



# July 2023 - December 2023 Residency & Alumni Newsletter



## Upcoming Events:

**Western Regional SAEM: March 7-8, Long Beach**

**Spring Retreat: March 19-21, Palm Springs**

**CORD Academic Assembly: March 25-28, New Orleans**

**CalACEP Annual Legislative Leadership Conference: April 9,  
Sacramento**

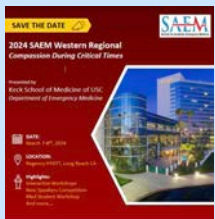
**ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting: April 12-14, Washington DC**

**AAEM Annual Scientific Assembly: April 27- May 1, Austin**

**SAEM Annual Meeting: May 14-17, Phoenix**

**Graduation Class of 2024: June 22**

**Academy Health Annual Research Meeting: June 29-July 2,  
Baltimore**



# Message from the Chair



2024 brings many changes, updates and additions to our department.

Our beloved Chief at Olive View, **Greg Moran (1992)**, retired—but don't worry, he can't escape that easily. In the Spring of 2024, we'll bring him back to the DEM on "recall" to work a couple of shifts at OV and to hopefully help **Dave Talan (1986)** carry the load of Infectious Disease education in our residency curriculum. OK, I admit the real reason to keep him on recall is so that we don't lose our bass player from Gravely Disabled! There is a national search underway for our next Chief at OV, and in the meantime, **Scott Lundberg (2004)** is ably serving as the Interim Chief.

As we complete our transition of Santa Monica into the DEM, we have some great new faculty additions you'll hear more about later, including **Haig Aintablian (2022)**, **Faraz Khan**, **Kimon Ioannides**, **Hannah Spungen (2022)**, and **Tig Ziyeh (2024)**, plus a few other excellent clinicians are joining us per diem, including **John McWhorter (2013)**, **Gwen Hooley**, and **Michael Perez**.

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

**Reza Hessabi (2024)** (Administration fellow), **Ghufran Syed (2011)** (Space Medicine fellow), **Zainab Ahmed (2024)** (National Clinician Scholars Program fellow), **Moudi Hubeishy** (Ultrasound fellow), **Jon Warren** (Ultrasound fellow), and the first fellow in our new Toxicology fellowship, **Eniola Gros**. And of course staying with us for a second year of fellowship are **Hurnan Vongsachang** (NCSP/IDHEAL), **Michael Messina** (Medical Education), and **Hashem Zikry** (NCSP).

**Pam Dyne (1995)** has been named the first Director of Coaching for the DGSOM HEALS Curriculum. In this role she will assist our UCLA medical students in their personal and professional development throughout their four years, to best position them for a successful career in medicine.



After a grueling nationwide search for our next Program Director, we found him right here at home. **Dr. Steven Lai** is a 2016 graduate of UCLA Emergency Medicine who joined the faculty at Olive View UCLA after a fellowship in Medical Education. Since then, he has served as an Assistant, then Associate Program Director, focusing on our weekly departmental conference series and simulation lab experience. Please join me in welcoming SLai as our 9<sup>th</sup> PD since our program began in the late 1970s.

And let's not forget to thank **Richelle Cooper (1998)** for her tireless efforts in composing yet another terrific newsletter to keep you all in touch with our department and residency program.

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*



# Remembering Sid Starkman



After a prolonged illness, one of our long-time faculty members in Emergency Medicine and Neurology, Dr. Sidney Starkman, died quietly at home, September 26, 2023, at the age of 78. Sid obtained his MD from Georgetown University School of Medicine in 1970, then completed internship at Lenox Hill Hospital, residency in Neurology at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center (1971-74), and then residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Arizona, Tucson (1985-87). He joined the UCLA faculty in 1987 with dual appointments in Neurology and Emergency Medicine and spent the remainder of his 36 career at UCLA as a Clinical Professor of Neurology and Emergency Medicine. He was even Program Director for our EM Residency in 1989-1990.

In 1992, Sid formed the UCLA Student Stroke Team. This group of undergraduate students are entrusted with the responsibility to serve as the "eyes and ears" of the UCLA Stroke Network. Since its humble beginnings, the UCLA Stroke Program has split into two separate sister organizations: Student Stroke Team and Stroke Force. Both programs have expanded into effective student-operated organizations that allow students to work alongside neurologists during code strokes in the UCLA Department of EM.



Sid stopped practicing EM clinically in ~ 1995, and devoted his time to education, stroke care and research. Sid's passion was emergent care of stroke patients and he dedicated his career to advancing the science in this area. He was a mentor to more than 75 neuro-stroke fellows. As co-director of the UCLA Comprehensive Stroke Center he coordinated the annual BrainAttack symposium to disseminate the practical clinical aspects of stroke prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. As a stroke research innovator he developed and led many of the influential trials that guide stroke therapy. With his pragmatic approach, as well as engagement and leadership, he recruited many community hospitals in Southern California to establish a vast network of sites for identification, referral, treatment, and research of acute stroke. As part of this work he provided teleneurology services to 27 different centers from 2009-2017. During his career he was awarded almost 100 grants, totaling millions of dollars, and coauthored more than 320 publications. He remained active in research as a Principal Investigator for the SIREN (Strategies to Innovate Emergency Care Clinical Trials Network) and NETT (Neurological Emergencies Treatment Trials) clinical networks and mentored numerous faculty, fellows, residents and students.

Sid has left a huge legacy on emergency stroke treatment. For those of us who worked with Sid, we will remember his generosity of time and sheer excitement to discuss any neurology case we saw. He was encouraging and kind, and shared some great espresso. He will be missed.



# Remembering Bert Weiner



It is with a heavy heart that we write to celebrate the remarkable life of Dr. Bert Weiner, whom we remember fondly as an always cheerful and dedicated EM attending at Olive View. Bert brought bagels and cream cheese for the residents and staff, along with his upbeat personality and entertaining stories from his community ER jobs to every one of his shifts from 1991 – 2015!

Born in 1948 in New York, his journey led him from Beverly Hills High School, UCSD for pre-med studies, UCSF for medical school and finally a rotating internship at LAC+USC, to the forefront of Emergency Medicine. A pioneer, Dr. Weiner began practicing EM in 1975, shaping the field long before it became a recognized specialty. Dr. Weiner was a founding member and Fellow of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM), and an assistant professor of Emergency Medicine at UCLA.

He left an indelible mark on the field's growth, and his impact extended beyond medicine. Dr. Weiner's free spirit thrived globally, annually attending the Burning Man festival, traveling with his wife, Sam, and finding joy in simple pleasures like his jacuzzi.

Dr. Bert Weiner peacefully passed away in his sleep on November 9th, 2023 at the age of 75. His legacy, spanning medical leadership, academic contributions, and a zest for life, will forever be cherished. In this time of grief, our thoughts are with his wife Sam, his family, and loved ones.

With heartfelt condolences,

Jorge A. Diaz, MD  
Pamela Dyne, MD



# Welcome and Learn More about our New Faculty

## Vital Signs:



Hometown:  
Vancouver, Canada  
Undergrad:  
Northwestern  
Med School:  
Northwestern  
Residency: Harvard  
Masters: MBA  
(Northwestern)

## Andy Lee, MD, MBA

Andy Lee joined the UCLA Department of Emergency Medicine as one of our new Assistant Medical Directors. He completed his emergency medicine training at the Harvard-Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is working clinically at both Reagan and Santa Monica, and working with our administrative and quality teams. Prior to residency, Andy obtained his MD at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and his MBA at the Kellogg School of Management. His academic interests revolve around tackling operational challenges in the ED and implementing innovative processes and solutions to improve patient and staff experience and the delivery of care. Outside of the ED, Andy enjoys hiking, travelling, and sampling LA's diverse food scene.



Hometown: Bogota, NJ  
Undergrad: Brown  
Med School: Albert Einstein  
Residency: Boston Medical Center  
Fellowship: National Clinician Scholars Program (UCLA)  
Masters: UCLA, Health Policy and Management

## Jessica Faiz, MD, MSHPM

Jessica Faiz was raised in the Northeast, graduated from Brown University, and went on to work as a New York public school teaching assistant in the South Bronx. She received her medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed her Emergency Medicine residency at Boston Medical Center. During residency, she chaired the National Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Emergency Medicine Residents' Association, and served as Chief Resident. After residency, she came to UCLA to join the National Clinical Scholars Program, where she worked clinically at the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital emergency department. She joins our faculty, working clinically at RR, SM, and the VA. She plans to continue the work she began during fellowship evaluating a new VA Tele-Emergency Care program with an equity focus, and increasing access to care for California Medicaid-insured patients in the ambulatory care setting.





# And Welcome More New Faculty

## Vital Signs:

### Chase Richard, MD, MBA

Hometown: Oakland, CA  
Undergrad: Stanford  
Med School: University of Pennsylvania  
Residency: UCLA  
Emergency Medicine  
Masters: Stanford  
Graduate School of Business

Chase Richard was born and raised in the Bay Area, studied and worked at Stanford University, and bought his first winter coat at the age of 23 to survive medical school on the east coast. He developed a passion for EDI recruitment and retention initiatives as a medical student and returned to Stanford for business school to 1) better understand the ideation and commercialization of novel healthcare technologies and 2) “learn how money works.” During residency Chase served on the GME and ED EDI Committee, the Minority Housestaff Organization Board, and was actively involved in resident recruitment. He put signs and placards all over the place, served as Chief Resident, and designed and implemented the Rapid Seizure Assessment protocol. As an inaugural Bruin Scholar, Chase will co-lead the TechQuity Accelerator, support UCLA innovation initiatives, and lecture at the David Geffen School of Medicine and Anderson School of Business. He joins our faculty, working clinically at RR and SM.

### Alex Grohmann, MD

Hometown: Chicago, IL  
Undergrad: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Med School: Rush Medical College  
Residency: Harbor-UCLA  
Fellowship: Critical Care Medicine, Rush Medical Center

Alex Grohmann was born and raised in Chicago, IL. He graduated from University of Illinois where he studied molecular and cellular biology and chemistry and worked as the Clinical Operations Manager at Avicenna Community Health Center, a not-for-profit clinic serving the uninsured and underinsured community of Champaign, IL. He received his medical degree from Rush Medical College, and completed his Emergency Medicine residency at Harbor-UCLA. During residency, he was actively involved in medical student education and mentorship. He also developed interests in critical care medicine and point of care ultrasound with specific interest in resuscitative transesophageal echocardiography. He went on to fellowship in Critical Care Medicine at Rush University Medical Center. During fellowship he focused on several major projects including peripheral administration of vasopressors, inpatient cardiac arrest response teams, end-of-life care, and workshops for ultrasound-guided placement of peripheral IVs. He was named the Fellow Teacher of the Year and the Outstanding Fellow of the Year. Alex joined our faculty within the Division of Critical Care, working clinically at RR, SM, and Antelope Valley.

# Residency Leadership Transition



The New Year is bringing a new season to the residency program at UCLA. After 7 and a half wonderful years as the program director, I am stepping more fully into my role as the Vice Chair of Education of the Department and continuing my role as the Medical Education Fellowship Co-Director. I am so thrilled to say that the residency will be in great hands under the direction of Dr. Steven Lai. Dr. Lai is an alumnus of our residency program, he completed his fellowship in Medical Education at UCLA and joined the faculty at Olive View serving as an Assistant Residency Director and then Associate Residency Director. There is no doubt that Steven is dedicated to the residency program and knows the program, our department, and the spirit of UCLA EM inside and out. I am happy that I will be able to continue to work with him and the rest of the residency leadership team and see what exciting new directions the residency heads towards.

Despite stepping aside from the residency program, I will be keeping myself busy. In my Vice Chair role, I have been developing a professional skills series for fellows and holding sessions for our new and junior faculty who have joined the department. In addition, I am involved in many endeavors at the Graduate Medical Education level for DGSOM including serving as Vice Chair of the Policies Subcommittee and helping to grow a community of Vice Chairs of Education across the clinical departments within the Health System. I also look forward to continuing to grow our programs in faculty development and to collaborate more with every part of our overarching department of emergency medicine.

Thank you to the faculty and the residents for your support since I joined UCLA in 2016. We certainly went through more than we could have ever fathomed in that time period. It has been such a pleasure to see the residents grow year after year, graduate, and go on to their next endeavors in the specialty of emergency medicine. It really is an amazing thing to be a part of and I look forward to continuing to be a part of it, just from a slightly different perspective.

With Gratitude,  
Rebecca



UCLA Emergency Medicine has been home to me for over the past decade. I was initially drawn to the program because of the people and culture and have stayed here long after residency for simply these same reasons. There has always been a unique undercurrent of infectious energy, sense of exploration, and camaraderie that unites and ties us all together, both during and after our time at UCLA.

Ever since starting residency here in 2012, I have had the chance to watch the program grow and evolve to what it is today. We have grown in so many different dimensions, not only in the size of our residency and faculty groups, but importantly in the diversity, breadth of specialization, and impact we can have on our patients and communities.



I am truly humbled to have the privilege and opportunity to work closely with the residents, alumni and faculty to continue to build upon the excellence of UCLA Emergency Medicine. It is an incredibly important and exciting time for both our program and field of Emergency Medicine as a whole. There has always been an innate sense of connectivity and family here that is extremely special, and I look forward to working with everyone to build upon our program and legacy in the upcoming years!

Respectfully  
Steven



## Thank You Rebecca Bavolek and Congratulations to Steven Lai (2016)!



# Cal ACEP AdvancED Pasadena 2023

Rebecca Bavolek, Alan Chiem, Steven Lai (2016), Kellie Kitamura (2019) attended CalACEP to represent our program. We saw some former fellows and colleagues (Anna Darby and Andy Grock as well).



## Everyone's Favorite EMS Conference with LA County Lifeguards at Manhattan Beach - Thank you Dr. Uner!



## Fall 2023 All LA conference



## Women and Gender Minority

A huge thanks to Annie Hoang (2026), Rhea Mathew (2025), and Elle Kettler (2025) for organizing our quarterly Women and Gender Minority Group meetings this year. Coming next year the group is planning to host a self-defense class for the residency and more.





# R2 Class of 2026 Day

A “field day” theme with. egg race, water balloon fight/toss, jeopardy, piñata!



# R3 Class of 2025 Day

Thanks David Talan (1986) for hosting the group at your chalet and vineyard in Solvang.... on your birthday no less.



# Fall Retreat 2023

Thank you Program Leadership - Rebecca Bavolek, Steven Lai (2016), Natasha Wheaton, Jaime Jordan, Kellie Kitamura (2019), and Ashley Vuong (2022) for all the planning. Thank you Jen Cassidy, Matt Hill, and Christina Denman for the support. Thank you David Schriger (and Varda) for hosting. Thank you to the many faculty and alumni - Alex Daguanno (2022), Kevin Wroblewski (2021), who came to provide guidance in our small groups, and for Reza Danesh (2008) for stopping by. Thank you for our wellness Yoga session!





# UCLA EM Family Brings Us Together

Hey Barbie



Board Game Night



Concert



Happy B-day



Hiking



Rose Bowl ... Go UCLA!



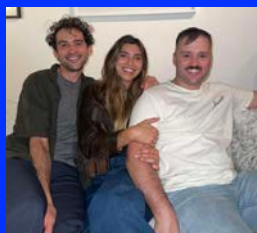
Class of 2027 get together



Game night, PGY3 ladies nails ready



Catching up with Alumni



Hiking with Alumna!



Happy B-day  
Brian McNamara





# Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Did you know that <6% of physicians in the US identify as Latino and < 2% of emergency medicine physicians? Our resident and faculty have formed a group within our program to further support our Latino/a/x physicians.



Los Angeles AltaMed campus had a National Latino Physician Day Conference. Rose Diaz attended, and got to meet with the California Surgeon General Diana Ramos.

## Mentoring Outreach to Increase Diversity in the Pipeline of Health Professionals

Sean Johnson (2027) spoke about his journey to medicine and inspired a group of students at St. John Bosco High School BioMedical Pathways Program.



Christy Villalpando (2025) participated in a health professions panel for medicine at the UCLA Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP) - a 6 week long summer program of 75 undergraduates from educationally and financially disadvantaged backgrounds from all around the US.

Stephen Villa and Rose Diaz attended a multi specialty breakfast at Charles Drew School of Medicine. It was like speed dating with different specialties at each table and the students loaded through in 12 minute intervals. Rose and Stephen met about 50 different students.



Stephen Villa, and George Lim were both PREP mentors. **PREP** is a 6-week intensive summer program that helps pre med students strengthen their ability and readiness to study medicine. PREP is designed to support students who have experienced social, economic, or educational disadvantages in their journey to medical education. The pre med enrichment program prepares students through academic enrichment, personal development, MCAT review sessions, longitudinal application support, focus on health disparities, interview skills and practice, and longitudinal mentorship. George Lim also has several other longitudinal mentees in the medical school.



Jamie Bell has continued to enhance and support our department's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. This year he helped reorganize our structure with 6 committees: Climate, Professional Development, Patient Care, Structural Elements, Community Engagement and People. The groups are working on initiatives and regular social events this year.





# ACEP Scientific Assembly 2023 in Philadelphia

Great work by Will Shyy and Rebecca Bavolek who are part of the ACEP planning committee.

Congratulations to the faculty and alumni lecturing at ACEP Scientific Assembly and the Research forum

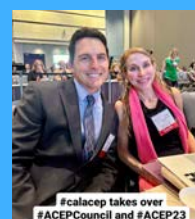
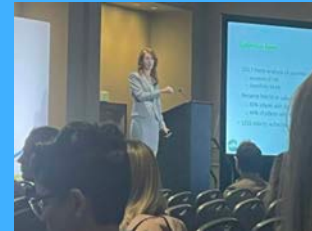
Tyler Barrett (2005) and Richelle Cooper (1998). Editor's Pearls at the Research Forum: *"Quality Improvement: Project to Publication"* and *"Generative AI (ChatGPT and LLMs) in Scientific Publishing"*

Ilene Claudius (2002)  
*"Staying Cool with Pediatric Fever"*  
*"Metabolic Disasters in Kids: Lethal Disorders You Have Never Heard of and How to Treat Them"*  
*"Abuse or Not Abuse: Interactive Visual Clues in Child Abuse"*

Craig Goolsby (2008)  
*"Hundreds Dead and Wounded: Best Healthcare Practices for Mass Shootings"*

EM:RAP 3 hour live show with Britt Guest (2019) and Sara Crager (2015), as well as an EM:RAP booth located in the exhibit hall.

Residency and Fellowship Recruitment - Thanks to Rebecca Bavolek, Jennifer Cassidy, Steven Lai (2016), Kellie Kitamura (2019) and Ashley Vuong (2022). Always great to have an alumni sighting at the residency fair - Stacey Sawtelle (2010), Residency Program Director at UCSF Fresno.







# More ACEP 2022

Congratulations to the faculty, alumni, fellows, residents and our undergraduate (EMRA) research volunteers who presented abstracts. Tyler Barrett (2005) moderated abstract sessions.

- **Jordan J.** Buckanavage J, Ilgen J, Hopson L, Gottlieb M, Curato M, Janicki A, Chipman A, Clarke S. Resident Career Decisions in Emergency Medicine: A Qualitative Study.

- Chung A, Bass R, Pattee K, **Jordan J.** Program Director Longevity in Emergency Medicine Residencies: A 40 Year Analysis.
- Naeem A, Gaipo A, Karb R, Soske J, Wilson T, **Samuels E.** Staff Attitudes and Experiences with Implementation of an Emergency Department Community Health Worker-Peer Recovery Specialist Program for Patients with Substance Use Disorders.
- **Samuels E,** Rosen A, Kaleekal J, Speener M, Campbell A, Moulin A, Herring A. Bridging to better substance use treatment: Implementation and effectiveness of statewide emergency department opioid use disorder treatment programs in California.
- Tlatelpa K, Perez Y, Salazar D, Lopez Arias Y, Lamprea Cuervo L, Delgadillo A, **Taira B, Torres J.** Awareness of California Medicaid Expansion for Undocumented Adults Over 50.
- **Forsgren E,** Perez Y, Salazar D, Lamprea Cuervo L, Novak N, **McCullough M, Taira B.** Medication Adherence Among Patients Who Initiated Naltrexone for Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder in the Emergency Department.



## Additional Alumni Abstracts:

- Suh E, **Probst M,** Sacco D, Einstein A. High-sensitivity troponin velocity for the detection of acute coronary syndrome.
- Sacco D, **Probst M,** Martins S, Comer S, Chang B. Prevalence of fentanyl co-ingestion among emergency department patients with opioid and non-opioid drug overdoses.
- Wang J, **Kanzaria H,** Dalke K, Nachnani R, Flatt J. Understanding the relationship between experiences with healthcare discrimination and emergency healthcare delay among intersex adults.
- Kean E, **Rodriguez R,** Molina M, Eucker S, Doty A, Goicochea K, Rising K. Reasons for Delay in Primary COVID-19 Vaccine Series in Underserved Emergency Department Patients.
- **Rodriguez R,** Rising K, Rafique Z, Eucker S, Nichol G, Ford J, Goicochea K, Morse D, Kean E, Keene K, Molina M. A Cluster Randomized-controlled Trial of Interventions to Increase Influenza Vaccine Uptake Among Underserved Emergency Department Patients.
- Monzon R, Ornelas-Dorian C, Eucker S, Chavez C, Rising K, **O'Laughlin K, Rodriguez R.** COVID-19 Vaccine Messaging Platforms in the ED.

ACEP Emergency Medicine Data Institute, ACEP's Health IT Committee, in conjunction with [Stanford University StEMI X Innovators](#), the [Emergency Medicine Innovation Collaborative](#) sponsored **HackED!** at the Scientific Assembly. There were two competition tracks: Innovation Challenge and the Hackathon - Healthcare at Home

For two-and-a-half days, teams consisting of diverse experts presented their work on impactful, practical EM solutions.

Christopher Montgomery (2027) and his collaborators won the Physician's Choice award. He said it *"was a great experience getting to present our business plan/ concept for The Humanistic Charting Tool to the heads of these companies as well as other physicians turned venture capitalist/innovators. We received requests from a few health systems to collaborate, the heads of Data Management at NHS and Data Management in Singapore as well."*



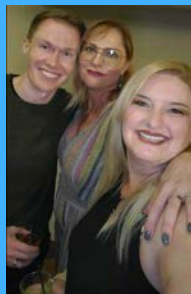
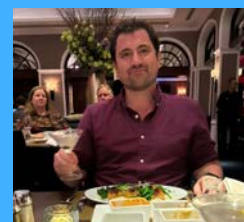
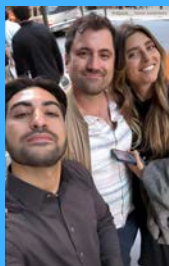
Emergency Medicine's  
Premier Research Event  
October 9 - 11





# More ACEP 2022 with Alumni

**THANK YOU Jen Cassidy and Matt Hill** for taking care of all of us and planning our Alumni Happy Hour and the Class of 2023 Senior Dinner. Great to see everyone!





# Ultrasound Section Updates



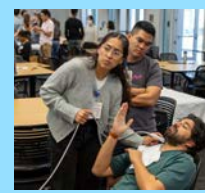
Alan Chiem, Will Shyy, Lauren Chung (2027), Reza Hessabi (2024) helped to teach POCUS foundations to the medical students.



Jackie Shibata has taken over as Fellowship Director and we have recruited two new exceptional fellows who will start this year.



Ultrasound fellow Jeremy Lin and Jackie went to Tijuana as part of our ongoing train the trainer ultrasound curriculum for the Refugee Health Alliance (RHA) physicians and midwives.



## Instapocus -

Follow the Instagram page of the Ultrasound Interest Group at UCLA!



## Sonogames prep



Sophia Tiene (2026), Mel Baker (2026) and Rachel Bass (2026) are getting creative, training hard and having fun organizing ultrasound games to prepare for sonogames 2023 with Jeremy, Jackie and the rest of the US faculty.

Everyone is putting a lot of hours and practice, yes the beverages help.

Hope to see everyone at SAEM!





# Happy Halloween UCLA Family !



Brian McNamara (2015) and Veronica Sebastian & Greyson



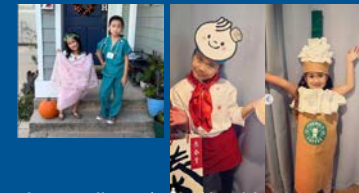
Carolyn Gates (2014) , Adam and Zoe



Noah Sugerman (2016) and family



Tom Solomon (2014) and Sophie



James Jiang (2019)'s girls Melanie and Daphne Halloween costumes for school and trick or treating.



Andy Shen (2003) family



Nick Miniel (2011) and Tola Johnson Miniel (2012), Remy & Quinn



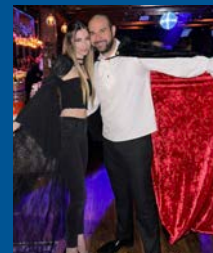
Michelle Brennan (2022)



Angela Brown (2016), Matt, Sophie & Mackensie



Hollie Sandlin (2014) & family



Steph Machi (2014) and family



Staff Brenman (2017), Liz, Holden & Parker



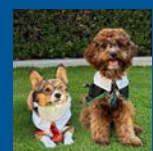
Alan Chiem and family



Angelique Campen (2000)



Residency Halloween get togethers, and wellness on shift with Carolyn Sachs (1994) who does work every holiday.



Bryan Merte (2024) and Leanne Cook (2024)'s dog Ruby and friend.

# Meet our New Fellows Coming July 2023

## National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP) and IDHEAL (International and Domestic Health Equity and Leadership (IDHEAL) Fellow Zainab Ahmed (2024)



Zainab is well known to us as one of our own UCLA chief residents. Zainab is chuffed to be sticking around for another 2 years, as a NCSP-IDHEAL scholar. She is interested in investigating both policy and clinical solutions to replace arrest and jail for those with psychiatric conditions and exploring the intersections between public health interventions at home and health equity abroad. She is from San Francisco and went to medical school at Mount Sinai in New York City. In her spare time, she likes fantasizing about collecting art she cannot afford, eating dim sum and taking constitutional walks (not hikes!)

## Inaugural Toxicology Fellow Eniola Gros



Eniola attended undergrad at the University of Missouri-Kansas City where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. She then completed a post-bacc at Washington University before matriculating to medical school at the Saint Louis School of Medicine and is now completing her emergency medicine residency at Case Western Reserve University. She's conducted research on buprenorphine microinduction protocols and has been active developing a microinduction protocol and helping to develop a syringe exchange program.

*Hello everyone! My name is Eniola but my mother is the only person who calls me that. Call me Eni. I am half Nigerian, half Haitian and growing up in a multi-cultural household has definitely molded by passion for diversity, equity and inclusion starting at a young age. I am originally from Saint Louis, Missouri and completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Missouri - Kansas City. I went to medical school at Saint Louis University and am finishing up my*

*emergency medicine residency at Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals. I am passionate about harm reduction and advocacy for patients with substance use disorder. Besides immersing myself in the multitude of niches within the field of medical toxicology, I hope to conduct research on ketamine infusions and other psychedelic therapies for patients with mental health disorders.*

*Fun fact about me: I am a cellist in the World Doctor's Orchestra which is an international orchestra composed of physicians. The proceeds from each concern go to medical aid organizations. I'm looking forward to joining the UCLA family and meeting all of you!*

## UCLA Administration Fellow: Reza Hessabi (2024)



Born and raised in Southern California, Reza escaped the Inland Empire to attend UCLA for his undergraduate studies. After scraping by for four years, he ended up working for President Obama during his re-election campaign in 2012 both at Chicago HQ and in Colorado. While he has a passion for politics, the lifestyle was deeply unfulfilling. So he turned his attention to medicine, because what else was he going to do with a Neuroscience degree. He attended Tulane University in New Orleans to prove to medical schools this new interest was no flight of fancy. After returning home to LA to teach the MCAT for a few years (and meeting his future wife), Reza braved the biting frost of New England to attend Dartmouth Medical School. Four winters passed before finally deciding enough is enough with the whole nomad thing. He was lucky enough to come back home to UCLA for residency, and is very excited he'll be continuing

on as the Administrative Fellow for 2024-2026. In his spare time, Reza likes all the typical EM things: hiking, watching sports, losing in his fantasy football league. Outside of EM, he is a console gamer, a recovering League of Legends player, and a lover of shonen anime. His favorite hobbies though are tinkering away at his novel and finding new ways to annoy his cat, Kabob.



# And More New Fellows Coming July 2023

## Ultrasound Fellow Jon Warren

Jon is a former UCLA medical student, resident and chief resident at Harbor-UCLA who matched into our 2 year fellowship. He will be doing a combined POCUS-EMS fellowship with a goal of bringing ultrasound to the pre-hospital setting in Los Angeles. Jon founded the Art of Emergency Medicine project and is passionate about medical education.



*"Hi there! I'm Jon Warren and extremely excited to be the incoming combined Ultrasound/EMS Fellow. I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, but have been living in Southern California since I moved down for undergrad at UCLA. Since then, I've maintained my True Bruin status completing medical school, and residency at UCLA as well. Currently I am a chief resident at Harbor-UCLA living in the South Bay with my wife and our little pup. I'm excited to complete both fellowships and explore the use of ultrasound in the prehospital space. When I'm not busy with projects or working in the hospital I love making it out to the beach for some relaxation, taking and editing photos, playing video games, or hosting and cooking for friends. I can't wait to meet you all soon and excited that I will be staying in the UCLA family for the next two years."*

## Ultrasound Fellow Moudi Hubeishy

Moudi is a chief resident at Franciscan Health Olympian Fields in Illinois. He is doing our one year US fellowship with plans to continue training and complete a critical care fellowship after ultrasound! He has done extensive policy work with the AMA and is also passionate about street medicine and wellness.



*"Hello everyone! My name is Moudi Hubeishy and I am completing my final year of Emergency Medicine as the chief resident at Franciscan Health Olympia Fields (previously the Midwestern EM residency.) I am from Rochester, New York and I attended medical school at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo. I actually started my residency training in rural family medicine completing a year in north California in Ukiah, California prior to switching to Emergency Medicine. I have been involved in the American Medical Association since medical school currently serving as the Vice Speaker for the Resident and Fellow Section and I also served as the Chair of the EMRA Ultrasound Committee. I love ultrasound and am thrilled to be joining the UCLA Ultrasound and EM family. I have a specific interest in echocardiograms and TEE. Outside of medicine I love the beach and am pretty into fitness. I previously competed as a amateur bodybuilder, but now I just try to stay fit to keep up with my sweet tooth. A fun fact, I watched all 43 seasons of Survivor during the pandemic and I have no regrets. Looking forward to exploring Los Angeles!"*



# Space Medicine Updates



Haig Aintablian (2022) will be stepping into the role of Director of the UCLA Space Medicine Program. He will also be graduating as UCLA's first Flight Surgeon at SpaceX, joining us as a faculty attending physician at UCLA, and working as a specialist in Space Medicine with various space companies.



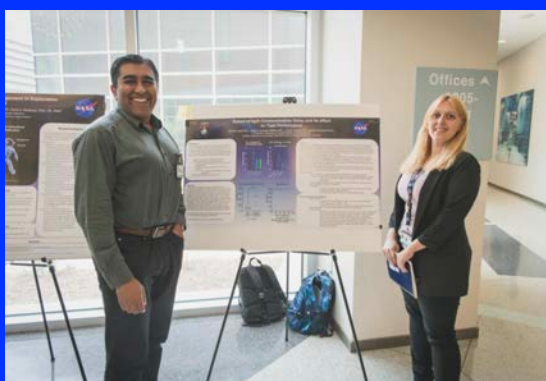
Haig Aintablian is excited to announce that the program has selected Ghufuran Syed (2011) to be our next Space Medicine Fellow. As our fellow, he will be training to become a flight surgeon through the various opportunities we have built here at UCLA, including through Mission Control and launch/recovery training at SpaceX, medical procedural training through our IR, dentistry, and other departments, and engineering courses at Caltech/JPL and CU. The goal of our fellowship is to advance the understanding of human physiology in space and directly support the medical endeavors of long-duration space travel and planetary expeditions. We are very excited to have Ghufuran Syed launch his career in the aerospace field via our fellowship!



Ghufuran completed his primary and medical education in the United Kingdom, and then obtained an MBA at the London Business School. He was working in emergency medicine in the UK, when he met Jerry Hoffman (1979) who was on sabbatical and decided to immigrate to the United States to complete residency in emergency medicine. He completed our residency 2008-2011. Since completing residency, he has worked as an emergency medicine physician in a variety of settings, including teaching at the residency at Dignity Health in Stockton, California.

He has continued his education studying Creative Learning and Computer Sciences (2015-17) at the University of London, obtained a Masters of Science in Mathematics and Statistics at California State University-East bay (2017-2020). His interest in Space Medicine has led him to additional education and endeavors. He had been taking engineering at Finger Lakes Community College. As if that was not enough, he has been involved in several business start ups Founder / CEO Space Station Startup called Orbital Anomaly, Founder / CEO social media startup - [Conferacity](#), and Founder / CEO Telemedicine Startup called umedoc in 2016 (he was way ahead of us with covid and telemedicine).

Ghufuran completed the NASA space medicine clerkship at Johnson Space Center in Houston. As part of that program he presented at NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) a project looking at the effects of light-speed delay on team and operational performance. He has decided to further his work by embarking on the Space Medicine Fellowship with us, and will be starting MS classes at USC in astronautics in January.



Clinically Ghufuran is working at Southern California Hospital in Culver City. His family is doing well, with three of his now adult children working as software engineers, and the youngest is studying psychology at UCSD.





# Alumni and Guest Lecturing

## Alumni Returns

**Hannah Spungen (2022)** drove in from Arizona to lecture on *"Plants you Shouldn't Eat"* and then immediately drove back.... We miss you!



**Anthony Fredericks (2023)** zoomed in *"Critical Conversations: 5 Palliative Pearls for the ED Doc"*



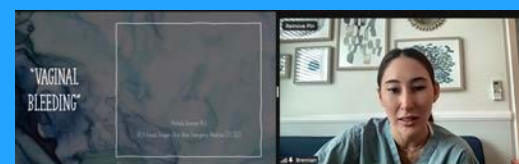
**Ilene Claudius (2002)** lectures on *"Special Needs in Special Kids."*

## A Most Interesting Case - Alumni Guest Lecturing

**Hannah Spungen (2022)** came back, via zoom, to talk about a most interesting case. Solo coverage, second shift back working in an ED after started her fellowship at a hospital with no OB/gyn, no NICU or Peds, and a preterm, no prenatal care BOA..... Handled like a pro.

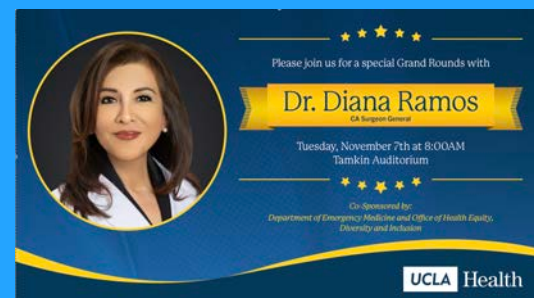


**Michelle Brennan (2022)** came to teach about post partum hemorrhagic shock 1 week post c-section and delivered numerous pearls.



## Guest Grand Rounds

Thanks to Rose Diaz, Jesus Torres, and Medell Briggs-Malonson with the Office of Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for bringing a special Grand Rounds to UCLA with the California Surgeon General Dr. Diana Ramos.



**On Shift Teaching, Rooftop rounds at Olive View UCLA, small group breaks during conference, and Greg Hendey (1993) teaching what he published... the Captain Morgan technique to hip reduction:**

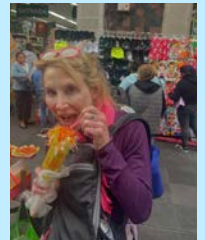
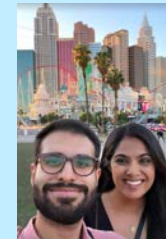
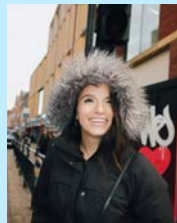


**ALUMNI** - Come teach at our conferences: If you will be in Los Angeles and want to lecture at one of our conferences, or teach a small group, email [Richelle Cooper \(1998\)](#), and I will connect you with the APD team.



# Life Around and Out of Town

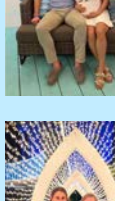
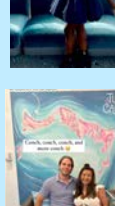
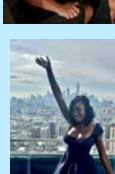
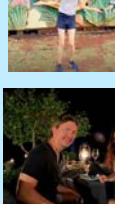
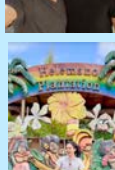
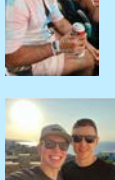
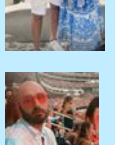
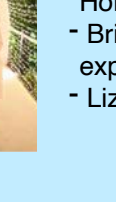
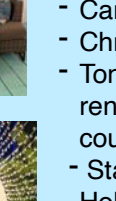
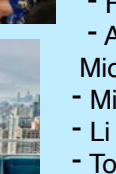
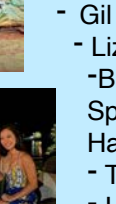
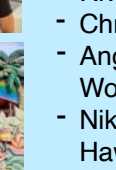
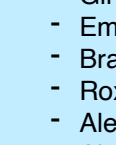
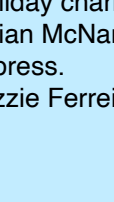
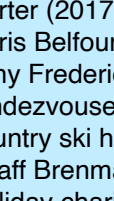
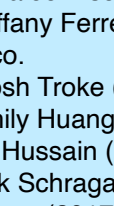
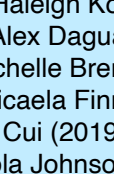
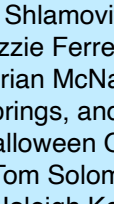
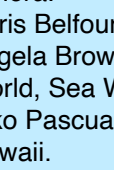
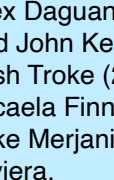
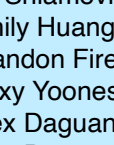
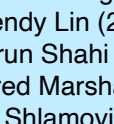
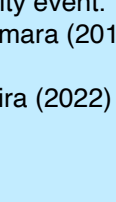
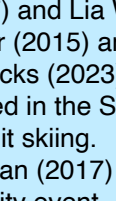
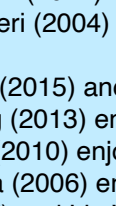
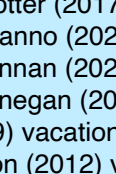
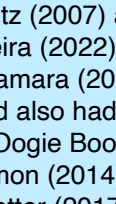
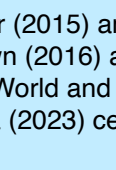
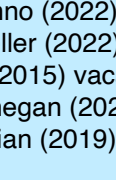
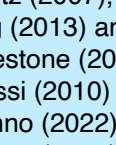
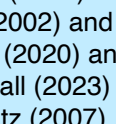
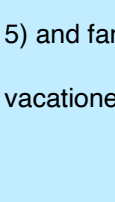
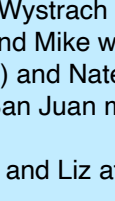
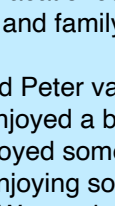
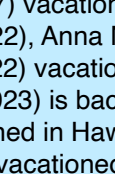
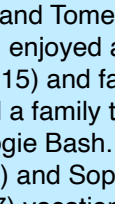
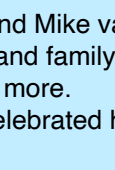
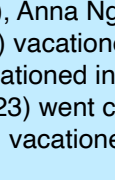
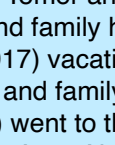
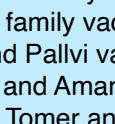
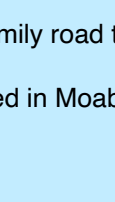
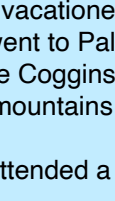
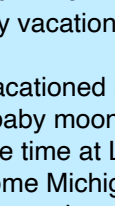
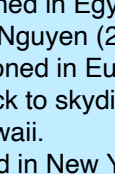
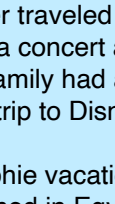
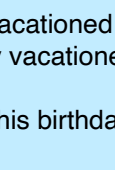
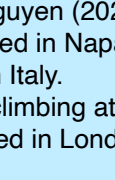
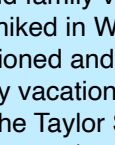
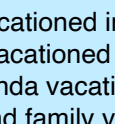
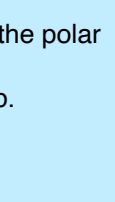
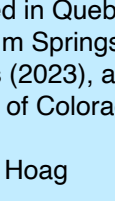
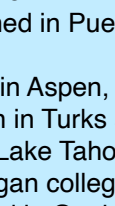
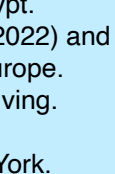
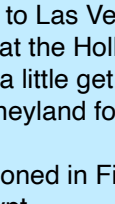
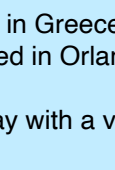
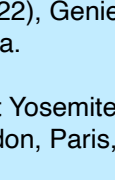
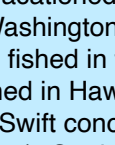
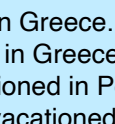
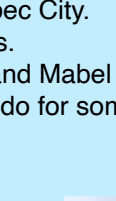
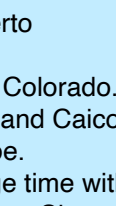
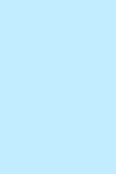
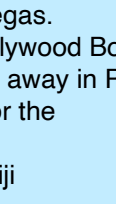
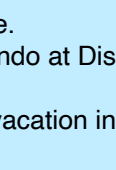
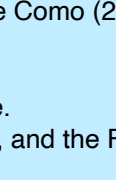
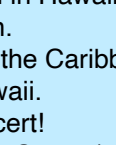
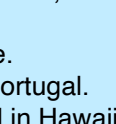
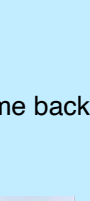
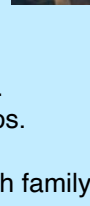
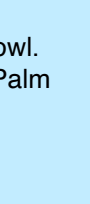
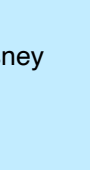
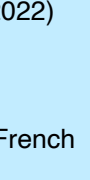
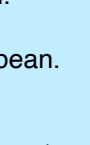
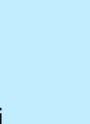
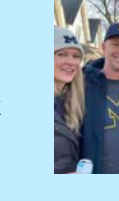
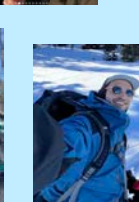
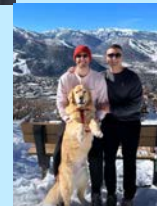
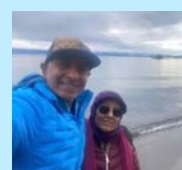
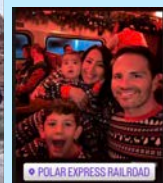
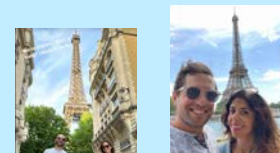
- Haig Aintablian (2022) vacationed in Armenia and visited Karahunj... the world's oldest Stonehenge.
- Alex Grohmann and wife vacationed in Iceland this summer before starting to work with us at UCLA.
- Taylor James (2024) climbed Mount Baldy.
- AJ (2024) vacationed in Paris.
- Matt Waxman (2007) and Jacob vacationed in Switzerland, and Italy
- Daniela Alarcon (2025) and Missy Brown (2025) caught up in London, Missy traveled on to Spain, celebrated her birthday and got engaged.
- Jess Faiz and Ian vacationed in Italy.
- Faraz Khan and his wife checked out the OC fair.
- Class of 2027 - Ephi Fisseha, Rey Berry, Diana Dayal & Jack Basse had a Barbie experience.
- Jo Feldman went on her yearly scuba diving trip with friends including Jessie Wall (2015).
- Cat Weaver (2017) saw Tears for Fears at the Hollywood Bowl.
- Christian Hernandez (2025) vacationed and visited family in Puerto Rico.
- Erich Wieshofer (2024) vacationed in Greece.
- Ashley Vuong (2022) and Jessie vacationed in South Korea
- Summer of concerts.... Caught at Beyonce Rose Diaz and family, and Missy Brown (2025) did as well.
- Brandon Endo (2018) went fishing in Alaska.
- Krithika Rao (2027) got a break from intern year to travel to Las Vegas, and to Sedona Arizona.
- Zainab Ahmed (2024) traveled to Siena.
- Carmen Partida vacationed in Mexico.
- Tiglath Ziyeh (2024) went on safari in South Africa.
- Jen Cassidy vacationed in Peru.
- Rhea Matthew (2025) went to Mexico.
- Sara Seresinghe (2026) went to New York.
- Daniela Alarcon (2025) vacationed in the UK.
- Carolyn Sachs (1994) vacationed in Mexico City.
- Kevin Martinez (2026) and Shanna visited family in Saipan.
- Kelsey Kneisley (2024) vacationed in Vietnam.





# Alumni Getting Out and Getting Together

- Greg Tong (2020), Seema and baby.... visited Austria.
- Nate Friedman (2021) and Audrey vacationed in Paris.
- Hollie Sandlin (2014) and family vacationed at Clear Lake State Park and Lassen National Park.
- Wendy Lin (2002) and Andrea Roberts (2002) caught up in Scottsdale, AZ.... Both alumna have children who compete nationally in fencing.
- Aws Al-Abdullah (2020), Sophia and Xavier vacationed in Paris.
- Tola Johnson-Miniel (2012), and Nick Miniel (2011) vacationed in Barcelona.
- Josh Troke (2015) and Peter vacationed in Hawaii.
- James Jiang (2019) and family vacationed in Vancouver, BC.
- Wendy Lin (2002) and family vacationed in Greece.
- Varun Shahi (2020) and Pallvi vacationed in Greece.
- Jared Marshall (2023) and Amanda vacationed in Portugal.
- Gil Shlamovitz (2007), Tomer and family vacationed in Hawaii.
- Emily Huang (2013) and family hiked in Washington.
- Brandon Firestone (2017) vacationed and fished in the Caribbean.
- Roxy Yoonessi (2010) and family vacationed in Hawaii.
- Alex Daguanno (2022) went to the Taylor Swift concert!
- Alex Daguanno (2022), Anna Nguyen (2022), Genie Como (2022) and John Keller (2022) vacationed in Napa.
- Josh Troke (2015) vacationed in Italy.
- Micaela Finnegan (2023) went climbing at Yosemite.
- Mike Merjanian (2019) vacationed in London, Paris, and the French Riviera.
- Chris Belfour (2015) and Mike vacationed in Greece.
- Angela Brown (2016) and family vacationed in Orlando at Disney World, Sea World and more.
- Niko Pascua (2023) celebrated his birthday with a vacation in Hawaii.
- Gil Shlamovitz (2007) and Tomer traveled to Las Vegas.
- Lizzie Ferreira (2022) enjoyed a concert at the Hollywood Bowl.
- Brian McNamara (2015) and family had a little get away in Palm Springs, and also had a family trip to Disneyland for the Halloween Oogie Boogie Bash.
- Tom Solomon (2014) and Sophie vacationed in Fiji
- Haleigh Kotter (2017) vacationed in Egypt.
- Alex Daguanno (2022), Anna Nguyen (2022) and Michelle Brennan (2022) vacationed in Europe.
- Micaela Finnegan (2023) is back to skydiving.
- Li Cui (2019) vacationed in Hawaii.
- Tola Johnson (2012) vacationed in New York.
- Tiffany Ferreri (2004) and family vacationed in Puerto Rico.
- Josh Troke (2015) and Peter vacationed in Aspen, Colorado.
- Emily Huang (2013) enjoyed a baby moon in Turks and Caicos.
- Ali Hussain (2010) enjoyed some time at Lake Tahoe.
- Erik Schraga (2006) enjoying some Michigan college time with family.
- Carter (2017) and Lia Wystrach vacationed in Quebec City.
- Chris Belfour (2015) and Mike went to Palm Springs.
- Tony Fredericks (2023) and Nate Coggins (2023), and Mabel rendezvoused in the San Juan mountains of Colorado for some back country ski hit skiing.
- Staff Brenman (2017) and Liz attended a Hoag Holiday charity event.
- Brian McNamara (2015) and family road the polar express.
- Lizzie Ferreira (2022) vacationed in Moab.







# Greg Moran (1992) Retired!

*My journey into emergency medicine at UCLA depended on a literal journey, hitchhiking on a road in Kansas. I intended to be a doctor since I was young and took pre-med courses as a biochem major at University of Kansas, while also playing in punk rock bands in the active music scene there. I was accepted to medical school at KU (my mom was faculty so I paid half tuition). I decided I would defer a year and reapply so I could live the rock n roll life briefly before hunkering down in med school. Over the summer things were changing in the band and I worried the year might not go as I had hoped. On the Friday in August before medical school was to start, I took a chance and called the Dean to see if there was still an opening, giving a BS story about the professor with whom I was doing research lost his funding. There was an opening, but I would have to make it to the Dean's office by 4:30 PM to get registered. It was afternoon and I was in Lawrence, Kansas, about an hour's drive from the med school in KC. I didn't have a car, so I walked down to the main road out of town and stuck out my thumb. It wasn't too unusual to see people hitchhiking from a college town at that time, and I got a couple rides that put me in walking distance of the med school. I made it with about 15 minutes to spare, and on Monday we met our cadavers.*

*Emergency Medicine was not a well-recognized specialty in the mid 80's and did not exist at KU, so was not even on my radar. I was likely going to do IM and was interested in ID and global health. On my 3<sup>rd</sup> year medicine rotation in 1986 I worked with a resident named Susie Spangler. She was already matched to start EM at UCLA after her IM residency, and talked about EM and how great UCLA was. So, I did an EM rotation at UCLA and liked it. When I told my med school advisor that I wanted to do emergency medicine he was astonished, saying things like "Why would you throw your life away like that! You're a good student! You could be somebody!" At his insistence I applied to the combined EM/IM program so I could work in a "real" specialty after I got tired of working in the ER.*

*During residency it became clear that I enjoyed EM more than IM. I did not think I would spend the rest of my life in LA when I started internship at UCLA, but I really liked the people, with amazing mentors like Jerry Hoffman and a young David Talan. I was offered a faculty position at OV and took it.*

*Some things have changed over my career. When I was a resident the OV attendings went home at midnight, leaving one junior and one senior resident. We could call the attending with questions, but we never did. We read Xray films on lightboxes. We had no MRI, there was no such thing as POCUS, and lab results came on slips of paper we had to sort through. Charts, prescriptions, and discharge instructions all written out by hand. (They had switched from cuneiform clay tablets by then.) When I started as faculty we had two 12-hour attending shifts daily. The night attending usually went to bed around 5am. The residents could wake us if needed. I think the only time they did was when my wife Ester called the ED at 5:30 am on New Year's day because her water broke.*

*One thing that has not changed is my love for the patients at OV and the friends and colleagues with whom I work. I have never heard of another job opportunity that looked better than what I have at OV, and I'm happy I've spent my career here. While I may be semi-retired and am no longer Chief, I will continue to work shifts, teach, and do clinical research.*

*Do not underestimate those unexpected branch points in your life. If my hitchhiking journey had failed and I had not made it to the Dean's office by 4:30, I would have deferred another year, would have never met Susie and would not have done emergency medicine, let alone at UCLA. I never would have known any of you. I'm glad that circumstances brought me to UCLA and to Olive View, where I've had an amazing career and have worked with many of the best people in medicine. My favorite part of the job is watching residents learn and grow into amazing physicians with great careers. I look forward to working with the future generation of UCLA physician leaders in this phase of my career.*





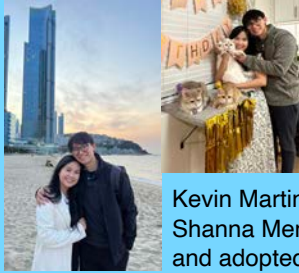




# Growing Families - Congratulations to Everyone!



Max Berger and Emily welcomed Jack.



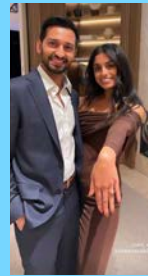
Kevin Martinez (2026) and Shanna Mendoza got married, and adopted some cats.



Missy Brown (2025) and Brittany Moffat got engaged.



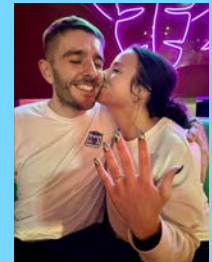
Kenneth Kim (2025) and Naomi got married.



Rhea Matthew (2025) and Razi Zaidi got engaged.



Krithika Rao (2027) and Varun got engaged.



Daniela Alarcon (2025) and Francis Cade got engaged.



Chase Richard (2023) and Jordan had a wedding celebration.



Taylor James (2023) and Seth got engaged while on vacation in Switzerland, and then married.



Evan Schwarz adopted fur baby Marco from China.



Aubrey Kelly (2026) got a fur baby named Prince.



Rebecca and Nate Bavolek celebrated 24 years of marriage.

Natasha Thomas and June Kayano welcomed baby girl Maya.



Faraz Khan and Zenith welcomed Sufiyan.



Jessa Baker (2021), Paul, and Mia welcomed home Rose.



Matt Levin (2021) and Amanda welcomed Joaquin.



Miguel Angel Navarro (2025) and Hillary welcomed Zion Angel.

Stephen Villa and Erica welcomed Elián.



# Alumni Family Updates - Congratulations to Everyone!

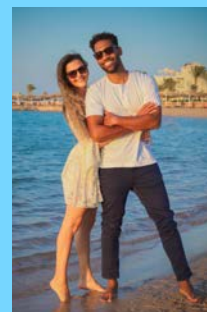


Varun Shahi (2020) and Pallvi celebrated their 1 year anniversary.



Mike Merjanian (2019) and Kristen celebrated their 3 year wedding anniversary.

Haleigh Kotter (2017) and Avery got engaged.



Allison Ferreira (2018) and Andy welcomed Norah Juliet.



Rachel Shing (2016), Kris and big sister Radon welcomed home Jade.



Claudie Bolduc (2021) and James welcomed baby Liv.



Steff Brenman (2017), Liz and Holden welcomed Amanda.



Angela Brown (2016) and Matt celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary.



Steph Machi (2014) and big brother Landon welcomed Julien.



Tony Fredericks (2023) and Simone got married in Taos with Nate Coggins (2023) and Mabel as witness.



Tiffany Ferreri (2004) and Pablo celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.



Naseem Moridzadeh (2021) and Jesse got engaged.



Chelsea Robinson (2022) and Pat got engaged.



Caroline Humphreys (2021) and Mark got engaged.



Nate Friedman (2021) and Audrey got married.





## BAVOLEK BACON BASH

COME BE A PART OF TRADITION

It's Bacon Friday! Come experience all things bacon... deep fried bacon, bacon bloody marys, bacon dishes. Friends, family, & kids welcome. Bring a bacon themed dish if you wish! Can't wait to see you!



# Holidays with Friends

Post Thanksgiving Annual Bavolek Bacon Bash

Thanks to the Minority Housestaff Office Gala holiday celebration.

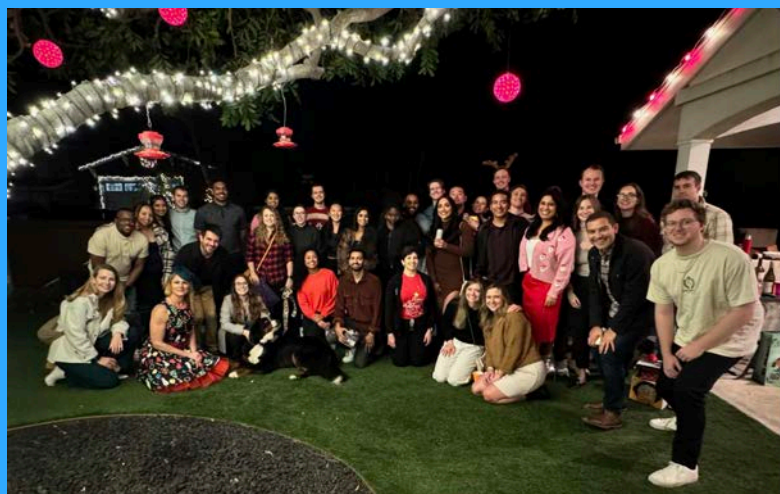
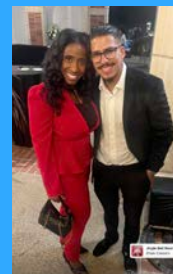
Thanks to the Olive View UCLA Department and EM nursing team for the Holiday Party.



Thanks to the UCLA Department of EM nursing team for organizing the Reagan ED Holiday Party.

Thank you again to Rebecca and Nate Bavolek (and Julianna and Ryker) for hosting the Residency Christmas Party and gift exchange.

Thanks for those that worked in our emergency departments on the holiday.





# Happy Holidays UCLA Family !



Hans House (2002) and family



Jen Chen (2007) and family



Angelique Campen (2002) and family



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



Aws Al-Abdullah (2020)  
and family



Cate Yaggi (2020) and family



Ana Lopez-O'Sullivan  
(2013) and family



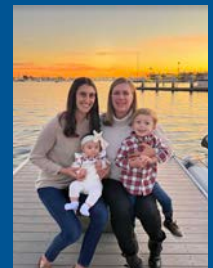
Angela Brown (2016) and family



Rebecca Bavolek and family



Emily Huang (2013)  
and family



Staff Brenman (2017)  
and family



Tyler Barrett (2005) and family



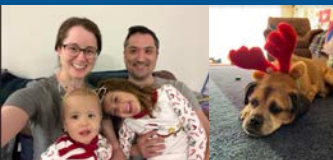
Sanjay Arora (2005) and family



Gil Shlamovitz (2007) and  
family



Roxy Yoonessi (2010)  
and family



Danielle Antonuk (2021) and  
family



Kateri Roessler-  
Henderson (2015) and  
family



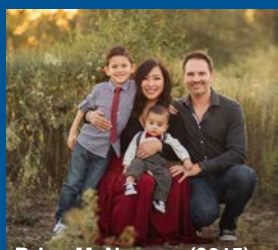
James Jiang (2019)  
and family



Niko Pascua (2023)  
and family



Greg and Lisa  
Hendey (1992)



Brian McNamara (2015)  
and family



# KUDOS to Our Amazing Faculty, Residents and Alumni

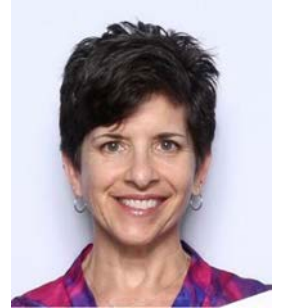


Congratulations to **Rose Diaz** for being selected to receive the 2023-24 Academy of Women in Academic

Emergency Medicine (AWAEM) ARMED scholarship. The Advanced Research Methodology Evaluation and Design (ARMED) course is a popular course run by Society for Academic Emergency Medicine that provides participants with the fundamental knowledge and skills to design a high quality research project and grant proposal to jumpstart their research career. Her AWAEM scholarship award covers her entire course tuition.



Congratulations to **Pam Dyne (1995)**! She was appointed as the first Director of Coaching for the DGSOM HEALS Curriculum.



In the announcement Clarence Braddock (Executive Vice Dean for Education, DGSOM) noted *"This appointment recognizes the contributions that Dr. Dyne has made to the school over the past three years to create the innovative personal and professional development coaching program now embedded in the MS1 and MS2 years, and the ongoing mission for expanding personal and professional development coaching throughout all four years of the HEALS curriculum. The integration of coaching throughout the HEALS curriculum will allow DGSOM graduates to be uniquely trained to overcome personal and professional obstacles including burnout, develop skills for metacognition, and to practice with increased confidence."*

**JAMA Network Open**  
Original Investigation | Health Policy  
Emergency Medical Responses at US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Centers in California

Annette M. Dekker, MD, MS, Jennifer Farah, MD, Parveen Parmar, MD, MPH, Atilla S. Uner, MD, David L. Schriger, MD, MPH

**JAMA Network Open**

United Commentary | Health Policy  
Research in US Immigration Detention—Transparency Through Policy  
Katherine R. Poole, MD, MS

Congratulations to **Annette Dekker**, and co-authors **Parveen Parmar (2008)**, **Atilla Uner (1997)**, and **David Schriger**, who published a study examining EMS calls for emergencies at ICE detention centers in JAMA Network Open. The journal invited an editorial to run along with the study, and the Los Angeles Times featured the work as well.

## Los Angeles Times

California doctors analyzed detained migrants' medical emergencies. Here's what they found



In this 2019 photo, detainees talk on telephones at the Atlanta ICE Processing Center in Atlanta, Ga. (Chris Carlson / Associated Press)  
BY ANDREA CASTILLO | STAFF WRITER  
NOV. 26, 2023 UPDATED 7:55 PM PT

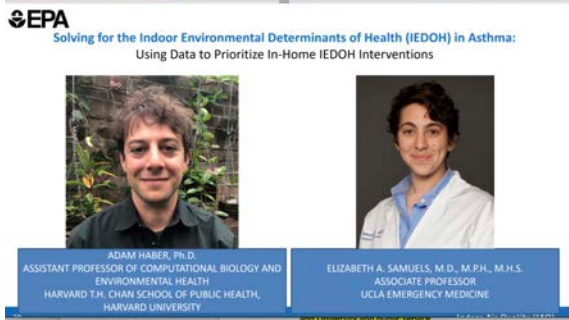
**Chase Richard (2023)** co-led the 2023 UCLA Techquity Accelerator with Jennifer McCaney, PhD (Executive Director of UCLA Biodesign), and **Medell Briggs Malonson**. UCLA Health operates the TechQuity Accelerator in partnership with **UCLA Biodesign, BioscienceLA** and **ScaleHealth** with a focus on supporting teams that feature innovative concepts and a mission to improve long-term community health resilience.

The three-month program provides selected startups with personalized mentorship, co-working space, clinical expertise and product-development support, culminating in a final pitch showcase with UCLA Health leaders and community stakeholders. The program supports underrepresented company founders to implement technologies that directly address health inequities around underserved and vulnerable patient populations. This December at the TechQuity second cohort graduation they pitched their solutions to overcoming barriers to equitable health outcomes (healthcare access, environmental justice and mental health and youth wellbeing).





# More Great Kudos



to Prioritize In-Home IEDOH Interventions.” She has been in continued communication with the EPA, and others to plan further study in additional cities to validate the model.

Congratulations to **Liz Samuels** whose Lancet publication examining ED asthma visits as a proxy for poor-quality housing in New Haven caught the attention of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She and a co-author presented at a webinar hosted by the EPA “Solving for Indoor Environmental Determinants of Health (IEDOH) in Asthma: Using data

Mapping emergency department asthma visits to identify poor-quality housing in New Haven, CT, USA: a retrospective cohort study

(Elizabeth A Samuels\*, Richard Andrew Taylor, Akshay Pandey, Akshay Chaggar, Anne S Shattuck, Evan K Lerner, Aydin K Vekrikoti, Steven J Bernstein, Adam J Hilder\*)

**Summary**  
Background Housing conditions are a key driver of asthma incidence and severity. Previous studies have shown increased emergency department visits for asthma among residents living in poor-quality housing. Interventions to improve housing conditions have been shown to reduce emergency department visits for asthma, but identification and remediation of poor housing conditions is often delayed or does not occur. This study evaluates whether emergency department visits for asthma can be used to identify poor-quality housing to support proactive and early intervention.

Articles



**Jess Faiz** was the featured guest at a virtual webinar Journal Club Series hosted by the Emergency Medicine Research Association (EMRA) Diversity and Inclusion committee.

**Jesus Torres** has obtained 3 grants/grant funded positions:

- NIH/NIDDK Academic Career Fellow Travel Award
- Southwest Strategies to Innovate EmeRgENcy Care Clinical Trials Network (SIREN): SW SIREN Emergency Care Trialist Scholars Program
- Antimicrobial Resistance Leadership Group (ARLG), EVERYONE Grant

He is also still actively funded on the CRASHED grant studying Mpx.



## EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Sergey Ayvazyan  
Adventist Health  
Glendale

Angelique Kelly  
Campen  
Burbank Emergency  
Medical Group  
Burbank

Carl Richard  
Chudnofsky  
Keck Medicine of USC  
Los Angeles

Thomas P. Graham  
UCLA Health  
Los Angeles

Nicholas W. Greco  
Huntington Hospital  
Pasadena

Michelle L. Ischayek  
Cedars-Sinai  
Los Angeles

Stephen G. Kefalas  
Cedars-Sinai  
Los Angeles

Sylvia Kotlikian  
Adventist Health  
Glendale

Brandon L. Lew  
Huntington Hospital  
Pasadena

Debbie Liu  
Children's Hospital  
Los Angeles

Ameer Mody  
Children's Hospital  
Los Angeles

Sam S. Torbati  
Cedars-Sinai  
Los Angeles

David M. Ullick  
Huntington Hospital  
Pasadena

Veronica Vasquez-  
Montez  
Keck Medicine of USC  
Los Angeles

Congratulations to **Angelique Campen (2000)**, selected 2 years in a row! Also congratulations to **Thomas Graham (1995)**. Each year, *Los Angeles* magazine publishes a roundup of recommended doctors in a variety of specialties. The list is compiled and vetted by Professional Research Services, a firm specializing in conducting our annual countywide peer-to-peer survey. Practicing physicians were asked to nominate doctors they deem worthy of consideration.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Office of the President

Congratulations to **Annie Hoang (2026)**! She has been awarded a \$6000 grant from University of California Office of the President. She is working with **Mackensie Yore** and **Jesus Torres** planning a survey to examine individuals readiness and climate resilience.

She also won the third annual EDI Innovation Award from the Minority Housestaff Organization for her project “Assessing Climate Resilience Among Patients in the Emergency Department.” This will provide an additional \$3000 for her to complete the project.



Minority Housestaff Organization



# Plaudits UCLA Alumni



Reb J.H. Close, MD, FACEP



Congratulations to **Reb Close (2003)**! She won the ACEP 2023 Community Emergency Medicine Excellence Award, an award that recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to advancing emergency care and/or health care within the community in which they practice. She is recognized for her work in harm reduction.

Since completion of residency Reb has worked at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula in Monterey, California. She serves as the supervising physician for the emergency department's Recurrent Visitors Program, and serves as the Co-Director of Emergency Department Chemical Dependency Services since 2021. She is Medical Director of Montage Health's Prescribe Safe program — a collaborative partnership on the Central Coast with the goal of promoting safe use of prescription drugs and pain management, reducing overdoses, and addressing substance use through prevention and treatment.

Her key initiatives include advocating for treatment of substance use disorders in emergency departments and building a coalition of clinics, hospital administrators, and community groups who improve patient treatment and referral services within Monterey County.

Check out her video on the [ACEP 2023 Awards page](#).

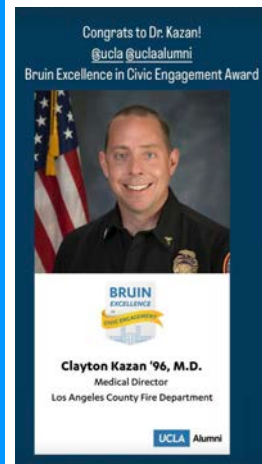


## HAIL TO THE CHIEF

**Ramon "Ray" Johnson (1984)** is President of ABEM.



American Board of  
Emergency Medicine



Congratulations to **Clayton Kazan (2005)**! He was recognized by the UCLA Alumni Affairs with a "Bruin Excellence in Civic Engagement Award." This award recognizes exceptional Bruins who are serving in civic positions and making a difference in people's lives. The award is for alumni visionaries, volunteers and leaders engage with community

organizations, find solutions to today's civic issues and improve the quality of life in our communities. Clayton Kazan completed his undergraduate training at UCLA in 1996. It was as an undergraduate that he was one of the volunteer UCLA Emergency Medical Services (EMS) technicians. He has held a variety of different positions in EMS including medical directorships of the UCLA Paramedic Program and the County's Paramedic Training Institute, and served and chaired the Los Angeles County EMS Commission. In 2015, Clayton was named the first full-time medical director of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.



Congratulations to **Matt Richard (2002)**, one of the Antelope Valley partners for his CalACEP Chapter Service Award. The Chapter Service Award is given to a member who has served the Chapter by directing or coordinating a specific project or initiative, or who has served the Chapter Board and/or committees with distinction.

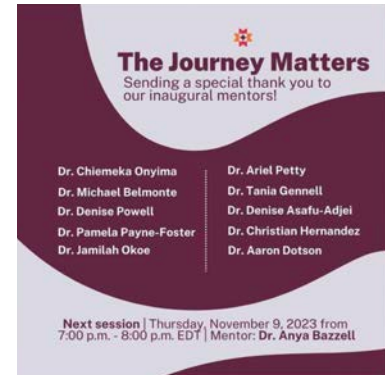


**Jess Oswald (2018)** will be assuming a full faculty position, as an Associate Professor in the Department of Anesthesia, Division of Pain, and has a partial position continuing to work in the Emergency Department at UCSD. She was recognized with a [Member Focus by the American Academy of Pain Management](#). These recognitions are the result of nominations and intended to spotlight a physician doing great things. She was also recognized in Dximity as being among the top 10% most cited clinicians in 2022 and one of the most looked up ED physicians in San Diego, and she was notified she is the second most googled physician from her medical school class. She is among a growing but select group of EM physicians trained and working dual in pain management. Congratulations!



# BRAVO!

**Jesus Torres** was a collaborator on the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) publication which emphasizes the need for strengthening emergency trauma services in the Americas to prevent road traffic injuries from causing unnecessary fatalities and disabilities.



**Christian Hernandez (2025)** was recognized for being an inaugural mentor for [National Medical Fellowships \(NMF\)](#) and providing guidance at Journey Matters Sessions. NMF provides need-based and merit scholarships and service-learning programs to Black, Indigenous, Latine, People of Color students of medicine and behavioral health. NMF also works to diversify clinical research.



Congratulations to our new EMRA Board!



**Kenneth Kim (2025)** is on the Emergency Medicine Resident Association (EMRA) Board of Directors, Director of Health Policy.



Congratulations to **Liz Samuels**! She presented at the Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction (AMERSA) conference in Chicago in November. Liz has receiving funding support to help the [California Bridge](#) implementation of opioid use disorder treatment. Her research presentation of "Bridging to Better Substance Use Treatment" describing work to expand access to medications for opioid use disorder and linkages to community care through emergency departments across California and the nation was selected for the Best Abstract Award.



Association for Multidisciplinary  
Education and Research in  
Substance use and Addiction

**Rose Diaz**, taught bystander hands only CPR with a couple medical students she is mentoring to promotores at the National Vision y Compromiso Annual Conference. A [promotora](#) is a Hispanic/Latino community member who receives specialized training to provide basic health education in the community. They act as patient liaison, peer educator, health advocate, family educator, outreach worker or system navigator.



Rose recruited promotores to receive CPR training, and collected survey data to examine their knowledge, and perceived barriers to bystander CPR in the Latino community. Latinos in Los Angeles receive bystander CPR at approximately half the rate of Whites. The work was supported by a UCLA Institute of American Cultures Research Grant.

The UCLA Center for Prehospital Care provided support with materials, including inflatable mannequins for training that Rose was able to donate to about 70 promotores to use and continue to teach in the community.

Rose provided training and links/information to Spanish language CPR materials.





# Kudos UCLA EM and Alumni



**Jessica Faiz** was featured on one of the [JAMA Prioritizing Equity webinar](#).

*"The Prioritizing Equity video series explores the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 and other determinants of health on marginalized communities in the United States. These videos examine the root causes of health inequities and offer valuable lessons for racial justice and health equity from leading voices in health care."*

Jess talked about the next steps to preserve the racial and ethnic diversity of our physician workforce in light of the recent SCOTUS ruling on affirmative action.

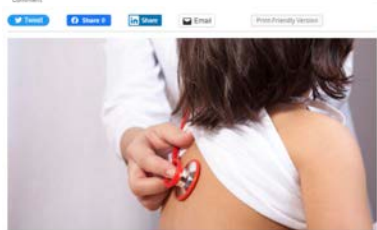
AMA SERIES

## Prioritizing Equity Video Series



Let's Talk: Emergency Physicians Can Convey Critical Prior Care PHI Immediately

By Logan D. Gunderson, BS, MS-4; Andrew S. Rogers, MD, MPH; and David A. Talan, MD | on October 26, 2023 | 0 Comments



**David Talan (1986)** co authored a recent [ACEP now article](#) advocating for appropriate quick communication and explaining it is legal and the right thing to do.



**Refugee Health Alliance** clinicians presented "Antibiotic Stewardship in Street Medicine Setting in Tijuana" at the 19th Annual International Street Medicine Symposium held in London, UK.

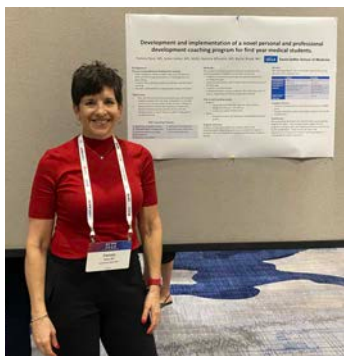


**Rose Diaz** met with the [UCLA Flying Samaritans](#).

The [Flying Samaritans](#) is a group of professionals from many different walks of life interested in helping provide healthcare services at no charge to the people in Baja California, Mexico who otherwise have no access to medical care. They are physicians, nurses, dentists, pilots, translators and



many other people. The organization is non-sectarian, with chapters at many California universities. All Flying Samaritan Clinics are operated free of charge to patients. For those who do not know this is a nonprofit with many chapters that organizes medical clinics in Tijuana Mexico each month. Rose met with a group of UCLA undergraduate students who wanted to do some research, a survey to ask the patients about access to reproductive health services. And like a good mentor she said they should get some basic training and referred them to CITI training. The Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative ([CITI Program](#)) "is dedicated to serving the training needs of colleges and universities, healthcare institutions, technology and research organizations, and governmental agencies, as they foster integrity and professional advancement of their learners." To her surprise, within the week 20+ students showed up and completed all the CITI training.

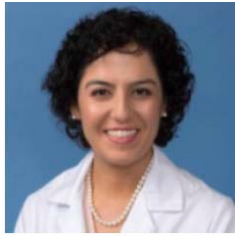


**Pam Dyne (1995)** presented an innovation abstract at the American Conference on Physician Health held in Palm Desert in October 2023.





# Kudos to our residents, fellows, faculty and alumni



Congratulations to **Sima Sadenighad (2024)** on matching to the [Pain Management Fellowship at UCLA Health](#).



Congratulations to **Leanne Cook (2024)** on matching to [Toxicology Fellowship at UCSD](#).



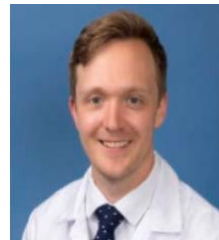
UC San Diego



Congratulations to **Zainab Ahmed (2024)** on matching to the combined [IDHEAL](#) and [NCSP Fellowship at UCLA](#).



Congratulations to **Reza Hessabi (2024)** on matching into our UCLA DEM Administration



Congratulations to **Cooper Aakhos (2024)** on matching to the [Wilderness Medicine Fellowship at Stanford](#).



**David Talan (1986)** continues to be a productive researcher and research mentor. Ongoing grants:

- Personalized ANTibiotic Therapy in the EmeRgency Department Trial – PANTHER Trial. Co-Principal Investigator (\$275,000 from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases).
- Emergency Department Sentinel Network for Surveillance of Emerging Infections Cooperative Agreement (includes 2022 PReventing Emerging Infections Through Vaccine Effectiveness Testing - COVID [PREVENT COVID] Project II and 2023 Cause of Rashes in the Emergency Department – CRASHED project). Principal Investigator (\$13,900,000 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)).
- Multivalent Toxoid Vaccine for recurrent *Staphylococcus aureus* disease. Co-Principal Investigator (\$3,616,027 from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases).
- Emerging *S. aureus* Antimicrobial Resistance and Current Prescribing Practices for Patients Presenting to US Emergency Departments with a Purulent Skin and Soft Tissue Infection. Co-Principal Investigator (with Dr. **Jesus Torres**) (\$50,000 from the Antibiotic Resistance Leadership Group).

**Evan Schwarz** was appointed to the ABEM Medical Toxicology Sub Board.

He was also appointed to The [Naloxone Project's](#) Naloxone Training Delphi Task Force. The Naloxone Project is a nationwide organization aimed at increasing naloxone access, with chapters in approximately 15 states.



Congratulations to **Annie Hoang (2026)** for being awarded the Medical Toxicology Foundation's



Johnson & Johnson Consumer Health

DEI Travel Award for 2024. Under the terms of the scholarship she will be awarded up to \$1500 to offset cost of conference registration, travel, lodging, and meals for ACMT's Annual Scientific Meeting and Symposium in Washington, DC April 10-14, 2024.

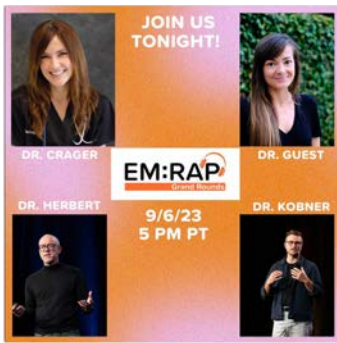


Congratulations to **Wyatt Hong (2024)** for a first author publication in JAMIA open! And to co-authors including **Jamie Bell**.

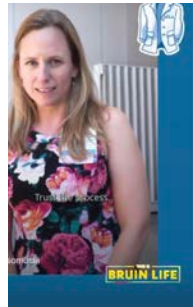




# Give a Round of Applause!



Have you been watching EM:RAP Grand rounds and Urgent Care. First Wednesday of the month.



**Natasha Wheaton** featured in a DGSOM post at the start of the school year providing reassurance to the incoming medical student class. Also caught on the social media feed for the white coat ceremony.



**Medell Briggs-Malonson** co-authored an [opinion piece](#) for the media outlet The Hill to highlight the failures of our health care system.



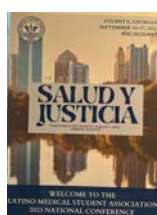
OPINION > HEALTHCARE

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

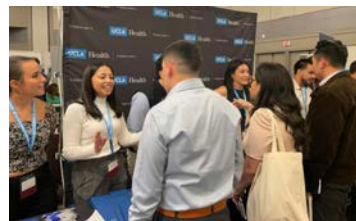
## How 3 Black women took on breast cancer in our failed health care system

BY DR. ELAINE BATCHELOR AND DR. MEDELL BRIGGS-MALONSON, OPINION CONTRIBUTORS - 11/26/23 8:00 AM ET

SHARE TWITTER

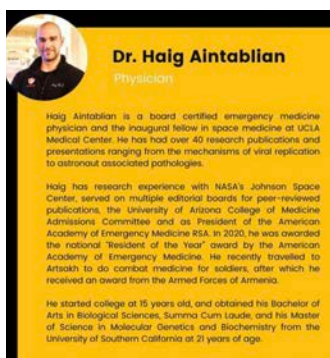


**Daniela Alarcon (2025)** represented UCLA and the UCLA Minority Housestaff Organization at the 2023 LMSA conference in Atlanta.



A big thank you to our **Cory Wilson (2027)** and **Ephi Fisseha (2027)** who with help from **Jess Faiz** have taken over the Residency Twitter (now X) account and they are doing a fantastic

job getting out program information. Follow us @UCLAEMres.



**Haig Aintablian (2022)** was a featured speaker at the Armenian Student Association USC and UCLA Professional Night.



**Jaime Jordan** caught on a DGSOM post with the medical students. Jaime leads the student discovery year where they participate in a longitudinal mentored project.



# Look Who's Talking....

**Sara Crager (2015)** lectured at ResusX in Philadelphia. ResusX brings together critical care clinicians and resuscitation specialists. She gave several lectures:

- *Unstable A-fib*
- *Ventilator Alarms: Useful not Just Annoying!*
- *How to Pick Your Pressor*
- *Reframing Our Approach to Shock*



Sara gave the Plenary lecture for the 40th Emergency Medicine Scientific Conference, Association des Médecins d'Urgence du Québec: Montreal, Canada



Grand Rounds, Department of Emergency Medicine; Cook County Health-Rush Medical School: Chicago, IL

Lecturer, Urgencia Conceptos, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile: Santiago, Chile



Faculty, Hospitalist and Resuscitationist Conference: Montreal, Canada

Lecturer, Congreso 2023, Asociación Guatemalteca de Medicina de Emergencia; Guatemala City, Guatemala

She has also given several regional guest lectures for EM or CCM programs at UCSD, Stanford, and UCSF Fresno and t some international virtual lectures for residency programs in Montreal, Kenya, Guatemala, and Vietnam.



**Medell Briggs-Malonson** was a featured speaker at the American Women's Association Women's Health Conference that was hosted at Lusklin.

**Evan Schwarz**

*LLSA lecture at the North American Clinical Congress of Toxicology*



**Michael Levine**

- Grand Rounds: *"Metals."* University of California, San Diego, Division of Medical Toxicology.
- Grand Rounds: *"Marijuana: The good and the bad."* Scripps Memorial Hospital, La Jolla.
- Grand Rounds: *"Envenomations."* Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences.
- Grand Rounds: *"VTE and anticoagulation update."* Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

**Dave Talan (1986)**

Grand Rounds: *"What I Learned Studying Infectious Diseases in the Emergency Department,"* at the Dr. Joe Ross Annual Lectureship, Visiting Professorship, Vanderbilt Medical Center, Nashville

Grand Rounds: *"What I Learned Studying Infectious Diseases in the Emergency Department,"* at Department of Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds New York University, New York City



# Laudations - Caught on Social Media



**Ramon Johnson (1984)**, ABEM president promoting an important [message](#) during

the October Stop the Stigma campaign. What we do is important, what we do matters, what we do is hard, and you can get help.



**Don Mebust (1998)** Professor at Kaiser San Diego caught teaching pericardiocentesis during sim lab with one of his home made 3D thoracic models.



**Angelique Campen (2000)** with a Celebrity Influencer Pizza at Pizzeria Vivoli.

**Craig Goolsby (2008)** was featured in one of the RAMS (SAEM Resident and Medical Student) podcasts "Ask the Chair" series. Craig talked about getting involved in emergency medicine, the stop the bleed campaigns, the EM job market and more.



**Josh Troke (2015)** picketing with the other Writers Guild of American members, including **Fred Einesman (1982)**. Thankfully after 148 days, the strike ended.



**Monica Wattana (2012)** has been attending SAEM's ARMED MedEd course. She spent a couple days in Chicago at SAEM headquarters as part of the course and was caught on one of their social media posts.



**Aws Al-Abdullah (2020)** ringside to provide medical care at the MMA fight at the Celebrity Theatre.



**Wendy Lin (2002) and Steph Machi (2014)** caught at the Cedars Sinai EM Annual Symposium. **Wendy, Steph, Greg Hallert (2003)**, former NCSP **Carl Berdahl**, and former ultrasound fellow **Amir Tabibnia** caught at a Cedars Journal Club.



**Scott Rodi (1998)** Chair at Dartmouth caught celebrating with a resident team that won a competitive grant to support an augmented reality AI airway research project.



**Niko Pascua (2023)** enjoying is Hyperbaric Medicine fellowship in UCSD learning how to perform emergency myringotomy.



**Kenneth Kim (2025)** featured in an Emergency Medicine Resident Association (EMRA) advertisement for their health policy academy.



**Seth Sushinsky (2012)** nationally ranked pickle ball player. Featured in a couple ads. Are you sponsored by Parallel eye wear?





# In Other Media



**DOCTORS GIVE WARNING ABOUT SOME TOY SAFETY RISKS**

Don't gift these toys to children during the holidays

CNN

"Some of the most dangerous ones are those that are so-called button batteries or those little round disc batteries, especially if they're not very well enclosed. So if the child gets into those and swallows is one of them, especially a little child, that could be very dangerous, if not life-threatening ingestion." —Dr. Michael Levine, an emergency medicine and medical toxicology expert.

**Michael Levine** provided medical expertise this holiday for a CNN news feature.

**Anthony Cardillo (2006)** has continued to provide medical advice regularly to viewers of KABC7 news. Now post pandemic he is featured on set.



**Nate Friedman (2021)** on Palm Springs News Channel 3 talking about the bark scorpion.



**Haig Aintablian (2022)** spoke to the Armenian Medical Society.



Dr. Reza Danesh, a mobile doctor on Maui, packs up his van with supplies in Kihei to go into West Maui to treat people affected by the fires.

Deanne Fitzmaurice for NPR



Dr. Reza Danesh, the MODO Mobile Doctor, has been treating patients affected by the wildfires on Maui.

Deanne Fitzmaurice for NPR

**Reza Danesh (2008)** helped his community and neighbors during and in the days to weeks after the fire in Maui. He was featured in an [NBC news](#) piece as well as an [NPR story](#).



Dr. Reza Danesh says getting to the people that have chronic diseases is important. After days without medicine, chronic problems can become acute — making problems even worse.

Deanne Fitzmaurice for NPR

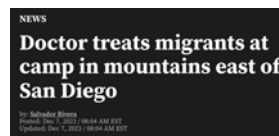


**Theresa Cheng (2021)**, is a member on the Board of Directors for [Border Kindness](#). She has been featured in several recent media reports ([abc27 in San Diego](#), [Al Jazeera](#), and [World Journal](#)) doing refugee camp medical relief and advocacy.

In other media, Theresa published an [op ed](#) in the San Diego Tribune to raise attention to the conditions in Jacumba where she has been providing assistance.

## The San Diego Union-Tribune

Opinion: I'm an emergency medicine doctor volunteering in Jacumba. 911 calls are being ignored. People need help now.



Border Kindness  
Bondad Frontera

WE BELIEVE EVERYONE IS OUR NEIGHBOR

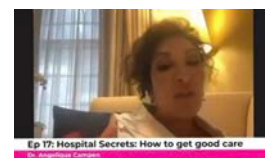


**Angelique Campen (2000)** was a featured guest on the podcast "Every Widow Thing" - Episode 17, "Hospital secrets how to get good care."

Angelique has also been featured on several local Los Angeles news segments providing medical expertise.

What is ketamine? A doctor explains the drug involved in Matthew Perry's death

By KCAL-News Staff  
December 15 2023 at 04:35PM



Every Widow Thing

▶ Resume

Oct 9: Ep 17: Hospital secrets: Tips and tricks for better hospital care with guest Dr. Angelique Campen: Dr. Angelique MORE

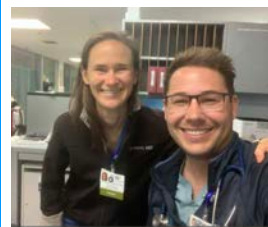
★ 5 (75) · Self-Improvement · Updated Weekly ·



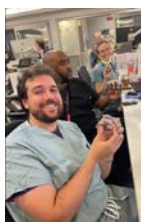
# Caught on Shift



Education fellow **Mike Messina** and IDHEAL/NCSP **Hurnan Vongsachang** were co-chiefs at USC. Orientation in the new offices, with some new jackets has a different view.



New critical care EM faculty **Susi Empson** and **Alex Grohmann**, were both Harbor-UCLA EM residents back together at the AV ICU.



National Chocolate Cupcake Day - Thanks **Carolyn Sachs (1994)!**

**Dong Yao (2023)** getting a break from his Informatics Fellowship at Stanford, caught working clinically by **Theresa Chang (2021)**. Definitely looking like an attending now.

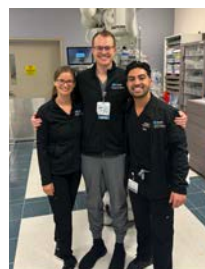


**Sabrina Tom (2015)** and **Joseph Chan (2015)** caught on shift together in the ED at the West Los Angeles VA.

Thanks to everyone who worked the Thanksgiving holiday! And thanks again to **Carolyn Sachs (1994)** to always bringing joy to the team!



December 4 was National Cookie Day! Thanks **Carolyn Sachs (1994)** for the cheer and sweets!





# Bravo UCLA EM & Alumni!

**Hannah Janeway** and [Refugee Health Alliance](#) and their work providing care to Refugees at the border were highlighted in a New England Journal of Medicine feature. [The New England Journal of Medicine double take video](#) can be found on youtube.

Hannah's also discussed her work at a UC Davis Emergency Medicine Academic Forum to discuss "Migration-Informed Emergency Care: Understanding the Needs of Displaced People in the Emergency Department."

## Perspective

### Health Care on the Edge—Challenges of Refugee Medicine

Pascale Calhoun Vargas, M.D., C. Nicholas Curran, M.D., M.P.H., Hannah Janeway, M.D., M.S., Marcelina Kubica, Dasha Malina, Ph.D., and Xenia Rojas Carriz, RNC, IB



The Navy sent **Jake Lentz (2019)** to the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia as part of a training team this summer. As he tells it:

Some of my colleagues taught their police cadets how to collect evidence and write affidavits for search warrants (both countries model their criminal law system on the US). Since I wasn't much help with that, I played the bad guy they were searching for. I had a fake Facebook page and briefly straddled a multinational money laundering scheme. I got "arrested" several times. Police in Palau spend a lot of time dealing with illegal fishing and trying to protect the environment, so I spent most of the time at their Maritime Law Enforcement Center.



Then I taught their police and paramedic cadets CPR and tourniquets, which they found really exciting. Most of them had no experience, and in some cases no knowledge of, either.



We donated about 100 tourniquets, which went over well.

I did get to dive around the Rock Islands, which is a World Heritage Site and is pretty amazing. The locals also took us to an area where we could drink beers while standing in the water while black tip sharks swam around us. I got in for four minutes to prove I'm not a complete coward, and then I got back on the boat to prove that I'm not a complete idiot, either. I didn't see the value in chatting about the local post-COVID tourism industry while sharks looked for food around me.

Some Marines took us on a tour of the island of Peleliu, which is one of the most famous battles from the War in the Pacific. The Marines are rebuilding an airfield there that hasn't been used since the Second World War ended.

There was a also big multinational military exercise going on in Palau, so I randomly had dinner several times with some French officers. As strange as this sounds, there's an amazing German restaurant in Koror, Palau.



And because there was no military lodging on Palau, we were forced to stay at a resort.

Thank you, taxpayers!



**Dave Talan (1986)** - It has been four years of the Advanced ID series he has dedicated to

informative, timely and engaging lectures and handouts insuring our residents and faculty provide the best care to patients.



**Tom Lee** celebrated [Community Partners International \(CPI\)](#)

25 years of impact and the supporters, partners, staff and volunteers that have made that possible. America's top independent nonprofit evaluator awarded CPI a 2023 rating of 99% on key performance indicators including accountability and finance, culture and community, leadership and adaptability. This near perfect score marks the 12th consecutive year CPI has earned Charity Navigator's full Four-Star Rating.





# Plaudits UCLA!



**Steven Go (1994)** was appointed to a leadership position at the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). After 29 years of serving as a Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, Steve is now the Associate Vice President of Assessment Operations and Medical Education at NBME. In this role, he serves as the medical advisor for the current assessment programs of NBME as well as help develop and implement new assessment modalities for health professionals. He also contributes his unique perspective to corporate strategy initiatives and will serve as a representative for NBME with organizations throughout the house of medicine. Steve says: *"It's been a real privilege to have a job where I get to learn something new every day at this stage of my career. I've been continually inspired by collaborating with all the accomplished and creative folks at work. It's like being an intern all over again (but with less hair)."*

We wish Steve all the best in this new chapter and look forward to seeing the impact he'll make at NBME!



**Michael Levine** and **Evan Schwarz** had several abstracts at the North American Clinical Congress of Toxicology in Montreal.

**Levine M**, Culbreth R, Buchanan J, **Schwarz E**, Aldy K, Krotulski A, Brent J, Wax P, Manini A, on behalf of the ToxIC Fentalog Study Group. Xylazine Trends Over Time.

**Levine M**, Culbreth R, Buchanan J, **Schwarz E**, Aldy K, Campelman S, Krotulski A, Brent J, Wax P, Manini A, on behalf of the ToxIC Fentalog Study Group. Prevalence of HIV Among Patients Presenting with Acute Opioid Toxicity.

**Levine M**, Culbreth R, Buchanan J, **Schwarz E**, Aldy K, Campelman S, Krotulski A, Brent J, Wax P, Manini A, on behalf of the ToxIC Fentalog Study Group. Use of Naloxone Upon Discharge.

**Andy Lee** is on several new National Committees: (1) ACEP EM Practice Committee which provides guidance and recommends policy regarding issues that affect the everyday practice of emergency medicine. (2) ACEP Health Innovation Technology Committee, and (3) SAEM Clinical Operations and Administration Committee which provides resources and information to SAEM members on methods that improve clinical operations within the academic emergency department, disseminates clinical operations-related best practices, and creates and promotes opportunities for original research through SAEM channels.



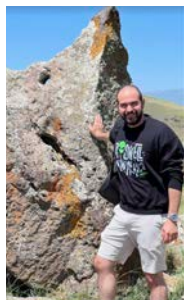
**Haig Aintablian (2022)** has been able to participate in a few missions for SpaceX including the NASA Crew-7 Launch at the Kennedy Space Center.



Haig is one of the founders and member of the Space Medicine Fellowship Council, which is an organizing body for the UCLA, Harvard/MGH, Baylor, UTHouston space medicine programs.

Haig has continued his engineering training at CalTech and has been part of a few SpaceX internal publications (none that he can share publicly).

Finally he is leading a research project to discover the purpose of a very under-known megalithic structure in Armenia with a group of astronomers/astrophysicists.





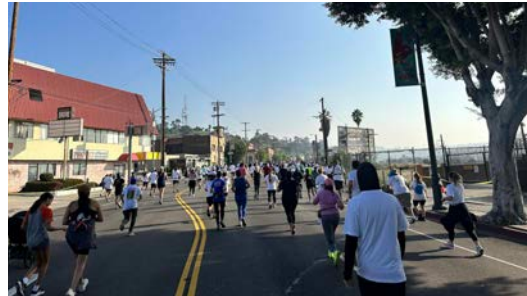
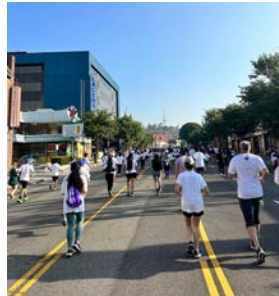
# Way to Go UCLA!



## Running Club

Rose Diaz and Matt Waxman from both sides of the UCLA and Olive View axis starting a running club. During a busy Olive View shift they shared how much running had improved their lives.

Rose is an experienced multi-marathoner, and Matt has run a few thousand miles since the pandemic started. They kicked off with a nice easy 5k run for a good cause supporting Homeboy Industries in Downtown LA on September 23rd.



Are you a sunblock/sunscreen aficionado? No. Its okay we have our own expert. **Annie Hoang (2026)** has got your back, and your face. If

you want all

the details, check out her instagram for reviews and information on products from around the world @iamanniehong.



**Ariel Wu (2025)** went to Gallup New Mexico for her elective. She worked in the emergency department for Indian Health Services.

Got boarding? We can empathize... we are in contention for the leader board but not a center of excellence. Our residents **Ariel Wu (2025)**, **Annie Hoang (2025)**, **Kenneth Kim (2025)**, and **Reza Hessabi (2024)** have been working with the resident union to support strategies to address the issues and advocate for our patients and staff.

**Richelle Cooper (1998)** and **David Schrager** have been advocating to change the conversation in editorials.

Here's hoping we can do more and better for all who are served by our emergency care.

HEALTH POLICY/EDITORIAL

### The Unspoken Inequities of Our Boarding Crisis

Hemal K. Kanaria, MD, MSc<sup>1</sup>; Richelle J. Cooper, MD, MSHS

<sup>1</sup>Corresponding Author. E-mail: hemal.kanaria@ucsf.edu

0195-0666/24-00000-00000  
Copyright © 2023 by the American College of Emergency Physicians  
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annemergmed.2023.02.004

The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety 2023; 000:1-3

### EDITORIAL

### No More Useless Band-aids that Fail to Solve America's Emergency Department Boarding Crisis

Richelle J. Cooper, MD, MSHS; David L. Schrager, MD, MPH

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. —Martin Luther King, Jr.

The United States—the C-suite is tasked with remaining fiscally solvent. To do so, they favor patients with the kinds of



# Way to go Alumni

**Parveen Parmar (2008)** is leaving Keck USC and coming back under the umbrella of the UCLA Department of Emergency Medicine. She will be the Harbor UCLA Department of Emergency Medicine's inaugural Associate Chair of Emergency Population Health and Innovation (ACEPHI). In her new role, Parveen will navigate the continuum between population health and acute emergency care, leading DEM efforts to innovate healthcare delivery models and optimize patient care efforts, formulate and advance policy that can improve acute care-related population health, identify and implement measures to reduce cost while boosting health outcomes, implement specific community interventions that prevent or mitigate emergency medical conditions, enhance social medicine focused programs, and partner with primary care to optimize low-acuity acute care. The ACEPHI will serve on the DEM Executive Committee and as a DEM faculty lead for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts to boost health equity for the Harbor UCLA patients and enhance pipeline recruiting efforts.



Congratulations to **Theresa Cheng (2021)**! She just became a Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and UCSF at Parnassus. She had been attending there part time while doing fellowship.



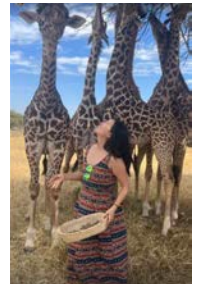
Theresa has taken on the following roles:

- Director of Social Equity at the [UCSF Acute Care Innovation Center](#)
- Associate Co-Director of [Social Emergency Medicine and Health Equity Section at UCSF](#)



Theresa recently went to Tanzania wearing her human rights lawyer hat. She lived and worked with the

Maasai Tribe in Tanzania advocating against governmental land appropriation of ancestral tribal land. She also went on safari while in Tanzania.



**Tabitha Cheng (2018)** has 3 new grants, and co-PI or lead with **Craig Goolsby (2008)**!!!!



1. PPN Pilot and Emerging Issues Project Grant:

Anticipate Plan Deter (APD) Responder Resilience System and PsySTART-R (Psychological Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment-Responder) Pilot for Pediatric Disasters

· \$100,000; PI - Tabitha Cheng,

2. California Office of Traffic Safety, Department of Transportation Grant Subaward

· Innovation through a Mobile Application for EMS Protocols to Include Just-in-Time Training to Improve Trauma Care.

· \$1,015,466; Project leads: Richard Tadeo, Denise Whitfield, Nichole Bosson (EMS Agency), Craig Goolsby and Tabitha Cheng

3. CARESTAR Foundation Transformations and Innovations Grant : The South LA CPR Initiative: An Innovative Community-Based Approach to Improving Cardiac Arrest Survival in Southern California

· \$1,000,000 PI - Tabitha Cheng, Co-PI - Craig Goolsby

She also co-wrote an Online Education Module: [Pediatric Agitation: Emergency Management Online Module](#). EMS for Children Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC). August 2023

**Jennifer Roh** has been appointed the medical director of the adult ED at Harbor UCLA. She completed her emergency medicine residency, including service as Chief Resident, at the Yale EM Residency in New Haven, Connecticut. She then returned to the West Coast for an Administration Fellowship with us at UCLA, and later an MBA from the Quantic School of Business and Technology. She has served in multiple administrative roles and is bringing her excellent talent to the emergency department, and coming back to the broader UCLA Department umbrella.



**Tyler Barrett (2005)** was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Nashville Academy of Medicine.



He was promoted to the position of Senior Associate Editor at Annals of Emergency Medicine in recognition for his years of quality service and high volume of editorial submissions.



# Bravo!



Welcome the 2023-2024 California ACEP leadership team. Our faculty, **Michael Gertz** from Antelope Valley Emergency Medicine Associates is President, **Valerie Norton (1995)** is immediate Past President, and **Carolyn Sachs (1994)** is a Board Member.



Congratulations to **Gelareh (Zagaraff) Gabayan (2007)** for her work on [The Wisdom Project](#). She began this endeavor in October 2022, interviewing 60wise individuals (nominated by others) across North America and then analyzing the data using qualitative research methods. She arrived at 8 themes (called elements in the book) associated with wisdom: resilience, kindness, positivity, spirituality, humility, tolerance, creativity, and curiosity. Her book which details the results “Common Wisdom: 8 Elements of a Meaningful Life” will be published Feb 2024. To learn more about the project and book visit [LauraGabayan.com](#).

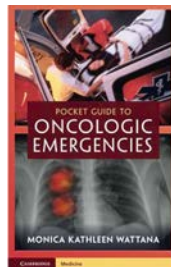


One of the individuals she interviewed was Tom Cellucci. He wrote a perspective in [Homeland Security Today](#) in September 2023 discussing the distinction between artificial intelligence and wisdom, and discussed the book and its key findings.



Congratulations to **Monica Wattana (2012)** on the publication of her book “Pocket Guide to

Oncologic Emergencies.” The book published by Cambridge Press can be purchased at [Amazon](#).



**Tabitha Cheng (2018)**

and Michael Kaduce from our UCLA Center for Prehospital Care Center presented “Empowering Students to Save Lives” at the 2023 Safe Schools Conference.

Tabitha and Michael shared with educators and administrators how they can implement bleeding control, hands-only CPR, and naloxone administration training in their schools.

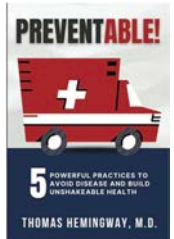


**Thomas Hemingway (2006)** has had a great year. His Book made the BEST-SELLER list in all 7/7 categories. [PREVENTABLE!: 5 Powerful Practices to Avoid Disease & Build Unshakeable Health: Hemingway M.D., Thomas.](#)



He also has a top 1% health podcast, [Unshakeable Health with Thomas Hemingway, M.D. - formerly The Modern Medicine Movement on Apple Podcasts](#)

He has accepted a new Emergency Medicine job in Central Florida (New Smyrna Beach Area) and is also doing private patient health, wellness, and longevity consults. His two oldest boys will graduate from college in June 2024 in Finance and Business, and his other four children are thriving as well.



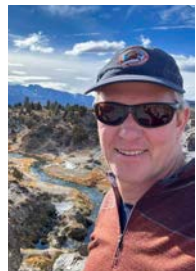


# Great UCLA Alumni News!

Congratulations to **Daniel Ichwan (2019)**! He won the Best Quality Improvement Abstract Award at the AAP Section of Emergency Medicine 2023 conference for his fellowship project entitled "Less Ouch IV: Minimizing Pain for Non-Critical IVs in a Pediatric Emergency Department."



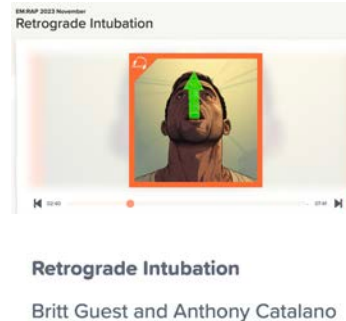
**Jess Oswald (2018)** hosted a seminar to teach about multimodal approaches to pain management in the ED, with an approach to minimize use of opioid medication.



**Hans House (2002)** continues his work as a Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Iowa. The health system will be opening a new hospital in North Liberty, Iowa next year and Hans will be the Medical Director for the ED.



**Rachel Shing (2016)** is Chair of the Academy of Women in Academic Emergency Medicine (AWAEM) Global Health Committee.



**Anthony Catalano (2017)** has an EM:RAP featured segment with **Britt Guest (2019)** on retrograde intubation (he has done 3 completing residency).



**Hannah Spungen (2022)** in her second year of toxicology fellowship put her quilting skills to work to adorn the door of her office. Impressive given how busy she has been academically:

(1) She is featured in a NACCT-affiliated podcast called [Toxic History podcast](#): "Beyond Bicycle Day: The story of Albert Hofmann and the discovery of LSD".



(2) She presented a couple abstracts at the 2023 NACCT meeting in Montreal this year.

- **Spungen H**, Kang AM, Mody K, Micetic B, Wade C. Neonatal and Maternal Dermopathy Associated with Kava Use During Pregnancy.
- Ryan K, **Spungen H**, Teshera M, Greene S, Warpinski G, Aldy K, Ruha AM on behalf of ToxIC North American Snakebite Study Group. The Circumstances Surrounding Snakebites in the United States: A Survey of Surreptitious Serpent-Person Skirmishes.

(3) She was selected as ACMT's ToxIC Fellow In Training. She has been collaborating on various research and database-related projects with the ToxIC consortium and attending their weekly meetings.

(4) She recently co-authored three ToxIC NOSE reports with Meghan Spyres (part of ToxIC consortium's novel exposure subregistry. The reports are published on ACMT website):

Spungen H, Spyres M. ToxIC NOSE Report #10: [Hypoglycemia in Opioid Toxicity](#). ACMT ToxIC Novel Opioid and Stimulant Exposure Subregistry Quarterly Report. 13 June 2023.

Spungen H, Spyres M. ToxIC NOSE Report #11: [Organ Donation after Overdose Death](#). ACMT ToxIC Novel Opioid and Stimulant Exposure Subregistry Quarterly Report. 17 August 2023.

Spungen H, Spyres M. ToxIC NOSE Report #12: [Kratom: A Dangerous Opioid Alternative](#). ACMT ToxIC Novel Opioid and Stimulant Exposure Subregistry Quarterly Report. 7 November 2023.





# More Catching up with Alumni

**Joe Chan (2015)** is Vituity award winning Medical Director at Beverly Hospital in Montebello. The hospital was bought by Adventist Health White Memorial and they cut almost all floor staffing and beds closing the ED to EMS traffic as well. Los Angeles County EMS Medical Director Clayton Kazan (2005) paid a visit.



**Anna Nguyễn (2022)** group took over the contract at Santa Clara County Hospital. Now she, and **Micaela Finnegan (2023)** will be working with the rotating Stanford residents at the site which is the county, community site for the residency program.

**Scott Bailey (2006)** and his husband Mike, have relocated to Portland, Oregon. Scott is now working at Kaiser Permanente with another UCLA alum, **Carter Wystrach (2017)**.



Congratulations to **Allison (Cousineau) Santi (2005)** on being recognized FACEP.



**Chris Belfour (2015)**, has left Henry Mayo, and then had his last shift at Santa Monica UCLA, and his last shift at Antelope Valley. He has joined several other alumni at Kaiser West LA.



**Drew Seefeld (2009)** successfully received Level IV Trauma Designation for the hospital (Speare Memorial Hospital) where he is Medical Director of the ED, Director of Emergency Medical Services and now also Director of Trauma Services. Drew is excited to help his small critical access hospital continue to grow and keep

providing highly competent trauma care to our often very sick patient population!

Drew has been continuing to share some of his experiences and work to build his own personal resilience and growth. He has a new [Through The Glass Recovery Podcast, Episode 68, Discussing Loneliness.](#)



**Ryan Kunitake (2021)** left the Santa Clara County site, and started 2 new positions: Full-time at California Pacific Medical Center which has 3 hospitals in San Francisco, and Part-time at Kaiser South San Francisco with **Jessica Casey (2008)** and **Amy Vinther (2007)**.



**Bev Bauman (1997)** has been working with EM:RAP GO, the non-profit branch of EM-RAP dedicated to advancing Emergency Medicine education worldwide. Bev will embark on an extended stay in Kenya to train and learn from local clinicians.



**Rushdi Abdul Cader (1999)** is busy and very much enjoying his career switch from EM to carceral care, SWAT, tactical medicine and cultural competence training. Isa is medical student at the Charles R. Drew/UCLA Medical Education Program looking to match into a diagnostic radiology program (we hope he will be staying with us at UCLA) and his brother Jibreel just started his first year, while Hana will graduate nursing school next year.





# Way to Go UCLA EM & Alumni



**Charles "Chuck" Pozner (1995)** is now an Adjunct Associate Professor of

EM at Icahn/Mount Sinai Medical School in NYC (virtual) working as a career mentor to junior faculty and senior residents.



**Geri Stratton (2001)** continues to work in Portland, Oregon. She recently took on the role of Department Chair of Emergency Medicine at Legacy Good Samaritan. She also sits on the credentialing committee and the P&T committee.

In January, she will have a seat on the Northwest Acute Care Services Board (the independent emergency medicine practice group she is part of that staffs Legacy Health system hospitals.)

As for personal life, she has taken up pickle ball and continues to prioritize travel! (2 continents left to visit)

She spends the rest a lot of time in New York as her daughter is at Barnard/Columbia and her son is at Syracuse. Her youngest is still a junior in HS.



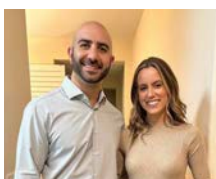
**James Jiang (2019)** is the Vice Chief of the Department Emergency Medicine at Torrance Memorial. What we affectionally call UCLA Emergency Medicine South Bay given the many amazing

alumni working together there. On a personal note, James has recently started learning to play golf, and the Melanie and Daphne are excelling in school.



**Zachary Gray (2004)** started in his new position as Vice President of Medical Staff of Torrance Memorial Hospital on July 1<sup>st</sup>. As announced earlier

this year, he will also assume the responsibilities of Chief Medical Officer at the end of 2023.

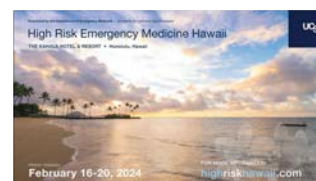


**Aws Al Abdullah (2023)** was elected to serve as the Chairperson of his groups' Practice Affairs Committee. The committee

serves as a counterbalance of power to the group's executive team and serves to advocate for the needs of the bedside clinician.

**Danielle Antonuk (2021)** continues to work clinically in EM at Hollywood Presbyterian and Kaiser Baldwin Park and attend as Palliative Care provider at Harbor-UCLA. She will now also start attending part time in the emergency department at Harbor-UCLA.

**Jeff Tabas (1998)** is co-chair of the UCSF High Risk Emergency Medicine Hawaii course. Some great instructors and for those who need trauma, stroke and general CME a pretty nice location to travel.



**Tiffany (Hackett) Ferreri (2004)** is hosting a virtual coaching seminar for women in February 2024. She is a member of the International Coaching Federation and a Certified Professional Co-Active Coach (CPCC). You can reach her for this seminar or personal coaching at [Green House Executive Coaching](https://www.greenhouseexecutivecoaching.com). Tiffany also remains Director of Leadership Development for her physician partnership Vituity.

Greenhouse Executive Coaching





# Great Work!



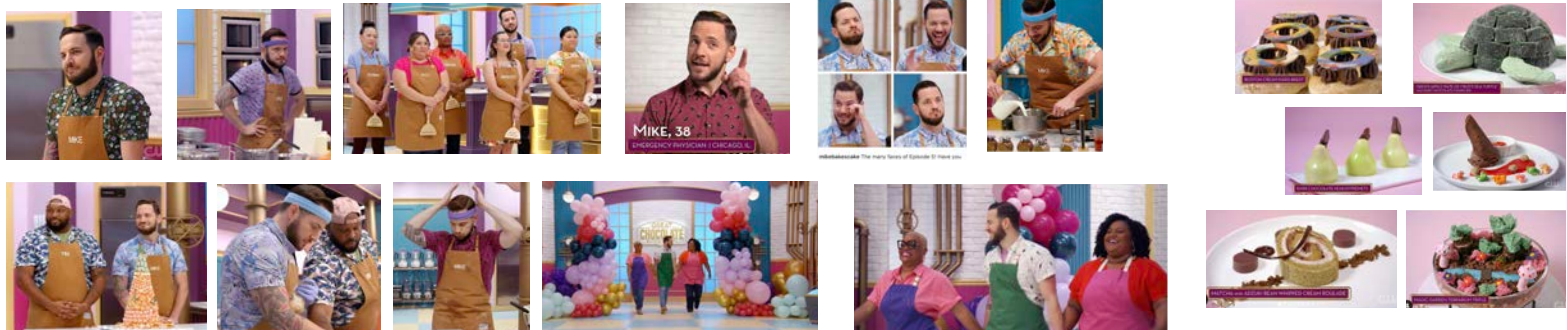
And just like that... **Carmen Wolfe (2015)** welcomed her inaugural class of 12 EM residents to her new Tristar Emergency Medicine Program July 2023.



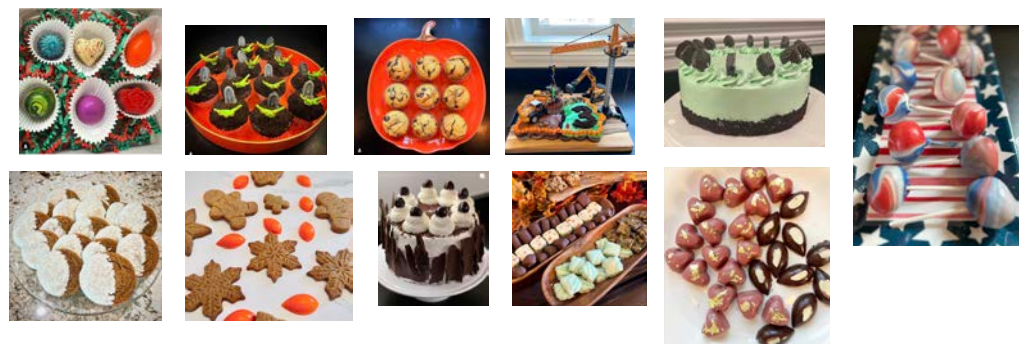
Hockey season has started for **Steff Brenman (2017)** and wife Liz Reed. Every year their team has made it to the championships so here's hoping they continue their streak.



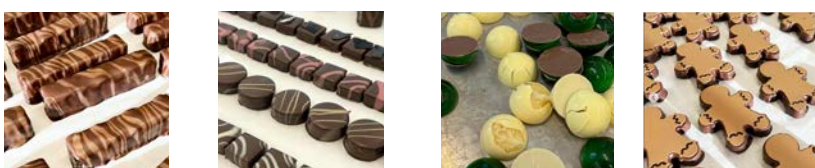
**Michael Casner (2017)** participated in a reality TV baking competition. From thousands of applicants the, a group of ten home bakers were selected for the Great Chocolate Showdown which aired on the CW. You can find episodes on YouTube. Mike was amazing! SPOILER ALERT... Each week, new challenges and an elimination and congratulations to Mike for making it to the finale competing as one of the final 3... AMAZING!



And if you want to see some of his creations you can follow him on instagram @mikebakescake, see some of his creations over the past

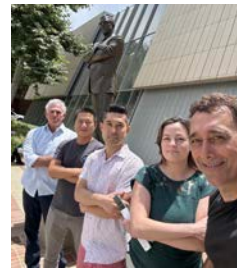


Then if that was not interesting enough, Mike decided to take a class at the Chicago Chocolate Academy Center to learn some new skills. His group made rosemary ganache chocolate, and lemon ganache white chocolate bon bone, white chocolate truffles with pistachio ganache covered in raspberry powder, enrobed double dark chocolate squares, and a zebra-striped candy bar (taste like the bar that rhymes with kickers).

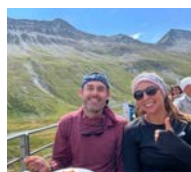




## August 2023 UCLA Faculty Retreat photo competition...



**Erica Mendoza and Jake Wilson (2018), Caleb Candors (2016), Brandon Endo (2018), Andie Takemoto (2018), Brian Truong (2018), Annum Bhullar (2020), Luis Souza Filho (2020) and Shamsheer Samra (2017)** hiked the Tour de Mont Blanc. It's a 105 mile trek in the Alps that goes through France, Italy, and Switzerland. It took them about 2 weeks to complete and Annum said *"we had an absolutely wonderful time hiking during the day and enjoying delicious European cuisine by night!"*



**Class of 2016** continued their tradition of a class trip/class reunion. This year the group spent some quality time together in San Diego.





# Updates & photos (then and now) with David Presser (2003)

The greatest gift I got from residency was finding my tribe. It's amazing how many people (residents and attendings alike) remain lifelong friends and advisors. I built my professional home in the ED at Torrance Memorial, where you can't take a step without running into an alum from our program: **Rich Sonner (1996)**, **Brian Miura (1997)**, **Elisa Anhalt (1999)**, **Darren Bedolla (1998)**, **Joe Nakagawa (2004)**, **Brett Lorber (2006)**, **Stephanie Tang (2011)**, **Monica Lee (2009)**, **Mary Sun (2013)**, **Mike Baker (1998)**, **James Jiang (2019)**, **Ana Lopez O'Sullivan (2013)**, **Ashley Sanello (2016)**, **Brian Truong (2018)**, and certainly a few more I'm sure I'm forgetting to name (it's my memory, not your importance, I assure you).



I met **Andy Shen (2003)** the first day of residency. He went on to take me crowd surfing at a punk concert (the first and only time) and, a decade later, carry the chuppah at my wedding. Our kids are now in school together, and this month we celebrated his 50th birthday. At my behest, Andy, **Todd Brown (2003)** and I shared a room at a Motel 6 in Seattle for ACEP during our final year of residency (I was both broke and very frugal). As Andy recalls, it was a dump and we had to step over a couple of meth heads to get down the block to the conference. Andy continues to introduce me to new and luxurious experiences, but I've had zero success in making him more thrifty.



**Mel Herbert (1995)** and I bonded during residency when we took a long car ride with my classmate **Ritu Malik (2003)** to work at a medical mission in a small pueblo outside of Tijuana during residency. The "What am I doing with my life?" conversation we had that day laid the foundation for the friendship we continue to enjoy, most recently when Mel came over for lunch and a hike last summer. Every couple of years, Ritu and I engage in a round of phone tag until we connect and catch up on life.



**Todd Brown (2003)** was a southern gentleman who'd served in the military as a flight surgeon before residency because that was how people where he was from served their country - as totally strange an experience for a suburban Jewish kid from coastal California as I could conceive of. These days I talk to him more often than I speak to my own siblings. We enjoyed dinner a few years back during a visit to North Carolina, and he even let me read his first novel.



**Scott Votey (1987)** and I speak every couple of months, and he remains a trusted sounding board on topics as diverse as job opportunities, travel destinations, personal finance and pretty much everything else in between. During the pandemic my family took a road trip up the California coast, with one of the highlights being dinner at his home in Santa Rosa.



**Zac Gray (2004)** went from being in the class behind me to a co-director for our group, and most recently, the Chief Medical Officer for our hospital! I'm fortunate we still get to grab coffee, catch up on life and stamp out fires together on a regular basis in my role as Associate CMO for value-based care in our hospital's health system.



In fact, before I left clinical medicine to take my current job, I called up my classmate **Armand Dorian (2003)**, who'd been CMO at Verdugo Hills, and he was (and continues to be) incredibly generous with his counsel. I ran into Armand in a strip mall in Ventura last summer, where he told me he'd been promoted to hospital CEO!

At the risk of sounding like the sap I am, the UCLA mafia has been one of the most influential collections of people to impact my life and career. I'm grateful for the training, the critical thinking skills, and (most of all) the friendships that continue to shape who I am.

That's all for now,

David





# White Coat Ceremonies & Match

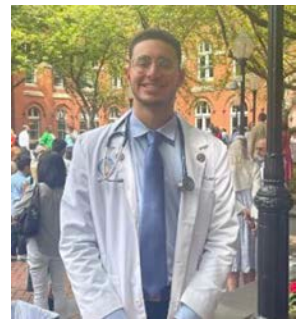
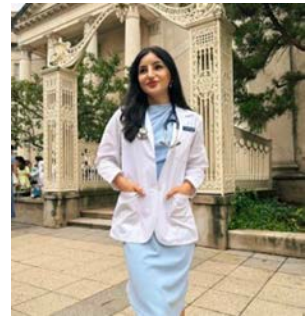
One of the many bonuses and luxuries of working at RR UCLA MC and our residency program is the ability to collaborate and mentor undergraduate and post-baccalaureate pre health students. We have the long established Emergency Medicine Research Associate (EMRA) volunteer program who are essential to our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

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. Congratulations to **Hedi Zappacosta (daughter of our alumna Heike Farin (1999))**, **Julia Chiemi**, **Emma Raffman**, **Michael Kishek**, **Pranavi Kolla**, **Kyle Bui** and **Hena Sihota**.

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!

One of our current staff research associated and former EMRA, **Oscar de la Rosa**, connected for some mentoring with **Christian Hernandez (2025)**. Oscar is still in the process of his medical school application and decision making process with many options for the coming school year.

Congratulations!



**Alumni - Do you have something to share with the UCLA residency and alumni family? Email [Richelle Cooper \(1998\)](mailto:Richelle.Cooper@ucla.edu).**



Anusha Krishnaden and Kavitha went to a job fair to recruit staff for our research enterprise at both locations.



UCLA Health Mattel Children's Hospital teamed with Mooke Betts' 5050 foundation. The BettsOnUs campaign helps families by providing aid and support.



**Cooper RJ, Schriger DL.** No More Useless Band-aids that Fail to Solve America's Emergency Department Boarding Crisis. *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.* 2023 Oct 7;S1553-7250(23)00234-9. doi: 10.1016/j.jcjq.2023.10.001.

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