Fall has come, and with it, many new opportunities for the Department of Surgery, as well as challenges that will require us to be nimble, creative, and above all else, a team that works together and supports each other through unchartered pandemic waters. Planning has begun for Match 2022; virtual interview days are on the books, and the participation of our whole Department will be critical to recruit the very best and diverse talent from the UCSF School of Medicine and around the country. We also have a number of open faculty recruitments in adult and pediatric CT Surgery, plastic surgery, general surgery, and vascular surgery, with still more anticipated at ZSFG and in cancer science. Many will be enrolled to interview and help recruit the best colleagues to define our future. The Parnassus Outpatient Surgery Center is opening, with four operating rooms and two procedure rooms, and our Department is slated to have a significant presence there.

We will need to be creative in how we use this enhanced OR access and also how we backfill Moffitt Long operating rooms, in particular. Negotiation and planning are accelerating around a new and bigger platform for our Skills Lab and our Immunogenetics and Transplantation Lab, as well as our Surgical Innovations group. The perioperative space and its governance are rapidly changing, with a growing emphasis on transparency, accountability, and a culture of safety. And always, we need to maintain focus on our own wellness and the well-being of all the members of our Department. I am thankful for each and every one of you; your commitment, courage, and compassion are what make our community special. With much gratitude, Julie Ann
Dr. Ian Soriano will be joining UCSF's Department of Surgery in the Division of General Surgery as an Associate Professor at the UCSF Parnassus Campus on December 1st, 2021.

In December, Dr. Soriano joins us from the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. He is the Pennsylvania Hospital Section Chief of Gastrointestinal Surgery and Surgeon Champion for ACS-NSQIP. He will also be assuming the roles of Surgeon Champion for ACS-NSQIP and Lead Surgeon for the General Surgery Advanced Practice Provider Service. Dr. Soriano is particularly interested in expanding the use of minimally invasive techniques, including robotic surgery, in emergency general surgery at UCSF. His research focuses on robotic skills training for residents and standardized care pathways, and quality improvement through ERAS and NSQIP.

Dr. Marko Boskovski, now based at the San Francisco VA, joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery on September 1st, 2021.

Dr. Boskovski received his BA in physics at Washington University in St. Louis and his MD and MHS at the Yale University School of Medicine. Then, he relocated to Boston to complete his General Surgery Residency and Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. During his residency, he attended the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, received his MPH, and completed a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at Boston Children’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Here at UCSF, his clinical focus will be on minimally invasive cardiac surgery, and his research focus will be on studying the genetics of cardiovascular disease.

Dr. John Rose started as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery on September 1st, 2021.

Dr. Rose attended medical school at the University of California, Irvine. From there, he obtained an MPH from Harvard. Dr. Rose completed his General Surgery Residency at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. His plastic surgery training followed at Johns Hopkins, and he just finished his Microsurgical Fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Rose will continue his work in health services research with colleagues at the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies as well as the UCSF Center for Global Surgery and Health Equity. Clinically, Dr. Rose will be focusing on cancer reconstruction and lymphedema surgery.

Dr. Lucas W. Thornblade, who comes from the City of Hope National Medical Center in Southern California, has joined our UCSF-East Bay hospital system. Dr. Thornblade started as an Assistant Professor in Surgical Oncology on September 20th, 2021 and brings extensive surgical training and expertise.

Dr. Thornbalde attended Boston University School of Medicine, where he received his M.D., followed by the University of Washington, where he received his M.P.H. He has stated that his primary academic interests are addressing cancer care delivery issues and disparities in access to surgery for patients with colon and breast cancer. Dr. Thornblade also has a strong interest in general surgical oncology, focusing on advanced gastrointestinal cancers, including colorectal liver metastasis, pancreas cancer, and neuroendocrine tumors.
APPOINTMENTS

Joseph Cuschieri, MD, FACS, Trauma Medical Director at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (ZSFG) and Professor in the Department of Surgery, is now the interim Chief of Surgery at ZSFG, replacing Dr. Deborah Stein, who has returned to Maryland to continue her career.

Dr. Tippi Mackenzie, whose been part of UCSF since 2007, is the new Director of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research (IRM), effective Aug 1, 2021. Congratulations Dr. Mackenzie

Dr. Matthew Lin has been appointed to UCSF’s Committee on Educational Policy (CEP)

His primary focus will be on the educational mission of the University. Addressing issues regarding and changes to curricula, schools, institutes, departments, and legislative or administrative policies related to educational policy. Recent issues include educational space (including the Library), educational technology, online education, and the student genetic testing guidelines.
NEW NURSE PRACTITIONER'S

KELLI COCHRAN

Kelli Cochran graduated from Sonoma State University with her Family Nurse Practitioner degree. She comes to us with over 12 years of bedside nursing experience in surgical oncology and palliative care. Most recently, she was working on 5A at Mission Bay with surgical oncology and colorectal group. In addition, Kelli has extensive ostomy experience and will be a great asset to our team.

WENDY LOUIE

Wendy Louie joined the General Surgery team as a new nurse practitioner in 2021. She graduated from UC Irvine in 2012 with her BSN. She worked primarily in acute care medical-surgical settings, most recently on 13 Long at the Parnassus campus, before going back to school for her master’s at UCSF School of Nursing. She enjoys hiking, baking, and watching every available crime show that airs on CBS/NBC in her free time.

JANGMI SIVERSON

Jangmi Siverson is a new nurse practitioner that joined our team in late March. She graduated from the acute care nurse practitioner program at UCSF. Prior to joining the general surgery team, she worked as a nurse in the neurosurgery unit (6L). Jangmi loves visiting her family back in Korea, traveling internationally, and collecting patches from the countries she’s visited.
James Ross (UCSF General Surgery residency graduate), Norah Liang (UCSF SOM graduate), and Anthony Squillaro published a paper on a novel thoracic ultrasound measure after congenital diaphragmatic hernia repair in Frontiers in Pediatrics.

Nichole Starr was a panelist at CHESA Grand Rounds on August 26th. She was instrumental in the development of the Safer Surgery Clean Cut Program and was a Lifebox Fellow in Addis Ababa for 3 years.

Elizabeth Lancaster, along with Tasce Bongiovanni, Liza Wick, and Yeranui Ledesma (UCSF General Surgery residency graduate) published a systematic review and meta-analysis of the association between NSAIDs and operative bleeding in the peri-operative period in The Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

Alexander Gupta (along with UCSF General Surgery residency graduate Gavitt Woodard) published a paper in Future Medicine on improved outcomes and staging in non-small-cell lung cancer guided by a molecular assay.

Hannah Decker, Marisa Schwab, and Jane Wang published a paper in the Journal of Surgical Research on an IPV screening program implemented at ZSFG Trauma.

Dr. James Koh "NIH Award"

The NIH award, entitled “Regulation of parathyroid function by the amyloid precursor protein,” is in the amount of $444,125 to support a two-year R21 project. Our proposal received a powerful impact score of 13 and a percentile ranking of 1 - the highest possible rank.

On September 18th, 2021 Vascular residents and fellows held a Cadaver course with Professor Emeritus Dr. Joseph Rapp.

The Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Division held its first Microsurgery Skills Lab on Wednesday, August 25th. The skills lab was developed by Dr. Esther Kim, the Associate Program Director. Senior and Junior residents were paired up to each perform the following tasks, learning how to be both the operating surgeon and first assistant:

- 3mm vein anastomosis
- 3mm arterial anastomosis
- 2mm arterial anastomosis
- 3mm nerve coaptation

The various anastomoses were then assessed by Drs. Hansen and Kim and feedback was given. This Microsurgery Skills lab is the first of many to come as part of the plastic surgery didactic curriculum.

The Vascular Surgery Integrated Residency will be holding a virtual open house on Monday, September 27th at 5:00 PM. The event will provide insight to the Vascular Surgery residency program through direct interactions with our incredible faculty and trainees.
The trainees from the first five years were: Steve Wisel, MD; Evan Werlin, MD; Casey Ward, MD; Jhoanna Bautista, MD, PhD; Oren Shaked, MD; Yvonne Kelley, MD; Arya Zarinsefat, MD; Hillary Braun, MD; Marisa Pulcrano, MD; Sarah Mohamedaly, MD; and Alexander Gupta, MD. The 2021 inductees for this renewal grant are Audrey Brown, MD, and Daniel Hoffman, MD. The program leverages the world-class transplant surgery program at UCSF, a high-volume tertiary referral center for the region with excellent post-transplant outcomes. The FAVOR T32 program focuses on preparing surgical trainees for translationally-focused research careers, utilizing state-of-the-art tools to study allo- and heterologous immune mechanisms relevant to solid organ transplant injury and acceptance.

The ImmunoX Research Committee has awarded Dr. Gardner and colleagues with a CoProject award providing $1 Million dollars for their proposed project, “Mapping the cellular and metabolic landscape of human immune development.” With Dr. Gardner’s efforts, the Viable Tissue Acquisition Lab (VITAL) Core was established within the Department of Surgery. VITAL facilitates access for the UCSF research community to deceased organ and tissue donors who wish to donate for the advancement of science.

UCSF-Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland

Regional Pediatric Pandemic Network program. The purpose of this program is to coordinate among the Nation’s children’s hospitals and their communities in preparing for and responding to global health threats, including the coordination, preparation, response, and real-time dissemination of research-informed pediatric care for future pandemics. UCSF is one of 5 hubs and is designated to lead the focused work on pediatric infectious disease and Chemical/Biologic/Nuclear threats. In addition, we are heavily involved with other focus areas, including trauma and mass casualty work, pediatric mental health, telehealth, DEI, and deployable teams. The program will strive over 5 years to increase the everyday pediatric capacity, preparedness, and resilience of healthcare centers across the country in every community.

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The team from Drs. Sonja Schrepfer and Tobias Deuse were awarded the UH3 Supplement Grant worth $260,009 to continue their work on how spaceflight changes the immune system and stem cell niche.

To better understand the relevance of the astronauts’ experience to human health — both on the ground and beyond — NIH’s National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) partnered with the International Space Station U.S. National Laboratory (ISS National Lab) to send tissue chips, a research technology that reflects the human body, into space.

The ISS National Lab and NASA partnered to use the U.S. portion of the space station for research initiatives leveraging the unique microgravity environment in space. The team is scheduled to launch its tissue chips in May 2022 (SpaceX 25 mission).

Dr. Amrita Basu’s BWF’s Innovation in Regulatory Science Award provides up to $500,000 over five years to academic investigators developing new methodologies or innovative approaches in regulatory science that will ultimately inform the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and others that make regulatory decisions. This award will be used to build a toxicity endpoint in the I-SPY clinical trial.

The NCI R21 award will enable Dr. Basu and colleagues to develop an algorithm and framework to predict the severity of immune-related adverse events AEs using patient-reported outcomes, genetic and clinical data.

Dr. Rita Mukhtar, Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery and Associate Program Director for curriculum, was recently awarded a five-year NIH K08 award entitled ‘Identifying responders to chemotherapy in invasive lobular carcinoma of the breast: development of a multivariable clinical prediction tool.’ Dr. Mukhtar started the lobular breast cancer research program at UCSF, with current work focusing on surgical outcomes and clinical trials for invasive lobular carcinoma, the second most common type of breast cancer.

She comments, “This K award will allow me to learn how to design novel clinical trials from Dr. Laura Esserman, an internationally recognized expert in trial design, and apply those principles to my area of interest—lobular breast cancer. I’m grateful for her amazing mentorship and for the ability to pursue this work within the Department of Surgery.” Read more about the lobular breast cancer research program here: https://lobularbreastcancer.ucsf.edu/
Diane Ngo

Diane Ngo is a program manager in the Department of Surgery at UCSF. She is also a past member of the UCSF Committee on Disability Inclusion who is passionate about increasing awareness about the impacts and experiences of living with disabilities.

Diane has co-led and participated in two campus-wide campaigns at UCSF that are focused on physical and mental disabilities — Faces of Ability Project—In Their Own Words (2018) and Faces of Ability Part II—Mental Health Resilience (2020). The campaigns work to raise awareness and support of people living with disabilities in the UCSF community by allowing staff, faculty, and students to share their personal experiences.

HAILE DEBAS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Haile T. Debas Diversity Scholarship was established to support the Department of Surgery’s goal of building diversity, equity, and inclusion for the future while promoting a sense of belonging.

The General Surgery Residency Training Program has a long tradition of training academic general surgeons. Participating in a 4th-year sub-internship at UCSF provides the student with the opportunity to experience this environment of clinical excellence, inquiry, and investigation first-hand.

To help support this opportunity, the scholarship provides a stipend of $2,500.00, usable towards tuition, transportation, housing, and incidental expenses. Recipients will be selected based on academic career potential. A limited number of stipends will be awarded during each academic year.
On Wednesday, September 22, 2021, from 7:00 – 10:30am, we held a unique Grand Rounds that consisted of this year’s UCSF Naffziger Surgical Society Day and our Annual Loupes Ceremony.

For those unfamiliar with our Loupes Ceremony, here’s a brief synopsis on what takes place - Each year, the General Surgery, Vascular, and Plastic Surgery PGY-2’s receive their loupes at a special ceremony attended by the entire Department of Surgery. In addition, in the department tradition, which has been in place for 15 years, each resident is gifted loupes in honor of a prior UCSF graduate or current UCSF faculty member.
**SURGICAL SKILLS LAB**

**Time is flying by,** and what better opportunity to update you all on what is happening behind the scenes at UCSF than in our department newsletter. Last quarter our interns completed their basic surgical skills curriculum and ended with our evaluation session (see below).

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**Annual Intern Skills Evaluation**

On September 1st, 2021, we had our annual intern skills evaluation. A huge milestone for our interns, to say the least. It’s been an interesting three months since we’ve gotten back into the lab, and all of our interns have made tremendous progress over the last 90 days. We’re incredibly proud of everyone but want to take the opportunity to highlight the Top 3.

Our interns’ attention will turn to tissue work learning operative principles such as exposure/dissection/tension and counter tension in the upcoming quarter. They will also get to learn about bronchoscopy.

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We always are looking for volunteer instructors to help in the skills lab. Residents enjoy learning from the UCSF experts and this year we are expanding offerings in bronchoscopy so experts needed!

Please share this announcement your network or have them connect with Dr. Chern at hueylan.chern@ucsf.edu

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**Robotic Education Week**

**11/29-12/3**

We are running this event additionally to train robotic dissection skills through simulated cholecystectomy. See outline below!

1. Target skills: robotic tissue dissection
2. Target procedure: robotic cholecystectomy
3. Target learners: R2 and R3

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**Shoutouts!!**

Our lab would like to express special thanks of gratitude to resident instructors Mohammad Karimzada and Solomon Lee. These two gentlemen are both incredibly dedicated and enthusiastic instructors. The way they don’t hesitate to share tips with our interns shows their outstanding teaching ability and dedication.

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**Dr. Ana Sola; Otolaryngology Head Neck Surgery, Dr. Iris Liu; Vascular Surgery and Dr. Greta Davis; Plastic Surgery**

Our R2’s had an introduction session to endoscopy and a couple of intensive sessions on laparoscopic tissue dissection and instrument handling; they also started their vascular surgery curriculum.

In addition, R2’s will continue with the vascular surgery curriculum and practicing vascular anastomosis with loupes. Further their work on laparoscopic surgery, including suturing and bowel anastomosis, and start the GI curriculum where they will get to know everything about staplers.

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**Help Wanted!**

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**Dr. Mohammad Karimzada**  
**Dr. Solomon Lee**
RECOGNITION

2021 ‘CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OAKLAND MEDICAL STAFF SCIENTIFIC CAREER AWARD’

Given since 1999, this is the first time a surgeon has been so recognized. Factors considered are “productivity, program building, mentorship, and grants.” This is undoubtedly most well deserved. At our annual Medical Staff Awards Dinner, Dr. James M. Betts presented this award to Chris for the general medical staff.

DR. CHRISTOPHER NEWTON

KENNETH FORDE EXCELLENCE IN HUMANISTIC CLINICAL CARE AWARD & INTERNATIONAL HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Adnan Alseidi has accepted two different honors within the last two months. First, the Excellence in Humanistic Clinical Care Award at the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons meeting on August 31st in Las Vegas. He was then awarded an International Honorary Fellowship from the Brazilian College of Surgeons on September 4th, 2021.

DR. ADNAN ALSEIDI

2021 CLASS OF JOHN A. WATSON FACULTY SCHOLARS

Dr. Coleman is now a John A. Watson Faculty Scholars - she will assist with recruitment and retention of faculty who share commitments to diversity and service to underserved or vulnerable populations. Each year the Dean's Office will award up to eight grants to support activities related to our educational and scholarly missions. The grants will provide critical support that will allow faculty to develop their academic interests. The amount of the award is up to $75,000 per year.

DR. MELISSA COLEMAN

MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Dr. Kornblight has been selected as this year's recipient of the Mentor of the Year award! Dr. Kornblight was nominated by Dr. Zachary Matthay. This award is given to an exceptional mentor, nominated by a mentee who had participated in one of the UCSF RRTP programs (Designing Clinical Research, Resident Research or Travel Grant, or Stimulating Access to Research in Residency programs).

DR. LUCY Z. KORNBLITH
We are established since 1980

Dr. Sânziana A. Roman has been selected as a new member of The Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators. Her induction to the distinguished Medical Educator community will take place on September 29th!

Dr. Tasce Bongiovanni has already been named our 2021-2022 UCSF Pepper REC scholar, and now she's received the 2021-2022 UCSF Society of Hellman Fellows Award!

Dr. Keith Hansen has not only graduated from the Stanford Biodesign Innovation Fellowship, but he’s been awarded 3 provisional patents and $60,000 of non-dilutive funding from Stanford Biodesign sponsored by Johnson & Johnson. This funding will allow him to develop his kidney transplant organ cooling jacket to improve patient outcomes and increase the number of organs available to transplant.

Dr. Wen Shen has been selected as one of the newest members of The Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators. On September 29th, he will be inducted into the esteemed Medical Educator community.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UCSF has been ranked #4 in the Thoracic Surgery Foundation (TSF) Top 20 Institutional Honor Roll. The foundation highlights institutions that have received the most TSF grant funding since 1993. This is a joyous moment and testament to our leadership & talented cardiothoracic faculty and staff.

UCSF RANKS TOP 4

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Dr. Marissa Boeck X UC Davis

With great pleasure, we announce that Dr. Marissa Boeck has been selected as an inaugural University of California (UC) Visiting Early Career Faculty Mentorship & Sponsorship Program Awardee. This program is one part of a collaborative effort to promote the academic development of early-career surgical faculty and cross-pollinate operative and/or management paradigms across UC medical centers.

This is an exciting time for Dr. Boeck to work with her new mentor Dr. Brown of and others at UC Davis over the coming years as she works to strengthen our department's cross-UC collaborations.
Drs. Eva Gillis-Buck, Tippi Mackenize & James Gardner published a new paper titled “Extrathymic Aire-expressing cells support maternal-fetal tolerance.” A first of its kind showing that studying this immune cell is vital for a healthy pregnancy.

Transplant Services set a new record for the program this last fiscal year, with 414 kidney transplants performed. Since inception, the previous record was 390 transplants. The UCSF kidney transplant program is currently the third-largest in the US. Congratulations to our Transplant team members; your hard work made this tremendous milestone possible!
OUTPATIENT SURGERY CENTER AT PARNASSUS UPDATE

Pictures of OSC as of May 26, 2021

A special thank you to the team of dedicated faculty and staff who helped make this happen.

After many moons, we can finally celebrate our Outpatient Surgery Center opening at Parnassus, which opened on September 20th, 2021.

Pictures of OSC as of August 12, 2021
REMINDERS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

THREE GIANTS RETIRE

We are joyfully celebrating the retirement of 3 exceptionally talented faculty who have had illustrious careers at the University of California, San Francisco. These surgeons, educators, scientists & leaders leave behind unparalleled legacies for the School of Medicine & UCSF Surgery.

Dr. M. Margaret “Peggy” Knudson, a committed trauma surgeon-scholar & Vice-Chair of the Committee on Trauma, has retired after dedicating over 30 years of her life to UCSF, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, and Trauma Center and countless patients across the globe.

Dr. Robert C. Mackersie has been at UCSF since the early ’90s as Trauma Medical Director at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, one of the country’s prominent Level 1 trauma centers. Dr. Mackersie is on recall and will be back soon.

Dr. Linda M. Reilly, a distinguished vascular surgeon, and educator spent more than two decades as our general surgery residency program director leading with extreme expertise and preparing thousands of students. We are ecstatic she's rejoining us on recall this fall.

HPB-GISS: Representing UCSF at the AHPBA

The Section of HPB-GISS (HepatoPancreatoBiliary-GI/Skin/Sarcoma) of the Division of Surgical Oncology was celebrated at the AHPBA national meeting this summer. The expertise of our faculty was showcased at this premier HPB meeting of academic surgeons in the Americas, with faculty presenting Great Debates, Presidential Plenary talks, lectures, and moderating marquis symposia.