A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

DR. JULIE ANN SOSA

The last year has been most challenged and challenging, but the last several months have been filled with positive change and transitions. We are emerging from the pandemic at last, with the city, hospital, and school finally reopening. It is far too early to say we are past the virus, but science and hope are helping us all to pivot and move forward. Our new interns have started, and we celebrate their arrival as well as the graduation of our chief residents (and new Naffziger alumni!). With the imminent start of the new academic year, we will focus on strategically planning for the Ambulatory Surgery Center at Parnassus, faculty recruitments across many divisions and practice sites and strategic regional growth, but in this issue of our quarterly newsletter, we pay special attention to our educators and learners. Let’s pivot from the last year and focus squarely on our future and legacy. Many, many thanks to all of our faculty, staff, and learners for everything you do every day on behalf of our Department and patients!
Dr. Amar Nijagal’s proposal “Defining the role of tumor associated myeloid cells in pediatric hepatoblastoma” and work focused on hepatoblastoma was selected for the AASLD CTORTA Award (American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Foundation), which provides him with $200K of funding for 2 years.

Dr. Audrey Brown has been chosen to receive the 2021 ASTS-Natera Jon Fryer Resident Scientist Scholarship worth $40,000 for her proposal: A Transcriptomic Analysis of Differential Gene Expression Associated with Hepatocellular Carcinoma Development in Chronic Liver Disease.

Dr. Carter Lebares’ has been awarded the inaugural Platinum grant of $10,000 from the Association for Surgical Education Foundation (ASEF).

Dr. Nathan Brand has been selected to receive a $60,000 Thoracic Surgery Foundation (TSF) Resident Research Fellowship Award for his project entitled, “The Effect Of PARP Inhibition On Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma: An Opportunity For A Novel Therapeutic.”

Dr. Elizabeth Wick’s latest proposal, “Integrating Advanced Care Planning (ACP) into the Pre-Surgical Workflow,” has been chosen to receive award funding of up to $50,000 through the UCSF Center for Healthcare Value Caring Wisely™ initiative.

Dr. Jodi Gedallovich received a $40,000 grant from the Board of Directors of Mount Zion Health Fund, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund to support the MZ Campus-based project titled, “Decision-Making and Patient Management in Perforator Flap Surgery.”

Anya Greenberg served & was recognized by the Association for Surgical Education (ASE) for her contribution as a co-investigator for Dr. Carter Lebares Platinum Grant.

Dr. Laura Barnes has received a Scott Spear Innovation in Breast Reconstruction Research Fellowship award worth $72,400.
To thank all of our faculty, staff, residents, and fellows for everything you did over the challenging last year, we have designed and ordered new UCSF Department of Surgery pins. The pins are ready for distribution to all the members of our department. They come in various colors and are small enough to be worn on any article of clothing and bright enough to be seen. We want to celebrate you and your hard work and want you to know it is always appreciated.

**New UCSF Department of Surgery pins**

To thank all of our faculty, staff, residents, and fellows for everything you did over the challenging last year, we have designed and ordered new UCSF Department of Surgery pins. The pins are ready for distribution to all the members of our department. They come in various colors and are small enough to be worn on any article of clothing and bright enough to be seen. We want to celebrate you and your hard work and want you to know it is always appreciated.

**New Nurse Practitioner Hires**

Aaron Wright started on May 3rd, 2021. He’s been an RN since 2002 and NP since 2004. Most of his NP experience has been with the Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Service at UC Davis, where he served as their program manager for the last 5 years.

Stacy Alabastro started on May 17, 2021. She has been an RN since 2014, with most of her experience in the ED. She’s been working as an NP with Plastic Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering in NY since 2019. She also completed her NP fellowship there.

Sandra Dlaka Started on May 31, 2021. She has been an RN since 2011. You may recognize her from the time she rotated at UCSF as an NP fellow November 2019-2020. She has been working at Stanford in the Medical ICU since November 2020.
This year marks a new path for us at UCSF as we begin welcoming in the most diverse class in the history of UCSF Surgery. Our efforts to increase diversity amongst our residents don't stop here but will represent an ongoing mission. We are so delighted to have these fantastic candidates and can't wait to witness how their various perspectives, experiences, and outlooks impact our department and school.

UCSF DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
PGY-1 CATEGORICAL PLASTIC SURGERY RESIDENTS (2021-22)

Greta Davis
UCSD

Oblaise Mercury
Emory University

Casey Tompkins-Rhoades
University of Pittsburgh

UCSF DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
PGY-1 CATEGORICAL GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENTS (2021-22)

Allison Bashin
University of Michigan

Kara Fekter
UCLA

Axel Gomez Casaraz
UCSF

Sophia Hernandez
UCSF

UCSF DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
PGY-1 GENERAL SURGERY PRELIMINARY RESIDENTS (2021-22)

Michael Ali
University of Wisconsin

Ahmed Aljubah
Mayo Clinic

Rachel Borthwell
UCLA

Fara Dayani
UCSF

Ellesehaft Gareina
BayCare

Grace Ha
Hofstra/Northwell

Iran Shafgat
UCLA

Ramsey Sitta
Wayne State University

UCSF DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
PGY-1 CATEGORICAL VASCULAR SURGERY RESIDENT (2021-22)

Iris Liu
UCSF

UCSF DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
THORACIC SURGERY 2021 RESIDENCY MATCHES

Dr. Andrew Wisneski

Dr. Bianca Bromberger

- attended undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University, where he majored in biomedical engineering. Shortly after, he moved to San Francisco to attend medical school at UCSF and stayed to become a general surgery resident at UCSF. Despite his surgical residency, he was a surgical research fellow in the UCSF Cardiac Biomechanics Laboratory.

- attended undergraduate at Haverford College, one of the top liberal arts colleges in the nation, where she majored in art history and psychology. After completing medical school at the University of Pennsylvania, she moved to New York City to begin general surgery residency at Columbia. During her research years, she became interested in critical care and the use of ECMO to support patients with end-stage respiratory failure.
Dr. Adnan Alseidi was formally inducted on April 30th as President of the Association of Surgical Education. The ASE is the global leader for surgical education across the continuum of education for medical students, residents, fellows, faculty development, simulation. Dr. Alseidi has plans to introduce huge initiatives over the next couple of years as he focuses on multiple avenues that include DEI, educator development, and more.

Dr. Hubert Luu, Dr. Tasce Bongiovanni, and Dr. Shareef Syed were all selected as recipients of the Teaching Excellence Award for Cherished Housestaff (T.E.A.C.H.). The award recognizes residents or fellows who have been outstanding teachers, mentors, and role models to medical students during their clinical years at UCSF. This award's recipients were selected based on nominations submitted by the graduating UCSF School of Medicine Class of 2021.
Dr. Gibbs’ great great grand uncle – Mifflin Wistar Gibbs, was born a free Black man in Philadelphia, PA, and in 1853 at the age of 23, he came to San Francisco to "go do some great thing," as the story goes. In San Francisco, he started the first Black newspaper, The Mirror of the Times, and had a successful clothing and shoe business in Pioneer Square. While California was nominally not a slave state, the Black populace here was endangered. When the then Governor of British Columbia offered "opportunity" in developing Victoria, he fled the country. After the civil war, he returned to the US and had a significant number of super interesting firsts in Arkansas and internationally. Mifflin’s brother, Jonathan C. Gibbs had a son, Thomas Van Renssalaer Gibbs, one of the founders of Florida A&M University (Rashad’s Alma Mater), the largest public HBCU in the state of Florida.

- Verna C. Gibbs MD
Associate Chief, Quality Management (Surgery)
Attending Staff Surgeon

Our Haile T. Debas Diversity Scholarship was established to build diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in surgery. It provides a stipend of $2,500 towards expenses.

Marina Ortega PA-C has done exceptional work to accurately identify disparities among the underserved by bringing attention to those disparities and transportation challenges/needs that may have otherwise possibly gone unaddressed. By partnering with practice coordinators and the social work team, Marina has graciously assisted in creating workflows to proactively get information from patients that may not have otherwise been shared.
The annual Association For Surgical Education (ASE) meeting took place from April 29th – May 1st. 2021. 14 of those presentations were given by our team members, and we couldn't have been prouder. We are extremely committed to Surgical Education and below we've listed the names of all who've devoted their time to intense research and making sure we continue to move forward.

We'd genuinely like to Highlight all of the UCSF Faculty, Staff & Residents involved in helping bring the presentations to life.

- Sophia Hernandez, BS
- Ogonna N. Nnamani Silva, MD
- Alexander S. Kim, MD
- Andre R. Campbell, MD
- Kenzo Hirose, MD
- Edward H. Kim, MD
- Adnan Alseidi, MD, EdM
- Elizabeth C. Wick, MD
- Julie A Sosa, MD, MA
- Jessica Gosnell, MD
- Matthew Y.C. Lin, MD
- Sänziana A Roman, MD
- Joseph A Lin, MD, MPH
- Kimberly Kirkwood, MD
- Sandra Perez, MTS
- Leslie Bernal Charondo
- Christopher L. Johnson
- Tasce Bongiovanni, MD, MPP
- Sandra Perez
- Sandhya B. Kumar, MD
- Simon N. Chu, MD
- Nichole Starr, MD, MPH
- Shareef Syed, MD
- Patricia O'Sullivan, EdD
- Joseph Rapp, MD
- Hueylan Chern, MD
- Cecilia J Im, BS
- Patricia C. Conroy, MD
- Sarah Mohamedaly, MD, MPD
- Mohammad Karimzada, MD
- Steven A. Wisel, MD
- Clara M. Gomez-Sanchez, MD
- Lily S. Cheng, MD
- Anamaria Robles, MD
- James Lau, MD
- Laura Torbeck, PhD
- Laura E. Wong, MD, PhD
- Hope Schwartz
- Robyn Richmond, MD
- Linda M. Reilly, MD
- Rana Higgins, MD
- Emily Huang, MD, MAEd
- Chris M. Dodgion, MD, MSPH, MBA
- Mengistu Gebreyohannes, MD, MPH
- Natalie Bell, MS
- Elyse LeeVan, MD
- Kristin Long, MD, MPH
- Anteneh Gadisa, MD
- Girma Tefera, MD
- Mary E. Schroeder, MD
- Candice A. Sauder, MD
- Jeannette Lager, MD
- Lindsey Mossler, MD
- Shyam Patel, BS
- Deborah B. Martins, MD
- Jeanette M. Broering, PhD, MPH, RN
Dr. Willie Moses has joined the Anti-Oppression Curriculum (AOC) Leadership team within UCSF’s School of Medicine. He will serve as a Curriculum Component Liaison (CCL) working to collaborate with current curricular leaders to adjust & enhance the curriculum using an anti-oppressive lens.

Dr. Moses will spend his first year learning about the existing Bridges curriculum and developing best practices in partnership with curricular leaders across the four-year curriculum. In addition, he will also participate in the Teaching Scholars Program, which will focus on anti-racism and anti-oppression scholarship.

The AOC is a three-year curricular initiative that will formally launch in July to ensure the medical school integrates anti-oppressive content and processes throughout all elements and phases of our Bridges curriculum. The initiative will build on the work of Differences Matter and our Bridges Curriculum’s existing Social Justice pillar to bring an anti-oppression lens to all four years of our curriculum. Our mission is to better prepare our graduates to advance health and healthcare equity for all.

**NEW APPOINTMENT & DEPARTMENT EVENT**

**SKILLS LAB ASSESSMENT EVENT**

On June 9th, 2021 we held our Skills Lab Assessment event where Dr. Tom Sorrentino and Dr. Joel Ramirez tied as the most skilled R2s. It was an amazing day and a super important education milestone led by both Dr. Shareef Syed and Dr. Hueylan Chern.

**MORE EVENTS COMING SOON AS OUR SCHOOL & DEPARTMENT RETURN TO A SENSE OF NORMALCY**
On June 14th, 2021, our team performed the first HIPEC case at Mission Bay. This is a pivotal step for us, and we couldn’t be more proud to share this with you all.

On 6/10/21, Dr. Rodrigo De Souza, UCSF Heart, and Vascular made history by performing the first minimally invasive totally arterial CABG.
Congratulations to our outstanding Department of Surgery Chief at Zuckerberg SF General Hospital & Trauma Center, Dr. Deborah Stein, on her induction into the prestigious American Surgical Association.

Dr. Matthew Lin completed a year-long SERF (Surgical Education Research Fellowship), an extremely selective, highly competitive, didactic, and coach-paired program.

Dr. Camilla Gomes has been chosen as our Department’s Krevans Award recipient. This award recognizes first-year UCSF residents at Zuckerberg SF General Hospital & Trauma Center for excellence in patient care, clinical competence, professional conduct, concern for patients & more.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UCSF SURGERY CLERKSHIP AMONG HIGHEST RATED IN THE UNITED STATES

With extreme gratitude, we can say our Surgery Clerkship is rated among the highest in the United States.

This is in response to evaluation data and student feedback about their clerkship experience. The Surgery 110 Clerkship has worked tirelessly to improve the clerkship learning experience for Foundations 2 and all students interested in learning about surgery.

The clerkship launched a Bi-weekly Surgery Clerkship Task Force, which includes faculty and student representatives who actively review and revise the curriculum and experience. This has helped the clerkship expand learning opportunities throughout the School of Medicine through increased skill labs, mentorship, preceptorship opportunities, implementation of learning modules and provision of research experiences.

Thank you to two of our superstar’s Dr. Matthew Lin, Director of the Surgery Clerkship Program and Dr. Jessica Gosnell, Associate Director of the Surgery Clerkship Program for their ongoing commitment to quality improvement and more.
FY21 SPOT AWARDEES

- Nicole Calder
- Julie Carrasco
- Rohita D. Chand
- Ni (Anny) Chen
- Heidi Crist
- Kristen De La Rosa
- Monica Diaz
- Yvonne Dunkley
- Frenni Acuesta Enriquez
- Eleanor Fiege
- Wendy Fong
- Katherine Forster
- Kailyss A. Freeman
- Winnie Green
- Aiten Hassouna
- Akbar Ali Khan
- Diane Michiko Kikuchi
- Denice Z. Kong
- Roland Stig Kreps
- Anthony D. Lazalde
- Kamho Lee
- Stephanie Lee
- Lili Li
- Mun Yin Carol Li
- Julie Link
- Sabrina Lum
- Rita Ann Macchello
- Krislyn Malagum
- Victoria Mascardo
- Camille L. Perez
- Tienna Perez-Close
- Jillian E. Russell
- Ashish Sahni
- Maria Anicia Singian Santos
- Jacqueline Smay
- Renee Sweeney
- Annie Szeto
- Annie-Hue To
- Carrie A. Triplett
- Charmayne Walker
- William Yau
- Christine Kar Yan Yung

The SPOT AWARDS: Recognize significant employee achievements and contributions, as they occur, for a specific project or task over a relatively limited period of time. A SPOT Award lets employees know someone has noticed their noteworthy contribution, and we are so thrilled to highlight all of the awardees as they keep our department moving.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Since March, our social media following on Twitter has grown by 505 followers. We've earned 936.7K impressions over this 91 day period, which averages to about 10.3K impressions per day. These numbers do not account for the month of June as of yet. This impressive growth is undoubtedly owed to everyone who engages with us on social by tagging us in your tweets, retweeting the information we send out, engaging in conversation, and more.

Sincerely thank you!
FY21 STAR ACHIEVEMENT Awardees

- Susan Ku
- Rachelle Lau
- Stephanie Lee
- Sabrina Lum
- Jamison Maeda
- Sara Nelson
- Brenda Nunez-Garcia
- Nick O’Grady
- Jillian E. Russell
- Christine Kar Yan Yung
- Kristina Aquino
- Rachelle Bresnahan
- Alexi Callen
- Doris Chan
- Winnie Chan
- Gilberto Da Gente
- Pamela Derish
- Yvonne Dunkley
- Eleanor Fiege
- Eric Henderson
- Vanessa Hernandez

The Staff Appreciation and Recognition Plan (called the “STAR Program”) was designed to recognize individual employees for excellence in University service, significant achievements and contributions, and individual and team performance. Achievement Awards are administered through a SOM-wide process with selection committees which include staff, supervisory and faculty representation.

DR. SÂNZIANA ROMAN

Over the last several months, our singing surgeon Dr. Sânziana Roman has received a lovely amount of press. From her invention that helped the S.F. Opera return to being interviewed on NBC Bay Area’s evening news. In addition, a profile by KQED spoke about her dream to become a professional soprano before changing track to pursue a career in medicine. The highlight of them all, though; her opening performance at the San Francisco Giants Game.
Dr. Jessica Gosnell, Dr. Sanziana Roman & Dr. Jina Kim’s review on geographic influences in the global rise of thyroid cancer was deemed a Web of Science ‘Highly Cited Paper.’ It’s now in the top 1% of papers of similar age in clinical medicine!

Dr. Hueylan Chern & Dr. Mika Varma’sCiEx, SURG 130.02 Colorectal Surgery, was nominated for the CiEx (Clinical Immersion Experience) of the Year Award by the graduating class of 2021.

Drs. Lin, Braun, Schwab, Pierce, Sosa & Wick’s study of potential disparities in patient access to elective procedures during the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic in Annals of Surgery was highlighted by The Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies.
Dr. Garrett Roll’s Transplant Surgery CiEx, 130.05C, has been selected to receive one of two CiEx (Clinical Immersion Experience) of the Year Awards by the graduating class of 2021.

Dr. Elizabeth Wick will serve as the inaugural UCSF Health Perioperative Quality and Safety Officer (PQSO). As the PQSO at UCSF Health Dr. Wick will provide leadership, strategic direction, performance measurement, and oversight in the areas of quality and safety across perioperative services.

2021 CHIEF RESIDENTS

Every year around this time, our chief resident class finishes. We want to spotlight them and their future homes, whether that’s here in the Bay Area or as far away as New York City. Thank you all and we wish you the best!

Rym El Khoury, M.D.
Vascular Surgery
UCSF

Greg J. Haro, M.D.
CT Surgery
UCLA

Kelly Mahuron, M.D.
Surgical Oncology
City of Hope

Quoc-Hung Nguyen, M.D.
Pediatric Surgery
Cohen Children’s Long Island Medical Center

James T. Ross, M.D., M.S.
Trauma Critical Care
UC Davis

Oren Shaked, M.D.
Transplant surgery
Univ. of Pennsylvania

Yvonne Kelly, MD
Transplant surgery
Columbia University

Arya Zarinsefat, MD
Transplant Surgery
UCSF

Casey Ward, M.D.
Transplant surgery
University of Toronto
Dr. Joseph Lin, Dr. Logan Pierce, Dr. Sara Murray, Dr. Hossein Soleimani, Dr. Elizabeth Wick, Dr. Julie Ann Sosa, and Dr. Kenzo Hirose developed an effective method to estimate resident workload using EHR data. The study, "Can electronic health record data be used to estimate resident duty hours?" won the Association of Program Directors in Surgery Best Resident Research Presentation. The team hopes to utilize it to improve residents’ training by better monitoring workload.

AWARDS & DEVELOPMENT

DEPT. OF SURGERY 2021 RESEARCH AWARD WINNERS

Anya Greenberg is the winner of the UCSF Division of General Surgery Thomas K Hunt Research Award. Dr. Carter Lebares is mentoring Ms. Greenberg!

Dr. Christopher Johnson won one of the two Department of Surgery Student Year-long Research Fellowships Awards. Mr. Johnson is being mentored by Dr. Sânziana Roman & Dr. Elizabeth Wick.

Miguel Nunez won the second of two Department of Surgery Student Year-long Research Fellowships Awards. Mr. Nunez is being mentored by Dr. Holger Willenbring.

Dr. Joseph Lin, Dr. Logan Pierce, Dr. Sara Murray, Dr. Hossein Soleimani, Dr. Elizabeth Wick, Dr. Julie Ann Sosa, and Dr. Kenzo Hirose developed an effective method to estimate resident workload using EHR data. The study, "Can electronic health record data be used to estimate resident duty hours?" won the Association of Program Directors in Surgery Best Resident Research Presentation. The team hopes to utilize it to improve residents’ training by better monitoring workload.
RESEARCH AWARDS & PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

RESEARCH DAY AWARDS

Best Presentation in Plenary Session
Acute Rejection After Liver Transplantation: What Can We Learn from Transcriptomic Analysis?
Hillary J. Braun, MD, Research Year 2, UCSF General Surgery

Best Presentation in Concurrent Session 1
The Current Landscape of Surgical Pipeline Support Programs in the United States
Chelsie Anderson, MS4, Medical Student, UCSF School of Medicine

Best Presentation in Concurrent Session 3
Extrathymic Aire-Expressing Cells in Cancer Immune Evasion
Alexander Gupta, MD, Research Year 1, UCSF General Surgery

Best Presentation in Concurrent Session 2
Defining and Validating Flourishing in Surgery: Differences by Race and Gender in a Multicenter Study
Anya Greenberg, MBA, Medical Student, UCSF School of Medicine

5 podium presentations were made by current and former UCSF surgeons at the 2021 American Association of Endocrine Surgeons meeting.
GRAND ROUNDS SPOTLIGHT

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GRAND ROUNDS SPEAKERS