



July 2024 - December 2024 Residency & Alumni Newsletter



Upcoming Events:

CORD Academic Assembly: March 1-4, Seattle, WA

Spring Retreat: March 18-20, Palm Springs, CA

AAEM Scientific Assembly: April 6-10, Miami, FL



CalACEP Annual Legislative Leadership Conference: April 22, Sacramento, CA

SAEM Annual Meeting: May 13-16, Philadelphia, PA



Graduation Class of 2025: June 21

Academy Health Annual Research Meeting: June 7-10, Minneapolis, MN

Message from the Chair



2025 brings more changes, updates and additions to our department.

In March 2024, UCLA purchased West Hills Medical Center. As we begin work on integrating **UCLA West Valley** into the DEM in 2025, we'll see many new faces, and hopefully a few familiar ones as well. We anticipate installing EPIC at West Valley in March 2025, and we successfully incorporated WV into our Core DGSOM medical student EM rotation in October 2024. Our Toxicologists have obtained privileges for inpatient consultations throughout the hospital.

We matched some great new fellows for next year, including:

Danielle Gibson (Administration fellow), **Michael Boyle** (Space Medicine fellow), **Sean Treacy Abarca** (National Clinician Scholars Program fellow), **Amy Cohen** (National Clinician Scholars Program fellow), **Felisha Gonzalez** (VA National Clinician Scholars Program), **Flor Lema** (Ultrasound fellow), **Niresh Perera** (Ultrasound fellow), and **Nancy Mikati** (Toxicology fellow). And of course staying with us for a second year of fellowship are **Reza Hessabi (2024,** Administration), **Ghufran Syed (2011,** Space Medicine), **Zainab Ahmed (2024,** National Clinician Scholars Program), **Jon Warren** (Ultrasound), and **Eniola Gros** (Toxicology).

Spotlight on Toxicology:

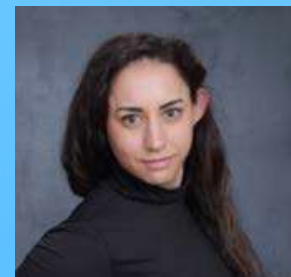
Our division of Toxicology has made some major strides in the past few years. Not too long ago, there were no toxicologists at Reagan or Santa Monica. Now we have 3 full-time toxicologists who are providing inpatient and outpatient consultations in Tox and Addiction Medicine at RR and SM, and as noted above, we are in the process of adding coverage at West Valley. We launched our ACGME-approved fellowship this past year and matched our second fellow for July 2025. Our Tox division has been very active clinically, teaching, and in research. All three are involved in research projects, and Hannah just received an early investigator grant from the American College of Medical Toxicology.



Michael Levine, MD



Evan Schwarz, MD



Hannah Spungen, MD

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*

Welcome and Learn More about our New Faculty

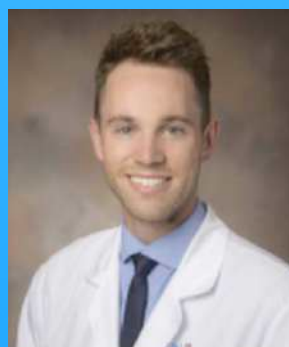
Vital Signs:



Hometown: Columbia, MD
Undergrad: Georgetown University
Med School: Howard University College of Medicine
Residency: University of Chicago (EM)
Fellowship: Stanford Healthcare (Sports Medicine)

Derek “Ricky” Altema, MD

Ricky was born and bred in Columbia, MD as the baby of a big Haitian family. He moved to Washington, DC to attend Georgetown University for his undergraduate studies, relocated to the San Francisco area for a year to work in healthcare consulting, and then returned to DC for medical school at The Howard University College of Medicine. After completing medical school, Derek found a new home in the Midwest for EM residency. During his time at the University of Chicago, Derek served as a chief resident and helped to improve the program’s DEI recruitment efforts. He also worked with a community outreach organization called MedCEEP, focused on the enrichment of local high school students and student athletes, and encouraging interest in careers as healthcare professionals and first responders. He eventually made his way back to the west coast for a Sports Medicine Fellowship at Stanford, where he’s had the awesome opportunity to work with elite student athletes and develop a new skillset. Derek is excited to join the UCLA EM team! He will be working clinically in the ED at both Santa Monica and Reagan, as well as in the Orthopedic Immediate Care Clinic in Santa Monica. When he’s not in the ED, he’s likely on a flight, enjoying some live music, eating his way around the city, or being a weekend warrior on the basketball or tennis court.



Hometown: Salt Lake City, UT
Undergrad: University of Utah
Med School: University of Utah School of Medicine
Residency: University of Arizona
Fellowship: Hospital for Special Surgery/Weill Cornell Medicine (Sports Medicine)

Tyler Jackson, MD

Tyler Jackson was born and raised in Salt Lake City, UT where he grew to become an outdoor enthusiast and snow sport fanatic. He remained close to home completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Utah. After college, he spent some extended time traveling while conducting public health research in Kumasi, Ghana. This led Tyler to pursue medical school which he completed at the University of Utah School of Medicine. After medical school Tyler moved south, trading in the snow for the desert and completing EM residency at the University of Arizona in Tucson. During his time there, he participated in a Sports Medicine Distinction Track, providing medical coverage for university athletics and local mass events. Following residency, Tyler then moved to New York City where he completed a fellowship in Sports Medicine at the Hospital for Special Surgery where he served as a team physician for the New York Giants and the New York Mets. Tyler is thrilled to be moving back out west to join the esteemed faculty at UCLA. He will be primarily working clinically in the Orthopaedic Immediate Care Clinic while also working clinical shifts in the ED at Santa Monica and Reagan. When he’s not in the ED, he’s likely hiking, camping, playing beach volleyball, or searching for LA’s best coffee shop.

And Welcome More New Faculty



Undergrad: Skidmore College
Med School: Drexel University
Residency: New York
Presbyterian
Masters: University of Texas,
Galveston (MPH)

Dana Levin, MD, MPH

Dana is board certified in Emergency Medicine and Aerospace Medicine with more than a decade of experience caring for patients on all 7 continents, beneath the sea, and in space. He'll be joining UCLA as a per diem Emergency Medicine attending and assisting with the UCLA Space Medicine Fellowship. Before joining UCLA, he worked with Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and Weil Cornell Medical Center in New York City. Outside of work Dana is an avid scuba diver, rock climber, and enjoyer of science fiction. His primary work is with Vast Space, a commercial company launching the first non-government space station by the end of next year.



Hometown: Malibu, CA
Undergrad: University of Southern
California
Med School: Keck School of
Medicine of USC
Residency: Advocate Christ
Medical Center

Brett Goodfriend, MD

Brett Goodfriend was born and raised in Los Angeles. He is a proud double Trojan, earning both his undergraduate and medical degrees from USC across town. He completed his residency at Advocate Christ Medical Center, a high-volume Level 1 Trauma Center on the South Side of Chicago, where he served as the Resident Director of the ultrasound program. After completing his residency, Brett joined a large democratic physician group in Milwaukee, where he provided care across eight local hospitals. He led multiple committees involved in advancing nursing, physician assistant, resident, and attending physician education. He is conversationally fluent in Spanish with a strong clinical interest in point-of-care bedside ultrasound. Brett returns home from the harsh Midwest winters, working clinically in our Santa Monica ED. Please help welcome Brett to UCLA!

Remembering Dan Hoh (2009)

Daniel “Dan” Hoh (1979-2024), died after a long battle with multiple myeloma. Dan was born and raised in Maryland. He worked as an EMT in Baltimore and had a brief internship with the FBI before attending medical school at Vanderbilt University. He always had an interest in telling stories, a creative side that he explored as a medical reporter and broadcast journalist for WBKO-13 (ABC affiliate) in Bowling Green, KY, and as a staff writer with the ABC News Medical Unit (Boston) and ABCNews.com.

Dan was committed to global health starting in 1997 and continuing throughout his career. He worked on international projects in Sierra Leone, Peru, Cambodia, Thailand, Dominican Republic, and Mexico, as a global health physician providing medical care, public health education, community development, and anti-human trafficking efforts with many partner organizations.

As a resident Dan is remembered for his intellect and ability as well as for how he made people feel. Many will remember his easy smile, positive attitude, and great hair. One alumna on hearing of his passing said *“I will always remember his positive spirit, almost as high as his hair.”* During residency he mentioned his aspirations to write in the entertainment industry. After graduating residency he joined the faculty at Cedars Sinai and remained there throughout his career. After settling into his emergency medicine career he did in fact pursue his writing as well.

In 2010, he combined his medical and global health work with his story telling as director, writer, and editor of *“SIERRA LEONE: DARKNESS TO LIGHT”*, a documentary film about community development and public health challenges in Sierra Leone. This film was produced as part of a humanitarian medical project and served as a fundraising tool for building an elementary school in the city of Bo. While working as an EM physician at Cedars Sinai he developed and honed his writing skills taking classes through UCLA extension and he joined the CBS Diversity Writing program. In 2016 wrote for the show *Pure Genius*. In 2020 he joined the ABC show *Station 19* where in addition to writing, he ascended to the title of producer in its final season.

Dan was 45 when he died, and leaves behind his parents, a brother, his wife Debbie and a son, Dylan. Dan remained close with many of his classmates.

Danielle Schindler ...*I remember Dan's infectious energy, and the deep compassion that fueled his interest in medicine. He could be self-effacing and humble, yet confident in the manner essential in our speciality. At the hardest times, he could bear the weight of tragedy with patients and colleagues with true empathy, but there was a jovial spirit that stayed present within him like a pilot light. He will be greatly missed.*

Jack Casey... *Dan and I met 20 years ago in Boston during our internship interviews. Fortunately for me, we ended up not only doing our internship together, but also residency at UCLA and our first attending physician jobs at Cedars.*

Over the past two decades, we shared many great moments and experiences - many related to food - including trips to Chicago and San Francisco where we enjoyed Dan's first dinner at a Michelin starred restaurant. Those of you who are aware of Dan's fast metabolism may not be surprised to hear that after a delicious fairly rich 9 course meal.....in which I left feeling stuffed—Dan stopped to get some fast food on our way home. That was the only time I've been to a Michelin starred restaurant and a Taco Bell in one evening.

We stayed close friends since - often getting together to eat and catch up.

Dan of course had many great qualities. Some that struck me the most were Dan's altruism, faith, gratitude and positive attitude even in the face of adversity.

I still recall a conversation after a tough call night as an intern. It was a stressful and sleepless night for Dan. What I remember most about the conversation is that he talked not about his lack of sleep but rather his concern for the sick patients that kept him up all night.

Years later when he told me about his diagnosis of multiple myeloma, his need for multiple BM transplants or other health related setbacks — he never complained — but rather expressed gratitude for his family, his friends and the medical care he was receiving, and asked about me and my family.

Like all of us I'll miss Dan. I have become a better person because of the time I shared with Dan, and find some small amount of solace in knowing that Dan would feel satisfaction in knowing that his positive influence will effect all of us and the future decisions we make.



Jo Feldman Retired and is Living her Best Life

Never one to be the center of attention, Jo Feldman, with a bit of begging, finally indulged the newsletter editor with an interview - We are so grateful for all of your contributions and friendship. Jo was what some may call non-traditional, although her path is deliberate and connected across her education and activities. She graduated college with a BS in Environmental Education, and then a few years later went back to school and received a Masters of Science in Environmental Education from the Audubon Expedition Institute. She was an EMT/paramedic who worked as a tech in the ED at Santa Monica UCLA and was also a National Park Ranger. She later went back to get her MD at UCSF, EM training at the Stanford-Kaiser program, Wilderness Fellowship, and is board certified in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine. She worked in several different emergency departments, critical access hospitals, more than a decade as an Expedition Ship Physician, as a flight physician for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department Search & Rescue Helicopter Unit, served as Antarctic Base Physician at Palmer Station and Space Operations Physician at SpaceX, launched our Space Medicine Fellowship as the Inaugural Director, was our Wilderness Medicine Fellowship Director, and provided service as Camp Physician for the Painted Turtle for a decade, and several years as Medical Director for the California AIDS Life Cycle.....She has left the building, left the state, hung up her stethoscope, and moved to Kansas and live with the love of her life. She continues to enjoy her CrossFit, tennis, and travel. She was recently scuba diving in Indonesia with a whale shark.



A Jake Lentz (2019) Interview with Jo Feldman

How are you enjoying the move so far? **Definitely. Life is so much easier here. No traffic. Gas is under \$3/gallon. Everything is cheaper. Watching storm clouds is incredible.**

How's the surf? **Haven't checked out the local surf spots yet. Been too busy playing tennis at the local country club.**

As a born-and-raised Californian used to water and mountains, how is the adjustment to the plains and lakes? **It is definitely different here. Incredibly flat but with that you get great views of the sky. And there is very dynamic weather here. One day it can be 80 degrees, then the next day it's raining hard, 40 degrees and there is a tornado watch. Most lakes seem to be man made but it's always great to go out on the pontoon boat, cruise at 5 knots, and enjoy the sunset.**

Do you miss working 15 overnights in a row? **Not at all. Don't even miss working 1 night a month.**

As a fellow nocturnist, I have to ask – why? For me it is a combination of the obvious fact that they can't let anyone important see me there during the day and also I really don't like morning shifts, but you're much more presentable and I don't think you need much sleep – so why? **I loved working overnights because there were typically less patients, fewer administrative staff, and, equally important, no**

traffic driving to and from Malibu to Westwood. Plus there is a pay differential and typically it is easier to get hired if you say you are willing to work nights.

Like me, you went to med school after you had another career. Unlike me, you did something meaningful before medicine. How did you end up a forest ranger? **As a child I always wanted to be a national park ranger or an astronaut. Wanting to be a ranger was because every summer my parents took me to visit the national parks and I loved it - the hiking, going to campfire talks and ranger-led walks, the beauty, etc. So I ended up studying environmental education, and once I finished graduate school (which involved traveling around North America in a school bus, camping out every night, learning about the environment, and making most decisions by consensus - yikes!), I got a job as a park ranger at Sequoia National Park.**



Jo Feldman interview continued



Among other “outside” things that I find concerning, you’re famous for your trips to Antarctica. How does one end up a South Pole doctor? What kind of crazy cases have you had there? And also I feel like if you got to the South Pole once, that should be more than enough, right? **Firstly, I have never been to the**

South Pole (but I have been to the North Pole!). I did however work at one of the other US Antarctic Program stations - Palmer Station - for 2 6-month summer deployments. That came about because I had been going to Antarctica as a ship doctor for ecotourism companies (if you are taking paying passengers to Antarctica you need a doctor to care for them because you are so remote). After doing that for a few years I wanted to spend more time down south so I applied with the US Antarctic Program. In addition to being the station doctor at Palmer Station and a ship doctor, I've also sailed to Antarctica from the Falkland Islands twice on small sailboats with a friend who is a penguinologist and helped him conduct research such as collecting penguin poop, holding penguins so he could attach radio trackers and drawing blood samples from penguin feet. In total, I have been to Antarctica 16 seasons which adds up to well over 2 years of my life and over 30 expeditions. And I'll be heading south again at the end of December.

Since you were the fellowship director for the Space Fellowship – would you go to space if given the chance? For me it’s a hard nyet, but I feel like you’d go and bring a surfboard, just in case. **Well as I said I've wanted to be an astronaut since I was a kid - probably because I spent way too much of my childhood years watching tv shows like Star Trek and reading science fiction books. So, yes, I would love to go to space if given the chance but I'm betting on Haig going before me. But IF i do go I doubt I would bring a surfboard rather I would bring my mountain bike and explore the landscape.**

Are you planning any visits back to California? Maybe a guest lecture about dive medicine (one of the highlights of residency for me)? **Oh, I will definitely be back to California - so many good people/ friends there - but not sure I will be giving any talks. As days pass I can't imagine practicing**

emergency medicine other than being an expedition/ship doctor.

One thing I really liked about working with you as a resident was your practical approach to medicine. You were also always smart about figuring out how to meet patients where they were at and how they'd get follow up and so on. How'd you learn that, since it's not ubiquitous in our specialty? **No freaking clue.**

I know we are all going to miss you. For the interns who are just starting and the residents who won't get the full Jo Feldman Experience – what words of wisdom do you want to offer us? **Trust your gut/ follow your heart, even if that means you stop working as an emergency physician, leave Malibu and move to the midwest.**



Cal ACEP AdvancED

AdvancED
2024

Emergency Medicine Reimagined
SEPTEMBER 6

September 6, 2024 in Anaheim, CA. The theme of AdvancED 2024 is "Emergency Medicine Reimagined."

Kenneth Kim (2025) "How to Get involved with Health Policy as a Trainee."

Steven Lai (2016) - Q and A panel with residency Program Directors

Valerie Norton (1995)
"Diversify, Diversify! What Color is Your Parachute?"

Anna Yap (2022) "Unionization for Physicians"



Women in EM

We had a September get together hosted by Rhea Matthew (2025). A nice dinner, and some palm reading by Rhea (newly trained by Google) and Astronomy charts by Dani.

Our November get together was hosted at a pottery studio. Thanks to Sami Maisel (2028), who besides being an amazing intern is actually an artist who makes and sells pottery. Follow her instagram [@potsbysami](#). Or go to her [website and shop](#).



December the women and gender minority in EM group sponsored a residency family event - cookie decorating. A big thank you to Natasha Wheaton and her family for hosting us. Looking to make this a new residency tradition that continues each year!



IDHEAL and Social EM Updates



In October the IDHEAL section had an unperson collaborative meeting. We were fortunate the day coincided with former UCLA RWJ Hemal Kanzaria coming to lecture for grand rounds. We were also lucky to not only have Hemal but Jerry Hoffman (1979) in attendance for the journal club the night before, and our IDHEAL section meeting.



Hemal's travel and guest lecturing was supported by the speaker fund that Jerry Hoffman created with money he donated to the program.



Hemal gave an inspiring lecture about social integration and quality of care, as well as his work at UCSF.



We followed this with a collaboration meeting with research and programmatic updates from all of our sites (Olive View UCLA, Harbor UCLA, Greater Los Angeles VA, and Ronald Reagan UCLA) as well as brief works in progress from presenters from each site. It was great to hear about all of the

projects and we plan to incorporate more of this in our regular meetings and with the residency program. We then had a strategic planning meeting to envision the future growth of our social EM programs and collaborations.



The Southern California Healthcare Delivery Science Center Annual **2024 Healthcare Delivery Science: Innovation and Partnerships for Health Equity and Research (DESCIPHER) Symposium** with the theme "Bridging the Gaps to Health Equity Through Cross-Sector Partnerships" was held at the California Endowment in Los Angeles.. Todd Schneberk presented "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs in the LA County Safety-Net: Implementation Lessons and Evaluation Outcomes. Breena Taira presented "Evaluation Interventions."



Breena spoke on a panel with colleagues from Neighborhood Legal Services on Medical Legal Partnerships to a room full of lawyers at the **Pathways to Justice Conference** in San Francisco. She and colleagues also recently published a viewpoint in JAMA Internal Medicine, "**Legal Aid Is Essential to Effective Social Care Integration.**"



Richelle Cooper (1998) and Jerry Hoffman *finally* completed the board approval and publication of the policy statement on Addressing Risks and Needs in the Emergency Department.



UCLA Space Medicine Division Yearly Highlights



Haig Aintablian (2022) has been busy with a lot of activities growing the Space Medicine Division efforts.

Haig supported multiple missions for NASA, SpaceX, and partners including sitting in Mission Control, doing recovery at sea, and launch from cape Canaveral Florida.



Haig spoke to the undergraduates of the UCLA Space Medicine Club, and also delivered grand rounds to our residency.

Haig Aintablian and our development team visited SpaceX and had several high level meetings on strengthening our partnership with them.



The UCLA Space Medicine program with development hosted a fundraising campaign at the Luskin for the UCLA Space Medicine Center.

Haig was an invited speaker at a private space event at the home of Dennis Tito where he discussed space medicine on a panel with astronauts and the future NASA director.

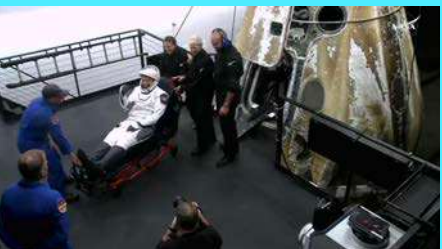


Haig also went to a hockey game with the astronauts on Axiom.



Ghufran Syed is in year two of his fellowship, and in June we welcome Michael Boyle.

Dana Levin has been working with us at Santa Monica UCLA. He is board certified in Emergency Medicine and Aerospace Medicine. He will be assisting with the UCLA Space Medicine Fellowship.



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Section In Review

Leadership

The new year brings changes to our EDI leadership and thus an opportunity to look at all that has been accomplished in the past year. Special recognition goes to Drs. Greg Hendey (1993), Medell Briggs-Malonson (Chief of Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for the UCLA Hospital and Clinic System), and our Department Leader Jamie Bell. Our work could not have been done without all of the contributions of many faculty and residents. In particular Rose Diaz and Jess Faiz have helmed many of our efforts and were instrumental in helping Jamie Bell put together our Department report. It is thus fitting and reassuring that our efforts will continue with the two of them as our new Co-Directors of EDI. And while Jamie Bell transitions to Assistant Program Director, his commitment and contributions to our EDI efforts are unwavering.



Faculty Recruitment and Retention

In 2022 we initiated new strategies to recruit faculty and residents that reflect diverse identities, experiences, and scholarly expertise. We incorporated VC JEDI and EDI focused faculty into search committees, implemented an objective process to assess all candidates to decrease bias, and expanded our recruitment “net” across the country. We have recruited more than 17 new full time faculty, and 24% URiM and 53% women.

We have incorporated several key strategies to support growth and retention, including the JEDI Professional Development Lecture series, which features engaging lectures and workshops led by faculty, residents, and esteemed guest speakers. The series included invited grand rounds speakers Dr. Diana Ramos, CA Surgeon General, who presented “*Adverse Childhood Experiences*” and Dr. Hemal Kanzaria who presented “*A Broader View of Health: The Case for Social Medicine.*” These conferences were opened up to attendees from all across UCLA Health. The lecture series also included our faculty and resident lectures on Abortion Care in the ED, Trauma Informed Emergency Care, Perspectives on Homelessness, Opioid Use Disorder Insights and Treatment, Why EDI is Important, and Harm Reduction Practices. The next iteration of this series will be to finalize a standard core curriculum focused on racism and other forms of discrimination in EM and healthcare that scaffolds the content to promote deeper learning. Through strategic consultation with Dr. Edgardo Ordonez, past president of SAEM ADIEM, we will also launch an invited EDI guest speaker series in the second quarter of 2025, which will include leading emergency medicine experts to conduct workshops and speaking engagements on EDI topics.



We supported several early career faculty and residents to attend career development conferences, including sending several faculty and residents to the AAMC Faculty Leadership Conference, the Latinas in Medicine Conference, the Accelerating Latino Leadership Conference, the Latino Identity Development Empowerment Conference, and to the national and regional Student National Medical Association (SNMA) conferences, and Latino Medical Student Association conferences.



URiM Mentorship and Sponsorship Program

One of our most exciting initiatives is the URiM Mentorship and Sponsorship Program that will launch in April 2025. This program pairs participants with senior faculty mentors who provide career guidance and support with an emphasis on culturally congruent mentorship, ensuring that mentors are equipped to support their mentees effectively. This program complements and adds to our ongoing resident, faculty and student engagement and recruitment efforts and EDI social events.



Equitable Patient Care

We have several patient care initiatives to: (1) Improve access to care for patients with Medi-Cal. Faculty lead Dr. Jess Faiz helped spearhead this work and published some of the findings exploring the barriers to care. We are working to identify problems and delays, develop data-driven solutions

and set up a model that can be adopted by other departments. (2) Enhance care for patients living with sickle cell disease with Faculty Lead Dr. Natasha Thomas. We are participating in a system-wide workgroup to improve treatment and care transitions for these patients (personalized care plans, education and implicit bias training with staff). (3) ED-Based Community Health Workers (CHWs) program with faculty lead Dr. Liz Samuels to help address social needs and drivers of health, and to build collaboration across the health system with the CHWs working within family medicine, trauma surgery, and our Homeless Healthcare Collaborative. (4) In 2024, faculty leads Drs. Annette Dekker, Jamie Bell, and Richelle Cooper as well as Enrico Castillo from the Department of Psychiatry began work to address a patient care structural equity goal to establish comprehensive, standardized policies for managing law enforcement presence and patient custody interactions in clinical settings.



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Section In Review

Climate

Fostering an inclusive and respectful environment for our faculty, learners, staff, and patients is at the heart of our mission and fuels our drive for excellence. In 2024, we set an ambitious goal to elevate our departmental climate through impactful initiatives. These included implementing comprehensive bias training across the department, launching an annual Climate Assessment Survey to gain critical insights, and establishing regular feedback sessions to address concerns and promote continuous improvement. These proposed initiatives were anchored in our commitment to create a culture where every individual feels valued and empowered to thrive.

Bias Training

To ensure that our incoming resident physicians are equipped with the right tools to provide high-quality, equitable care to the diverse populations of Los Angeles, the department integrated bias and inclusion topics into the Intern Boot Camp. Dr. Medell Briggs-Malonson now provides an annual inspiring and data driven lecture to the incoming 1st year residents on the demographic landscape of Los Angeles, healthcare finance, and bias mitigation. Drs. Diaz and Faiz also present on health equity in academic medicine. These efforts underscore our commitment to equipping residents with the tools to provide equitable, high-quality care to the diverse populations we serve. The DEM will partner with the Office of Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (HEDI) to provide Bias and Inclusive Leadership training that is relevant to emergency medicine department wide to all residents, staff, and faculty.

Community Outreach

In 2024, UCLA DEM deepened its community partnerships and broadened its outreach efforts. Focused on driving meaningful change, the department set 3 primary goals: to implement a collaborative high school outreach program in an under-resourced community, expand engagement with the Homeless Healthcare Collaborative (HHC), and launch authentic community awareness and education campaigns. Dr. Jesus Torres organized a multidisciplinary health professions panel held at San Fernando High School. This event represented a departure from our previous approach of standalone career days. Instead, we created an integrated experience that brought together diverse healthcare voices from our emergency department ecosystem—faculty, residents, nurses, pharmacists, and technicians. The panel's success stemmed from our intentional preparation with school administrators and teachers to understand their students' specific needs and barriers to pursuing healthcare careers. Students engaged with our ED team members, who shared not just their career paths, but also personal challenges and triumphs, particularly resonating with those from similar backgrounds. The DEM also started a strong new partnership with Jack and Jill of America, Inc. In March 2024, DEM residents and faculty conducted a health and emergency preparedness session with 15 middle school aged students. The session consisted of interactive didactics around cardiovascular health and sickle cell disease followed by hands-on activities including CPR, suturing, and hemorrhage control. The session ended with a dynamic conversation between the resident physicians and students about their accomplishments and challenges on the journey to becoming a physician and the importance of having more Black physicians in medicine. The next session will take place in January 2025.



Community Awareness and Education Campaigns

We have initiated several great steps towards community education. Dr. Jesus Torres has been serving as a health contributor for Telemundo, delivering multiple Spanish-language health education interviews over the past six months. Dr. Rose Diaz, alongside numerous EM residents and medical students, conducted bystander CPR training at more than 12 health fairs and events across Latino communities, including Pacoima, Coachella Valley, and Tijuana, Mexico. These efforts highlight our dedication to fostering authentic, two-way relationships that address community needs while promoting health and education. In addition, Rose Diaz has used these opportunities to mentor and sponsor URiM students who have been able to present survey research data collected at the bystander CPR sessions at several regional academic conferences.



DEM will continue to expand and enhance its current outreach and educational initiatives.

Additionally, DEM plans to collaborate closely with the Office of HEDI and the Office of

Community to deliver educational resources and clinical services at events across Los Angeles County, specifically targeting under-resourced communities. These efforts aim to strengthen support and improve access to vital healthcare and educational opportunities for those who need it most.



UCLA Introduces First EM CDC Emerging Infections Fellowship - July 2026

CDC Ferguson Fellowship Partners with EMERGENCY ID NET
By David Talan (1986)

Since 1995, Greg Moran (1992), Bill Mower (1990), and I have directed a CDC-funded US 12-ED-based emerging infections network called EMERGENCY ID NET, which is credited with recognizing MRSA's emergence, determining patient care-related COVID risk to ED providers, and conducting practice-changing research on management of various infections, ranging from skin abscesses to appendicitis, with publications in the highest impact journals, like NEJM and JAMA.



Along the way, we've seen growing EM resident interest in public health and global health. But there's no ready post-residency path for these career goals. One path is the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), a famous disease detection fellowship. EIS, however, is not focused on the ED - the sentinel for public health threats to communities, and particularly the vulnerable.



We're excited to announce the creation of the first EM Emerging Infections Fellowship, which will be based at UCLA and recruit for July '26. The training is supported through the CDC's Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infections Fellowship Program – Dr. Ferguson, who founded the program in 1989, believed in building a diverse public health workforce to improve health equity for populations at risk for health disparities - <https://www.cdc.gov/minority-health/student-programs/ferguson-fellowship.html>



The 1-year (for those with an MPH already) or 2-year fellowship will include School of Public Health Master's program training, EMERGENCY ID NET project creation, direction, and CDC collaboration, grant writing, participation in ongoing NIH- and PCORI-funded clinical trials (see box), advanced ID-ED curriculum, and clinical micro lab and global medicine experiences. The position will have direct salary funding in addition to an opportunity for part-time faculty clinical shifts caring for underserved at Olive View-UCLA.

This fellowship training will establish a foundation for unique career paths in academic Emergency Medicine and working with leading public health agencies, such as CDC and WHO. The fellowship will be directed by Jesus Torres (JRTorres@mednet.ucla.edu) and myself (dtalan@ucla.edu). Please let us know early if you are interested.

Ongoing UCLA EM Research

Rash-based Mpox Surveillance (CDC)
Emergence of TMP/SMX SSTI MRSA Resistance (CDC)
Fever/Mosquito Bite Dengue Surveillance (CDC)
Performance of Rapid PCR-based Joint Fluid Assay (CDC)
Recurrent Staph SSTI Immunological Correlates & Staph Vaccine Clinical Trial (NIH)
Patient-Oriented Antibiotic Duration for Pyelonephritis (NIH)

A Year with the Ultrasound Division

Medical School Teaching: Will Shyy and Alan Chiem co-directed an eight-month Discovery course for MS3 students this year called Training in Medical Education and Practice (TMEP). Every week they worked with them to improve their POCUS skills as well as supervising them when they taught POCUS to MS1 and MS2 students. *"It was such a fulfilling experience to see these 16 students not only become confident peer educators in both anatomy and POCUS, but also to help guide them towards their career goals."*



Our Ultrasound Division taught POCUS to family medicine, neurology, and our own EM residents in our UCLA EM Sonogames competition this past Spring.



Residency Teaching and Residents as Teachers: Our residents and ultrasound faculty taught multiple sessions to our medical students and during Basecamp.

Ultrasound Fellowship Training: The combined departmental teaching supports our current fellows are Jon Warren, who is doing a combined US and EMS fellowship and Moudi Hubeishy, and our Harbor IM US fellow, Aida Martinez.



Teaching Internationally: Our continued partnership with Refugee Health Alliance in Tijuana, included teaching the Midwives and clinicians working there.



A Year with the Ultrasound Division

Jackie and Alan Chiem taught alongside UCLA IM POCUS colleagues--and social media famous NephroPOCUS (aka Abhilash Koratala)--at the National Kidney Foundation POCUS course in May, down in Long Beach.



Alan Chiem organized and moderated a Global Health POCUS session for the all-Los Angeles Global Health Conference, which was held in Covell Commons in April. On the panel was Jackie Shibata, fellowship alumnus Pablo Aguilera (2015), Erich Wieshofer (2024), Ashley Yearwood (Radiology), and several UCLA medical students who joined from a hospital in South Africa. Jackie Shibata also taught ultrasound and presented work in partnership with Refugee Health Alliance in Tijuana, Mexico at the Conference.



Jackie Shibata was an Invited Speaker at the Southwestern Ultrasound Regional Fellowship (SURF) Conference 2024 teaching on Resuscitative TEE

Alan Chiem moderated a research panel for the AAMC Western Group on Educational Affairs Annual Meeting in Riverside, CA, and then had some dim sum with his friend Vi Dinh (also creator of POCUS101) from Loma Linda.



UCLA hosted the 9th Annual Southern California Critical Care Ultrasound Course. This year's meeting was co-chaired by Emergency Medicine and Critical Care faculty George Lim. Several others lectured and taught hands-on sessions including Sara Crager (2015), Alan Chiem, Moudi Hubeishy, Alex Grohmann, Jackie Shibata, Jon Warren. It was a weekend of



hands-on learning and building connections across Southern California.

Will Shyy and Jackie Shibata taught at the Original EM Bootcamp in July 2024. In Dec 2024 our fellows Moudi Hubeishy and Jon Warren also taught at the Original EM bootcamp course.



POCUS journal club was combined with a Comedy Open Mic with fellow alumnus Kareem Agunbaide.

Ultrasound Research and Innovation: Alan Chiem was proud to mentor a group of amazing MS3 students whose proposal involving POCUS to screen for heart failure in undomiciled patients at the Mobile Clinic Project, was selected for a \$50K grant from the UCLA Health Equity Challenge!



ACEP Scientific Assembly 2024 in Sin City

Always a great turn out of alumni when we are in Las Vegas. Starting with the education program:

Rebecca Bavolek was the program chair elect, and **Will Shyy** was a key member of the program committee.

Sara Crager (2015)

- *Puzzle the Pros: Resuscitation Edition*
- *Weathering the Electrical Storm*
- *Diagnostic Dilemma: Dyspnea*

Alan Chiem dressed as a JEDI to support colleague Starr Knight's lecture and to film a promo for his WINFOCUS 2024 pro/con debate "Should medical students have their own hand-held POCUS devices?"

Tyler Barrett (2005) & Richelle Cooper (1998)

- Editor's Forum: Scientific Publishing with the Annals of Emergency Medicine and JACEP Open Editors: *Pears of Effective Scientific Writing*

Ilene Claudius (2002):

- *Critical Kids in the Community: What Now?*
- *Metabolic Disorders in Kids: Lethal Disorders You Have Never Heard of And How to Treat Them*

Ilene Claudius, Jessica Wall (2015) and others with a day of *PEM Essentials*

Jeff Tabas (1998)

- *Atrial Fibrillation 2024: Case-Based Controversies*

Sanjay Arora (2005) & Michael Menchine (2004)

- *Clinical Pearls from the Recent Medical Literature 2024*

Anna Yap (2022)

- *Everything You Wanted to Know About Unions but Were Afraid to Ask*

EM:RAP at ACEP with **Britt Guest (2019)**, **Ilene Claudius** and **Mel Herbert (1995)**

Valerie Norton (1995), **Anna Yap (2022)**, and **Mike Gertz** advocated as part of the California delegates at ACEP Council.



Anthony Catalano (2017) participated in the Hackathon, presenting his risk:Benefit (see prior newsletter July 2021 for more details) program, a centralized database of procedures with handouts to share or printout for patients and their families that describes an intervention, and gives them an estimate of what their risk of experiencing a complication and risk of benefit might be. For those interested, check out the website riskben.com



More ACEP 2022



Congratulations to the faculty, alumni, fellows, residents and our undergraduate (EMRA) research volunteers who presented abstracts. **Jesus Torres and Richelle Cooper (1998)** moderated abstract sessions.

Abstracts

- **Torres J, Tlatelpa K, Perez Y, Salazar D, Arias YL, Cuervo LL, Delgadillo A, Taira B.**

Language Access in the Emergency Department: The Patient's Perspective.

- **Dayal D, Alarcon D, Connor M, McCullough L, Thomas N, Khan F, Hung-Yi Lee A**

Optimizing Room Size and Accessibility Improves Emergency Department Operational Metrics.

- **Jourdan A, Bell E.** Disparities in Psychiatric Admissions From the Emergency Department.
- Brizuela B, Villaruel E, Williams B, Balderrama J, Lister J, Stark E, **Chiem A.** Enhancement of Medical Education in Point-of-Care Ultrasound Using Additive Manufacturing.
- Lin J, Hernandez M, Bellinger R, Au A, **Jordan J**, Gottlieb M. Sono-Starters: A Qualitative Study of Pioneers in the Field of Point-of-Care Ultrasound.
- **Vongsachang H**, Chi V, Saynina O, Wang N. Comparison of Characteristics of Pediatric Behavioral Health Emergency Department Visits, Transfers, and Admissions in California Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic (2017-2021).
- **Warren J**, Tamhankar O, Toy J, Schlesinger S, Liu Y. The Use of Prehospital Ultrasound: A Scoping Review.

Alumni Abstracts

- **Berdahl C**, Ptacek M, Carrascoza-Bolanos J, Seferian E, Epstein H, Venkatesh A, Schiff G, Nuckols T. Defining Diagnostic Excellence for the Emergency Department Setting: Results From a Literature Review and Expert Panel Discussion. **EMF GRANT.**
- **Yao DH**, Badhwar A, Li W, Hall N, Semma Y, Dash D. Emergency Department Admitting Service Triage Using Retrieval-Augmented Language Models.
- Sison O, Ahmed S, Yang J, Toomer C, Fischer B, Sangara R, Reichert Z, Axeen S, Nguyen B, **Terp S.** Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) Citations Involving On-Call Obstetric and Gynecologic Responsibilities, 2011-2023.
- **Terp S**, Axeen S, Aleman A, Mercado J, Kearl L. Providing Screening and Linkage to HIV Preventive Services for At-Risk 13–17-Year-Olds in a Pediatric Emergency Department: A Two-Year Program Update.
- Axeen S, Ahmed S, Reichert Z, Seabury S, **Terp S.** Variation in the Rate of EMTALA Investigations and Resulting Citations.
- Reichert Z, Ahmed S, Tyler-Mills S, Vontela N, Axeen S, Seabury S, **Terp S.** Civil Monetary Penalties Related to Violations of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act Involving Psychiatric Emergencies: A 5-Year Update.
- Axeen S, Kearl L, Aleman A, Mercado J, **Terp S.** Two Years of Screening and Linkage to HIV Preventive Services for At-Risk Adolescents and Young Adults in a Safety-Net Pediatric Emergency Department.
- Ahmed S, Reichert Z, Vontela N, Tyler-Mills S, Seabury S, **Terp S.** Civil Monetary Penalties Related to Violations of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act Involving Patients Arriving or Departing With Law Enforcement.
- Sison O, Ahmed S, Yang J, Toomer C, Fischer B, Sangara R, Reichert Z, Axeen S, Nguyen B, **Terp S.** Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) Citations Involving On-Call Obstetric and Gynecologic Responsibilities, 2011-2023.
- Ramraj R, Li T, Szulewski A, Brooks S, Kong R, Yamane D, Robinson A, Becker L, **Rolston D.** Resuscitation Videography for Innovation in the Emergency Department (REVIVED): A Multi-Center Collaborative to Study Emergency Department Cardiac Arrests Using Video Review.
- Forrester J, Li T, **Rolston D**, Young E, Nelson M, Angielczyk J, Cohen A, Stankard B, Dalpiaz A, Jose S. Rising VExUS Score After Small Volume Fluid Resuscitation Is Associated With Worse Outcomes in Septic Emergency Department Patients.
- McCann-Pineo M, Margius D, Shameem M, Li T, Weingart S, **Rolston D**, Becker L. An Emergency Medical Services to Emergency Department Checklist for Handoff of Cardiac Arrest: A Modified Delphi Approach.
- Sales N, **Rolston D**, Li T, Jafari D, Haddad G, Nelson M, Cohen A. Success of Echocardiography Locations for Cardiac Image Acquisition in Cardiac Arrest.
- Nitz M, Frank K, Landers J, Naing Z, Fitz N, Button D, McGuinness J, Coppola M, **Rolston D**, Jafari D. A Comprehensive, Checklist-Driven, Laryngoscopic Airway Intubation Method for the Emergency Department (ACCLAIMED) Initiative.
- Carroll K, Landers J, Ramraj R, McCann-Pineo M, Haddad G, Young E, Li T, Becker L, **Rolston D**, Jafari D. A Video Review-Based Clinical Assessment Tool of Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation Correlates With Higher Chest Compression Fraction.
- Dillon D, Kellison C, Sokol J, Wang R, Montoy JC, **Rodriguez R.** Inter-Rater Reliability and Acceptability of a Clinical Prediction Rule for Opioid-Associated Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest.
- Dillon D, Montoy JC, Nishijima D, Niederberger S, Menegazzi J, Lacocque J, **Rodriguez R**, Wang R. Association Between Naloxone and Patient Outcomes in Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrests in California.
- Fallah P, Bubic I, **Oswald J**, Coyne C. Ultrasound-Guided Erector Spinae Plane Block for Breakthrough Cancer Pain in the Emergency Department: Case Series.
- Lu A, Peabody C, **Cheng T.** Using Design Thinking and Community Advisors to Improve Emergency Department Resources for Intimate Partner Violence Survivors.



More ACEP 2022 and Alumni Reunions



Happy Halloween UCLA Family !



Holly Sadlin
(2014)



Rebecca & Nate
Bavolek



Brian and Sam
Kadera (2013)



Aws Al-Abdullah
(2020) & family



Niko Pascua
(2023)



Noah Sugerman
(2016)



Natasha Thomas



Haig
Aintablian
(2022)



Santaino
Rosaro (2023)



Staff Brenman
(2017) & family



Angels Brown
(2016) & family



Clara Pavesi-
Krieger (2028) &
family



Gil Shlamovitz
(2007) & family



Hannah
Spungen (2022)



Claudie Bolduc
(2022) & family



Emily Huang
(2013) & family



Sarah Medeiros
(2014) & family



Angelique
Campen
(2000)



Michelle
Brennan (2022)



Brian McNamara
(2015) & family



Lizzie Ferreira
(2022)



Jackie Kurth
(2020) & family



Teri Miller
(2020)



Tola
Johnson-
Miniel (2012)
, Nick Miniel
(2011) &
family

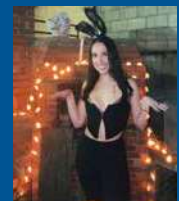


Ryan Kunitake
(2021)
and family

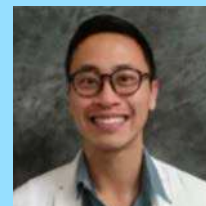


Carolyn Gates
(2014) & family

Thanks Rob Roach (2026) for the Halloween Party!



Education Updates with Program Director Steven Lai (2016)



Happy New Year everyone! It's been an incredibly jam-packed and exciting few months and it's surreal how time has flown by since the last newsletter.

Recruitment season is already nearing the end with a lot of excitement in the air as we just finished our 20th interview day of the year and we're looking forward to our next class of extraordinary EM residents. It continues to be a huge communal effort and I wanted to thank all the residents, faculty, PDs, and coordinators that made this endeavor not only possible, but truly special.

We tried a number of new things this year for recruitment with the goal of showing off our residency, including the people, underlying culture, and connection that makes this program amazing. In particular, our in-person recruitment socials and the connection our applicants are able to make along the way with our faculty and residents really shine a light on how wonderful our community and family here at UCLA EM really is.



In the past few months, we have also had the chance to welcome in Dr. Elijah "Jamie" Bell III as our newest APD! As most of you already know, Jamie is a graduate of Harvard Medical School, was a chief resident at Baylor, and has been with us at UCLA since 2016. While he's been here, he's been absolutely integral to the department's EDI initiatives, particularly in his role as our Vice Chair for EDI. His dedication to mentorship, equity, and innovation makes him an outstanding complement to our existing leadership team and we're really excited to work closely and see all the positive things we can accomplish together.

I also wanted to take a moment to recognize Dr. Jaime Jordan and express my sincere gratitude for all she has done for this program, our residency team, and many residents and alumni over the years. While we will definitely miss her presence and guidance on our team, we're also very excited for her and her new opportunity at OHSU.



As we look to continue to build on our program, I wanted to thank the residents, faculty and staff for all their dedication and remarkable support. It often takes a village – thank you all for making UCLA a special place to be at and train.

Cheers,
Steven & the PDs

Mentorship Mondays at Broxton Brew



Recruitment Socials - Thanks to Lisa Waltz & Mark Morocco, and the Hendeys!



Fall Retreat



EMS Education

Thanks to Atilla Uner (1997) for coordinating our EMS education. We had a field trip this fall to the UCLA Paramedic Education Program, the state of the art center run by the Center for Prehospital Care (CPC) near the airport (LAX). Thanks to Tabitha Cheng (2018) and all of our CPC colleagues for the simulation training.



Alumni and Guest Lecturing



Chelsea Robinson (2022) educated everyone about practicing at a rural critical access hospital with a case of a hypotensive elderly individual who presented with altered mental status after a ground level fall at home and had a high c-spine fracture dislocation.



Anna Yap (2022) gave grand rounds discussing health policy and voting, and association with health outcomes in the community.



Caroline Humphreys (2021) discussed a most interesting case of altered mental status and low platelets, along with pearls to differentiate and identify TTP.



Ilene Claudius (2002) came to lecture about Metabolic Disorders.

Thanks to **Dong Yao (2023)** and his co-fellow at Stanford for providing a Faculty Development Lecture on AI.



Journal Club -

Thanks to our faculty hosts **Greg Hendey, David Schriger, Dan Waxman, and Mark Morocco (2002)** as well as out great resident presenters, for several engaging JCs.



Cadaver lab with the chiefs!



Foundations al fresco with Chase Richard (2023)



Dan Weingrow learning to French braid on shift?



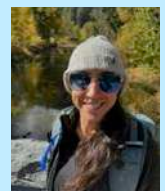
An all woman crew getting a mini sports medicine education on the elbow with Vanessa Franco (2017)



Fred Abrahamian teaching chest X-ray

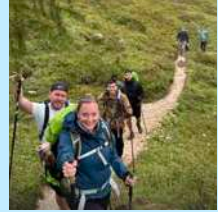
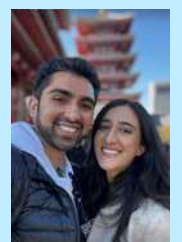
Life Around and Out of Town

- Rob Roach (2027) vacationed in Italy.
- Angelique Campen (2000) vacationed in Alaska.
- Greg Hendey (1993) vacationed in Boston.
- Jennifer Cassidy vacationed in Hamburg.
- Sam Kadera (2013) vacationed in Croatia.
- Angelique Campen (2000) and family vacationed in Greece.
- Jehanazz Dastoor (2028) vacationed in Canada.
- Rebecca Bavolek vacationed in Yosemite.
- Dan Sholder (2026) vacationed in Japan.
- Judy Choe went to Paris for the Olympics.
- Ephie Fisseha (2027) vacationed in Belize.
- Anthony Jourdan (2026) vacationed in Spain.
- Rebecca Bavolek vacationed at Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park, and then Zion.
- Rachel Bass (2025) vacationed in Morocco.
- Tiglath Ziyeh (2024) vacationed in Ibiza.
- Carolyn Sachs (1994) hiked Mt Baldy.
- Mike Messina vacationed in Norway.
- Jess Faiz visited the salt flats at Devil's Golf Course.
- Rey Berry (2027) vacationed in New York.
- Ephie Fisseha (2027) visited Joshua Tree.
- Jonathan McWhorter (2013) vacationed in Arizona at the Havasupai waterfalls.
- Melissa Baker honeymooned in French Polynesia.
- Anthony Jourdan (2026) traveled to Italy.
- Crystal Witherspoon (2027) traveled to Dominican Republic.
- Hannah Spungen (2022) hiked in Yosemite.
- Jess Faiz vacationed in Hawaii.
- Annie Hoang (2026) vacationed in Japan.
- Alan Chiem and family vacationed in Joshua Tree.
- Kenneth Kim (2025) rotated and vacationed in Hawaii.
- Kareem Agunbiade vacationed in Japan.
- Rebecca Bavolek and family spent the Christmas holiday in New Zealand.
- Haig Aintablian (2022) vacationed in Aspen.
- Noah Sugerman (2016) and family vacationed in Vail, Colorado.
- Sam Kadera (2013) and family spent Christmas at Whistler.
- Zainab Ahmed (2024) vacationed in Pakistan.



Alumni Getting Out

- Niko Pascua (2023) went to Paris.
- Chelsea Robinson (2022) enjoyed her backyard ...John Muir Wilderness.
- Tyler Barrett (2005) and Kel went to Key West.
- Charlene Gaw (2024) hiked in the Dolomites.
- Micaela Finnegan (2023) hanging out in Yosemite.
- Andy Shen (2003) traveled to Rome.
- Theresa Cheng (2021) vacationed ...?
- Ali Hussain (2010) and family skied in Chile.
- Varun Shahi (2020) vacationed in Singapore and Bali.
- Haleigh Kotter (2017) had her bachelorette party in Costa Rica.
- Jackson Kloor (2024) visited the Kallur Lighthouse in the Faroe Islands.
- Wendy Lin (2002) and family went on safari in Kenya.
- Brian McNamara (2015) vacationed at Tenpin Iximche Ruinas Mayas in Guatemala.
- Tola Johnson (2012) and Nick Miniel (2011) vacationed with family in Bora Bora.
- Ali Hussain (2010) vacationed in Vail.
- Caleb Candors (2016), Shamsher Samra (2017), and Brian Truong (2018) hiked the Dolomites.
- Chelsea Robinson (2022) vacationed in Spain.
- Priscilla Hanudel (2012) vacationed in Banff.
- Tom Solomon (2014) vacationed in Barcelona.
- Chris Belfour (2015) vacationed in Rome.
- Kelley Feeley (2008) vacationed in Germany for Oktoberfest!
- Emily Huang (2013) vacationed and hiked at Taggart Lake in Wyoming.
- Anna Jackanich "AJ" (2024) traveled to her favorite place, Paris.
- Janak Acharya (2007) trekked to Machu Picchu.
- Tiffany Ferreri (2004) vacationed in Portugal and enjoyed some wineries.
- Varun Shahi (2020) vacationed Japan.
- Anthony Fredericks (2023) vacationed in Egypt.
- Steff Brenman (2017) and family vacationed over Thanksgiving in Palm Springs.
- Andy Shen (2003) vacationed in Taiwan.
- Emily Huang (2013) vacationed hiking in New Zealand.
- Tiffany Ferreri (2004) and family vacationed in Hawaii.



UCLA EM and Alumni Together



Growing Families - Congratulations to Everyone!



Erich Wieshofer (2024) and Amelia got married.



Krithika Rao (2027) and Varun got married.



Melissa Baker (2026) and Brandon got married.



Evan Schwarz & Sharon welcomed Ellah.



Zainab Ahmed (2024) and Danny got engaged.



Pam Dyne (1995) and Barry celebrated their 37 year wedding anniversary.



Sean Johnson (2027) and Barbie celebrated their 9 year wedding anniversary.



Sophie Nance (2027) and Marissa got engaged.

Alumni Family Updates - Congratulations to Everyone!



Parveen Parmar (2008) and Todd got married.



Cooper Aakhus (2024) and Clara welcomed Hallie Amelia.



Carter & Lia Wystrach (2017) welcomed Emilia.



Aws Al-Abdullah (2020), Sophia and Xavier welcomed Alexander.



Emily Huang (2013), Wade and Aspen welcomed home Wesley.



Nate Friedman (2021) and Audrey got married.



Haleigh Kotter (2017) and Avery got married.



Jimmy Murphy (2022) and Jesse got engaged.



Tyler Barrett (2005) and Kelly celebrated their 25 year wedding anniversary.

Naseem Moridzadeh (2021) and Jesse got married.

Happy Holidays UCLA Family !



The Bavoleks



Jess Faiz and Ian



Jackie Shibata and family



Max Berger and family



Greg and Lisa Hendey (1993)



David Talan (1986) and Sharl



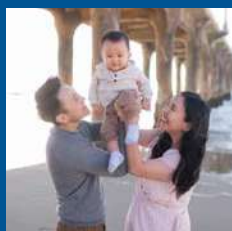
Emily Huang (2013) and family



Steff Brenman (2017) and Liz



Jason Singer (2021) and family



Jason Lu (2019) and family



Gil Shlamovitz (2007) and family



Tony Fredericks (2023) baby Teo



Holly Sandlin (2014) and family



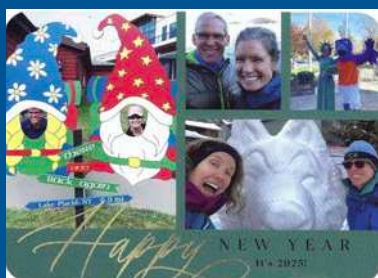
Angelique Campen (2000)



Mike Merjanian (2019) and family



Roxy Yoonessi-Martin (2010) and family



Scott Votey (1987) and Lisa Vollendorf



Chris Belfour (2015) and Mike



Ryan Kunitake (2021) and family

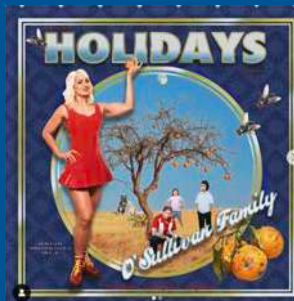


Erik Schraga (2006) and family

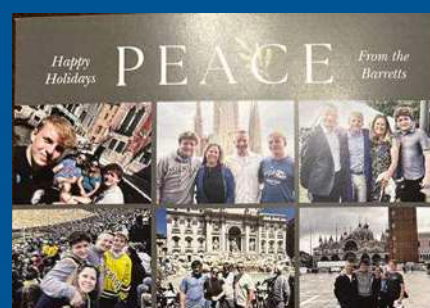
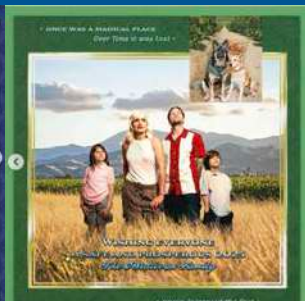
Happy Holidays UCLA Family !



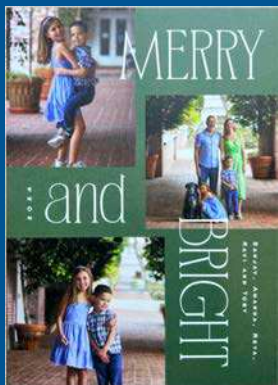
Brian McNamara (2015) and family



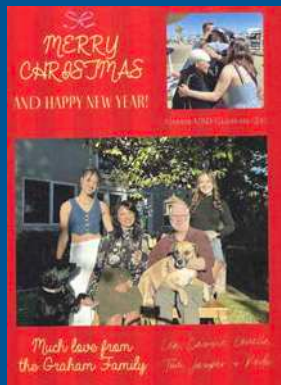
Ana Lopez O'Sullivan (2013) and family



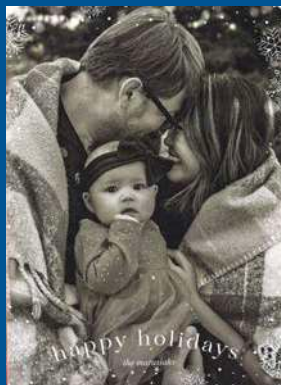
Tyler Barrett (2005) and family



Sanjay Arora (2005) and family



Tom Graham (1995) and family



Vicky Nguyen (2016) and family



Angela Brown (2016) and family



Aws Al-Abdullah (2020) and family



Hemal Kanzaria (former UCLA RWJ) and family



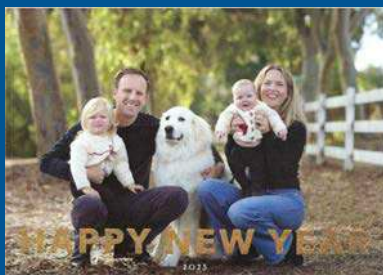
Liz Samuels and family



Jen Chen (2007) and family



Allison Ferreira-Caponetti (2018) and family



Vanessa Kreger (2020) and family



Lola Destro-Wulf (2014) and family



Ken Chuang (2007) and family



Kelly Painter (2004) and family

KUDOS to Our Amazing Faculty, Residents and Alumni



Gregory W. Hendey (1993) inaugural Chair of our Department is now the inaugural Marshall Morgan Endowed Chair. A number of years ago we set aside a fund to establish an endowed chair in honor of Marshall Morgan. We have finally received final approval from the academic senate and Dean's office to establish the Marshall T. Morgan endowed chair in emergency medicine! We specifically set it up so that it is not attached to a specific person, but to the position of department chair, which means it will pass from chair to chair in our department, in perpetuity. It is a milestone for our department (our first endowed chair), and a fitting honor for MTM.



Congratulations to **Kellie Kitamura (2019)** who was selected as the EMRA Associate Residency Director of the Year. *"This award recognizes an assistant or associate residency director who serves as a role model for residents and exemplifies those qualities residents value in a mentor. This individual goes above and beyond to support resident issues, well being, and involvement not only through emergency training but through fostering active participation in organized medicine, research, and community service."*



Breenna Taira was awarded the Olive View - UCLA Physician "Above and Beyond" Award this year in recognition of the dedication and contributions she makes to patient care and administration.



David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) Graduate Medical Education (GME) and Professionalism Council, recognized **Daniela Alarcón (2025)** with the 2024 "[Excellence in Teaching with Humanism](#)." Established in 2013, this award celebrates outstanding residents and fellows who exemplify the highest standards of teaching

and humanism. This award is a testament to her exceptional dedication to teaching and unwavering commitment to providing compassionate, patient-centered care. She has consistently demonstrated a remarkable ability to inspire and educate her peers while maintaining the highest standards of humanism in medicine. This award not only reflects her outstanding contributions to the DGSOM educational mission but also highlights the profound impact she has on both patients and colleagues alike.

Alan Chiem was honored to receive the Golden Apple Award from the DGSOM Class of 2024, as well as selected to be Faculty Marshall for Commencement this past year. In addition, I was also honored to be selected by the MS2 students on EM Clerkship for the Medical Student Teaching Award.



Education Kudos



Rebecca Bavolek traveled to ACEP Headquarters in Dallas where she was faculty for the ACEP/CORD Teaching Fellowship and Resident Teaching Fellowship. She is also the chair of the ACEP/CORD Teaching Fellowship Redesign Task Force. She will be faculty for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Teaching Fellowship which will be held at the ACEP ACCELERATE conference in Orlando in January.



Rose Diaz, Sean Johnson (2027), Cory Wilson (2027), Ephie Fisseha (2027) teaching lateral canthotomy and more to the EMIG at Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science.



Jaime Jordan is the featured faculty member for the CORD meet the board. Click the [link](#) to read the interview.



Rebecca Bavolek and Jaime Jordan traveled to the Council of Residency Directors (CORD) board strategic planning meeting.



Rebecca Bavolek served as the incoming Program Committee Chair for the 2024 ACEP Scientific Assembly. She will be the incoming Chair again for 2025 in Salt Lake City, and then the Program Committee Chair for the ACEP Scientific Assembly in 2026 and 2027. **Will Shyy** is also a key member of the ACEP Scientific Assembly Program Committee. They both traveled to Salt Lake City as part of the conference planning.



Jaime Jordan has accepted a position as the Vice Chair of Faculty Development at Oregon Health Sciences University School of Medicine Department of Emergency Medicine.



School of Medicine

Laudations



Jess Faiz received a Veterans Administration (VA) grant, “Assessing Practices and Equity in Care Recommendations and Receipt in VA’s Tele-Emergency Care Program.” The grant provides \$200,000 over the next two years with some additional protected time to complete this work. It will be instrumental in setting her up for her VA Career Development Award (NIH K equivalent).

Breena Taira, Maureen McCollough, Jesus Torres, Annette Dekker, and Ari Orue are part of a multicenter Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) award. The project “In person vs telehealth opioid use disorder treatment after patients leave the emergency department” is an Randomized Controlled Trial examining patient preferences for telehealth versus in person follow-up with addiction services after initiation buprenorphine for OUD in the Emergency Department.



Congratulations to **Britt Guest (2019), Erich Wieshofer (2024), Rhea Mathew (2025), and Claire Edelson (2027)** for receiving a Global Health

**DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL
OF MEDICINE GLOBAL
HEALTH PROGRAM**

We believe health is a human right.

Collaboration Award. The DGSOM Global Health Program (GHP), in collaboration with [UCLA Health International Services](#), is committed to pursuing meaningful opportunities to promote equity in sponsored global health collaborations, particularly when involving historically disadvantaged and under-resourced international health care institutions. DGSOM redesigned the former Travel Grant program and have renamed it the Global Health Collaboration Award. The program prioritizes bilateral clinical, educational, and training initiatives with international partners, with a specific focus on settings with less access to such resources. Limited, competitive funding is made available for DGSOM and UCLA Health faculty, residents, and fellows in a joint application with a corresponding clinician at a collaborating international institution or organization.

Britt, Erich, Rhea and Claire’s project is titled “Advancing Simulation-Based Learning for Emergency Medicine Trainees at Aga Khan University in Nairobi, Kenya and UCLA.” The \$6000 grant will support the work they will do there in January and support travel for one of their Kenyan collaborators to travel to the US.



Hannah Spungen (2022) was named the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) Antidote Institute Fellow, which includes a \$25K grant. She will be performing a buprenorphine literature quality project.



Claire Edelson (2027) received a \$5000 SAEM Foundation grant to evaluate “Measuring Emergency Physician Attitudes and Adoption of Syphilis and HIV Testing.” **Liz Samuels** is faculty mentor for the grant, and this complements the CFAR grant project Liz Samuels, Annette Dekker, Evan Schwarz and our ID

colleagues are executing to implement testing in the ED.



Liz Samuels is co-investigator on a [National Institute for Drug Abuse \(NIDA\) Clinical Trials Network \(CTN\)](#) grant with Drs D’Onofrio, Carroll, and Herring for a project “*EMS initiated Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder.*”



Clinical Trials Network Nodes
Provides community-based service providers work toward new treatment options in community-level clinical practice.



New Additional Department Appointments:

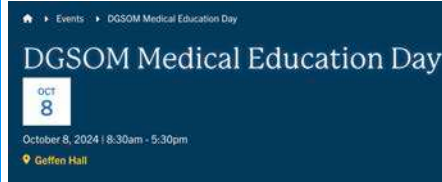
Judy Choe joined the UCLA Department Emergency Medicine Committee on Academic Promotions, with her term starting January 2025.

Richelle Cooper (1998) was named Vice Chair of Research for the UCLA Department of Emergency Medicine.

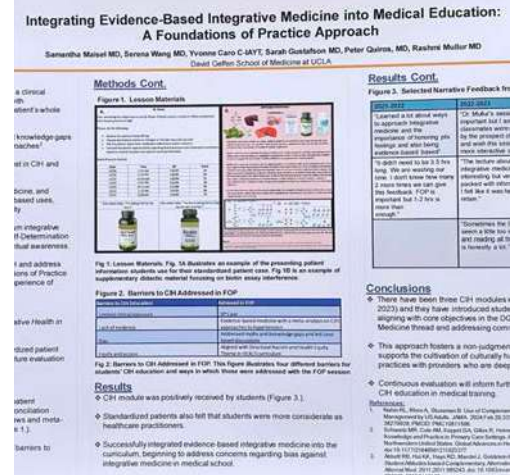
Give a Round of Applause!



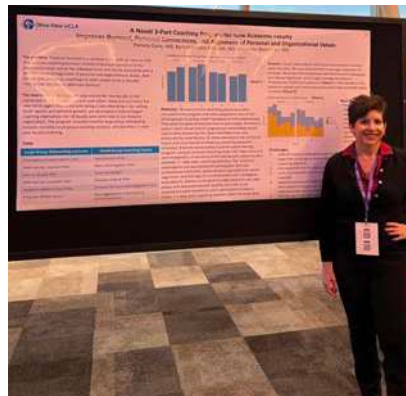
Ariel Wu (2025) attended the ACEP Teaching fellowship in Dallas.



Samantha Maisal (2028) presented at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) Medical Education Day. She reported on the Integrative Medicine Curriculum she helped develop for the medical students.



Diana Dayal (2027) represents all of the residents as a union lead member.



Pam Dyne (1995) presented a collaborative study "A Novel 3-Part Coaching Program for New Academic Faculty Improves Burnout, Personal Connections, and Alignment of Personal and Organizational Values" at the International Conference on Physician Health in Halifax. This work combines her interests and expertise as a certified

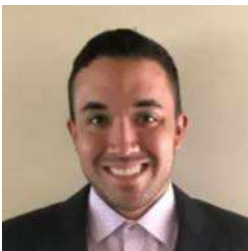


coach, and Director of Coaching for the DGSOM HEALS Curriculum.



Haig Aintablian (2022) was recognized as UCLA Health's Game Day Healthcare Champion at the USC/UCLA game this year.

He was also honored with an award from NASA this year.



QUALITY CORNER - **Judy Choe** along with Dr. Nelson Soohoo, our Dean of GME, and Melissa Reider Demer (Neurology Quality Officer) kicked off the inaugural Resident Quality Officer (RQO) Program. This year, we have two RQOs from our department **Diana Dayal (2027)** and **Chris Montgomery (2027)**. Judy Choe looks forward to adding to the RQO program with more EM residents interested in QI!



In the Media/Social Media



Angelique Campen (2000) is not retired from providing commentary and clear medical information to the masses on the local news.

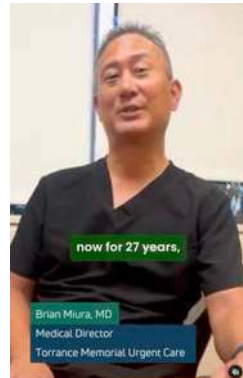
Evan Schwarz spoke with [NBC news](#) about medetomidine in the drug supply, the interactions and considerations among patients with opioid use disorder.



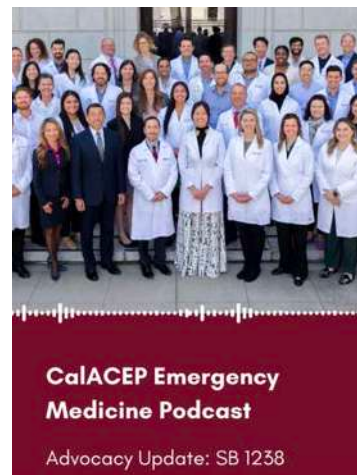
Priscilla Hanudel (2012) on CBS and KCAL in Los Angeles about edible cannabis safety with young children at home. She has also been featured on Univision discussing risks of substance use.



Anna Yap (2022) caught on the CMA social media at the October meeting.



Brian Miura (1997) featured in a Torrance Memorial post.



CalACEP social media account with an advocacy update. **Anna Yap (2022)** front and center with her efforts to help our patients and physicians.



Jerry Hoffman (1979) was interviewed for a [KevinMD.com](#) feature about overdiagnosis.



You can also hear a podcast Jerry did earlier this year for [ACEP's frontline podcast with Ryan Stanton on Social Determinants of Health](#).

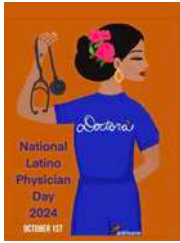


Mark Brown (1988) spoke at the opening of the new Antelope Valley Medical Center expanded Emergency Department - a 7200 sq ft ED West.

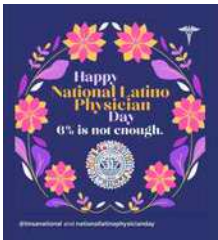


Rigo Hernandez (2028) was recognized on a social media post for his mentorship and teaching of DGSOM PRIME-LA students.

Amazing!



Rose Diaz, Daniela Alarcón (2025), and Sarah Seresinghe (2026) attended the inaugural Hispanic Women/Latinas in Medicine conference hosted by Mayo Clinic Doctoras. A great way to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month! Sarah said she was “grateful to have gotten the opportunity to go to ...hear so many stories of true resilience, passion, and leadership ~ we laughed, cried, learned, got vulnerable, and created community. ... not sure if I have ever been surrounded by SO MANY Latinas in medicine in my life and can confirm it was a truly healing experience. I got to spend time with these amazing ladies above and left the conference feeling rejuvenated, re-inspired, SEEN, and whole.



In California, Latinos make up about 39% of the population yet only 6% of California physicians identify as Latino and Latinas make up <3% of California physicians.



Several UCLA residents from the Minority Housestaff organization represented UCLA at the 2024 Latino Medical Student Association National meeting held at USC this year, including **Daniela Alarcon (2025), and Christian Hernandez (2025).**



Rose Diaz continues to mentor and teach at Charles Drew University.



an executive leadership coach to all participants. This year **Cristina Villalpando (2025)** and **Rigoberto Hernandez (2028)** participated along with some other UCLA PRIME-LA alumni.

The Accelerating LatinX Leadership Institute is an Annual event hosted by the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health & Culture (CESLAC) and aims to enable health care equity through the development of Latino physician leaders. It covers a wide spectrum of topics and provides



Kudos to our residents, fellows, faculty and alumni

**UC DAVIS
HEALTH**

Department of
Emergency Medicine

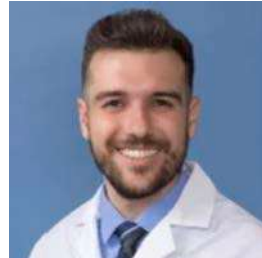
Congratulations to **Missy Brown (2025)**, who will be an Emergency Medicine Health Policy Fellow next year at UC Davis with Fellowship Director **Anna Yap (2022)**.



**UC DAVIS
HEALTH**

Department of
Emergency Medicine

Congratulations to **Drew Robinett (2025)** who will be a Simulation and Health Professions Education Fellowship at UC Davis.



Congratulations to **Elle Kettler (2025)** who matched to the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship at Harbor-UCLA.



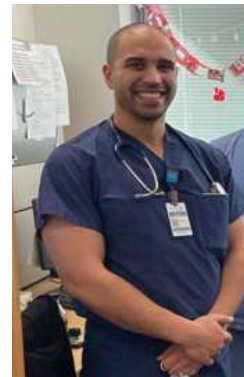
UW Medicine

Congratulations to **Rick Knecht (2025)** who matched into the Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine Fellowship at University of Washington.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Congratulations to **Moudi Hubeishy**, our one year ultrasound fellow, who matched to the Anesthesiology Critical Care Fellowship at University of Arizona.

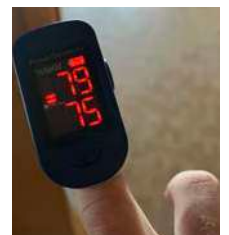


Erich Wieshofer (2024) our Global EM fellow off to Kigali Rwanda and Kanobe Military Hospital.



Leanne Cook (2024) first year toxicology fellow at UCSD caught playing with scorpions.

Haig Aintablian (2022) went to the Capital to advocate for physicians. Haig is on the AAEM Board of Directors with a two year term representing the Young Physician Section (YPS).



Cooper Aakhus (2024), now a first year Stanford EM Wilderness Fellow performed some high altitude research at Patriarch Grove and the Barcroft Research Field Station (12,470'), in White Mountains, in some thinner air.

Look Who's Talking

Evan Schwarz

- Panel speaker on "Naltrexone" for the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) and American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) webinar.
- Invited Speaker at the Total Tox Course November 2024. "Heavy Metals in the ED: Lead, Arsenic, and Mercury.
- Podcast Guest Speaker. "Trust in Science: Deep Dive into the Opioid Crises, part 1." Spaces hosted on X. Host Dr. Eliza Lockwood.
- Podcast Guest Speaker. "Trust in Science: Deep Dive in the Opioid Crises, part 2." Spaces hosted on X. Host Dr. Eliza Lockwood.

Jackie Shibata

- Featured speaker at the 9th Annual SoCal Critical Care US Course - "Pericardial Tamponade" and hands on ultrasound teaching sessions: Resuscitative TEE, LV Diastolic Function and VEXUS.
- Invited Speaker at the American Society of Nephrology's Kidney Week 2024, "POCUS Curriculum Development."
- Invited Instructor for The CME: The Original EM Boot Camp Course, "Emergency Ultrasound Workshop."
- Invited Instructor at the LA Global Health Conference teaching ultrasound in partnership with Refugee Health Alliance in Tijuana, Mexico.
- Invited Speaker at the Southwestern Ultrasound Regional Fellowship (SURF) Conference 2024 - teaching on Resuscitative TEE.
- Invited Instructor at the National Kidney Foundation Spring Conference teaching a hands on course "POCUS Essentials for Nephrology: Building Fundamentals and Practical Skills."



Mark Morocco (2001)

- Invited Panelist at the UCLA Schwartz Rounds "Finding Gratitude."

Michael Levine

- Invited Grand Rounds at the UCLA Department of Anesthesia "Toxic Inhalants."



David Talan (1986)


- "EMERGENCY ID NET: A US ED-Based CDC-Collaborative Translational Epidemiological & Clinical Research Network," in session, "Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Management: Aligning to Address Cascading Challenges" at the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Preparedness Summit 2024, Cleveland.

Liz Samuels

- Invited Grand Rounds at Harvard EM program.

Way to Go!

Shamsher Samra (2017) was a featured speaker discussing transitions of care for individuals leaving carceral settings. In 2020, California was the first state to be approved by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a partial waiver of the “inmate exclusion policy” which has historically limited Medicaid payment for service provided during incarceration. The project, which launched in October 2024, creates new channels of Medicaid funding to carceral settings and community providers with the aim of mitigating high rates of “reentry” morbidity and mortality by improving transitions of care. Since California’s approval, 24 additional states have either been approved or are pending approval of similar policies. Undoubtedly, the new policy will markedly restructure the relationship between health and carceral systems nationally.



Shamsher Samra, MD, MPH
Assistant Clinical Professor, Emergency Medicine
UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

Tracking the CalAIM 1115 Reentry Waiver: Implications for reentry care, decarceration, & health equity

REGISTER HERE

Friday, December 13 at 1-2PM PT
Zoom or GH 113

Co-sponsored by the Research Theme in Health Equity & Translational Social Science (RHETSS) and the Rangell Social Medicine Grand Rounds Series

1-2PM = Lunch Presentation followed by Q&A



Annie Hoang (2026) was selected to be the Resident Councilor for the Los Angeles County Medical Association.



COUNCILORS
C Freeman, MD, MBA, FAPA | D1
Christopher Libby, MD | D2
Karen Miotto, MD | D5
Marc Mendes, MD | D6
Kambiz Kosari, MD | D7
Steven Sawelson, MD | D9
Stephanie Booth, MD | D10
Diego Caivano, MD | D14
Nancy Ellerbroek, MD | D17
Lisa Firestone, MD | SCPMG
Roxana Yoonessi, MD, JD | SCPMG
Troy Elander, MD | SSGPF
Cristian Rico, MD | AltaMed
Jeffery Lee, MD | Facsy Medical Group
Nuriel Moghavem, MD | Young Physician Councilor
Annie Hoang, MD, MPH | Resident Councilor
Alejandro Miranda, DO | Alt. Resident Councilor
Jade Cook | Medical Student Councilor, UCLA
Frank Zhou | Alt. Medical Student Councilor, UCLA



Alumna **Roxana Yoonessi-Martin (2010)** is also a Councilor representing the Southern California Permanent Medical Group.



The Annual National Clinician Scholars Program meeting was hosted at UCLA this year. **Medell Briggs-Malonson** was one of the Keynote Speakers: “Navigating Intersectionality: Leadership Insights to Transform Healthcare and Technology.”

Zainab Ahmed (2024), first year NCSP, was able to present her current interests and network with leaders from across the country during the First Year Scholar Introductions.

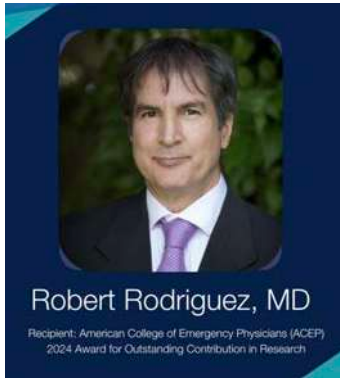
Liz Samuels was part of an Alumni Panel “How to Maximize Your Time in the NCSP.”

During the Second-Year Scholar Oral Research Presentations, **Hashem Zikry**, presented “Hospital At Home in the the U.S.: Understanding the Landscape and the Role of the ED.”

Hurnan Vongsachang presented “A Community-Based Participatory Project to Characterize Perceived Barriers of and Facilitators to Universal Suicide Screening in the Pediatric Emergency Department.”



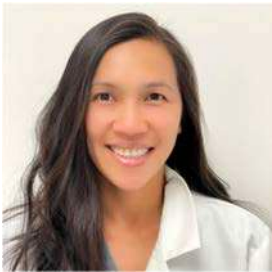
Kudos UCLA EM and Alumni



Robert Rodriguez (1994) [Vice Chair for Clinical Research and Professor of Emergency Medicine at UCSF](#), is the recipient of the American College of Emergency Physicians' (ACEP's) 2024 Award for Outstanding Contribution in Research. This prestigious award is presented annually to an ACEP member who "has made a significant contribution to research in emergency medicine."



Rob was honored at the ACEP24 Scientific Assembly in Las Vegas, where he was recognized for his efforts to improve emergency health care delivery — especially for underserved populations — through the high-impact, pragmatic research that he has led over the course of his 30-year-plus career in emergency medicine.



Lisa Zhao (2011) has a new administrative role as the Acting National Tele-Emergency Care Director for the Veteran's Administration (VA). Tele-emergency care is the VA's novel emergency telehealth program, which initiated on the Western

United States over 4 years ago but has been scaled nationally in the past year due to Lisa's efforts. During national implementation, it served 70 thousand veterans and continues to grow. It is fully staffed with emergency trained providers. In addition to her national role, Lisa also serves as the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 22 Tele-Emergency Care director. The nation is served by 18 VISNS, which are regional networks. VISN 22 encompasses 8 facilities in Southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Tyler Barrett (2005)

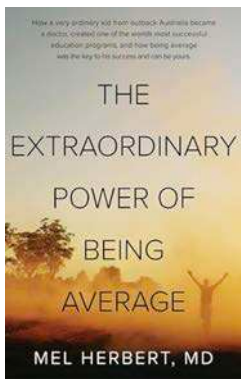
was appointed Associate Chief Medical Officer for Compliance at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. While still working in the ED he has gone to the C suite and left his medical director role behind. See the [news release](#).



Tyler Barrett appointed Associate Chief Medical Officer for Compliance
news.vumc.org

Tyler is absolutely loving his my new role and work with a great team. He is learning tons about healthcare fraud, Stark Law, and other documentation elements.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER



Mel Herbert (1995) has written a book. All the profits go directly to the non-profit, [EM:RAP GO](#), which is dedicated to advancing emergency medicine around the world. He'd love for you to read it, but simply buying it makes a big difference too! The book is a blend of autobiography, philosophy, self-help, and a tribute to emergency medicine—serving as therapy for both the writer and the reader. Mel, who proudly embraces being average, will show you why being average is actually a superpower. Check it out on [Amazon](#) or your other favorite book buying source.

This year EM:RAP GO provided 1,135 free subscriptions in 60 countries to medical professionals working in lower- and limited-resource settings, the team journeyed to Kenya to provide multiple-day comprehensive hands-on procedural trainings, partnered with the directors of residency programs in Kenya and Rwanda to integrate

localized emergency medical content into their programs' curricula, provided a generous scholarship fund to support the African Conference on Emergency Medicine (AfCEM), which took place in Gaborone, Botswana, supported international conferences by sending GO faculty to speak at AfCEM, Conceptos UC, Vietnamese Society of Emergency Medicine (VSEM), and Latin-American Congress of Emergency Medicine (FLAME) and more.



Great Work!



Carl Berdahl presented *"Older Adult Attitudes and Perspectives Toward an Interruptive Alert that Warns Prescribers of Fall-Risk Inducing Drugs at Emergency Department Discharge"*



at Academy Health in Washington, DC.

Sophie Terp (2012) continues her research on EMTALA violations with numerous abstract presentations and research papers. She prepared a recent [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\) publication](#) describing EMTALA issues involving pregnant patients.

Contemporary Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) Clinical Issues Involving Pregnant Patients

Prepared by:
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857
www.ahrq.gov

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244
www.cms.gov

Sophie Terp, MD, MPH
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

AHRQ Publication No. 25(24)-M004
December 2024



Keri Gardner (2002) has worked for years to develop and now successfully launched the ACEP Medical Legal Committee Peer Counseling program.

Keri has practiced in many environments since completing residency, including academic medicine at UCLA and Mt. Sinai in New York City. She has worked in rural EDs in Alaska and large referral centers, has worked for the Indian Health Service, the VA, HCA, and for the US Polar Services in Antarctica. She has served in many leadership roles, including ED Medical Director and Regional Medical Officer. She was also Chief Medical Officer of a large emergency medicine staffing company where she co-managed all litigation with house legal counsel. This experience led her to join the ACEP Medical Legal Committee (MLC), where she has successfully brought to completion a program where ACEP members can reach out to the MLC members for peer-to-peer support in the event of a lawsuit.



Theresa Cheng (2021) has continued to combine her legal training (her JD) and her academic emergency medicine career at UCSF with advocacy in key areas she has worked on for several years - reproductive justice, housing insecurity, and immigration. She is Co-Director of Social Emergency Medicine in the UCSF Department of Emergency Medicine. She attended the [Rise Up Leadership and Advocacy Accelerator](#) in California, representing Al Otto Lado and their efforts for gender justice. *"Public Health Institute Rise's Up Leadership and Advocacy Accelerator, ...provides unparalleled opportunities to strengthen advocacy strategies, support policy systems-change and advance gender equity in health, education and economic opportunity for girls, women and gender-nonconforming people at local, state and national levels."*

She was a featured panelist at the [Housing is Healthcare conference](#) sponsored by Insight Housing.

In November 2020/2024, she was the featured speaker at a Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) discussion on the border crisis.



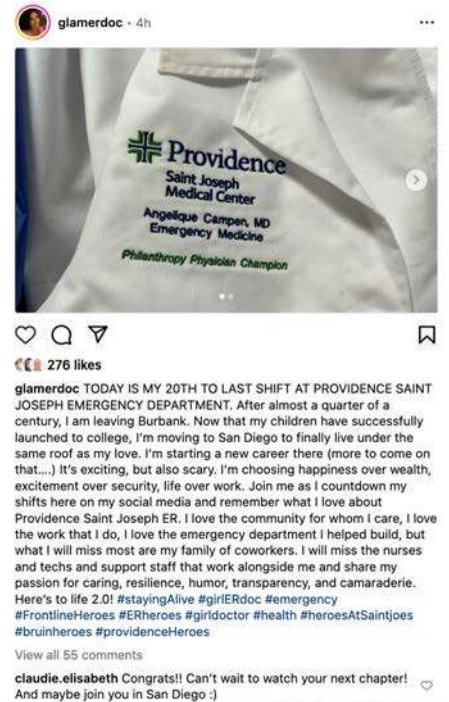
Plaudits



Angelique Campen (2000) retired from Providence Saint Joseph's in Burbank after 24 years, having served as Medical Director and also helping raise \$80 million for the new ER. A lot of work family celebrated with her and the nurses gifted her a custom funkopop!

She is not retired completely, she has relocated to Coronado to be with her love and get married. She will be in semi-retirement working part time at Sharp, and continuing to run her other businesses. She provides aesthetic care and she is **CMO and**

Founder of Vital Medical Services, which works with local law enforcement agencies to provide alternate (outside the ED) medical clearances, on-site Legal Specimen blood draws, nasal naloxone distribution, and assessment, testing and treatment for occupational communicable disease exposure.



Teri Miller (2020) and her family's story is featured in a [video interview for Lives Cut Short](#). She is honoring her cousin and his children's memory with her work, and is on the family advisory board of the organization. She is looking to ensure information about this project gets out, so please help raise awareness and support. If you are interested in working on a Los Angeles advocacy group, let us know and we will connect you with Teri.



Sam Ong (1996) had his last day at Olive View-UCLA on December 26th, 2024 as a much beloved part-time attending after 30 years of service to Emergency Medicine.



Leadership



Jess Wall (2015) is President-Elect for Washington State ACEP.

BRAVO!



Jeff Tabas (1998) taught at the inaugural North American delivery of The Procedures Course in San Diego December 2024. The course was designed to enable emergency and critical care physicians to develop mastery to confidently perform a wide range of basic and complex resuscitative procedures with a hands-on learning experience. The sell-out course has been delivered nationally across Australia, as well as throughout multiple European locations, and has become a highly sought-after course for emergency physicians worldwide. Featuring un-embalmed cadavers, procedures taught included (surgical airway (cricothyroidotomy), orbital decompression (lateral canthotomy and cantholysis), pleural decompression (finger thoracostomy and pleural drainage), vascular access (MAC line / RIC line / Intraosseous access), temporary trans-venous cardiac pacing, pericardial decompression (including resuscitative thoracotomy), and retrieval limb amputation.

The weather was great in San Diego, and the beachside location good for the time off for Jeff and co-instructors Lauren Chalwell and Marianne Juarez.



Alumna **Danielle Schindler (2009)** took the course. We love when we have a new alumni meeting and connection.



Hans House (2002) will start a new position at the University of Iowa in the Spring as the Medical Director of the ED at their new orthopedics hospital in North Liberty, IA (adjacent to Iowa City). You can



read more about the health system expansion with this new hospital in the [press release](#).



Kelli O'Laughlin (2007) was working in Uganda on her RO1 and took some time with her research collaborators to catch some soccer at the African Cup of Nations.



Andrew Seefeld (2009) in addition to his role as Medical Director for the Emergency Department, Director of EMS and Director of Trauma Services at Speare Memorial Hospital has joined the New Hampshire Professionals Health Program as Associate Medical Director. The [NHPHP](#) is a nonprofit supporting healthcare professionals facing challenges like substance abuse, mental health issues, burnout, and work-related conflicts. In his role, he developed and launched the Emotional Sobriety Curriculum, which helps individuals recognize and address harmful thoughts and emotional patterns impacting their behavior.



Tony Fredericks (2023) is an assistant professor job at University of New Mexico with a split role 50:50 palliative medicine:emergency medicine. His partner Simone (LAC+USC EM grad) has taken an associate PD role in the residency at University of New Mexico. He is also working as Medical Director for Rio Grande Hospice in Albuquerque.



Jimmy Murphy (2022) is working 75% Critical Care Medicine and 25% Emergency Medicine at Montefiore. He is now the new director of the Critical Care DEI committee.



Caught on Shift



Steff Brenman (2017) getting in some shifts at Hoag in between winning hockey tournaments and being an extraordinary mom.

David Tashman (1999), Gil Shlamovitz (2007) and Haig Aintablian (2022) all on shift at Verdugo Hills. “AJ” **Anna Jackanich (2024)** also working with Gil at Verdugo also.

Then Gil and **Armand Dorian (2003)** CMO at Verdugo Hills at the medical staff meeting.



Wyatt Hong (2024) from residency to the UCLA residency family at Kaiser West Los Angeles with **Jay Lee (2005)**.



Michelle Brennan (2022) ... looks safe with the security at Hoag.



Matt Waxman (2007) celebrating Emergency Nurses Week at Olive View with a Papusa Party.



Priscilla Hanudel (2012) on shift at Kaiser South Bay.



Nate Friedman (2021) and John Keller (2022) overnight toxicology powerhouse couple at Eisenhower.



We Work All The Holidays!

National Peanut Butter Cookie Day!



National Gummy Worm Day - Thank you **Carolyn Sachs (1994)**!



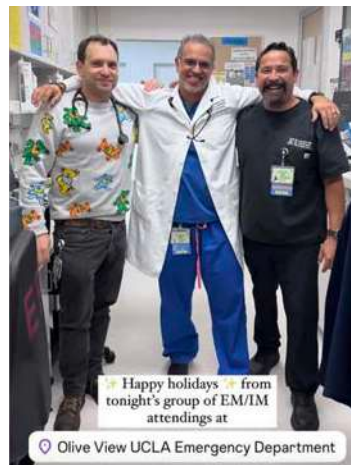
National Cinnamon Raisin Bread Day.



East Coast West Coast rivalry



Happy new years from Olive View ED
[@ucla_em](https://www.instagram.com/ucla_em)



Happy holidays from tonight's group of EM/IM attendings at
Olive View UCLA Emergency Department



Way to Go UCLA EM & Alumni



Maria Tamborski (2018) is in-training to bike across America next summer! She will be participating in the [Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure](#), a 4,000 mile journey over 10 weeks from Florida to Oregon. In addition to biking, the group will stop in towns across the country to help build housing for low income families.



If you want to help Maria reach her pledge goal you can go directly to her pledge page at: <https://charity.pledgeit.org/f2f/@Maria-Tambor>



Matt Waxman (2007) took 4th place in his age group at the Malibu Half Marathon on October 23rd, 2024.

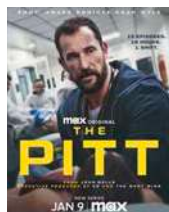


Kareem Agunbiade keeps busy when not in the ED with numerous comedy show appearances and hosting.



Ferreira (2022), Jake Lentz (2019), and Joe Sachs (1990).

Check out the new series with help from our alumni medical writing - **Lizzie**

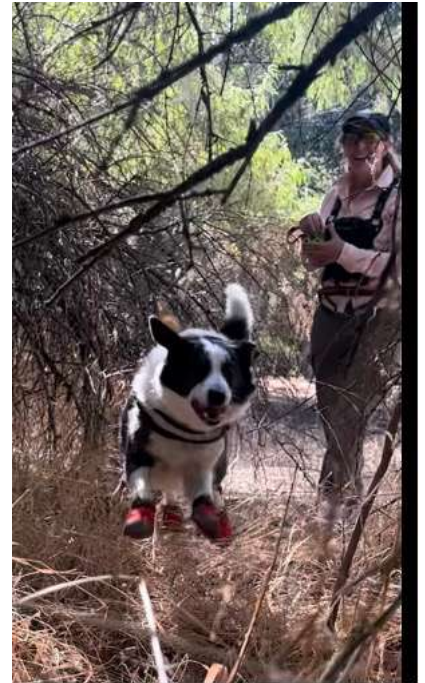


Rebecca Bavolek taught herself to knit. And she is a bit of an overachiever. She made everyone their own unique holiday beanie for the first Annual Holiday Bar Crawl.



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

K9 Crew by Keri Gardner (2002)



Should your dog be earning her kibble? Does she just lounge all day and make requests for walks and belly rubs? It's time you get that dog a job!

My border collies have had various jobs over the years (fetching newspapers, finding gloves or phones that I have dropped on walks) but for the last 7 years we have been doing K9 Search and Rescue. Bernie is my wilderness live find/cadaver dog, and MacKenzie is my tracking dog. If you think golf is a frustrating sport, try tracking with your dog!

The best things about K9 Search and Rescue:

- Outside time with your dogs, doing fun things
- Making a difference-finding a lost toddler and saving a life, or bringing closure to a family when they have lost a loved one
- Learning more about yourself and your K9 companion

The worst things about K9 search and rescue:

- You usually outlive your partner

When you spend time training your dog, you realize that they are always trying to communicate with you. You then realize how poorly you have listened all this time! My entry into this world was when I was a resident and was visiting Napa, walking my dogs in the vineyards while my friends were wine tasting. My greyhound took off after a rabbit and never returned. My other dog, Si'ska (who some of you may remember), got tired of me yelling her name and started walking away from me. Eventually I realized that he was tracking her! After about 20 minutes, he led me to her, more than a mile away, where she was lying on her side, overheated, and desperately in need of water.

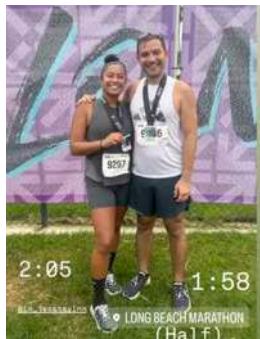
Dogs have a phenomenal capacity to learn and perform. In the process of training them, we learn about ourselves and how we communicate. If you have a canine companion who gets food for free, consider giving her a job! If you are not the outdoorsy type, you can do nose work (indoor work using scents), agility, rally, or canine freestyle. You will never regret spending more time with your dog!

More Alumni Kudos & News

Connor Peebles is a second year Medical Student at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM). He spent the summer doing research at Olive View - UCLA with **Greg Moran (1992)**, **Pam Dyne (1995)** and **Maureen McCollough (1994)**. He had a wonderful time and was very inspired by the positive energy of the staff and residents. He is truly motivated to follow his parents, **Woody Peebles (1996)** and **Fran McCabe (1995)**, in a career in EM.



Steff Brenman (2017) and Liz are again skating with the LA Lions Hockey team and winning multiple championships.



Jess Faiz completed the Long Beach Half Marathon!



Theresa Cheng (2021) has made her 5th and longest (18 inches) hair donation to wigs for kids.



Carolyn Sachs (1994) hiked to the top of Mount Wilson.

Nate Friedman (2021) and Audrey got married in the South of France. Many recent graduates attended, and many were able to tag on a European vacation in France, Spain, Italy and more and have some class reunion travel together.



EMRA and EMRA Alumni



One of the many bonuses and luxuries of working at RR UCLA MC and our residency program is the ability to collaborate and mentor undergraduate and post-baccalaureate pre health students. We have the long established Emergency Medicine Research Associate (EMRA) volunteer program who are essential to our research endeavors.

They have been using their social media account to educate and engage with the campus community.

We want to celebrate them as the former department colleagues embark on their medical school careers this year and had their white coat ceremonies this summer, including:

Oscar De La Rosa, Shivam Rana, Johan Carrascoza-Bolanos, Sara Sandri, Christabelle Junaidi, and Dariush Yalzadeh.

Hopefully some of them will choose emergency medicine as a specialty, or at least return to UCLA for residency training in the future. Congratulations to all of these amazing individuals!



White Coat Ceremonies



Oscar De La Rosa
UCSF School of Medicine



Shivam Rana
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



Johan Carrascoza-Bolanos
UCSD School of Medicine

"I'm most looking forward to patient interaction and learning how to explain their conditions to them!"



Sara Sandri
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine



Christabelle Junaidi
UCSF School of Medicine

"I am looking forward to exploring different specialties and areas within medicine, and learning how to directly apply medical knowledge."



Dariush Yalzadeh
David Geffen School of Medicine

"I am most looking forward in medical school to change the institution I am part of to better serve not only the future students but also the future patients in our local LA community."

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