



# January 2020 - June 2020 Residency & Alumni Newsletter



## Upcoming Events

See you there virtually?  
 CalACEP AdvancED - Sept 2020  
 ACEP - Oct 2020

Welcome Class of 2024!

# BIRTHDAYS

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<b>Matt Levin</b> July 3 <b>Ryan Dollbaum</b> July 5 <b>Peter Treut</b> July 7 <b>Medell Briggs-Malonson</b> July 19 <b>Reza Hessabi</b> July 20 <b>Richelle Cooper</b> July 24 <b>William Scheving &amp; Jackson Kloor</b> July 28	<b>Kevin Wroblewski</b> August 5 <b>Haig Aintablian &amp; Bryan Merte</b> August 9 <b>Jo Feldman</b> August 17 <b>Erich Wieshofer</b> August 20 <b>Hannah Spungen</b> August 22 <b>Sara Crager &amp; Sima</b> <b>Sadeghinejad</b> August 27 <b>Natasha Wheaton</b> August 31	<b>Anna Nguyen</b> September 1 <b>Scott Lundberg</b> September 4 <b>Jason Singer</b> September 11 <b>David Schriger</b> September 12 <b>Amir Rouhani</b> September 19 <b>Niko Pascua</b> September 20 <b>Daniel Ichwan</b> September 21 <b>Ignacio Calles</b> September 24 <b>Santano Rosario</b> September 25	<b>Kelsey Kneisly</b> October 1 <b>Ashley Vuong</b> October 2 <b>Daniel Weingrow</b> October 4 <b>Michelle Brennan</b> October 9 <b>David Haase</b> October 10 <b>Tiglath Ziyeh</b> October 14 <b>Jorge Diaz</b> October 15 <b>Pam Dyne &amp; Fred Abrahamian</b> October 16 <b>Tom Akie</b> October 18 <b>Dan Waxman</b> October 27 <b>Theresa Cheng</b> October 29 <b>Alan Chiem</b> October 31	<b>Scott Votey</b> November 3 <b>Jaime Jordan</b> November 5 <b>Chelsea Robinson</b> November 17 <b>Danielle Antonuk &amp; Chase Richard</b> November 20 <b>Claudie Bolduc</b> November 21 <b>Jamie Bell &amp; John Keller</b> November 22 <b>Tom Graham</b> November 25 <b>Anna Yap</b> November 27	<b>George Lim</b> December 1 <b>Lynne McCullough</b> December 2 <b>Cooper Aakhg</b> December 11 <b>Eric Savitsky</b> December 12 <b>Agatha Brzezinski</b> December 18 <b>Caitlin Oldenkamp</b> December 20 <b>Sam Kadera</b> December 31

# Message from the Chair



Greetings! Much has changed in our world since the last newsletter. In the past few months we have seen a pandemic, riots, and a sustained decrease in ED volumes across the country. But we're all still here, and we'll adapt as we always do. And I remain optimistic that whatever challenges we face, we'll find our way through, and define new ways to provide great patient care, medical education, and research.

On that note, this is an exciting and optimistic time of year, when we welcome a great new class of interns and new fellows. You'll learn about them all later in this newsletter, and hopefully meet them in person soon. And as always, please join me in thanking **Richelle Cooper (1998)** for putting together another terrific newsletter to show what's going on in our program.

Here are a few highlights:

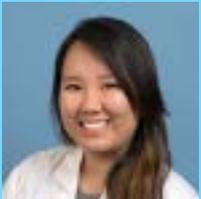
Returning fellows: Our five fellows who are returning for a second year of fellowship include **Judy Choe** (Admin), **Brittany Guest (2019)**(AIME), **Hannah Janeway** (IDHEAL), **Stephen Villa** (Med Ed), and **Kimon Ioannides** (National Clinician Scholars Program).



**Lynne McCullough (1998)** begins her two-year term as Chief-of-Staff at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in July 2020. She is the first emergency physician to hold this esteemed position since Marshall Morgan.



**Allison Ferreira (2018)** is completing her Critical Care fellowship and joining the UCLA DEM faculty full time, starting in August! Allison will be starting at Santa Monica, both in the ED and the ICU, as well as the ICU at Antelope Valley. And don't be surprised if she shows up in the ED and ICU at Reagan in the near future too.



**Kellie Kitamura (2019)** is finishing her Medical Education fellowship and joining the UCLA faculty at Olive View (in fact by the time you read this, she is there)! Kellie will be joining our talented team of Medical Educators.

Two notable additions to the part-time faculty joining the roster at Olive View include **Vanessa Kreger (2020)** and **Amir Tabibnia**.

**Jaime Jordan, Natasha Wheaton, Alan Chiem, and Amir Rouhani (2011)** were chosen for the new DGSOM Educators for Excellence program. In fact, 6 of the 30 total faculty selected were from the DEM. Others included **Tahlia Spector (2005)** and **Manuel Celedon** (VA).



Respectfully submitted,

**Greg Hendey (1993)**  
Chair, UCLA Emergency Medicine

- The **UCLA DEM mission** is to be a global leader in Emergency Medicine by:
- Providing excellent care to all patients we serve
  - Conducting leading-edge research that advances the health of our patients and community
  - Training physicians to be innovative and inspiring leaders



# Message from the Program Director Rebecca Bavolek



Hello UCLA EM Community!

It's hard to believe that it's already that time of year again where we say congratulations to our outgoing PGY-4 class and welcome our new intern class... the Class of 2024! Needless to say, 2020 has been unprecedented so far with COVID19 impacting every aspect of our lives, including residency education. As we head into the new year, we have transitioned our conferences to the Zoom platform as well as creating virtual experiences in place of our traditional times to gather, including graduation, class orientations, and intern boot camp. We are also preparing for uncharted waters with an entirely virtual residency recruitment season this fall. While we are looking forward to the time where we can all gather together as a UCLA EM family, I am so proud of everyone's creativity and resilience in these challenging times. I am thankful to be surrounded by an amazing group of residents, faculty, and residency leadership team as we all go on this journey together. We are truly embodying our residency mantra of "Ready for Anything"!

-Rebecca

*Check out our 2020-2021 better than the Brady Bunch residency team - the Program Director, Associate PDs, Education Fellows, Residency Coordinators, and Chief Residents.*

## Congratulations to Rosa Graziano, We Will Miss You!



With mixed emotions we say farewell to Rosa Graziano as she moves to North Campus for a new opportunity with the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. Although she will still be part of the UCLA family, and this is a great career move for her interests, she has been an exceptional and integral part of our residency coordinator team. Rosa joined in 2018 as a temp, but fit right in and quickly helped the residency thrive. Her warmth, positivity and friendliness were the perfect exemplar of our UCLA family feel we carry as our tradition. She helped to streamline many tasks and assisted Jen expertly to keep the program humming along. In Jen Cassidy's words "*she was an incredible teammate, counselor, friend, sister, and so much more as my assistant. I feel so blessed that we had her as long as we did. THANK YOU!!!!*" We wish her the best on her new adventure and are grateful she will still be close by on the other side of the campus.



# Meet the Incoming Fellows of 2020

**Ultrasound Fellow Abdulkareem Agunbiade – “Kareem”** is rushing back to California after a nine year hiatus because he now hates the phrase Winter Is Coming! He was born in Nigeria and raised in the midwest, but does not always like to reveal that part of his upbringing was in Indiana. He went to Stanford for college and then spent four years in Chicago for medical school (University of Chicago) after which he decided to stay for another four years for residency (Cook County) and the food. Okay, maybe it was mainly for the food! After his third year of medical school, he spent a year at the NIH primarily studying disparities in mortality for ethnic minorities on dialysis. In addition to convincing everyone that ultrasound will rule the world, his research interests also focus on addressing and reducing disparities within our healthcare system. Through community outreach he hopes to also address various social disparities as well as working to increase underrepresented communities of color in medicine.



**Fun Fact:** In 2016 during his post residency match vacation, he lived with a random french family in a Beauty and the Beast type town in the middle of nowhere France for a few weeks. It was one of the best experiences of his life, although it initially felt like a GET OUT situation.

**Interests/Hobbies:** Stand up comedy, eating, cooking, learning languages, public speaking.



**Max Berger** is excited to join the UCLA family as a **Medical Education Fellow!** He was born in Boston (Go Red Sox!), grew up in Los Angeles and spent 4 awesome years at UCLA during undergrad. After a brief hiatus across town for medical school at USC, he spent the last 4 years in New York City completing residency at NYU/Bellevue and searching for the best bagel in the city with his wife and dog, Whiskey. He's thrilled to be coming back home to Westwood and joining the UCLA EM community. His work interests include simulation, especially regarding debriefing and psychological safety of training, as well as medical student and resident education. Outside of work, he's looking forward to finally getting back to the beach and remembering how to drive again.

**UCLA National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP) Fellow Anna Darby** was born and raised in Berkeley, California, where she gained an appreciation for advocacy and hippies from an early age. After undergrad at Brown University, Anna went back to Berkeley to work at the Prison Law Office as a Litigation Assistant before starting medical school, where she learned about health disparities in California prisons and was inspired to incorporate health policy work into her future. Anna attended med school at Mt. Sinai in New York and got an MPH at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Anna ended up at LAC + USC for residency in Emergency Medicine, and is excited to stay in LA to join the UCLA NCSP fam!



**Research Fellow Annette Dekker** is excited to complete her migration west to join the UCLA family. Born and raised in the Atlantic, she made the Midwest home while completing medical school at Northwestern and her Emergency Medicine Residency at the University of Chicago. She is now looking forward to experiencing what the Pacific has to offer. She hopes to use her research fellowship and the platform of Los Angeles to better understand and ameliorate health inequities. Outside of the ED, Annette loves live music, traveling off the beaten path, being by/in/on the water, and all things orange (Hup Holland!).

**UCLA National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP) and Leadership (IDHEAL) Fellow Jesus R. Torres** was born and raised in Pacoima, California, just a few miles away from Olive View-UCLA. He attended UCLA for college and then joined the Olive View research team as a research coordinator for nearly four years, sparking his interests in clinical research and infectious disease. He made his way to the east coast to attend medical school at New York Medical College and Harvard for an MPH in quantitative methods. He's remained active in research during EM residency at UCSF-SFGH, focusing on health inequalities policy. Jesus is looking forward to continuing this work in his own community, while expanding his interest in clinical research. Outside of the ED, Jesus enjoys cooking, camping, and road trips. He is ecstatic to make the full circle back after nearly a decade away and to join the UCLA family!



# Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee

This past academic year, we officially launched the new Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee of the UCLA Department of Emergency Medicine and the UCLA-Ronald Reagan/Olive View Emergency Medicine Residency Program. The mission of the EDI committee is to foster diversity and inclusion for the recruitment and retention of our residents, fellows, and faculty to reflect the rich diversity of Los Angeles and promote long term population health equity. Our mission aligns with similar commitments of both the David Geffen School of Medicine and the University of California Regents to support an academic and clinical environment that promotes individual success in medical education, scholarly activity, and clinical care.

The key priorities of the EDI Committee are to:

1. Provide support to create and maintain an academic environment, culture, and clinical workplace that values diversity and inclusion
2. Lead efforts to recruit, retain, and support resident and faculty physicians that reflect the diversity of the Los Angeles community
3. In collaboration with IDHEAL, assist in the academic curriculum to promote principles of health equity and community responsibility

The Year in Review:

The committee members played a pivotal role in this past year's resident recruitment season. In addition, the committee worked with the broader UCLA School of Medicine, participating in the "Road to Residency" presented by the UCLA Graduate Medical Education (GME) and DGSOM Office of Equity & Diversity Inclusion event. The UCLA GME Diversity and Inclusion Committee created a [Why Do Residency at UCLA video](#) that is hosted both on their website and ours, featuring three of our residents, Ashley Vuong-Goldshear (2022), Chase Richard (2023) and Santano Rosario (2023).



Our EDI Committee represented our department at the Student National Medical Association 2020 Annual Medical Education Conference. Education Fellow Stephen Villa, Faculty Jamie Bell, and resident Santano Rosario were present in a virtual "room" to answer questions about our program and UCLA.



The COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate mortality impact on African-American, Latinx, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Island, and low-income communities highlights many long-standing health inequities that have plagued our country for centuries. COVID-19 followed by the senseless killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other unarmed African-Americans that sparked the Black Lives Matter social movement prompted open and honest conversations about systemic racism, social injustice, and anti-racism. On June 5, many UCLA DEM faculty, fellows, and residents joined the White Coats for Black Lives 8:46 minute demonstrations at Ronald Reagan, Olive View, and Harbor UCLA.



What to Expect This Year:

The EDI Committee will meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 4pm. This year we will focus on recruitment, climate, and community. Please join us in celebrating diversity, promoting inclusion, and advancing equity.



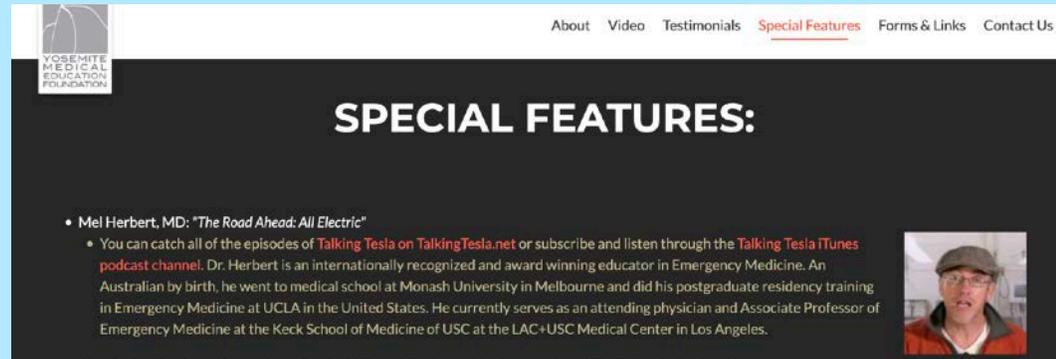
Committee Chairs: Medell Briggs-Malonson, Jamie Bell, Luis Lovato (2001), Breena Taira



# 42nd Annual Emergency Medicine in Yosemite



This January 2020 Emergency Medicine in Yosemite Conference featured lectures from Mel Herbert (1995), “The Road Ahead: All Electric,” alumna Ilene Claudius (2002) “Pediatric EM Literature Highlights from 2019,” alumni Eric Isaacs (1994) “POLST - Update and a Framework for Responding to Sticky Situations,” David Schriger “My 30+ Year Career in Emergency Medicine: Success or Failure? A Debate with Myself,” and Sara Crager (2015) who gave two lectures, “ACLS: A Critical Look at the Guidelines,” and “Sepsis 2019: A Case Study of the War Between Guideline-based Practice and Precision Medicine”. She was so well received she was already asked to come speak next year (not surprising).



## Southern California EM Symposium Sponsored by CAL/AAEM and AAEM/RSA



The Southern California Symposium for AAEM took place February 1, 2020 at the LAC+USC Medical Center. The day long symposium featured a number of lectures discussing the business of EM, as well as clinical updates. AAEM Resident Student Association President Haig Aintablian (2022) helped welcome the opening of the conference, gave a lecture in the main conference track “Emergency Physician Advocacy and Workforce/APP Updates, and a lecture at the medical student track, “Intro and EM Fit.” Pam Dyne (1995) represented our program at the residency fair.



# Ultrafest 2020

The Ultrasound Student Interest Group hosted their 5th annual UltraFest ultrasound education conference on February 8th, 2020. Over 200 DGSOM faculty and students attended and learned to perform point-of-care ultrasound from disciplines including Emergency Medicine, Critical Care, Radiology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. Faculty and residents in our department who participated were Jessa Baker (2021), Daniel Ichwan (2021), George Lim, Daniel Weingrow, Amir Tabibnia, and Alan Chiem.



## EMS Conference Day - Hazmat Training

We had another great EMS conference experience thanks to Atilla Uner (1997) and our EMS colleagues who organized the Hazmat experience. This conference session occurred pre-COVID-19, making for good timing with our new normal life in PPE.



# Jo Feldman Antarctica Scientific Trip 2020

## Carrying the Explorers Club Flag

Jo Feldman's mission to Antarctica this January was a little different from her prior trips for a couple reasons. This was a scientific expedition to the South Sandwich Islands. For this scientific exploration Jo Feldman applied for, and was awarded, the distinguished honor of carrying one of the Explorers Club's Flag on the expedition.

The **Explorers Club** is an international multidisciplinary professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research and the ideal that it is vital to preserve the instinct to explore. Founded in New York City in 1904, The Explorers Club promotes the scientific exploration of land, sea, air, and space by supporting research and education in the physical, natural and biological sciences. The Club's members have been responsible for an illustrious series of famous firsts: First to the North Pole, first to the South Pole, first to the summit of Mount Everest, first to the deepest point in the ocean, first to the surface of the moon.

The Explorers Club Flag represents an impressive history of courage and accomplishment and has been carried on hundreds of expeditions by Club members since 1918. To carry the Club flag is an honor and a privilege. A flag expedition must further the cause of exploration and field science. Today there are 202 numbered flags, each with its own history.

Use of the flag is governed by stringent standards. To obtain permission to carry the flag, a Club member must show that the expedition holds the promise of scientific results. The flag must be exhibited at every suitable opportunity on the expedition, and must be returned to the Club along with a written record of the expedition, called the Flag Report.

### Explorers Club Flag Report



### South Sandwich Islands Expedition

Field leader report: Dr. Jo Feldman FN'15 and Dr. Tom Hart  
Expedition Dates: December 28th, 2019 to February 1st, 2020  
Location: South Sandwich Islands, Southern Ocean  
GPS Coordinates: 56°18'–59°27'S, 26°23'–28°08'W  
Explorers Club Flag #211



The South Sandwich Islands comprise eleven mostly volcanic islands that are of global significance as a relatively pristine and rich environment that sustains major populations of seabirds, including the largest colony (1.3 million pairs) of chinstrap penguins in the world. As they are uninhabited and rarely visited, information on the geology, the ecosystem's response to changing climate, terrestrial and marine flora and fauna is sparse. The last large scientific expedition to the South Sandwich Islands was in 2011. After three years of planning, the South Sandwich Islands Expedition set sail from the Falkland Islands, on December 30, 2019. The team included seven scientists, a film crew of two, an expedition leader, an expedition physician (Jo Feldman), and three crew members on the 74-foot expedition vessel, the Pelagic Australis. They were at sea for 31 days, covered 2829 nautical miles and obtained data from six of the eleven South Sandwich Islands, as well as, from South Georgia Island. The expedition project objectives included advancing penguin science, volcanology, ice and climate and whale surveys, film documentation, and a search of the shoreline to document plastics and pollution.



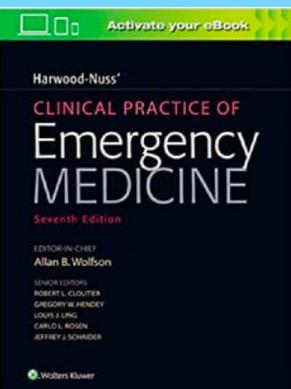
Great work Jo Feldman and team!



# Are you Reading a New EM Textbook?

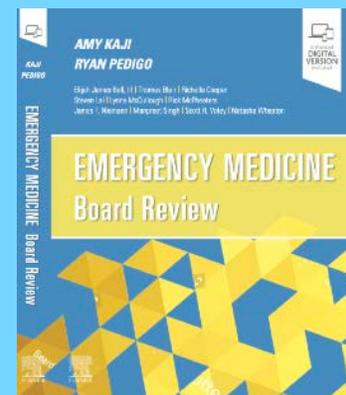
Chances are if you are updating your library with a new core EM, board review, or emergency ultrasound textbook you will be reading work completed by our amazing faculty, fellows, residents and alumni. There are new versions in production for Rosen's Emergency Medicine: Concepts and Clinical Practice: 10th edition, and Harwood-Nuss The Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine 7th Edition. Check out the who is who in these upcoming editions. These books are not all available for pre-order yet, but check back at your favorite book supplier soon.

**Rosen's Emergency Medicine, 10th Edition:** Concepts and Clinical Practice, 10th edition authors include Vanessa Franco (2017), Carolyn Sachs (1994), Ilene Claudius (2002) and Michael Levine. Shout out to Amy Kaji at Harbor-UCLA as one of the editors and authors for the new edition.



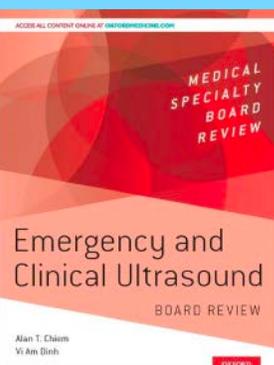
**In Harwood-Nuss The Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine 7th Edition**, Senior editor Greg Hendey (1993), and Associate editors Scott Votey (1987) and Lynne McCullough (1998), helped complete the newest edition with many faculty and alumni authoring chapters including: Jerry Hoffman (1979), William Mower (1990), Stacy Sawtelle (2010), Steve Go (1994), Matt Waxman (2007), Steven Lai (2016), Richelle Cooper (1998), Adam Evans (2018), Sukhijit "Sarge" Takhar (2006), Scott Lundberg (2004), Daniel Weingrow, Jeff Tabas (1998), Scott Votey (1987), Robert Rodriguez (1994), George Lim, Sara Crager (2015), Douglas W. Lowery-North (1991), Jaime Jordan, Janak Acharya (2007), Valerie Norton (1995), Sam Kadera (2013), Carolyn Sachs (1994), Pam Dyne (1995), Vanessa Franco (2017), Michael Levine as well as former assistant program director Eric Silman and former research fellow Richard Byyny.

In addition, this year Amy Kaji and Ryan Pedigo at Harbor-UCLA negotiated a contract with Elsevier to publish a new EM review book edited and authored by all of the UCLA Department of EM affiliated sites (our residency program with faculty from Olive View-UCLA and Ronald Reagan UCLA, Harbor-UCLA, the Bakersfield EM program, and the West Los Angeles VA). While it will not be called the UCLA EM review book (as you can imagine the contract negotiation to label something with UCLA was complicated), the **Emergency Medicine Board Review**, was a great collaboration.



Editors from our program: Elijah Bell, Richelle Cooper (1998), Scott Votey (1987), Lynne McCullough (1998), Natasha Wheaton, and Steven Lai (2016).

Authors: Alan Chiem, Annum Bhullar (2020), George Lim, Danielle Antonuk (2021), Carolyn Sachs (1994), Luiz Souza-Filho (2020), David Haase (2022), Caleb Candors (2016), Armando Rodriguez (2016), Cameron Harrison (2021), Greg Hendey (1993), Steven Bolger (2020), Atilla Uner (1997), Ryan Dollbaum (2021), Vanessa Franco (2017), Kevin Wroblewski (2021), Kelly Painter (2004), Ali McLeroy-Wallace (2020), Anna Yap (2022), Samantha Kadera (2013), Alex Daguanno (2022), Matt Rosen (2019), Josh Baugh (2019), Daniel Ichwan (2021), Scott Lundberg (2004), Adam Evans (2018), Tom Graham (1995), Jo Feldman, Eric Savitsky (1995), Brandon Endo (2018), Caroline Humphreys (2021), Andie Takemoto (2018), Allison Ferreira (2018), Greg Moran (1992), Jessa Baker (2021), Ashley Vuong (2022), Fred Abrahamian, Matt Waxman (2007), Haig Aintablian (2022), Elizabeth Ferreira (2022), Rebecca Bavolek, Cat Weaver (2017), Hannah Wallace (2019), Jackie Kurth (2020), Dan Weingrow, Sabrina Tom (2015), Chelsea Robinson (2022), Claudie Bolduc (2021), Tom Akte (2021), Pam Dyne (1995), James Jiang (2019), Hannah Spungen (2022), Matthew Levin (2021), Tyler Haertlein (2020). Randy Lee (2020), Britt Guest (2019), Jimmy Murphy (2022), Theresa Cheng (2021), Rachel Shing (2016), Amir Rouhani (2011), Naseem Moridzadeh (2021), Andy Grock, Kellie Kitamura (2019), Lisa Zhao (2011), Mark Morocco (2001), Angelique Campen (2000), and Malkeet Gupta (2006).



Finally Alan Chiem along with Vi Dinh are the editors of the first edition of the **Emergency and Clinical Ultrasound Board Review, 1st ed.** Oxford, England: Oxford University Press. June 2020.

# The COVID-19 Pandemic

We have all been keenly aware we are living through a major historic event, a life-changing, world-changing, global pandemic, and I want to personally thank all of you for what you do every day, for all of your commitment on the frontlines, for the care you provide to patients and support you have provided to all our colleagues during such challenging and tragic times. The landscape of our practice has changed dramatically, as has our personal life and world outside of work. We have been lucky to avoid being overwhelmed (so far) in California, and we are privileged in society and at far less risk than many so vulnerable in our society and around the world who have been disproportionately impacted. The work of healthcare providers and health systems across the country and globe has been herculean and inspiring, anxiety provoking, and heartbreaking, and has both brought us together and kept us apart with physical distancing. As I look around I feel so blessed for the people who have been supportive and are helping me and others through, as we get accustomed to our new normal for the foreseeable future.



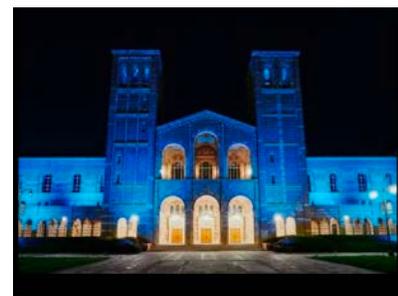
So much went into the efforts at UCLA that require acknowledgement. Leadership from **Greg Hendey (1993)** for the faculty and residents, regular faculty town halls for the UCLA group, and daily updates. Rebecca Bavolek and the entire PD leadership team for protecting the residents and their educational experiences. **Kellie Kitamura (2019)** and **Steven Lai (2016)** for converting our conferences to zoom, and taking them to a new level, bringing everyone together and making the educational transition smooth and learning experience exceptional. **Lynne McCullough (1998)** in all her roles as Medical Director, Vice Chief of Staff for the hospital, and integral part of the hospital command center for the COVID-19 response, providing the department support and getting the entire hospital administration team behind us. At Olive View-UCLA **Greg Moran (1992)**, **Matt Waxman (2007)** **Maureen McCollough (1994)** and **Scott Lundberg (2004)** for their daily emails and administrative support for our work at the county. Matt Waxman is the Director of Disaster Response Olive View-UCLA Medical Center.

The community support cannot be overstated. We received donations of PPE, funds to buy PPE, medical students volunteered child care and shopping/assistant services, UCLA campus labs donated eye protection (goggles), medical students made and donated face shields, the UCLA engineering department helped to make equipment that the medical center could not source, community donors provided meals to the healthcare workers twice a day every day (including thanks to **Lisa Waltz and Mark Morocco (2001)** for their role in these catered meals for the team), others donated hand sanitizer, and so much more.

The UCLA ED team was featured on ABC's Good Morning America on March 23, 2020 when a community board member sent pizzas as a thank you to staff.



UCLA joined the #LightItBlue campaign as venues across the world are showered with blue light to honor heroic health care workers, first responders, and all of the other essential workers who keep our communities fed, protected and functional during this pandemic. UC's motto is Fiat Lux — "Let There Be Light" — and each Thursday, they bathed our campus landmarks in Bruin blue.

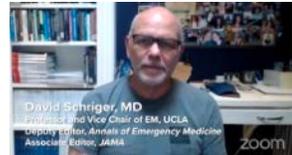


The story is still being written, be well and be safe!

# Educating Providers on the COVID-19 Pandemic

Education continued on the cutting edge and on the fly as we tried to learn and adapt to our circumstances. Every week we learned something new and learned what we thought we knew the week before was wrong. It was thus comforting for many of us to turn online and hear the wisdom of our mentors and educators, leading with what we know, and admitting what none of us know. For many of us, that education came from **Mel Herbert (1995)** and the many EM:RAP contributors with the COVID-19 **CorePendum chapter** and the **EM:RAP live stream** shows. It was great to see and hear from many alumni providing expert (if anyone can be called a COVID-19 expert) advice week after week, including **Dave Talan (1986)**, **David Schriger, Sara Crager (2015)**, and **Ilene Claudius (2002)**. There are some great extended videos to check out as well. See David Schriger's **video describing R0**, and many other additional **audio updates** at EMRAP's COVID-19 resource page. We also saw guest posts from many of our alumni describing their experiences including **Michael Katz (2005)** (EM/crit care) reporting an early experience with convalescent plasma, updates from **Ed Chu (2013)** located in Berlin, Germany working with Doctors Without Borders, and **Patrick Pearsall (2000)** practicing in Houston, Texas during the state's June surge. Our Access + Innovation in Medical Education fellow **Britt Guest (2019)** helped with crowd surveys, and is now taking over co-lead of the CorePendum chapter on COVID-19, giving updates during the EM:RAP live shows. For some business advice, **Scott Brewster (2000)** CMO of Emergency Medicine Associates provided his thoughts. **Jerry Hoffman (1979)** and David Schriger discussed the impact of the stay at home order, the impact of disparities and exacerbated impact in vulnerable populations, and more. Jerry also came back to tell us what the Remdesivir trial really showed, and David Schriger discusses dexamethasone in another audio update. We also heard from former Olive View-UCLA faculty, toxicologist, UCSF Fresno faculty and now Interim Health Officer for Fresno County Department of Public Health, **Rais Vorha**.

There is much more to this story as well, and we continue to learn together thanks to Mel and the team at EM:RAP for the live events.



In addition to the EM:RAP educational content and live streams, Mel Herbert and his team created a **PSA** to encourage people to stay home, which included the Olive View-UCLA, and UCLA faculty and residents.

**Webinar**  
**COVID-19 & Conflict**  
 The Rohingya & Myanmar's Ethnic States  
 April 24, 2020 @ 10 AM PST

  
 Dr. Tom Lee  
 Founder & Board Chair, CPI  
 Emergency Room Physician

  
 Dr. Si Thura  
 Executive Director, CPI

Join Community Partners International (CPI)'s founder Dr. Tom Lee, an ER Physician working on the front lines of COVID-19 response in Los Angeles, and Myanmar based Executive Director Dr. Si Thura as they reflect on the impact of COVID-19 on Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and vulnerable communities in Myanmar, and reveal how CPI is working to save lives.

**CPI** COMMUNITY PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL  
Empower communities. Transform lives.

## COVID-19 and Global Impact

Drs. Tom Lee and Si Thura (Executive Director CPI) held a webinar about COVID-19 and its impact in Myanmar and Bangladesh. **Community Partners International (CPI)** worked to set up a temporary hospital ward on the rooftop of the government hospital In Cox Bazar Bangladesh for Rohingya refugees who have COVID-19.

# UCLA Faculty, Residents and Alumni in the Media Discussing COVID-19

The novel coronavirus pandemic had many of our alumni contributing to news reports, starting before cases began to really take off in the US. The news reports and postings were first a trickle and then exploded as the pandemic grew. Many of our alumni were featured (sometimes daily) and I happen to capture a few of them. Thank you faculty and alumni for providing so much information to the community and other EPs and medical providers. Alumni captured covering numerous topics for local Los Angeles news outlets throughout the pandemic included, **Anthony Cardillo (2006)**, CEO and Medical Director of Mend Urgent Care, **Armand Dorian (2003)**, CMO at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, **Angelique Campen (2000)** at Providence St Joseph, **Joseph Chan (2015)**, Medical Director at Beverly Hospital in Montebello, **David Tashman (1999)** Medical Director at USC Verdugo Hills Emergency Department, and **Mark Morocco (2001)**. **Dan Katz (2004)** was featured on ABC World News Tonight, screening at the Malibu Urgent Care. Alumni **Clayton Kazan (2005)**, Medical Director of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, was featured talking about EMS preparedness on the local news, and then was a regular feature for the Los Angeles City's daily news briefings. **Matt Waxman (2007)** was featured on MSNBC a few times lending his expertise. Resident **Claudie Bolduc (2021)** who worked in public health for several years before medical school and residency delivered expert recommendations on **Fox11 Business News**, as well as spoke on **MSN global health news**. **Haig Aintablian (2022)** had an **opinion piece published at CNN**, and was featured in pieces in **The NY Daily News**, **Fox News**, and **NPR**. **Cameron Harrison (2021)** wrote a piece that was published on KevinMD.com, "**Coronavirus is an Elusive Engima.**" **Mark Morocco** was featured on Spectrum News1 broadcast with journalist Amrit Singh, as was **Stephanie Tang (2011)** in a different show. **Mark Morocco** was also captured by paparazzi working in protective gear and highlighted in the **Los Angeles Times (March 18, 2020)**, quoted in another **LA Times column March 24, 2020**, and published more than one **Op-Ed in the LA Times (March 28, 2020)**, and **May 17, 2020**. Both Mark Morocco and UCLA EM nurse extraordinaire Marcia Santini were featured among many leaders in an **April 2020 Los Angeles Magazine feature "Meet the Heroes of the Plague."** Mark was also featured in an excellent piece about his dedication on KCAL 9 news for their S.T.E.A.M series, and discussed his post work decontamination in this time of COVID-19 and stripped and showered outside his house for the newscast - **check it out.**



Haig Aintablian, president of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine, Infectious Disease and Student Association, a national advocacy group (Courtesy of Haig Aintablian)



Dr. Haig Aintablian speaking on a news broadcast.



Dr. Haig Aintablian speaking on a news broadcast.



**Doctor: I see patients fighting for life**  
Opinion by Haig Aintablian  
Updated 2:12 PM ET, Fri April 3, 2020

**Coronavirus is an elusive engima**  
CAMERON HARRISON, MD | CONDITIONS | JUNE 6, 2020



# Meet the 2019-2020 Chief Residents

Hello! We're Tom, Nate, Caroline, and Daniel, and we're excited to be your chief residents for the 2020-2021 academic year. Since our election, three of the four of us went to CORD and zero came back with COVID. We enjoyed informative lectures from the Chief Resident, Navigating the Academic Waters and Clerkship Directors in EM tracks, great food, and bonding time with residency leadership. We did not enjoy being treated as plague vectors on our return, but are pleased to report that while the stigma has dissipated, the memories of "wow why did we do that in the middle of a pandemic" have not.

Here is a bit on each of us:

**Tom Akie** hails from Dedham, MA, and spent most of his pre-UCLA life in Massachusetts, perhaps explaining his love of beer and running since both warm you up when it is freezing cold. He completed a PhD in something about how mitochondria are the powerhouse of the cell at UMass before moving here with his wife, Heather, and his two kids, Oliver and Joselyn. He also has a dog named Ginger who is extremely afraid of program leadership, especially Nate. He is interested in academics, probably? But is not sure yet. His favorite present is beer, so give him some.

**Nate Friedman** is from Chevy Chase, MD and bounced around various locations in the South before landing at UCLA. Before medical school, he attempted various other professions before realizing that few other (legal) specialties allowed him to occasionally stab people with needles. Nate has a dog, Otis, that you will certainly hear about because he cannot shut up about him. He has no idea what he wants to do after residency but is considering an academic career in toxicology. His favorite present is attention, so give him some.

**Caroline Humphreys** comes from Sacramento, CA, and brings to us the usual complex mix of haughty disdain and tempered appreciation for Southern California that all who grow up in NorCal apparently carry. She strongly considered a career in orthopedics prior to settling on EM, because she is strong, enjoys anatomy, and is adept at breaking things. Caroline occasionally flirts with a career in critical care, then does an ICU rotation and decides not to do critical care, then runs into Sara Crager and thinks about critical care aga--. Her favorite present is space, so give her some.

**Daniel Ichwan** was born and raised in Los Angeles and has never left! He went to UCLA for both undergrad and med school and is thrilled to (still) be here. Daniel is perhaps the most diplomatic chief resident and is adept at crafting very long emails to you with multiple types of emphasis (bold, italics, and underlined). He is interested in medical student and resident education and wins the resident teaching award as often as Caleb Canders (2016) and Amir Rouhani (2011) win the faculty teaching award. Perhaps unique among the new chiefs, Daniel has a clear career plan to pursue pediatric emergency medicine as he really enjoys screaming children. His favorite present is being right, so give him...some? right?

It's a strange time to take over the reins of chief from Randy, Cate, Jackie, Steven, and Varun, who did a phenomenal job advancing the residency. Starting our transition in the midst of an all-consuming zombie flu apocalypse has been a little, uh, challenging, but we're excited to welcome our new interns with Intern Boot Camp! In the coming months, we hope to start work on providing residents with QI information like bounce-backs, turn the pre-attending shift into a meaningful and longitudinal R4 experience, and include more participatory elements in our weekly conference, along with lots of other ideas. We're pumped to get started!



Team Chief 2020-2021

# UCLA EM at CORD Academic Assembly 2020

Cord Academic Assembly took place March 8-11, 2020 amid the growing spread of SARS-CoV2 in New York, just before the hospitals saw a surge of patients. Our entire education team travelled, including PD Rebecca Bavolek, all four APDs - Pam Dyne (1995), Natasha Wheaton, Jaime Jordan, Steven Lai (2016), our UCLA residency coordinators Jennifer Cassidy and Rosa Graziano, our two education fellows, Stephen Villa and Kellie Kitamura (2019), and three of the four 2020-2021 incoming chief residents - Nate Friedman, Caroline Humphreys and Daniel Ichwan, as well as part-time OV faculty member and West LA VA faculty Andy Grock. A couple members brought back more than they planned to, but are thankfully well and now have antibodies against SARS-CoV2. The team was also able to catch up with our incoming education fellow Max Berger. The CORD Academic Assembly has several simultaneous tracks - a Best Practices track, the Navigating the Academic Waters track, the residency coordinator EMARC track, a MedTed track (FOAM education), a Chief Resident track, a New Programs & Leaders track, as well as the Clinical Practice Case (CPC) competition, and research abstracts.

Rebecca Bavolek was the senior track chair for the Best Practices, including being session leader for the "SLOE Rider."

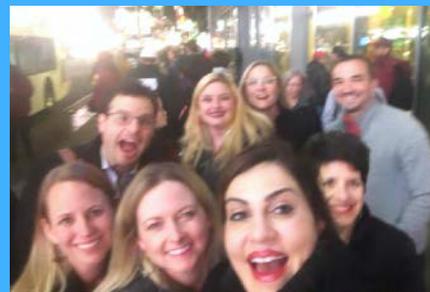
Jaime Jordan delivered two didactics one for the Navigating the Academic Waters track "Practical Tips to Build and Sustain Mentor-Mentee Relationships in 2020," and for the New Programs & Leaders sessions "Program Evaluation Essentials: How to Maximize Your Educational Programs!," She also led a session "Educational Research Consults," and presented a research abstract "Coaching in Emergency Medicine: Impact of a Novel National Faculty Development Program."

Andy Grock was session leader for the MedTed session, "Drowning in FOAM? How to Navigate and Curate Effective FOAM Resources!," and presented a research abstract for his collaborators, including Jaime Jordan, "A Usability Analysis of the Academic Life in Emergency Medicine Approved Instructional Resource Series Among Medical Students, Residents, and Attending Physicians."

Pam Dyne participated in two panel discussions for faculty development in the Navigating the Academic Waters lectures "Deconstructing Failure: Get Knocked Down & Get Up Again!," and "Promotion & Tenure Rules of the Road Workshop."

Natasha Wheaton lectured at the EMARC session "Don't Leave us Hanging: Parental Leave Policies in EM," and served on a panel "Raising Junior While You're Junior Faculty: A Panel on Pregnancy and Parenthood in Academic Medicine."

Jennifer Cassidy presented for the first time at CORD in the EMARC track. Her presentation, "What Systems Do you have in Place Should Management Change." She had the opportunity to share her story with taking on the two full time positions in 2018 (Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator), connect with fellow EM coordinators, and provide some helpful takeaways they can apply at their own institution. She is looking forward to submitting another presentation next year at CORD 2021.



# SAEM 2020 - Virtually due to SARS-CoV-2

As with everything in our academic and private life, COVID-19 brought a change to the annual SAEM 2020 meeting that was to be in Denver in May 2020. Instead of seeing our alumni and sharing in our academic work in person the meeting was restructured to some virtual meetings and on-line abstract postings. We still want to recognize the accomplishments of our residents, faculty and alumni. Some of the meeting was streamed on the [SAEM YouTube Channel](#) and [SAEM facebook](#), and presentations of abstracts will be continually loaded for the next few months as they come in. Congratulations to everyone for their excellent work and we look forward to being able to see you all again soon.



## Eposters and Abstracts:

- Talan DA, Mower WR, Moran GJ and colleagues, "Clinical Pathway Using Dalbavancin Was Associated With Reduced Hospitalizations of Patients With Skin Infections."
- Lee R, Agarwal T, McConnell R, Mower WM, Gupta M. "Evaluation of Pulse Oximetry in Pediatric Patients Who Present to the Emergency Department ."
- Lee R, Agarwal T, McConnell R, Mower WM, Gupta M. "Emergency Department Bounce-Back Rates for Pediatric Patients with Respiratory Illness."
- Part-time OV-UCLA and WLA VA faculty member Andy Grock and colleagues, "Systematic Online Academic Resource Review: Endocrine, Metabolic, and Nutritional Disorders."
- Former National Clinical Scholar Program Fellow Carl Berdahl and colleagues, "Patient-Facing Tools that Collect History to Characterize Acute Complaints: a Scoping Review."
- IDHEAL members: Preston-Suni K, Acharya HA, Janeway H, Schneberk T, Hsieh D, Samra S, Treut P, Orozco N, Taira BR. "The International and Domestic Health Equity and Leadership - University of California Los Angeles Curriculum in Social Emergency Medicine."
- First year National Clinician Scholar Kimon Ioannides, along with former UCLA RWJ Ben Sun and colleagues, "Not all HEART Scores Are Created Equal: Identifying "Low-Risk" Patients at Higher Risk."
- Former Critical Care and Research Fellow Dan Rolston and colleagues, "The Effects of Initial Emergency Department Ventilatory Settings on Ventilator Free Days and In Hospital Mortality," and "Prevalence and Rationale for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in Do Not Resuscitate Patients in Cardiac Arrest."
- Alumni Robert Rodriguez and colleagues, "Misconceptions and Poor Understanding of Domestic Violence Reporting," and "Does the Extended Focused Assessment With Sonography in Trauma Exam Improve the Screening Performance of the NEXUS Chest Decision Instrument?" And "Screening Performance of Chest X-Ray in Adult Blunt Trauma Evaluation: What Does It Miss?"
- Former Research Fellow Marc Probst and colleagues, "Spanish Proficiency and Interpreter Use Among Emergency Providers: a Survey Study."
- Former Research Fellow Todd Schneberk and colleagues. "Health Care Utilization and Payment Types Among Latinx Patients of Los Angeles County, Pre- and Post-2016 Presidential Election."
- Alumni Sanjay Arora, Mike Menchine and colleagues. "Geospatial variability in high-risk opioid use at the United States county level."
- Alumni Josh Baugh and colleagues, "Documentation Displaces Teaching in an Academic Emergency Department."



## Other presentations:

Alumna Kellie (McCartan) O'Laughlin (2007), current Global Emergency Medicine Association (GEMA) president, hosted a mentored roundtable on Work/Life Balance in Global Health.



Innovations: IDHEAL faculty Dennis Hsieh and colleagues, "Creating and Testing Chatbot (Think Alexa) for Social Needs Screening in the Emergency Department."

IDHEAL faculty and former research fellow Todd Schneberk and colleague, "Correctional Health Elective."



Todd Schneberk and Shamsheer Samra (2017) presented at the Social Emergency Medicine and Population Health Interest Group meeting on Social Em Innovations in COVID - Detention + Decarceration.

# Updates from our Resident Representatives

## Haig Aintablian (2022) - AAEM Resident Student Association President

The [AAEM led bill HR6910](#) has been introduced to the legislature. If it passes it will be a historic achievement in protecting due process rights for emergency physicians, preventing events like that which happened to [Dr. Wanda Cruz](#) and also to [Dr. Ming Lin](#). This is a topic of huge importance for both AAEM and AAEM/RSA and one of the driving forces of both organization's mission statements. Haig's comments were included in the press release *"Due Process is more than just a safeguard against wrongful termination. It's a means by which physicians can advocate for their patients without fear of retribution by the corporate medical machine that has annexed medicine. AAEM/RSA supports this bill not only because of the principle of Due Process, but because our residents and medical students deserve to enter fair and just working environments when they finish their training and become full-fledged emergency physicians."*



## Anna Yap (2022) - Cal ACEP/EMRA president and AMA Resident and Fellows Section At-Large Officer

Anna Yap has been very busy on the state and national level, working on protections and advocacy for residents and medical students. The Resident and Fellows section, of which Anna is on the Governing Council, worked with the AMA to develop [medical education resources](#) in the age of COVID. She has given feedback for [key recommendations for the 2021 application cycle](#), and advocated for things like [hazard pay](#), [student loan forgiveness](#), and [workplace protections for residents](#). You can check our more [COVID residency guidance](#) that the AMA has been giving throughout this time. Anna has also been able to [share with the AMA](#) the great things [our residency is doing](#) when it comes to medical education. She spoke with many elected officials, advocating for residents on a tele town-hall with [Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senator Warren](#), and hosted a Policy Chat with Rep Maloney (author of the HEROES bill), Senator Dr. Pan and Rep Dr. Santiago.



Anna is championing bringing [VotER](#) to our program. VotER seeks to give a voice to the marginalized communities that our ED's serve by registering patients to vote. VotER is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization. Voting is one of the most basic ways we can shape healthcare policy to better address social determinants of health and systemic racism. VotER has been establishing formal partnerships with hospital systems (e.g. Mass General, Geisinger Health, University of Wisconsin, UPenn, etc.), but are also working with individual EM physicians through their Healthy Democracy Kit. These kits largely consist of a lanyard with the VotER logo and an ID badge card which has a QR code/text code which sends patients to a web platform that helps them register to vote. As VotER is strictly non-partisan, everyone is asked to complete a brief training to help field questions when patients ask about specific parties or politicians. You can learn more [here](#).



Healing our broken health system – one vote at a time

# What's New from the Access + Innovation in Medical Education (AIME) Fellowship?



In December 2019, the AIME team returned to Guatemala City, Guatemala, where they helped organize and teach a weeklong intensive training for the incoming intern EM class at the Instituto Guatemalteco de Seguridad Social program. During this week, both Sara Crager (2015) and Ryan Ernst lectured at the "EM Master Class," a 1-day emergency medicine conference for over 200 Guatemalan doctors, nurses, and medics, presented in collaboration with the Asociacion Guatemalteca de Medicina de Emergencia.



To start the new year, in January fellow Britt Guest (2019) and Ryan Ernst headed back to Nairobi, Kenya where they worked with Ben Wachira, (President of the African Federation of Emergency Medicine), to teach the EM Diploma students an intensive, 3-day review course in preparation for their EM boards, which they will take in South Africa.



Although COVID has prevented any current international travel, the AIME team continues to provide educational content and support to our colleagues in Guatemala and Kenya. Last month, Ryan, Britt, and Mel Herbert (1995) were invited to give an online, interactive lecture on "Managing the Sick COVID patient" for the Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation. Mel has also kept the group busy by inviting Sara and Britt to participate on several EM:RAP COVID Live Events. Britt and Sara have also been recording a lot of content in the EM:RAP studio, forcing them both to face their fears of cameras and microphones :)



Britt and Mel recorded the 2020 LLSA review...in separate rooms to preserve social distancing (In case Britt brought COVID-19 into the studio).

# Educational Outtakes and Zoom Visiting Alumni Lecturers



COVID-19 changes extend to our teaching. Morning teaching with Pam Dyne (1995) at OV taken outdoors to get a little mask free face time with social distancing, and Fred Abrahamian teaching in the hall while keeping some space.



Education fellow Kellie Kitamura (2019) and Steven Lai (2016) revamped all of our education sessions to online



learning with zoom conferences and small groups and it has been fantastic. We have had some guest appearances from many alumni. A community panel perspective on March 31, 2020 with Eric Snyder (2008), Eric Schallert (2017), Jason Lu (2019) Matt Rosen (2019), and former ultrasound fellow and faculty member Ricky Amii giving the Hawaii perspective. A conference devoted to all things COVID-19 April 7, 2020 with a panel of doctors from NY including former critical care and research fellow alumni Dan Rolston. We had more than 60 alumni join our conference that day and we hope to invite you again. Expert teaching on the crashing neonate with Jessie Wall (2015), and former APD Eric Silman tag-teamed with Scott Votey (1987) in April for a lecture on arrhythmias (check out the background screen shot for Silman's image... yes that is David Schriger's driveway). Our long time program friend and toxicology expert Don Barceloux educated us about toxic plants, focusing on those plants native to our region. Laura Celmins, are favorite pharmacologist has been able to zoom in from Chicago to give us great pearls as part of our recurring consults corner. Jake Lentz (2019) zoomed in from an undisclosed location to present a case of an interesting rash. We learned about pediatric MI and pediatric HTN from our guest lecturer Tim Horeczko, pediatric EM faculty at Harbor UCLA. To end out the year, on our last academic conference, Jerry Hoffman (1979) and Mark Brown (1988) discussed legal and ethical issues with rationing (eg ventilators).



**ALUMNI** - Come teach at our conferences: If you will be in Los Angeles and want to lecture at one of our conferences, or teach a small group, email [Richelle Cooper \(1998\)](mailto:Richelle.Cooper@ucsf.edu). With our current organization of conferences on line, let us know if you want to give a lecture on zoom.



# Graduation 2020

We had a novel celebration for the graduating residents and fellows of 2020. Again COVID-19 required changes to how we honored this amazing group of individuals who will forever be part of our UCLA family.

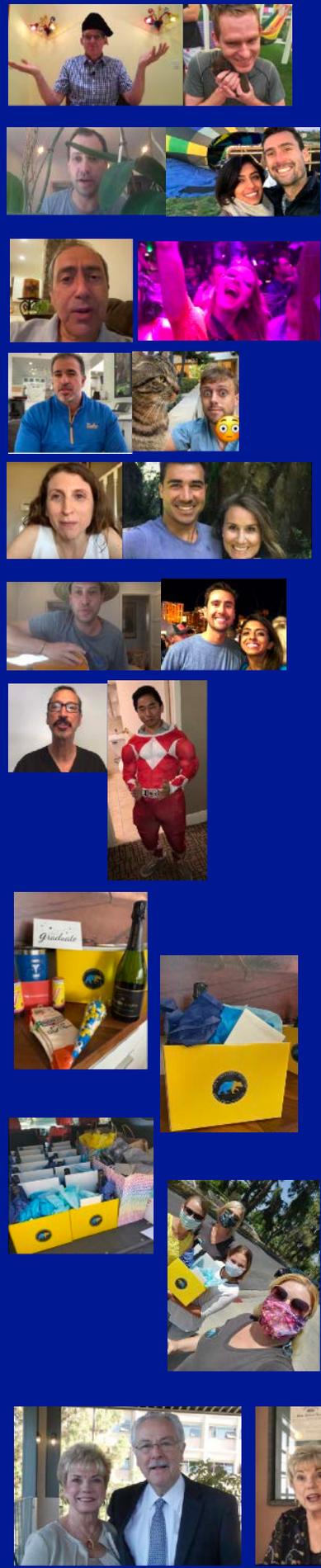
Residency graduation is the culmination of years of school, dedication and hard work by these amazing individuals, and the many teachers from elementary school and beyond that contributed to their education. We must thank the patients who graciously teach us every day in the ED. The arduous task of becoming an emergency physician would not have been possible without the support of family, friends, and work colleagues who have been with the residents throughout their journey. Now the next journey in their career begins and we look forward to seeing where this takes them. While we could not celebrate together the faculty applaud the group and offer our congratulations!

As we moved to a virtual graduation, the program leadership organized several special events to honor each member of the class. Instead of our regular slide show, in the two weeks leading up to graduation we all received a "Graduate of the Day" video with a tribute from a faculty mentor and a photo montage. A huge thank you to the residency leadership team and faculty for all of their work to create such an exceptional virtual celebration and send off.

A very special thank you to the chief residents - Steven Bolger, Jackie Kurth, Randy Lee, Varun Shahi, and Cate Yaggi for all of your hard work and contributions to your class and the residency program with your service this past year.

On graduation day, all members of the class of 2020 had gift boxes delivered by residency coordinator Jen Cassidy, the class' Associate Program Director Natasha Wheaton, Program Director Rebecca Bavolek and her daughter Juliana (her mini me). The faculty contributed funds to support a gift card for door dash for a special dinner for two, champagne, and goodies to help the class each celebrate while watching the virtual ceremony. The diploma and departmental gift will also be sent to all of the graduating class. Thanks to all of the faculty contributions and the organization of the program director, associate program directors and residency coordinators.

**Vanessa Kreger** received the Marshall T Morgan Humanism Award. This award goes to the resident who has embodied the qualities that were so admired in Dr. Morgan, who showed humanism in caring for his patients in the emergency department, and was a champion for the underserved fighting against inequalities in the community.



# Graduation 2020



Graduation ceremony was a virtual celebration but this was much more than a zoom conference. More than 100 faculty, residents, family members and loved ones of the graduating class, residency coordinators, administrative staff, and CIMs tuned in live to celebrate graduation with the class of 2020. The evening started with dapper Greg Hendeley welcoming the group, and then Master of Ceremonies (seems hardly title enough for the amazing show she created) and Program Director Bavolek led us through the festivities. The tributes we have heard for the last couple weeks continued, first with the awarding of the Marshall T. Morgan Humanism award given to Vanessa Kreger. An obvious selection given her advocacy for patients in the ED and all of her efforts and contributions to our community outreach committee. We heard additional special congratulation messages from many of the faculty, nurses, firemen and more. There were two special recorded messages, one from UCLA Alumni and Laker Legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and one from Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Gasp, yes jaw drop. All of us watching the presentation were gobsmacked as well. Then we were thrilled with two dazzling musical performances. First from the residency band Gravelly Disabled, and then our last original song led by Luiz Souza-Filho and his class. It was a spectacular evening, one where nobody was ready to get off the zoom call at the end both because it was a great show and because it is hard to say goodbye to all of these special residents. From everyone at UCLA, Olive View-UCLA, and Antelope Valley we say farewell for now, until we can see each other in person again.

UCLA EM Graduation 2020	
Dr. Greg Hendeley	Chair of UCLA EM
Residents	Class of 2020 Graduates
Fellows	Class of 2020 Graduates
Jean Morgan	Beloved Friend of UCLA
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	LA Laker Legend
Hillary Clinton	Fmr. Secretary of State
Gravelly Disabled	UCLA Band Sensation
Faculty and Staff	UCLA EM
Dr. Luiz Souza-Filho	Musician Extraordinaire



# Where are the Class of 2020 going?

**Aws Al-Abdullah** - Scottsdale Emergency Associates - staffing 3 departments in the Phoenix/Scottsdale, Az area

**Annum Bhullar** - PIH in Whittier and Downey, as well as per diem at Kaiser West LA and Northridge Hospital (VEP)

**Steven Bolger** - Simulation Fellowship at Mount Sinai St. Luke's- West in NY

**Tyler Haertlein** - Broward Health in Fort Lauderdale (Level 1 trauma, semi-academic) and Baptist Health South Florida in Miami (Level 2 trauma, 100 bed ED)

**Vanessa Kreger** - Burbank Emergency Medical Group at Providence St. Joseph's Medical Center in Burbank, Glendale Adventist, and part time clinical teaching shifts at Olive View

**Jackie Kurth** - St. Mary's Medical Center in Long Beach (Vituity)

**Randy Lee** - George Washington Hospital Center and United Medical Center in Washington, DC

**Ali McLeroy-Wallace** - Pediatric EM Fellowship at UT South Western Medical Center in Dallas, TX

**Teri Miller** - Centinela Hospital with EMA, and MountView Regional Medical Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico

**Varun Shahi** - Los Alamitos Medical Center, Lakewood

**Luiz Souza-Filho** - Predominantly at Burbank Emergency Medical Group at Providence St. Joseph's Medical Center in Burbank, per diem at Kaiser Panorama City, and in New Mexico

**Greg Tong** - St. Mary's Medical Center in Long Beach, MountView Regional Medical Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Kaiser (Downey and Panorama City), and Antelope Valley

**Cate Yaggi** - Academic teaching position at Baylor Scott & White in Temple, TX (where she went for medical school)

## Congratulations to the Graduating Fellows of 2020

Education Fellow **Kellie Kitamura (2019)** will be joining our faculty group at Olive View-UCLA, and continuing her amazing contributions to our education program.

Ultrasound Fellow **Amir Tabibnia** will be working at Cedars Sinai Medical Center and will continue to be a part-time attending at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center and continuing to contribute to our ultrasound educational program.

Informatics Fellow **Indira Gowda** will be working at Kaiser Fontana.

IDHEAL Fellow **Hemang Acharya** will be staying within our UCLA Department and IDHEAL section, joining the faculty group at the West Los Angeles VA.

Critical Care Fellow **Allison Caponetti-Ferreira (2018)** will be joining the UCLA Emergency Medicine Faculty group and will be starting out 80% ICU (at Antelope Valley and SM-UCLA), and 20% EM time at SM-UCLA and getting more involved in our program again.

Fellows continuing for their second year include - AIME Fellow Britt Guest, IDHEAL Fellow Hannah Janeway, Education Fellow Stephen Villa, NCSP Fellow Kimon Ioannides, and Critical Care Fellow Carolyn Cutler.

# Meet the Intern Class of 2024



**Name:** Cooper Aakhus

**Undergraduate School:** Boston College

**Medical School:** Loyola Stritch School of Medicine

*Before Intern year you can find me:* **Out on a hike with my dog**

**Koda! Or doing some good old fashioned social isolation while perfecting my baguette recipe.**

*My hidden talent is:* **Gollum and Stitch (from Lilo and Stich) impressions**

*The greatest meal I ever had was:* **The first time I had Korean BBQ. I fell in love with it!**

*If I knew I could not fail I would:* **Build a log cabin on a mountain overlooking a lake.**

*I'm really looking forward to the sun, the beach, attempting to get a tan, and all of the Korean BBQ I could ever want! when I am in Los Angeles!*



**Name:** Zainab Ahmed (pronounced Zen-ub)

**Undergraduate School:** Brown University

**Medical School:** Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NY

*Before Intern year you can find me:* **Social distancing at home in San Francisco, consuming tea and bad TV, and mooching off my parents.**

*The greatest meal I ever had was:* **Zucchini turkey meatballs and roasted eggplant w/carrot cake for desert made by my older sister Zohra.**

*If I knew I could not fail I would:* **Run to be the president of the mens-only Karachi Sindh Club in Pakistan. The food is supreme and the grounds are beautiful.**



*I could not live without my:* **to-do lists.**

*I'm really looking forward to perpetual sunshine when I am in Los Angeles.*

**Name:** Amanda Amen

**Undergraduate School:** Washington University in St. Louis

**Medical School:** Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

*Before Intern year you can find me:* **Spending my last couple of months in Michigan enjoying quality time while isolating with my family.**

*My hidden talent is:* **Picking out the perfect watermelon every time.**

*When not in the hospital I'm most likely:* **Staying active, catching up with friends and family over food, and finding a great salsa dancing spot.**

*The greatest meal I ever had was:* **My grandpa's grape leaves the first time I visited home after going away for college.**

*If I knew I could not fail I would:* **Go wingsuit flying.**



*I could not live without my:* **Skechers. I can't figure out why my friends have such a problem with me wearing them...**

*I'm really looking forward to retiring my parka, exploring the amazing food scene, taking advantage of everything outdoors I've never had in the Midwest when I am in Los Angeles!*

*If I were running for office my campaign slogan would be:* **"Amen to that!" (used in actual student council election circa 2009)**

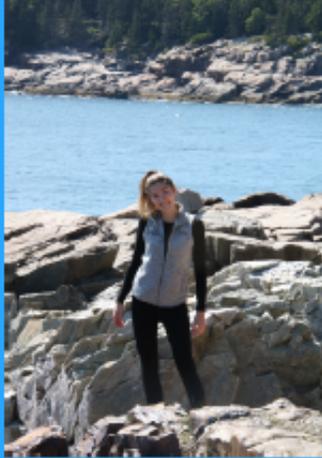


# Meet the Intern Class of 2024

Name: Leanne Cook

Undergraduate School: Cornell University

Medical School: University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry



*My hidden talent is:* cleaning and organizing.

*When not in the hospital I'm most likely:* sleeping in, trying new recipes, catching up with friends over wine, or working out.

*The greatest meal I ever had was:* brunch with my best friend in Barcelona!

*I could not live without my:* Google Maps.

*I'm really looking forward to warmer weather, sunshine and new hikes when I am in Los Angeles!*



Name: Charlene Gaw

Undergraduate School: Virginia Commonwealth University

Graduate School: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Medical School: Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

*My hidden talent is:* Gollum impression.

*When not in the hospital I'm most likely:* Outside.

*The greatest meal I ever had was:* my mom's Burmese cooking (balachaung, ohn-no Khao swé, mohinga); I'm trying to learn so I can share with others!

*If I knew I could not fail I would:* host a wildlife education show.

*I could not live without my:* Coffee, bike, boba.

*I'm really looking forward to learning to surf, going to cool dance studios, eating everything everywhere, and aerial yoga when I am in Los Angeles!*



Name: Reza Hessabi

Undergraduate School: UCLA

Graduate School: Tulane

Medical School: Dartmouth

*Before Intern year you can find me:* quarantined, hacking my way through Vietnamese and Farsi on Rosetta Stone.

*My hidden talent is:* ending team meetings on time while still getting through the agenda.

*The greatest meal I ever had was:* my 27th birthday dinner in Washington, D.C. courtesy of my partner. I used to think Michelin star restaurants couldn't possibly be hyped appropriately. I was happily incorrect.

*If I knew I could not fail I would:* write, direct & produce a 7-film adaptation of K.A. Applegate's Animorphs novels (a series that was an unflinching look at war's devastating consequences, while also being a goofy time capsule of adolescence in the 1990s).

*I could not live without my:* 2004 Honda Element, Fatema. She's been with me on two cross-country moves and I wouldn't have survived either without her.



# Meet the Intern Class of 2024



**Name: Woo Suk "Wyatt" Hong**

**Undergraduate School: Stanford**

**Medical School: Yale**

**Before Intern year you can find me: in quarantine unsuccessfully trying to lose my love-handles.**

**When not in the hospital I'm most likely: working on an**

**essay, poem or short story (check out [wyatthong.com](http://wyatthong.com)).**

**If I knew I could not fail I would: invest in Bitcoin and retire at 40.**

**I could not live without my: Youtube Premium subscription.**

**I'm really looking forward to Korean BBQ and losing my love-handles when I am in Los Angeles!**

**Name: Anna Jackanich - "AJ"**

**Undergraduate School: Ohio State University**

**Medical School: Keck School of Medicine at USC**

**Before Intern year you can find me: sleeping on the beach.**

**My hidden talent is: cutting my/ other people's hair.**

**When not in the hospital I'm most likely: rollerblading or watching hearts get broken on reality TV.**

**If I knew I could not fail I would: become a globe-trotting, internationally renown connoisseur and critic of bagels.**



**I could not live without my: carbohydrates.**



**Name: Taylor James**

**Undergraduate School: College of William and Mary**

**Graduate School: University of Miami**

**Medical School: University of Miami Miller School of Medicine**

**Before Intern year you can find me: Baking, learning new recipes and cooking techniques, and trying to finish a 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzle that I 100% regret buying (might be done by the end of intern year).**

**When not in the hospital I'm most likely: Scoping out a new brewery, learning how to surf, finding a new hike to go on, baking something way over-the-top, or just binging Netflix shows.**

**The greatest meal I ever had was: A walking food tour around Athens, Greece. Technically it was 12 tiny meals, but man were they delicious.**

**If I knew I could not fail I would: Buy a plot of land in Northern California and start my own winery. Once that was up and running I'd start my own restaurant on the winery and make food pairings for all my wine tastings.**

**I could not live without my: Black coffee.**

**I'm really looking forward to exploring different canyons and mountains to hike when I am in Los Angeles! There are no mountains in Florida.**



# Meet the Intern Class of 2024

**Name:** Jackson Kloor

**Undergraduate School:** University of Colorado at Boulder

**Medical School:** University of Colorado School of Medicine

**Before Intern year you can find me:** Physically distancing but socially connecting. It's been great to have extended time to catch up with family and friends.

**My hidden talent is:** Blind tasting wine?

**When not in the hospital I'm most likely:** Getting outside with friends and family, taking board games too seriously, watching, discussing and playing basketball, driving around LA looking for open tennis courts and ending up in a brewery.



**The greatest meal I ever had was:** Crispi 19, Rome.

**If I knew I could not fail I would:** compete in the Tour de France, those final laps around the Champs-Élysées...

**I could not live without my:** partner Sarah. She keeps me grounded.

**I'm really looking forward to all the wonderful and diverse cuisine when I am in Los Angeles!**



**Name:** Kelsey Kneisly

**Undergraduate School:** University of Maryland, College Park

**Medical School:** University of Maryland School of Medicine

**Before Intern year you can find me:** The original plan was to dive my way through Malaysia and Indonesia, but that trip had to be put on hold for now. Instead I'll be road tripping cross country and hopefully stopping at a few of the Utah and Arizona national parks along the way.

**My hidden talent is:** Finding small critters underwater. My fave so far has been a pygmy seahorse.

**When not in the hospital I'm most likely:** Hopefully once I get to LA the answer will be at the beach J. Plus hiking, trying new eats, hanging out with my husband and planning our next adventure (and/or trying to talk him into getting a dog).

**The greatest meal I ever had was:** Veggie panang curry with a mango coconut milk smoothie for dessert in Chiang Mai, Thailand. We went to the same place for dinner 3 nights in a row and had no regrets.



**I'm really looking forward to finding the best Ramen spots, diving mainland US for the first time, having my sister and brother in law up to visit from San Diego, and hopefully getting to hang out with my co-interns and residents once quarantine is over when I am in Los Angeles!**



**Name:** Bryan Merte

**Undergraduate School:** Cornell University

**Medical School:** University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

**When not in the hospital I'm most likely:** trying not to drown while surfing.

**The greatest meal I ever had was:** a fresh salmon burger in Denali NP with my dad

**If I knew I could not fail I would:** free climb.

**I could not live without my:** camera.

**I'm really looking forward to leaving behind 8 years of upstate NY and not cleaning snow off my car when I am in Los Angeles!**



# Meet the Intern Class of 2024

**Name:** Sima Sadeghinejad

**Undergraduate School:** UCLA



**Medical School:** Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine

**Before Intern year you can find me:** quarantined in New Hampshire with my two best friends and learning to cook new types of curries, stir fries and baked goodies.

**My hidden talent is:** making my own nut milk and baking delicious apple pies!

**The greatest meal I ever had was:** my mom's Ghormeh Sabzi.

**I could not live without my:** family.

**I'm really looking forward to playing with my baby nephew, Elias when I am in Los Angeles!**



**Name:** Erich Wieshofer

**Undergraduate School:** Rice University

**Graduate School:** SUNY Downstate School of Public Health

**Medical School:** SUNY Downstate College of Medicine

**Before Intern year you can find me:** planning my next trip for the day when we can finally travel again.

**My hidden talent is:** giving restaurant recommendations.

**When not in the hospital I'm most likely:** driving up to Mammoth.

**The greatest meal I ever had was:** Lobster Spaghetti at Joe Beef in Montreal and the Hot Chicken at Parson's in Chicago.

**If I knew I could not fail I would:** make a chocolate soufflé.

**I could not live without my:** curated Spotify playlists.

**I'm really looking forward to roadside strawberry stands when I am in Los Angeles!**



**Name:** Tiglath Ziyeh "Tig"

**Undergraduate School:** UC Davis

**Graduate School:** MS in Biomedical Sciences, Boston University

**Medical School:** Albany Medical College

**Before Intern year you can find me:** social distancing and doing at home yoga and HIIT workouts.

**My hidden talent is:** Assyrian folklore dancing.

**When not in the hospital I'm most likely:** exploring new restaurants, running along the beach, wine tasting in Napa, assembling a charcuterie board, and planning my next adventure.

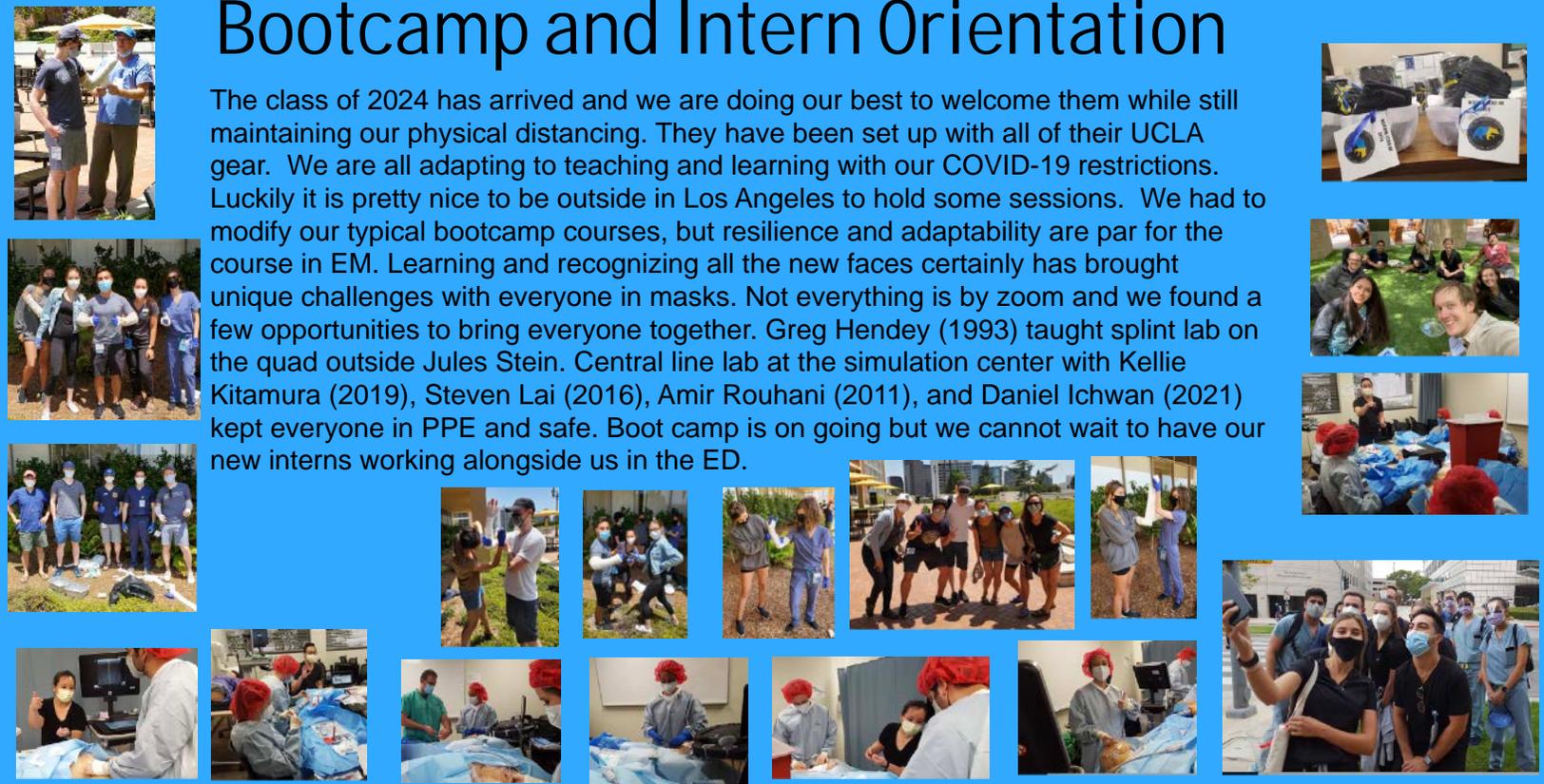
**The greatest meal I ever had was:** Florentine steak at l'Tuscani in Florence, Italy.

**I'm really looking forward to finally learning how to surf when I am in Los Angeles!**



# Bootcamp and Intern Orientation

The class of 2024 has arrived and we are doing our best to welcome them while still maintaining our physical distancing. They have been set up with all of their UCLA gear. We are all adapting to teaching and learning with our COVID-19 restrictions. Luckily it is pretty nice to be outside in Los Angeles to hold some sessions. We had to modify our typical bootcamp courses, but resilience and adaptability are par for the course in EM. Learning and recognizing all the new faces certainly has brought unique challenges with everyone in masks. Not everything is by zoom and we found a few opportunities to bring everyone together. Greg Hendey (1993) taught splint lab on the quad outside Jules Stein. Central line lab at the simulation center with Kellie Kitamura (2019), Steven Lai (2016), Amir Rouhani (2011), and Daniel Ichwan (2021) kept everyone in PPE and safe. Boot camp is on going but we cannot wait to have our new interns working alongside us in the ED.



Be safe! Follow the lead of our faculty, staff, scribes and class of 2020 residents setting the example. Ready for anything!



# Growing Families - Congratulations to Everyone!



**Randy Lee (2020)** and wife Carrie, welcomed baby number 3, Logan. Big sister Dakota and brother Austin.



**Greg Tong (2020)** and Seema Vohra (former excellent UCLA CIM)...Got engaged!



**Jackie Shibata** brought home her first child, daughter Naomi Aki, just before the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Jackie Kurth (2020)** and her boyfriend Andy got a new puppy, named Peter Gibbons.



**Aws** and **Sophia Al-Abdullah's (2020)** got married in Florida in February 2020. Travel plans just missed the lock down, which was good given most of his class was able to travel and celebrate with them.



**Hannah Spungen (2022)** and her boyfriend Tim got a goldendoodle puppy named Toby (she calls him Tobramycin) who is already enormous.

## Alumni Updates



**Sarge Takhar (2006), Erik Schraga (2006)** took a trip to Utah to catch up with **Stu Goldfarb**.



**Rachel Shing (2016)** and husband Kris brought home baby Raeden to nest during the start of COVID-19 pandemic.



**Sara May (2004)** and wife Sara brought home baby Moses. Another blessing while staying sheltered at home in Seattle with the COVID-19 outbreak peaking.



# KUDOS to Our Amazing Faculty, Residents and Alumni

Congratulations to **Haig Aintablian (2022)** who was bestowed the AAEM Resident of the Year Award for 2020. The award recognizes a resident who has made an outstanding contribution to AAEM. The notification letter acknowledged Haig for his contributions “to the Academy, our specialty and the continuing activities of the AAEM/RSA.” We are so proud that Haig has been recognized for all of his efforts. Haig was also re-elected as the AAEM/RSA president for a second year and elected to the AAEM Board of Directors.



Education Fellow **Stephen Villa** has had several excellent pearls on the Academic Life in Emergency Medicine (ALiEM) in the EMRadiology Can't Miss Series and basic approach to plain radiographs of various joints.



About Stephen Villa, MD  
Medical Education Fellow  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of California, Los Angeles

- May 6, 2020 - [EMRad: Can't Miss Adult Shoulder Injuries](#)
- May 6, 2020 - [EMRad: Radiologic Approach to the Traumatic Shoulder](#)
- March 4, 2020 - [EMRad: Can't Miss Adult Ankle and Foot Injuries](#)
- February 26, 2020 - [EMRad: Approach to the Traumatic Foot X-ray](#)
- February 24, 2020 - [EMRad: Radiologic Approach the Traumatic Ankle](#)
- January 8, 2020 - [EMRad: Can't Miss Adult Wrist Injuries](#)

ICU Fundamentals



The ICU Fundamentals series has been a smash hit, so we've decided to expand it! Dr. Sara Crager is known for making difficult concepts easy to understand and this new ventilator management release is a perfect example.

Congratulations to **Ryan Kunitake (2021)** who was bestowed the two annual Bannister Awards to recognize achievements by residents from multiple services in efficient acute stroke care. The awards are given for the fastest safely executed door-to-needle time (for thrombolysis) and door to puncture time (for end-vascular thrombectomy) by the UCLA Comprehensive Stroke Center.



Check out **Sara Crager (2015)** on the EMRAP ICU fundamentals series deconstructing ventilator management and so much more for the rest of us.

**Pam Dyne (1995)** is the co-chair of the Faculty Development Pillar of the CORD Academy of Scholarship.



**Jaime Jordan** was elected to the CORD Board of Directors, as a Member-at-Large. She was also selected as Vice Chair for the CORD Academy for Scholarship. In addition, she will be Vice Chair for the Education Committee for SAEM this academic year.



**Natasha Wheaton** was named Associate National Director for Foundations of Emergency Medicine.



**Daniel Ichwan (2021)** joined the CORD Advising Student Committee in EM and wrote a [post for their blog](#) (called the Vocal CORD) advising incoming interns during COVID-19.



**Steven Lai (2016)** is serving on three CORD committees - Education Committee, Medical Education Fellowship Community of Practice, and the Simulation Community of Practice. He has also been doing peer review for the ALiEM AIR series, and the Peds EM Sim Collaborative. Regionally he is helping to plan for the upcoming resident track at CalACEP.

# More Kudos

Congratulations to **Theresa Cheng (2021)** for being selected to be one of the 20 Los Angeles chapter of the **New Leaders Council (NLC)** fellows. Listen to Bonus episode: Theresa Cheng, 2020 NLC LA Institute Fellow from **The Zag on Apple Podcasts**.

From their website, the “*New Leaders Council (NLC) is the hub for progressive Millennial thought leadership. Soon to be the largest voting bloc in American history (~83 million voters) and possessing significant economic power, Millennials will be the generation to truly change our institutions in American society.*

*Anchored by its six-month training program, the NLC Institute, NLC equips our leaders with the skills to run for office, manage campaigns, create start-ups and networks of thought leaders. NLC leaders take their activism back into their communities and workplaces to impact progressive change.*

*Unlike most leadership development organizations, NLC isn't a one-weekend boot camp, but rather six-month intensive learning environment and a lifetime alumni commitment. NLC creates lasting infrastructure in communities, states and nationally to support our fellows and alumni as they become agents of change. NLC provides our community members with opportunities to engage with – and challenge – current policymakers, to create blueprints to tackle current and future policy issues, and to support one another along their individual path to a more progressive political and cultural landscape.*

*NLC has 50 chapters across the country in red and blue states with nearly 8,000 alumni.”*

In her work with the council she was highlighted as a one of the **unseen national leaders** during COVID19.



ABOUT CHAPTERS ALUMNI EVENTS DONATE

2020 NLC Fellows



**Nicole Wojtal**, former administrative fellow, is Clinical Champion for the ED Bridge to Treatment grant at Antelope Valley. The grant employs two full time substance use navigators that facilitate MAT and other outpatient treatment resources for patients with substance use

**Jackie Shibata** was named Associate Director of Ultrasound at Olive-View UCLA. She and Alan Chiem coordinated with radiology and IT to link all POCUS machines with synapse which allows all ED POCUS studies to be viewed by all of DHS. She and residents **Tyler Haertlein (2020), Jackie Kurth (2020), Aws Al-Abdullah (2020) and David Haase (2022)** are completing a QI/education project implementing a nerve block cart to streamline and encourage non-opioid analgesia in the ED.



## SPOTLIGHT

Breana Taira, MD, MPH

Dr. Breana Taira is the Director of Research for the Olive-View UCLA Department of Emergency Medicine. She is the US Director of Project SEMILLA, an organization focused on growing emergency medicine education in Latin America. Dr. Taira is also the Director of IDHEAL, the UCLA Department of Emergency Medicine section of health equity.



**Breana Taira** was the focus of a recent **spotlight** on the **SocialEMpact** website. Health inequities and social determinants of health are inextricably tied to health outcomes. The SocialEMpact mission is to serve the Social Emergency Medicine community as a platform for education, advocacy and collaboration. The website features a number of educational resources and spotlights with leaders in social EM including Harrison Alter, Megan Ranney and most recently Breana Taira.

Jackie has also joined the IDHEAL faculty group and is working in the OV Human Rights Clinic where she performs forensic evaluations for people seeking asylum.

# Applause to our Amazing Teachers!

Kudos to our amazing resident educators! Each year at retreat the medical student clerkship director presents an award to the residents who receive the most positive mentions and comments from our medical student sub-interns rotation evaluations. These awards represent excellence in teaching.

This year the awards went to:

Class of 2020 - **Luiz Souza-Filho** (that is 2 years in a row)

Class of 2021 - **Daniel Ichwan** (also a repeat winner, 2 years in a row)

Class of 2022 - an unprecedented 4-way tie: **Haig Aintablian, Alexander Daguanno, Elizabeth Ferreira, and Ashley Vuong**

Way to go! Our residents are the stars that make our student rotation experience so exceptional.

The Golden Olive Teaching Award was not presented at the Spring retreat due to COVID-19. These Annual awards are voted on by the residents for the contributions to teaching in the ED at Olive View UCLA Medical Center. The award for the full time faculty went to **Amir Rouhani (2011)** and the award for the part time faculty went to **Caleb Canders (2016)**. These amazing alumni faculty teachers are repeatedly selected for their contributions. Well deserved!



**Tomer Begaz** received special recognition this year as recipient of the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching and Education, selected by the DGSOM Class of 2020 for his outstanding contributions to their medical education.



The UCLA Ronald Reagan | Olive View Faculty Teaching Award 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 2019-2020 UCLA/Olive View Faculty Teaching Award – 2nd half are:**

**Sara Crager MD at UCLA & Fred Abrahamian, DO at OV**

Congratulations to these amazing teachers!



**Kellie Kitamura (2019)** completed the ACEP teaching fellowship this Spring. She presented the curriculum she developed for simulation with standardized patients to teach residents how to deal with the sometimes horrible social situations/challenges we find ourselves in. Her work was selected as one of the projects to be highlighted at the 2020 ACEP Research Forum. That will have to be a virtual presentation since we will not be traveling to Dallas. Congratulations to **Jessie Wall (2015)**, caught in the photo as well, who also completed the course this spring.

**Alan Chiem, Amir Rouhani (2011), Natasha Wheaton, and Jaime Jordan** were all selected as David Geffen School of Medicine Educators for Excellence, a core group of elite educators funded by the medical school to teach students in the new curriculum. In addition, UCLA Department - West Los Angeles VA Emergency Medicine providers **Manuel Celedon and Tahlia Spector (2005)** were also selected. They will work with small groups of students longitudinally in the development of core clinical skills in the Practice of Medicine curriculum. That makes EM 20% of the core cadre of the Educators for Excellent group. Way to go!

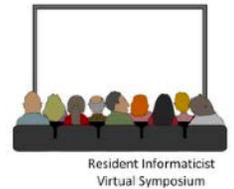
**Tom Graham (1995)** was chosen to join the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine Selection Committee for the Mellinkoff teaching award and the Tow Humanism award.

# Bravo!

**Chase Richard (2023)** is working with the [UCLA Technology Development Group's Innovation Fund](#), helping to identify sources of early stage capital for UCLA entrepreneurs designing new medical devices and technology. The UCLA Innovation Fund's goal is to more quickly move technologies from idea to the market, bridging the gap between academia and industry/investor interest. The UCLA Technology Development Group (TDG) is a collaboration between the UCLA Health/David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM), UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering & Applied Science (HSSEAS), School of Dentistry (SOD) and the College's Divisions of Life Sciences and Physical Sciences.

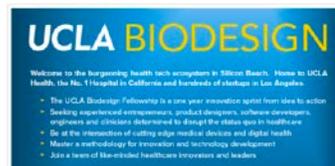


**Jason Singer (2021)** completed the year-long UCLA resident informaticist fellowship program. During his tenure Jason completed a project centered around dictation use in the ED to expedite documentation, titled "Optimizing Dictation in the Emergency Room," with faculty mentor **Frank Day (1999)**. He presented (virtually) at the "7th Annual UCLA Resident Informaticist Project Virtual Symposium" on June 9, 2020.



Jason was also selected to join the second cohort of the [UCLA Biodesign Fellowship](#) for the upcoming year. [UCLA Biodesign](#) leverages the strengths of the robust campus entrepreneurial ecosystem by creating a partnership of UCLA Health and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA with the UCLA Anderson School of Management and the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute. The interdisciplinary fellowship is for early-stage professionals working at the intersection of medicine, engineering, design and business for healthcare innovation. UCLA Biodesign Fellows receive support from UCLA Health leadership and work alongside clinicians to identify, invent and drive transformative innovations. Fellows have the unique opportunity to be mentored by researchers, health care entrepreneurs and industry leaders, such as Westlake Village BioPartners, a Los Angeles venture capital firm that will participate in yearly

mentorship of each UCLA Biodesign team to help catalyze novel digital health and medical technologies for the commercial market.



**Haig Aintablian (2022)** was featured in an interview with the Armenian Engineers & Scientists of America (AESA) discussing work on the front line during COVID-19.



**Matt Waxman (2007)**, Medical Director for the NGO NYC Medics Global Disaster Relief, is executing a 3 million dollar grant from the World Health Organization for the Yemen Referral System Coordination. The project involves training and supplying 20 ambulance crews and providing supervision of their dispatch to trauma calls in Southern Yemen (Aden). This will be the first trauma referral and small EMS system in a country experiencing the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Matt oversees the hiring and overall implementation of the project, although with COVID-19 accomplishing hiring and getting this work done has been challenging.

**Atilla Uner (1997)** was elected Vice Chair of the Commission on Emergency Medical Services for the California Emergency Medical Services Authority.



**Theresa Cheng (2021)** represented the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in providing testimony and comments in front of Congress members on the CARES act and how it leaves out many of our essential workers and their families during COVID.



# Laudations

**David Talan (1986), Greg Moran (1992) and Bill Mower (1990)** are leading a multi-million dollar CDC-grant funded, study “COVID-19 Evaluation of Risk in Emergency Departments (COVERED).”

This project was featured in a recent [UCLA Health News Release](#). In addition the 25 US site PCORI-sponsored [CODA trial](#) of non-operative treatment of appendicitis wrapped up enrollment of 1552 adult patients in March and the group will be publishing the 90-day follow-up results likely this summer or early fall.

All our residents got to experience (not personally, but through patient enrollments) this non-traditional treatment option at UCLA, including the innovation of ED discharge and outpatient management that Dave, Bill and Greg pioneered and which was employed in about 50% of the CODA antibiotic treated participants.

UCLA leads CDC-funded project to reduce COVID-19 infection among emergency department workers

04/30/2020

The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA is leading a project in collaboration with the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine to study ways to reduce the risk for COVID-19 infection among emergency department workers.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided a \$3.7 million grant to the UCLA Department of Emergency Medicine to fund the COVID-19 Evaluation of Risk in Emergency Departments (COVERED) project. Researchers will enroll up to 1,600 emergency department physicians, nurses and staff at 20 academic medical centers across the country. Over 12 weeks, participants will report on their exposures and provide serum specimens and swabs to test for infection with the novel coronavirus.

Dr. David Talan, professor of emergency medicine and medicine



**Breana Taira, Richelle Cooper (1998), Jerry Hoffman (1979)** and colleagues published a paper on the EM Council of the Right Care Alliance (Emerg Med J. 2020;37(4):240-245. doi: 10.1136/emmermed-2019-209031) which was discussed in a SGEM Podcast - [Skeptics Guide to EM Xtra: Right, You're Bloody Well Right, You've got the Bloody Right to Care.](#)

**Britt Guest (2019)** is working with **Mel Herbert (1995)** starting a new endeavor creating high quality interactive educational conferences. Due to COVID-19, these will all be virtual conferences (at least for now). WoopWoop Media is the new company that will be putting on the conferences (under EM:RAP umbrella) and Britt is officially the CMO. The first conference will be Pediatric Fundamentals, held September 9-11.



**Theresa Cheng (2021)** was invited and accepted the opportunity to join the Board of Directors for a non profit [Border Kindness](#), which provides essential goods and care for homeless migrants in Mexico.



Border Kindness began in the fall of 2018 as a direct response to the “migrant caravans” leaving impoverished Central American countries on a quest for a better life. They provide asylum-seekers, migrants, refugees, and the displaced with comprehensive services that include food, shelter, clothing, medical care and legal services. They opened their first medical clinic a few months ago and now are seeing about 100 patients a week. Border Kindness remains the ONLY humanitarian aid organization operating in Mexicali.



**Michael Levine** is rapidly expanding toxicology consultation at UCLA. He has established an inpatient toxicology consultation service at Reagan and has already seen multiple consults from the ED, ICUs, and medicine wards. He also established an outpatient clinic and has seen several patients. In addition, under Michael's guidance UCLA will now be participating in the [Toxic Registry](#). The Toxicology Investigators Consortium (Toxic) is a unique multicenter toxico-surveillance and research network of more than 50 sites across the United States and a handful of other countries. In addition, Toxic includes the majority of active U.S. medical toxicology practices and accredited medical toxicology fellowship programs.

# More Kudos



**Jacob Lentz (2019)** was awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal for getting everything on base locked down for COVID-19 and insisting in February that it wasn't just a bad cold.



**Varun Shahi (2020)** worked with SpaceX and NASA to provide medical expertise on the recovery for the demo-2 launch that just took our first astronauts to space for the first time from the US in a decade on May 30th.



**Annum Bhullar (2020)** will be helping with project [Starship at SpaceX](#) this summer.



**Haig Aintablian (2022)** was appointed to the inaugural's American Board of Emergency Medicine Resident Advisory Panel (RAP). Haig will serve a two year team on the RAP.



**American Board of  
Emergency Medicine**

CELEBRATING **40** YEARS  
YOUR EXCELLENCE • YOUR DEDICATION • YOUR SPECIALTY



**Alan Chiem** continues to be a leader in ultrasound education at the David Geffen School of Medicine, leading the ultrasound interest group, as the content expert for Point-of-Care Ultrasound in Curriculum Redesign Process, Directing the 4th year medical student elective, and the resident US elective. At the national level, Alan

served as ACEP Medical Student Ultrasound Education Sub Committee Chair, leading a survey of ~ 60 POCUS elective chairs, with results informing a best practices paper. He also led a multi-specialty group including anatomists, radiologists, and emergency physicians, to develop a 3D-printed hip arthrocentesis model that allows for ultrasound visualization of hip joint effusions and to practice US-guided arthrocentesis. They are applying for a Creative Commons license to disseminate the 3D plans, as this is the first ultrasound-guided hip arthrocentesis model in existence.

**Alumni - Do you have something to share with the UCLA residency and alumni family for the kudos page?**  
Email [Richelle Cooper \(1998\)](#).



## Welcome to the virtual Undergraduate Research Showcase

Look for links in the chat to maximize your  
Showcase experience

UCLA Undergraduate  
**RESEARCH  
WEEK**

Seventeen of our undergraduate research volunteers from the EMRA program gave group presentations on four different abstracts at UCLA's undergraduate research week. The students worked with **Bill Mower (1990)** and **Richelle Cooper (1998)** to come up with a question and analyze data (including data from NEXUS and other ED study datasets), and create their slide show presentation content. This is the first experience for many of the students presenting scientific work, and this year due to changes related to COVID-19, instead of presenting a poster the oral presentations were given over zoom which allowed the students to have some family members watch and hear the discourse. One of the presenters Hedi Zappacosta is the daughter of our alumna **Heike Farin (1999)**.

# Plaudits

## Michael Merjanian (2019)

completed his EMA Administrative Fellowship this June 2019, and has obtained his Master's in Medical Management from USC Marshall School of Business. He is relocated back to Orange County and will be working with EMA and EMSOC for his clinical work. He was also hired as CMO for [Titan HST](#), an award winning and multi-patented 2-way emergency communication platform with industry leading technology to provide Telehealth. On a personal note he will be getting married this July 2020 (COVID-19 friendly style...).



**Jessica Wall (2015)** was just elected to the Washington ACEP Board of Directors. She continues to work clinically at Seattle Children's Hospital and Harborview Medical Center where she is an Assistant Clinical Professor. She also continues her EMS leadership as the Associate Pediatric Medical Director for Airlift Northwest, the regional flight program associated with the University of Washington Medicine.



**Kyle Ragins (2019)** is Director of Urgent Care for Los Angeles County, and opened a new urgent care clinic (Mid Valley Comprehensive Health Center) in the midst of COVID-19. In addition to designing the clinic from the ground up and hiring all the staff, deciding all the workflows, he has been tasked with figuring out (and then refiguring out all the time as the situation changes) the COVID-related workflows for the 9 clinics he oversees. In his spare (?) time he is working with VEP in the EDs at California Hospital and Northridge Hospital.

**Allison (Cousineau) Santi (2005)** is on the Speakers Bureau of [HEAL Trafficking](#), a united group of over 3,100 survivors and multidisciplinary professionals in 35 countries dedicated to ending human trafficking and supporting its survivors, from a public health perspective.



HEALTH, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, LINKAGE  
BECAUSE HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

**Eric Snyder (2008)** became Chief Risk Officer for Pacific HealthWorks in January 2020. He continues to work clinically at Tarzana Medical Center and part time teach at Olive View UCLA Medical Center.



**Torrance Memorial @TMHealthSystem · Jan 23**

**#ERphysician** Dr. Elisa Anhalt was recently honored for a **#ReasonsYou** award after going above & beyond to care for a toddler. When it was time for the patient transfer, she accompanied the child in the ambulance, ensuring a safe & timely process. Congrats! **TeamTorranceMemorial**



Southern California Physicians For Health Equity | Blog



### Interview with Dr. Parveen Parmar

March 13, 2020

Topics: [dr. parveen parmar](#) [global health research](#) [refugees](#) [southern california physicians for health equity](#)

In early 2020, Blanca Ramirez, Ph.D. candidate in Sociology, interviewed Dr. Parveen Parmar, Associate Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine and founder of Southern California Physicians for Health Equity, about her work both with refugees in Bangladesh and those entering the United States.

**Parveen Parmar (2008)** founder of SCOPHE (Southern California Physicians for Health Equity) was [interviewed](#) by sociology PhD candidate Blanca Ramirez for the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration about her work with refugees in Bangladesh and in the United States.

**Elisa Anhalt (1999)** was recognized January 2020 with the Torrance Memorial Medical Center "The Reason Is You Award." The award is for employees providing extraordinary service, and "is meant to honor those who have demonstrated excellence through their compassionate communication, behavior or teamwork. (The identities of the nominators are kept anonymous. Physicians and employees can nominate each other. Patients can also nominate physicians and employees.)"

# Congratulations Alumni!

**Kelli O’Laughlin (2007)** received a grant from [Elrha Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises \(R2HC\)](#) to study COVID among refugees in Uganda over the next 12 months. The grant is titled Dial-COVID: remote mitigation through telephone symptom surveillance in refugee settlements in Uganda. As PI she will lead the team to: implement a mobile telephone interactive voice response (IVR) symptom tracker/information dissemination tool (“Dial-COVID”) and assess uptake and population coverage; iteratively test and validate a screening algorithm for COVID-19 using symptoms and risk factors reported in Dial-COVID to predict infection; assess COVID-19 risk perceptions and knowledge; and understand barriers and facilitators to adoption of COVID-19 prevention/control measures. This exciting opportunity will keep Kelli busy in the year ahead. We also caught Kelli during the SAEM virtual meeting, and one of her sons joined with her to see what was going on at the AWAEM business meeting.



**Clayton Kazan (2005)** continues to work as Medical Director for the LA County Fire Department, and is working clinically at Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance with some of our other alumni. Those in Los Angeles who were watching the news briefs on COVID-19 saw Clayton giving daily reports for awhile, but there are a lot of initiatives he has been leading, including:



Clayton Kazan, an ER physician and medical director at the L.A. County Fire Department, at his office in Monterey Park. He is coordinating testing in the county. (Gabriella Angotti-Jones / Los Angeles Times)

- In March, the Board of Supervisors named Clayton to be the COVID-testing coordinator for Los Angeles County. At the time, county-wide capacity was just a few hundred tests/day. In partnership with the City of LA, over the ensuing month, they launched 35 testing sites and expanded PCR testing capacity to more than 12,000 tests/day. During the LA County Fire Department's involvement, from March 18 - May 15, the County sites performed more than 134,000 tests, and the City-County collaborative performed more than 250,000 tests. They then transitioned the County sites over to the Department of Health Service.
- Advanced Provider Response Unit (APRU) partners up an Advanced Practice Provider (AP) with a firefighter/paramedic to respond to low acuity patients and assess/perform simple interventions and refer to appropriate levels of care. (Launched AP-11 in Lancaster and AP-17 in Palmdale in Nov/Dec 2019.)
- In March 2020, the LACoFD launched a telemedicine unit in order to provide services similar to the APRU virtually during COVID-19. They received a donation from the Fire Foundation for 113 iPads and unlimited T-mobile data plan, and a \$10,500 grant to purchase subscriptions to a HIPAA compliant, recorded, telemedicine app (e-Bridge). Telemedicine is activated by units in the field, on scene, with what they perceive to be a low acuity patient.
- Cardiac Arrest care in LA County
  - Implemented a department-wide model of high performance CPR and teaching with Resuscitation Academy to expand HP-CPR across California.
  - Implemented/expanding mechanical CPR for refractory VF/VT cardiac arrest and transport to ECMO-capable hospitals. The department received a \$210,000 grant to add LUCAS devices to lifeguard boats for dive emergencies and sudden cardiac arrest as part of the Arrive Alive trial. LAFD and LAC-USC have joined the Arrive Alive trial to continue to grow E-CPR capability across the county.
  - Heart Heroes on Patrol (H-HOP) - received a \$74,000 grant to purchase AED's for the Lakewood Sheriff Station to shorten the time to defibrillation for sudden cardiac arrest.
  - LACoFD has now joined the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) and is submitting data.

# 2020-21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Installed September 24, 2020

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# More Alumni Kudos



Congratulations to **Valerie Norton (1995)** and Antelope Valley Emergency Medicine Associate **Mike Gertz** for being re-elected to the CalACEP Board of Directors.



**Carlo Reyes (2003)** and Team Project Fleri/Health-e-Charity medical mission February 2020 was a great success. Founded in summer 2019, the Project Fleri Welcome House is a transitional home and foster care for boys and girls in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; founded on the vision and belief that every child has the right to be safe, fed, and educated. Project Fleri is located in Vivy Michelle and houses children ranging from 7 - 22 years old, whose sponsors pay for their schooling and daily living expenses.

Health & Charity



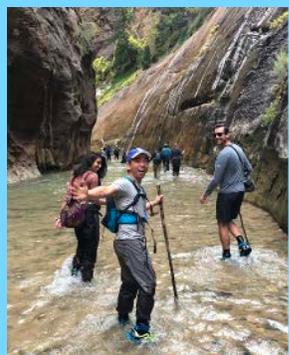
There was a lot of planning for the February trip with a fundraiser at Stonehaus in Westlake Village in January 2020 that was a tremendous success! The team packed 6 large duffles with medications and supplies donated by physician practices from the Conejo Valley area, and just before they left for Haiti, Los Robles Medical Center donated a cardiac defibrillator to Health-e-Charity to bring to Haiti.

At Port-au-Prince the Health-e-Charity team worked with Project Fleri, along with Dr. Junior who runs mobile medical clinics, to deliver care over a couple days in several locations. They also visited an orphanage and in addition to the medications they brought, they purchased other medications to donate to Dr. Junior's clinic and provided him with the donated defibrillator.

Faculty, fellows, residents, alumni interested in participating or contributing can learn more about [Health-e-Charity](https://www.healthcharity.org), a 501c3 nonprofit that sends medical mission teams throughout the world to improve access to care. Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/healthcharity/> If you are interested [contact Carlo Reyes](#).



# Farewell Class of 2020!



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