

UCDAVIS
HEALTH

Department
of Surgery



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

Our warm weather has arrived and vaccination rates are improving, all things worthy of celebrating and indicators of a new season of change. The transition of the seasons evokes thoughts of anticipation and excitement for the many opportunities ahead. A large part of the annual transition of seasons here in the department of surgery is the welcoming of new interns and the graduation of our chief residents.

In this edition of our Spring/Summer department of surgery newsletter, I am excited to share recent accolades, awards, and announcements. I am continuously amazed by the talent, zeal, and collaboration that exists in our department and feel privileged to be part of such an outstanding team of faculty, residents, fellows and staff.

Diana Farmer MD, FACS, FRCS

Distinguished Professor and Pearl Stamps Stewart Endowed Chair
Chairperson, Department of Surgery
UC Davis School of Medicine
Surgeon-in-Chief, UC Davis Children's Hospital
Founder and Co-Director, Surgical Bioengineering Laboratory



New Division Chiefs Announced

Five new division chiefs have been appointed to oversee critical divisions specializing in colorectal, burns, plastic, and trauma surgery. In addition, a founding chief position was also added to coincide with the creation of the new Division of General Thoracic Surgery.



Rachael Callcut, MD has been named Chief of the Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Care Surgery. She is a nationally recognized expert in trauma care and has an extensive track record as a Surgeon Scientist including being the PI of nearly \$13 million in funding in the last 8 years. She also currently serves on the National Board of Directors of the Coalition for Trauma Research (CNTR). Dr. Callcut is an active member of the National trauma community holding leadership positions in several societies including Chair of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) Program Committee of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST). Dr. Callcut is also a member of the Society of University Surgeons (SUS).



David T. Cooke, MD will serve as the inaugural chief of the new Division of General Thoracic Surgery, created as a direct result of the continued growth and success of the UC Davis thoracic surgery program, which Cooke has guided. Cooke joined the faculty in 2008, and in 2012 became the founding head of the section of general thoracic surgery. He is known as a national surgical leader, esteemed educator, cancer health services researcher and patient engagement expert and will lead the thoracic team with advancing state-of-the-art technologies, driving innovative surgical techniques to improve patient outcomes and with contributing to translational and patient centered research.



Tina Palmieri, MD is taking the helm as the chief of the Division of Burn Surgery as David Greenhalgh steps down as chief after a long and distinguished career. Palmieri is recognized as a pioneering leader in burn care, education and research, and currently serves as professor and director of the Firefighters Burn Institute Regional Burn Center. She has also led the development of international burn care guidelines and burn disaster management guidelines, including treatment of humans and animals injured in wildfires. She is a national leader in burn care and past President of the National Burn Association.



Elizabeth Raskin, MD, joined the department in early 2020 and has served as Interim Chief for the past year. This past January she assumed the official role as Chief of the Division of Colorectal Surgery. In addition to her role as Division Chief, she serves as the director of Robotic Surgical Education, and as staff surgeon at the Northern California VA Hospital.



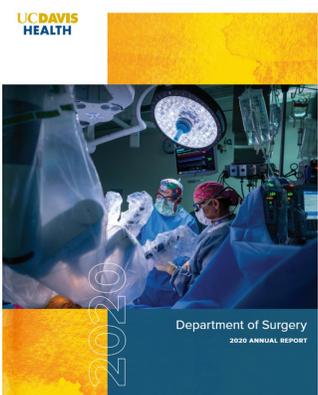
Granger Wong, MD, DDS is the new chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery and has also accepted a position as director of the Plastic Surgery Residency Program. Wong joined the Department of Surgery in 1998 and has played an influential role in the growth of the Division of Plastic Surgery. Most recently, under his leadership, UC Davis received international acclaim with the first separation of craniopagus conjoined twins at the UC Davis Children's Hospital.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

From navigating clinical challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic to the successful separation of UC Davis's first conjoined twins, 2020 was a year filled with unprecedented firsts.

Our 2020 Annual Report highlights the many achievements experienced by our clinical, research and training programs. Click the link below to read about our year in review.

[View the 2020 Annual Report](#)



Diana Farmer, MD named president-elect of American Surgical Association



Department of Surgery Chair, Diana Farmer, MD has been named President-Elect of the American Surgical Association (ASA). She will assume the presidency in 2022-2023. Farmer is the first surgical leader from UC Davis named to the position in the association's 141-year history. ASA Membership announced Farmer's new role at the association's virtual Annual Meeting this past April.



Diana Farmer, MD,

2020 Scudder Oration on Trauma Published in Journal of the American College of Surgeons



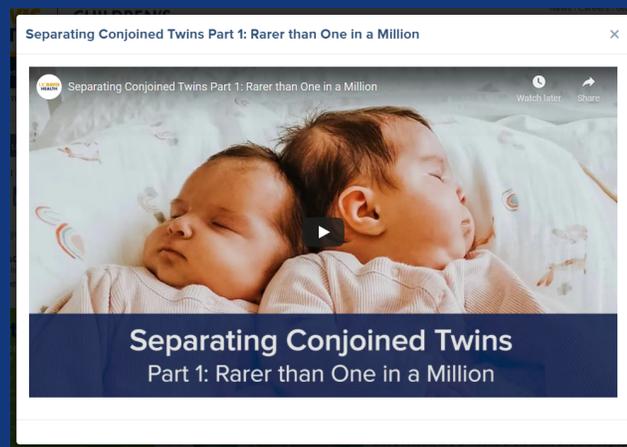
Click image of Gregory J. Jurkovich MD to watch video of lecture

The March 2021 Journal of the American College of Surgeons Published the 2020 Scudder Oration on Trauma "I am not comfortable with," from the 2020 ACS (Virtual) Clinical Congress delivered by **Gregory J. Jurkovich, MD, FACS**. This lecture explains why the perception of "I'm not comfortable with this" is becoming so prevalent in medicine and the various ramifications of this growing mindset. The Scudder Oration is only a handful of named lectures given annual at the ACS Congress.

<https://ucdavis.pure.elsevier.com/en/publications/i-am-not-comfortable-with-this-2020-scudder-oration-on-trauma>

Separating Conjoined Twins Documentary Series Wins EMMY AWARD

The five part series documenting the successful separation of conjoined craniopagus twins received an EMMY AWARD from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. This series features the planning efforts lead by **Dr. Granger Wong** and his plastics team and others who participated in the well choreographed 24 hour surgery. To view the video series online click on the link below:



<https://www.youtube.com/twins>

32nd Annual Surgery Research Day Symposium

On April 20th, we held our 32nd Annual Surgery Research Day Symposium and while our attendance format was modified due to Covid-19, the mission of showcasing the exceptional research projects of our residents remained the same. The event, organized by **Tina Palmieri, MD**, Vice Chair Clinical Trials and **Sean Adams, PhD**, Vice Chair, 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's Symposium featured **Julie Ann Sosa, MD, Chair, Department of Surgery at UCSF** as the keynote speaker, who presented: *Asking the right questions: How Research and Residents can impact practice.*



This scientific forum gives residents and faculty from across the department the opportunity to present their own research projects and discuss their topics with an audience. This year we received submissions from each division for a total of 67 abstracts. 42 abstracts were accepted for presentation and each divided into two categories: a 15-minute presentation or a 7-minute quick shot presentation. This year's Symposium presentation winners were:

- Basic Science Research Award: **Marlena Holter, MD**, "Beta-Cell Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 Receptor Signaling Activates Alpha-Cell Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 Expression Through A Paracrine Protein Factor"
- Clinical Research Award: **Ashly Ruf, MD**, "Incidental Findings Found On Abdominal Imaging Performed For Acute Care Surgery Patients"
- Best Quick Shot Award: **Christina Theodorou, MD**, "Efficacy of Clinical-Grade Human Placental Mesenchymal Stromal Cells in Fetal Ovine Myelomeningocele"



Julie Ann Sosa, MD, Ashly Ruf, MD (Clinical Research Award Recipient), Tina Palmieri, MD, and Diana Farmer, MD

RESURG Program participant receives UC Davis Distinguished Scholar Award



Jkritka Sharma, UC Davis Graduating Senior and RESURG Program Participant

Visit

<https://health.ucdavis.edu/surgery/resurg.html>
to learn more about the RESURG program.

Graduating UC Davis student and RESURG (Research Experience in Surgery) program undergraduate researcher, Kritika Sharma was awarded a College of Biological Sciences Distinguished Scholar Award in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Sharma, joined the RESURG program in January 2020, and has spent the past 18 months working with the research teams of surgical oncologists, **Amanda Kirane, MD** and **Sepideh Gholami, MD**.

The RESURG program, now in its third year, is led by **Misty Humphries, MD** and is a selective clinical research internship based in the Department of Surgery. After graduation, Ms. Sharma will start working as a clinical research coordinator in pediatric urology at Stanford University and intends to apply for medical school in the near future. "I am very grateful for all the opportunities that the RESURG program has provided me with and for introducing me to the wonderful field of clinical research!" states Sharma.

Mentoring the Next Generation of Surgeon Scientists - Medical Student Research Poster Day



Kiran Nagra, Aida Nasirishargh, Angelica Martin, Irina Karashchuk, and Kaitlyn Honeychurch

Each Spring we welcome a handful of UC Davis medical students who are interested in gaining research experience in the areas of surgery. These medical students work on a wide variety of research projects under the guidance of surgery faculty mentors. This past March we had five medical students present their research work during the annual UC Davis School of Medicine Medical Student Research Forum commonly referred to as "Poster Day".

This event is an opportunity for medical students from three programs – the Medical Student Research Fellowship, the 4th Year Scholarly Project, and the NIH-sponsored TL1 program – to highlight their work and educate peers and faculty. Our 2020/2021 Surgery Research Medical Student Participants were:

Kaitlyn Honeychurch (MS2) Pediatric Cardiac Surgery (**Dr. Raff**) on *"Utility of Routine Head Ultrasounds in Screening for Intracranial Hemorrhage in Infants on Extracorporeal Life Support"*

Irina Karashchuk (MS2) Burn Surgery (**Dr. Romanowski, Dr. Palmieri, and Dr. Greenhalgh**) *"Follow Up After Burn Injury Is Disturbingly Low and Linked With Social Factors"*

Angelica Martin (MS2) Thoracic Surgery (**Dr. Godoy, Dr. Brown and Dr. Cooke**) *"Research Addressing Racial Health Disparities in Cardiothoracic Surgery Represents Only a Small Fraction of Total Major Meeting Peer-reviewed Content"*

Kiran Nagra (MS2) Translational Research & Innovation (**Dr. Wang**) *"The Therapeutic Potential of Placental Mesenchymal Stem Cells and their Exosomes for the Treatment of Neurodegenerative Diseases"*

Aida Nasirishargh (MS2) Translational Research & Innovation (**Dr. Wang**) *"Exosomal MicroRNAs from Mesenchymal Stem/stromal Cells: Biology and Applications in Neuroprotection"*

LECTURESHIPS AND INVITED SPEAKERS

Goodnight Lectureship Welcomes Nationally Recognized Surgical Oncologist, Sandra Wong, MD



Dr Sandra Wong, M.D., M.S.

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 provide our trainees with the opportunity to interact directly with leaders throughout the basic, translational, and clinical arenas of oncological research. This spring, we welcomed Dr. Sandra Wong, M.D., M.S., Chair and Professor of Surgery at Dartmouth Hitchcock and the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, who presented "Regional Nodal Disease in Melanoma: A Learning Health System." Dr. Wong is a nationally recognized authority in the management of soft tissue sarcomas, melanoma, Merkel Cell carcinoma, and gastrointestinal cancers.

Visiting Speaker Welcomes Pioneering Surgeon, Marci Bowers, MD

Each year we welcome distinguished visiting speakers from a wide variety of surgical specialties. This past May, we hosted Marci Bowers, MD, who presented "Transgender surgery: trends and controversies."

Dr. Bowers is a well known pioneer in the field of Gender Affirming Surgery and is the first trans woman and first woman worldwide to perform transgender surgery. She is a pelvic and gynecologic surgeon with more than 30 years' experience and has performed more than 3400 Gender Affirming Surgeries. Dr. Bowers is in private practice in Burlingame California.



Diana Farmer, MD, Marci Bowers, MD, and Elizabeth Raskin, MD

UPCOMING LECTURES

Inaugural William Pevac Lectureship to feature Andres Schanzer, MD



Andres Schanzer, MD

Due to the generous gift from James Kenney family, we are pleased to announce the creation of the William Pevac, MD Lectureship in Vascular Surgery. Named in honor of retired Chief of Vascular Surgery and Professor Emeritus, William Pevac, MD, this new lectureship will provide a forum to present the latest clinical and research developments in the area of vascular surgery. The inaugural lectureship will be held November 2, 2021 and will feature, Andres Schanzer, MD, Professor and Chief, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at University of Massachusetts.

EDUCATION NEWS

2021 Match Day Results

The 2021 Main Residency Match was announced in March 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 to beginning another year of training and mentoring the best and brightest in academic surgery.

GS Preliminary Residents

Alexander Batti, West Virginia University SOM
Atrin Toussi, UC Davis
Catherine Ho, California Northstate University
Christian Figueredo, Drexel University
Christopher Seffren, Loyola University
Colby McWhorter, Rocky Vista University COM
Dorian Crawford, Uniformed Services
Kelsy Dimeff, US Air Force
Negar Foolad, UC Davis
Oana Stroie, Uniformed Services
Ryan McKee, UC San Diego
Stephen Wertheimer, Wayne State University
Ul'yana Zagurskaya, Alabama COM
Vi Nghiem, Uniformed Services

GENERAL SURGERY

- ANA ISABEL JACINTO, LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
- CARLOS CUENCA, RUTGERS SOM
- CYRUS SHOLEVAR, THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY
- DAISY MANZO, UC DAVIS
- JEANINE JUSTINIANO, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
- MAXWELL PRESSER, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
- NATALIE LIU, HOWARD UNIVERSITY COM
- SARAH MAHDAVI, UC DAVIS
- SNEHA SWAMINATHAN, RUTGERS SOM

PLASTIC SURGERY

- ELLA GIBSON, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ST. LOUIS SOM
- PAUL WINOGRAD, RUSH MEDICAL CENTER
- SPENCER BROWN, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

VASCULAR SURGERY

- MATTHEW NAEDEL, UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
- MATTHEW SCHNECK, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SOM

CT SURGERY

- JONATHAN HYDE, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY GROSSMAN SOM

UC DAVIS HEALTH | Department of Surgery

2021 Graduating Chief Residents

GENERAL SURGERY

Carl Beyer, MD
Jessica Bowman, MD
James Clark, MD
Laura Galganski, MD
Jonathan Lin, MD
Jennifer Olson, MD
Maggie Spruce, MD
Linda Schultzman, MD

CAREER DIRECTION

Fellowship - Surgical Critical Care/Trauma, University of Pennsylvania
Fellowship - Surgical Critical Care, UC Davis
Fellowship - Cardiothoracic Surgery, University of Washington
Fellowship - Pediatric Surgery, Cincinnati Children's
Fellowship - Vascular Surgery, Loyola University, Chicago
Fellowship - Surgical Oncology, Fox Chase Cancer Center
Fellowship - Surgical Critical Care/Trauma, Washington University
Fellowship - Surgical Critical Care, UC Davis

PLASTIC SURGERY

Ping Song, MD

Fellowship, Micro Hand Surgery University of Washington

VASCULAR SURGERY

Connor Caples, MD

Attending at David Grant USAF Medical Center

EDUCATION NEWS

2021 Graduating Fellows

ACUTE CARE SURGERY

Charles Fredericks, MD
Emily Tibbitts, MD

CAREER DIRECTION

San Joaquin General Hospital
US Air Force: University Medical Center, Las Vegas

ADVANCED PLASTIC SURGERY

Charleston Chua, MD

Group Practice, Las Vegas, Nevada

ADVANCED MIS FELLOWSHIP

Doris Kim, MD
Marissa Mendez, MD

OSF Rockford & University of Illinois, Bariatric Surgery
Bariatric Surgeon, Dartmouth Hitchcock

BURN SURGERY

John Andre, MD

Fellowship, Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery, Cleveland Clinic, Florida

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH

Jordan Jackson, MD
Melissa Vanover, MD

University of California, San Francisco - East Bay (returning)
Pediatric Surgery Fellowship, Brown University

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE PROGRAM

Isabelle Struve, MD
Courtney White, MD, MBA
Justin Mandell, MD
Anamaria Robles, MD

UC Davis, General Surgery Residency (returning)
Community Practice, Santa Rosa

UC Davis, Trauma/ACS Fellowship (returning)

2021 Surgery Recognition Awards

RESIDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Chief Resident

Carl Beyer, M.D.
Laura Galganski, M.D.

Outstanding Resident Teacher and Role Model

Sean Judge M.D.

Outstanding Intern

Nicholas Antonino, D.O.

J. Nilas Young Award, Exceptional Overall Performance

Thoracic Surgery Integrated Resident

Anna Xue, M.D.

FACULTY AWARDS

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBERS

David Leshikar, M.D.

Outstanding General Surgery Faculty Member in a Teaching Capacity

Luis Godoy, M.D.

Outstanding Cardiothoracic Surgery Faculty Member in a Teaching Capacity

Granger Wong, M.D.

Outstanding Plastic Surgery Faculty Member in a Teaching Capacity

Misty Humphries, M.D.

Outstanding Vascular Surgery Faculty Member in a Teaching Capacity

Schirin Tang, M.D.

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, Outstanding Faculty Teacher and Mentor

Elizabeth Raskin, M.D.

Leadership Award in and outside of the Operating Room, Outstanding Faculty Leader

Outstanding Resident in Plastic Surgery

Ping Song, M.D.

Outstanding Resident in Vascular Surgery

Connor Caples, M.D.

Leadership Award in and outside of the Operating Room

Outstanding Resident Leader

Laura Galganski, M.D.

EDUCATION NEWS

Three Training Programs Earn Continued Accreditation

Our education program has successfully completed the review process for three training programs. The Surgical Education Fellowship earned continued accreditation from the American College of Surgeons (ACS). This fellowship program is part of the UC Davis Center for Simulation and Education Enhancement and is only one of 17 such programs in the country.

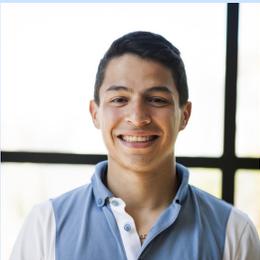


100+ years

In addition, our Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Program and Surgery Residency Programs both earned their continued accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) with no citations.



General Thoracic Surgery Awards Medical Student Summer Research Internship



Carlo Fuentes, (MS2)

The Department of Surgery strongly believes in the value of mentorship and training and seeks to provide a variety of opportunities to engage medical students interested in surgery and research.

One such opportunity is the Division of General Thoracic Surgery Underrepresented in Medicine Medical Student Summer Research Internship. The goal of the internship opportunity is to provide underrepresented medical students an opportunity to engage in basic, clinical and/or translational research projects under the mentorship of experienced researchers and principal investigators.

This year, the Division has named Carlo Fuentes, (MS2) as the 2021 Underrepresented in Medicine Medical Student Summer Research Intern who will work for 8 weeks under the mentorship of **David T Cooke, MD, Lisa Brown, MD and Luis Godoy, MD.**

New Leadership for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Department of Surgery values diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) among all faculty, staff, and trainees. The Department is committed to fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment for all human differences, regardless of race, ethnicity, language, nationality, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, geography, disability, or age.

We believe that individual differences and unique perspectives are critical to delivering high-quality care, engaging in scholarly activity, educating trainees, and supporting the careers of all. We recognize the extent to which inequity, social injustice, and systemic racism impact the health of the UC Davis community and the communities we serve. Diverse ideas and innovative solutions are required to effectively tackle issues related to inequity, health disparities, systemic racism, and bias in medicine.

Equity and social justice in our communities are essential to the health of our patients and the public at large. We are working hard, but we know we still have much work ahead of us.

To help lead Department of Surgery DEI efforts, **Luis Godoy, MD** has been named the new Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In this new role, Dr. Godoy will oversee the department's DEI program and serve as faculty member for the department's Socially Responsible Surgery (SRS) program. In addition, Dr. Godoy will also serve as one of the mentors for the Underrepresented in Medicine Medical Student Summer Research program hosted by the Division of General Thoracic Surgery.

Department of Surgery Welcomes New Emeritus Faculty Members

It is with great honor that we welcome our newest Emeritus Faculty Members, Dr's Christoph Troppmann and Kathrin Mayer Troppmann. For more than 25 years the Troppmann's were a vital and valuable fixture in our department. They both embodied the mission of the department through their impassioned commitment to teaching, training, and patient care. Their influence has left an indelible effect on hundreds of residents, fellows, and faculty during their time here in the department. We are truly grateful for their many contributions to our department and wish them the very best in retirement.



Erin Brown, MD was awarded as a UC Davis Paul Calabresi Award recipient as a Clinical Oncology K12 Scholar.

Ian Brown, MD, PhD was awarded the UC Davis 2021 Calvin E. Handy Leadership Award for leadership, service and implementing the Trauma Wraparound Program.

David T Cooke, MD has been voted in as President-Elect of the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association. Assuming this role in 2023, Dr. Cooke will be the first African-American President to serve the organization.

David Greenhalgh, MD will assume the role as President of International Society for Burn Injury starting June 2021 and named Vice Chair Institutional Review Board for UC Davis.

Nasim Hedayati, MD was appointed to the Governance Board of Directors for the Society for Vascular Surgery Foundation and Editorial Board for the Journal of Vascular Surgery: Venous and Lymphatic Disorders.

Misty Humphries, MD has been selected to represent UC Davis Health in the 2021-2022 UC Women's Initiative for Professional Development (UCWI).

Bob Kiaii, MD will assume the role of President of the International Society of Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery (ISMICS) in June 2021.

Mathew Mell, MD was voted in as a member of the American Surgical Association at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Tina Palmieri, MD was named to the American Burn Association Equity and Diversity Committee.

Kathleen Romanowski, MD was named Association Academic Surgery Co-Chair, Committee on Communications & Technology.

Eduardo Salcedo, MD was invited to join the American College of Surgeons Entering and Senior Resident Readiness Assessment Leadership Team.

UC Davis Health Inaugural Diamond Docs Award Winners

UC Davis Health Diamond Docs Award Winners celebrates physicians recognized by their patients for extraordinary adult inpatient care demonstrated by careful listening, clear explanations, and respectful partnerships. We are pleased to welcome the 5 of our faculty members into this inaugural circle of high recognition:

John Anderson, MD (Trauma)

Rick Bold, MD (Oncology)

Rachel Callcut, MD (Trauma)

Richard Perez, MD (Transplant)

Elizabeth Raskin, MD (Colorectal)

We warmly welcome the following new faculty and staff to the Department of Surgery



Fadwa Ali, MD who joined the Division of Colorectal Surgery in January as Visiting Assistant Professor. She completed her general surgery residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin and fellowship training in colon and rectal surgery at Oregon Health and Science University. She also completed a second fellowship in advanced colorectal surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York focusing on robotic colorectal surgery, complex malignant diseases, and re-operative pelvic surgery.



Bethany Cummings, DVM, PhD who joined the Department as Associate Professor and will be working with the Center for Alimentary and Metabolic Science (CAMS) research group. She completed her DVM training and her PhD at UC Davis. Dr. Cummings' research examines the molecular basis of metabolic and cardiovascular disease with the aim to identify and develop new therapeutics for these diseases.



Deborah Keller, MD who joined the Division of Colorectal Surgery in January as Visiting Assistant Professor. She completed her general surgery residency at Temple University Hospital and fellowship training in colon and rectal surgery at Baylor University. Dr. Keller is a surgeon scientist with extensive experience in surgical outcomes and health services research and will be helping the division with colorectal research.



Rachel Russo, MD, MAS who joined the Division of Acute Care Surgery as Volunteer Clinical Professor. Dr. Russo is an Air Force Trauma Surgeon who completed her general surgery residency at UC Davis and a fellowship in Surgery Critical Care and Trauma and Critical Care Translational Science, Trauma and Critical Care Translational Science Center, both in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Doreen Jackson, MD who joined the Division of Colorectal Surgery as Volunteer Clinical Professor. Dr. Jackson is an Air Force General Surgeon who completed her general surgery residency at San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium and a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at Orlando Health.

New Staff

Miranda Bustamante, Jr Specialist (Research)
Anthony Calabro, PhD, CRC (Trauma)
Deborah Chege, NP (Transplant)
Maria Del Mar Troche Perez, NP (Burns)
Maria Hernandez, CRC (Pediatrics/Fetal Surgery)
Patricia Herrera, CRC (Cardiothoracic)
Thanh Huynh, Residency Coordinator (Education Administration)
Anastasiya Ivanko, CRC (Burns)
Richa Kalamdani, Jr Specialist (Trauma)
Keoki Leong, PA (Plastics)
Shari Nichols, Sr. CRC (Administration)
Avni Suri, Jr Specialist (Vascular)
Maria Sutter, Jr Specialist (Administration)
Teri Swanson, NP (Colorectal)

Resident News

Sara Chen, MD (CT Resident) – After a 3+ year certification process, is now officially a Board-Certified Medical Illustrator (MCI).

Jennifer Geiger, MD (PGY4) is one of just three surgical residents in the U.S. to receive a 2021 research award from the Association for Academic Surgery and its foundation. The \$30,000 grant allows Geiger to create and implement a formal palliative care curriculum emphasizing communication skills for surgical residents.

Anna H. Hue, MD (PGY4) is the 2021 Cardiac Robotic Young Investigator Award Winner "*Structured Team Training Improves Efficiency of Robot-assisted Mitral Valve Surgery*"

Clinical News

Bariatric Surgery Program Receives Blue Distinction Center Recognition



**BlueCross
BlueShield**

Our Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery program led by **Dr. Mohamed R. Ali**, was recently designated a Blue Distinction Center (BDC) for Bariatric Surgery by Blue Cross Blue Shield. Blue Distinction Specialty Care, a national designation program of Blue Cross Blue Shield, recognizes healthcare providers that demonstrate expertise in delivering quality specialty care- safely, effectively, and cost efficiently. The goal of the program is to help consumers find both quality and value for specialty care needs, which encouraging healthcare professional to improve the overall quality and delivery of healthcare nationwide. To be considered as a Blue Cross Blue Shield BDC, program must complete a thorough review process that examines both case volume and quality care outcomes. In addition to this new distinction, our Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery Program is accredited by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP) of the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) and The American College of Surgeons (ACS).

Clinical Trials

The Department currently has several active clinical trials up and running. This past spring, the department added two additional trials seeking actively recruitment:

Study: **Cellular therapy for In utero Repair of Myelomeningocele – The CuRe Trial: Phase 1/2a Trial of Placental Mesenchymal Stem Cells for Repair of Fetal Myelomeningocele** PIs: **Diana Farmer, MD, and Shinjiro Hirose, MD**

Study: **Humacyte HAV. A Phase 2 Study for the Evaluation of Safety and Efficacy of Humacyte's Human Acellular Vessel for vascular Replacement or Reconstruction in Patients with Life or Limb-threatening Vascular Trauma.**

Atlantic Research Group. PI: **Rachael Callcut, MD.**

Research Brief

GemPharmatech and UC Davis Sign Agreement to Distribute Mouse Models in the US to Better Serve US Academic and Pre-Clinical R&D Communities

Kent Lloyd, DVM, PhD, Professor of Surgery and Director of UC Davis Mouse Biology Program (MBP) announced an agreement for his program to provide services to re-animate, cryopreserve and ship live mice to GemPharmatech customers in the US. GemPharmatech Co. Ltd. is a leading global provider of animal models including humanized animal models supporting pre-clinical research and development. "As Director of the MBP, I am very happy to facilitate availability and access to GemPharmatech's ever expanding suite of conditional and other scientifically valuable mouse models to research scientists in our hemisphere," said Lloyd. "I look forward to working with the research community to use these models to explore the functional role of genes in specific cells and tissues in vivo."

Selected Recent Publications

Division of Burns

Young SR, DUBY JJ, Louie EL, Palmieri TL. Impact of Multimodal Analgesia in Critically Ill Burn Patients. J Burn Care Res. 2021 Jan 20; . doi: 10.1093/jbcr/irab001.

Guenther TM, Spruce MW, Bach LM, Caples CM, Beyer CA, Grayson JK, Meyers FJ, Palmieri TL, Brown IE. High Versus Low Volume Fluid Resuscitation Strategies in a Porcine Model (Sus Scrofa) of Combined Thermal and Traumatic Brain Injury. Shock. 2021 Apr 1;55(4):536-544. doi: 10.1097/SHK.0000000000001658. PubMed PMID:32881757.

Rashidi HH, Makley A, Palmieri TL, Albahra S, Loegering J, Fang L, Yamaguchi K, Gerlach T, Rodriguez D, Tran NK. Enhancing Military Burn- and Trauma-Related Acute Kidney Injury Prediction Through an Automated Machine Learning Platform and Point-of-Care Testing. Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2021 Mar 1;145(3):320-326. doi: 10.5858/arpa.2020-0110-OA. PubMed PMID:33635951.

Palmieri TL. Transfusions and Infection in the Burn Patient. Surg Infect. (Larchmt). 2021 Feb;22(1):49-53. doi: 10.1089/sur.2020.160.

Grant GG, Brady KJS, Stoddard FJ, Meyer WJ, Romanowski KS, Chang PH, Painting LE, Fowler LA, Nelson JK, Patel KF, Sheldrick RC, Carter A, Sheridan RL, Slavin MD, Warner P, Palmieri TL, Schneider JC, Kazis LE, Ryan CM. Burns. Measuring the impact of burn injury on the parent-reported health outcomes of children 1-to-5 years: Item pool development for the Preschool 1-5 Life Impact Burn Recovery Evaluation (LIBRE) Profile. 2021 Feb 25;S0305-4179(21)00046-2. doi: 10.1016/j.burns.2021.02.010.

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Division of Vascular Surgery

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Select New Research Awards

Project Title: **Gene Expression Analysis of Dog Natural Killer Cells as Immunotherapy Target** (NIH R03) **PI: Robert Cantor, MD**

Project Title: **Mapping bile acid metabolism across the gut microbiome in response to dietary fiber** (NIH R21) **PI: Bethany Cummings, DVM, PhD**

Project Title: **In Utero Gene Therapy for SMA** (Subcontract with UCSF/Novartis) **PI: Diana Farmer, MD**

Project Title: **CuRe Trial: Cellular Therapy for In Utero Repair of Myelomeningocele** (CIRM) **PI: Diana Farmer, MD**

Project Title: **Diagnosis of arterial insufficiency in patients with peripheral artery disease and diabetes** (DIAL Grant, UCD Office of Research Venture Catalyst Program) **PI: Misty Humphries, MD**

Project Title: **Targeted Outreach in Vascular Deserts to Improve Outcomes for Chronic Limb Threatening Ischemia** (Society for Vascular Surgery Foundation) **PI: Misty Humphries, MD**

Project Title: **Multiplex humanized mouse models for the study of SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19, especially post-acute sequella of COVID (PASC)** (NIH) **PI: Kent Lloyd, DVM, PhD**

Project Title: **UC Davis Mouse Metabolic Phenotyping Center – 1yr extension** (NIH/NIDDK) **PI: Kent Lloyd, DVM, PhD**

Project Title: **Sex Differences in Response to Bariatric Surgery** (Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons) **PI: Victoria Lyo, MD**

Project Title: **Does Endothelial Cell Binding Ligand LXW7 Enhance Nerve Allograft Vascularization** (American Foundation for Surgery of the Hand) **PI: Clifford Pereira, MD**

Project Title: **Hirschsprungs disease patient tissue/Service Agreement.** **PI: Payam Saadai, MD**

Project Title: **Preemptive Rituximab to Prevent Recurrent Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis Post-Transplant** -Aim 2 Clinical Trial Site (DOD) **PI: Junichiro Sageshima, MD**

Project Title: **Immune Responses after Vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 in Kidney Transplant Recipients.** (Academic Senate -Committee on Research Award) **PI: Junichiro Sageshima, MD**

Project Title: **MORE FUN- Progressive MObility EnduRance StrEngth and FUNction for Burned Children** - (72006-NCA-21) **PI: Somen Sen, MD**

Project Title: **Engineered Placental Mesenchymal Stromal Cells and Extracellular Vesicles for the Treatment of Spinal Cord Injury** (UCD Office of Research: Venture Catalyst Program) **PI: Aijun Wang, PhD**

Project Title: **Intrapartum Transabdominal Fetal Pulse Oximetry: Demonstration in Ewe Models**(Subcontract with Storx Technologies, Inc/NIH) **PI: Aijun Wang, PhD.**

Alumni News



The UC Davis Surgical Association was founded in 1990 to enrich the lives of alumni, residents, faculty, and friends of UC Davis Surgery. The original goal was to celebrate accomplishments, keep members engaged, encourage fellowship, develop lifelong connections to UC Davis.

Recently, the Surgical Association included in its goals the desire to support and fund important training and enrichment programs for residents. Over the next several months, the faculty and Alumni Association will be reaching out to alumni outlining specific resident related programs where support is needed. To learn more about the UC Davis Surgical Association, join as a new member, or renew your existing membership visit <https://www.ucdavissa.org/>

Support Surgical Research

The Department of Surgery at UC Davis has a rich history steeped in research, so much so that Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research ranks our program number one in the UC System for Surgical Research. Our success is built on our mission, faculty dedication and the generous support of likeminded 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 or by contacting Dawn Rowe (dmrowe@ucdavis.edu) 916-734-2620.

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