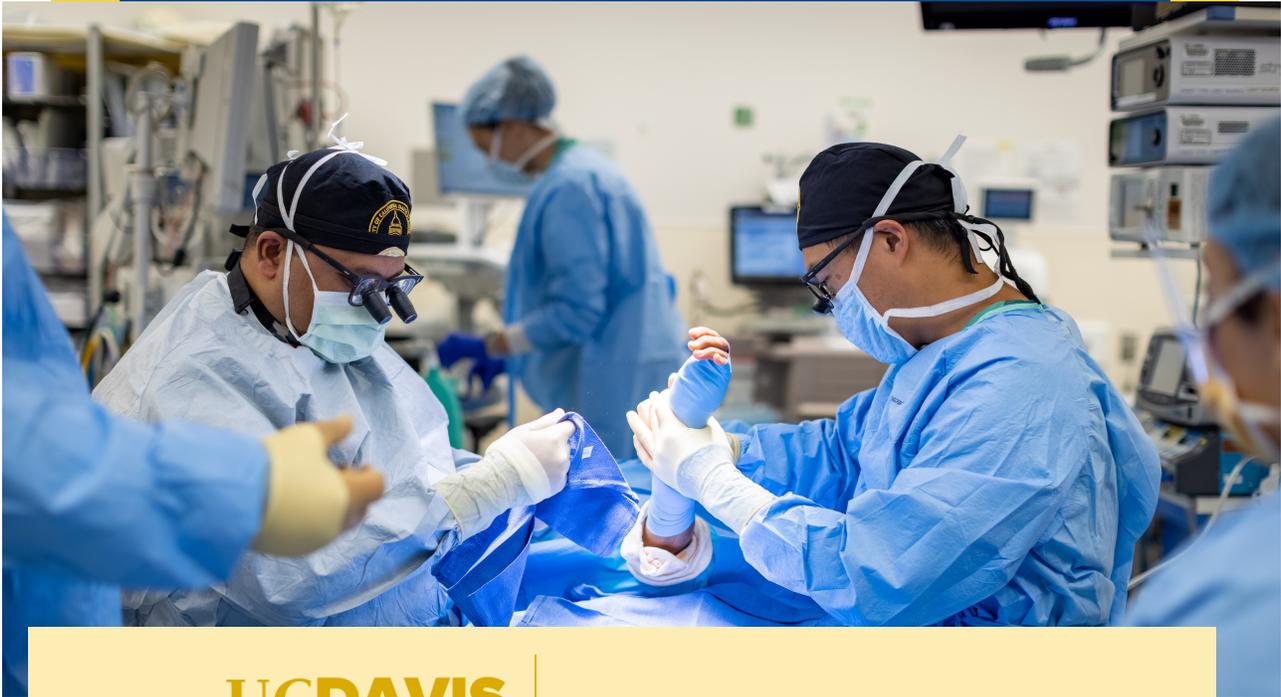


# UC DAVIS SURGERY NEWS



**UCDAVIS**  
**HEALTH**

Department of Surgery

Welcome to the Summer 2022 edition of UC Davis Surgery News. This time of year serves as a crossroads of farewell and welcome as we conclude one academic year and start a new one. It is a bittersweet reminder of fleeting time and the importance of appreciating each step in the journey. This sentiment is echoed as we celebrate the achievements of our graduating chief residents and bid them farewell as they launch into the next step in their careers. I wish to personally congratulate each one on completing their training and share in the excitement of their many accomplishments while here with us. I speak on behalf of the entire department when I say we are incredibly proud of our trainees and look forward to hearing about their future successes. As we close the academic year, I want to personally extend my gratitude to our residents, students, faculty, and all department members. It has been quite a year, and your resilience and continued dedication have been integral to the department's success.



To our incoming class of interns, I also want to simultaneously welcome and share in the excitement of your arrival. Welcome! We are happy to have you join the UC Davis Surgery family and look forward to the years ahead.

Diana L. Farmer, MD, FACS  
Distinguished Professor and Pearl Stamps Stewart Chair  
Chair, Department of Surgery, UC Davis School of Medicine

# FACULTY NEWS

## Diana Farmer Named President of the American Surgical Association

Department of Surgery Distinguished Professor and Chair Diana Farmer, MD, has been named president of the American Surgical Association (ASA). She was sworn in as president at the organization's annual meeting held in Chicago on April 8th. Farmer is the first surgical leader from UC Davis Health named to the position and only the third woman elected to hold the title of president in the ASA's 142-year history.



## David T Cooke, Division Chief, General Thoracic Surgery voted President-Elect of the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association



David T Cooke, MD chief of General Thoracic Surgery, was voted president-elect of the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association (TSDA) and assumed the position on May 1, 2021. Cooke becomes the first African American to hold the position and will transition to president of the 43-year-old organization in May 2023. His term will run until May 2025.

## Rachael Callcut, Division Chief, Trauma, Acute Care and Surgical Critical Care Surgery voted Vice Chair of Coalition for National Trauma Research



Rachael Callcut, MD, MSPH, FACS was voted in as vice chair Board Member to the Coalition for National Trauma Research (CNTR) serving in the role vice chair. She assumed this role in July 2022. CNTR brings the trauma community together with a unified focus to address the critical need to coordinate our efforts to achieve federal research funding commensurate with the burden of disease and to enhance the infrastructure supporting high-impact, multidisciplinary clinical trials.

## NEW FACULTY



Jamie Anderson, MD  
Pediatrics



Anamaria Robles, MD  
Trauma



James Taylor, MBBChir MPH  
Colorectal Surgery

# FACULTY ACCOLADES

**Shushmita Ahmed, MD, FACS**, has been elected a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

**Richard Bold, MD, FACS**, was selected as one of four 'state chairs' in the country by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC) for his outstanding service to cancer care. As a State Chair and ACS Commission on Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) for the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, Bold received the State Chair Outstanding Performance Award for going above and beyond the scope of their regular duties.

**Erin Brown, MD**, was selected as one of 10 UC Davis early career faculty members to receive a School of Medicine Funding Award. The award entitled: A Novel Program to Identify, Support and Retain Biomedical Researchers Impacted by Pandemic Caregiving Challenges is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and its Funding Partner – the Burroughs Wellcome Fund with matching support from the UC Davis SOM, Academic Personnel, and the Mind Institute. This special 15-month funding award seeks to support the advancement of promising research by early-career faculty whose productivity is challenged by increased family caregiving responsibilities brought about by COVID-19. Dr. Brown will use this generous award to support her research on developing novel treatment methods for pediatric cancer patients, particularly neuroblastoma.

**Lisa Brown, MD**, received the 2022 Thoracic Surgery Foundation's Research Award for her investigation of "Pain, Opioid Use, and Health-Related Quality of Life After Thoracic Surgery."

**Jorge Catrip, MD, FACS**, has been elected as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

**David T Cooke, MD, FACS**, has been elected a Fellow of the American Surgical Association (ASA), the oldest surgical association in the United States. Cooke was officially elected last month during the ASA annual meeting in Chicago.

**Jonathan Kohler, MD, MA**, will serve as the inaugural chair of the new Access to Surgery for Kids (ASK APSA) Committee of the American Pediatric Surgical Association. He is also overseeing the Surgical Infection Society podcast: [buginyourear.podbean.com](http://buginyourear.podbean.com).

**Gregory (Jerry) Jurkovich, MD, FACS**, was elected the new Chief of Staff for UC Davis Health for the 2022 – 2024 term.

**Bob Kiaii, MD, FACS**, completed his presidency term of the International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery.

**Nasim Hedayati, MD, FACS**, was elected as a Distinguished Fellow of the Society for Vascular Surgery.

**Kent Lloyd, DVM, Ph.D.**, was appointed to his second term to the prestigious Council position, with his previous tenure spanning from 2011 to 2014. Lloyd's appointment to the council begins in 2022 and runs through October 2027.

**Victoria Lyo MD, FACS, MTM**, was appointed the Dean's Scholar in Women's Health Research by the UC Davis Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) program. This five-year mentored research award will allow Lyo to further research Sex Differences in Response to Bariatric Surgery. She is studying how microbiome and metabolomic differences may contribute to sex-specific outcomes of surgery.

**Tina Palmieri, MD, FACS**, has earned the title "Master of Critical Care Medicine," the highest honor bestowed by the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

**Renee Russo, MD**, was selected as one of 30 members to serve a two-year role as 'Future Trauma Leaders' by The Committee On Trauma.

**Kathleen Romanowski, MD, FACS**, has been appointed Chair of Committee on Technology and Communications for the Association of Academic Surgery.

**Candice Sauder, MD, FACS**, was selected as one of 10 UC Davis early career faculty members to receive a School of Medicine Funding Award. The award entitled: A Novel Program to Identify, Support and Retain Biomedical Researchers Impacted by Pandemic Caregiving Challenges is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and its Funding Partner – the Burroughs Wellcome Fund with matching support from the UC Davis SOM, Academic Personnel, and the Mind Institute. This special 15-month funding award seeks to support the advancement of promising research by early-career faculty whose productivity is challenged by increased family caregiving responsibilities brought about by COVID-19. Dr. Sauder will use this generous award to support her work examining long-term breast cancer outcomes among diverse California populations.

**Minna Wieck, MD, FACS**, has been elected a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Pediatric Surgery Association.

## First 'scarless' thyroidectomy performed in the Central Valley



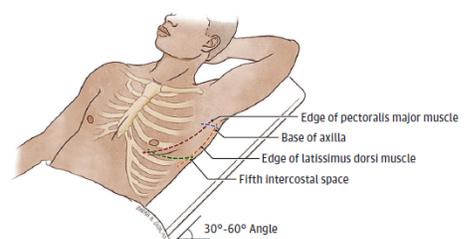
UC Davis Department of Surgery surgeons Dr. Claire Graves and Dr. Michael Campbell performed the institution's first "scarless" thyroidectomy, the removal of the thyroid gland. UC Davis Medical Center is the first hospital in the California Central Valley to perform the procedure. The procedure using a technique known as a transoral thyroidectomy was pioneered in Thailand in 2014 and has spread to a handful of medical centers in the United States. This surgical technique requires three small incisions inside the lower lip. Through these incisions, the surgeon places endoscopic instruments between the jaw and the skin to remove the thyroid gland, which is a short distance from the incision site. The procedure leaves no visible surgical scar on the neck of the patient.

"The transoral thyroidectomy, as well as the transoral and submental approach, were developed due to increased interest from patients to minimize the visible evidence of surgery," explained Graves. "For many patients, a scar on the front of the neck affects whether or not they want to pursue surgery. Patients are often concerned about how it will affect their quality of life."

## Answering the call for increased diversity, inclusion, and representation in medical literature

Our General Thoracic Surgery team and CT Surgery residents Sarah Chen (PGY3) and Devon Anderson MD (PGY2) are answering the call for increased diversity, inclusion, and representation in the medical literature with their recent inclusion of representation in medical illustrations and featuring medical illustrations of African American patients. The illustrations were featured in a recent JAMA Surgery journal article entitled: [Comprehensive Review of Chest Tube Management A Review](#).

Figure 2. Triangle of Safety for Chest Tube Placement



## First hiatal hernia repair followed by the TIF procedure for reflux (cTIF) in the Sacramento region.



At UC Davis, we are known for pioneering many firsts as part of our commitment to providing the most advanced surgical solutions for our community. This spring Hazeem Shamseddeen, MD, and Victoria Lyo, MD, from our Foregut, Metabolic and General Surgery(FMG) division completed the first hiatal hernia repair, followed by the TIF procedure for reflux (cTIF) in the Sacramento region providing patients with another innovative surgical intervention.

## Wrap Around Program Wins 2021 Deans Team Award for Excellence



Dr. Ian Brown, MD, Ph.D., Christy Adams, Ph.D., MPH, RN, and the Wrap Around Team were awarded the 2021 Deans Team Award for Excellence this past spring. The team was nominated for their outstanding multidisciplinary team dedication and contributions in the area of community engagement.

The purpose of the Dean's Team Award for Excellence is to acknowledge outstanding, high-performing, multidisciplinary team efforts and approaches that contribute to advancing the mission of UC Davis Health. The Wraparound Program is a free service for UC Davis Health patients between the ages of 13-26 years who were injured by violence. The program extends care of violently injured youth and young adults beyond the hospital to support long-term healing and recovery while also helping patients find hope and purpose. The program uses a multidisciplinary team model that exemplifies a sustainable collaborative approach that aligns our collegial community with our mission of providing excellent patient care, conducting impactful research, providing interprofessional education, and creating dynamic, productive partnerships within our community.

## First Targeted Muscle Reinnervation procedure at UC Davis Health



Drs Pereira and Andrew I. Li, of plastic and reconstructive surgery, have teamed up to perform the first Targeted Muscle Reinnervation procedures at UC Davis Health. The surgery connects the nerves that are cut during amputations to the muscles that remain. This allows them to communicate dynamically with each other. The procedure allows the signals that the brain once used to control the now-missing hand new muscles to operate. In most amputations, nerves and muscles that control the affected joints, such as elbows or ankles, are severed.

"Through reconnecting the nerves the new procedure allows them to retain their normal push-pull relationship, which provides patients opportunities to control prostheses and potentially feel them too. By reassigning these existing nerves, we've been able to make it possible for patients to retain their nerve functions from the amputated limb that otherwise would have lost their function," Pereira explained. "This process then allows patients to control a what's called a smart prosthetic device by merely thinking about the action they want to perform, albeit by activating different muscles that have been reinnervated."

In addition to allowing patients to use smart prosthetics, targeted muscle reinnervation can be used to treat pain from phantom limb and neuromas, a painful formation of scar tissue at the end of a nerve. By creating a pathway for the nerves in the reinnervated muscle, it is less likely that they will develop painful scar tissue, a common problem for patients who have had amputations. "It has become increasingly apparent that restoring the muscles to their normal physiology has benefits not only for prosthetic control, but also for a patient's day-to-day mental well-being," Li said.

Pereira and Li are hopeful the decrease of chronic pain and phantom pain from the procedure will lower the dependence on opioids in the amputee patient population.

## 2022 Annual Research Day Symposium



Each Spring, the department hosts the Annual Research Day Symposium. This year marked our 33rd symposium. Research Day is a scientific forum that gives residents, fellows, and trainees from across the department the opportunity to present research projects and discuss their topics with an audience of peers and faculty. This year our keynote address featured Kim Elaine Barrett, Ph.D., UC Davis School of Medicine Vice Dean for Research and Distinguished Professor of Physiology and Membrane Biology, who presented: *Surviving and Thriving and Academic Medicine*. The event, organized by Aijun Wang, PhD, Vice-Chair for Translational Research, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, and Sean Adams, Ph.D., Vice-Chair for Basic Research brought faculty, residents, fellows, students, and researchers together to share the diverse and innovative research being done here in the department.

This year we received over 70 submissions spanning each division. Over 40 abstracts were accepted for presentation and divided into two categories: a 15-minute oral presentation or a 10-minute "quick shot" presentation. This year's Symposium presentation winners were:

### Basic Science Research Oral Award:

**Jean Debédát, PharmD, Ph.D.**, *"Cyclopropane Fatty Acids are Bacteria-Derived Xenolipids Displaying Binding Affinities Toward Peroxisome Proliferator Activated Receptors  $\alpha$ ,  $\delta$ , and  $\gamma$ "*

### Clinical Research Oral Award:

**Sean Judge, MD**, *"Transcriptome Analysis of Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocytes Identifies Gene Signatures Associated with Immune Infiltration and Survival in Soft Tissue Sarcoma"*

### Best Quick Shot Awards:

**Sirjan Mor, MS**, *"Placental Mesenchymal Stem Cells Improve Motor Function in a Rat Unilateral Spinal Cord Contusion Model"*

**Aryana Razmara, BS**, *"Inhaled recombinant human IL-15 in Dogs with Naturally Occurring Pulmonary Metastases from Osteosarcoma or Melanoma: A Phase 1 Study of Clinical Activity and Correlates of Response"*

### Honorable Mention:

**Christina Theodorou, MD**, *"Evaluation of a Novel Biodegradable Polyurethane Patch for Repair of Diaphragmatic Hernia in a Rat Model: A Pilot Study"*

## UC Davis Interdisciplinary Team Researchers Receive \$1.2 million NIH Grant to Study Synthetic Data Use in Healthcare



Dr. Rachael Callcut, professor of surgery and chief research informatics officer, is part of the interdisciplinary team that was awarded a total of \$1.2 million grant over four years from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to generate high-quality synthetic data using artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) that may potentially help physicians predict, diagnose and treat diseases.

Sharing healthcare data is crucial for understanding disease patterns and trajectories to develop personalized medicines and aid in personalized treatment. However, the privacy laws in the healthcare industry stand as a barrier to sharing annotated data for analytical purposes. Investigators believe that while privacy mechanisms are important and can protect the patient from unintended disclosure of sensitive information about their health, having access to the data is also equally critical for research. For the team, the challenge is to balance the privacy concerns with data access and to answer the overarching question: How to develop privacy-preserving machine learning techniques to make the data accessible for analytics?

## Research Team Headed by Aijun Wang, Ph.D. Receives Cultivating Team Science Award from UC Davis School of Medicine

A research team headed by Aijun Wang, Ph.D., has been awarded a Cultivating Team Science award from the UC Davis School of Medicine (SOM). Dr. Wang is a professor of surgery and Biomedical Engineering, Co-Director, Center for Surgical Bioengineering, and Vice Chair for Translational Research, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship for the UC Davis Department of Surgery.

The team's project, titled "Extracellular Vesicle Theranostics in the Central Nervous System." This team is comprised of 10 UC Davis faculty members, with complementary expertise across the spectrum of clinical sciences, biology, and engineering, with faculty from three schools – Medicine, Engineering, and Veterinary Medicine. This group represents a new team of investigators with complementary skills in extracellular vesicle biology, engineering, and translational application in diagnosing and treating central nervous system disorders. This award will set the program on the forward path by allowing it to be identified as an interdisciplinary program in the "center proposal phase" with the ultimate goal of becoming externally funded and reaching full School of Medicine "Center" status.

## California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) awards \$3M grant to develop vascular device

Professor Aijun Wang was awarded a \$3 million grant from the CIRM to develop a smart, durable vascular device for hemodialysis patients treated for kidney failure. This device uses a unique molecule that guides the body's own stem cells to help prevent the failure of synthetic vascular grafts. Such failures are a common problem for kidney disease patients undergoing hemodialysis.

## **Clifford Pereira awarded UC Davis Science Translation and Innovative Research (STAIR) Grant**

Clifford Pereira, MD (Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery), and his co-investigators/ co-innovators, Gavin Pereira MD (Department of Orthopedics) and Jonathon Schofield Ph.D. (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering), are the recipients of a 2022 UC Davis Science Translation and Innovative Research (STAIR) Grant to support their vascular device research “Novel End-to-End Anastomotic Device (N2N) for Rapid and Efficient Vascular Anastomosis.” They were also the recipients of additional matching funds from Dean Murin, School of Medicine, as well as the Triple Ring side-car Innovation Award 2022. These awards will allow for further investigation into in vitro validation of a rapid, reliable, and efficient solution for vascular anastomosis (and microvascular anastomosis) with the intent of commercial translation.

The STAIR Grant Program is a technology proof-of-concept program that showcases the cross-disciplinary investigative strengths of UC Davis and how innovative researchers like Pereira are harnessing life science research and the convergence of health and engineering technologies to make a translational impact in the areas of human health. Managed by the UC Davis Venture Catalyst, the STAIR Grant program provides funding, mentoring, and entrepreneurial training to support and advance translational science, innovative research, and technologies toward commercialization.

## **Diana Farmer receives 2022 Harrington Scholar-Innovator Award to further research placental stem cells for adult-acquired spinal cord injuries**

Department of Surgery Chair Diana Farmer is one of 11 recipients of the 2022 Harrington Scholar-Innovator Awards. The awards are given by the Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals (UH) of Cleveland, Ohio. The scholar awards support a diverse set of drug discovery projects, including new treatments for pulmonary diseases, COVID-19, multiple cancers, corneal disease, hepatitis, and acquired spinal cord injuries. They include grants of at least \$100,000, with the opportunity to qualify for up to \$1.1 million.

Farmer’s award will support further development of this technology for adult-acquired spinal cord injury. The application of placental stem cells for such injuries remains largely unexplored.

Farmer and team recently established a unilateral cervical spinal cord contusion model. Her study will evaluate the treatment for acquired spinal cord injury. If successful, this multifunctional, stem cell-based regenerative treatment may lay the foundation for future clinical therapeutics to potentially improve the quality of life for these patients.

## Welcome 2022 to our incoming class of Surgery Interns

The 2022 Main Residency Match has been announced, and we are excited to introduce our incoming class of interns in General Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, and Vascular Surgery. We look forward to extending a warm UC Davis welcome to our newest interns and beginning another year of training and mentoring the best and brightest in academic surgery.

### GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENTS



Diego Anaya  
UC Davis School of  
Medicine



Tiffany Cheng  
USF Health Morsani  
College of Medicine



Jesse Fenton  
University of Florida  
College of Medicine



Amy Jones  
Oregon Health &  
Science University



Christopher Seffren  
Loyola University  
Chicago



Sarah Singh  
Boston University  
School of Medicine



Daniel Strayve  
Touro University  
California



Patrick Sur  
UC Riverside School  
of Medicine



Tanya Thomas  
University of Miami  
Leonard M Miller  
School of Medicine

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### GENERAL SURGERY PRELIMINARY RESIDENTS

Angela Sardo	University of California Davis SOM
Austin Clark	University of California Davis SOM
Cassandra Leonardo	University of Texas SOM at San Antonio
Hannah Davis	Oklahoma State University COM
Harjot Virk	University of California Davis SOM
Hunter Ford	University of Oklahoma College of Medicine
Jarom Ruby	Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine
Jeffrey Backofen	Touro University Nevada
Joel Thomas	McGovern Medical School-Houston
Josephine Hai	University of California Davis SOM
Justin King	Meharry Medical College
Katrina Hauck	Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine
Michael Lung	University of Iowa Roy J and Lucille A Carver COM
Matthew Taira	Creighton University
Michelle Arnold	University of Arizona College of Medicine
Nasir Saed	University of the Incarnate Word
Robert Choi	Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University

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## VASCULAR SURGERY RESIDENTS



Keenan Gibson  
University of North  
Texas Health  
Science Center



Lauren Cralle  
University of  
Massachusetts  
Medical School



Bret Degraaff  
University of Washington  
School of Medicine

## CT SURGERY RESIDENT

## PLASTIC SURGERY RESIDENTS



Emily Zurbuchen  
University of Nebraska  
Medical Center



Dean Meshkin  
Georgetown  
University School of  
Medicine

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## Congratulations to our graduating class of 2022

### Chief Residents:

**Lindsay Bach, MD**, General Surgeon, Osan Air Base, South Korea

**Jeremy Bolin, MD**, Vascular Surgeon, San Antonio Military Medical Center in Houston, TX

**Lauren Craugh, MD**, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, University of Cincinnati, OH

**Alicia Gingrich, MD, MS**, Surgical Oncology Fellowship, MD Anderson in Houston, TX

**Melissa Grigsby, MD**, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, UC Davis

**Timothy Guenther, MD**, Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

**Sean Judge, MD, MS**, Surgical Oncology Fellowship, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

**Amanda Phares, MD**, Pediatric Surgery Fellowship, University of British Columbia

**Amir Sarkeshik, DO, MS**, Cardiac Surgeon, Sequoia Hospital Redwood City, CA

**Debi Thomas, MD**, Advanced GI/MISurgery Fellowship, Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland OR

**Kyle Thompson, MD**, Pediatric Surgery Fellowship, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg, FL

**Kaeli Yamashiro, DO**, General Surgeon, US Air Force Academy, Fort Collins, CO

**Mathew Zeiderman, MD**, Hand/Upper Extremity Fellowship, Oregon Health Sciences, Portland, OR

**Sanam Zahedi, MD**, Private Practice Fort Lauderdale, FL

### Fellows:

**Jessica Bowen, MD** - Surgical Critical Care

**Jason Heard, MD** - Surgical Critical Care

**Christina Kim, MD** - Advanced MIS

**Anamaria Robles, MD** - Acute Care

**James Ross, MD** - Surgical Critical Care

**Linda Schutzman, MD** - Surgical Critical Care

## Graduate Medical Education:



We are pleased to announce that Nicola Sequiera, Ed.D., MPA, joined the Department of Surgery as Graduate Education Director. Dr. Sequiera comes to us from UCSF, where she spent 14 years working with surgery residency programs. In partnership with our education Program Directors, she will oversee all programmatic activities and operations for our four residency programs (General, Plastics, Vascular, and Cardiothoracic) and five fellowship programs (Burns, Trauma/Critical Care, MIS, and Transplant), including our new Education Research fellowship.

## Undergraduate Education:



We are pleased to announce that Ana Enciso, Ph.D., M.S.Ed, has joined the Department of Surgery as Undergraduate Medical Education Director. In this new role, she will contribute to improving the learning experience and providing opportunities for development to medical students interested in surgery. Dr. Enciso comes to the department from UC Davis School of Medicine, Office of Continuing Medical Education, where she oversaw the instructional design. Prior to UC Davis, Dr. Enciso worked for 12 years for Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas in curriculum, teaching, and technology roles. Bilingual in Spanish, Enciso possesses a strong background in higher education and curriculum development and understands the importance of education and training of surgeons at every stage, starting with early medical education.

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## Burn Fellowship receives provision fellowship verification



The Burn Fellowship at UC Davis is pleased to have received initial verification by The American Burn Association (ABA) Burn Center Verification Review Committee. The committee has determined that the Firefighters Burn Institute Regional Burn Center at UC Davis meets the requirements for fellowship as a burn fellowship program. The finalization of the verification will occur during the burn center site visit in Spring 2024. "Burn Fellowship verification demonstrates our dedication to developing the burn surgeon leaders of the future. We are excited to be among the elite in burn education" notes Tina Palmieri, MD, Burn Division Chief, Professor and Director, Firefighters Burn Institute Burn Center at the University of California Davis Assistant Chief of Burns, Shriners Hospital for Children Northern California.

## Smartphone app seeks to increase underrepresented diversity in the field of Plastic Surgery

**Elise Hill, MD**, Associate Professor Clifford Pereira, MD (Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery), and Jonathon Schofield, Ph.D. (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering), are recipients of the Plastic Surgery Foundation Diversity and Inclusion Grant for their innovative smartphone app - APPTITUDE-PS, (Application to Increase The URM Diversity in Plastic Surgery). This app will connect underrepresented minority (URM) mentees (i.e., medical students and general surgery residents) with virtual URM mentors (i.e., Plastic Surgery faculty, fellows, and residents) at various stages of seniority. Healthcare disparities among URM patients are pervasive throughout the field of medicine, including Plastic Surgery. The paucity of URM plastic surgeons compounds these disparities since URM patients are more likely to seek care from providers with similar racial and cultural backgrounds. APPTITUDE-PS will be a significant step in improving clinical exposure for URM trainees and connecting them with impactful mentors. If successful, the team plans on expanding the application to high school students, as well as into other surgical subspecialties to move the needle towards a more diverse surgical workforce with the goal of reducing surgical and, more broadly, medical healthcare disparities.

**Devon Anderson, MD**, completed the UCLA Cardiothoracic Boot Camp for CT residents.

Cardiothoracic Resident **Natalie Bahatyrevich, MD**, is a 2022 recipient of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellowship. The Award is offered to two promising young academic cardiothoracic surgeons to broaden their overall training and increase international contacts.

General surgery residents **Alyssa Bellini, MD**, and **Kate Doyle, MD**, are two of the newest Mentored Clinical Research Training Program (MCRTTP) Scholars. The program prepares trainees for clinical/translational team science research through a multi-layered, multidisciplinary, didactic curriculum and mentored research experience. The MCRTTP provides a solid foundation for clinical / patient-oriented research for junior faculty, clinical and preclinical fellows, and postdoctoral scholars by offering these researchers didactic instruction, mentored research, and special experiences, leading to a Masters of Advanced Study (M.A.S.) in Clinical Research. Mentored by Racheal Callcut, MD, Dr. Bellini is interested in pursuing an academic career in either minimally invasive general surgery or trauma critical care. Her research interests include understanding the role of chronic inflammatory states or critically injured patient populations. Dr. Doyle plans to apply for a pediatric surgery fellowship after residency. Her mentor for the MCRTTP program is Dr. Erin Brown in the Surgical Bioengineering Lab. Their project is focused on investigating the use of placental-derived mesenchymal stem cells as a mechanism for delivering targeted chemotherapy to neuroblastoma cells.

**Kat Dilosa, MD**, Vascular surgery resident, received the UC Davis Cardiovascular T32 grant.

Incoming chief resident **Anna Xue, MD**, and **Sara Chen, MD**, of CT Surgery put UC Davis Health and School of Medicine on the global map by winning the best poster presentation at the annual meeting of the International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery (ISMICS) held in June in Poland. Their presentation was on "Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident Perspective on Training in Robotic Cardiac Surgery Utilizing Simulation Team Approach."

**Anna Xue, MD**, received the young investigator's award in Robotic Surgery at the Annual Meeting of the International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery (ISMICS).

General surgery resident **Jacquelyn Yu, MD**, recently received an American Society of Transplantation, Rising Star Grant for her research in the Transplant Surgery Lab that focuses on recovery and preservation technologies for donated organs.

# SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

## Division of Burn Surgery and Reconstruction

Smith JM, Fine JR, **Romanowski KS, Sen S, Palmieri TL, Greenhalgh DG**. [Suicide by self-inflicted burns - A persistent psychiatric problem](#). Burns. 2022 Jun 30;S0305-4179(22)00166-8. PMID: 35810037.

Grimsrud KN, Davis RR, Tepper CG, **Palmieri TL**. [Pharmacogenetic Gene-Drug Associations in Pediatric Burn and Surgery Patients](#). J Burn Care Res. 2022 May 10;irac062. PMID: 35639664.

**Romanowski KS, Sen S**. Wound healing in older adults with severe burns: [Clinical treatment considerations and challenges](#). Burns Open. 2022 Apr;6(2):57-64. PMID: 35571008; PMCID: PMC9104500.

Hsu EH, Young S, Clayton N, Lee J, Hauser N, Penn B, **Sen S**. [Disseminated Mycobacterium abscessus Infection in a Burn Patient](#). J Burn Care Res. 2022 May 17;43(3):742-745.. PMID: 35104355.

Griffin B, Cabilan CJ, Ayoub B, Xu HG, **Palmieri TL**, Kimble R, Singer Y. [The effect of 20 minutes of cool running water first aid within three hours of thermal burn injury on patient outcomes](#): A systematic review and meta-analysis. Australas Emerg Care. 2022 Jun 7: PMID: 35688782.

## Division of Cardiac Surgery

Anderson D, Chen S, Southard J, **Catrip-Torres JM, Kiaii B**. [Multidisciplinary approach to coronary artery revascularization: Optimal strategy for high-risk patients](#). J Card Surg. 2022 Sep;37(9):2900-2902. PMID: 35701995.

**Kiaii B**, Moront MG, Patel HJ, Ruel M, Bensari FN, Kress DC, Liu F, Klautz RJM, Sabik JF 3rd. [Outcomes of Surgical Bioprosthetic Aortic Valve Replacement in Patients Aged ≤65 and >65 Years](#). Ann Thorac Surg. 2022 Jan 20:S0003-4975(22)00062-5. PMID: 35065064.

Tuttle MK, **Kiaii B**, Van Mieghem NM, Laham RJ, Deeb GM, Windecker S, Chetcuti S, Yakubov SJ, Chawla A, Hockmuth D, Teefy P, Li S, Reardon MJ. [Functional Status After Transcatheter and Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement: 2-Year Analysis From the SURTAVI Trial](#). JACC Cardiovasc Interv. 2022 Apr 11;15(7):728-738. PMID: 35393106.

Sherazee EA, Chen SA, Li D, Li D, Frank P, **Kiaii B**. [Pain Management Strategies for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery](#). Innovations (Phila). 2022 May-Jun;17(3):167-176. doi: 10.1177/15569845221091779. Epub 2022 May 6. PMID: 35521910.

Losantos-Saavedra CA, Bustillos-García GA, **Catrip-Torres JM**, Nava S. Ablación de taquicardia ventricular asistida con ECMO. [Primera experiencia en nuestra institución \[Ablation of ventricular tachycardia assisted with ECMO. First experience in our institution\]](#). Arch Cardiol Mex. 2022 Jul 1;92(3):358-361. Spanish. PMID: 35358378; PMCID: PMC9262304.

## Division of Foregut, Metabolic & General Surgery

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## Spring/Summer Lectureships



UC DAVIS HEALTH | Department of Surgery

Yolanda L. Colson MD, PhD  
Chief, Division of Thoracic Surgery  
Hermes C. Grillo Professor of Surgery in the field of Thoracic Surgery  
Harvard Medical School  
Massachusetts General Hospital

**When a Dinner changes Your Life**  
The Division of General Thoracic Surgery Distinguished Visiting Professor  
March 15, 2022 / 7:30 a.m.  
Medical Education Bldg., Lecture Hall 2222

UC DAVIS HEALTH

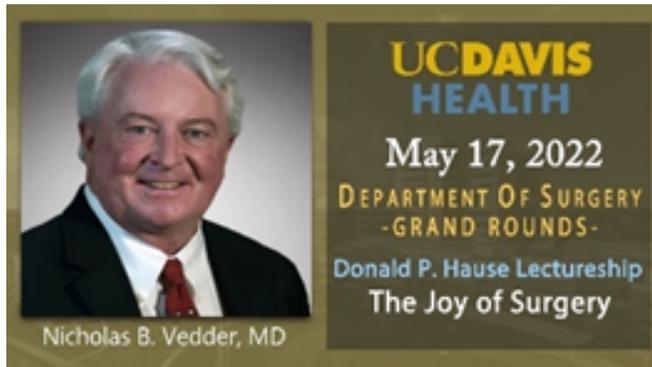
## Distinguished Visiting Professor Lecturer

The division of general thoracic surgery hosted a spring distinguished visiting professor lecturer, Yolanda L. Colson, MD, Ph.D. to talk about “When a Dinner Changes Your Life.” Dr. Colson is Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery, the Hermes C. Grillo Professor of Surgery in the field of Thoracic Surgery at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. She is the 103rd President of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery and notably the first female President of the Association.

# LECTURESHIPS

## Hause Lectureship (Plastic Surgery)

Hause Lectureship (Plastic Surgery): Since 1989 the Donald P Hause Memorial Lectureship has sought to enhance surgical education through visiting guest lectures and resident training.



This summer, the Lectureship featured well-known researcher and surgeon specializing in hand surgery, reconstructive plastic surgery, and microsurgery, Nicolas Vedder MD, FACS. Dr. Vedder is a Professor of Surgery and Orthopaedics, a Jamie Hunter Endowed Chair and Chief of Plastic Surgery, and Vice Chair Department of Surgery, at the University of Washington and presented his thoughts on "The Joy of Surgery." Dr. Vedder is a member of the American Board of Plastic Surgery and is a Plastic Surgery Representative to the American College of Surgeons. He served on the Research Funding Committee on the Plastic Surgery Research Council as the Chairman.

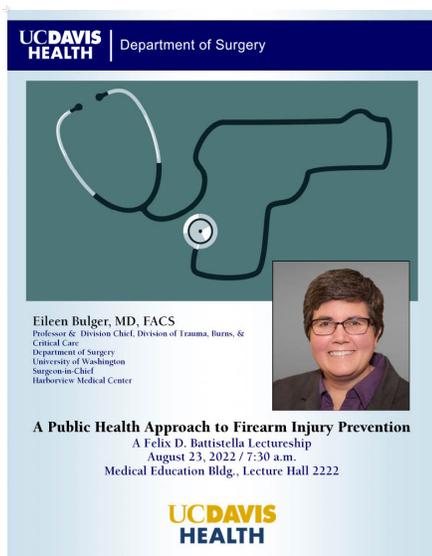
## Goodnight Lectureship (Surgical Oncology)

The James E. Goodnight Jr. Lectureship Series is a regularly occurring seminar where renowned Cancer Surgeon Scientists are invited to present their most important research data and developments in cancer treatment. These scientists not only provide important insights into surgical cancer care but also allow our trainees to interact directly with leaders throughout the basic, translational, and clinical arenas of oncological research.



This spring, we welcomed Mediget Teshome, MD, MPH FACS, Associate Professor, Breast Surgical Oncology University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, who presented "Advancing Oncology Care Through the Operative Standards of Cancer Surgery." Dr. Teshome is a nationally recognized authority in operative standards for breast cancer surgery. She is the Chair of the Education Committee of the Cancer Surgery Standards Program (CSSP).

## Battistella Lectureship:



Dr. Felix Battistella was a professor of surgery at UC Davis School of Medicine and chief of the Division of Trauma and Emergency Surgery at UC Davis Medical Center. He earned his medical degree and completed his surgical residency at UC Davis. During his career, he was honored with UC Davis School of Medicine's Distinguished Alumni Award, the Outstanding Resident Teaching Award, Outstanding Chief Resident Award, Friends of Nursing's Physician of the Year, and Outstanding Faculty Member in a Teaching Capacity.

Through this lectureship, his dedication to the field of surgery and training the next generation of surgeons continues. This summer, Eileen Bulger, MD, FACS, Chief of Trauma at Harborview Medical Center and Professor of Surgery at University of Washington was our guest lecturer who presented "A public health approach to firearm injury prevention." Dr Bulger is the president-elect of American Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

## Support Surgical Research

The Department of Surgery at UC Davis has a rich history steeped in research. Our success is built on our mission, faculty dedication, and the generous support of like-minded individuals who value advancing surgical practice and treatments through research. Your gifts support research-based, multidisciplinary surgical approaches, outstanding patient care and training programs that ensure the very best care for future generations. Please consider joining us in our commitment to surgical research and making a gift to the Department of Surgery by visiting our website at [give.ucdavis.edu/MERM/SURGIFT](https://give.ucdavis.edu/MERM/SURGIFT) or by contacting Dawn Rowe ([dmrowe@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dmrowe@ucdavis.edu))

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