IN THE LOUPE

UCSF DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
With the ebb of Omicron, I hope that we can focus on our UCSF Surgery community. A Department is not made of brick and mortar. Rather, it is defined by its people, and our faculty, staff and learners are what make us exceptional. We will need to work together to support the return of many of our staff to campus starting March 1. Meanwhile, our Department is rapidly growing in San Francisco and regionally in the larger Bay Area. Since the fall, we have had seven new faculty members sign offer letters; with our unwavering commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, more than half of our new colleagues are women and/or underrepresented in medicine. All are spectacular!

Meanwhile, we have additional recruitments crossing all of our missions and campuses open in the divisions of vascular, general, pediatric, plastic and reconstructive, and pediatric CT surgery as well as in the East Bay. Our match lists will be certified, and soon we will be welcoming a wave of new interns. And through all of this, I ask that we remain first and foremost committed to each other and our collective and individual physical and emotional well-being. Let’s prioritize caring for each other and providing the support that is needed to elevate our ambitions while remaining safe. Hybrid and in person meetings will be resuming, and I very much look forward to seeing many (all?) of you in the flesh very soon. Thank you for everything that you do for UCSF Surgery and our patients!

Best, Julie Ann

In this issue, we wanted to highlight Pamela Derish, the Director of Scientific Publications Core and Writing Instructor for the UCSF Department of Surgery. Pamela has over 25 years of experience as a biomedical editor at UCSF, the past 17 of which have been in the Department of Surgery. Within her role she provides an editing service for Department faculty, fellows, and residents to help them publish their research and obtain grant funding.

Pamela teaches courses and workshops on writing scientific papers and grant proposals for the Department of Surgery and several other departments and programs at UCSF, including Global Health, Radiology, Integrative Medicine, Internal Medicine, Molecular Medicine, the Office of Career and Professional Development, the Office of Postdoctoral Scholars, and the School of Nursing. She has also taught workshops and courses for the American Society of Transplant Surgeons Professional Development Symposium, the Association for Academic Surgery’s Fundamentals of Scientific Research Course, the Department of Surgery at the University of Utah, the Department of Surgery at the University of Chicago, Genentech, and the Kenyan Medical Research Institute. Yearly, she teaches an annual writing course for the Institute of Medicine in Gothenburg, Sweden. She says of her experiences teaching overseas that “The opportunities I’ve had to teach internationally have been among the best experiences of my professional life and I’m excited to be heading back to Sweden this June. The fact that I’ve been in the DOS for 17 years means I’ve had the great pleasure of forming long-lasting author-editor relationships with many investigators, including some who were residents when I started and are tenured faculty now.”

Pamela, for all of the work you do and the services you provide to our department, if there was ever a doubt in your mind, we wanted to let you know that you are highly appreciated!

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT HAVING GOALS IS HAVING ONE

""
SKILLS LAB

behind the scenes

E D U C A T I O N

Update: After the final session of General Surgery residency interviews, a Diversity Second Look program was held for General Surgery residency applicants who identify as Underrepresented in Medicine (URM) on February 4th. The program was organized by UCSF GME; the department also held a Surgery-specific event where applicants could meet with residents and faculty to learn about DEI efforts and programs in the residency and department and ask questions. The Surgery program was led by General Surgery Research Resident Mignote Yilma.

Nathan Brand (GS PGY3) was awarded a Fogarty UCGHI GloCal fellowship for his research in Tanzania (which will begin in 2022-23).

Mignote Yilma (GS Research Resident) was accepted to the Health Affairs Health Equity Fellowship for Trainees.

Dr. Kenzo Hirose, General Surgery Residency Program Director, presented the State of the General Surgery Residency Program at Grand Rounds on February 16th.

Sophia Hernandez (GS PGY1) and medical students Maria Castro, Hope Schwartz, and Lucia Calthorpe presented at a Quick Shots session at the EAST Scientific Assembly in January 2022.

Joe Lin (GS PGY4) published a paper in the American Journal of Surgery on the surgical resident experience in serious illness communication.

Hannah Decker (GS PGY3) has been accepted into the 2022 -2024 cohort of the UCSF National Clinician Scholars Program.

Arya Zarifsefat (GS PGY5) published a paper in JAMA Surgery on long-term outcomes following kidney and liver transplants in recipients with HIV.

Medical Student Ryan Badiee has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious 2022 Long-Term Dean’s Prize in Yearlong Research for his scholarly work.

Nichole Sturr (GS PGY4) is the lead author of a paper in NEJM Catalyst on low-cost UVC cabinets for decontaminating N95 masks that she helped create and build.

Dr. Patricia Conroy won the AAS Outstanding Resident Research Basic Science Award (for her abstract, “Accurate Identification of Mucinous Pancreatic Cysts Using a Small-Volume Multi-Analyte Panel.”)

Alexis Colley (GS Research Resident) presented her work on advanced care planning in surgery at the Pacific Coast Surgical Association (PCSA) meeting.

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UCSF ASC PRESENTATIONS

This year’s 17th annual AAS/SUS Academic Surgical Congress was held in Orlando, FL, between February 1st - 3rd, 2022. Between faculty, residents, and fellows 27 individuals represented the department of surgery both physically and virtually, with eleven of our members there physically. Below we highlight everyone who represented our department in Florida.

Affiliation: UCSF Surgery Resident
Presentation/Abstract Title: Operation Theatre Utilization Efficiency At Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital, Ethiopia
Authors: SA Negash, TN Mammoo, B Ayele, E Anberber, N Starr, TG Weiser
Affiliation: UCSF Medical Students, Speaker: Maria Castro Surgery Residents, Faculty, NP
Presentation/Abstract Title: Limited English Proficiency, Race/Ethnicity, and Mortality After Trauma
Authors: MR Castro, H Schwartz, S Hernandez, R Menza, D Stein, R Mackersie, A Fernandez, T Bongiovanni

Affiliation: UCSF Surgery Resident
Presentation/Abstract Title: Shift in Pre-Hospital Mode of Transportation for Trauma Patients during COVID-19 Pandemic
Authors: C Mooney, K Banks, R Borthwell, K Victorino, S Coutts, T Browder, G Victorino
Affiliation: UCSF East Bay Resident
Presentation/Abstract Title: Patient Perspectives on Crime Victim Compensation and Post-Disciplinary Implications
Authors: SN Washington, A Huang, K Chalmers, P Campbell, H Oliveira Perez, A Asom, I Lopez-Hinojosa, F Tessaema, N Umesh, J Roggin, J Richardson, Z Bailey, M Chaubhedy, M Francis, D Miller
Affiliation: UCSF East Bay Residents and Faculty
Presentation/Abstract Title: There’s No One-Size-Fits-All Label: Patient and Resident Perspectives on Sources of Community Trauma
Authors: AR Huang, H Oliveira Perez, K Chalmers, S Washington, A Asom, P Campbell, I Lopez-Hinojosa, F Tessaema, N Umesh, J Roggin, J Richardson, E Tung, D Miller, Z Bailey, M Chaubhedy, T Zakrin

Affiliation: UCSF Surgery Residents and Faculty
Presentation/Abstract Title: Racial Disparities Among Trauma Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Authors: R Banks, C Mooney, R Borthwell, K Victorino, S Coutts, T Browder, GP Victorino
Affiliation: UCSF Surgery Resident
Presentation/Abstract Title: Enhancing Perceptions of Preparedness for Surgery Residents Entering Dedicated Research Time
Authors: PB Schwartz, LK Krecko, KV Park, JA Greenberg, AP O’Rourke, S Jung
Affiliation: UCSF Surgery Faculty Speaker: Marissa Boeck
Presentation/Abstract Title: The American College of Surgeons Global Health Competencies Course: Participant Feedback & Next Steps
Authors: G Kuzaura, M Cheung, E Ludi, N Bell, E Rodas, J Rickard, K Rivelto, G Tefera, D Ozgediz, M Boeck

Affiliation: UCSF Medical Students, Speaker: Chelsie Anderson
Presentation/Abstract Title: Initiating Clinical Research at Two Trauma Centers in Global Health Competencies Course: Participant Feedback & Next Steps
Authors: G Kuzaura, M Cheung, E Ludi, N Bell, E Rodas, J Rickard, K Rivelto, G Tefera, D Ozgediz, M Boeck

Affiliation: UCSF East Bay Residents and Faculty
Presentation/Abstract Title: State-Sanctioned Violence Against BLJ Protestors: Analysis of a Transnational Twitter Video Archive
Authors: A Asom, M Chaubhedy, K Chalmers, P Campbell, D Miller, TG Duquette, JB Maryland, Z Bailey, E Tsung, E Kaufman, R Mubang, R Rattan, T Zakrin
Affiliation: UCSF Medical Students, Speaker: Poehoe Miller
Presentation/Abstract Title: Pathological Outcomes from Prolonged Systemic Neoadjuvant Therapy for Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma
Authors: P Miller, A Glicker, L Cathesper, S Kim, C Covera, K Kirkwood, K Hiroue, A Maker, A Alesi, M Adam, R Hiroue, G Kim, A Ko, M Tempo, F Nakakura

Affiliation: UCSF Medical Students, Speaker: Ruth Laverde
Presentation/Abstract Title: Interpersonal Nursing Education on Surgical Care of Neoplasms with Esophageal Atresia
Authors: R Laverde, D Ozgediz, M Klarich, S Burke, M Crennan, MD Day, D Morgan, L Vu
Affiliation: UCSF Medical Students, Speaker: Jenny Celvalos
Presentation/Abstract Title: Hospital Interpreter Use and Post-operative Opioid Use in Limited English Proficient Patients
Authors: J Celvalos, C Lee, T Bongiovanni

Affiliation: UCSF Surgery Residents, Faculty
Presentation/Abstract Title: The Effect of Pectoral Nerve Blocks on Opioid Use and Postoperative Pain in Masculinizing Mastectomy
Authors: A Wallace, S Song, P Yeh, E Kim
Affiliation: UCSF Medical Students, Speaker: Siyoy Song
Presentation/Abstract Title: Law Enforcement and Patient Privacy in the Trauma Bay: A Nationwide Survey of Current Practices
Authors: KM Gallen, M Sheppard, M Smith, C Loughran, K Schuster, J Sonnenberg, J Song, EC Hall

To all who presented at the 2022 Academic Surgical Congress, whether in person or virtually, thank you for representing our school and department the way you did.
This month we reached out to several Faculty & Staff Members asking them to submit a quote or fact about one of their favorite Black figures, and here’s what we received... Enjoy!!

Barack Obama - "Do we care to match the reality of America to its ideals?" — Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States - From Dr. William Schecter

**TRUTH IS ON THE SIDE OF THE OPPRESSED.**
- MALCOLM X

From Dr. Andre Campbell

Jackie Robinson - "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." As a legendary Dodgers player he not only broke the color line in baseball, but also was very involved in the civil rights movement. - From Diane Ngo, MPA

Desmond Tutu - "My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." - From Dr. Adnan Alseidi

Maya Angelou - "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." From Dr. Melissa Coleman

Dr. Louis Tompkins Wright (1891-1952).
Graduated 4th in his class at Harvard Medical School in 1915 (despite almost being rejected for admission due to his background).

He served on the front lines as an Army medic in World War I (where he received a Purple Heart), and then worked as a surgeon at Harlem Hospital for >30 years. He was a surgical leader - one of the first Black members of the American College of Surgeons and also active in the American Medical Association.

On top of his surgical career he fought for racial equality in education and medicine, and served as Chair of the NAACP for 2 decades. He has unfortunately been somewhat forgotten compared to other figures in surgical history. - From Dr. Wen Shen

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - "The time is always right, to do what is right."

Whether in our personal or professional lives, or in setting examples for our children in this complex world that we live in; I have found this quote of Dr. King's to be particularly simple and profound. - From Dr. Ajay Maker

Nelson Mandela - “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

As a teacher, this quote from Nelson has a particular meaning to me. Teachers of all kinds have the opportunity to significantly impact the following generations... - From Dr. Stanley Rogers

Stacey Abrams - “My being a black woman is not a deficit. It is a strength. Because I could not be where I am had I not overcome so many other barriers. Which means you know I'm relentless, you know I'm persistent, and you know I'm smart.” - From Nicole Calder

Amanda Gorman - “There is always light. If only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.” - From Dr. Sandy Feng

Charles Drew - "The breaching of these walls and the laying of this road has not been, and is not easy”

Charles Drew was an African American surgeon, an inspiration, and should be more widely known for his amazing contributions to science and his dedication to the development of blood banks in the United States. - From Dr. Jessica Gosnell

Mary Fields bka “Stagecoach Mary” One of my all-time favorite historical figures is Mary Fields, who lived from 1832 to 1914. She had a remarkable life of grit and drive that we can all learn from. She was known as “Stagecoach Mary” and was the first African-American to work for the U.S. postal service. She was born into slavery and “freed” when slavery was outlawed in 1865.

At age 63, Ms. Fields was hired as a mail carrier because she was the fastest applicant to hitch a team of six horses. She never missed a day, and her reliability earned her the nickname “Stagecoach.” If the snow was too deep for her horses, Ms. Fields delivered the mail on snowshoes, carrying the sacks on her shoulders. - From Dr. Lucy Kornblith

Rosa Parks - “Each person must live their life as a model for others.”

This quote has inspired me and made me reflect on my role as a leader and mentor. We must be aware that everything we do and say matters, and that we must serve to inspire, celebrate, and promote others. - From Dr. Joseph Cuschieri
On April 15th, 2022, Stephanie Lin, MD, will join UCSF Surgery as a Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Division of Vascular Surgery. She will be based at MarinHealth. Dr. Lin completed her undergraduate studies and medical degree at Stanford University. She then attended the University of California, San Francisco, for her general surgery residency, followed by a vascular surgery fellowship at New York-Presbyterian Hospital of Cornell and Columbia in New York City. She has been selected by her peers as one of the "Best" or "Top" doctors in New York and San Diego. In addition, she was voted as a "Cancer Care Champion" by the American Cancer Society in San Diego in 2020 and received a humanism award from the American Society of Breast Surgeons and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in 2018.

On March 1st, 2022, Barbara Hamilton, MD, who recently completed a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery at UCSF, joined the Department of Surgery as a Clinical Instructor based at Parnassus. Dr. Hamilton completed her undergraduate work at McGill University, where she majored in music, followed by additional training at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music. She earned a Master of Music in Jazz Performance. After graduating, Dr. Hamilton stayed in Manhattan to work as a freelance musician and ultimately obtained her medical degree at Columbia University. She then came to UCSF to complete her training in General Surgery. During her residency, Dr. Hamilton received a Master's degree in Clinical Research and was admitted into our integrated 4/3 Cardiothoracic Residency Program. Dr. Hamilton achieved outstanding resident education and research accomplishments during her training. She developed a novel bronchoscopic learning curriculum for our general surgery residents. In addition, she led our cardiac surgery simulation didactic curriculum while helping to disseminate and popularize training with a novel cardiac skills simulator developed by one of our pediatric cardiac surgery attendings.

On February 1st, 2022, breast care surgeon Ayemoethu "Moe" Ma, MD, joined UCSF Surgery as an Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery in our East Bay Surgery Program at Highland Hospital. Dr. Ma is a complete breast care specialist who can provide and advise total and comprehensive breast care to her patients with up-to-date treatment options. She completed her surgical residency at New York Medical College, followed by a breast surgical oncology fellowship at UT Southwestern in Dallas and integrative medicine from the University of Arizona. Before joining UCSF, she practiced as the Director of Breast Surgery at Mount Sinai St. Luke’s Hospital in New York and was co-director of Scripps MD Anderson Cancer Center Breast Program in San Diego. She has been selected by her peers as one of the "Best" or "Top" doctors in New York and San Diego. In addition, she was voted as a "Cancer Care Champion" by the American Cancer Society in San Diego in 2020 and received a humanism award from the American Society of Breast Surgeons and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in 2018.

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Dr. Jason Smith, a native of San Francisco who grew up in the Inner Sunset, will join our department as a Professor of Clinical Surgery and as the Surgical Director of Heart Failure and Mechanical Circulatory Support on May 15th, 2022. He is a cardiac surgeon with experience in ischemic and valvular heart disease, complex aortic surgery, endocarditis, and complex re-operative surgery. His primary career focus is on the surgical management of heart failure, cardiac transplant, and mechanical circulatory support.

In heart transplantation, Dr. Smith has increased access to heart transplants through improving donor utilization. Some of these strategies have included the use of expanded criteria donors, ex-vivo heart perfusion, Hepatitis C donor initiatives, and using donors after cardiac determination of death. Before coming to UCSF, he served as the Surgical Director of Transplant and MCS at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Smith currently serves on the STS Endstage Heart and Lung Disease Workforce and on the Membership and Professional Standards Committee for the United Network for Organ Sharing.
Dr. Amy Fiedler, who has roots in both the city of Chicago and the state of Michigan, will join the Department of Surgery on June 15th, 2022, from The University of Wisconsin as a Cardiac Surgeon and Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery and will be based at Parnassus.

Dr. Fielder is a graduate of Georgetown University, where she received both her Bachelor of Science in Biology and her Master's degree in Microbiology and Immunology. For medical school, Dr. Fiedler attended George Washington University and completed both her general surgery and cardiothoracic surgical training at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital. During her time in training, she took a two-year research sabbatical at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, where she studied surgical, non-transplant treatment options for the management of heart failure in a large animal model. Dr. Fiedler has a passion for health, human rights, and global surgery. She serves as the surgical director of the non-profit organization Team Heart, which works to create sustainable infrastructure in Rwanda for independent cardiothoracic surgery. Furthermore, her leadership potential has been recognized by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush as she was selected as one of 60 scholars across the nation to join the Presidential Leadership Scholars (PLS) Class of 2020.

Dr. Gloria Sue will be joining our faculty as a Hand Surgeon and Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Department of Surgery in our Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery this fall, specifically on November 1st, 2022. Dr. Sue comes to UCSF from the University of California, Los Angeles, and will be based at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital – Oakland and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center.

Dr. Sue completed her undergraduate studies in biophysics at Johns Hopkins University and earned her medical degree at Yale University. She then trained in plastic surgery at Stanford University, followed by a combined hand and microsurgery fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Sue has expertise in the upper extremity, including traumatic injuries, chronic conditions such as nerve compressions and arthritis, and congenital hand differences. She also has clinical expertise in general plastic and reconstructive surgery.

On June 1st, 2022, Michael Kyle Cromer, PhD, who goes by Kyle, will join our faculty as an Assistant Professor in Residence in the Division of Pediatric Surgery on June 1st, 2022. He will be based at our Parnassus Campus, working collaboratively with investigators in the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research. In his own research program, Dr. Cromer will engineer novel properties into the hematopoietic system—such as lineage bias, kill switches, and inducible expansion of therapeutic cell populations—in order to amplify the efficacy of current genome editing treatments and to overcome low editing efficiencies in vivo.

After graduating summa cum laude from Virginia Tech, Dr. Cromer earned his PhD in Genetics under the guidance of Dr. Rick Lifton at Yale, where he used next-gen sequencing to discover mutations driving endocrine tumorigenesis. He then trained as a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. George Church at Harvard Medical School, where he gained expertise using CRISPR-mediated genome editing and viral-based delivery systems. Finally, Dr. Cromer furthered his postdoctoral training in clinical genome editing at Stanford in Dr. Matt Porteus’ lab in the Department of Pediatrics.
How has this award specifically and uniquely advanced your research expertise?

As clinicians, we have unique insight into how a deeper understanding of certain disease processes and mechanisms at a molecular level can help our patients in the clinic. At the same time, however, we may lack both the resources as well as expertise to study these biological processes in depth. Partnering with the ImmunoX group has not only unlocked the world-class expertise and resources of some of the best and brightest immunologists in the world, but it has also allowed our group to generate unique and complex data that further our understanding of why some early-stage lung cancers recur whereas others do not.

Has this award accomplished the goal of helping you establish collaborations and integrate within the ImmunoX and CoLab research community?

I feel that the collaborations that this award has enabled will reward me for the rest of my research career. It is exciting to know that a tumor I resect will undergo organoid development and/or molecular analysis in the Roose / Krummel labs. The ImmunoX group knows it can rely on our group for a steady source of human lung tissue specimens. At the same time, our group knows it can depend on the ImmunoX labs to help generate novel and useful data that furthers our understanding of why some early-stage lung cancers recur whereas others do not.

Dr. Adam Oskowitz was awarded a CAR-Treg Immunotherapy for Atherosclerosis award by UCSF’s Living Therapeutics Initiative, worth $374,911 and will pay out through April 2023.

Dr. Tippi MacKenize was awarded $2,836,030 for her "Developing Gene Therapy Strategies to Treat Alpha Thalassemia" project by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. This funding will be paid out from now through December 31st, 2025.

Dr. Christopher Newton was selected for a Regional Pediatric Pandemic Network award worth $2,051,349, sponsored by the University Hospitals of Cleveland, Department of Health and Human Services.
Dr. Sanziana Roman & Dr. James Koh were awarded a $50,000 RAP Award by UCSF's Mount Zion Health Fund (MZHF) for their proposal, titled “Near-infrared autofluorescence imaging to differentiate benign and malignant adrenocortical tumors.”

Dr. Emily Finlayson & Dr. Jeff Belkora have been awarded an Emerson Collective Grant that the National Philanthropic Trust is funding. NPTrust is funding the multicenter randomized trial to evaluate the impact of PrehabPal on functional recovery after surgery.

Dr. Tippi MacKenzie has reached yet another milestone in her career. It has been announced that Dr. MacKenzie has been appointed to a Benioff UCSF Professorship in Children’s at Benioff Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Emily Finlayson had quite the month. Her project — “PrehabPal: AI-Powered Surgery Preparation for Vulnerable Older Adults,” has been selected to receive a UCSF Catalyst Award of $35,000 to support the design and development of gamification elements for PrehabPal.

Dr. Scott Hansen was elected to the Society of University Surgeons during the 2022 ASC annual meeting in Orlando #ASC2022, where he gave a presentation on “The effect of biologic therapy on surgical outcomes in hidradenitis suppurativa patients.”

Together Dr. Keith Hansen, Dr. James Gardner and Dr. Garrett Roll were selected as recipients of the 2022 Kunal Patel Catalyst Award. Their project, “DIATIRO Kidney Cooling Jacket: A medical device to address the organ shortage and improve transplant longevity” will receive $100,000 for prototype refinement, usability testing, bench performance testing, biocompatibility and sterilization validation.

Associated Professor Dr. Ankit Sarin was awarded $50,000 by the Research Foundation of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons for his proposal titled “Evaluation of SINGLE PORT (SP) Robotic Technology in Colorectal Surgery.”

Awarded projects receive mentorship and advice from the Catalyst Advisor network as well as seed funding.
January was #ThyroidAwarenessMonth. It is intended to bring attention to the butterfly organ in our neck, which is important in driving our metabolism. Each day we introduced UCSF endocrine surgeons experts and asked them to comment on the #Thyroid.

Dr. Quan-Yang Duh has been a faculty member at UCSF since 1988 and is Professor and Chief of Endocrine Surgery. He is also an attending Surgeon at both UCSF Medical Center and San Francisco VA Medical Center. He Says:

"Treatment for thyroid conditions should be tailored to the individual patients. Surgery can be an option for conditions such as hyperthyroidism (Graves’), large goiter causing local symptoms, and nodules at high risk for cancer."

Dr. Wen Shen is an Endocrine Surgeon and Director of Learning and Teaching in the Procedural Specialties and has more than two decades of experience treating patients with thyroid disorders requiring surgery. Prior to becoming a surgeon, Dr. Shen was an opera singer. She says:

“My love of singing and surgery have combined into a passion for using my skills to save the voices of patients undergoing thyroid operations.”

Dr. Sanziana Roman is an Endocrine Surgeon and Director of UCSF’s Fellowship Program in Endocrine Surgery. She is also Associate Director of our UCSF Endocrine Surgery Fellowship and Associate director of our Medical Student Clerkship in Surgery. She keeps it short and says:

"REMEMBER: CHECK YOUR NECK!"

Dr. Julie Ann Sosa is an Endocrine Surgeon, the Chair of the Department of Surgery, and a Professor in the Department of Medicine. She has two decades of experience treating patients with thyroid disorders requiring surgery. She is a surgeon scientist whose clinical practice and research have focused on thyroid cancer. She says:

“I study thyroid cancer in order to improve the outcomes of our patients during all phases of their management. We have made important discoveries and will continue to relentlessly push the science forward.”

Dr. Adnan Alseidi is a Gastrointestinal and Endocrine Surgeon and Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Surgery at UCSF. He has a decade of experience in the surgical treatment of thyroid disorders. Here at UCSF, he combines that experience with his passion for offering care at safety net clinics and hospitals. He says:

“ It’s truly a privilege to work with the multi-disciplinary team at ZSFGH to offer the best and cutting edge treatments, surgical and medical, for patients with thyroid disorders.”
Dr. Barbara Hamilton would like to invite you to participate in an exciting new study investigating stress and resilience in the health care provider population. The study will last for roughly four months, is in collaboration with Stanford and Las Palmas Medical Center and involves two wearable devices (a Whoop strap for the duration of the study and a continuous glucose monitor for 4 weeks during the study), as well as performance coaching via the Arena Strive platform. If this sounds interesting, please read on…

As health care providers, we routinely place the needs of our patients ahead of our own. We sacrifice sleep, nutrition, and exercise with the intent of being the best doctors that we can be. However, is it possible that these sacrifices are impacting our ability to perform well at work, mitigating our ability to cope with stress and affecting our own resilience?

Using biometric sensors to collect real-time 24-hour physiologic data, we aim to determine the relationship between heart rate variability, sleep architecture, blood glucose levels, and perceived stress and resilience, as well as assess the impact of circadian alignment and resilience education on these variables. Study participants will potentially wear two biometric sensors: the Whoop strap (which collects continuous heart rate data to measure strain, recovery, and sleep), as well as a continuous glucose monitor. Interventions will include wearing the biometric sensors as well as education via a performance coach platform called Arena Strive - an education platform in use by other high-pressure fields, such as the military and high-performance athletes, to increase performance and resilience through targeted education. We work in a high-stress environment that requires quick decision-making and high levels of both mental and physical acuity. It’s time to recognize that, like other performance careers, our own mental and physical states are key to our ability to take optimal care of our patients.

If you are interested in learning more about the study, please contact Dr. Hamilton at Barbara.hamilton@ucsf.edu or click on the following link to proceed to the REDCap consent: https://redcap.ucsf.edu/surveys/?s=PEPFA39EH4P9FMc8

HAILE DEBAS SCHOLARSHIP !!!

APPLICATIONS OPEN!

The Haile T. Debas Diversity Scholarship provides a $2,500 stipend towards helping visiting students with living expenses during their at UCSF.

This scholarship is open to applicants for away rotations at UCSF’s Surgery 140 elective courses.

Applicants must be in good academic standing and actively progressing toward a Doctor of Medicine degree at an affiliated LCME-accredited institution.

HOW TO APPLY:
1. Complete a VSAS application for a surgery elective at UCSF.
2. Include a personal statement and letter of recommendation written by a faculty mentor.
3. Upload your personal statement and letter of recommendation to VSAS.
UPCOMING DATES + TEACHING OPPORTUNITY

March 2022

3rd

March 3, 2022
Managing Mentors: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
Chat with Dr. Emily Finlayson
An open discussion with mentors and mentees about how to optimize the mentoring experience

April 7, 2022
Successful Negotiation
Chat with Dr. Julie Ann Sosa
A discussion about successfully navigating negotiations

April 2022

3rd

Core Concepts in Diversity Equity and Inclusion

April 6th, 2022 | 1 - 3PM
Hosted By Dr. Michelle Guy and Dr. Starr Knight
The sessions will review foundational concepts of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, including:

- Recognizing Implicit Bias and Microaggressions
- Understanding the difference between an ally and an upstander
- Practicing responding to microaggressions as an upstander and an ally

As we start to return to some normalcy, we would like to recruit faculty who might be interested in hosting a 1st or 2nd-year student in your OR for half a day. These are students from the School of Medicine Surgery Interest Group (SIG).

This year, 54 students have signed up, and we need faculty from all fields as there is a wide variety of interest from students. Please visit http://tiny.ucsf.edu/ORSIG22 to sign-up.
QUALITY AND SAFETY UPDATES

At UCSF Health (Moffit-Long, Mission Bay Adult and Pediatrics, Mount Zion, Clinics), we are readying ourselves for our upcoming Joint Commission Hospital Survey. This site visit occurs every three years and is conducted by a team of trained observers who evaluate our processes around quality, safety, and patient care. We expect the visit in the next month!

The operating rooms are an important area of the hospital that they evaluate, and we know some of the things that they will have their eyes on. These include informed consent documentation, interval history and physical for elective surgery patients, time-out processes, and fire safety discussion in the OR.

Informed Consent
Discussion of the surgical procedure and documentation of the risks, benefits, and alternatives needs to be done by the surgeon credentialed to do the procedure. It is easiest to remember that it is almost always the attending surgeon for operating room cases.

In addition to documentation of the above, a consent form acknowledging that the patient has been explained the above must be completed for the procedure, and the patient must sign. If their primary language is not English, an interpreter must be used for all of the above and documented on the consent form (see below). Importantly, the interpreter language, modality, and identifier MUST ALL BE COMPLETED!

Interval H and P
For patients that do not have a full history and physical completed in the 24 hours prior to surgery, an interval history and physical must be completed prior to surgery. This note needs to outline the planned procedure and indication as well as an element of the physical exam relevant to the planned procedure AND a heart and lung exam. The easiest way to include the latter is to link your interval history and physical to the anesthesia pre-procedure note.

Time Out Prior to Surgery
We appreciate everyone's commitment to teamwork, communication, and patient safety in the OR. Remember that all team members should participate in the time out, and everyone should introduce themselves. It is best practice to share concerns and clinical information that may help all team members perform best on the patient's behalf.

Fire Safety
There was a fire during a surgical case at Moffit-Long this fall. It was brief, occurred in the body cavity, and was associated with cautery (ignition source), FiO2 concentration (oxidizer), and a small plastic cuff (fuel source). No injuries were sustained, and the team responded appropriately. Given that operating room fires are identified by the Joint Commission as “never events,” a root cause analysis was conducted with the team involved. We identified improved communication around fire risk between anesthesia and surgery as a gap. As a result, we are rolling out a fire safety checklist for all cases. The circulating nurse will lead this, but the surgical team should be actively engaged for cases with elevated risk. In general, cases above the xiphoid (chest, head, and neck) have a HIGH FIRE RISK, and in addition to the discussion of risk, a mitigation plan must be mentioned.

We appreciate your commitment to exceptional patient care. Please reach out if you have any questions.

- Dr. Elizabeth Wick

WELLBEING CORNER

Something to keep in mind!

For surgeons, work-life integration is a significant challenge. We need to support each other's need to unplug. We all struggle with wrangling the email avalanche that comes at us 24/7. You may have noticed that Dr. Sosa made changes to her email signature to acknowledge and respect people's time by stating that people can respond on their own timeline.

If the email you are sending on nights and weekends is not urgent, consider using the Send Later option in Outlook so that it lands in the recipient's inbox during working hours.

- Dr. Emily Finlayson