



# July 2018-January 2019 Residency & Alumni Newsletter



## Upcoming Events

Resident Spring Retreat, March 19-21 in Palm Springs  
 Western Regional SAEM, March 21-22 in Napa  
 CORD 2019 Academic Assembly March 31-April 3 in Seattle  
 SAEM 2019 Annual Meeting May 14-17 in Las Vegas

## B I R T H D A Y S

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<b>Cameron Harrison</b> February 3 <b>Annum Bhullar</b> February 12 <b>Ryan Kunitake</b> February 14 <b>Teri Miller</b> February 17	<b>Jackie Kurth</b> March 2 <b>Tomer Begaz</b> March 9	<b>Nathan Friedman</b> April 11 <b>Sid Starkman</b> April 13 <b>Caroline Humphreys</b> April 18 <b>Mark Morocco</b> April 20 <b>Luis Lovato</b> April 21 <b>Maureen McCollough,</b> <b>Li Cui, Cate Yaggi &amp;</b> <b>James Murphy</b> April 22 <b>Naseem Moridzadeh</b> April 23 <b>Greg Hendey &amp;</b> <b>Matt Rosen</b> April 29 <b>Luiz Souza-Filho</b> April 30	<b>Steven Lai</b> May 8 <b>Michael Merjanian</b> May 9 <b>Breena Taira &amp; Aws</b> <b>Al-Abdullah</b> May 10 <b>Kyle Ragins</b> May 17 <b>Jamies Jiang</b> May 18 <b>Genie Como</b> May 19 <b>Maria Conradt</b> May 21 <b>Carolyn Sachs</b> May 22 <b>Kellie Kitamura &amp;</b> <b>Steven Bolger</b> May 27 <b>Varun Shahi</b> May 31	<b>Alex Daguanno</b> June 14 <b>Rebecca Bavolek</b> June 22

# Updates from the Chair



## Message from the Chair:

Greetings everyone! We're in the second half of another terrific year, full of fun, accomplishments, and growth. As you read through this newsletter (beautifully prepared by Richelle!), I think you'll be impressed by how active and involved our residents, fellows, and faculty have been this year. You are a bunch of amazingly talented people!

I've finally recovered from the pain of my Irish getting stomped by Clemson in the college football playoffs. Gravely Disabled keeps getting better, and played some pretty coveted gigs like Cal/ACEP and Jorge's retirement party. I'll even unveil my new UCLA blue Telecaster at the program retreat in Palm Springs this year! Maybe we'll play at the Super Bowl next year instead of Maroon 5.

## Websites:

Our websites are an important way for alumni to see what has been happening at UCLA, and for visitors to learn about us. You are probably familiar with our Residency Program website: <http://www.emergencymedicine.ucla.edu>



This site is heavily traveled and full of information about our program. Soon we will be making some efforts to modify and update the site to reflect our ever-changing program. If you haven't visited lately, please check it out.

We have also developed a new site to describe the entire UCLA Department of Emergency Medicine: <https://www.uclahealth.org/emergency-medicine/>



The purpose of this site is to cover the entire breadth of the DEM, including our faculty at 7 sites, our 3 affiliated residency programs, and opportunities for medical students at multiple hospitals. We chose not to recreate the content from individual hospitals and programs, but rather to provide comprehensive lists and links to the content that already exists elsewhere. If you haven't seen it yet, please visit, and send me any comments you have for improvements.

## Fellowships:

We have continued to develop a robust set of fellowship offerings as well. Later in this edition you'll find more information about the terrific people who will join our fellowships this summer, but here is a list of all of the fellowships that we sponsor or are connected to (and nearly all of them are filled for next year). For many, we offer the flexibility of a one year option, or two years, incorporating a Master's degree in a relevant discipline: AV Administration, VEP Administration, IDHEAL (International and Domestic Health Equity And Leadership), Medical Education, Global Medical Education/EMRAP, National Clinician Scholars, Research, Ultrasound, Informatics, Anesthesia/Critical Care, Medicine/Critical Care, Wilderness.

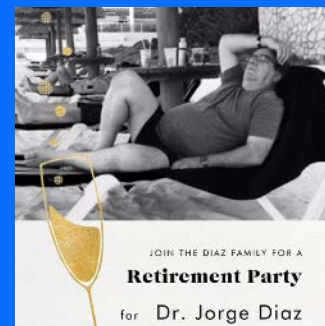
Respectfully submitted,

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



# A Farewell but not Goodbye: Jorge Diaz Retires

Dr. Jorge Diaz has recently retired after a long and distinguished career in emergency medicine. Dr. Diaz graduated from UCSF medical school in 1979 and finished his residency in internal medicine at USC in 1982. Not being one for the humdrum life of the internist, he entered the young specialty of emergency medicine and never looked back. Dr. Diaz taught many of our current faculty at UCLA and Olive View in the 80s and 90s, while also practicing in several community EDs and serving as director of the ED at Santa Marta hospital. He returned to OV full time in 2006 and continued his career as a master clinician, teacher, and jester. While we won't be hearing his characteristic laugh as often in the ED, he promises he will come back and do some volunteer shifts to share his knowledge and experience with future generations.



*Release the Kraken!!*



## Jorge Diaz - an Interview by Jake Lentz

***You have a really great life story. Tell us what it was like to come to the US from Cuba.***

I came in 1966. My older brother had left Cuba to follow his girlfriend to Spain and then to the States. The Johnson Administration had a program called Freedom Flights where they would fly Cubans who had relatives in the U.S. to America. As things went from bad to worse in Cuba, my parents decided to get us out. Of course, I had been brainwashed by the Communist government so I was mad at my parents for taking me to the "evil empire."

***What was it like to grow up in a Communist state?***

The brainwashing was amazing. The teachers in school were all put there by the communists to brainwash us. They'd ask us, "Who here believes in Santa Claus?" Everyone raises their hands. "Santa Claus is a lie your parents tell you. Stay up on Christmas and watch who brings the presents." We were just little kids, being told not to believe our parents. Why would you do that? To drive a wedge between children and their families so that they can be manipulated. This was all a lead up to teaching us that there was no god. "Who believes in God?"

We'd raise our hands. "God is another story your parents tell you." Then they ask us if we want ice cream and everyone goes crazy. None of us had seen ice cream in years at that point. "OK let's pray to God for ice cream. If God exists, then ice cream should appear." And we'd all pray, and no ice cream. "There's no ice cream from God.

Everything comes from the State." And then they'd bring in ice cream and tell us that everything good came from the government. How sick is that?

My dad – he owned a furniture business and was kind to his employees. But at school I'm being told that "all profits are unpaid wages." So now I'm hearing that my father didn't care about his employees. It was all just so insidious. Thankfully my parents knew it was all a lie and wanted out.



# More of the conversation with Jorge Diaz

## ***So they brought you to America.***

When you announced you were leaving Cuba, the government designated you as “gusanos.” Worms. The lowest thing imaginable. And they took everything you had – your house, your jewelry, all your money. We had nothing when we left. That was the price of leaving. It was so depressing, we were basically designated as traitors.

As soon as our plane took off and we were outside of Cuban airspace the American flight crew told us in Spanish and English: “Welcome to the United States of America and freedom!” We all started cheering and applauding. And then they start handing out chewing gum, candy bars, and the coveted American cigarettes. It was like a little party and the cabin filled with smoke as everyone enjoyed their American cigarettes. It was incredible. I hadn’t had American candy or chewing gum in years. I started thinking that maybe America wasn’t so bad. All my life I’d been taught that America was the evil empire that wanted to oppress me.

The flight was only like 20 minutes. We came on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1966. It was Halloween. We land and get taken to an Army barracks – it was nice. And they tell us, “Today is a holiday in America, and you go around and say ‘trick or treat’ and people give you candy.” I couldn’t speak English but I learned to say ‘trick or treat’ really fast, and total strangers were handing me candy. And I thought, “OK I love America!”

The next day I was really disappointed to find out that you can’t go trick-or-treating everyday. But still – I was sold.

***So you didn’t speak English.*** Nope. But I learned fast.

## ***Your life could’ve been so different.***

The thing was, I was 13 when we came to the U.S. and my other brother was 27. In Cuba the mandatory military service age was 14 to 26. If either of us had been in that age group, the government wouldn’t have let us leave. I would’ve been sent to the USSR to study engineering and working on missiles. Instead I was lucky enough to come to the US. Where else could a kid who immigrates from another country, doesn’t speak the language and whose family is dead broke, go through public schools and end up as a doctor. It really is a great country!

## ***Where did you grow up in the States? Florida?***

No, no. We only stayed in Florida for one week. My brother told us that the place to go was California as we had family in Los Angeles. The US Government gave our family \$100 per person to get resettled and a one-way airline ticket to wherever we wanted to go in the US – that was it – nothing else. We moved to Los Angeles and I went to UCLA for college.

## ***What made you want to go into medicine?***

My mom always said, “You’re going to be a doctor.” Which I thought was crazy. I wanted to be an engineer because I like mechanical things. I liked figuring things out. When we were in Cuba my brother had this gas-powered airplane. “Made in the U.S.A.” it said on it. I loved that plane. It didn’t work at all, but I loved it. I took it apart and put it back together a hundred times.

When we got to Los Angeles, I was at Thrift (the precursor of Rite-Aid), and what do I see – that same airplane. It was \$8. I



mean, forget it. We had no money. But they had something called “layaway.” So a nickel here, and quarter there, and eventually I got to \$8. I *loved* that plane. It had a gas engine and you’d fly it on a wire that you held. One day my idiot cousin got in the way. The wing broke on his head. He went to the Los Angeles County Hospital. Big County.

You could order replacement wings for \$3. I didn’t have that. So I wrote a letter to the toy company and explained what had happened. A few weeks later a package came for me in the mail. My parents were confused as to why I was getting mail. But inside was a new wing, free of charge. This is a great country, man.

## ***It’s worth the fighting for. But medicine?***

I was studying engineering at UCLA. During the summers I worked on TV sets as a grip. Great job, they paid union wages and I’d get to watch Johnny Carson for free everyday. I made enough money to pay for tuition. But I got on the wrong side of the boss because he was trying to get the other grips to invest in a company that made a self-charging electric motor. I was like, ok so that’s a perpetual motion machine that is a physical impossibility. The other grips didn’t invest because the engineering kid from UCLA is saying it can’t work. So he was mad at me and made me sweep and do other menial tasks. One day, I’m sweeping, and a huge set wall falls and almost hits me.

After that I decided I didn’t want to have a boss. I wanted to be my own boss. Engineers have bosses. But I liked science and I liked people. Then it dawned on me that I was going to be a doctor...and I was upset that I had to tell my mom that I was going into medicine after all and hear her tell me I told you so. Emergency medicine still gave me a boss, but the compromise was that I told myself I would never be afraid to quit a job or leave a job I didn’t like.

## ***Was getting into medical school as insane back then?***

Crazy people. I mean, like you had to sleep in the lab to prevent people from sabotaging your experiments. People who aren’t right in the head trying to become physicians. Anyway, I think I got into med school because of a letter of recommendation from this legendary professor of Chemistry at UCLA, Dr. T.A. Geissman. You had to get his permission to take his class in Natural Products and Medicinals, which was open only to Chemistry majors, limited to 15 students. I did and did well, and he liked me. But I was so nervous to ask for a letter of recommendation as he had a reputation for not liking premed students. He thought I was a chemistry major and didn’t even know I was going to go to med school. It was like a confessional. When I told him he goes, “I knew it! You’re too smart to go into Chemistry”. And after that wave of disappointment, I asked for a letter, and he said, “It would be an honor.” During one of my interviews someone showed me my file and his name had been circled in red and all the nice things he said about me. He didn’t have to do that for me but he did. It’s a great country, man.



# More of the conversation with Jorge Diaz

***You trained in Internal Medicine before EM was a specialty, right? What made you transition to the ED?***

I went to medical school at USCF and then trained in Internal Medicine at LA County + USC. People thought I was crazy, but I felt like I owed LA County. Both my parents got taken care of there. I spent countless hours sitting in that waiting room.

But yeah, emergency medicine was a new thing when I was applying. I graduated in 1979. I actually thought I might go into urology, but I just couldn't see myself doing all that...yeah. Just a bit too much. So EM was just starting as a specialty when I was in residency and you could moonlight in the new ED. I was hooked. I graduated from IM with the plan to just be a permanent moonlighter in the ED.

***And that was it.*** That was it.

***How did you meet your wife?***

I was working at Monterey Park Hospital ER. Back then, the ED wasn't allowed to have too much medication. Everything had to come from the pharmacist in the hospital. One day I go up there to yell at the chief pharmacist, Mr. Fong. And I see this new woman working there. And she's very attractive. So I caught myself. I said, "Oh Mr. Fong, I see that you have a new employee. Who is this?" And he says, "This is Linda, one of our new pharmacists." He introduced us, and I turned on all my charm and chatted her up. I acted like I loved the pharmacy. And finally Mr. Fong says, "By the way, did you need something, Dr. Diaz?" And I said, "Nope! Just saying hi!"

I asked her out and we went to the disco after work, and that was it.

***What has been the biggest change you've seen during your time in emergency medicine?***

Imaging. Ultrasound has changed everything. And then how good CT scans have gotten. I worry because I think some residents just reach for imaging instead of doing an exam and taking a history. I worry people forget that. But you're getting pushed to see more and more patients, so I get it. But it's all in the history.

***Have you changed much over the course of your career?***

Not really, I don't think. I've always been a happy person, I've always liked people, and I've always liked figuring things out and breaking down problems into parts. And I've always liked laughing and being around other doctors.

It takes a special kind of person to do emergency medicine. I've been paged to the OR because a patient was crashing and anesthesia didn't know what to do. It's a different kind of doctor who can handle the chaos and the fluidity of the ED. There's nothing else quite like it, and it takes a personality to be able to do it.

***Much to the chagrin of the program, you're a big part of the reason why I wanted to come here for residency. I was on my Sub-I and you were the attending on one of those terrible cases that nobody ever forgets. I was blown away by your compassion, and I decided I wanted to be like you.***

You're taking care of families as well as patients. You have to be kind, that's the most important thing. People don't care what

you know until they know how much you care. I've seen bad lawsuits go down where everyone got sued but me, because the family and the patient saw me fighting for them.

***The other day I was showing a sub-I a move with hemorrhoids you taught me, and I felt bad for all the future residents who won't have the chance to learn from you.***

I'll be around. I'm gonna volunteer in the ED, go to conference, and tell G-rated jokes.

***People often talk about things you were doing years ago and now are accepted standards of care, like steroids for sore throats. Which of your Jorge-isms do you most hope will someday be common practice?***

Oh man. I have a bunch. One thing I found deep in the pharmacy literature is about abdominal pain in people who had a previous cholecystectomy after they have taken Norco or Tylenol with codeine. They keep getting more work up and more morphine, and nothing helps. Every so often I'll order Narcan. The nurse will come to me, worried that I'm ordering the wrong medication. I'll say, just give it, it won't hurt. And lo and behold, they feel better. Because they get sphincter of Oddi spasms. Also I have been injecting bursas and trigger points for years before people started becoming interested.

***I've always enjoyed your "village shaman" theory of doctoring. For anyone who hasn't heard it, can you share it with everyone?***

In a lot of ways we're no different from the village shaman. We wear our outfits and use secret words that nobody understands. Odynophagia. Tachycardia. Dysuria. We touch the patient and listen to them. Way back when, through experience you'd know if someone was going to get better or not. Then you sprinkle some dust and they get better, which they were going to anyway. Then you look like a genius, and you get a chicken. Now we listen with our stethoscope for someone with the sniffles and tell them they're going to be fine, and we look like we're really smart. In a lot of ways we're just modern shamans.

***What are you going to do with your free time? If you say you're going to work out everyday I'm going to be mad.***

I'm going to work out! Sorry, but I'm gonna go to the gym. Everyone thinks that I'm going to get bored, but I don't think so. I love working on my Porsche. I love fixing things. I like learning new things. I think I'm going to have plenty to keep myself occupied.



***You once told me that you will get patients laughing so hard they forget why they came in.***

You gotta laugh. If you don't laugh as an ER doctor, you're gonna have a breakdown. I really think that.

***So a moth goes to a podiatrist....***

Ha! I love that one!

# Career Day August 2018

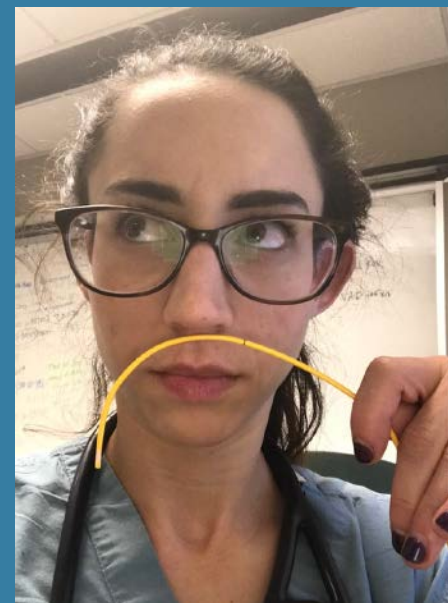


A big thanks to all the alumni who came to speak with the class of 2019 about their careers, where they work, and the practice of EM in various settings. There was a lot of wisdom and pearls shared by Sophie Terp (2012), Parveen Parmar (2008), Malkeet Gupta (2006), Katy Kinsella (2010), Andy Shen (2003), Sabrina Tom (2015), Joe Chan (2015), Rob Rosenbloom (2002), Lisa Zhao (2011), Scott Votey (1987), Greg Hendey (1993), Mark Morocco (2001), and Wally Ghurabi. Special thanks to Mark Morocco and Lisa Waltz for hosting the event at their house.



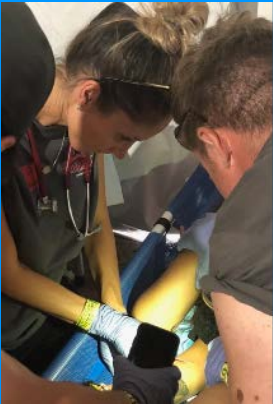
## An Update from our 2018-19 EMRA Representative

This has been an exciting freshman term as your newly selected EMRA RepCo rep! My first order of business was to figure out what a RepCo was. After learning that it is a somewhat self-explanatory council of representatives from various residencies across the country that meets biannually, I had the privilege of attending the first RepCo meeting of the academic year at ACEP in San Diego. There were a range of resolution topics discussed and voted on, from EMRA's stance on firearm research (pro) to BLS/ACLS/PALS-type merit badge certifications for EM physicians (no). The next meeting will be in Seattle at the end of March during CORD - keep an eye out for an email with a rundown of this next round of resolutions up for a vote, and if you have any thoughts you'd like me to convey, please don't hesitate to let me know.





# Matt Waxman (2007) and Rock Medicine



JULY 2018 - The UCLA-OV residency family along with Rock Medicine provided medical care to the 35,000 patrons at the Sunsoaked Festival in Long Beach featuring the electronic dance music artist Kaskade. Matt Waxman (2007) served as medical director and worked along with residents Peter Treut (2022), Anna Yap (2022), David Haase (2022), Claudie Bolduc (2021), Li Cui (2019), Varun Shahi (2020), and Aws Abdullah (2020). We saw over 75 patients including more than a few severe MDMA intoxications. Residents interested in working future festivals should contact Dr. Waxman.



AUGUST 2018 - Rock Medicine in conjunction with the UCLA-OV residency family provided medical care to the 6,000 guests at the inaugural All of My Friends Festival at the ROW in Downtown Los Angeles. Matt Waxman (2007), Hemang Acharya, Nate Friedman (2021), Cameron Harrison (2021), and Anna Yap (2022) also got to catch M.I.A, RL Grimes and Jamie XX in between patients.



# CalACEP's ADVANCED



The September 2018 CalACEP Annual Assembly program focused on medical students and residents. Tiffany Hackett (2004) presented a lightning lecture to students entitled "Climbing the Leadership Ladder." Program leadership Natasha Wheaton & Rebecca Bavolek were on a panel discussion of PDs for EM applicants, gave a talk on imposter syndrome, and represented at the residency fair with help from resident Jake Lentz (2019). In addition, Andy Grock presented a poster on Syncope. Incoming June 2019 IDHEAL fellow Hannah Janeway (currently a senior resident at Harbor UCLA EM) received the Augustine D'Orta Humanism Award, and Harbor UCLA faculty and IDHEAL member Dennis Hsieh was also honored with CalACEP's Humanitarian Award. The conference was capped off by a show by the faculty band Gravelly Disabled.



The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) hosted the Regional Medical Education Conference at UCLA's School of Medicine Geffen Hall in November 2018. Pam Dyne (1995) and Jamie Bell represented our program, meeting with interested students.



FOX's MasterChef is hosting an exclusive VIP dinner for deserving men and women who work tirelessly to serve our communities and country.

We would love to treat you to an incredible meal prepared by our Chefs in the MasterChef restaurant and let your taste buds be the judge.



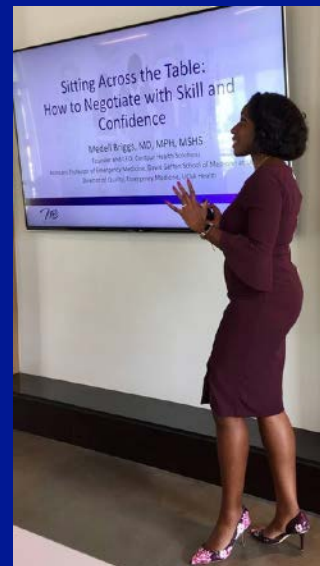
Master Chef: In October, Jason Lu (2019) and Anna Yap (2022) attended a special holiday event hosted by Gordon Ramsay and MasterChef celebrating doctors and nurses, who often have to work holidays. The meal included two dishes they had to judge which was better - a pork chop dinner vs a filet mignon.



# FemInEM

The 2nd annual FemInEM conference, FIX (FemInEM Idea Exchange) was held this past September 2018 in NYC, at the NY Academy of Medicine. Dr. Hendey supported the conference and women in emergency medicine with a departmental Gold Sponsorship. Faculty members Rebecca Bavolek, Pam Dyne (1995), Lynne McCullough (1998), Richelle Cooper (1998), Medell Briggs-Malonson, Natasha Wheaton, Jaime Jordan, and residents Brittany Guest (2019) and Vanessa Kreger (2020) attended. Additional faculty and residents from our departmental partner Harbor UCLA also attended. A few of the faculty took a detour on the way to New York with a night out in Las Vegas. At the conference we caught up with several alumni, including Bev Bauman (1997), Tiffany Hackett (2004), Natalie Shum (2007), Kathleen Myers (1994), and Kathleen's younger sister (our first legacy resident) Kelli (McCartan) O'Laughlin (2007). Kathleen was one of the featured speakers, and you can watch her presentation, [The Secret Sauce of Startups](#). Kathleen and Kelli's cousin Elyse Portillo, a peds EM physician, was also an inspiring featured speaker. Many of the presentations from the conference are available to be viewed online if you search the FemInEM website.

In February 2019 FemInEM held its Revive 2019 conference (a development retreat) in Arizona. Medell Briggs-Malonson was a featured speaker; she was specifically mentioned on the [BossBmd](#) blog stating she "...was one of the most inspirational people we met at the FemInEM Revive retreat....she gave a great talk on negotiation." Diane Birnbaumer was also a featured speaker at Revive this year.



# WELLNESS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES



The wellness committee has planned several activities to explore different parts of Southern California. In September they organized a group hike at Los Liones Canyon Trailhead. The group ended up hiking 5 miles. The hike started a bit late in the day, but no one wanted to be the first to suggest they turn around and cut the hike short, even though the sun was setting. It did make for some good artsy photos. The group ended up hiking the last 2.5 miles in darkness, with a beautiful full moon overhead.



Abra cadabra! An unforgettable night with great company, laughter, and magic. The group had a whole magic shop shut down to host our residency for a private show. Lots of residents were sad to miss this one but hopefully we can go to another show soon!



Our Wellness Secret Santa gift exchange event was an intimate get together with great intern turnout for a holiday with the UCLA family.



Thanks to committee leaders Aws Al-abdullah (2020), Steven Bolger (2020), committee members Kyle Ragins (2019), Annum Bhullar (2020) Jackie Kurth (2020), Ty Haertlein (2020), Jimmy Murphy (2022), Peter Treut (2022) and faculty mentors Andy Grock, Carolyn Sachs (1994), and Scott Votey (1987) for organizing these events.

## RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

This year our residents have shown great leadership in joining several hospital and institutional committees. Thanks for representing!

GMEC (Graduate Medical Education Committee): Jake Lentz (2019), Jackie Kurth (2020), Jason Singer (2021) and Peter Treut (2022).

Emergency Care Committee: Kellie Kitamura (2019), Kyle Ragins (2019), Vanessa Kreger (2020), Peter Treut (2022), and Anna Yap (2022).

Hospital Ethics Committee: Haig Aintablian (2022), Chelsea Robinson (2022), Peter Treut (2022), Ashley Vuong (2022), and Anna Yap (2022).

Risk Management Committee: Haig Aintablian (2022).

Critical Care Committee: Steven Bolger (2020).

Clinical Excellence Committee: Kyle Ragins (2019), Peter Treut (2022).



# ULTRAFEST 2019

We had over 200 UCLA DGSOM students and faculty for the 4th annual UCLA Ultrafest on February 2nd, a half-day ultrasound education symposium, with keynote speaker Chris Fox. Jessa Baker (2021) and Daniel Ichwan (2021) were fantastic instructors and representatives of our program. The USIG officers did an amazing job helping Alan Chiem run the event. Alan made (yes, Alan is a woodworker, in his spare time) a commemorative UCLA UltraFest boomerang that he presented to Chris, because a boomerang serves as a demonstration of how a sound wave is emitted and echos back.



## WILDERNESS MEDICINE UPDATES

This year our fellow Brandon Endo (2018) has helped Jo Feldman greatly increase our resident exposure to topics relevant to wilderness medicine. This includes regular interest group meetings to go over key guidelines and papers. This summer residents Ali McLeroy-Wallace

(2020) and Hannah Wallace (2019) attended the Wilderness Medical Society Conference and Annual Meeting in Midway, Utah, along with Jo Feldman and Brandon Endo. The group even took time to do some bobsledding.

Brandon has also been teaching students in the UCLA Wilderness Medicine Interest Group, and gaining experience as the flight physician with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue helicopter unit.



Brandon and Jo are looking for residents to help teach a wilderness medicine course for our nurses and support staff. April 5, 8am-12noon, Will Rogers State Park.





# ACEP Scientific Assembly



ACEP's Annual Scientific Assembly 2018 was nearly in our backyard in San Diego. That made it a great opportunity for many alumni to come and to catch up, and the academic program showcased many faculty and alumni. The conference started the kickoff of ACEP's 50th Anniversary with a keynote address by Mel Herbert (1995), an inspirational lecture you can view on [youtube](#).



Several faculty and alumni including Fred Abrahamian, Rebecca Bavolek, Craig Goolsby (2008), Jerry Hoffman (1979), Luis Lovato (2001), Carolyn Sachs (1994), Jeff Tabas (1998) and Breena Taira lectured during the main assembly on a variety of topics. Jaime Jordan gave a lightning oral research presentation. Concurrent with the regular program Mel Herbert brought EM:RAP Live to the conference, featuring Sara Crager (2015), and alumni Mike Menchine (2004) and Sanjay Arora (2005). In addition, Tiffany Hackett (2004) spoke at a panel at the InnovatED in the assembly hall.



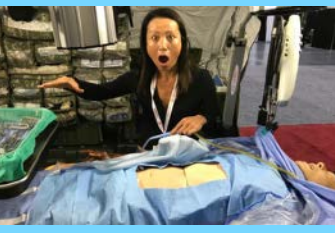
The senior class and program leadership met with students and represented at the residency fair.



Several alumni were seen at the exhibit hall, at the opening reception, and catching meals together during the conference, including the gathering of several alumni for a women in EM dinner.



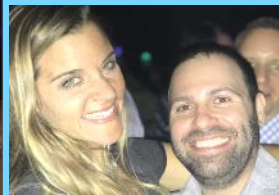
Yes - that is Magic Johnson. Alumni you should hang out with the newsletter editor, Richelle.





# ACEP Alumni Event and Senior Dinner

Thanks to our residency coordinator, Jennifer Cassidy, for organizing an amazing alumni happy hour and senior class dinner. It was a great time to see so many generations from the UCLA family.



The class of 2019 (thanks especially to Li Cui) organized a night on a 73 foot chartered yacht, complete with hot tub and a view of the San Diego skyline.

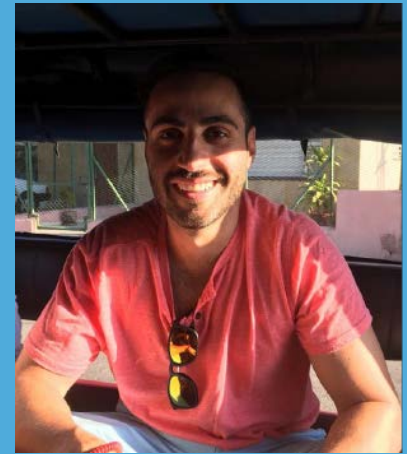




# MEET THE FELLOWS JOINING US IN 2019

## Ultrasound Fellow: Amir Tabibnia

Amir will be returning back home to LA after over a decade of not living right beside his family. Challenges will be overcome. Amir grew up in LA and then moved to San Diego, where he worked for 7 years in transplant donor procurement and attended SDSU, obtaining a degree in Kinesiology. Eventually decided to pursue medical school at WesternU, where he completed an additional year of a pre-doctoral fellowship in Neuromuscular and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. After graduating, he joined UMASS Med School – Baystate and completed his emergency medicine training with a desire to pursue an Ultrasound Fellowship. The New England cold gave him enough frostbite, and he decided to return and enjoy the rays of the glorious LA sun with the last few fingers he has left. In addition to learning more about sound waves at UCLA, Amir plans to participate in global outreach programs and travel with a probe.



Other things Amir is passionate about include: outdoor sports/activities, playing the piano and composing music, cooking, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. He considers himself a foodie, and he's always open to finding, sharing, and swapping recipes and exploring new restaurants with people. He's very excited to join UCLA and meet new friends.

## Critical Care Fellow: Carolyn Cutler

Carolyn is excited to make the journey north (22.1 miles!) from Harbor up to UCLA to join the Pulm/Critical Care Department as an EM-CCM Fellow.

Making the big move with her, are her dog, Teddy and husband, Andrew... in no particular order. Hailing from Georgia, she's grown accustomed to the best-coast and looks forward to another two years.

Although the majority of her time will be spent upstairs in the various ICUs, she is excited to get to know the UCLA-EM Department and looks forward to meeting each of you!



## Informatics Fellow: Indira Gowda

Indira Gowda attended University of Pittsburgh where she obtained a BA in nursing before attending medical school at UNC Chapel Hill. She completed EM residency at Mount Sinai in New York.



She actually is already in her first year of her two year informatics fellowship at UCLA. The spark to pursue an informatics fellowship occurred while she was a 2nd year resident and traveled to Colorado as a super user for an Epic Go Live at a hospital group in Denver. She recognized how important physicians are to helping create and optimize the EHR.

Her outside interests include: Running, Biking, Coding, Writing, Mentoring, and Minimalism.



# MORE INCOMING FELLOWS in 2019

## IDHEAL Fellow: Hannah Janeway

Hannah Janeway will be joining the UCLA family as the IDHEAL fellow after completing her Emergency Medicine Residency just south at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Hannah studied Comparative History of Ideas and International Studies as an undergrad but decided for a career in medicine after working abroad in Bolivia and Cuba during her 20s. She completed a post-bac at Goucher College and then medical school at Brown University. Her interests include EM capacity building in the developing world, screening for and intervening on social determinants of health, educating healthcare providers on structural vulnerability, and increasing diversity in medicine.



## National Clinician Scholar Fellow: Kimon Ioannides



Kimon is excited to be joining the UCLA family after training in Emergency Medicine at Temple in Philadelphia. He grew up in Greece, England, Virginia, and Massachusetts, went to college at Stanford, and is returning to California after working in politics and doing

Teach for America in New Orleans, and finishing a post-bacc program at Bryn Mawr College and medical school at UPenn. In addition to being a math and data nerd, he's an enthusiastic but unskilled road cyclist, runner, traveler, dancer, and photographer, and lover of absurdly large salad bowls. As a National Clinician Scholar, he plans to study the impact of artificial intelligence on health disparities in emergency care.

## UCLA/VEP Administration Fellow: Judy Choe

Judy Choe is excited to be joining the UCLA family as an administrative fellow. Judy grew up in Plano, Texas and then moved down the I-35 corridor all the way to Austin where she attended the University of Texas at Austin for undergrad, grad school and then stayed on as faculty to teach chemistry. Judy moved up to NYC to continue working in education and fell in love with the city. She left the Big Apple for medical school at LMU-DCOM in Tennessee and was excited to return to NYC to complete her residency at NYP-Columbia and Cornell. While she has fond memories of living and working in NYC, Judy is excited for this new adventure on the west coast (best coast!). Judy's interests at work include incorporating efficient workflow models, using app-based communication tools to improve patient care, and focusing on physician wellness and preventing burnout in the emergency department. Outside of the ED, Judy enjoys hanging out with friends and family, hiking, hot yoga, boxing, spinning, farmer's markets, restaurant week, and watching her Longhorns win bowl games!



# EVEN MORE INCOMING FELLOWS of 2019

## Global Education Fellow: Brittany Guest

Britt Guest was born and raised in Huntington Beach California, she went to RVUCOM in Colorado for Medical School and came running back to LA as soon as she could to escape the snow. Britt just couldn't stand the thought of leaving her UCLA family, so she created a fellowship in order to stay! With the help of her incredible mentors she was able to combine her love of global health and medical education and create the "Medical Education + International Emergency Medicine Fellowship." This is a 2-year joint fellowship with UCLA and EMRAP that includes a Masters in Academic Education as well as language development (yay for more Spanish classes). She is so excited to start this journey...first stops Kenya and Chile!



## Education Fellow: Kellie Kitamura



Kellie Kitamura is so happy to stay on for another year as the medical education fellow! She grew up in Hawaii and went to Chicago for undergrad at Northwestern, graduating with a biomedical engineering degree. It was way too cold and she came home to

sunshine and finished medical school at the University of Hawaii. She has spent the last 4 years with the UCLA family and is excited for the upcoming year. Kellie is looking forward to working on curriculum development and simulation in particular, and can't wait to power trip as an attending over all her current co-residents (just kidding!). She is otherwise always down to hang out with family and friends and even moreso when tacos are involved.

## Education Fellow: Stephen Villa

Stephen Villa is excited to be joining the UCLA family as a medical education fellow! He grew up in Phoenix, Arizona and attended Arizona State University for undergrad (Go Sun Devils!). He then was lucky enough to trick UCSF into letting him into medical



school and decided to stick around for residency. Although he'll always look back with fond memories, he's really excited for the future with UCLA! His interests include expanding diversity in medicine and pipeline projects, improving ED efficiency, spending time with family, cooking Mexican food, watching Arizona sports, playing basketball, and, most recently, triathlons.



# Alumni Visiting Lecturer



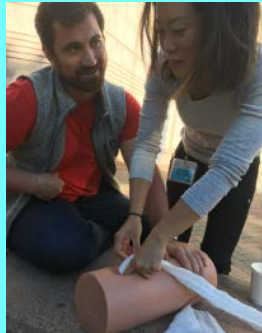
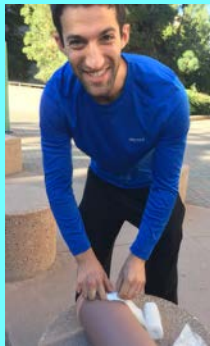
Monica Wattana (2012) came out to visit and lecture about oncologic emergencies, something she deals with daily in her role as attending in the emergency department at the MD Anderson Cancer Center.



## Tactical Medicine Exercise



Joe Nakagawa (2004) and Atilla Uner (1997) brought tactical medicine to conference. As many of you know, when Atilla is not busy working at the Antelope Valley or Ronald Reagan ED's, teaching EMS providers at the UCLA Center for Prehospital Care, functioning as EMS commissioner for county and state, or providing field care at the race track, he is medical team manager of the Los Angeles Urban Search and Rescue team CA TF2 and a tactical medicine physician with Hawthorne PD SWAT. Joe Nakagawa, one of the partners at Torrance Memorial Medical Center ED, not only became the medical director of the Hawthorne PD Tactical Medicine Program team, but also underwent training and certification to become a sworn level 1 police officer. At conference they brought a modified armored SWAT vehicle called MedCat (which is equipped to ALS standards), set up various tactical medicine stations, and taught about JumpSTART triage and the ACS "Stop the Bleed" campaign.



Not to be outdone, our very own Scott Lundberg (2004), Matt Waxman (2007), Noah Sugerman (2016), and Jake Lentz (2019) represented at the Olive View - UCLA Medical Center Disaster Drill.



**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). ([Richelle](#))



# October Intern Dinner



It seems like yesterday we were in bootcamp and orientation for the class of 2022. How they are in the the second half of the year and nearly PGY2-s! This fall we had our annual intern fall dinner to cheek in, and they are all doing great. We are so happy they matched with us - they are already involved in our committees, working on projects with faculty, and well-integrated into our EM family.

This year iconic Royce Hall at UCLA went pink for breast cancer awareness month.



# Sara Crager on EM:RAP Live



Did you catch Sara Crager (2015) discussing acid/base cases with residents Britt Guest (2019), Kellie Kitamura (2019), and Jake Lentz (2019) in tow?





# Calling all from the UCLA Family (faculty, fellows, residents AND Alumni) - we need you!

On Saturday April 27, 2019 UCLA Emergency Medicine Volunteers will be providing our NINTH YEAR of Emergency Medicine support for [The Painted Turtle Camp](#) "Tour de Turtle" Bike Ride and "Turtle Trek."

For those of you who don't know about this amazing place (one of the Paul Newman-founded 'Hole in the Wall Camps') that we have featured in past newsletters as many faculty, residents and alumni have volunteered at the camp. The "Tour de Turtle" is one of their main fund raisers and a great time.

For the last several years, a great team from both UCLA EDs -- MDs, RNs, Techs, Staff and family members had a terrific time providing medical support for the bike ride and trek (with supplies provided by UCLA).

Every year the team has had a great day, under the medical direction of Dr. Jo Feldman and the elusive Dr. Mark Morocco.

I guarantee that you'll have fun -- it is a festive day, with entertainment, food, games and a tremendously rewarding group of campers, families and camp staff.

We need several teams, typically consisting of an EM MD, EM RN, EM TECH and Staff, to work at stations along the route, as well as at the start/finish line. There is 911 fire/ambulance support for transport of seriously injured riders to AV's ED, but we have never had to use them -- so far. Typically there are just a few scraps to care for.

Contact [Jo Feldman](#) and we'll hold a place for you on the UCLA Medical Team -- you'll have fun, and you'll have an amazing day meeting and helping these exceptional campers, riders and families. It is a tremendously rewarding experience, and a nice easy day.

The commitment is easy --SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2019 ONLY.

The Camp is located about an hour north of UCLA at Lake Hughes.

The event starts at 7:30 AM and ends around 4:30 PM.

You should plan to travel by car pool or drive, and we'll set it up to make it most flexible and easy for everyone.

Typically everyone was back home in LA by 5-6 PM, easy.

Let us know ASAP if you can SAVE THE DATE and help UCLA support a great cause and a great camp.

Jo and Mark



# Growing Families - Congratulations to Everyone!

James Jiang (2019), wife Christine and big sister Melanie are all smitten with little Daphne. Dad definitely has his hands full.



Matt Rosen (2019) and Sarah Schoenbrun were married in an intimate ceremony with family present.



Aws Al-Abdullah (2020) and Sophia got engaged while visiting Weiheke Island in New Zealand.

## Alumni Family News



Recently completing his research fellowship, Todd Schneberk married Mary Cheffers.



Sanjay Arora (2005) and wife Amanda had Reya Asha this past fall. While Amanda had to return to work at Torrance Memorial with many UCLA Alumni, Sanjay is taking over caregiving as he is starting on his paternity leave.

Angela Brown (2016) and husband Matt welcomed Sophie Lee, who looks to be the spitting image of her mom.



Tabitha Cheng (2018), halfway done with her EMS & Disaster Medicine fellowship, and husband Tim welcomed Natalie Cheng the first week of 2019.



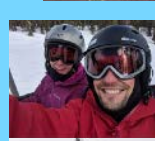
# Resident Updates

**Class of 2022:** Haig Aintablian went to Japan and South Korea (as well as the demilitarized border of North Korea)...David Haase made a quick holiday trip to Dallas to see family and eat Texas BBQ...Hannah Spungen went to Balboa Park, San Diego for the food truck festival...Peter Treut has been perfecting ribs, brisket, pulled pork, and fried chicken in anticipation of opening a restaurant that will ensure a steady stream of patients for years to come...Ashley Vuong is living the dream and eating her way through LA. She has already had AYCE k-bbq 7 times and it's been less than a year...Anna Yap went to Big Bear....The rest of the intern class, Michelle Brennan, Ignacio Calles, Genie Como, Alex Daguanno, Lizzie Ferreira, John Keller, Jimmy Murphy, Anna Nguyen, and Chelsea Robinson are so busy being interns they could not respond to requests for any updates, but with retreat coming soon we are sure they will get a much needed break and we will try to catch up with them for the next newsletter.

**Class of 2021:** The class went hiking for r2 day followed by a BBQ at Tom Akie's place...Tom Akie and Ryan Dollbaum made use of this winter's seemingly never-ending precipitation by hiking and skiing the Angeles National Forest backcountry....Danielle Antonuk took the family to the beach on a sunny January day...Claudie Bolduc went to Morocco...Jessa Baker and Nate Friedman went skiing in Mammoth... Theresa Cheng went to London for a toxicology elective...Cameron Harrison went camping with the mini family at Hungry Valley in Gorman and to San Diego to watch Supercross (one of his faves) for his birthday...Caroline Humphreys traveled to Morocco by way of Paris... Daniel Ichwan went to Tenerife (a Spanish Canary Island), enjoyed summer in October and discovered the barraquito (a coffee cocktail unique to the Canary Islands that adds layers of sweetness and alcohol to the traditional morning drink) ...Ryan Kunitake went snowboarding in Japan and fell in love with Japanese vending machines...Matt Levin had a great weeklong canoe trip in Boundary Waters Wilderness in northern Minnesota...Naseem Moridzadeh vacationed with family in Cabo...Jason Singer drove up PCH to Big Sur for New Years... Kevin and some fellow co-residents enjoyed a great weekend getaway skiing and snowboarding in Mammoth. Everyone survived without any broken bones. Kevin is also looking forward to hiking in Spain and exploring both the nation's cities and countryside during his upcoming vacation this Spring.

**Class of 2020:** Aws Al-Abdullah vacationed in New Zealand...For her birthday Annum Bhullar and classmate Luiz Souza-Filho went hang gliding! They took off from the mountains right behind Olive View and per Luiz- *It was truly one of the most amazing things I have ever done and ...makes you realize how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful place...* Steven Bolger traveled to Miami and ate lots of amazing food and failed to learn to surf...Tyler Haertlein is studying Spanish and exploring business opportunities in Bogota at a small village called Villa de Leyva (an amazing little town that you get to via a bus ride that seems like you are being taken against your will to the Gulag, after which you are suddenly met with beautiful restaurants, terra cotta homes, a vineyard and more)... Vanessa Kreger vacationed in her motherland of Scotland and saw lots of green hillsides with baby sheep eating clover and she went back to London in early December for toxicology and now all she eats and drinks are tea and crumpets...Jackie Kurth spent a month in Hawaii doing a peds EM rotation...Randy Lee is looking forward to going to Las Vegas this May to present a research project at SAEM...Ali and Hannah Wallace spent 3 weeks in New Zealand - hiking, kayaking, canyoning, and cave diving - they almost didn't come back and are already planning a trip back for 2020...Teri Miller continues to be creative with her oil painting...Varun Shahi took trips to New Orleans, Chicago and Hawaii...Greg Tong went camping at Joshua Tree and snowboarding at Big Bear...Cate Yaggi went to Patagonia to be ship doctor with Jo Feldman on her latest expedition.

**Class of 2019:** Josh Baugh went to Seattle to visit family...Maria Conradt hiked Griffith Observatory, while 8 months pregnant ...Li Cui completed a month long long Ski Trauma Clinic elective at the Northstar Resort in Lake Tahoe in January (great orthopedic learning and great snowboarding opportunity)...Adam Gruner and his wife are getting ready for their first child this April so took a baby-moon vacation to Hawaii...Brittany Guest backpacked through the Philippines and learned to scuba dive...James Jiang took the family to the bay area to visit the kids' great grandmother for the holidays... Kellie Kitamura spent a 3-day weekend in Santa Barbara for the first time for a med school mini reunion... Jake Lentz went pheasant hunting with family.... Jake along with Jason Lu and Mike Merjianian went to dinner with our favorite orthopedist Dr Avoian...Mike Merjianian went to Big Bear for New Year's Eve and is looking forward to going to Iceland this April...Jason Lu just completed a great rotation with the mobile stroke unit and is looking forward to vacation with his fiancée Bonnie in Tulum...Kyle Ragins vacationed in Egypt, Israel and Jordan...Matt Rosen went to Hawaii for his destination wedding...Hannah Wallace traveled with Ali to Puerto Rico for Hannah's brother's wedding.



## Catching up with Steve Go (1994)

Congratulations to **Steven Go (1994)**, who was recently appointed by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to serve on a newly formed Special Purpose Examination (SPEX) oversight committee. The committee has the responsibility to manage a special purpose exam for physicians who currently hold, or have previously held, a US or Canadian medical license where there is need for a rigorous assessment of a candidate's competency to practice medicine. Steve also serves on the Board of NBME (since 1998) as well as on the USMLE Management Committee, which oversees policy for all of the Steps of the USMLE.

After his chief residency, Steve joined the faculty at University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) in 1994. He has been an educational leader, serving as director of medical student education in the Department of Emergency Medicine for over a decade, and he succeeded in creating one of the highest rated clerkships in the medical school. Many of the innovative concepts he pioneered are still in use today throughout the medical school. Dr. Go was appointed as the Assistant Dean for Medical Education in 2004 and was awarded a dual appointment to the Office of Medical Education and Research in 2006.

Dr. Go has been a featured speaker at various emergency medicine conferences, both here and abroad. He is well known for creating entertaining and informative presentations, with a fun, edgy sense of humor. In recognition of his exceptional teaching skills, Dr. Go was awarded the 2006-2007 Elmer F. Pierson Award for Outstanding Teaching by the UMKC Alumni Association and the 2007 Faculty Teaching Award by the UMKC Department of Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Go's personal interests include performing magic, collecting edged tools and fountain pens, cooking eclectic meals, restoring vintage pinball machines, rooting for UCLA and Kansas City sports teams, and playing European board games. Finally, he is a two-time Boston qualifier and completed his first Boston Marathon in 2015.

Steve Go was the "keeper of the list" who started the alumni newsletter and announcement listserv, which was the precursor to the newsletter we have today. All you alumni at academic centers: if you have not heard Dr. Go lecture you should invite him to give grand rounds at your program - you will not be disappointed.





# KUDOS to Our Amazing Faculty, Residents and Alumni

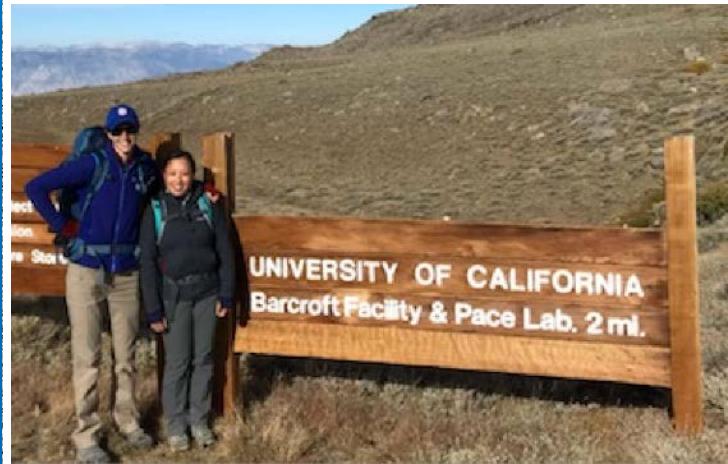
Congratulations to NCSP fellow **Tarak Trivedi**, and coauthors **Natasha Wheaton**, **David Schriger**, **Vanessa Kreger (2020)**, **Anna Yap (2022)**, on their publication about electronic scooter injuries. The [UCLA Newsroom media report](#) includes a [youtube video with Tarak](#). The study received a lot of attention in multiple press venues.



**UCLA Newsroom**

## Study on e-scooter injuries drives national attention

Coverage included [CBS News](#), [ABC News Online](#), ABC World News Tonight, CBS Morning News, [Washington Post](#), [CNN](#), [USA Today Online](#), [CNET](#), [Consumer Reports](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Buzzfeed](#), [Mashable](#), [San Francisco Chronicle Online](#), WBUR-FM (Boston), [HealthDay News](#), [WebMD](#) and many others. Additional coverage included [Mashable](#), [Kaiser Health News](#), [TechCrunch](#), [Forbes](#), [Outside Online](#), [BYU Radio](#) and [NBC4](#). The TechCrunch article was syndicated by more than 35 outlets, including [Yahoo! Finance](#), and the Kaiser Health News article was syndicated by [TIME](#) and [California Healthline](#). Coverage included [Salon](#); the [Sacramento Bee](#); KPCC-FM, Los Angeles; KNPR-FM, Las Vegas; KNTV-TV, San Francisco; KMGH-TV, Denver; and Spain's [Heraldo](#). The [Bristol Herald Courier](#) and [Union-Bulletin](#) were among several outlets that syndicated the Salon story.



This summer **Steff Brenman (2017)** and her wife Liz took part in the SEAWARD with Stanford Wilderness medicine experience. The group is studying the relative timing of acetazolamide at altitude. Just as Steff was settling into the sleeping quarters she was surprised to see a familiar face walk in...our own **Bonnie Cheung** showed up. The group spent the first night in Bishop (~4000ft), and then drove up to the White Mountain area and got to see some of the Bristlecone Pine Forest before hiking up to Barcroft research station at 12,500 feet, where they spent the night. They learned Bonnie does not tolerate high altitude... She was hypoxic to 79-81% at the station! She had a terrible headache but toughed it out and did well overnight, completing the study, and hiking out the next morning like a rockstar!



**Theresa Cheng (2021)** presented "*Rise of Social Emergency Medicine: Addressing Social Emergencies Alongside Medical Ones*" during the American Public Health Associations 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo.



**APHA 2018** | SAN DIEGO NOV. 10 - 14  
Annual Meeting & Expo



Congratulations to **David Kim (2018)**, who matched into the very competitive critical care fellowship at Maryland Shock Trauma.

# More Kudos to Alumni, Faculty and Residents

Kudos to **David Schriger** whose work as senior author with co-authors **Joseph Friedman** (a medical student), **David Kim (2018)**, recently graduated research fellow **Todd Schneberk**, and other UCLA investigators “*Assessment of Racial/Ethnic and income Disparities in the Prescription of Opioids and Other Controlled Medications in California*” was just published in JAMA Intern Med. The report, along with additional research letters, is accompanied by a commentary written by the surgeon general. Unfortunately, the surgeon general seemed to miss the message the data show. However, the paper is already creating media attention, with an interview featuring David and Joseph in [US News and World Report](#) that provides a clear and sobering message.



**UCLA Health**

UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
February 8 - 14, 2019

## Race at play in the opioid epidemic

[Los Angeles Times](#), [HealthDay](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#), [Reuters Health](#), [The Griot](#) and [Healio](#) reported on UCLA-led research that studied how implicit biases in the health care field have affected the opioid epidemic. Other news publications, including [The Fresno Bee](#) and [The Sacramento Bee](#), syndicated the stories.



**David Talan (1986)** received a Visiting Professorship, Emergency Medicine Cape Town, University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

**Haig Aintablian (2022)** became president-elect of AAEM's Resident and Student Association (RSA).

**Adam Evans (2018)**, **Jacob Lentz (2019)**, and **Rebecca Bavolek** attended the ACEP Teaching Fellowing in Dallas, Texas, in August. Dr. Bavolek lectured, Adam attended the faculty conference, and Jacob attended the resident series. They all ate way too much food and made some wonderful new friends.

**Mo McCullough (1994)** helped obtain a \$410,000 grant through the Public Health Institute and the California Bridge Project to increase access to buprenorphine for opiate use disorder. The grant will support hospital-wide education on opiate use disorder, initiation of buprenorphine anywhere in the hospital, and development of a MAT (medical assisted treatment) Bridge clinic at Olive View. It includes outreach to the community and surrounding hospitals. Eighty hospitals applied for the grant and OV was one of thirty-one hospitals awarded along with the other two DHS hospitals - LAC+USC and Harbor-UCLA.

The UCLA Ronald Reagan | Olive View Faculty Teaching Award was created in 2013-2014 by the Department to encourage excellence in clinical teaching by attending faculty. It recognizes exemplary involvement in resident education, both at the bedside and through participation in didactic sessions. The Award is decided bi-annually by residents through anonymous voting. Faculty awardee names are added to a running plaque in the UCLA Administrative Faculty Suite.

The faculty who received the most resident votes for the 2018-2019 UCLA/Olive View Faculty Teaching Award – 1st half are:

**Sara Crager, M.D. at UCLA** &  
**Steven Lai, M.D. at OVMC**

Congratulations to these amazing teachers!



# More Kudos to Alumni, Faculty and Residents



**Matt Waxman (2007)** spoke at the LAGC (Los Angeles Global Health Conference [www.laglobalhealth.org](http://www.laglobalhealth.org)) Jan 25th, 2019 which UCLA hosted at Carnesale Commons. There were over 250 students, residents, and Global Health professionals participating in the conference, including representatives from the WHO, USAID and a number of NGOs and Universities. Matt spoke about *"WHO funded Trauma Stabilization Points in the Battle of Mosul: Asymmetric Warfare and Humanitarian Response"*

Matt has also been the medical director for the WHO's partner NGO NYCMedics Global Disaster Relief.

**Kyle Ragins (2019)** helped EMRA start a Social EM section.

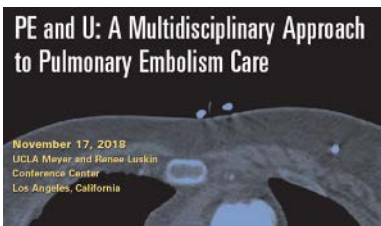
**Eric Savitsky (1995)** presented an abstract at the IMSH (Society for Simulation in Healthcare) in conjunction with UCLA CRESST (Center for Research on Evaluation Standards and Student Testing), titled *"Simulation-Based Assessment of Ultrasound Skills using Visualization of Performance."*

The residency **MedED Committee** has been busy with many new projects and engagement with the medical students and our research associates (EMRA). Committee lead **Daniel Ichwan (2021)** and residents **James Jiang (2019)**, **Randy Lee (2020)**, **Ali McLeroy-Wallance (2020)**, **Caroline Humphreys (2021)**, **Jason Singer (2021)**, **Tom Akie (2021)**, **Jess Baker (2021)**, **Theresa Cheng (2021)**, **Genie Como (2022)**, **Lizzie Ferreira (2022)**, and **Ignacio Calles (2022)**, along with faculty leads **Tomer Begaz**, **Amir Rouhani (2011)**, **Dan Weingrow**, **Adam Evans (2018)**, and **Steven Lai (2016)** have hosted a number of teaching events for the UCLA EMIG and Wilderness Medicine Interest Group, including a suturing workshop, an EM roundtable, a wilderness medicine work shop, a careers in EM workshop and they have planned an upcoming code blue and IV work shop. They have also expanded our mentorship for med students with the EMIG MS1s and MS2s and set up a Big Sib Lil Sib for the MS4 subIS, in addition to offering shadowing and mentorship to our research associates.



**Jake Lentz (2019)**, a UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine graduate, was invited to teach the medical students about humanism in medicine. Between that and his job as an EM resident he travelled to Fort Detrick in Maryland during the polar vortex for this "other" job in the Navy Reserve. He also visited Gettysburg and saw a memorial to his fellow Minnesotans. The 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment suffered a catastrophic 82% casualty rate (the highest of any union unit in the war) at the Battle of Gettysburg while halting an overwhelming confederate charge, thus saving the battle and in turn the war and in turn the Union. Per Jake: *"I knew about this before, but it still makes your jaw hang open when you see where they rushed into the breach. In keeping with Minnesotan ways, it doesn't get a lot of attention except from granular historians. But my goodness, the physical courage is incomprehensible. It was enough to get me to stop complaining for an entire half-day."*

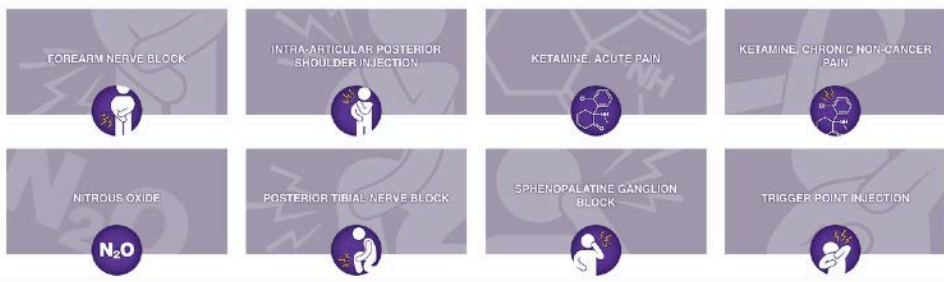
# More Kudos to Alumni, Faculty and Residents



**Lynne McCullough (1998)** discussed "Rapid Discharge from the ER: When is it Safe to Send Home," at a conference on the approach to pulmonary embolism care held at the Luskin Center this November.

Thank you to **Pam Dyne (1995)**, **Breana Taira**, **Vanessa Kreger (2020)** and the entire **Community Outreach Committee** for organizing the holiday Adopt-a-Family drive. The department member's generous donations helped to support three deserving families. Vanessa and the other members of the committee, **Danielle Antonuk (2021)**, **Matt Levin (2021)**, **Ashley Vuong (2022)**, **Michelle Brennan (2022)**, and **David Haase (2022)**, have an upcoming volunteer event coordinated for March 13th at the Hollywood Food Coalition to help provide meal service for our Los Angeles homeless population. Contact Vanessa to join in, or if you have other donations.

**Kudos to the Ultrasound Division! Alan Chiem** is chair of the medical student ultrasound committee meeting for the ACEP Ultrasound Section. The group is working on a national ultrasound elective survey that will be used to develop a best practices paper for departments and specialties outside of EM that are planning an ultrasound education rotation for students. Congratulations to former ultrasound fellow and Olive View faculty **Ricky Amii** for taking charge of ultrasound education at the University of Hawaii!



**Caleb Canders (2016)** led a UCLA Ultrasound team, including **Maureen McCullough (1994)**, **Andie (Dewing) Takemoto (2018)**, **Maria Conratt (2019)**, and **James Jiang (2019)** to publish guidelines available on the ACEP website for the [Management of Acute Pain in the ED for ACEP](#).



**Jess Oswald (2018)** is excelling in her pain fellowship and recently presented an abstract at the 22nd [North American Neuromodulation Society](#) meeting. The 150 posters were divided into groups of 10. Jess gave the winning poster presentation among her group, "Use of Novel Peripheral Nerve Stimulation System to Treat Monofocal Neuropathy."



[Community Partners International](#), the US 501(c)(3) nonprofit that **Tom Lee** co-founded in 1998 builds the capacity of local organizations to provide health care and implement public health programs in and around Myanmar. Their work continues to raise awareness about the Rohingya Refugee crisis.



# More Kudos to Alumni, Faculty and Residents

The UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine is the process of a major redesign of the curriculum (much needed and welcomed). We have two faculty who are serving on the committee, **Alan Chiem and Natasha Wheaton**. There are four work groups. Alan (the only POCUS representative in the group) is on the "Skillset" Workgroup which is tasked with defining what skills a DGSOM graduate should have. Natasha is on the "Mindset" workgroup bringing her educational expertise and work previously on other curricular redesign. This project started last year and will culminate in a new curriculum starting academic year 2020-2021.

**Andy Grock** is co-chairing the CORD Wellness Curriculum Subcommittee. He also joined the Western Regional ACEP planning committee.



**Anna Yap (2022)** is Cal-EMRA President-elect, and is active in California Medical Association (CMA). She is the Ethnic Medical Section alternate delegate, the CMA Resident and Fellows Section At-Large Officer, and on the CMA Council on Legislation which helped pass a resolution through the CMA to work on helping to develop medical

pipeline programs for underrepresented minorities. "Tracking Outcomes & Supporting Best Practices Of Health Pipeline Programs" will be forwarded to the AMA as a resolution as well.

**Claudie Bolduc (2021)** was chosen as the 2019 EMRA Emergency Department Practice Management Association (EDPMA) Scholar. She will sit on the EDPMA State and Regulatory and Insurance Committee (SRIC). This committee's primary objective is to identify and develop the appropriate response to legislative and regulatory challenges at the state level (for example, limits on balance billing and surprise billing, Medicaid expansion, health exchanges, Medicaid copays). The committee then advocates at the state level when appropriate.



A huge thank you to amazing hosts **Mark Morocco (2001)** and **Lisa Waltz** for putting on our amazing UCLA EM Holiday party.

**Atilla Uner (1997)** was reappointed as a commissioner for the California EMS Authority Commission on EMS.

**Matt Waxman (2007)** is the Co-Director for Olive View-UCLA Stroke Receiving Center (upcoming).

**Sara Crager (2015)** recently returned from her second trip to Mirebalais (an hour or two outside Port-Au-Prince), Haiti where she was teaching critical care to the emergency medicine residents there.



Congratulations book chapter authors! The newly Reichman's Emergency Medicine Procedures, 3rd Edition, was released December 2018. Several members of our program are chapter authors. **Dan Weingrow** and **Jake Lentz (2019)** contributed "*Ventricular Shunt Evaluation and Aspiration*" and **Dan Weingrow, Caleb Candors (2016)** and **Alan Chiem** coauthored "*Non-Invasive and Minimally Invasive Cardiac Output Monitoring.*" **Matt Rosen (2019)** and **Andy Grock** coauthored the chapter on "*Catheter Based Hemorrhage Control - REBOA: A Procedure Guide.*"



# More Alumni Kudos - Great Moves

**Kelli O'Laughlin (2007)** is moving back to her home, the Pacific Northwest. After 12 years in Boston where she worked as an attending in the Brigham and Women's Hospital Department of Emergency Medicine, earned her MPH at Harvard Chan School of Public Health, and worked with mentors at the Massachusetts General Hospital to land a NIH K23 award to study refugee health interventions, she accepted a new position at University of Washington with dual appointments in the Department of EM and Global Health. Her husband Drew, and boys Tyler (9), Cobi (6), and Gavin (3) are looking forward to living closer to family.



Faculty, residents, alumni - Kelli is also running for SAEM Global Emergency Medicine Academy (GEMA) president. If you are an SAEM member please vote for her (elections open until March 1) - Thanks from Richelle



**Ilene Claudius (2002)** left USC and has taken on the role of Quality Director for the Department of Emergency Medicine at Harbor-UCLA. We are so excited to have her back as part of our larger UCLA Department family, even if she is not directly at our program.

**Rachel Shing (2016)** made a change this summer and moved to Oklahoma to work at Comanche County Memorial Hospital. She is working as core faculty with their 3 year EM training program, which is affiliated with Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences. She is working to bring different educational formats to their conference such as small groups and hands on labs, and working on building (i.e. creating) their ultrasound curriculum. She continues to work on global health, currently writing simulation cases to go with the African Federation of Emergency Medicine's Keystone Course, which is directed towards African (non-physician) health care providers interested in emergency care. The course teaches emergency care concepts based on the AFEM handbook. As you can see Oklahoma is a slightly different environment... the faculty own flame throwers and bring them out at the Christmas party.



**Keri Gardner (2002)** moved back to Alaska to take on the role of CMO at Alaska Regional Hospital In Anchorage. Before leaving Park City Park City, Utah, she and her rescued border collie, Haley, became a certified K9 Search and Rescue team with Utah Search Dogs. She and her husband Rob continue to train Haley and Bernie with Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs.



# More Alumni Kudos - Way to Go!



Congratulations to **Craig Goolsby (2008)**, who was recently awarded a \$2.3 million grant from FEMA to develop a national program in partnership with the Red Cross for "School Age Trauma Training," and a \$2 million grant as part of the Transforming Technology for the Warfighter program to develop a novel layperson tourniquet. Since residency, Craig completed his service to the Air Force teaching at San Antonio, a couple tours at the Air Force hospital in Balad during the Iraq war, and has been working at the Uniformed Services University. He has continued on there, obtained a masters in education, and has been transforming education for military medical students. He



has lectured at ACEP and SAEM, and has been invited to give a keynote address at Linkoping University in Sweden later this year.

**Vicky Nguyen, MD**  
**Medical Director**



**Vicky Nguyen (2016)** became medical director of two sites with US Acute Care Solutions (USACS): freestanding Southlands ER in Aurora and Centura Health and Urgent Care - Highlands Ranch.



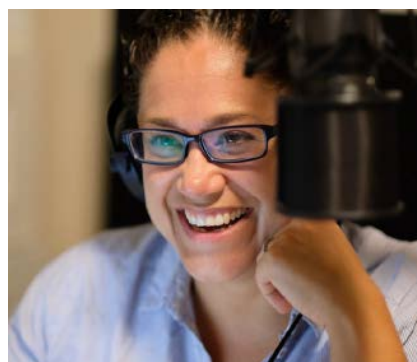
Empowering Women in Medicine

**Tiffany Hackett (2004)**, the director of leadership development for EM at Vituity, formed and is chairing the group VWIM (Vituity Women in Medicine). Her work was featured in the [Feminem August 2018 blog post](#) and a [video](#) posted by Vituity that you can see on youtube.



Congratulations to **Armand Dorian (2003)** who was named Chief Medical Officer at Verdugo Hills hospital July 2018.

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



Congratulations to **Sarah Medeiros (2014)**, whose podcast [EM Pulse](#) won the eHealthcare Leadership Platinum Award in the Best Rich Media category.



# Charity with Alumni

**Carlo Reyes (2003)**, one of our peds/EM graduates who then obtained his JD after residency, is a partner at Los Robles Hospital, and physician-owner and operator of Health-e-MedRecord, in his spare time runs [Health-e-Charity](#), 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 him](#).



## Upcoming Mission trips!

We are excited to announce our upcoming mission trips! If you want to be a part of a mission, or help us launch a mission through fundraising, let us know! The upcoming locations include:

1. Honduras - November 2019
2. India - October 2019
3. Iraq- if anyone is interested to join this mission, please contact me immediately! Deadlines are approaching!

**Mike Casner (2017)** has been participating as a medical volunteer with the AIDS LifeCycle (ALC). ALC is a non-profit bike ride that starts in San Francisco and ends in Los Angeles every June. Thousands of riders and volunteers from all over the country and world come together to support one another during this 545-mile ride, all the while raising millions of dollars for HIV/AIDS charities that provide healthcare and education for people living with HIV/AIDS who could otherwise not afford it. While these charities are located in California, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and Los Angeles LGBT Center also provide advocacy across the country that benefits everyone with HIV/AIDS and the LGBT+ community in general.

This June for the first time Mike will be participating as a cyclist! He set the goal of raising \$5,000 for the ALC, and has already surpassed that goal.

If you feel moved to support this cause, please take a few moments to visit Mike's personal fundraising page: [www.tofighthiv.org/goto/mikec](http://www.tofighthiv.org/goto/mikec)

We know our efforts are working! In 2017, San Francisco reported only 221 new cases of HIV, the lowest ever since the epidemic's start. Across the United States, new cases of HIV have fallen by a modest but significant 5% in the last decade! Although the HIV/AIDS epidemic is far from over, the AIDS LifeCycle and all of us, together, can eventually put an end to it!

Mike thanks everyone for all the support he has been shown.

# AIDS/LifeCycle

SF TO LA • END AIDS • 545 MILES

## Riding to End HIV/AIDS



**UCLA EM Family - Do you want to be part of the medical team caring for the AIDS LifeCycle riders? Our own Jo Feldman will again be medical director and she is looking for you to join the team. The dates this year are June 2-8, 2019. If you are interested, contact [Jo Feldman](#).**



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