



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2021!



Table of Contents

3

FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD
Department Chair

4

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Karen Sibert, MD, FASA

5

FROM THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Jack Buckley, MD

8

ONE LAST WORD FROM THE CHIEFS

Azad Hirpara, Jeff Kim, and Libby Wang

10

COVID AT UCLA: THE PANDEMIC STRETCHES INTO 2021

By Johnathan Pregler, MD

Class of 2021

18

OUR GRADUATING RESIDENTS

Yusuke Akahoshi, MD
Susan Alaei, MD
Nicole Andonian, MD
Stefan Besada, MD
Shaun Disney, MD
Xuezhi Dong, MD, MPH
Craig Flath, MD

RESIDENTS CONT'D

Azad Hirpara, MD
Chief Resident
Bryant Hong, MD
Jeffrey Kim, MD, MS
Chief Resident
Albert Lee, MD
Hewenfei Li, MD
Jerry Markar, MD
Sara Navab, MD
Amy Nguyen, MD
Hayley Osen, MD, MS
Jason Pia, MD, MHS, MPH
Aanchal Prakash, MD
Dane Saksa, MD, MBA
Mariam Sarwary, MD
Liam Sullivan, MD
Emily Walters, MD, PhD
Libing Wang, MD
Chief Resident
Ian Worden, MD, MS

44

ANESTHESIOLOGY CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE FELLOWS

Krisztina Escallier, MD
Kasey Grewe, MD
Melanie Kusonruksa, MD
James Madrian, MD

52

CARDIOTHORACIC ANESTHESIOLOGY FELLOWS

Candy Ezimora, MD, MBA
Sean Mofidi, MD, MS
Christine Stypula, MD, MPH
Andrew Wu, MD

60

LIVER TRANSPLANTATION ANESTHESIOLOGY FELLOWS

Courtney Scott, DO
Colby Tanner, MD

64

OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIOLOGY FELLOW

Krista Cascia, MD

66

PAIN MEDICINE FELLOWS

Brittany Aeschlimann, MD
Jason Daughety, DO, MPH, MS
Elizabeth Feenstra, MD
Frederick Li, MD
Mark Motejunas, MD
Ava Socik, MD

76

PEDIATRIC ANESTHESIOLOGY FELLOWS

Stephen Acosta, MD
Tracie Lo, MD

82

REGIONAL ANESTHESIOLOGY AND ACUTE PAIN MEDICINE FELLOWS

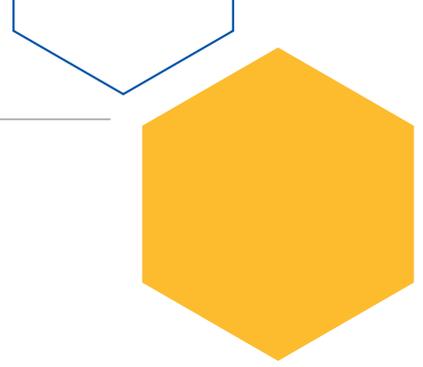
Gary Chan, MD
Gregory Sheehan, MD
Kelsey Wang, MD

90

PHOTO ALBUM

From the Chair's Desk

By Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD | Department Chair



Congratulations to the Class of 2021, my inaugural graduating class as Chair! I am so proud that you will be entering your professional positions or fellowships representing the

Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine at UCLA. In a year that tried all our courage, compassion, and resilience, you have succeeded with grace and poise; stepping up when asked, volunteering when needed, and taking time for yourselves when possible.



I chose to be an anesthesiologist because of the role we play in patient care and in the hospital setting, touching a variety of fields and specialties every day. We are often seen as the specialty to call when there are problems other specialties can't manage alone. This teamwork is something I have had the pleasure of seeing in each of you. From the way you support each other to the support you give other specialties, each of you embodies personal strength together with team spirit that will allow you to become leaders in our specialty.

I look forward to hearing from each of you, and seeing you develop over the years. I know that amongst you will be leaders of medical groups, future program directors or chairs, CEOs, academic pioneers, and clinicians taking superb care of your patients every day. Congratulations on your tremendous accomplishments!

Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD
Department Chair

A Word from the Editor

By Karen Sibert, MD, FASA



You all – the Residency Class of 2021 – have had the strangest resident experience any of us can remember. The first year and a half was normal. Then, just as you

were hitting your CA-2 stride in your specialty rotations, there were few cases to do because the elective surgery schedule came to a halt, and at the same time you had to face the fearful onslaught of the pandemic.

But you’ve made it! Somehow, you’ve survived all your rotations and calls, passed your exams, gotten your case numbers, and figured out how to don and doff PPE like beasts. You have shown remarkable humor, strength, courage, and every other good quality that the faculty can think of, and we will miss you more than you know!

A few favorite maxims to send you on your way:

1. Be kind to your patients. Pillows and warm blankets are easy to find. There are few absolute indications to perform an unpleasant procedure on a wide-awake patient.
2. Phenylephrine is not holy water.
3. Fentanyl is not a vitamin, and there is no minimum daily requirement.

4. Not everyone is a candidate for a deep extubation, but anyone can be a candidate for a calm extubation.

When I finished my training, when all else failed, I would always ask myself, “What would Paul Barash do?” I’m sure each of you will have one or two faculty members who will come to mind as you ask yourself someday: “What would Dr. Cannesson (or Dr. Van de Wiele, or Dr. Patel, or Dr. Gudzenko, or Dr. _____) do?” That is the beauty of training in a program of UCLA’s caliber.

And so, to you and all the wonderful fellows who are celebrating the joy of graduation with you – congratulations! Please stay in touch, wherever you’re going, and Godspeed.



From the Residency Program Director

By Jack Buckley, MD



The graduates of the UCLA Anesthesiology Class of 2021 have completed their residency training during some of the most challenging years ever. Over the past year especially, this class has earned the sincere respect and deep gratitude of the

entire faculty as these residents have truly stepped up to care for their patients and their fellow residents in time of need. Despite the significant personal risk of COVID, the Class of 2021 led by example and provided timely and compassionate care for all their patients.

This historic year for the senior class was full of collaborative activities during the global health crisis. Several residents volunteered to assist other physicians who were stretched beyond their limits during the peak of the pandemic, both within our department and in other departments. Residents participated in a variety of projects optimizing care for patients with COVID. Some residents volunteered in training sessions for donning and doffing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and others worked together to develop a prototype of a negative-pressure isolation device to improve safety during aerosolizing procedures.

This class was perhaps the most spirited class I've ever seen – non-call residents brought in treats for the call team and decorated the resident library on holidays such as Thanksgiving. This class embodied

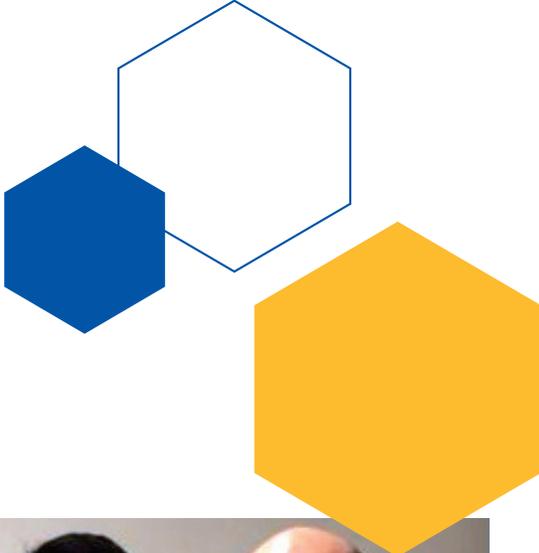
the leadership we needed as a program and came out on the other side as a stronger team. We were humbled to observe these numerous caring acts by the Class of 2021.



Amidst the pandemic, the members of the Class of 2021 were strong role models and were still able to fulfill their academic mission, by presenting at the department's virtual Scientific Evening, the Western Anesthesia Resident Conference, and the national American Society of Anesthesiologists meeting. This class served as the team captains for the call teams and COVID airway teams at Ronald Reagan Medical Center. We had a successful fellowship match where 15 of our senior residents matched into prestigious fellowships, while the others will join prominent academic and private practice groups around the country.



I am truly proud to witness your individual and collective growth from the first day of your internship to your graduation. As your Program Director, I am filled with pride as you enter the world of independent practice and look forward to watching you thrive. Your UCLA anesthesia family will be here, and we will keep the light on for you.





Residents at beach retreat



One Last Word from the Chiefs

By Azad Hirpara, Jeff Kim, and Libby Wang



Reflecting on the past year, we share a great sense of pride and fulfillment with the roles we've had here at UCLA. While we were set up for success thanks to our amazing MAC Chief mentors (Matt, Andy, and Colby), the pandemic definitely added a twist to the daily challenges we would face throughout the year. But we are finally here, at the end of our residency, and our journey wouldn't be complete without acknowledging all the help and advice that have been given to us along the way.

As a department, we saw a transition in leadership with a new chair and program director (while being lucky enough to retain their predecessors) and are so grateful to have had their support. Thank you, Drs. Van de Wiele, Cannesson, Turner, and Buckley, for putting your trust in us and giving us the opportunity to represent our residency program.

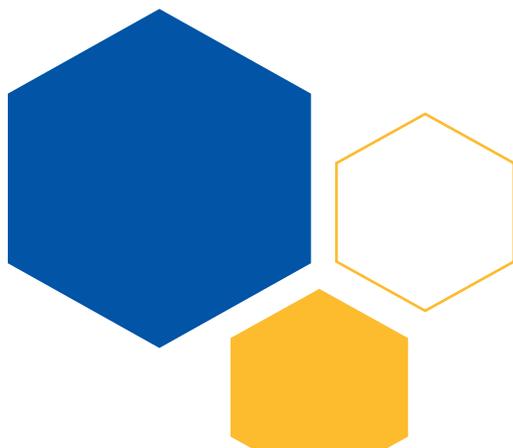
To our wonderful education office staff: thank you for everything you do behind the scenes to make our lives as residents so much easier. Though we saw a shift towards all things virtual, we could always count on your support at all hours of the day to navigate through times of crisis and the many missed deadlines on our part as residents. We would not graduate from residency without your help. It's that simple.

And to our fellow graduating classmates: WE MADE IT! We are so grateful for the class we have had and the friendships we've made through the years. From Sara's epic holiday get-togethers to Nicole's annual white elephant gift exchanges, we had the parties covered. From Amy and Susan's make-you-salivate jealousy-inducing food stories on Instagram, to Stefan's high-yield recaps from the Ronald Reagan cafeteria menu for the day, we had our culinary options



covered. We even had a living legend among us, one who goes by the name of Craig Flath. Our class had just the right blend of personality, fun, humor, and wit (99% Shaun, 1% everyone else). If we had to start residency all over again, we would ask for the same crew.

Thank you for your patience with our mistakes and our many emails and volunteer requests – we hope we were able to represent you well, and we are all excited to see where our future careers are headed.





WELBYARD
LAND 2

COVID at UCLA: The Pandemic Stretches Into 2021

By Johnathan Pregler, MD | Medical Director of Operative Services



What everyone hoped would be a short battle against COVID-19 turned into an all-year battle with waves of surges that occupied the remainder of 2020 and stretched into 2021. In the summer edition of our department's Open Circuit e-magazine, Karen Sibert, MD, FASA, Director of Communications,

described the impact of the first surge that started in March 2020 at UCLA and continued through June. This first surge was filled with uncertainty and a constant quest for information on how best to manage our clinical environment. Information flooded in from colleagues in regions that had been severely affected in the spring such as New York, China, and Italy.

At UCLA, we had daily evaluations of our processes with rapid changes in recommendations and practices. We sought to limit the spread of infection among our patients and to keep our faculty, trainees, and operating room staff safe so that we could continue to deliver care. Some models of the pandemic at the time predicted that there could be oscillating waves of infection in our area, but we were all hopeful that we wouldn't face multiple cycles of infection. Unfortunately, since then, we have faced two more surges, each bringing different challenges and requiring different adaptation on the part of the Department. The events of the rest of the year were set up by the response to the first surge.



The Challenges of the First Surge

The main challenges during the first wave in the spring of 2020 were the lack of testing, a fluctuating supply of PPE, and the prospect that Southern California might end up overwhelmed with critically ill patients. Our surgical volume was severely reduced as we answered the state and county mandates to limit our use of the operating rooms and procedural areas to critical cases only. At UCLA we adopted a rule that the only cases that would proceed were those involving patients who would suffer harm from delaying surgery 30 days or more. At the height of the spring surge the reduction in cases was so severe that the outpatient venues were consolidated to only one location. Both the Stein Eye Institute and

Santa Monica Surgery Center outpatient operating rooms were completely closed and only the Westwood Surgery Center in the 200 Medical Plaza building remained operational.

The hospital’s main operating rooms at Ronald Reagan Medical Center (RRMC) and UCLA-Santa Monica Medical Center both remained open, although case volume there was also reduced. April was the lowest month for case volume at only 25% of normal capacity for the healthcare system. March and May served to bookmark that reduction with 73% and 65% of normal volume. Case numbers for the rest of the year were either above or very close to normal volume despite the surge that started in November and continued into 2021. When the cases were tallied for fiscal year 2019-20, the reduction was just under 10% across the system, much less than we anticipated when the pandemic started (Figure 1, FY 2020 data.)

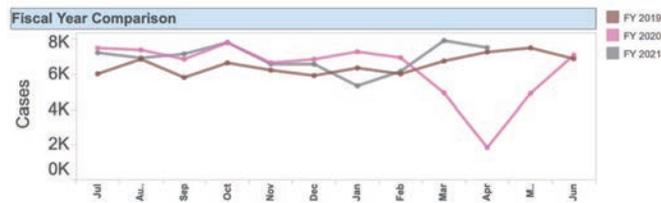


Figure 1, FY 2020 data

Temporary Return to Normalcy: May 2020

UCLA started transitioning out of the spring 2020 surge as soon as the Governor and the County relaxed restrictions in mid-May. Several factors facilitated a quick return to normal volume.

First, UCLA had a secure supply of PPE due to the actions of hospital administration. A system for UV light reprocessing of N-95 respirators was also instituted to ensure that there was adequate supply even in the face of supply chain disruptions. Everyone working in the procedural areas placed their N-95 masks at the end of the day into recycling bins and then reused them up to five times.

Second and even more importantly, a robust system of pre-procedure COVID testing was started in April during the period of greatest case reduction. The use of RT-PCR testing on nasopharyngeal specimens with a 99.9% negative predictive value guaranteed a safe environment in the procedural areas for the patients, staff, and

physicians. Several drive-through testing centers were opened to accommodate patients from the South Bay to the San Fernando Valley. The health system also worked to identify other health care facilities that were performing testing in the same manner, so that patients could have more flexibility in where to obtain their preoperative tests.



Hayley Osen P APR

The ramp up back to normal volume was complicated by the fact that staff had been reassigned to other duties during the period of low case volumes, and the surgical schedule was completely disrupted. There was a significant backlog of nearly 3500 cases that needed to be rescheduled. A carefully orchestrated process was created with a Health System steering committee guiding the process. Policies were developed to address how to maintain social distancing in the clinical setting, including visitor privileges and other measures to prevent the transmission of COVID in the perioperative areas.

In May 2020 the ORs gradually reopened as OR staff members were recalled from their temporary reassignments. The increase in case volume had to be matched with an increase in capacity in all the supporting units that the ORs depend on, including radiology, pathology, pharmacy, and inpatient nursing. The early goals were to return to 80% of normal volume and a hospital capacity of 85%. The first cases scheduled were those that had been deferred during the surge but were



deemed clinically urgent. The second group of patients to be scheduled were those who would suffer a negative clinical impact if their procedures were deferred for a longer period. As OR capability returned to normal levels in early June, purely elective cases with no urgency were allowed back on the schedule.

The ambulatory settings followed the acute care areas with reopening that was challenging since the Santa Monica Surgery Center and Stein Operating Rooms had been completely closed. After a similar process of recalling the reallocated staff and resupplying the areas, the facilities reopened. At the end of April, the Westwood Surgery Center opened more rooms and transferred the ophthalmology cases back to the Stein operating rooms. By the first week of May, the Santa Monica Surgery Center and Thousand Oaks Surgery Centers reopened for patient care.

Several other steps needed to be done to resume cases in a coordinated manner. Since the surgical block schedule had essentially been suspended for almost

two months, there was no list of patients ready to come to UCLA. A new temporary block schedule was created for the first two weeks of the transition. Surgical departments and divisions received time allocation based on a blend of their normal volume projections and the amount of backlog cases that had accumulated during the pandemic. The Surgical Chairs and Division Chiefs provided prioritized case lists to ensure that we cared for those most in need during the reopening.

UCLA was successful in accommodating deferred cases over a few months. By the end of June over half of the deferred cases had either been completed or were rescheduled. This was supported by the fact that the number of cases in the surgical pipeline was reduced during the months of the health department's stay-at-home orders, since fewer patients sought medical care during that time. Other patients simply chose to postpone their procedures until a later date due to the ongoing pandemic, which resulted in lower volumes going into the summer.

The month of June was a period of greatly reduced census of hospitalized COVID infected patients. After a peak in the hospital census at the end of April and early May at around 50 admitted patients spread across both facilities, by mid-June the number of inpatients dipped to below 20. Surgical volume rebounded to a level 7% higher than normal case volumes for the month.

Policies for the “New Normal”

The operating room medical directors and nurse managers worked on policies and protocols to consolidate the practices that had guaranteed a safe environment for all during the pandemic. The procedures for caring for COVID-positive patients were finalized and modified to adapt to a PTU, OR and PACU that were now full. A dedicated OR was kept available at both hospitals for the care of COVID-positive patients. Fortunately, the community prevalence of COVID – although thought to be high at the time – was much lower in retrospect than what would occur in the winter surge to come.

Another new policy was developed to define how to care for and test the asymptomatic patient who required urgent surgery. In the early summer, there were no rapid tests available with the same negative predictive value as the established RT-PCR test which required 4-5 hours to complete. The health system continued to expand COVID testing capabilities to accommodate the higher need for testing of all UCLA patients.

With established protocols and a more stable clinical setting, the pace of new policy and procedure creation greatly slowed. On a hospital scale this was reflected by the elimination of daily command center meetings and transition of COVID management to the normal administrative structures. In our department, COVID task force activities were transitioned back to the Clinical Operations and Quality groups which resumed their monthly meetings.

As COVID infections continued to rise slowly over the summer, it became apparent that many patients would be presenting for surgery after clinical COVID infection, but no one knew how long they would be infectious. In conjunction with infectious disease experts and using CDC guidelines, a policy was crafted to address when patients should be considered past their infectious period

after a documented COVID infection. The CDC guidelines allow for a patient to be unlabeled as a person who may transmit COVID as early as 10 days after the start of infection or when the first positive test was obtained. Because of the increased acuity of patients at UCLA, it was decided to use a more stringent 20-day rule for patients having a procedure. Given our knowledge about how long immunity lasts, it was decided that the “COVID-recovered” period would end at 90 days.

Late October: Cases Climb Again

COVID cases continued to decline in the community and among hospitalized UCLA patients from a peak census of just below 50 per day in mid-July to the single digits in mid-October. Los Angeles County came very close to moving into a less restrictive category on the state’s scale for reopening when cases started to climb again in late October. There has been much speculation in the press about why the late fall surge started, but the uptick in admitted patients with COVID definitely began prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. By the end of November, the hospital census was again at 50 across both locations, and the momentum of the increase in the prevalence in the community was continuing to rise. It became apparent that another surge was well under way and would require another adjustment to the surgical schedule (Figure 2, UCLA Health COVID Cases.)

During the fall, the UCLA COVID testing process prepared to handle increased testing demand. This decision proved to be well timed. In December

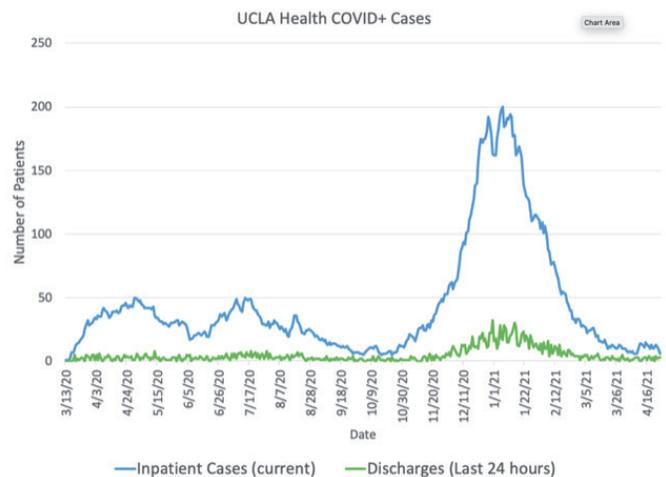


Figure 2, UCLA Health COVID Cases

pre-procedure testing changed from requiring a nasopharyngeal specimen to a mid-turbinate. Analysis of the negative predictive value of the mid-turbinate specimens proved to be very close to the reliability of the nasopharyngeal route. This change greatly expanded the locations that could perform pre-procedure testing, and allowed the system to ramp up to the higher testing volumes that started in November.

As the first week of December ended, the UCLA COVID census had climbed far beyond the previous two peaks. Preliminary meetings occurred right after Thanksgiving to re-evaluate the capability of the procedural spaces – ORs, PACUs, GI suites – to assist with a possible high COVID census at both UCLA hospitals. The surge plans that had been created in March and April were reviewed for modifications based on what had been learned over the summer and fall. The types of patients that would be placed in each hospital ward were reviewed and revised. The intent was still to place non-COVID infected patients in open units and to utilize patient spaces with doors or other containment for COVID-positive patient overflow. The first surge planning meeting also kicked off a reassessment of surgical and procedural case volumes. The Computational Medicine Group modeled the November and December rise of COVID in the community and projected that the hospital census would continue to rise through the month of December.

In the absence of any governmental guidance limiting elective surgical and procedural cases, the plans for how to adjust case volumes in December were based on the evolving situation in the hospital. The goal was to care for as many patients as possible while maintaining safe levels of inpatients at both hospitals. Because of the lessons that were learned in March and April, it was apparent that a more measured approach to a surgical and procedural schedule restriction would best support UCLA's ability to care for patients during the upcoming surge.

The first goal of December's case triage process was to develop targeted reductions in cases to keep ward and ICU beds available for the COVID inpatients. Early criteria for case postponement were focused on assessing each patient for the need for an ICU stay and the anticipated length of stay. The plan included provisions to equally distribute case deferrals across services and to preserve

UCLA's ability to care for acutely ill patients who would be harmed by a delay in care. Outpatient case volume was expected to continue at all the surgery centers if staffing allowed. These sites were also part of the planning for relocation of inpatient cases as needed, although all of them were entering the holiday period at a very high capacity.

Community-acquired COVID Affects Staff

The December surge was widely felt across the community, with daily positive test rates far exceeding those seen at any time before (Figure 3, LA County Daily Case Counts). As a result, in addition to the rise

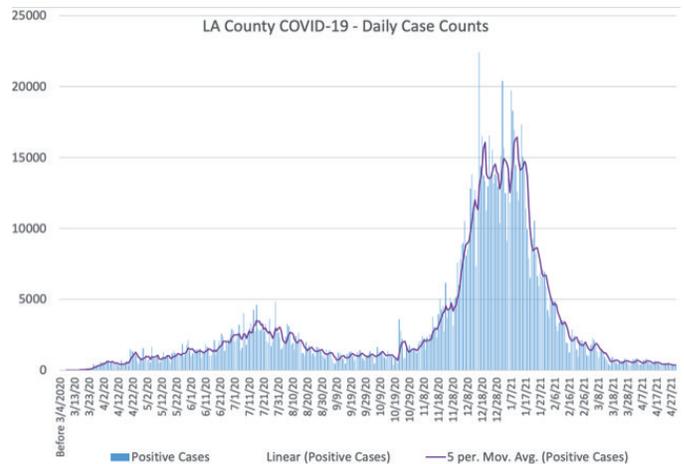


Figure 3, LA County Daily Case Counts

in patients presenting for care at UCLA and across southern California, there was also a greater impact on the workforce at UCLA. Each hospital and academic department had to work through staffing issues. Many members of the workforce were directly or indirectly impacted by COVID as family members and close contacts tested positive necessitating quarantine periods.

The planning sessions that determined the OR and procedural case volumes included members of hospital leadership, bed control, ICU, and nursing to assess all these factors daily. In keeping with the plan for a gradual reduction, a moratorium on new case scheduling was instituted on December 8 for the following 10 days. This became a rolling process with gradually increased restrictions. By the end of December, all classes of elective non-urgent cases were being rescheduled into January. The California Department of Public Health on January 5 ordered all licensed facilities to limit their

procedural and surgical cases to emergent, high-acuity cases only, a step that was already implemented at UCLA.

The winter COVID surge continued to affect a high percentage of the population throughout the month of January, and a high census persisted at both UCLA hospitals. Many admitted COVID patients had a long length of stay and a long-term effect on the hospital census. The December reduction in surgical case volume coincided with the UC holidays, resulting in a relatively minor impact on case volumes compared to historical numbers. The number of cases in December was only reduced by 4% from the average (Figure 1).

January was a different story with a surgical and procedural volume that ended at 73% of normal. Despite the much higher COVID case numbers in the community, this was not nearly as severe as the volume reduction in April because of the more targeted approach to case reduction. During the peak of the COVID surge, the hospital census briefly hit a combined 200 inpatients across both institutions in mid-January (Figure 3).

Perioperative areas at RPMC and Santa Monica were recruited for patient overflow. Santa Monica Hospital was impacted the most when the PACU was transitioned into an ICU overflow unit and, for a brief period, the staff cared for COVID-positive patients in a temporarily isolated area of the unit. As a result, all PTU and PACU functions were relocated to other areas, and the case volume was significantly reduced due to the reduction in available beds in the hospital. During the worst two weeks, SMH surgical volume ranged from no cases to only 36% of normal capacity. At RPMC, non-COVID ICU patients were briefly housed in the PACU area and some short stay patients were cared for in the TRU.

The outpatient venues continued to function during the surge at a very high capacity. There were continued pressures on staffing in the outpatient areas due to a high case load and the impact of the COVID surge on the staff's ability to work. Inpatient staff volunteered and assisted in the outpatient areas during the case reductions in the hospitals to make up for the effect of community spread on staffing.

To further maximize the number of patients that UCLA could care for during the surge, all outpatient and overnight cases in the hospital were identified for

relocation to an outpatient venue. Many cases were moved to maintain the lowest possible census in the hospital during this time. As a result of this process, UCLA Health tested the capability to move more cases traditionally performed in the hospital setting to outpatient facilities. Some of these case types will remain outpatient based going forward.

By mid-January the hospital's COVID census was dropping rapidly, and by the end of January had been reduced to half of the peak. Scheduling restrictions were removed almost completely by the last week of January. The only consideration that remained was the impact of scheduled cases on the hospitals' ICU capacity. Cases requiring a post-procedural ICU stay were reviewed for acuity until February 5, and then all limitations on surgical or procedural scheduling were lifted.

Unlike the surge in the spring, there was no need to have a process for reinstating block time or scheduling processes. The graded approach to schedule reduction left all the normal scheduling steps in place, and surgical patients were easily rescheduled. Only 611 cases were deferred in the December to January surge. This was 15% of the reduction seen in the spring, despite the much higher level of COVID in the community and the four-fold higher census in the hospital. By the end of January, 75% of these patients already had their procedure or were rescheduled (Figure 4, Rescheduled Cases.)

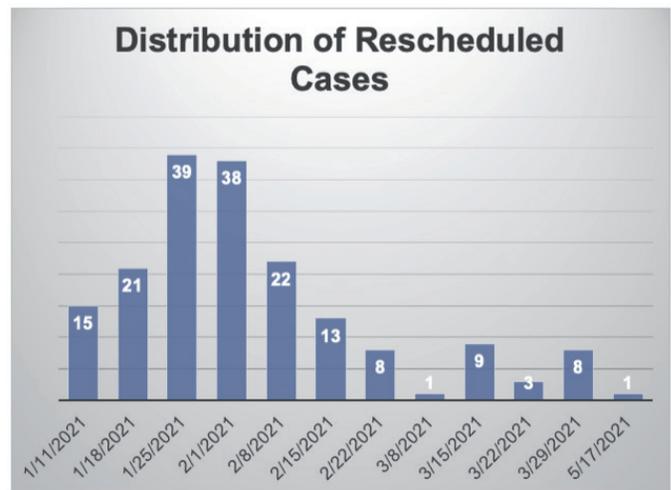


Figure 4, Rescheduled Cases

From January, when vaccination first became available, until the writing of this article in late April, COVID cases have continued to decline in Los Angeles County and

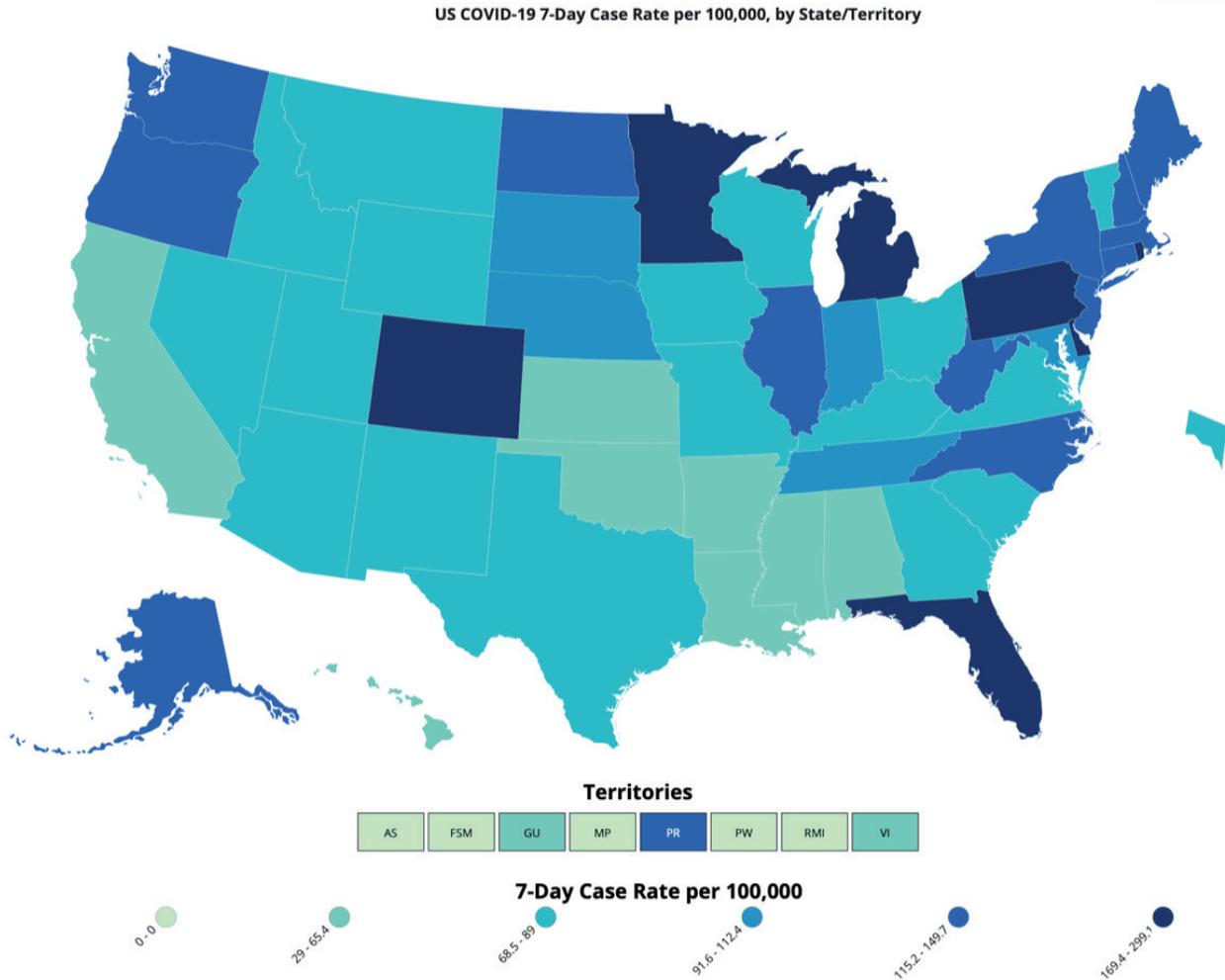


Figure 5, CDC Covid Map

across the state of California. In fact, during the past week California has the distinction of having the lowest incidence of new cases among all 50 states (Figure 5, CDC Covid Map.) Surgical case volumes have returned to normal and exceeded normal volumes in March and April, 2021. The effect of the COVID pandemic is best displayed in Figure 1, which shows the total surgical and procedural volumes over the past 3 years. With the improved outlook in the community, the hospital census of COVID has steadily decreased and at the end of April is consistently in the single digits across both hospitals.

UCLA has weathered three COVID infection surges over the past year and learned many lessons that helped us adapt and survive the pandemic. The availability of COVID vaccines since early January, continued supply of PPE, implementation of new procedures, and robust pre-procedure COVID testing requirements have provided a safe work environment for the physicians, staff, and

a safe environment of care for the patients. To this day there has not been a single case of COVID transmission from a procedural patient to the perioperative health care workforce since the start of the pandemic.

The lessons that were learned since the first surge in the spring of 2020 prepared us to adapt to the much bigger surge in December and January. The Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine and the Health System have learned how to manage during the pandemic while maintaining excellent patient care and sustaining delivery of health care to the community. The process of reviewing how we performed during the latest surge and across the past 15 months is now underway, and the adaptation to the new reality of living with an ongoing level of COVID in the community is starting. Should UCLA face another surge of COVID or a different pandemic, the many lessons we learned and the processes put in place will serve us well.

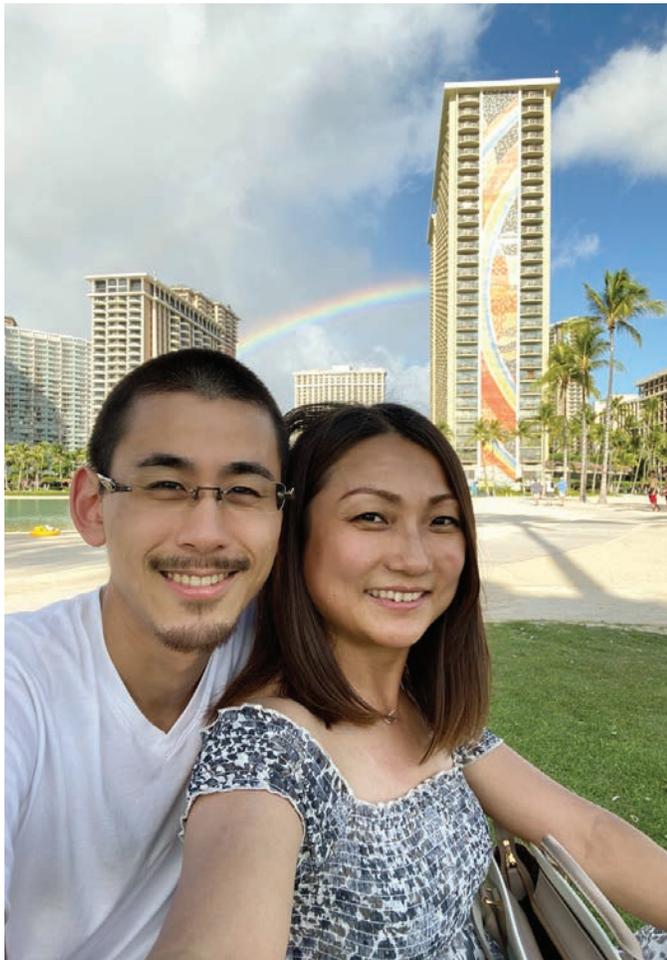




RESIDENTS

Yusuke Akahoshi, MD

I was born and raised in Oregon, and after finishing high school I eventually made my way out to LA while my family moved back to Japan. After graduating from USC for both undergrad and medical school, I matched into my top choice anesthesiology residency at UCLA. I am incredibly thankful to all my co-residents and attendings for making my experience here absolutely phenomenal. I'm excited to share that I will be joining the West LA VA Anesthesiology Department after graduation, where I will be working alongside many UCLA alumni.



From the Faculty –

Whenever a faculty member needs to cover two operating rooms, it has often been noted that having Dr. Yusuke Akahoshi in one of them is a huge advantage. He has superb clinical judgment and outstanding technical skills, and at times has been mistaken for a fellow. Though he is a native of Portland, Oregon, and a Trojan by virtue of receiving his undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences as well as his MD at USC, we know he is now a Bruin at heart.

We are delighted that Dr. Akahoshi will be joining the faculty at the West Los Angeles VA, where he will apply his considerable skills, knowledge, and Zen-like equanimity to the education of upcoming generations of anesthesiology residents. They are lucky to have him!



Susan Alaei, MD

Getting to know Dr. Susan Alaei over the last four years has been a gift. We are fast friends, and I am grateful to have had someone like her to share my residency. When working together, I have seen how her intelligence, warmth, and innate talent for anesthesiology inspire confidence in the anesthesia team, and encourage morale and positivity throughout the entire operating room. She brings out the best in everyone around her, and I feel lucky to call her both a colleague and a close friend. Her pursuit of excellence in anesthesiology, and commitment to advanced training in pediatric anesthesiology, is nothing but inspiring.

With such dedication in all aspects of her work and life, I believe that she will be at the pinnacle of the field in no time. It has been my pleasure to learn and grow with Susan. I have no doubt that her future will shine, and that she will continue to brighten the lives of others as much as she has brightened mine.

By co-resident Jason Pia



From the Faculty –



Dr. Susan Alaei grew up in Mesa, Arizona, and attended the University of Nevada for her undergraduate studies in biochemistry and molecular biology, and for medical school as well. Continuing her journey

westward to UCLA, she has distinguished herself for her communications skills and rapport with patients and families, for her strong work ethic, and for her adaptability to every challenging situation. As the chief residents have remarked, Susan is also renowned for luscious Instagram food photos! The faculty note that she is always a joy to be around, even during the busiest of calls.

We will miss Dr. Alaei as she moves across town for her pediatric anesthesiology fellowship at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, but are happy she will still be close by.

Nicole Andonian, MD



Born in LA before moving to San Diego at age 10, Dr. Nicole Andonian attended undergrad at UCLA before heading to Ohio State for med school. However, she couldn't escape the pull of Southern California, and

we are all so fortunate she made her way back to UCLA for residency. Nicole carries herself with professionalism in the OR and pairs this with great clinical judgment. If I had a loved one undergoing surgery, I would feel comforted knowing they were under her care.

It turns out this knack for caregiving isn't something new. I asked Nicole's mom to chime in and she wrote, "She has always known she wanted to be a doctor since she was 8 years old...and once she makes a decision there is no going back. She's always been the person everyone runs to for help and advice...the voice of reason."

Besides being wonderful with patient care, Nicole's natural ability to bring warmth to every environment and bring people together has made her a true social chair for our residency class, helping to create so many of the memories that we will all take with us as we move forward. Nicole, I'm lucky to have you as a lifelong friend – we'll see you back in LA soon.

By co-resident Dane Saksa



From the Faculty –

A SoCal native and UCLA graduate, Dr. Nicole Andonian has expanded her horizons to the world with her interest in global health. In March, as soon as the pandemic permitted, she traveled to Armenia under the auspices of UCLA's Operation Armenia to help provide disaster relief and humanitarian aid to Armenia and Artsakh after the November invasion by Azerbaijan and Turkey. She has been involved with setting up a COVID mobile unit to monitor and provide oxygen for COVID patients in their homes, and creating a fellowship for state-of-the-art training in transfusion medicine. We're so proud of her work!

In the operating room, Dr. Andonian has always had a reputation for staying calm and unruffled amid chaos, and is an excellent multitasker whenever she runs the board for the call team. We will miss Nicole's resourcefulness and positive attitude toward her uniformly excellent clinical work, and we're sure she will excel in her upcoming regional anesthesiology fellowship at UC San Diego.



Stefan Besada, MD



If you look at Dr. Stefan Besada's Instagram page, you will find rows of beautiful photos, expertly shot and edited by Stefan himself. However, the true gems of his Instagram actually lie in the hilarious non-sequiturs that are

captioned with each photo. Therein lies the essence of Stefan - he is not only an immensely talented individual, but he also carries himself with a sense of humility and humor which makes him stand out as one of the most beloved figures in our class. Stefan is a true Bruin through and through, embodying many of the values that we cherish about UCLA. Thus, we are fortunate that Dr. Besada will soon become Professor Besada, joining our department as faculty, and continuing to bring joy and laughter to his patients and trainees with his wit and warmth.

By co-resident Libby Wang



From the Faculty –

It will be very hard for us as faculty to top the lovely comments about Dr. Stefan Besada written by his co-resident, Libby Wang! However, we concur in the opinion that Dr. Besada can be described as spirited, dedicated, and just as passionate about his work in the operating room as he is about his photography. Born in Wurzburg, a city in the north of the German state of Bavaria, Dr. Besada came to UCLA for his undergraduate degree in anthropology, and then went to Houston for his MD at Baylor College of Medicine. We're so pleased that he came back! The energy that surrounds him reveals his commitment to bringing the best care to every patient, every time. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Besada to our faculty ranks in July, and we believe that his future trainees are fortunate indeed that he will be among their teachers.

Shaun Disney, MD

From the Faculty—

Midway through dental school, Dr. Shaun Disney knew that he had made a mistake – his true vocation lay in medicine, not dentistry. He made the tough decision to switch professions, and worked for two years as a scribe in the ER while he completed premed requirements and gained admission to UC Irvine for medical school. No question – Dr. Disney’s attitude of calmness and competence is infused by these extra years of experience. Colleagues note that the call team seems to run better when he’s on the team.



The chief residents have remarked upon Shaun’s unique blend of “personality, fun, humor, and wit”. As faculty, we didn’t get to see as much of that, but we’ll remember Shaun for his empathy and wonderful bedside manner. On one occasion as a CA-1, he was very concerned that a high-risk patient might have suffered intraoperative recall, and went out of his way to visit the patient several times afterward to make sure that wasn’t the case.

We wish Dr. Disney all the best as he departs for Portland, Oregon, to join the Oregon Anesthesiology Group at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center.



Xuezhi Dong, MD, MPH

Wow, what a crazy four years! I still vividly remember the morning I stepped on the UCLA campus for my interview the day after the 2016 election. Now four years, a new president, and a global pandemic later, I can't believe it's already time to say goodbye to my UCLA family.

It seems only like yesterday when I called a co-resident for a MICU downgrade or exchanged notes on how to set up an OR as a CA-0. We came into residency as bright-eyed new interns full of anticipation, and now we help each other finish pre-op notes on long weekend calls, comfort each other when something didn't go well in the OR, and support each other as capable anesthesiologists. Standing at the junction between residency and the next part of my journey as a fellow at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City, I am privileged, humbled, and extraordinarily grateful for everyone I had the chance to work with at UCLA.

It takes a village to train a resident, and I can't imagine an experience without the exceptional faculty mentors, education office staff, co-residents, nurses, PSSTs and many others who have accompanied me on this wonderful journey. It has been a challenging but unforgettable four years, and I can't think of a better place to spend them than here.



From the Faculty –

When Dr. Xuezhi Dong was 11 years old, he moved with his family from his birthplace in Dalian, China, to a one-room apartment in Phoenix, Arizona. Speaking no English at first, he had to adapt to below-average public schools while his parents worked 12-hour days, six days a week. But seven years later he gained admission to Harvard University, where he earned his undergraduate degree in molecular and cell biology. “I was terrified when I got to Harvard,” Dr. Dong recalls. “But just gotta do it!”

That attitude helps explain Zhi's subsequent success, earning his MPH from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, and going on to medical school at UC San Diego. We are delighted that this remarkable individual chose UCLA for residency! Attendings praise his insightful questions and constant desire to learn. This year, he easily rose to the challenges of difficult cases and complex patients, and took on the additional responsibility of being a UCLA Health Resident Informaticist.

Dr. Dong will be returning to the east coast after graduation to pursue a fellowship in Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City.



Craig Flath, MD

I can't believe four years of residency could go by so fast. It seems like just yesterday that I was packing up my car in Nashville after finishing medical school at Vanderbilt, anticipating the long road trip back to Southern California. I've loved my time at UCLA, and I will miss my co-residents and the great faculty in our department. We have a great collaborative culture here that has definitely helped to prepare me for the future. Next year, I will be heading up north to UCSF to pursue a pediatric anesthesia fellowship.



From the Faculty –

Dr. Craig Flath completed undergraduate studies at UC Irvine and earned his MD from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. Faculty members note that he is always steadfast in his work ethic, eager to learn, and never shies away from duty. An excellent teacher of medical students and junior residents, he is helpful to everyone in need, always ready with a positive attitude and a friendly smile.

Yet there clearly are depths to Dr. Flath that are known only to his fellow residents. In their article in this yearbook, “One Last Word from the Chiefs”, we find a reference to “a living legend among us, one who goes by the name of Craig Flath.” When we inquired further, we were told that Craig is “one of the most revered residents in the class,” and the residents would understand what was meant without further explanation. And there we have it.

We will miss Dr. Flath greatly, and wish him all the best as he heads north to tackle a pediatric anesthesiology fellowship at UCSF!

Azad Hirpara, MD Chief Resident

With our residency training coming to an end, there is nothing left to reveal about Dr. Azad Hirpara's commitment and reputation in our department. He is a superstar on so many levels – a true patient advocate – and has played a huge part in how much I've enjoyed my residency at UCLA. He is universally well-liked, lighthearted, and I was lucky enough to work with him and Libby as co-chiefs this year.

Azad has always been a solid voice of reason, is extremely patient, and is a "sees things from all angles" kind of leader, all of which makes him such a great chief. Azad has a special talent of making difficult tasks look easy, from having the extraordinary ability to quickly find solutions to challenging situations encountered throughout the year (after all, he has been dubbed our Chief of Public Relations and Communications), to delivering an amazing Grand Rounds presentation as a CA-1 that was lauded by our entire class. He can effortlessly drain 3-pointers anywhere on the basketball court (while by comparison, I suffered a severe ankle sprain on a routine layup attempt when we were playing after a clinic day on chronic pain together).

I'm excited to see where your career takes you, although I'm not-so-secretly hoping you come back to SoCal after your cardiac fellowship at Stanford. I know you'll be a huge asset wherever you go.

By co-resident Jeff Kim



From the Faculty –



One of this year's chief residents elected by his peers, Dr. Azad Hirpara has consistently shown exceptional leadership talent as well as "star quality", representing our program superbly in our residency program video. Dr. Hirpara came to UCLA from New Jersey as a graduate of

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark. From the beginning he excelled in the operating room, and one of his earliest attendings here labelled him right away as a future exemplar of the best of what our specialty can be. With outstanding technical skills in the hospital as well as on the basketball court, Azad has become a highly competent consultant who can lead the care of the sickest patients and serves as a kind, thoughtful role model for students and junior residents.

Dr. Hirpara will be greatly missed here as he continues his training in cardiothoracic anesthesiology with a fellowship at Stanford. We share the hope of his co-chief resident, Jeff Kim, that perhaps he will find his way back to UCLA eventually!

Bryant Hong, MD

Bryant Hong was first described to me as “a great guy, a real gentleman.” Over the past few years as his roommate and co-resident, I can attest that this reputation is 100% accurate. Whether it’s describing where to find the elusive Phillips 2 blade, explaining the benefits of the Aintree catheter for fiberoptic intubations, or helping the OB nurses place an ultrasound-guided IV in a pregnant patient, Bryant brings a contagious enthusiasm and calming competence to everything he does.

Bryant has time and time again proven himself to be a compassionate physician, a caring friend, and a brilliant anesthesiologist. There is no doubt in my mind that he will continue to embody the values and integrity that UCLA Anesthesiology has taught us. I am so proud to have been his friend and colleague through residency, and look forward to watching him continue to grow as a clinician when he joins Cedars-Sinai as a cardiac anesthesiology fellow next year.

By co-resident Libby Wang



From the Faculty –

If you want something done, and done right, Dr. Bryant Hong is the one to call – but by the time you call, he may have done it already. Bryant hails from Orange County, completed his undergraduate studies at UC Irvine, and earned his MD at George Washington University. Focus, efficiency, and diligence are all terms used to describe Bryant’s clinical work. Any faculty member lucky enough to supervise him knows that he could be trusted to carry out any anesthetic plan with exquisite care and attention to detail. Dr. Hong has never shied away from challenges, putting in stellar performances in the high-stress environments of the cardiac operating rooms and intensive care units where he has found his calling. We are proud to see him cross the city for a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and happy to know he’ll still be close by.

Jeffrey Kim, MD, MS Chief Resident



I consider Dr. Jeff Kim to be one of the best friends I've made during residency. We quickly found common ground with sports, music, and good food. We've made such great memories, from showcasing our "skills" on the basketball court, spending football

Sundays on the couch at Jeff's, to watching some unbelievable playoff basketball moments together. To top it all off, I was honored to serve by his side as co-Chief Residents with Libby Wang. Jeff is a role model friend and physician – he is incredibly intelligent, thoughtful, and genuine, but one of his best qualities is his empathy. All throughout the year, he was constantly checking in on his colleagues during moments of stress, and he carries this same attitude with his patients.

Jeff, thank you for the great influence you've had on me over the past few years. Really happy for your recent engagement and so proud of you for landing your number-one choice for regional fellowship at UCLA!

By co-resident Azad Hirpara



From the Faculty –

Dr. Jeff Kim's name at UCLA is synonymous with hard work and a positive attitude. Together with his two peerless co-chief residents, Jeff shouldered with aplomb the burdens of being a chief during an extremely challenging year, and brought a calm, friendly smile to every situation. Hailing from Los Angeles and earning his undergraduate degree from UCLA, Jeff crossed the country to Georgetown University for a master's degree in physiology and biophysics, and then finished medical school at the University of Arizona. From his first days here, he brought focus and dedication to his work, pushing his own boundaries in search of self-improvement. Lest we lose sight of Jeff's sense of fun, we note that he is an enthusiastic sports fan and a weekend warrior on the basketball court.

We are delighted that we don't have to say goodbye yet, because Dr. Kim is staying at UCLA for a fellowship in Acute Pain and Regional Anesthesiology, and we're looking forward to a great year!

Albert Lee, MD

To my friends and esteemed colleagues:

Whether you are aware of it or not, every day you continue to inspire me through your ambition and dedication to your work, and your compassion to those around you. It has been, is still, and will remain impossible to mention and thank you all. Not only have I had the privilege to train alongside you, but my time here has also brought with it a kinship that I would describe as nothing short of family. I can think of no better home to spend two additional years as a Critical Care and Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Fellow. We have come far. For now, onward, and upward, and true to the line.



From the Faculty –

When one of your faculty members says he would be happy to have you as the anesthesiologist for himself or his family, you know you've succeeded as a resident! That is the case for Dr. Albert Lee, who has distinguished himself during his years at UCLA for his clinical acumen and for a dry wit that sums up any situation with razor-like precision. Albert majored in biochemistry at Occidental College and went on to the University of Chicago for his MD. He is known for being able to handle any case that comes his way like a pro, whether as team captain, in the operating room, or in the ICU. Not afraid of hard work, Dr. Lee will be staying on at UCLA for the Iditarod of fellowships: the two-year combined Cardiothoracic and Critical Care Medicine program. We are delighted that we don't have to say goodbye!

Hewenfei Li, MD

I have spent roughly 1/3 of my life in Asia, Europe and North America respectively. People are always wondering when I will finally settle down in one place. I say life is too short not to take risks, and I am always searching for new adventures. My life took an unexpected turn when I came to UCLA where I found love, the most amazing group of friends, staff, and incredible mentors who have forever changed my life. I am so thankful for everyone who has helped me through this journey over these four years of residency. I cannot wait to start my next adventure as a member of UCLA's faculty!



From the Faculty –

There's a reason why nothing seems to faze Dr. Hewenfei "Elwyn" Li, and why she stays so cool under pressure. At six years old, she started playing tennis in her home city of Chengdu, China, the capital of the Sichuan province, and by the age of 10 she was sponsored to play competitively in Europe! She trained chiefly in Germany and traveled worldwide with her coach for competitions, reaching the rank of No. 2 in Europe in the Juniors category. Elwyn was recruited by the powerhouse women's tennis team at Brigham Young University-Hawaii, where she led the team to singles and doubles national titles.

Here at UCLA, Dr. Li has distinguished herself as an outstanding clinician, at the same time a great team player and a proactive leader. She was instrumental in organizing training sessions in donning and doffing PPE at the start of the pandemic, making sure that her fellow residents and faculty alike knew how to protect themselves. We are fortunate indeed that Elwyn will be staying on at UCLA as a faculty member! Does she still play tennis for fun? No, she says – "hard to change my mentality from super-competitive to just casually playing. Maybe one day I will get back to it again!"

Jerry Markar, MD

UCLA is home to me. It's where I completed my undergraduate degree and, after being away for four years, returned to complete my residency. It's an honor to be a part of the UCLA family where I'm surrounded by talented and kind co-residents, fellows, faculty, and staff. I'm thrilled to continue at UCLA for my pain fellowship!

Being in Los Angeles has also allowed my wife and me to raise our son Christopher (now four and half years old) close to family and friends, and welcome our second son William (now two and half years old) to our family. Thank you to my family for all their love and support.

Congratulations to all the other graduating residents and fellows!



From the Faculty –

Dr. Jerry Markar was born in Brighton, England, but his family moved to America when he was six months old (which explains his lack of a British accent), and he grew up in La Crescenta, near Los Angeles. Before medicine, he had an entirely different career in construction, installing fire sprinklers. Dr. Markar attributes to his former work his ability to relate and empathize with people from all walks of life. He loves spending time with his wife and two young sons doing “anything outdoors,” and has even tried skydiving!

Jerry is always ahead of the curve while in the operating room, relaxed and at ease, and able to handle any case. Attendings have described him as a “calm center in a metaphorical storm – for patients, allied health professionals, and physician colleagues.” Dr. Markar is drawn to pain medicine because “it allows me to establish long-term meaningful relationships with patients while improving their quality of life.” We’re delighted that he’s staying here at UCLA for his fellowship in pain medicine.

Sara Navab, MD

Dr. Sara Navab grew up not far from UCLA, graduating from the Archer School for Girls in Brentwood prior to attending NYU and pursuing a career in entertainment. After deciding to switch professions to medicine, UCLA brought Sara back to her hometown. As a medical student, Sara met the love of her life and fellow anesthesiologist, Dr. Kavah Navab. Together they are parents to three adorable cats, Hootie, Bjork, and King. Sara adores them and is likely to show off their pictures if you run into her in the OR.

It is not just her beloved cats, however, that receive Sara's genuine care and kindness. Since the start of residency, Sara has always been known to go above and beyond in thinking of and caring for her fellow residents. Whether it was cupcakes for your first Reagan wards call, throwing a lavish post-boards bash so everyone can celebrate, or inviting you over for the holidays when you can't make it home, Sara is one of the most thoughtful and giving individuals you ever will come across. Sara is not only a great friend but an amazing and compassionate physician. UCLA is lucky to have her next year as she pursues a fellowship in Chronic Pain.

By co-resident Mariam Sarwary



From the Faculty –

Dr. Sara Navab is a native of Los Angeles, but after spending several years in New York City, she has brought an east coast-influenced, lively spirit to her class and department. It is difficult to find any group photo of a class event that doesn't include Sara's smile! At all hours, no matter how long she has been in the hospital, her energy seems limitless and uplifts those around her. As co-resident Mariam Sarwary has noted, Sara cares deeply for her patients and colleagues. As the chief residents have noted, she is a generous hostess known for her "epic holiday get-togethers". On top of all that, Dr. Navab has superb clinical judgment and great technical skills, and she was a strong force in the department as a class representative. We are fortunate indeed that Dr. Navab will be staying in Los Angeles, with her husband and cats, and starting her fellowship at UCLA in pain medicine.



Amy Nguyen, MD

For Amy Nguyen, West Coast is Best Coast! She grew up in Ventura County and traveled south to UC San Diego for her undergraduate studies, returning up the Southern California coast to David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA for medical school. She had a great experience at UCLA and stayed on for residency. Amy loved her residency training at UCLA and was surrounded by wonderful faculty, co-residents, friends, and family. She will be going north on the 405 this year to begin her career at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center.



From the Faculty –

To see Dr. Amy Nguyen in action, you need look no further than our Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Medicine Fellowship video, where the camera captured her putting in popliteal nerve blocks like a pro. However, Amy isn't doing a regional anesthesia fellowship – she's one of those in her class who doesn't want to subspecialize, at least not yet, and will be doing her own cases soon as she joins the team at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center.

Dr. Nguyen grew up in Ventura County and has strong family ties there. Pre-pandemic, as the chief residents have noted, she was one of the “foodies” of her class, and often posted Instagram photos of enviable meals she was about to enjoy. Now that restaurants have reopened, Dr. Nguyen once again is enjoying her favorite Japanese spots including Marugame Udon – “great for cheap simple comforting udon”, she says, and tempura too. We'll miss Amy's outstanding clinical skills and team-player attitude, and we wish her all the best at Olive View!

Hayley Osen, MD, MS

Four years ago, I matched into my first-choice residency and cried tears of joy to be joining the UCLA family and returning home to California. Since then, I've journeyed through the ups and downs of some of the most challenging years of my life and enjoyed the steep learning curve of residency.

I would like to thank many people for making me proud of the physician I am today: my family and husband for their love, our faculty for their wisdom and mentorship, and my colleagues for their friendship and support. I look forward to next year at UCLA as part of the Chronic Pain Fellowship!



From the Faculty –

We're so pleased that we don't have to say farewell to Dr. Hayley Osen, as she will be staying on at UCLA for a fellowship in pain medicine! Raised in Pasadena, Dr. Osen went to Johns Hopkins for her undergraduate studies and the University of Michigan for medical school. When she visited UCLA, "the strong sense of community I felt was one factor that made me particularly happy to come here," she says, though we suspect that SoCal weather may also have worked in our favor.

During her time as a resident, Hayley has worked on quality projects, helping to design the anesthesia MRI pump library, and working to improve safety in out-of-OR anesthesia sites. If you watch our Regional Anesthesia fellowship video, you can see her skillful hands at work putting in a thoracic epidural. Conscientious, thoughtful, and empathic, Dr. Osen is an excellent clinician who is more than ready to take on the next challenge in her career.



Jason Pia, MD, MHS, MPH

How to describe Dr. Jason Pia?

Jason has a clear and natural affinity for his work, demonstrating indisputable intelligence and clinical acumen. He thoughtfully commands respect while advocating for his patients in the operating room. There is an understated, quiet elegance to how Jason shoulders his responsibilities as an anesthesiologist. He displays a steadfast commitment to his patients, with compassion and attentiveness woven into his approach towards every person he cares for. More than his clinical expertise, Jason has a charming sense of humor and has quickly become one of my good friends. One of the most down-to-earth people you'll ever have the pleasure of knowing, he is the kind of friend who will drop by for dinner and stay for hours, conversing about the joys in life. At his core, Jason is a brilliant human being and an exceptional, inspiring friend. It is a privilege to have known him, and I look forward to seeing where life takes him.

By co-resident Susan Alaei



From the Faculty –



Dr. Jason Pia took a circuitous route on his way to medical school and residency here at UCLA. He was drawn at first to the computer tech world of Silicon Valley, but ultimately decided to go to medical school and completed

both an MPH at UCLA and a Master of Health Science (MHS) from Johns Hopkins along the way. We're sure he made the right decision! With a constant attitude of good cheer and an outstanding work ethic, Jason is always ready to tackle the next challenge and can think on his feet when quick reaction is needed. We only wish he would apply his considerable tech skills to making the electronic health record better! However, Dr. Pia is a clinician at heart, and will join a private practice group in San Mateo to care for patients at Mills-Peninsula Medical Center. We think his future patients are very fortunate, and we wish Dr. Pia all the best!

Aanchal Prakash, MD

Dr. Aanchal Prakash came to us from the frigid Midwest intent on becoming the Instagram influencer she always knew she could be. Initial impressions proved accurate as her new co-residents realized her personality and energy level were akin to those of a hungry puppy: always enthusiastic, and eager to make dinner reservations.

A student of American idioms and pop culture, she is as comfortable intubating MICU patients as she is exploring LA brunch spots in a glorious sun hat. Her palate expanded from home-cooked Indian food to such delicacies as the infamous “pizookie”. At times it seemed as if she was in a residency of her own with limitless free time for activities. Yet Dr. Prakash never shied away from challenging cases and approached them the same way she planned her vacations: meticulously and with a smile. Her UCLA legacy includes the controversial new designer Team Captain bag described by Aanchal as “for women, by women”.

Aanchal has been a true friend and resource to anyone who needed her, offering support intuitively to those who didn't know they needed it. And so we send her off to the brunch locales of San Diego – a town that has no idea what it is in for once she arrives. We wish her the best in all her endeavors, whether poolside or ultrasound-guided. Her patients are lucky to have her, and we are better for having trained with her.

By co-resident Ian Worden



From the Faculty –



Dr. Aanchal Prakash has contributed during her time at UCLA in so many ways! She has visited local high school classrooms to talk to students about anesthesiology, intubation mannequin in tow. As senior co-chair for our resident recruitment committee, Aanchal put forth extraordinary effort to create virtual experiences for

medical students which were key to our match-day success. Aanchal cherishes time with her classmates and appears often in this yearbook's photo album. Look for her July 4 birthday cake and sourdough bread!

Aanchal's interest in regional anesthesiology is linked to her interest in global health. Knowing that supplies and medications for general anesthesia are often in short supply in the developing world, Dr. Prakash hopes to use her regional skills outside the US in future. She has already traveled to Belize, India, and Nicaragua to learn about healthcare needs abroad. After her outstanding performance as a resident here, Dr. Prakash will join Dr. Nicole Andonian in the regional anesthesiology and acute pain medicine program at UC San Diego.

Dane Saksa, MD, MBA

Dane is originally from Kansas, and completed a stellar higher education by getting his undergraduate degree from Stanford University, and his MD and MBA from Columbia University in New York City. Dane is an extremely compassionate, conscientious, and loving individual. He checks in on his loved ones regularly, he was among the first to try to volunteer in NYC during the early pandemic days, and he is always hiding a smile (and sometimes a stache) under his mask. He takes pride in his work as an anesthesiologist as well as his passion for global health, health economics and medical informatics. Outside of work, Dane can most often be found reading at the beach in the summer, skiing in the winter, and working out several times a day (with the biceps to prove it!).

Our department is extremely fortunate that he is staying on as faculty and will continue imparting his knowledge and cracking friendly jokes with the next generation of residents. His husband, Ryan, says, "I am so proud of Dane's dedication and commitment to his practice over the course of his residency, especially during this last extremely challenging year. I can't wait to see where his career at UCLA takes him!"

By co-resident Nicole Andonian



From the Faculty –



With his MD/MBA background from Columbia University in New York City, Dr. Dane Saksa has brought invaluable experience and perspective to his residency class. He became interested in medicine on a personal level even before college as his father

endured the onset of renal failure and underwent a kidney transplant. Watching his father's experiences as a patient has contributed to Dane's patient-centered attitude toward the practice of medicine, and his personal kindness to everyone around him.

The Society for Education in Anesthesia awarded Dane a coveted Health Volunteers Overseas Traveling Fellowship last year for his proven interest in global health and health systems. Though the pandemic has curtailed travel for now, he still hopes the fellowship will enable him to journey to Rwanda and teach anesthesia trainees there. In the meantime, we are delighted that he is joining our UCLA faculty after his outstanding performance as a resident, and we can't wait to see what he'll do next!

Mariam Sarwary, MD

Dr. Mariam Sarwary grew up in the Bay Area with her parents and two siblings, Zaki and Zohal. She attended UC Berkeley, then GW for medical school, and will be heading to Stanford for fellowship in Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Medicine! Mariam is known for her work with the CSA where she served as the In-Training Forum Director and was selected as an ASA Resident Scholar, representing us in D.C. She is a physician who will no doubt be a household name – maybe as a future surgeon general...

When I first met Mariam, I noticed her confidence, class, and elegance. She has a calming demeanor that brings comfort to all those around her, colleagues and patients alike. We all look up to Mariam; she has immense empathy and compassion. Her air of maturity is beyond her years and her spirituality never wavers.

I was lucky enough to be paired with Mariam for our initial month of residency where we first entered the OR together, learning the basics of anesthesia. There is no one else I would rather have by my side. Mariam is an incredible human being, and I am so grateful to have her as a colleague and friend.

By co-resident Sara Navab



From the Faculty –

Among all the residents in her class, Dr. Mariam Sarwary is perhaps the most politically astute in her awareness that healthcare is deeply affected by legislative and regulatory action. Before the pandemic, she joined the CSA in Sacramento to advocate with legislators on healthcare issues. She currently serves as the CSA's In-Training Forum Director and chairs the Committee on Resident Representation. At her very first CSA House of Delegates meeting, Mariam stood up to testify about the need for residents to learn about healthcare policy and take part in advocacy, persuading the House to dedicate more support to resident participation.

With a serene air soothing to patients and staff alike, Mariam is an excellent clinician who truly cares for her patients as she treats each one with dignity and humanity. She will return to her northern California roots in July as she begins her fellowship in Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine at Stanford.

Liam Sullivan, MD

Liam was born and raised near Portland, Maine and came to sunny California by way of Rhode Island and a brief stint in Minnesota. Against his better judgment, he is returning to colder climates to continue his training at Boston Children's Hospital, though he suspects California has not seen the last of him.

Outside of the hospital, Liam enjoys cooking for friends and riding his bike. He is grateful for his supportive community and looks forward to staying in contact!



From the Faculty –

Dr. Liam Sullivan's cerebral air should never be mistaken for disinterest. He has a colorful and vast fund of knowledge applicable inside the OR and beyond, and he can tell you with equal facility about all the new eateries for any type of food or the various steps for primary hemostasis. Unbeknownst to many, Dr. Sullivan majored in music at Brown University, where he also attended medical school. His music degree focused on the intersection of computer technology and music, using hardware and software to create interesting sounds. A violinist since the age of six, today Liam plays bass, guitar, and in his words "software instruments". Did we mention that he is an accomplished chef? Recently, Dr. Sullivan planned and cooked meals for seven during a weekend away!

Not afraid of cold weather, Dr. Sullivan will return to the northeast and apply his outstanding professional skills to a pediatric anesthesiology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. We will miss you!

Emily Walters, MD, PhD

Mine was an unlikely journey.

Growing up poor in rural America, struggling to launch, then having an entire other career before deciding at 27 that I might not be too old for college – this is not a typical resident story.

It would have been impossible alone. I wanted a supportive residency and I got it. Through all the ups and downs (lots of both!), I could always count on my co-residents, the faculty, the support staff and the nurses to carry me through.

And my incredible family. I've dragged them across the country many times now, and while I can't say they've always been cheerful about it, they've at least always been funny.

Los Angeles has been wonderful. We've spent days at the beach, weekends at theme parks, and eaten our body weight in tacos; yes, Los Angeles has been wonderful, but now it's time to go home.



From the Faculty –

If we gave an award for triumph over adversity, Dr. Emily Walters would be a top candidate! Self-supporting since she was 16, Dr. Walters grew up in Kansas, working nights at Taco Bell while she finished high school, and becoming a mother at 18. She worked her way up in the corporate world, in IT and operations management, before deciding that she wasn't too old at 27 to start college. The idea of ever going on to medical school seemed “a little pretentious and a little insane,” she recalls, “but here I am!”

Dr. Walters earned her MD and PhD in genetics at the University of Rochester. Here at UCLA, she has balanced the demands of residency and primary parental duty throughout the pandemic with four offspring, the youngest age 10. We truly don't know how she has done it, but attribute her success to her courage, tenacity, and strong sense of duty to her patients, her family, and her fellow residents.

Dr. Walters is heading back to her Midwest roots, where she will join the group at Freeman Hospital in Joplin, Missouri, practicing cardiac anesthesia and working with local medical students. “We're planning on getting a house in the country so that we can have chickens and fruit trees and a giant telescope,” she says. Congratulations, Dr. Walters!

Libbing Wang, MD

Chief Resident

Libby Wang often starts off her days announcing, “Today is going to be an amazing day!” It is not every day that we have the pleasure of meeting someone as irresistibly positive as Libby. This infectious positivity is perfectly balanced with the humility, strength, and professionalism that makes an amazing physician. As Libby’s colleague, I have seen her command a battalion of attendings and residents during a massive transfusion case. The surgeon later told me that her leadership saved the patient’s life.

As chief resident, Libby proved time and time again her commitment to performing beyond her duties. You may only remember the results, but I saw the work she put into coding Excel sheets to distribute call schedules fairly, printing laminated cards for the entire department, and handcrafting PPE shields early on during the pandemic. Libby is truly an



amazing human being, and UCLA is lucky to have Libby stay for her cardiothoracic anesthesiology fellowship after residency.

By co-resident Bryant Hong

From the Faculty –

Dr. Libbing Wang has been a powerhouse even among our three outstanding chief residents, and it’s easy to see why she was elected to that position by her peers. She has lived in New York and in Los Angeles, and manages to bring Manhattan energy and LA sunshine to her every endeavor.

With organizational skills worthy of a CEO, Libby helped guide our residency program through the worst of the pandemic and never lost what her co-resident Bryant Hong has called her “infectious positivity”. Her preparation and performance in the OR have always been stellar, and she pointed out on one occasion that a challenging case of high tracheal resection would make a good ASA poster before it even occurred to her attending.

We’re so thankful we don’t have to say goodbye to Dr. Libbing Wang at the end of this academic year – she’ll be staying on at UCLA for a cardiothoracic fellowship.



Ian Worden, MD, MS

Throughout residency, we have known Ian to set a standard of professionalism – his work is careful, thorough, and always focused. His OR set ups are immaculate, with each pump and each line labeled.

But outside of the OR is a totally different Ian! On a dime (but definitely after checking in with Dr. Chan), Ian is ready to drive along Highway 1, eat fish tacos at Neptune’s Net, throw a frisbee on the beach, or explore conservatories in the mountains. He is equally famous for his solo trips: sunburned on one side, sleeping on a tarp and then in his car, making enemies of Catalina ground squirrels and friends with Joshua Tree jackrabbits. He is spontaneous, easygoing, and always the life of the party!

Ian is someone who shows intent, and expresses himself through actions. He is resilient – showing tenacity in situations when most people would give up. He is your constant cheerleader, reassurance, and confidante. He stays present, and deeply respects his duties to his nieces and nephews, his brothers, his parents, and of course, his fiancée, Lauren. He’s graduating as the most competent, dedicated anesthesiologist and soon-to-be husband there could be.

Thank you, Ian, for the privilege to be a small part of your journey. And cheers to the many, many years ahead!

By co-resident Aanchal Prakash



From the Faculty –

Even as a junior resident, Dr. Ian Worden displayed an impressive knowledge of cardiac electrophysiology, and he combines curiosity with highly organized attention to every detail in his work. In the operating room, his energy never flags, and he always asks excellent questions even as he needs an occasional reminder to use his inside voice! It has been a delight for us to have Ian as a resident, and Dr. Aanchal Prakash notes above how much fun it has been to have him as a co-resident. A graduate of Rosalind Franklin University’s Chicago Medical School, Dr. Worden will return to Michigan to practice at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Hospital, an academic teaching hospital and tertiary care center in Ypsilanti.







ANESTHESIOLOGY
CRITICAL CARE
MEDICINE FELLOWS





Krisztina Escallier, MD

Thanks, everyone, for two wonderful years. It's been a privilege and a pleasure to work with and learn from you all – especially during the unique challenges we've faced this past year.



From the Critical Care Faculty –

It is impossible to sum up Dr. Krisztina Escallier in one word. However, a few that come to mind are “rockstar” and “exceptional”. Completing two fellowships is challenging enough, but Dr. Escallier did so while working a full-time second job as a mother to her infant daughter. Anyone who has worked with her has seen her handle stressful and complex situations with poise. In fact, you could say she makes it look easy. Not only is her clinical intuition excellent, she has a brilliant sense of humor, calm demeanor, and impressive bedside manner which have earned her the respect of senior faculty, trainees, nurses, and everyone else in the unit.

Dr. Escallier will be joining the faculty at USC where she will practice both cardiac anesthesia and critical care medicine. We are excited for the next step in her career as we know we will continue to see great things from her.

Kasey Grewe, MD

From the Critical Care Faculty –

Headlines don't capture the talent we see!

Touched by the harrowing experience of caring for critically ill patients during the beginnings of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York, and after putting into words a moving account which was published in the Atlantic, Dr. Kasey Grewe joined UCLA in July 2020 to follow her passion of becoming an intensivist and cardiothoracic anesthesiologist. Kasey adjusted quickly to gain the knowledge and confidence to mature into a truly outstanding intensivist.



Her enthusiasm and motivation brought daily light to the ICU in a year where the care of high-acuity patients could be dark and discouraging. While she advanced to clinical excellency, Dr. Grewe's academic activities throughout the year were crowned by her receiving the "Young Investigator Award" from the Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologists for her work on "Peripartum ECMO in COVID-19 patients".

Outside the hospital Kasey is a nature "kid". Her upbringing in Portland, Oregon, laid the foundation for her love of all outdoor activities. After eight years in New York at Columbia University as a medical student, anesthesia resident, and chief resident, she is finally back surfing SoCal beaches and biking the Malibu hills.

We are fortunate to have Kasey for another year at UCLA to complete her training as a fellow in cardiothoracic anesthesiology. While she will be missed in the CTICU, we know her patients will receive tremendous care given with compassion and confidence.

Melanie Kusonruksa, MD

From the Critical Care Faculty –

Dr. Melanie Kusonruksa, fondly referred to as Dr. Kuson-”Rock-star”, is one of those rare physicians with a seemingly unending capacity for knowledge. Melanie was born here but grew up in Thailand and her professional educational journey started as a UCLA undergraduate. While medical school took her to New York, she returned to California for an internal medicine residency at UC Irvine and an ultimate homecoming to UCLA for anesthesiology training and a critical care medicine fellowship.



Melanie can be best described as unflappable. Even in the most chaotic of scenarios or complex medical situations, Melanie is insightful, calm, cool and collected... always seeing the big picture and taking care of business. Melanie is a medical encyclopedia. If there were an ICU debate team, she would be the captain, taking on complex medical issues like hyponatremia, delirium, VAD management or ECMO strategies.



While she thrives on knowledge, Melanie is a true team player and a natural leader, knowing how to bring a team together to provide the best possible care. She values her role as a mentor and educator to all who are around her: nurses, medical students, residents, co-fellows and, yes, the attendings too. She is kind, loyal and a fierce advocate for her patients and colleagues. We are so proud of all she has accomplished and know she will continue to shine as she starts her academic career as a faculty attending in anesthesiology and critical care at Keck USC Medical Center.

James Madrian, MD

I can't thank the faculty enough for their teaching, guidance, and patience this year. You have taught this old dog many new tricks. To my co-fellows: it has been a pleasure, and I have enjoyed the camaraderie. I have absolutely loved this experience and I will treasure my experiences here for many, many years.

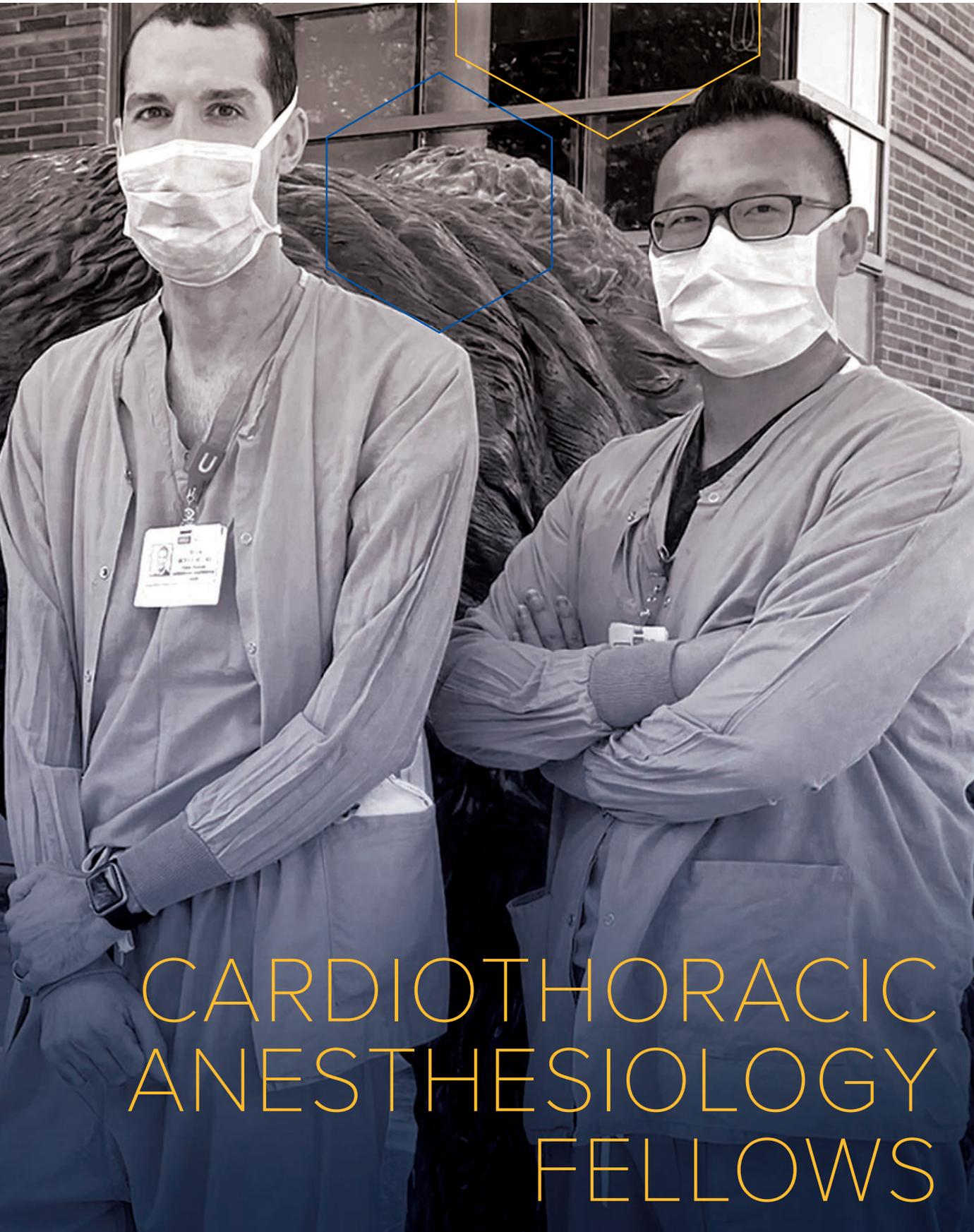


From the Critical Care Faculty –

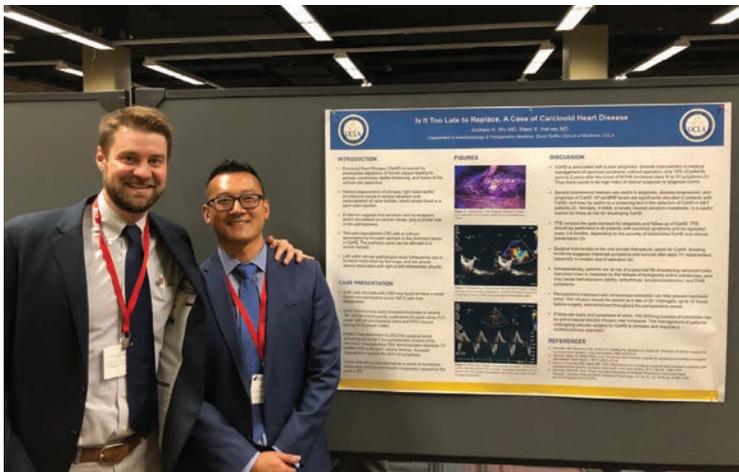
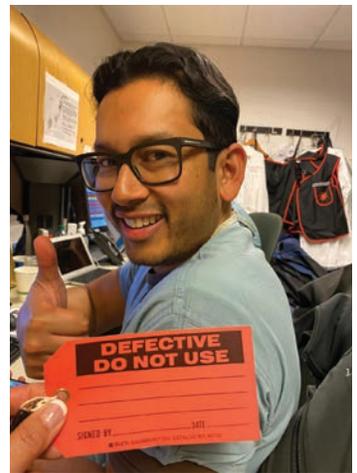
Dr. James Madrian is not your average ICU fellow. His passion for the field of critical care medicine was so great that we were able to lure him from his lucrative position (as the Director of Anesthesia at the Providence Medical Park Surgery Center for the Providence Spokane Anesthesia Group) to our humble ICU fellowship. He trained in a bygone era at OHSU and at the University of Iowa, and had been in private practice ever since. But then he found his calling...and has become an outstanding intensivist, not missing any opportunity for learning or experience. He always arrived early and stayed late as needed. He overcame all the obstacles thrown at him including leaving his family for a year of rigorous training with us, his new LA family.

Dr. Madrian will certainly be missed when he returns to Spokane, Washington, not only to mountain bike and fly fish, but also to build a state-of-the-art CTICU program with his prior anesthesia group.





CARDIOTHORACIC
ANESTHESIOLOGY
FELLOWS





Candy Ezimora, MD, MBA

From the Fellowship Director –

It's taken me awhile this year to get a read on Dr. Candy Ezimora, but I think I'm finally starting to figure it out. Dr. Ezimora isn't quiet or reserved, she just has the driest, most sarcastic wit on the planet – and it's fantastic!



From morning and lunchtime latte routine to hilarious pictures of her labradoodle, Candy is always making me smile. Just a sly grin from Candy in the middle of a tricky situation in the OR makes it all better. She always sees the humor in a tough day, and spreads that humor and relaxed attitude to all those she works with. It has been an absolute joy from day 1 getting to know Dr. Ezimora, and we were the very lucky recipients of her decision to come back to the Golden State. She has been a fantastic teacher to residents, a great colleague to her co-fellows, and a great friend to everyone in our division. I can't forget to mention that she is also one of the brightest and most skilled fellows we've ever had the pleasure to train.

Thank you so much for a fantastic year! We will miss you for sure. Good luck in Sac-Town!

Sean Mofidi, MD, MS

This 2020-21 academic year was a particularly memorable one for my family. My wife Jess and I celebrated our second wedding anniversary and eight years together since we first met in medical school at Georgetown University. We decided to splurge on Black Friday by picking up our golden retriever Reggie, whom we love dearly. We welcomed our first child, our daughter Zoë Elena Mofidi, on my parents' 40th wedding anniversary. Her coos make our hearts melt. Finally, I completed fellowship alongside my amazing co-fellows, and I will be starting my dream job practicing cardiac anesthesiology in July at Saddleback Medical Center in Laguna Hills.



From the Fellowship Director –

Every championship team needs an experienced, even-keeled veteran to lean on through the ups and downs of a long season. The cardiac fellowship is certainly a long season, and Dr. Sean Mofidi has been our steady veteran guiding us along the way.

Since I know Sean is a massive Lakers fan, I'll take it one step further and say Sean is the Derek Fisher of our championship dynasty. His quiet voice and calm demeanor play perfectly in the cardiac OR with his intellect, skill, and work ethic. The result is an exceptional physician, colleague, and friend. As good an echocardiographer as Sean has become, he is a better teammate. I'm sure someday soon his newborn daughter will realize how awesome it is to have a hall-of-fame point guard as a dad.

Thanks for everything, Sean! It's been a blast. Good luck at Saddleback!

Christine Stypula, MD, MPH

I am so happy to have been able to spend the last year with the amazing Cardiac Anesthesiology team at UCLA. I would like to thank the faculty and my co-fellows for all of the support and fantastic team work throughout this memorable year.



From the Fellowship Director –

I was given a “weather rock” as a joke gift when I was young. You put the rock outside and go check on it later to find out about the weather. If the rock is wet - it is raining. If the rock has snow on it - it is snowing, and so on.

In the same way I have come to rely on Dr. Christine Stypula as the weather rock of the cardiac fellowship. Often wearing her feelings on her sleeve, Christine can be counted on for an honest assessment of every situation. Christine has tremendous emotional maturity and is able to turn the prognostication tools of the weather rock inward to reflect, self-evaluate, and grow. Indeed, Dr. Stypula has grown into a fantastic cardiac anesthesiologist and trusted consultant.

Thank you for all your hard work, humor, and friendship! Maybe leave us a pair of those neon green sunglasses to remember you by! 😊

Andrew Wu, MD

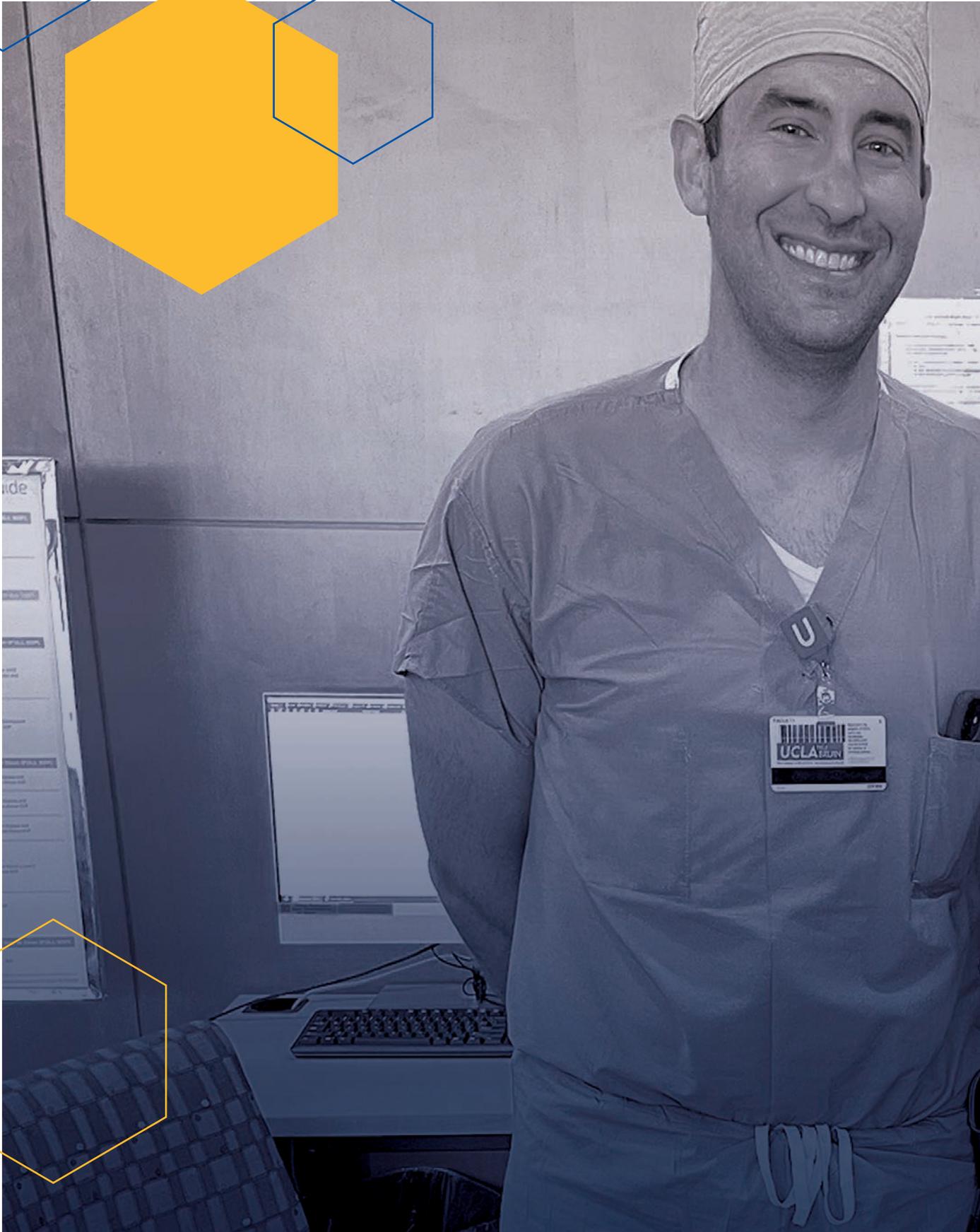
Time flies when you are having fun. The past five years I've spent here at UCLA really flew by. It feels like yesterday when I arrived here from Indiana as a wide-eyed Midwest boy and put on that long white coat for the first time. There are a lot of growing pains throughout the years as a resident and fellow, but what I am proud of and will cherish the most are the mentorship and the friendships I have developed along the way. Nobody can succeed without a strong support system. I would like to thank the two most important women in my life – my mother and my wife – for putting up with me for the past several years. All good things must come to an end. The next chapter of my life will begin at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center.

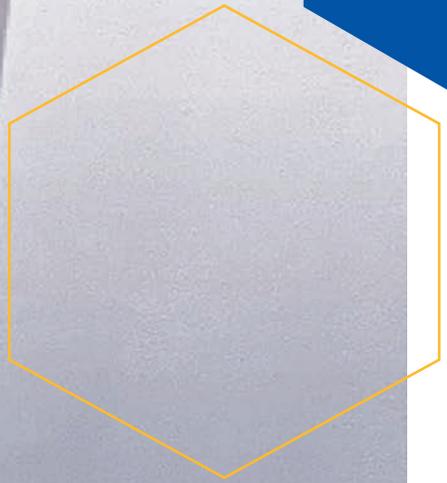
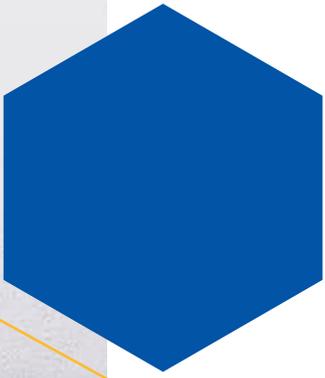


From the Fellowship Director –

If cardiac anesthesiology fellows were constructed and perfected in a lab, you might end up with something like Dr. Andrew Wu. Whatever you may need, Andy has already completed the job before you even knew you needed it.

Beyond his impressive clinical and echocardiography acumen, Andy is the ultimate team player. Everyone in the cardiac OR, from the CA-2 resident on their first day to circulating nurses with 35 years of experience, looks to Andy for answers and guidance – and he always delivers. The best part about spending a whole year with Andy is that I've finally come to see that Andy wasn't created in a lab; it's just his work ethic that makes it seem that way. Andy is gentle, kind, sneaky funny, and a great friend.





LIVER
TRANSPLANTATION
ANESTHESIOLOGY
FELLOWS

Courtney Scott, DO

Hello, I'm Courtney Scott! Originally, I grew up in rural Middle Tennessee before moving to Florida for medical school and residency. I am married to my wonderful husband of ten years, Duston, and we have two beautiful daughters, Addiston (8 years) and Sterling (20 months). We will be going back to Jacksonville, Florida, in July so that I can join the Liver Transplant team at my residency alma mater, the Mayo Clinic.

Thank you all for such an amazing year filled with so many wonderful experiences! I especially want to thank the Liver Transplant Anesthesia team as well as the Liver Transplant surgical team, nurses and staff! I have made so many new friends, and I will cherish our time together always. This is not goodbye, but see you later (hopefully soon)!



From the Liver Transplant Faculty –

Dr. Courtney Scott completed anesthesiology residency at Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida where she was awarded a Mayo Clinic Scholarship for her fellowship training. She will return to Mayo Florida as a liver transplant anesthesiology attending.

Courtney – We are so fortunate to have had the privilege of training you. You have been exemplary in every respect – hardworking, diligent, clinically superb – and with an infectious warm and positive attitude throughout. You've been an outstanding role model to our trainees and staff alike. You are fearless, determined, dedicated, and you have set the standard for future fellows. Our attendings feel that every 2 a.m. liver is less painful seeing you when we walk into the room. We will miss you greatly, but you will always be considered part of our UCLA Liver Transplant family!



Colby Tanner, MD

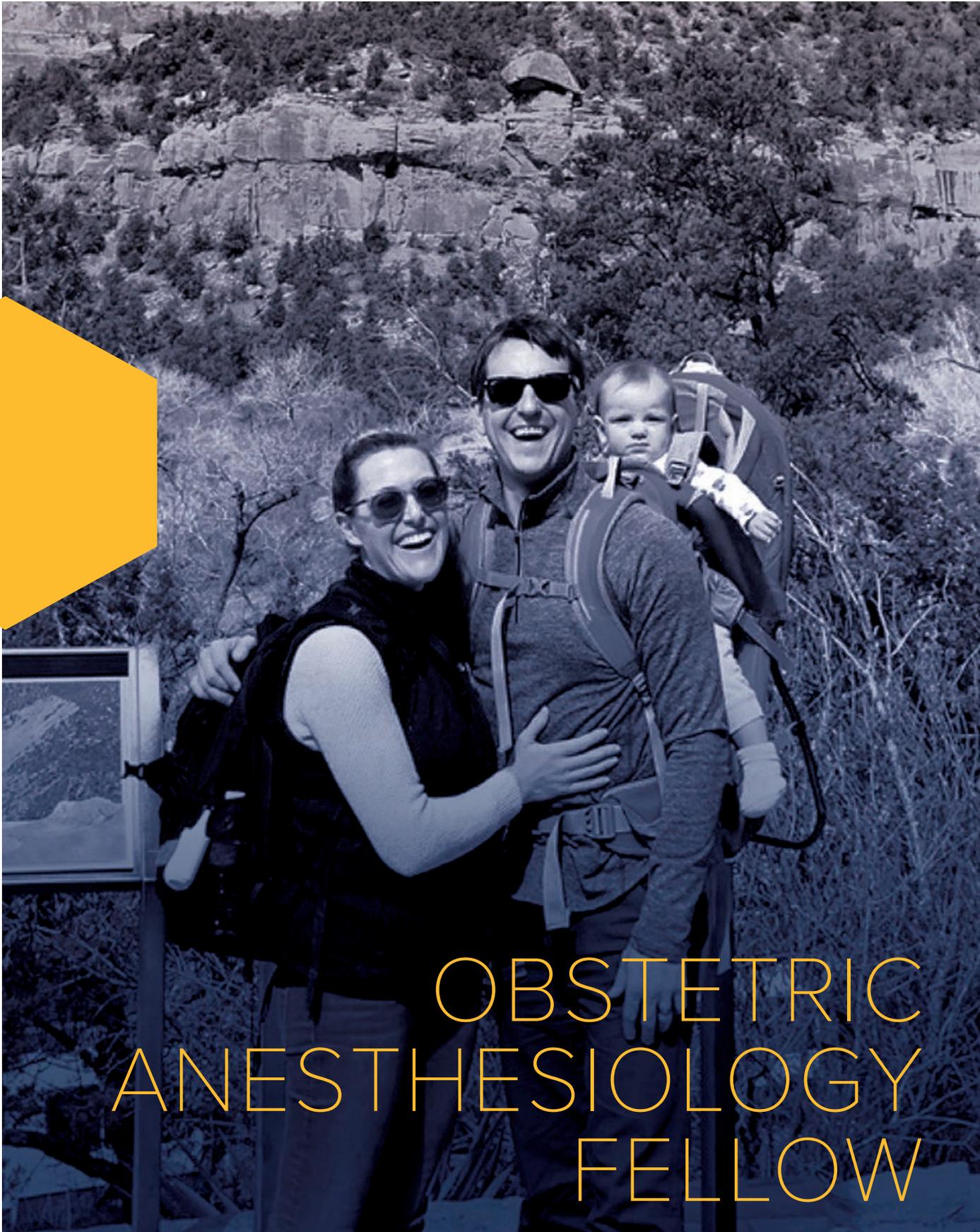
Being a part of the UCLA DAPM over the last 5 years has truly been a pleasure. When I matched at UCLA for residency, I had no idea what great friendships I would form and how significantly my career in medicine would be shaped and molded. I am extremely grateful for the education office, faculty members, my co-residents, and co-fellows for everything you have contributed to me, my family, and my education. I look forward with excitement to the coming years as I transition to join the liver transplant and multispecialty OR teams as a faculty member.



From the Liver Transplant Faculty –

Dr. Colby Tanner completed anesthesiology residency at UCLA where he was elected Chief Resident. Dr. Tanner went to college at Brigham Young University and attended medical school at Loma Linda University. He will be staying on as faculty at UCLA on the liver transplant and multispecialty teams.

Colby – Ever since you were a resident, we knew you were exceptional. Working with you for the past year has been an absolute delight. Your diligent work ethic, ease of concentration and foresight in the operating room, and your clinical acumen set you apart. Our team greatly appreciates all of your hard work and dedication. We are excited to have you as a colleague and are so happy for you to be a part of our UCLA Liver Transplant family.



OBSTETRIC
ANESTHESIOLOGY
FELLOW

Krista Cascia, MD

Time flies when you're having fun! It has been another incredible year at UCLA doing what I love. I'd like to thank my wonderful husband and daughter who have loved and supported me throughout fellowship. I'd also like to express my immense gratitude to all my mentors in Obstetric Anesthesia who have imparted such fantastic knowledge – I hope to make you all proud. Additional thanks to the OR schedulers for their flexibility and the education office for their support this past year. I am looking forward to many more years at UCLA as faculty!



From the Fellowship Director –

Dr. Krista Cascia can best be described as highly intelligent, hard-working, and kind. After completing her residency at UCLA, she elected to pursue a fellowship in obstetric anesthesiology, a long-time passion of hers. She is beloved by the L&D nurses and residents alike for her methodical approach to patient care and calm demeanor. She has proved herself to be an excellent educator of trainees during their first weeks of their OB rotations.

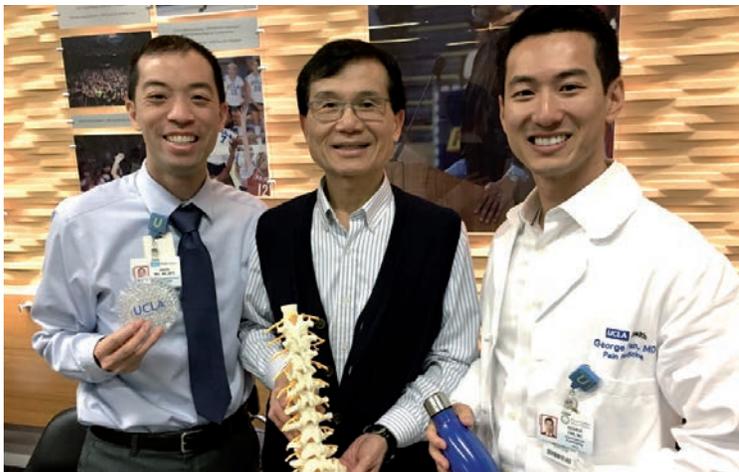
Dr. Cascia has helped manage the maternal high-risk service this past year and is greatly respected as a “go-to” anesthesiology consultant by the obstetric faculty. We are ecstatic that she has accepted a faculty position with us, and look forward to her joining our obstetric division!





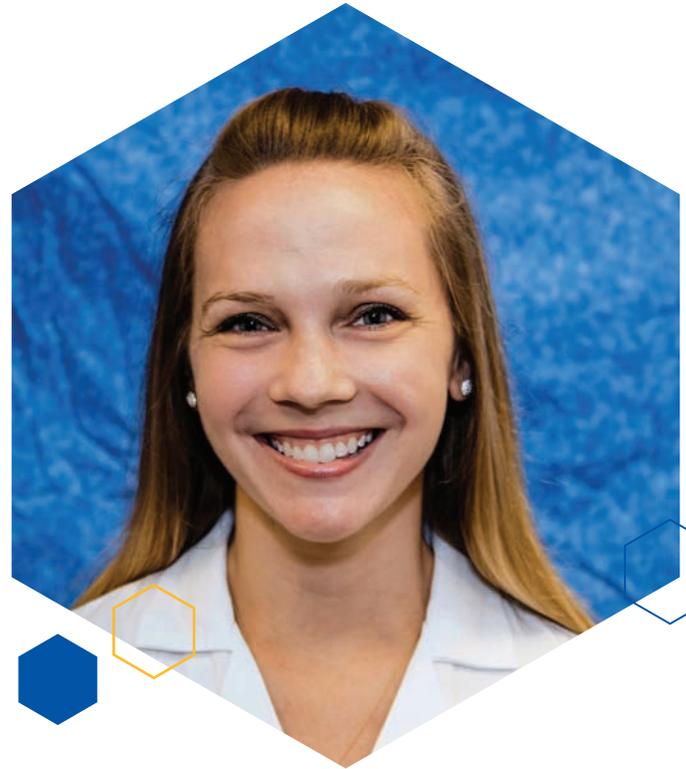
PAIN MEDICINE FELLOWS







Brittany Aeschlimann, MD



From the Fellowship Director –

Dr. Brittany Aeschlimann joined us from the University of Virginia Medical Center. Dr. Aeschlimann demonstrated her dedication from the moment we offered her a position as a resident, taking the call from underneath a mosquito net in Rwanda. Her clinical acumen and technical skills were already excellent when she started, but she improved significantly in her short time here. Dr. Aeschlimann has been the ultimate professional since starting fellowship, handling all her responsibilities cheerfully and expediently. She will be joining Valley Pain Consultants in Phoenix, and we look forward to following her career.

Jason Daughety, DO, MPH, MS

Thank you everyone at UCLA for a wonderful fellowship! It was a privilege to work with you and train here. I'm finally making my way back to San Diego to join a private practice after being away for nine years. We'll be returning with four extra kids in tow to join in all the family fun.



From the Fellowship Director –

Dr. Jason Daughety came to us from Loma Linda University. Dr. Daughety has made the most of this short year, showing great attention to detail in everything from his suture skills to medical decision-making while somehow managing to moonlight as an anesthesiologist.

Additionally, Dr. Daughety welcomed his fourth son this year, balancing a busy life at home with all his professional duties. If anyone brings up a crazy parenting story, Dr. Daughety almost certainly has one to match it, whether it is dealing with backflips gone wrong or good Samaritans trying to change their brother's dirty diapers. We have no doubt that Dr. Daughety will be successful in his career and in life! Dr. Daughety will be joining ASMG in San Diego.

Elizabeth Feenstra, MD

After a wonderful five years at UCLA, I can't believe my time here is officially coming to an end. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped and inspired me along the way! I'll miss all the incredible people I've met during my time here but am looking forward to starting another chapter at Emory University in September. If anyone finds themselves in Atlanta in the future, please don't hesitate to reach out!



From the Fellowship Director –

Dr. Elizabeth Feenstra was a wonderfully familiar face from the start, having graduated from our UCLA anesthesiology residency. We have enjoyed having Dr. Feenstra as part of our program very much. Dr. Feenstra ably represented the chronic pain fellows in our upcoming recruitment video, which will hopefully balance out wooden performances from at least one of the faculty (!).

Throughout the fellowship, Dr. Feenstra has maintained her enthusiasm for learning and developing her clinical skills. We have watched her grow professionally over the years, and it has been a privilege to mentor her through the final stage of her training. Dr. Feenstra will be practicing at Emory Healthcare in Atlanta, Georgia. We will miss her, and we will be following her career from afar.

Frederick Li, MD

Thank you for a wonderful year at UCLA. Tremendously enjoyed this past year with all the dinners, the laughs, and the day-in-day-out with my co-fellows and attendings.



From the Fellowship Director –

Dr. Frederick Li joined us through a veritable pipeline from UT Southwestern. We are pleased to have had a chance to train him even for a short time. From the time he arrived, Dr. Li has worked diligently to improve his clinical skills, and we are confident that he will graduate with everything he needs to be an excellent pain physician.

Among his accomplishments throughout the year, the most notable may have been successfully moving his family from Texas to California during a major snowstorm despite a paucity of moving trucks and packing boxes (not to mention water and electricity). Dr. Li will be practicing in the Los Angeles area, and we look forward to seeing him at a future private practice panel.

Mark Motejunas, MD

From the Fellowship Director –

Dr. Mark Motejunas joined us from Louisiana State University. We noted his enthusiasm for patient care from the moment he arrived, when he tirelessly and effectively managed a busy inpatient service despite never having covered a chronic pain consult service as a resident.

Dr. Motejunas is always looking to develop new techniques and skills, and he has encouraged the faculty to think outside the box at times when it comes to offering treatments to our patients. His personable approach has made him a favorite of many patients who will likely be saddened by his graduation. Dr. Motejunas will be joining a



private practice in Slidell, Louisiana, where he will no doubt continue to use as little ultrasound gel as possible.



Ava Socik, MD

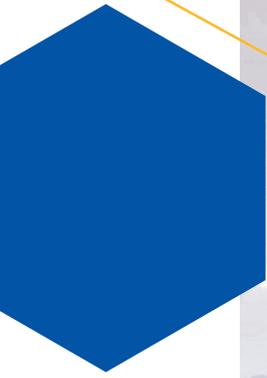
How quickly fellowship goes by! To our amazing attendings – thank you for your infinite wisdom and guidance this year. To my co-fellows – this adventure would not have been the same without you. As this year comes to an end, I’m humbled and excited for the journey that lies ahead!

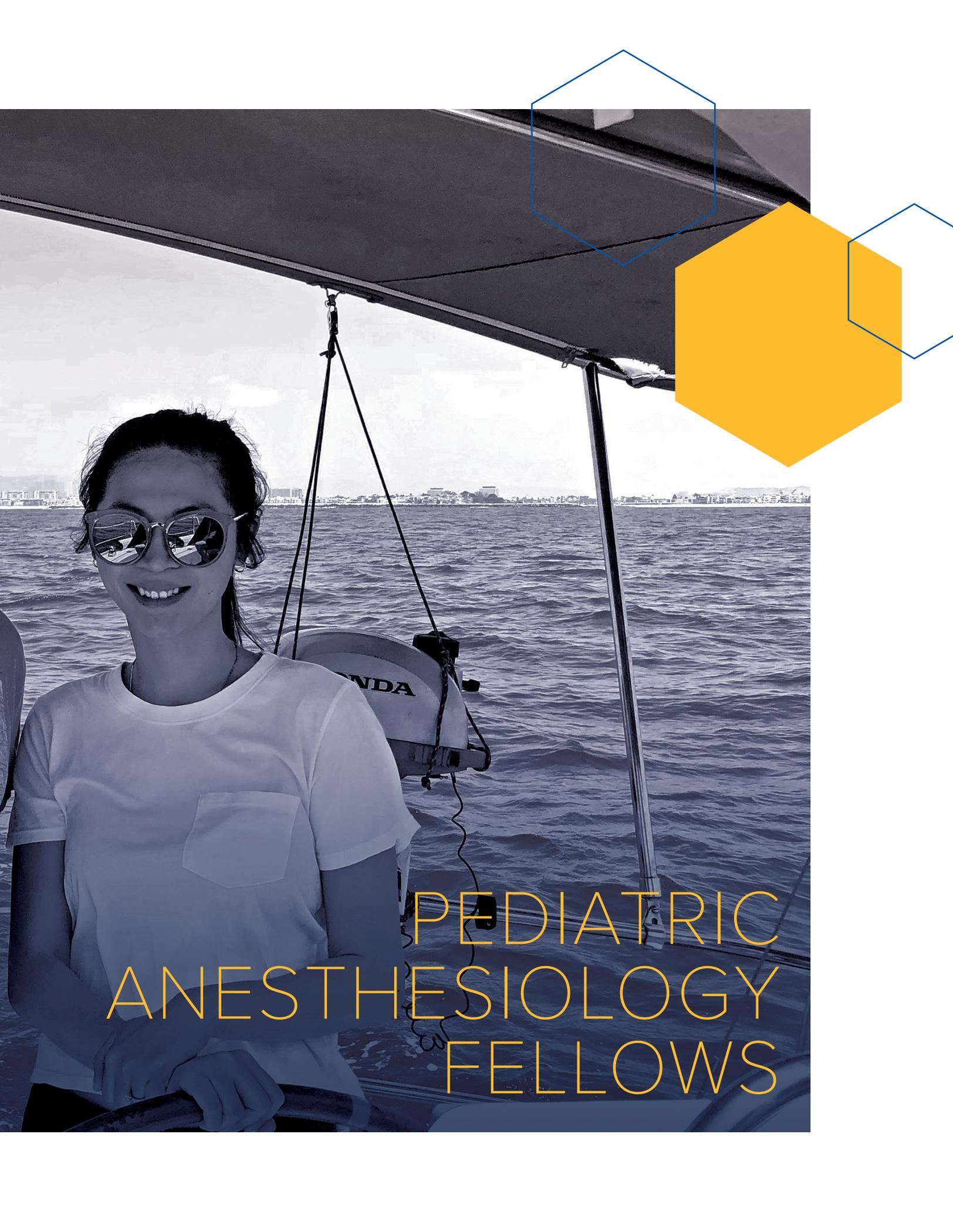


From the Fellowship Director –

Dr. Ava Socik first rotated with us as a resident at UCLA prior to joining our fellowship program. Dr. Socik has been referred to as “the mother” of the fellowship class, and that was before she welcomed her daughter this year! Somehow, throughout all of that, she carried out her responsibilities as a chronic pain fellow with grace and professionalism.

Dr. Socik’s calm demeanor is appreciated by colleagues and patients alike, and she has continued to hone her craft during a challenging year. We have greatly enjoyed working with Dr. Socik over the years and look forward to following her career locally, as she will be practicing in the Los Angeles area.





PEDIATRIC
ANESTHESIOLOGY
FELLOWS





Stephen Acosta, MD

Dr. Stephen Acosta grew up in Puerto Rico and studied medicine at Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine. He trained at the University of North Carolina, and then worked as a Clinical Instructor there before joining UCLA for fellowship. He loves the outdoors and especially the ocean. When not taking care of pediatric patients, he has been improving his sailing skills in beautiful southern California. Stephen will be returning to North Carolina for a position at WakeMed Health in Raleigh.



From the Fellowship Director –

Dr. Stephen Acosta is stellar! His life experiences and world travels may be the reason he is so calm, always positive, eager to learn, and kind to everyone. He grew up surfing in Puerto Rico, had an epiphany to become a doctor while hiking down a 13,000 ft volcano in Ecuador, raised a little girl, and speaks passionately about global health.

Dr. Acosta came to us from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he was an Assistant Clinical Professor. Often described as inquisitive, diligent, a great team member, and wonderful with patients, he achieves the perfect combination of fun, caring, and friendly, yet respectful and always professional. His commitment is evident in his willingness to participate in any case that will add to his pediatric anesthesia knowledge base. We are confident he is graduating with everything he needs to be an excellent pediatric anesthesiologist. It has been a wonderful year working with him. Dr. Acosta will be returning to North Carolina, where his wife is an internist and healthcare researcher, and he will be joining a private practice group.

Tracie Lo, MD

Tracie Lo moved to Los Angeles for residency from New York City with her husband, Jack Howard. Their baby girl Charlotte has spent her weekends hiking and even made her way to Joshua Tree National Park! Tracie will be joining the group at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital in Long Beach.

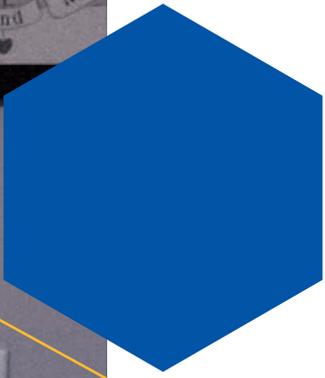


From the Fellowship Director –

Dr. Tracie Lo is brilliant! She began her fellowship as a new mom, balancing the challenges of work and life responsibilities with poise, energetic optimism, and unwavering determination. If it was difficult, she never showed it.

Dr. Lo was hand-picked from our residency program because of her glowing performance and abundant achievements. Often described as intelligent, thoughtful, diligent, efficient, competent and a great team player, she is always well prepared and detail-oriented, and is great with patients and families. Dr. Lo is technically skilled, eternally inquisitive, has excellent clinical judgment, and has become an incredible pediatric anesthesiologist. We will miss her very much! Luckily, she will only be a short drive away as she will be joining a wonderful group at MemorialCare Miller Children's and Women's Hospital in Long Beach.





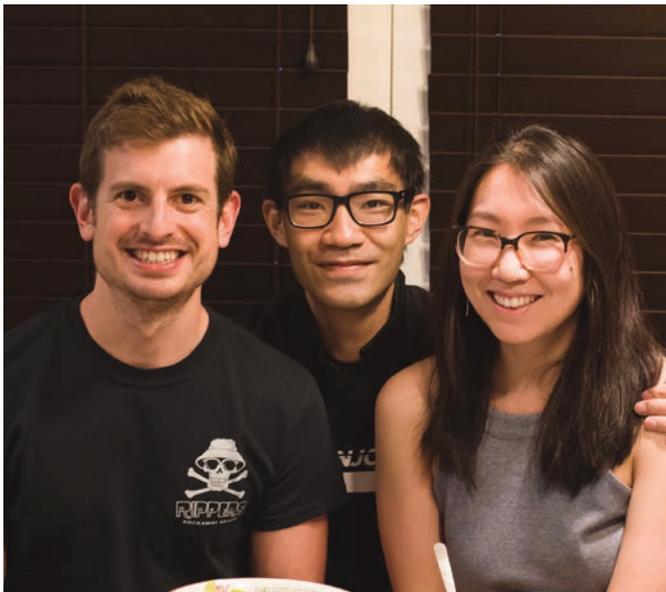
REGIONAL
ANESTHESIOLOGY
AND ACUTE PAIN
MEDICINE FELLOWS





Gary Chan, MD

I was born and raised in Southern California, and moved around the country for my medical education before returning to LA for fellowship. I would like to thank all of the wonderful people that make up the regional team and especially my co-fellows for an awesome year!



From the Fellowship Director –

Dr. Gary Chan joined us after completing his residency at Mt. Sinai Medical Center. His experience in the COVID wards of Manhattan prepared him for the rigors of a UCLA regional anesthesia fellowship, and he has made us proud. In one memorable episode of his training that took place in a tiny bay in the Santa Monica ED, Dr. Chan expertly placed an epidural blood patch in a patient who was actively vomiting, surrounded by coughing and sneezing COVID patients. He remained calm and cool throughout, just as he has throughout his fellowship.

We know all his hard work will pay off and he will get the car (or cars!) of his dreams. Dr. Chan has decided to remain in his sunny home state of California, and will be joining the anesthesiology group at Los Robles Regional Medical Center.

Gregory Sheehan, MD



From the Fellowship Director –

Dr. Greg Sheehan bravely crossed the continent after completing his residency at Columbia University Medical Center. He came highly recommended by our favorite anesthesiologist there and we have not been disappointed. He left the COVID trenches of Manhattan only to find LA in the middle of a surge; however, he remained positive and hardworking throughout.

Dr. Sheehan is an accomplished musician, and this has translated into his excellent skills in ultrasound and needlework! Understated and quiet, Dr. Sheehan emanates an aura of expertise that has not gone unnoticed by our surgical colleagues. He has been effusively recruited to stay at UCLA, but decided to make the trek back to New York to join the anesthesiology group at North Shore University Hospital.

Kelsey Wang, MD

I had four amazing years as a resident at UCLA, and this year was lucky enough to be part of the Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain division as a fellow. Thank you so much to the outstanding faculty in the Acute Pain group who provided me invaluable guidance both in the workplace and in life. I look up to you all more than you know. Greg and Gary- the people I saw/texted/quarantined with most this year – it has been so fun and I’m so glad it was you guys I had to be stuck with!

To everyone reading – please keep in touch! I will be close by at Kaiser in Woodland Hills.



From the Fellowship Director –

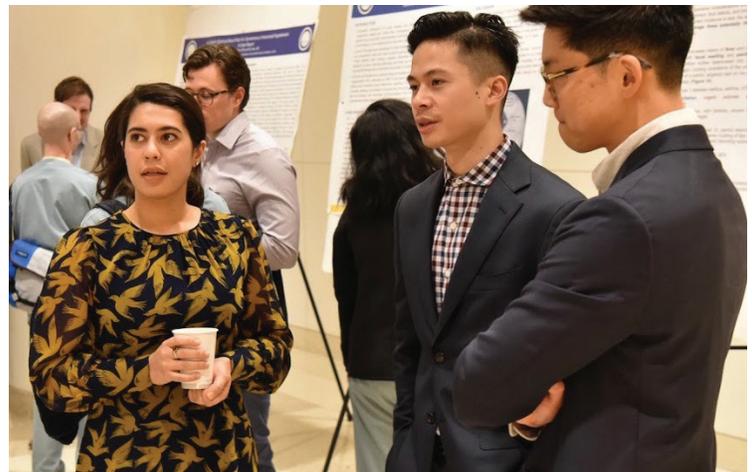
After our aggressive recruitment when she was a UCLA resident, Dr. Kelsey Wang decided to join our fellowship program and we have been so lucky to have her! Dr. Wang comes to work prepared and ready to tackle any ultrasound-related obstacle that comes her way. She has a light and easy personality that makes her a pleasure to be around. With her wicked sense of humor and calm demeanor, she has charmed patients and colleagues alike. She is an astute gourmet and, if you are in her good graces, she will share the best places in L.A. to get anything “foodie” from soup dumplings to banana cream pie. Dr. Wang will be joining the rest of the UCLA crew at Kaiser Woodland Hills and we will sorely miss her!







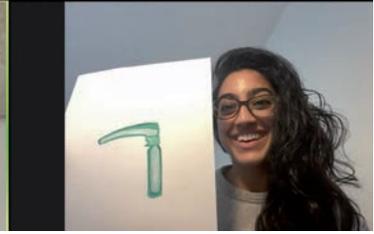
PHOTO ALBUM





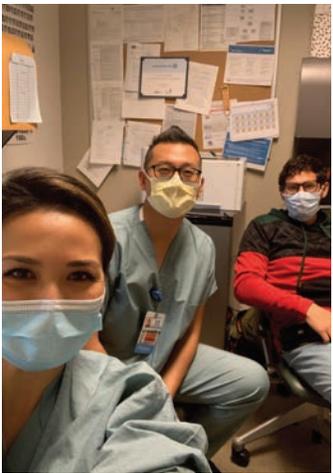




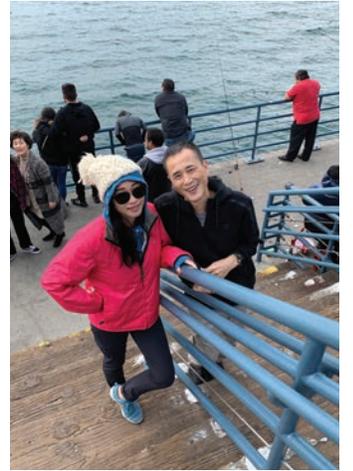


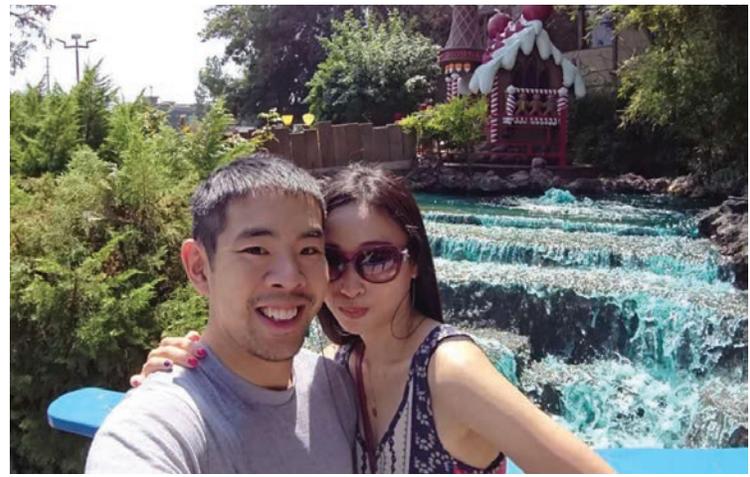






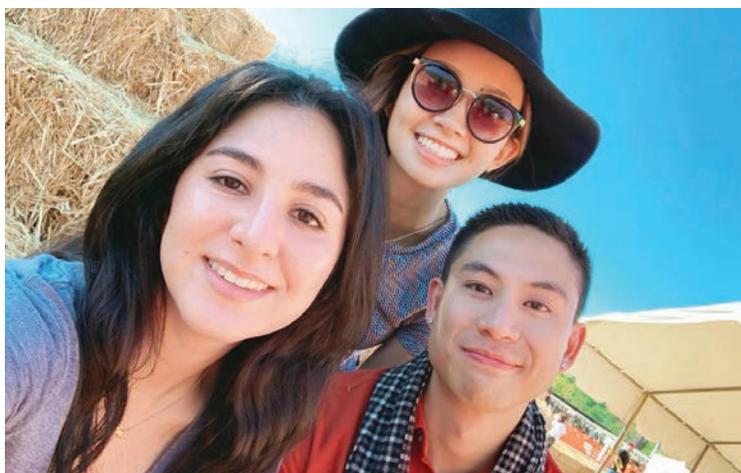
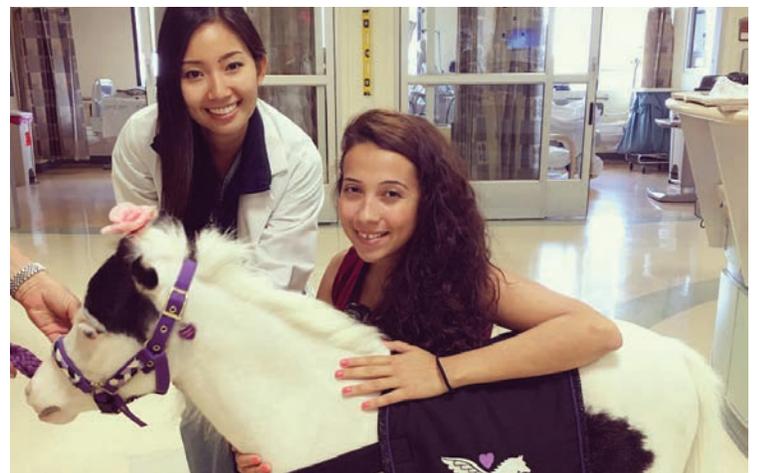






















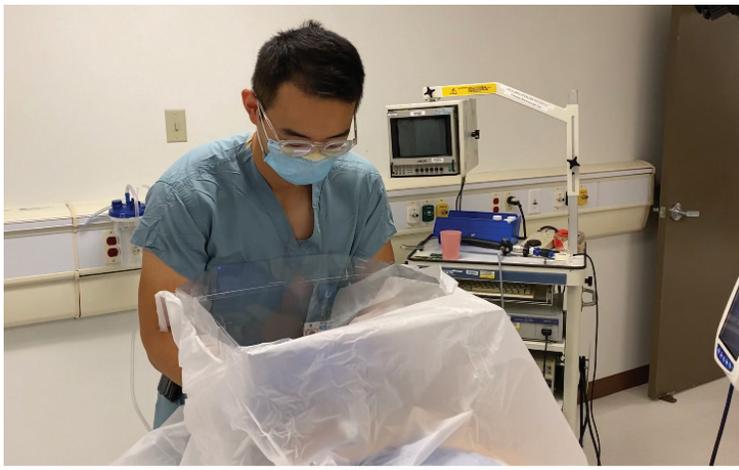
THE PENTHOUSE
AT THE HUNTLEY HOTEL

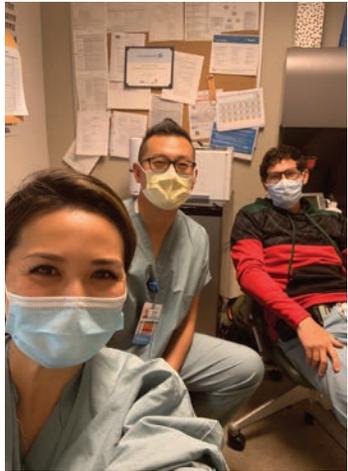




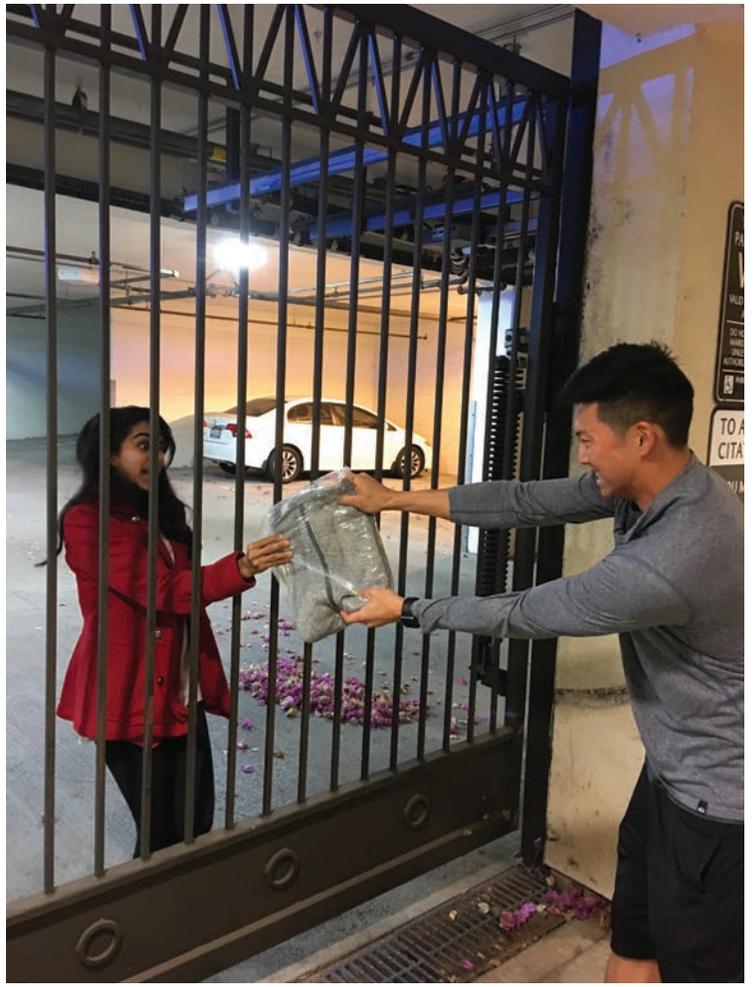














DotPhoto Booth.com

Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine
2017 Holiday Dinner Social

DotPhoto Booth.com

Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine
2017 Holiday Dinner Social



DoPhotoBooth.com



**Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine
2017 Holiday Dinner Social**



David Geffen
School of Medicine



UCLA Health



DoPhotoBooth.com



**Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine
2017 Holiday Dinner Social**



David Geffen
School of Medicine

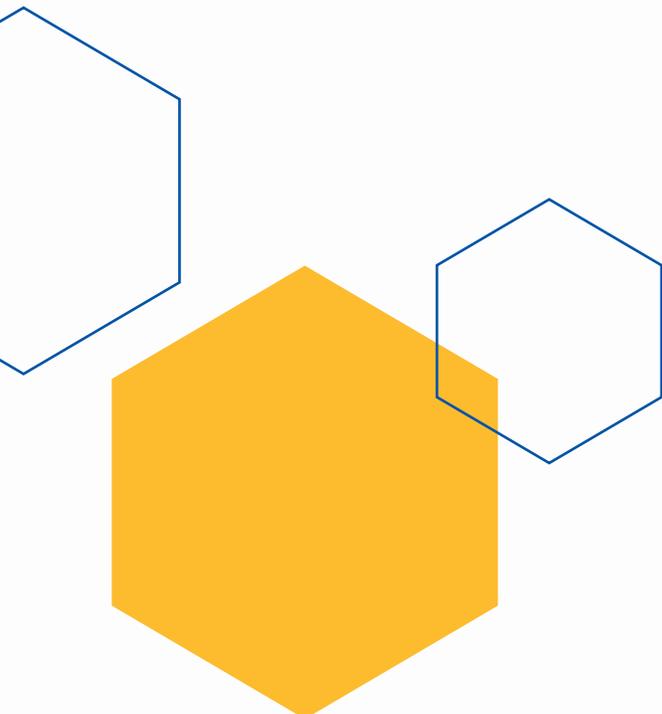


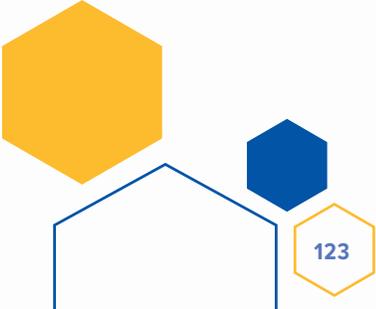
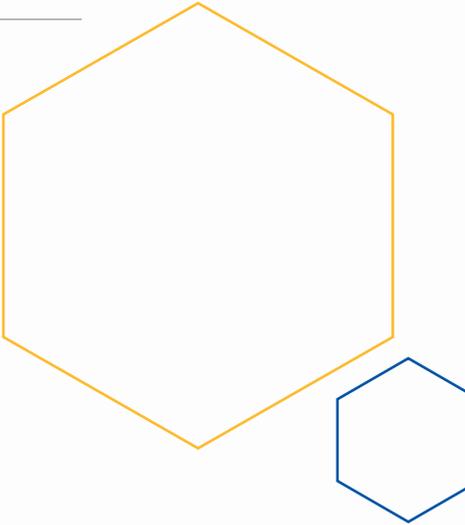
UCLA Health



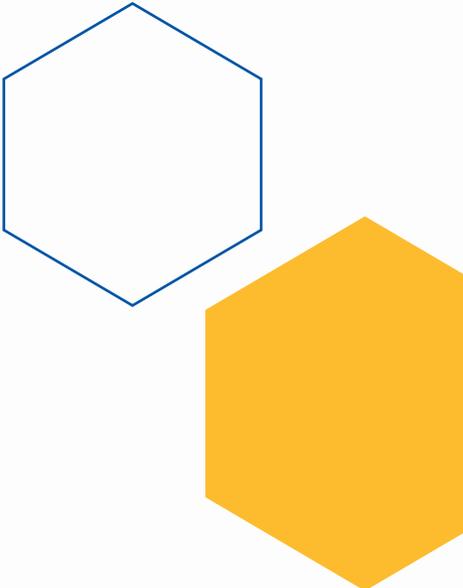




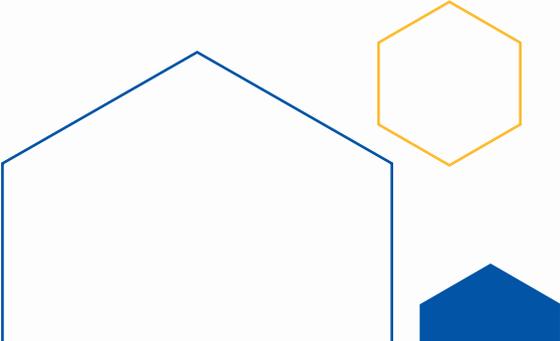




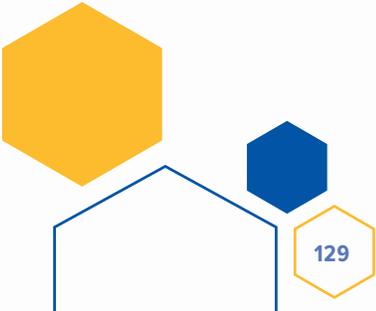
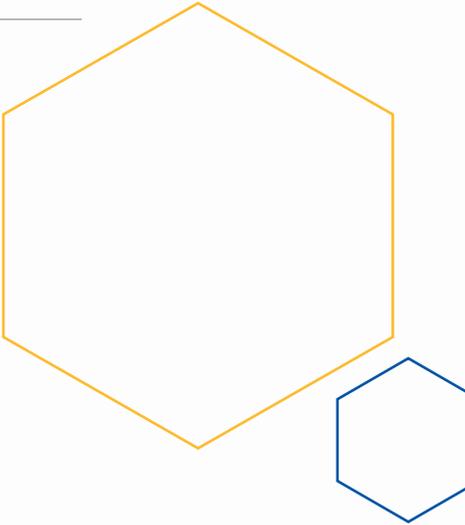














All of us at UCLA wish you health and happiness in the years ahead!

