Upcoming Events
Resident Appreciation Day March 1
Match Day March 17
Spring Retreat March 21-23
AAEM Scientific Assembly March 16-20
Western Regional SAEM April 7-8
CORD meeting April 27-30
SAEM17 Annual Mtg May 16-19

Birthdays

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WELCOME ADDITIONS TO OUR RESIDENCY TEAM

Steven Lai from fellow to APD - joining the faculty at OVMC

Steven Lai just can’t get enough of the UCLA Emergency Medicine residency. After completing the residency in June 2016 he stayed on as a Medical Education and Simulation Fellow and began attending at both RRMC and OVMC. Steven’s goals for his fellowship were to improve his bedside teaching skills, work on increasing the educational yield in both conference and on shift, and to learn to be a better mentor to the residents. Building on the skills he developed as a Chief Resident, Steven made big contributions to the intern orientation even before his fellowship officially started, and his contributions to resident learning continued to grow once his fellowship was underway in July. With Steven’s energy and commitment not only has the Simulation program flourished, but his positive influence has been evident in all aspects of conference. And to no one’s surprise Steven has been an effective and well-liked attending. His fellowship Director Scott Votey said, “Steven has been the ideal fellow. He’s an energetic self-starter who is motivated to make things better. He really enjoys medical education and patient care, and his positive can-do attitude is contagious.” It came as no surprise, except maybe to Steven, when he was offered a faculty position in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center with an appointment as Assistant Program Director beginning February 2017.

Steven grew up in the Bay Area and went to college at UC Berkeley -- Go Bears! There, he was lucky enough to meet his wife, Tiffany, and both of them went to UC San Diego for medical school before coming to UCLA. Tiffany completed her anesthesiology residency in June and is now happily practicing at Kaiser Woodland Hills. Steven maintains his positive attitude by spending time with Tiffany, exploring craft beers, creative food, and working out with residents and friends. We are excited to have Steven - known affectionately by the residents as “Slai” - as a member of the growing residency leadership team and look forward to working with him for many years to come.

Coming this June as APD at UCLA - Natasha Wheaton

I have more good news on the recruiting front—we hired a new Associate Program Director to help us with our rapidly growing and changing program.

Natasha Wheaton, MD has been working as an Assistant PD at the Iowa program for the past 3 years (one of our grads from 2002 is the Chair at Iowa, Hans House). She graduated from Washington University in 2005 with a BA in Biology, then was AOA at Northwestern, graduating in 2009. She completed her EM residency at Northwestern in 2013 and joined the faculty at the University of Iowa as an APD. She is particularly interested in resident wellness, curricular development, and she serves as the medical director for the sexual assault response team. She has published several papers and book chapters, and is part of an educational research network that hopes to collaborate on multiple projects. We welcome Natasha, her husband Will, and two young sons, Jack and Owen, and she plans to join us June 1—just in time to welcome in the new class of 15 interns that we are recruiting right now.

We had many excellent applicants for the job, but Natasha’s experience and background made her a great candidate, and I think she’ll really fit in. I hope you’ll give her a warm welcome when she arrives and quickly make her part of the UCLA family!— Greg Hendey, MD (1993)
Hoffman Endowed Lectureship in Emergency Medicine Fund

Jerome Hoffman (1979), professor Emeritus, has been a devoted friend, clinician, teacher, mentor and asset to the field of Emergency Medicine and our program since its inception. He not only has trained generations of EM physicians at UCLA, but across the country with his lectures and monthly EM abstract posts. He has mentored countless students, residents, fellows and faculty in research endeavors. While at UCLA, Jerry established a fund to help bring prominent lecturers to speak at our program. In 2016, our new department sought to honor the contributions Jerry has made by placing this money in an endowment. To that end, we needed to raise additional funds to meet university endowment requirements. We reached out to Alumni, and the practice plan agreed to match all donations up to $40,000. Alumni answered the call, and we are pleased to announce we have met our goal. The funds will continue to be used to bring prominent lecturers (including alumni) to speak to the residents. The department thanks all who contributed and thanks Jerry for his enduring gift. For those who want to contribute to the endowment to further support the educational mission at UCLA, we thank you! (emergencymedicine.ucla.edu/giving)

Sara Crager (2015) returns to UCLA - YEAH!

Known for her energetic can-do-anything spirit and fiery red hair, Sara Crager (2015) is set to bring all that energy back to UCLA for a dual-appointment in the Ronald Reagan UCLA Emergency Department and the Department of Anesthesia’s Division of Critical Care. Sara will attend in the SICU/CT-ICU and in the ED. After graduation, Sara headed north to Stanford to complete a fellowship in Anesthesia-Critical Care Medicine. While at Stanford, she created the Multidisciplinary Emergency Critical Care Program (MECCP) and piloted an ED-ICU program. The pilot generated interest in establishing a permanent ED-ICU at Stanford and the MECCP has spawned several research projects. In addition to the ED-ICU, Sara’s research interests include reducing global barriers to providing essential medications, EM resident education, and assessment of fluid responsiveness in sepsis, for which she won the Lion’s Den Competition at Western Regional SAEM in 2016. So far, she has produced more than 15 peer-reviewed publications and has been a favorite lecturer at resident education conference at both Stanford and UCLA. She is the ultimate triple threat - the exceptional clinician, a promising researcher, and an outstanding bedside teacher and lecturer. We cannot wait to welcome her back to our program.

What are you most looking forward to about moving back to Los Angeles?
My favorite sushi restaurant - The Backhouse!

What do you hope to do at UCLA?
1. Learn how to be a good attending.
2. Continuing to explore how to bridge the gap between critical care and EM and the clinical and research implications for emergency critical care as its own entity.

What do most people NOT know about you yet?
My plan A was to be a musician and I was a music major at McGill for 2 years before deciding on medicine.

What was your favorite part-time job?
When I was in college, my Woodwind quartet and I got dressed up as elves and played Christmas carols at the mall in Montreal.
Did you consider any fields besides Emergency Medicine?
I actually got really far along in applying in Ob/Gyn. I did a clinical research rotation as a fourth year med student. I was rounding with them at 4 am and it was a lot of monotony. It didn’t fit my subclinical ADD. So after a month, I was like, I gotta pick a different life path.

You were the head/President/Czar of CORD. Why would you ever want to have that kind of responsibility?
After I graduated the residency I became the APD of this program (and incidentally I literally got my first email address at that time too). CORD (Council of Residency Directors for EM) had just started using this brand new at the time thing called a listserv for the PDs and people were talking a lot about the non-standard terminology used to describe students in letters of recommendation and how frustrating they were. I got involved in the discussion that led to the creation of the SLOE that everyone knows now.

Through the SLOR committee work I met a lot of CORD people and found out that EM PDs were pretty cool across the country. Also at that time ERAS was just getting started and nobody understood how that would work. I was appointed the point person with the developers at the AAMC and taught all the PDs across the country about ERAS. I know, pretty glamorous stuff, but suddenly I felt very popular. After that they asked me to run for the Board of Directors and then in a few years for the presidency of CORD. All told I was on the CORD Board of Directors for about 10 years.

This sounds like a tremendous amount of work.
The cool thing about CORD is that it’s mostly about making PDs, and hence EM residencies, better, stronger, and faster. Being a PD is often a thankless, hard, and lonely job, and CORD is all about making that job better, so I really liked being involved and leading that group. There was a lot of camaraderie and I made some great friends during that time.

What have been the biggest changes you’ve observed in Emergency Medicine during your time?
Ultrasound. When I was a resident I created the first ultrasound curriculum for our program. We didn’t even have an ultrasound machine! Nowadays it’s like an extension of our hands. But we were talking crazy talk back then!

What’s your guess about the future of the field?
My guess about the future of the field is that it’s totally unpredictable and we can’t predict it well.

What are your favorite and least favorite parts about working with residents?
I love watching residents grow and being a part of them developing into really great doctors. I can’t think of anything I don’t like about it.

You’re famously angry all the time...wait, no, that is for another interviewee. You’re always in a good mood. How do you do that?
I’m a grateful person. Working in emergency medicine makes you more appreciative of how fortunate you are because you see so much awfulness and sadness. Plus the drugs. Tell us about the drugs, Dr. Dyne. I take 2400 milligrams of ibuprofen daily. Shoot. I was really hoping for a big story here. Sorry.

Which patient was your craziest patient ever?
Know what? I don’t remember one. I am not kidding I forget pretty much every patient once I walk out of the hospital. It’s obviously a self-protection mechanism because I think if I mulled over the terribleness of all that we see it would affect me too much. So I let it go to protect myself, and I think I focus on the net-net work I’ve done and not on a single incident.

Favorite book?
"1000 White Women," by James Fergus. It’s so great. It’s historical fiction about the Grant administration’s attempt to anglicize the American Indians by giving them 1,000 white women in exchange for 1000 horses. So these 1,000 white women who were mental hospital patients, convicts, and street people went to live with the Indians and its just super interesting and entertaining. I don’t see how that could go wrong. Right?!! It’s so good. I also liked The Life of Pi.

What else should we know about you?
Barry and I have been married 29 years. Shut the front door! True. I was married at 12, which is obviously a bit young, but we were in love, so yeah. Fortunately its all worked out!

I’ve heard that you’re a semi-hardcore baseball fan?
Yep - I’m super into baseball. I’m a crazy Dodgers fan. And I knew nothing about baseball until about 13 years ago when my son Zach started playing. I love it. I better stop talking now because I can’t talk about this sportsball.

Go see patients!
What made you decide that now was the time to hand the reins to the very capable Dr. Bavolek?

I’m really excited to have Rebecca as my replacement. She has the brains, energy and drive to take the residency to the next level. Equally important is her commitment to the values we share—seeing EM education as a way to make the world a better place through top quality EM care. That makes me happy!

I will always love having been a program director, but I think that anyone who has been in a leadership position needs to think long and hard about when it is time to step aside and make way for new ideas and new leadership. Building a great residency is like building a great sandcastle. It’s beautiful, but unless you work on it constantly it will just be a pile of sand in no time. If as a PD you ever start to think “We’ve done that before” instead of “How can we do it better?” it’s time to go.

What will not having to be PD give you more time to do?

During a shift you’re always in a hurry. And as PD the rest of my life was like a shift. I love Emergency Medicine and I like being busy, but I was always rushing from one task to the next and was never caught up. Stepping down as PD means I don’t have to hurry as much. I’m still busy, but I’m not always behind.

And I think over the next year I will be able to do more of the things that I love. Professionally that is learn, teach and mentor. Personally that includes being a better, more present partner, father, son, friend and citizen.

I know you are a big reader. What are you reading right now?

Yes, I’ve always been an enthusiastic reader, and 15 years of marriage to a literature professor has exacerbated it. Lately I’ve been reading Patrick Modiano and Haruki Murakami. Both authors write novels in which flawed and vaguely befuddled characters strive to do the right thing in dystopian worlds ruled by sinister forces. I can relate.

You once told me that you’ve seen 80,000 patients in your career. That was a year ago, so I’ll just round that out to 100,000 patients at this point because nobody can prove otherwise. Given that experience is the only true teacher of mankind, what lessons did you gain from all those patients?

Borrowing a poker term, having seen a massive number of patients is my ace in the hole. I am not as smart or as up on the medical literature as I was 20 years ago, but I’ve seen more of everything. Working at RRMC has helped. It’s a Center of Excellence for Rare Stuff You’ve Never Heard Of. So now if something rare presents, or something common presents in an odd way, I’ve likely had that experience before and stand a good chance of recognizing it.

Seeing lots of patients has also given me greater appreciation of the value of reassurance. Patients often quietly fear “the worst,” an imagined outcome worse than any reality. You can give some kind of honest reassurance to 99% of your patients, and it means a lot to them.

What made you pick Emergency Medicine as a field inside medicine? Did you consider anything else?

As a fourth year student at UCSF in 1982 I matched into Internal Medicine. The absence of EM at my school played a big part in my choice, but I was also influenced by my time as a teenager working for vaccination programs in remote corners of Guatemala and Colombia. I envisioned a career in ID. But in March, just as I was about to get my Match results, I did an EM Sub-I at University of Chicago, solely because I had a girlfriend in Chicago. The U of C was the home of one of the first EM residencies and seeing an EM residency in action was a revelation for me. I was hooked. I got my Match results – number one on my rank list. Internal Medicine at University of Chicago – while I was doing a shift in the ED there. I smiled as people congratulated me even as I felt like crying. That EM Sub-I was one of the most fortunate “accidents” in my life, leading me to a career I have loved.

What have been the biggest changes you’ve seen in your time in EM?

EM has come a very long way in my time. When I started working in EDs in 1983 few people, even most doctors, knew EM was a specialty. Patients often assumed any doctor working in an ED was an intern and would say “Are you going to specialize when you finish your internship?” Those who did know EM existed thought it only attracted “macho” “cowboys” “who couldn’t get into any other specialty.” Some of the public perception was accurate. After my medicine internship I had no trouble getting work in an ER. Having gone to UCSF and having completed a Medicine internship I was considered well qualified. Perceptions of the specialty improved at UCLA by the mid to late 80s, but it wasn’t until the show ER aired in 1994 that public awareness really rose.
What's the best and hardest thing about working with residents?

The best part of working with residents is being a part of their growth. Interns start with big aspirations and limited skills. Four years later those same people are highly skilled Emergency Medicine specialists. Awesome is an overused word, but it's truly awesome. I did my first attending shift at UCLA in 1987, but even after 30 years that doesn't get old. I love it!

The hardest part of working with residents is the same as the hardest part of working with faculty and patients: we're all human. We humans are interesting creatures, really smart and kind of dumb, generous and selfish. Once you accept that we all contain darkness and light it gets easier. Fortunately our residents are weighted towards the light, more Obi-wan Kenobi than Darth Vader. And that is no accident. I'm sure Darth Vader had great board scores and got Honors on his EM Sub-Is, but we didn't rank him.

Someone told me that you dropped out of high school?

I didn't finish high school. My senior year only lasted until the fall water polo season ended. I like to say I dropped out because I got a job as the logistics officer of a vaccination program in the jungles of northern Colombia. It's true, but I would have left anyway. Even at 2400 students my high school felt too small.

How did you end up at UCLA?

Having lived in Berkeley as a kid and attended both Cal and UCSF I really didn't want to come to LA. But in the early 1980s LA was really the place for Emergency Medicine training. There were only about 20 EM programs in the whole country and three of the best were in LA. Having finished my internship at University of Chicago I was back in California and working in ERs in places like Visalia and Delano. But I knew I should complete an EM residency, so I checked out the three LA residencies and decided to apply to two: Harbor and UCLA. I was thrilled to Match at UCLA. It was the program that best suited me. I had already learned that EM differs tremendously ER to ER and I wanted that breadth of experience in my training.

Tell us the craziest case you've ever had.

The craziest case is actually too bizarre to put in print, but you can help me pick a runner up from these two traumas I saw when I worked in Modesto just after residency. Here are the chief complaints from the run sheets, "Slipped in pig sh*t. Trampled by pig. And "Purina factory pressure cooker exploded. Patient covered with scalding chicken guts / feather bits."

What's your best piece of advice for all of us residents?

Always do your best. You don't need Journal Club to know that life is a really poorly planned experiment. You make choices with limited information and there are innumerable seemingly random interventions. You can't predict outcomes. I have found my best solace is to always do my best. A good outcome? I gave it my best shot. A bad outcome? I gave it my best shot.

Doing your best can be your compass — OK millennials, your GPS — to guide you through life. You reflect, how did I do yesterday? How can I do better today? Where should I put my energy to be a better ______? Fill in the blank, doctor, colleague, you name it. Every day has a purpose.

At the ACEP Alumni Reception earlier this fall, we honored Scott Votey (1987) for his years of service as program director with an award and a journal of quotes from both past and present residents. "Years of Service" hardly conveys the tremendous amount of time, devotion, leadership, mentorship and genuine care that Scott has dedicated to the residency. Our program excels because of the commitments he has made to the students, residents and faculty at UCLA over the years. He always says yes when asked to teach or give his advice, and he helped countless students and residents overcome many obstacles in their training. He is an incredible mentor and friend, an advocate for what is right for his patients and for the residents above all other concerns and convenience. He has a genuine excitement for teaching and learning that has not waned over time and is infectious. He has graciously weathered the assorted ups and downs that accompanied his role, and with humility gave others credit for the program's successes. While many of us complained, he always took on the difficult challenges. Those of us who have trained under his leadership (which includes a large portion of the graduates of this program), and worked beside him owe him a debt of gratitude that cannot be conveyed in simple words, but we will start with "Thank you Scott!"
For the fourth year in a row, the residents, nurses, and attendings of the UCLA Emergency Medicine Program - Ronald Reagan | Olive View provided medical care at the **FYF festival**. This year the FYF festival attracted over 40,000 concert goers. The festival is one of the largest urban outdoor music festivals in the United States.

RockMedicine provides the supplies, support staff, medics and logistics for the medical care at the festival. RockMed is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Haight Ashbury free clinic and coordinates medical care at over 50 events each year. Dr. Matt Waxman served as medical director with a large number of our attendings, nurses and residents participating. On the attending side Drs. John Crisp (2008), Steve Lai (2016), Carmen Partida, Carolyn Sachs (1994), and Steph Tseeng were joined by recent grad Noah Segerman (2016), Residents Alex Dyer (2018), Adam Evans (2018), Jake Lentz (2019), David Morales (2018), Shamsher Samra (2017), Andie Takemoto (2018), and Olive View-UCLA nurses Celina Acosta, RN and Jess Garcia, RN cared for over 150 concert goers during the two-day event. A big thanks to Bonnie for helping with organizing credentials!

In between treating patients, providers were able to catch acts such as Kendrik Lamar, LCD Sound System, and Grace Jones. Presentations unique to event medicine include “crowd syndrome”, which is severe anxiety induced by being in a large crowd. Dehydration, musculoskeletal injuries and a variety of intoxications were seen by the providers. Caring for patients suspected of taking “Molly,” “Spice,” and other various psychedelic drugs provided an educational experience for our residents. Residents, nurses and attendings interested in volunteering next year should be on the lookout for an email in the spring from Dr. Waxman.
New Residency Committees in Action

The 2016-17 has been off to an amazing start with our new departmental status. This year we have continued to develop more opportunities for residents and faculty to contribute to the program, the academic community, and the community we serve. To accomplish this we have started many new residency committees that are collaborations involving residents and faculty. These include a medical student education committee, social media committee, resident recruitment committee, community outreach committee, wellness committee, newsletter committee, EMS committee, operations committee and QI committee. In the current newsletter we will highlight some of the activities of the various committees.

Community Outreach Committee

The community outreach committee helped organize our National EM day of service for 2016. The EM day of service was created with the concept that “as emergency physicians, residents, nurses, physician assistants, and medical students we are servant leaders in our communities. We care and advocate for our patients while working clinically. We respond to the call to give back to our community.” The EM day of service is supported by EMRA, AAEM, ACEP, ACOEP, CDEM, CORD, SAEM and other EM organizations.

This year the community outreach committee organized our residency participation in the EM day of service by organizing a food and clothing drive to benefit the organization MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity). Special thanks to Pam Dyne (1995), Brittany Guest (2019), Tabitha Cheng (2018), and Maria Tamborski (2018) for helping organize the donations and packing their cars to deliver the goods.

In December the committee organized donations for two families who receive care at Olive View UCLA. For this holiday Adopt-A-Family program event we raised about $1000 worth of gifts, gift cards and cash for the two deserving families.
With the formation of the Department of Emergency Medicine at UCLA and the arrival of our new department chair and program director, a group of residents are working with Department leadership to update our residency website. Phase 1 has been completed and more changes are coming. The eventual goal is a true Department website inclusive of all UCLA sites including Harbor-UCLA, West LA VA, and Kern County. However, in the interim, the immediate focus is an update of the content and descriptions of our residency program - UCLA Emergency Medicine- Ronald Reagan I Olive View. A special thanks goes to Adam Evans (2018), Brian Truong (2018), Alex Dyer (2018), David Kim (2018), Kellie Kitamura (2019), James Jiang (2019), Jacob Lentz (2019), Caleb Canders (2016, US Fellow 2017), and Steven Lai (2016, MedEd and Sim Fellow 2017) who are working diligently on this effort. The committee is looking for pictures from alumni and friends to feature on the website update, which can be emailed to davidkim@mednet.ucla.edu

UCLA Joins the #FOAMed Movement

Emergency Medicine has been the leading specialty in the Free Open Access Medical Education Movement (#FOAMed), and UCLA is stepping up to be at the forefront. The Social Media Committee, Brian Truong, David Kim, Kellie Kitamura, Steven Lai, and Andy Grock, are working to feature the news updates, clinical pearls, and featured educational content on our Twitter account (@UCLAEMRes).

In addition, our amazing Medical Education and Simulation Fellow Steven Lai is working on creating a series of educational infographics which have also been shared through the twitter account. A recent posting of his on Post-MI Complications recently went viral amongst the international EM community, being retweeted by @SAEMOnline and shared by EM physicians in South Africa, Norway, and Malaysia. Congrats SLai!
We are pleased to announce the formation of a new section within our department: the Section of International and Domestic Health Equity and Leadership (IDHEAL). idheal-ucla.org

The mission of the section is to define and promote the role that academic emergency medicine can play in the promotion of health equity and the elimination of health disparities - locally, nationally and globally. To do so, we address the social, economic, environmental, and legal determinants of health by partnering with non-traditional allies, such as community based organizations, in order to understand and treat patients in the context of their communities and their lives. The section will be an umbrella for collaboration of faculty and mentorship of trainees on projects within the realms of international emergency medicine, population health, migrant health, and social emergency medicine. We frame this as a section of “Health Equity” rather than a traditional section of International Emergency Medicine in order to emphasize the similarities between these disciplines and the common goal of health equity on a global scale.

Our current initiatives include both research and education. We are working on a curriculum of social medicine themes for all levels of trainees, and developing a suggested reading list for anyone interested in educating themselves on these topics. We are also planning a fellowship in Health Equity and will accept applications for the 2017-18 academic year. We have a large group of faculty involved across multiple UCLA hospitals and partners at other medical centers and programs, and we welcome further participation. If you are not already connected to the section and would like to participate, please email Breena Taira at btaira@ucla.edu.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/idhealucla

Instagram: idhealucla

Some IDHEAL members meeting for strategic planning November 2016

ACEP 2016 in Las Vegas was a great time. Thanks to all the alumni who came to the reception and met our class of 2017. We had a great time catching up with everyone. We saw great lectures by our faculty and alumni, and the class of 2017 made some memories and practiced their model poses.
MOVEMBER in style

This November the men of the UCLA Emergency Medicine Residency participated in Movember to support men’s health issues.

We’re getting the band back together!

Gravely Disabled started its comeback tour playing at the Battle of the Bands at CalACEP’s ADVANCED conference in Orange County. They were spotted at the UCLA Christmas party, and rumor has it they will next appear at the residency spring retreat.
On November 3rd, the Los Angeles County Medical Association hosted the 5th Annual Los Angeles Healthcare Awards at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Dr. Steve Rottman accepted the naming of the Marshall T. Morgan Scholarship Award to benefit the UCLA Center for Prehospital Care. This will be awarded to help pay for training for underserved or non-traditional students in EMS.

Dr. Mark Morocco accepted the naming of the Marshall T. Morgan Scholarship Award to benefit a Los Angeles County based Emergency Medicine Resident in Training who shows the highest standards of humanistic medical care each year.

Jean Morgan shared with the audience her appreciation of LACMA for their work. She reaffirmed Marshall's devotion to LACMA's mission, especially providing care to the underserved in Los Angeles County. She paid tribute to Marshall's roots supporting the training of medical students and residents to do such work in the community, state, country and internationally.

PROTESTING AT LAX
Sneha Shrestha (2018), Andie Takemoto (2018), Seema Vohra (UCLA CIM), Caleb Canders (2016), and Noah Segerman (2016) went to LAX on January 29th, to make their voices heard.

Sneha helped organize the group and said "In continuing with the University of California's position, it is crucial that we respond to the unprecedented executive actions that strongly affect our colleagues, patients, and family/friends (if not ourselves). At the very least, please consider contacting our senators and representatives if you haven't done so!"

California Legislatures:
Senator Kamala Harris: (202) 224-3553, https://www.harris.senate.gov/content/contact-senator


Pre-populated letter to legislature: https://www.niacaction.org/campaigns/
This year’s recruitment was again a huge team effort. With our new PD Rebecca Bavolek at the helm, recruitment started with the class of 2017 helping out at the ACEP residency fair in Las Vegas. Each recruitment day started with a greeting by Greg Hendey (1993), Steven Lai (2015), Mark Morocco (2001), and our new residency coordinators Gabrielle Stolwyk and Jennifer Cassidy before Rebecca told applicants about all the great accomplishments and opportunities at our program.

This year we returned to dinner at the home of Lisa Waltz and Mark Morocco. It is hard to explain to those alumni who have not experienced this very special dinner event. The applicants get to see what the people of this program are about, the faculty and residents get to socialize and catch up, and we had several alumni including Jerry Hoffman (1979), Heather Flaherty (2004), Stuart Goldfarb, Tom Solomon (2014), Sabrina Tom (2015), Brian McNamara (2015), Jimmy Gordon (2016), Noah Sugerman (2016), and extended alumni members nurse Jarmon and tech JP come to some dinners. JP even cooked the barbecue dinner on the last night. Next year we hope to see alumni return again.

This year we again had a fantastic resident recruitment committee. We want to thank the committee members Mike Casner (2017), Jess Oswald (2018), Cat Weaver (2017), Tabitha Cheng (2018), Alex Dyer (2018), Brandon Endo (2018), Adam Evans (2018), Allison Ferreira (2018), David Kim (2018), Andie Takemoto (2018), Brian Truong (2018), Brit Guest (2019), Kellie Kitamura (2019), Matt Rosen (2019), Jackie Kurth (2020), and Varun Shahi (2020) for all the help. The residents read files, sent welcome emails to the applicants, helped coordinate applicants shadowing in the ED and second looks, hosted applicants at their apartments, organized and gave the tours, and got to know the applicants. This year in addition to the
In September, Alan Chiem and Caleb Canders (2016) taught ultrasound to emergency medicine residents at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago.

Ulrafest and Medical Student Ultrasound Workshops
The second annual UCLA Ulrafest, a one-day teaching event organized by Alan Chiem, Elena Stark (Pathology), and the DGSOM Ultrasound Student Interest Group on January 7th at the UCLA School of Medicine, was a huge success. Over 150 medical students from all four DGSOM classes attended the event, which featured hands-on experience with ultrasound from many specialties, including emergency medicine. Additional ultrasound workshops for first- and second-year medical students were held January 9th-13th as part of their anatomy and pathology curriculums.

Among the instructors were Alan Chiem, Ricky Amii, Daniel Weingrow, Caleb Canders (2016), Pam Dyne (1995), Miguel Lemus (2011), Brandon Endo (2018), David Kim (2018), Li Cui (2019), Adam Gruner (2019), Brittany Guest (2019), Kellie Kitamura (2019), and Mike Merjanian (2019). The organizers of the events commended our program’s participation, and encouraged residents and faculty to attend or teach in the future.
Thanks to the wellness committee members Brandon Firestone (2017), Cat Weaver (2017), Andie Takemoto (2018), Brittney Guest (2019), Jacob Lentz (2019), Hannah Wallace (2019), and Vanessa Kreger (2020), and faculty mentors Caleb Canders, (2016) Carolyn Sachs (1994), and Andy Grock for planning our second annual wellness week. Activities included a kickoff party at Brian Truong's (2018) and Jake Wilson's (2018) swanky apartment, karaoke, group yoga, paddle tennis in Venice, bonfire at Dockweiler's State Beach, twerking lesson at Jagged Vertical Dance Fitness, hiking at Los Leones Trail, DineLA at RockSugar, tribute concert at Sabon Theater, and rock climbing at the Cliffs of Id. We even had some alumni from the class of 2015 in town to celebrate with us!
**RESEARCH UPDATES**

UCLA became a member of the PETAL network, studying ARDS—Steve Chang (MICU) and Greg Hendey (1993) are the site PIs, and we are enrolling patients in the first of the PETAL trials, which is called ROSE (studying early use of neuromuscular blockade in severe ARDS patients). Scott Lewis, our research coordinator has been doing great work on this study, and since we started, we have been the top enrolling site in California. We plan to start the next study (VIOLET) this spring, studying Vitamin D in ED patients at risk for ARDS.

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**Our EMRA rep update**

Thank you to Jess Oswald for her time and efforts as EMRA representative here at UCLA. Randy Lee is our new EMRA representative. Starting this year, he will send out a monthly email (or possibly more often) with important policy changes and how they may affect our future as emergency medicine doctors. As we have all discovered with our new president Donald Trump, numerous policies are being re-evaluated. Please grab Randy or email him with any thoughts or desires or other ideas you may have. Also, there are many opportunities to get involved! (See the upcoming events on page 1)

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**ELECTIVE SPOTLIGHT - ADVOCACY**

Kyle Ragins (2019) completed a new elective in advocacy. He worked with Doctors for America in Washington, DC. He led a group of medical students in a demonstration outside the capitol (that is Kyle with the megaphone) and was with a group of doctors at the Women’s march in DC. In his own words “I got to meet with dozens of Senators in DC, gain experience doing media interviews, develop national advocacy strategy and attend some fun protests all in the name of making sure our healthcare system strives to provide high quality, affordable health care to as many people as possible. I learned physicians have a very unique voice to add to the conversation on health policy and legislators are interested and willing to listen.”
A mini baby boom in our residency family - congratulations to all!

Meet Eliya, maybe a future chief resident like mom, Vanessa Franco (2017)

Melanie getting an early start on her education with dad James Jiang (2019)

Welcome Lennon Harper and Dax Ryder - Brandon (2017) and Hillary Firestone’s twins were so excited they could not wait to meet us.

Joseph “Joey” Ray Hsia joins Mary Sun (2013), Daniel Hsia and smitten big sisters Summer and Violet

Daniel Rouhani joins big brothers Jake and Nicholas. Congratulations Catalina and Amir (2011)!

Mia Weingrow joined big sister Lylah. Dan and Natalie Weingrow have their hands beautifully full.

Ayla Rae Wennagel checking out Big Sur with mom Lisa Zhao (2011)
Class of 2020: Annum Bhullar went to Miami for her sister’s white coat ceremony, ate lots of Vietnamese food at the New Years Tet Festival, and spent Christmas in Yosemite with her family. Aws Al-Abdullah moved in with his cat, babysat Randy’s dog, played with all the therapy dogs at Reagan, petted a stranger’s dog on the streets of Santa Monica, and watched Varun’s puppy video 9 times. Steven Bolger drove along PCH, went hiking in Big Sur, pretended to be a hipster in SF, and played with Aws’ cat. Tyler Haertlein finished “Stranger Things” and “Narcos,” gained 10 pounds, tried to treat an SVT with rate control instead of adenosine, ate 4,000 burritos from pollo loco, went to Cuba for a few days, and is going camping/surfing by Santa Barbara next week. Vanessa Kreger ran a turkey trot 10K at Lake Mead, cuddled with her cats, and went exploring and hiking in British Columbia. Jackie Kurth went to Palm Springs and Yosemite. Randy Lee lost 6 pounds during his first 6 months of residency but put it all back on during his anesthesia rotation. Ali Lewis toured local breweries and occasionally worked out at her neighborhood gym with Hollywood celebrities. Teri Miller marched in the streets for women’s rights and took a twerking class. Varun Shahi ran a couple of 5k’s, finished the first season of “Westworld” overnight, went to Atlanta to visit cousins, is going to Vegas for a bachelor party, and got a new puppy. Luiz Souza-Filho went to Brazil to see his family, spent a few days in Miami, went to Big Bear with Greg where they realized that they are very reliant on their meds and equipment when a kid syncopized and all they could think of was “uhh drink this Gatorade.” Greg Tong went to Tulum and snowboarding with Luiz. Cate Yaggi bought a used Super Nintendo off eBay and beat Super Mario World.

Class of 2019: Josh Baugh went to the Palm Spring Zoo and saw cheetahs. Maria Conradt is a proud new auntie (his name is Noah and he’s just perfect). Li Cui went to Whistler, Canada to go snowboarding. Adam Gruner ran a half marathon in the rain and took an awesome trip to Japan. Brittany Guest taught the FAST exam to M1-4 as part of their anatomy course, took a road trip to Utah, and hiked through Zion and Antelope Canyon. James Jiang took a road trip with his wife and new baby. Kellie Kitamura went to San Francisco. Jacob Lentz was nominated for Junior Officer of the Year in the Navy Reserve and is planning a trip to Austin. Jason Lu submitted an abstract to the Pediatric Academic Society for a retrospective review of lab tests and imaging studies repeated on arrival after transport from outside hospitals. Michael Merjianian hiked the Santa Monica mountains. Kyle Ragins enjoyed his Advocacy Elective in Washington. Matt Rosen led sim cases for EM Sub-I’s and vacationed in Florida and the Western Caribbean. Hannah Wallace is planning a wedding.
More Resident Updates

Class of 2018: Tabitha Cheng went skydiving in Oceanside, and welcomed a new baby niece in the last month. Maria Tamborski ran the Star Wars half Marathon and now she's in Thailand enjoying delicious curry. Jake Wilson went to Yosemite and Big Sur with his family. DK (David Kim) just got back from London from his toxicology rotation. Allison Ferreira is interviewing for critical care fellowships and planning her wedding. Adam Evans has been hiking around the area with his roommate. Alex Dyer went to Montana for her sports medicine elective and hit the slopes. Bendo (Brandon Endo) started a wilderness medicine interest group with Jo Feldman. Brian Truong went on a bro date weekend with Bendo in Yosemite. DMo (David Morales) is working on climbing V5’s. Andie Takemoto and Sneha Shrestha exercised their rights as citizens and went protesting at LAX and didn’t get arrested or pepper sprayed.

Class of 2017: Steff Brenman and Liz went skiing in Italy, France and Switzerland. Mike Casner has been busy developing a new RME process at UCLA and is not engaged, married, or the father of any children. Anthony Catalano went snowboarding at Mammoth. Brandon Firestone is the new happy father to twins! Vanessa Franco is now mom to a beautiful daughter. Wes Gaschler enjoyed a dermatology rotation in Utah where he was able to spend valuable time on the ski slopes. Chris Katsura vacationed in Chicago. Haleigh Kotter traveled through Madeira with her Mama. Jessica Oswald went to Niseko, Japan to enjoy the cuisine and experience the Japanese phenomenon (it snows everyday) and try a little bit of snowboarding again, and she raised money for a young terminal cancer patient so he could have his dream family vacation with his three daughters at Disneyland. Shamshar Samra spent time working with Zapatista Health Promoters in Chiapas, Mexico. Eric Schallert enjoyed relaxing in Turks and Caicos with his wife. Cat Weaver accompanied her boyfriend who won an Oscar. She also ran a half marathon, moved to West Hollywood and has travel plans coming up that she is looking forward to. Carter Wystrach was recently engaged to Lia Armstrong who is a former UCLA Scribe and is now in an NP program in Portland.
Community Partners International (CPI) had a fundraising event to honor World AIDS Day at the Little Tokyo Art Complex, featuring their work in Myanmar to address HIV and other infectious diseases, as well as maternal and child health. Dr. Khine Wai Wai Oo, a Burmese physician who has worked with Community Partners for many years presented.

Thomas Lee, MD
Adjunct Professor of Emergency Medicine, UCLA School of Medicine
Board Chair, Community Partners International (www.cpintl.org)
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The UCLA/Olive View Faculty Teaching Award was created in 2013-2014 by the Department to encourage excellence in clinical teaching by attending faculty. It recognizes exemplary involvement in resident education, both at the bedside and through participation in didactic sessions. The faculty who received the most resident votes for the 2016-2017 UCLA/Olive View Faculty Teaching Award – 1st half of the year are:

Tom Graham, M.D. (1995) at UCLA
Scott Lundberg, M.D. (2004) at OVMC

Tom and Scott are no strangers to this award and their names will be once again added to the plaque in the UCLA Residency Office. Congratulations to these amazing teachers!

Congratulations to Jacob Lentz, MD (2019), who was asked to help teach with the faculty a course in the medical school for 1st and 2nd year students, called “The Healer’s Art.” Jake was the first and only resident asked to teach in this course alongside the faculty.

Way to go David Kim, MD (2018)! David has helped elevate and improve the appearance of our website (phase I), and is a key member of the residency social media committee, and was selected as a member of the CORD social media committee.

Anthony Catalano, MD (2017) was accepted to join the Santa Barbara County Search and Rescue team.

Pam Dyne (1995) is co-chairing a DHS (County)-wide chronic pain management working group, the goal of which is to develop and implement system-wide change in the management of non-cancer chronic pain patients.

Rebecca Bavolek lectured at the ACEP Teaching Fellowship, delivering 7 lectures to the group, including Bedside Teaching Techniques, Flipped Classroom/Team Based Learning, Adult Learners - Novice to Experts, Effective Use of Feedback and Questions, Diagnosing Your Learner, Teaching in Small Groups, and Giving Effective Presentations.
Anthony Catalano (2017), Jo Feldman, David Kim (2018), and Jacob Lentz (2019) taught wilderness medicine to the medical students at an event in the Botanical Gardens, complete with a skills labs including carries, splints, and c-spine immobilization techniques.

Carolyn Sachs (1994) gave 7 lectures at a medical (Sea Courses) conference in the Caribbean Ocean on a variety of EM topics including disease prevention in the ER, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, abdominal pain, analgesics for acute pain, and the top 8 dangerous drugs in 2016.


Eric Savitsky, MD (1995) presented a research study abstract entitled "Automated Psychomotor Skill Assessment for Use in Ultrasound Competency Assessment" at the September, 2016 UCLA CRESST Conference. Eric was also invited lecturer at the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) Quality Improvement Forum on October 31st, 2016 in Baltimore, MD, and spoke about the future of ultrasound competency assessment.

Lynne McCullough (1998), was invited to give a lecture at the EPIC’s largest conference of the year, the End User Group meeting (UGM). Her talk titled “Weeding out Sepsis: Early ID and Intervention,” was requested as one of the 50 best of UGM history.

Greg Hendey (1993) was recently seen at Vanderbilt (his medical school alma mater) giving grand rounds on Orthopedic Pearls and Pitfalls and visiting with alum Tyler Barrett (2005). Carmen Wolfe (2015) was not in town, but she came by our wellness kickoff party.

Mark Morocco (2001) gave the opening lecture on Acute Chest Pain - History, Examination and Evaluation for Timely Diagnosis and Treatment at the UCLA Aortic Symposium, Advances in Treatment of Aortic Pathology. He was appointed to the USMLE Acute Care Test Materials Development Committee, to help develop test items focused on critically ill patients for steps 2 and 3. Mark was also appointed to the Surgery Subject Test Committee, which coordinates the examination of MS3s during their Surgical Clerkship. He also just finished a 12 show run as a medical consultant on CBS’ “Pure Genius,” a show that asks what would happen if you focused the genius and money of a Steve Jobs/Mark Zuckerberg style on Medicine.
Way to go **Tabitha Cheng (2018)**! Tabitha is our residency CORD representative for 2017-18. She reviewed abstracts this year for the 2017 SAEM Annual meeting, and was just appointed as resident member of the ACEP Scientific Research subcommittee. She is also a member of the ACEP Public Health and Injury Prevention Committee, EMRA’s Education Committee, and EMRA’s Pediatric EM Committee. She has also been an invaluable member of the residency medical student committee, the recruitment committee, the newsletter committee, and the community outreach committee.

Congratulations to **Matt Waxman, MD, DTM&H (2007)** who presented both a poster and an oral abstract at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Meeting in Atlanta Georgia, in November. See his recent publication in Annals as well!

Thanks Jo Feldman for all you do to enrich our program. Morning teaching rounds looks pretty interesting..... what did we learn today, class?

**Peter Bloomfield (2008)** teaching Pediatric Pearls for the In-service - Jeopardy-style!

**Chris Katsura (2017)** presented a poster on Healthcare informatics at the annual American Medical Informatics Association meeting.

The U.S. continues to suffer from an epidemic of opiate overdoses and deaths. For years, providers have been taught that opiates are the answer for almost any pain syndrome. **Maureen McCollough (1993), Pam Dyne (1995), Alan Chiem, Jess Oswald (2018), Wes Gaschler (2017), Mike Merjanian (2019) Jacob Lentz (2019), Brit Guest (2019)** are working on a collaborative quality improvement project that is tackling the issue of acute and chronic ED pain syndromes such as headache, renal colic, fractures, and low back pain. Literature-based guidelines will include both oral and parenteral medications, along with more "procedure-based" therapies such as ultrasound guided nerve blocks and trigger point injections. Guidelines along with videos will be available on their website, Pain-EM, which is in development. These guidelines and website will then be shared with all 77 Emergency Departments in Los Angeles County.


Lou X, ... Starkman S, ... Multi-delay ASL can identify leptomeningeal collateral perfusion in endovascular therapy of ischemic stroke. Oncotarget. 2016 Dec 10. doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.13898.
