff Association Scholarship Recipient



Mariana Romero  
Division Coordinator  
Geriatrics, Gerontology, and Palliative Care

The UC San Diego Staff Association scholarship program supports career employee advancement efforts by providing funding to be used toward a professional development activity requiring a fee. She will be using it towards the “Project Cost Management” course from UC San Diego Extended studies, as part of the Project Management Certificate program she is attending.



## Recognitions and Awards



### 2024 Spirit of Stonewall Award - Friend of Pride

Jill Blumenthal, MD  
Professor  
Infectious Diseases & Global Public Health

In recognition of her fearless and fierce advocacy and work at UCSD Health to make gender-affirming care more accessible and culturally responsive. Click [HERE](#) to read more



### Gottschalk Endowed Lectureship Award

Volker Vallon, MD  
Professor  
Nephrology-Hypertension

Dr. Vallon was honored by this achievement for his long-standing scientific discoveries and contributions to renal physiology by the American Physiologic Society.



### First R01 Awardee

Pranav Garimella, MBBS, MPH, FASN  
Associate Professor  
Nephrology-Hypertension

This new R01 focuses in ADPKD which will provide additional synergy and recognition of his and the COE team's work in ADPKD here at UCSD.



### 2024 SoCal III Chapter Laureate Award

Simerjot Jassal, MD, MAS, MACP  
Professor  
General Internal Medicine

This award is presented to exceptional Chapter members who have demonstrated, by their example and conduct, an abiding commitment to excellence in medical healthcare, education, or research, and in distinguished service and leadership to their community.



## Recognitions and Awards



### 2024 DOM Excellence in Faculty Mentorship in Research Award

Sara Gianella Weibel, MD  
Professor  
Infectious Diseases & Global Public Health

This award recognizes faculty that have consistently provided their time, expertise, and advice to assist in the career development of junior faculty in their research career development.



### 2024 DOM Excellence in Faculty Mentorship in Clinical Medicine Award

Reid Sasaki, MD  
Professor  
Hospital Medicine

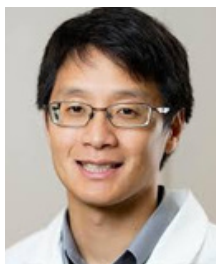
This award recognizes senior faculty that have consistently provided outstanding mentorship for junior faculty in the clinical realm.



### 2024 DOM Excellence in Faculty Mentorship in Education Award

Simerjot Jassal, MD, MAS, MACP  
Professor  
General Internal Medicine

This award focuses on individuals who have consistently provided mentorship to junior faculty who aim to dedicate a substantial portion of their work in medical education and assist in their career development within the medical education realm.



### 2024 GIM Lawrence Friedman Mentorship Award

Lawrence Ma, MD  
Associate Professor  
General Internal Medicine

This award is bestowed to an individual in the Division of General Internal Medicine who has demonstrated outstanding mentoring in the domains of clinical, research, and education to trainees or early career faculty during the past year.





## Recognitions and Awards



### Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award for Medical Scientists

Sydney Ramirez, MD, PHD  
Associate Physician  
Infectious Diseases & Global Public Health

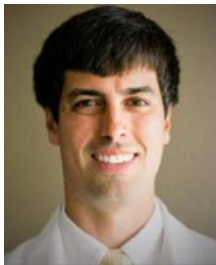
The Career Awards for Medical Scientists (CAMS) is a highly competitive program that provides \$700,000 awards over five years for physician-scientists, who are committed to an academic career, to bridge advanced postdoctoral/fellowship training and the early years of faculty service.



### Medical Education Seed Grant

Anna Astashchanka, MD  
Fellow  
Pulmonary, Critical Care

Dr. Astashchanka has received an extremely competitive mid-5-figure grant from the Sanford Institute for Empathy and Compassion for her project “Advanced Care Planning: Honoring What Matters for Hospitalized Patients.”



### Improvements of the Year - Congratulations Dr. John Bell & team

- 2024 UC Health System Improvement Excellence Awards
- Patient Experience Category: AVS Redesign (Grand prize!)
- Efficiency of Operations Category: Discharge Planning Enhancement (.DCNEEDS)

### 2023-2024 UC San Diego Exemplary Staff Employee of the Year

We are excited to announce 2 of the 15 professional and support staff members that were recognized for this award are from the Department of Medicine!



**Velma Justice-Royster**  
Behavioral Health Counselor  
Infectious Diseases &  
Global Public Health



**Deedee Pacheco**  
Clinical Research Lab  
Manager  
Infectious Diseases &  
Global Public Health

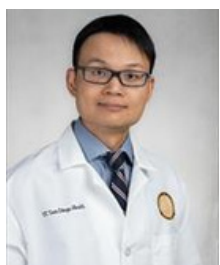
## Recognitions and Awards



### Outstanding Allied Health Professional Award

Sandee Lombardi, RN  
Clinical Nurse  
Pulmonary

This national award recognizes Sandee's contributions to the PH community through raising awareness, participating in advocacy efforts, fundraising, service to PHA, and providing kind and compassionate care to PH patients.



### Robert A. Winn Career Development Award

Yu-Wei Chen, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Hematology-Oncology

The Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials Award Program (Winn Awards) was established in 2020 by the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation with the goal of increasing diversity in clinical trials and transforming the clinical research landscape.

Yu-Wei Chen, MD, MS, is a board-certified medical oncologist who subspecializes in genitourinary (GU) oncology, treating prostate, kidney, bladder and testicular cancers. His main research interest lies in developing new therapeutic agents through conducting and designing clinical trials in the field of GU oncology.



### 2024 Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology Lifetime Achievement Award

Atul Malhotra, MD  
Professor  
Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep Medicine & Physiology

The award is given annually to honor the career of an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the field of sleep or respiratory neurobiology in terms of both scientific and scholarly advances, as well as in mentoring, teaching and advocacy to advance public health.





## Clinical Highlights

### 4.9 & 5 Star Rating for PCCSM Physicians

The following Pulmonary, Critical Care, & Sleep Medicine physicians received a 4.9 or 5 star rating. A 4.9 rating by patients is >90th percentile nationwide, while a 5 star rating is that extra mile. Congratulations!



Kamyar Afshar, DO



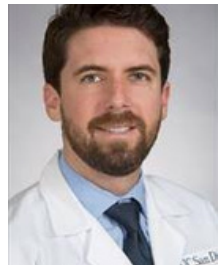
Praveen Akuthota, MD



Daniel Crouch, MD



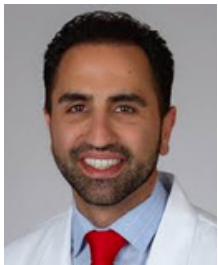
Wael ElMaraachli, MD



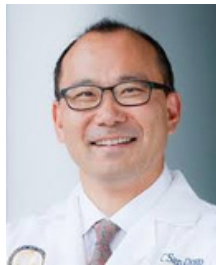
Jeremy Orr, MD



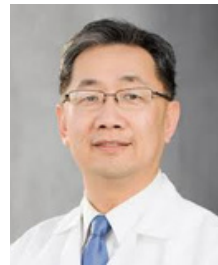
Jisha Joshua, MD



Aarya Kafi, MD



Nick Kim, MD



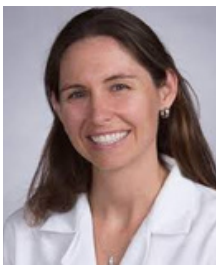
Gordon Yung, MD



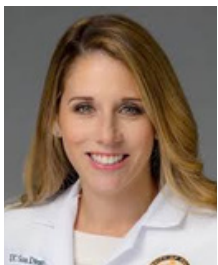
David Poch, MD

### Board of Governors Election Results

Please join us in welcoming newly elected and re-elected members to the Board of Governors.



Bethany Karl, DO  
Nephrology



Rebecca Shatsky, MD  
Hematology & Oncology



Caitlin Costello, MD  
Blood & Marrow  
Transplantation



Edward (Lalo) Cachay, MD  
Infectious Diseases &  
Global Public Health



## Clinical and Research Highlights

- Trey Ideker, PhD. and Hannah Carter, PhD. published a study in *Scientific Reports*: [In vitro evolution and whole genome analysis to study chemotherapy drug resistance in haploid human cells](#). In this study they used forward evolution to study how cancer cells acquire resistance to commonly used chemotherapies. Understanding resistance mechanisms is critical to anticipate and counter them.
- Robert Naviaux, MD, PhD, published a paper: [Metabolic network analysis of pre-ASD newborns and 5-year-old children with autism spectrum disorder](#) in *UCSan Diego Today*: [Metabolism of Autism Reveals Developmental Origins](#) and *Newsweek*: [Scientists Reveal How Autism Develops in Kids](#).
- Dr. Naviaux also did a Q&A with the N of One Foundation: [Jill Mesirov, PhD, Lukas Chavez, PhD, and Hannah Carter, PhD, were published in Nature Genetics: Circular extrachromosomal DNA promotes tumor heterogeneity in high-risk medulloblastoma](#).
- Atul Malhotra, MD published a first author article titled [Tirzepatide for the Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Obesity](#) in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.
- Amir Zarrinpar, MD, PhD, published his latest work in *Nature Metabolism* titled [Time of sample collection is critical replicability of microbiome analyses](#). This publication was also highlighted in *UC San Diego Today*: [New Findings May Fix the Replicability Crisis in Microbiome Research](#).
- Marc Reidl, MD, published **two** first author articles in the same *New England Journal of Medicine* issue! [Efficacy and Safety of Donidalorsen for Hereditary Angioedema](#) and [Oral Sebetralstat for On-Demand Treatment of Hereditary Angioedema Attacks](#)
- Dr. Parag Agnihotri, UC San Diego Health Chief Medical Officer of Population Health Services, was recently featured in a segment of UC San Diego Health's Focus on Health monthly video series. Watch his video as he discusses Senior Care at UC San Diego Health and how our providers excel in diagnosing and treating both routine and complex conditions affecting older adults. [Youtube Link](#)
- Dr. Ian Neel was recently featured on KPBS' evening news, discussing the importance of finding community and cool relief for San Diego older adults amidst the summer heat. With heat inequities, particularly for older adults, he also shared his valuable insight at UC San Diego's Heat Media Roundtable held earlier this month. Additionally, Dr. Neel was highlighted in a recent USA Today article on how to beat the heat. [Read more here](#). [Listen to Dr. Ian Neel on KPBS here](#).





## Clinical and Research Highlights

- Congratulations to Dr. Alison Moore and our Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (AD-RCMAR) for being awarded additional funding as part of a NIA-funded DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) Mentorship Supplement. The Center will use these additional funds to extend the AD-RCMAR's efforts and connect with the UCSD/SDSU Joint Doctoral Programs in Public Health and Clinical Psychology, create a DEIA, Aging and Brain Health Student Interest Group, support students with additional mentorship and resources, and provide faculty training to improve their mentorship skills.
  - [Learn more about the AD-RCMAR here](#)
- Dr. Benjamin Han was quoted in the latest Medscape article on best practices for managing opioid risks in older adults! Learn more about his valuable insights. [Read it here.](#)
- Dr. Benjamin Han's latest research on the rise of cannabis use among adults with diabetes was featured in the UC San Diego Health Sciences Blog. [Read it here.](#)
- Dr. Kevin Yang weighs in on the rising trend of psychedelic microdosing and the concerns over lack of regulation. [Dive into the full story on KPBS to understand the potential risks and benefits here.](#)
- Dr. Alison Moore was quoted in a National Geographic article, "Why your alcohol tolerance diminishes as you age." Higher blood alcohol levels and increased sensitivity to alcohol's effects make moderation key. [Read the article here.](#)
- A new publication on PubMed: "Feasibility and Effectiveness of Virtual Group Advance Care Planning Visits During the COVID-19 Pandemic." Kudos to Dr. Lindsey Yourman and our lead clinic RN nurse, Vanessa Ramos. [Read it here.](#)
- Congratulations to our CTEH team! In June, UCSD reached the landmark of 1000 balloon pulmonary angioplasty sessions (we started doing them in March 2015) — with 0% mortality (vs. published mortality rates up to 3% even from Japan/France). This will be formally celebrated on Sept 26th, along with the milestone of reaching 5000 PTE surgeries in the program.
- Congratulations to Janna Raphelson! Janna just received F-32 funding with which she will study heart/lung/sleep interactions through right heart imaging by MRI in patients with sleep disordered breathing and lung disease. Her overarching hypothesis is that poor cardiovascular outcomes in COPD/OSA overlap are driven by right heart remodeling, which is more pronounced when there is both daytime and intermittent nocturnal hypoxemia. You can refer your potential patients to her for screening for the CRESCENDO study.
- [Lukas Chavez](#) recently spoke with Nicole Spahich on [The Scientist Speaks](#) podcast. They discussed his team's multiomic exploration of extrachromosomal DNA and how it influences medulloblastoma progression and treatment. Learn more about understanding the effects of extrachromosomal DNA on cancer here: <https://lnkd.in/d8Y5uBpW>



## Announcements and Reminders

### Department of Medicine Quarterly Meeting

Save the Date for our next DOM Quarterly Meeting, scheduled for **Monday October 7, 2024 at 1pm**. In this meeting, Dr. Zea Borok will provide a State of the Department address.

Stay tuned for more details and we hope to see you there!

### O-K Review Mock Study Sections

The Center for AIDS Research offers a mock study section program for early-stage investigators submitting NIH K, F, R01, and R21 applications across the Department of Medicine. 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](mailto: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) it is required to have a CloudCME profile. If you haven't already, 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](#)