FACULTY

**Kauser Ahmed, PhD**: Kauser Ahmed is a clinical psychologist and Associate Director/Training Director at the Simms/Mann –UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology. She has worked in the area of psychosocial oncology since 2002 and has particular interests in the delivery of care for individuals and families touched by cancer as well as the training of multidisciplinary practitioners and teams. She is the 2017 recipient of the Excellence in Clinical Care Award from the American Psychosocial Oncology Society.

**Jessica Bernacki, PhD**: Jessica Bernacki, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist with clinical experience and research interests in adjustment to chronic illness, adherence to medical regimens, transition from pediatric to adult care, and the delivery of mental health services in primary care settings. Dr. Bernacki received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2012 after completing her pre-doctoral internship at UCLA in pediatric and clinical child psychology in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at the David Geffen School of Medicine. Dr. Bernacki then completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital where she worked with youth primarily within the areas of hematology/oncology and solid organ transplant. Dr. Bernacki is the behavioral health provider for the Medicine-Pediatrics Transition Clinic and Gender Health Program in Santa Monica. She also works as the staff psychologist for the Pediatric Psychiatry Consultation-Liaison Service at the UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica.

**Brenda Bursch PhD**: Dr. Bursch is a Professor in both the Department of Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences and in the Department of Pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, where she has been on faculty since 1994. She is the Clinical Director of the Pediatric Psychiatry Consultation Liaison service, overseeing child psychiatry and psychology consultations for medically ill children in Mattel Children’s Hospital. Dr. Bursch became a medical psychologist after realizing that she enjoyed being a hospice volunteer more than her research job. Thus, her passion for palliative care was the inspiration for her career. More recently, Dr. Bursch has been working with a large multidisciplinary group of UCLA professionals to develop and pilot several evidence-informed mental wellness programs for UCLA health professionals, including resilience training, a peer support program, and a wellness app designed specifically for UCLA health professionals. Several of the sessions offered to you today will be based on her resilience-training program.

**Elaine Eastwood, Manager Volunteer Services**: Elaine Eastwood, BA, is a UCLA graduate. She is currently the Volunteer Services Manager for Santa Monica UCLA Volunteer Programs and Program Director for NODA (No One Dies Alone) at both campuses. Elaine was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2014 and has been “cancer-free” since January 2018.

**Nishi Jumna, MASG, BA, BSN, UZIT**: Nishi embraced her calling as a practitioner of the healing arts for more than twenty years. In addition to her nursing qualifications in midwifery, psychiatric and community health and general nursing, Nishi is a certified integrative therapist skilled in reiki, aromatherapy and restorative yoga. First as a registered nurse in the world of western medicine and later as an energy/light worker, Nishi’s cultural heritage has contributed to the skills she brings to her
practice of the healing arts. Her ability to balance the need for both western and alternative care modalities gives her the edge in providing balanced, individualized care for her patients and staff. She is an active listener and a compassionate nurse who believes in facilitating a sense of wellbeing by empowering. In addition to her nursing qualifications, Nishi has a Masters in Spiritual Guidance and is currently working on her PhD in Metaphysical Science.

**Dan Karlin, MD:** Dr. Daniel Karlin is an Assistant Clinical Professor in Palliative Care at UCLA, and the Associate Program Director of the UCLA Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship. A native of Los Angeles, Dr. Karlin attended UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine and completed a residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at UCLA. He underwent fellowship training in Hospice and Palliative Medicine at the joint UCSD/Scripps Fellowship. His interests include palliative care for chronically ill young adults and palliative care education in medical school and residency.

**Lori Koutouratsas, MDiv, BCC:** Lori is a native of Santa Monica and received her BS (Bachelor of Science) in Biology from Mount St. Mary’s University in Los Angeles, and her MDiv (Master of Divinity) from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. She is ordained by the Presbyterian Church USA and is a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains. In 2010, she started working as a chaplain at Ronald Reagan-UCLA Medical Center, and two years later moved over to Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, where she is currently the Palliative Care Chaplain. Lori is also a student at USC, working on her Doctorate of Education in Organizational Change in Leadership. The focus of her dissertation is to design a curriculum to help support physicians and medical students provide more compassionate care to patients. Lori is also a director for a non-profit organization that helps support classical music in community and school orchestras, as well as supporting different human interest projects on Skid Row in Los Angeles.

**Codie Lieto, LCSW:** Codie Lieto is a licensed clinical social worker who specializes in advance care planning and palliative care. Her current role is the Advance Care Planning Social Worker for patients with heart failure at UCLA. In this new role, she guides patients and families in a “goals of care” discussion that focuses on quality of life, future health states, and adverse outcomes. She previously worked in the medical intensive care unit and general medicine service providing bereavement and psychosocial support. She has been a Clinical Social Worker at UCLA since 2009 and participated in the development of the UCLA Advance Directive as well as the Advance Care Planning Model for heart failure patients in 2015. Codie received a Post-MSW Certificate in Palliative Care from Cal State University Institute for Palliative Care in 2016.

**Jessica Lloyd, MD:** Dr. Jessica Lloyd is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Hospital Medicine and an Associate Program Director for the UCLA Pediatric Residency Program. She completed pediatric residency and chief residency at UCLA. She then completed a pediatric critical care fellowship at UCLA in 2013, after which she joined the faculty as a pediatric intensivist as well as hospitalist. She currently works as a hospitalist. Her interests include teaching residents and medical students with hands-on patient care experiences, as well as through
interdisciplinary mock code programs. She is interested in resident well-being and promoting resident resiliency and is involved in multiple programs within the Department of Pediatrics to improve resident wellness. She is also co-principal investigator on a national pediatric resident burnout and resilience study through the Association of Pediatric Program Directors. In addition, she chairs the Westwood Pediatric Patient and Family Centered Care Committee.

**Lindsay Minter, MSW:** Lindsay Minter, MSW is the Palliative Care Social Worker at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. She graduated from University of California San Diego in 2011 with her Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and from University of California Los Angeles in 2014 with her Masters in Social Welfare. In graduate school at UCLA, she worked as a Graduate Student Researcher for the Center for Policy Research on Aging and she received the Hearst Fellowship for her involvement in working with the older adult population. Lindsay has experience leading bereavement groups for children at Our House Grief Support Center as well as cancer support and caregiver groups at the Cancer Support Community. Lindsay also interned in the Geriatric Medical clinic and hospice unit at the VA Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center. Prior to coming to UCLA, Lindsay was the medical social worker at a dialysis clinic with DaVita Kidney Care. Lindsay recently received a Post-MSW Certificate in Palliative Care from Cal State University Institute for Palliative Care.

**Valentina Ogaryan, PhD:** Valentina is a postdoctoral fellow who provides direct patient care in UCLA oncology clinics and at the Simms/Mann Center. She facilitates the support group for women with early stage breast cancer and participates as part of a multi-disciplinary team who provides care for women with breast cancer. Valentina completed her BA in Psychology with a minor in Sociology at the University of California, San Diego in 2009. Thereafter, she completed her MA at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology in 2012, with an emphasis on Marriage and Family Therapy. She received her doctorate degree in clinical psychology from California School of Professional Psychology in 2017. Her dissertation study focused on understanding Armenian American parental attitudes towards children’s mental health services.

**Christopher Pietras, MD:** Dr. Christopher Pietras is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the UCLA School of Medicine and the Director of the UCLA Palliative Care Program. He received his MD degree from the University of California, San Francisco, and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at UC Davis. He then completed a fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice, which is now the UCSD/Scripps Health Fellowship Program. He has interests in Palliative Care education for students, staff and the community, as well as designing and implementing effective and sustainable models of inpatient and community Palliative Care to help meet the needs of people with serious illness and provide the highest quality care.

**Erin Rice:** Erin Rice was introduced to animal-assisted therapy (AAT) after she had rescued her Great Pyrenees/Labrador mix, Finn, about 10 years ago. Erin & Finn became a registered AAT team with Pet Partners, a pet therapy organization that provides certification and insurance. They began volunteering with the People-Animal Connection (PAC) program at UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center in 2009. Erin left her career in finance in 2012 to become the Director of the PAC program. Since then, the program has grown to 70 teams, serving both the UCLA Santa Monica Hospital and the UCLA Ronald Reagan
Medical Center campuses, to include many adjunct programs: PAC Pediatric Reading Program, PAC Tuck-In Teams, Operation Mend PAC, Resnick Pups, Palliative Pups, Stressbusters, PetPal Program and NODA PAC.

David Wallenstein, MD: Dr. David Wallenstein is an Assistant Clinical Professor in Palliative Care at UCLA. Dr. Wallenstein received his MD degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at University of Illinois. He then completed a fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine at Yeshiva University, New York City. Dr. David Wallenstein is Board Certified in Internal Medicine with additional certifications in Pain and Palliative Care. He started his career as a Social Worker and was active in outreach work in the HIV/AIDS community in the height of the outbreak. He currently provides inpatient and outpatient medical care to patients with chronic and incurable illness.

Ellen Wilson: Ellen graduated with a B.S. in Kinesiology in 1981 and an M.S. in Physical Therapy in 1984. She worked as a physical therapist in a variety of clinical areas including acute, outpatient, geriatrics, orthopedics, acute rehab/neuro, cardiac, burns, and skilled nursing. She has been a rehab manager for the past 23 years in a variety of settings, and is currently Executive Director of Therapy Services for the UCLA Health System, which includes rehab, respiratory therapy, and integrative Medicine programs. Ellen is a past member and president of the Physical Therapy Board of California, and continues to serve as a consultant investigating PT-related complaints statewide.