

UCLA

Health

David Geffen
School of Medicine

STAR PROGRAM **SYMPOSIUM**

**SPECIALTY TRAINING AND ADVANCED
RESEARCH PROGRAM (STAR)**



**CELEBRATING
30 YEARS**

2023

2023 STAR PROGRAM

30 YEAR SYMPOSIUM: CELEBRATING PHYSICIAN- SCIENTISTS

“

Our program was built on the shoulders of trainees, faculty and academic leaders whose work and commitment have consistently matched their ambitions. We hope that many of them will reflect on their own history with pride.”

Tamer Sallam, MD, PhD

Executive Co-Director of the STAR Program

Creating this handbook would not be possible without Rosa Guerrero, Anthony Fernandez, Genevieve Aguirre, and Melissa Carrillo. Thank you!

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Chair & Executive Medical Director of the Department of Medicine at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA & UCLA Health

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



E. DALE ABEL, MD, PhD

WILLIAM S. ADAMS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

**CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE MEDICAL DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE**

UCLA HEALTH

**DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

As a physician-scientist, I understand well, that the path to becoming an established investigator, although satisfying, is a long one that may include many detours and challenges. Nevertheless, it remains essential that we do not lose sight of ensuring that we establish robust pipeline programs to train and to mentor the next generation of physician-scientists who will succeed us. Over the past 30 years, the Specialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) Program at UCLA has served as a guiding light to over 235 physician-scientists, the majority of whom have launched and sustained successful careers in academic medicine as physician investigators. Our STAR graduates have significantly advanced scientific discoveries that have impacted human health. Our STAR alumni are leading independent research programs and many have achieved leadership positions in academia, government, or the private sector.

As we celebrate the STAR Program's successes, I am proud to underscore the unflinching commitment of the Department of Medicine at UCLA to the STAR program. We will continue to recruit talented physician-scientists to train in our many sub-specialty training programs, to provide effective mentorship that will ensure successful career development of our STAR fellows, and to welcome them as junior faculty colleagues. We are dedicated to investing in our nationally recognized STAR Program so that our aspiring physician-scientist trainees receive rigorous scientific training, with ample protected time for research and excellent mentorship from our world-renowned faculty. Our fellows are leading cutting edge research in implementation and population science, translational and clinical science and basic research into the fundamental mechanisms of disease. While our fellows are pushing the frontiers of medicine, they are performing this innovative work in a supportive environment where diverse voices collaborate and encourage creativity within our scientific community. I am honored to celebrate the current members and alumni of the STAR community on their 30th anniversary and look forward to expanding the program as we continue to shape physician-scientist leaders.



**FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE,
SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT,
COLLABORATIVE DIVERSE VOICES,
ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY**

HISTORY OF THE UCLA STAR PROGRAM

The Specialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) Program of the Department of Medicine at UCLA is a unique program designed to train the next generation of physician-scientists. The STAR Program originated in 1993 due to a series of events threatening the research training mission at academic medical centers including UCLA. These events included a declining trend nationwide in the number of physician-scientists and a growth in physicians entering private clinical practice rather than academia. Even those who had completed the NIH-funded, MD-PhD programs had a disappointing rate of retention in scientific careers. At the same time, the emergence of managed care organizations stimulated a shift to train more primary care doctors and fewer specialists and subspecialists. Some experts predicted a “glut” of specialists and made an urgent call to reduce the numbers of specialty trainees. These developments were a threat to the mission and longstanding commitment of the UCLA Division of Cardiology and Department of Medicine to train academic and scientific leaders.

To address these challenges, then Chief of the Division of Cardiology Dr. Linda Demer, and the Chair of the Department of Medicine at UCLA Dr. Alan Fogelman, undertook an experiment to incorporate more rigorous and structured scientific training into the fellowship program. With the cooperation of graduate departments of the schools of engineering, medicine, and arts and sciences, they developed a mechanism for specialty fellows to pursue graduate research leading to a PhD in relevant areas of science.

BY 2023, THE STAR PROGRAM HAS PRODUCED

**235+ GRADUATES, OF WHOM
~80% HAVE PURSUED
RESEARCH CAREERS**

After the first year, Dr. Fogelman published a description of this approach in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, addressing the dilemma of how to change graduate medical education to meet the needs of society for primary care practitioners while maintaining numbers of academicians and investigators without generating excess numbers in subspecialty private practice.

In 1997, STAR Director Dr. Linda Demer worked with Caltech Professor Dr. Paul Patterson and Caltech President Dr. David Baltimore to launch a partnership between the institutions, allowing UCLA STAR trainees to complete their PhD graduate work at Caltech while completing their clinical requirements.

By 1999, the number of trainees had grown to 65, and former Associate Dean Dr. Joy Frank, who joined as a director of the program, developed a curriculum leading to the Master of Science in Clinical Research degree, in collaboration with clinical research experts and the faculty of the Department of Biomathematics in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. With Dr. Frank's retirement in 2011, Dr. Mitchell Wong, UCLA Professor of Medicine and a graduate of the STAR Program, joined Dr. Demer to lead the STAR Program into the next decade. By 2013, the STAR Program had produced 123 graduates, and a review of the outcomes, published in the *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*, showed that approximately 80% had pursued active research careers. The program's leadership team expanded over the past decade to include Dr. Olujimi Ajijola, Dr. Fola May, Dr. Tannaz Moin, and Dr. Tamer Sallam. Dr. Ajijola went on to direct a newly established STAR pathway for residents, the Physician Scientist Training Program (PSTP); which is now led by Drs. Amy Cummings and Quen Cheng. Under the leadership of the Chair and Executive Medical Director of Medicine Dr. E. Dale Abel, Dr. Demer and Dr. Sallam were appointed to lead the STAR Program as Co-Executive Directors.

By 2023, the STAR program has produced over 235 graduates, of whom ~80% pursued research careers. As a result of these successes, and through the efforts of Dr. Eric Esrailian, Chief of the Division of Digestive Diseases at UCLA, substantial philanthropic support has been obtained that greatly enhances the STAR Program as it enters its fourth decade of providing rigorous research training for physician-scientists.

>\$500M **IN NIH FUNDING**

STAR PROGRAM

The Specialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) Program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA provides aspiring physician-scientists formal, dedicated research training concurrent with clinical residency or fellowship for both MD-PhD graduates and for those wishing to obtain a PhD. In this world-class research university setting, physician-scientists receive protected research time, tuition, PGY salary, and dedicated mentorship from renowned faculty throughout the university. STAR alumni successfully compete for federal research funding and are at the forefront of scientific breakthroughs that are advancing our understanding of medicine, research, and patient care.

Graduates of the STAR Program have advanced to leadership positions across the nation holding titles such as Program Director, Endowed Chair, Division Chief, Department Chair, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Scientific Officer, Vice Chancellor, Deputy to the U.S. Surgeon General, Institute Director and University President. Many have been inducted or honored by leading physician-scientists societies including the National Academy of Medicine, American Society of Clinical Investigation and Association of American Physicians.

STAR Awardees receive salary support and benefits from their clinical department commensurate with training (PGY) level, as well as graduate school tuition throughout the clinical and graduate research years.

In the first year of fellowship, activities are usually 100% clinical. The remaining years are divided, 25% for clinical activities and 75% for research and pursuit of an advanced research degree (PhD). This may vary somewhat among specialties.

Partnerships with the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA enables STAR fellows to pursue their PhD studies at Caltech or the Pardee-RAND Graduate School.

STAR by the numbers:

82%

Pursued scientific careers

71%

Received K or R grant

\$2.8M

In NIH dollar per graduate in research

>16,000 Publications

Including leading journals: NEJM, JAMA, Nature, Science, and Cell

OUR COMMITMENT TO PHYSICIAN-SCIENTISTS

MENTORSHIP

Physician-scientists in the STAR fellowship pathways can count on personalized scientific mentorship from their thesis advisor, career guidance from directors of the STAR Program, and peer advice from the >50 other physician-scientists in the program. In our supportive research community, mentors closely guide trainees throughout all stages of their careers extending well into the junior faculty stage and beyond. Whether they need support finding their niche, competing for funding, securing letters of recommendation, or negotiating a faculty position leading to research independence, the STAR career mentors are there to help them achieve their goals.



DEDICATED RESEARCH TIME

Training in the STAR Program guarantees physician-scientists dedicated research time that, in many ways like a sabbatical, allows fellows to find their scientific identities and develop their investigative niche. This protected research time and mentoring prepares STAR physician-scientists to develop outstanding grant applications.



FUNDING SUPPORT

The STAR program commits to funding full salary and tuition support for physician-scientist trainees to complete their PhD and reach their maximum potential at our world-class research institute and its premier academic health system.



STAR TRACKS

TRACK 1. PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST - BASIC SCIENCE

This track is for physicians committed to careers combining basic science research with subspecialty medicine. Graduate courses and research are undertaken to fulfill requirements for the PhD degree. Mentors may be chosen from UCLA's basic science programs including: Biological Chemistry, Biomathematics, Biomedical Engineering, Experimental Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Human Genetics, Microbiology and Immunology, Molecular Biology, Molecular Genetics, Molecular and Medical Pharmacology, Neuroscience, Physiology, Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology.

Track 1: STAR PhD Basic Science

Leads to a PhD in one of UCLA's basic science programs

Entry Point: Fellowship or Non-IM Residency

TRACK 2. PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST - HEALTH SERVICES/OUTCOMES RESEARCH

This track is for physicians committed to careers combining clinical medicine with health services/outcomes research. Graduate courses and research are undertaken with faculty mentors from the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research in the Department of Medicine at UCLA, the Departments of Health Services, Biostatistics, or Epidemiology in the in the Fielding School of Public Health or the Pardee-RAND Graduate School. This track leads to a PhD.

Track 2: STAR PhD Health Services/Outcomes

Leads to a PhD in Health Services/Outcomes

Entry Point: Fellowship or Non-IM Residency

TRACK 3. PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST - POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH

This track is ideal for physicians who have already completed a PhD, such as MSTP graduates. It allows for a smooth re-entry into research and state-of-the-art technology. Mentors are chosen from among basic science and health services departments, as well as from the Caltech and Pardee-RAND programs.



Track 3: STAR Postdoctoral Research

Protected Research for those who already completed a PhD

Entry Point: Fellowship or Non-IM Residency

TRACK 4. STAR PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM (PSTP) – RESIDENCY LEVEL

This track is ideal for physicians who are in the residency stage of their career. The STAR-PSTP was devised to provide enhanced opportunities in basic, clinical or health services research for residents committed to pursuing physician-investigator careers following clinical training.



Track 4: STAR PSTP

Combines residency and clinical fellowship with research training that leads to a PhD or protected Research for those already with a PhD

Entry Point: Internal Medicine Residency

STAR PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM (PSTP)

The STAR-PSTP was devised to provide enhanced opportunities in basic, clinical or health services research for residents committed to pursuing physician-investigator careers following clinical training. With its demanding schedule, residency training often disconnects residents from their research interests. However, the STAR-PSTP seamlessly keeps residents engaged with their research goals.

PSTP residents are provided multi-level mentorship from a faculty member and a fellow in the Specialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) Program. STAR-PSTP participants are also provided exposure to basic or clinical research via participation in monthly seminars with fellows in the STAR Program. Residents have the opportunity to use their 10-week elective time to engage in a number of research opportunities of their choice.

PATH 1. PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST - BASIC SCIENCE

This track is for physicians committed to careers combining basic science research with subspecialty medicine. Mentors may be chosen from UCLA's basic science programs including:

- Biological Chemistry
- Biomedical Engineering
- Human Genetics
- Molecular Biology
- Molecular & Medical Pharmacology
- Physiology
- Biomathematics
- Experimental Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
- Microbiology & Immunology
- Molecular Genetics
- Neuroscience
- Molecular, Cellular & Integrative Physiology

PATH 2. PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST - HEALTH SERVICES/OUTCOMES RESEARCH

This track is for physicians committed to careers combining clinical medicine with health services/outcomes research. Research is undertaken with faculty mentors from the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research in the Department of Medicine at UCLA, the Departments of Health Services, Biostatistics, or Epidemiology in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health or the Pardee-RAND Graduate School. This track leads to a PhD.

PSTP RESIDENT PROFILES

LLOYD D. HARVEY, MD, PhD



Dr. Lloyd Harvey completed his MD, PhD at the University of Pittsburgh-Carnegie Mellon University Medical Scientist Training Program under Dr. Stephen Y. Chan. His work leveraged large, multidimensional genomic and metabolomic datasets to define a role for lysosomal control of sterol metabolism at the endothelium in pulmonary arterial hypertension. His work led to the computational definition and synthesis of a novel agent targeting this pathway to reverse disease in vitro and in vivo.

JESSICA HONG, MD



Dr. Jessica Hong completed her MD at the University of California San Francisco where she studied genetic factors implicated in congenital heart disease with Dr. Deepak Srivastava at the Gladstone Institutes. Concurrently, she spent four years with a machine learning team at Google developing methods for high-throughput protein sequencing.

KEVIN QIAN, MD, PhD



Dr. Kevin Qian received his BS from Yale College and completed his MD and PhD at UCLA, where he studied lipid metabolism in the lab of Dr. Peter Tontonoz. During his PhD, he discovered a previously unknown gene that controls how lipid stores are organized in different types of fat cells. This work improved our fundamental understanding of adipocyte biology and implicated a new factor in the pathogenesis of metabolic syndrome.

JIAJIA ZHANG, MD, MPH



Dr. Jiajia Zhang received her MD from Peking Union Medical University and MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Under the mentorship of Drs. Drew Pardoll and Kellie Smith at Hopkins, her research focuses on immunogenomic determinants of T cells in immunotherapy responsiveness. Her work provides important insights for overcoming resistance to PD-1 blockade and resulted in a co-inventor patent on novel targets for combination neoadjuvant immunotherapy.

RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AT UCLA

STAR trainees can choose mentors from a wide variety of UCLA programs including:

- Biological Chemistry
- Biomathematics
- Biomedical Engineering
- Experimental Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
- Human Genetics
- Microbiology & Immunology
- Molecular Biology
- Molecular Genetics
- Molecular & Medical Pharmacology
- Neuroscience
- Physiology
- Public Health
- Molecular, Cellular & Integrative Physiology
- Biostatistics
- Pardee-RAND Graduate School
- Caltech

UCLA is the second-oldest campus of the UC system. It offers over 125 undergraduate majors and nearly 150 graduate degree programs in a wide range of disciplines. With an enrollment of 31,002 undergraduate and 13,025 graduate students, UCLA has the largest enrollment in the UC system, with 111,266 freshman applications for Fall 2019.

UCLA's vast network of research institutes and centers are helping high impact ideas to take root. UCLA boasts world class research centers including The Broad Stem Cell Research Center, The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center, The UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the UCLA Center for World Health.

The UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) is a research partnership of UCLA, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and the Los Angeles Biomedical Institute at Harbor UCLA Medical Center.

The UCLA's CTSI's mission is to bring biomedical innovations to bear on the greatest health needs of Los Angeles—the largest and one of the most ethnically, socially and economically diverse counties in the United States. Its vision is to catalyze research that translates discoveries into tangible improvements in health care, and disease prevention and treatment in Los Angeles County. The UCLA CTSI is one of more than 50 research “hubs” supported by the Clinical and Translational Sciences Award (CTSA) program of National Cancer for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS).

**\$1 BILLION
IN RESEARCH
ANNUALLY**

5,500

Funded research proposals

UCLA Health | Department of Medicine



Blue Ridge Institute
for Medical Research

NIH

FUNDING RANKINGS
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

1. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES - \$252,287,769

2.	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO	\$232,156,755
3.	VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY	\$214,240,114
4.	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES	\$206,000,660
5.	DUKE UNIVERSITY	\$185,675,068
6.	JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY	\$184,401,140
7.	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH	\$179,197,499
8.	STANFORD UNIVERSITY	\$172,598,538
9.	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	\$164,863,182
10.	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO	\$149,335,903

REFLECTIONS FROM A 30-YEAR JOURNEY: INTERVIEW WITH ALAN M. FOGELMAN, MD



Dr. Alan M. Fogelman is the Castera Professor of Medicine, Director of the Atherosclerosis Research Unit and former Executive Chair of the Department of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. His research interests include cell biology of the artery wall and lipid metabolism. Dr. Fogelman is what you would call a lifelong Bruin. He has been at UCLA since 1962. Over the decades, he not only witnessed the explosive growth of the UCLA world-class educational programs but played a direct role in this transformation.

What have been the pivotal moments in your life and your career that have prepared you for your role as a physician-scientist?

In high school I encountered a wonderful chemistry teacher (Mrs. Rose Lowell) that taught us both inorganic and biochemistry. As an undergraduate at UCLA, I received a California Heart Association Summer Fellowship that allowed me to spend a summer working on the protein purification of renin. In medical school, I was also able to do research through summer scholarships. While in my internship and residency and during my two years of active duty in the US Navy, I was able to participate in clinical research projects. As a Chief Resident, and during my Cardiology Fellowship, while continuing to participate in clinical research projects, I was allowed to take classes in Biological Chemistry with a focus on lipid biochemistry. It was during this period and through the mentorship of the Chief of Cardiology that I met Professor George J. Popjak in the Department of Biological Chemistry who took me into his laboratory. Through a VA Career Development Award and later through an NIH Career Development Award, I was able to continue in Dr. Popjak's laboratory, and worked under his tutelage for five years. Another turning point was the recruitment from Stanford to UCLA of Peter Edwards, PhD. Peter had been working on the rate controlling enzyme in cholesterol biosynthesis (HMG-CoA reductase). Peter and I formed a scientific partnership that lasted for decades and resulted in a large American Heart Association Program Project that led to a very long lived NHLBI Program Project Grant. My good fortune was to

have outstanding teachers, mentors and colleagues from different scientific disciplines that together with career development awards and American Heart Association and NIH funding allowed me to learn science from them over many decades.

In 1994 you wrote an article for the Annals of Internal Medicine describing the establishment of a “novel training track”, the UCLA STAR program. Why did you establish this program?

I did not establish the STAR Program, I was fortunate enough to be the Chair of the Department of Medicine when Linda Demer an MD, PhD graduate from Johns Hopkins proposed it, and I was fortunate enough that the faculty of the Department of Medicine allowed us to fund it.

Did you ever envision that the program would grow to what it has become today?

I hoped for such an outcome, but I did not envision the size and success that it has achieved.

What has been the key ingredient to the success of the STAR program?

There have been a number of key ingredients to the success of the STAR program. The young physicians who have been willing to commit so much to be rigorously trained as physician-scientists. The families of these young physicians who have supported the long hard path that they have chosen. The leadership of the STAR program; Dr. Linda Demer who started and nurtured the program and who has provided an environment that led some of its most successful graduates to join her to ensure that there will be such a pathway for future generations of physician-scientists. The staff that has supported the training of these physician-scientists. The faculty of the Department of Medicine that supported the program from its inception. Dr. Eric Esrailian who has brought in major philanthropy to ensure the program’s success far into the future.

Can you share some thoughts and reflections on the past 30 years of the STAR Program?

I think that one of the most important decisions made for STAR was that the Department of Medicine would not develop a degree granting program as was the case at some Departments of Medicine at other Universities that have sought to train physician-scientists. Rather the decision was for the Department of Medicine to administer, fund and nurture the program, but require that the STAR Fellows apply to and be accepted as graduate students by existing degree granting departments at UCLA or at Caltech or at RAND. This decision guaranteed that the degrees earned by the STAR Fellows would be rigorous and would truly prepare them for a career in science whether they chose to do bench science, health services research or clinical trials.

What are your hopes for the next 30 years of STAR?

My hope is that STAR will continue to be a vehicle for providing the most rigorous scientific training for young physicians seeking to become physician-scientists and that some of its graduates will join the leadership teams necessary to achieve this goal over the next 30 years.

What advice would you like to give early career physician-scientists?

I would advise them that to achieve success as a physician-scientist requires rigorous training of the kind needed to obtain an advanced degree. This will require sacrifice on their part, and the support of their family. The latter will turn out to be at least as important as the former.

What do you perceive as the greatest challenge or challenges facing physician-scientists today?

The knowledge base for all fields of science continues to grow. Physician-scientists have to keep up with the changes in their medical practice and in their scientific field. This is a very challenging commitment, but meeting this challenge is both noble and fulfilling.

The Alan M. Fogelman Mentorship Award will be presented at the STAR symposium. What has mentorship meant to you?

Whatever success I have had as a physician-scientist has largely been due to the mentorship that I have received, and my greatest professional satisfaction has come from those that I have mentored.

Where does your inspiration come from?

From my family, my teachers, my mentors, my students, my mentees, my colleagues and from my patients.

Where are you happiest?

At home and at work.



ALAN M. FOGELMAN, MD MENTORSHIP AWARD

CELEBRATING MENTORSHIP IN A BIG WAY!

In 2020, the STAR Program at UCLA launched the largest individual award recognizing excellence in academic mentorship across the nation. Mentorship is an integral component of the STAR Program and a key factor in the success of STAR trainees and graduates.

The Alan M. Fogelman, MD Mentorship Award is bestowed annually to a faculty member who has demonstrated commitment and excellence in mentorship of fellows and junior faculty. Awardees are selected based on their ability to develop a supportive environment for research and scholarship, including generous sharing of their time, knowledge, and resources with mentees. Awardees must demonstrate a strong track record of promoting mentees, making others aware of the contributions of their mentees, and serving as a role model within their field.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Alan Fogelman, who co-founded the STAR Program in 1993 and served as the Chair of the Department of Medicine at UCLA.

The award is made possible through the generous support of Dr. Eric Esraillian.

Any UCLA faculty member or STAR mentor from an outside organization may be nominated by their department chair, colleague(s), or mentee(s) for this annual award. The award includes \$25,000 in funding to support mentorship activities.

A special committee is convened annually to select awardees and previous recipients include Dr. Judith Currier (2020) and Dr. Carol Mangione (2021).



Judith S. Currier, MD



Carol Mangione, MD



Scan to meet the recipient of the 2023 Alan M. Fogelman, MD Mentorship Award.



ERIC ESRAILIAN, MD, MPH

PRESENTER OF THE ALAN M. FOGELMAN, MD MENTORSHIP AWARD

CHIEF, VATCHE & TAMAR MANOUKIAN DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES

**DIRECTOR, MELVIN & BREN SIMON DIGESTIVE DISEASES CENTER
LINCY FOUNDATION CHAIR IN CLINICAL GASTROENTEROLOGY
HEALTH SCIENCES CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE**

**DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**



There are many awards that celebrate accomplished clinicians, teachers, and researchers, but our outstanding mentors also deserve to be recognized. Mentorship is a key ingredient in facilitating academic success and has been a staple of the STAR program culture for decades. We wanted to find a meaningful way to celebrate excellence in mentorship — which is why we created what we believe to be the largest award given to an individual for mentorship.

Eric Esrailian, MD, MPH

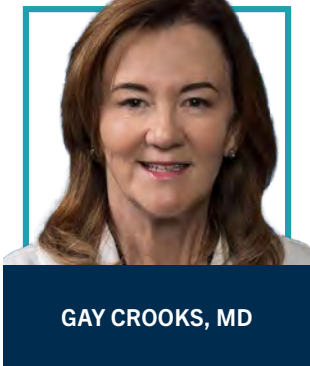


FEATURED STAR FACULTY MENTORS



**ALBERT BILLINGS RUDDOCK PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Marianne Bronner is a developmental biologist and Professor at Caltech, known for her studies of the neural crest, an important stem cell population that generates the peripheral nervous system, craniofacial skeleton and important components of the cardiovascular system of all vertebrates.



**PROFESSOR AND REBECCA SMITH CHAIR IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PATHOLOGY &
LABORATORY MEDICINE AND PEDIATRICS**

**DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

Gay Crooks is Professor and Rebecca Smith Chair in the Departments of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine and Pediatrics in the David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). Dr. Crooks serves as Co-Director of the Broad Stem Cell Research Center and Director of the Cancer and Stem Cell Biology Program of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.



**ASHER PROFESSOR OF MICROBIOLOGY, IMMUNOLOGY, AND MOLECULAR GENETICS;
DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR QUANTITATIVE AND COMPUTATIONAL BIOSCIENCES**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA)

Alexander Hoffmann is the Thomas M. Asher Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at UCLA, and the founding director of the campus-wide, interdepartmental Institute for Quantitative and Computational Biosciences (QCBio) to catalyze, promote, and guide the transformation of biological and biomedical sciences into a data-rich, theory-based, quantitatively predictive science. QCBio initiates, supports and coordinates almost a dozen research, research training, and education programs in quantitative and computational biosciences



**CAROL M. MANGIONE,
MD, MSPH, FACP**

**CHIEF, DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH;
EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIR FOR HEALTH EQUITY AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH;
BARBARA A. LEVEY & GERALD S. LEVEY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND
PUBLIC HEALTH AT UCLA**

**DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

Carol M. Mangione is the chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research and the Barbara A. Levey, MD, and Gerald S. Levey, MD, endowed chair in medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and Department of Medicine Executive Vice Chair Health Equity and Health Services Research. She is also a distinguished professor of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the UCLA Resource Center for Minority Aging Research/Center of Health Improvement of Minority Elders, director of the UCLA CTSI Workforce Development Program. Dr. Mangione is also a practicing primary care physician in the UCLA Faculty Practice Group.



**KALYANAM SHIVKUMAR,
MD, PhD, FHRS, FACC,
FRCPI, FRCP (Hon)**

**PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE (CARDIOLOGY), RADIOLOGY & BIOENGINEERING; DIRECTOR, UCLA
CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA CENTER & EP PROGRAMS; DIRECTOR & CHIEF, UCLA INTERVENTIONAL
CARDIOVASCULAR PROGRAMS; RESEARCH FACULTY, UCLA MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND
INTEGRATIVE PHYSIOLOGY INTERDEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM; FACULTY, UCLA NEUROSCIENCE
INTERDEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM (NSIDP)**

**DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

Kalyanam Shivkumar is a graduate of the UCLA STAR Program (class of 2000) and his field of specialization is interventional cardiac electrophysiology. He leads a large group at UCLA (comprising a diverse group of fifteen faculty members, several trainees and sixty staff + allied health professionals) involved in clinical care, teaching, research and biomedical innovation.



**PETER TONTOZ,
MD, PhD**

**FRANCES AND ALBERT PIANSKY ENDOWED CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF
PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE AND OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY**

**DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

Peter Tontonoz's laboratory endeavors to understand regulatory pathways that govern cholesterol, fatty acid and phospholipid metabolism. His work has helped to reveal fundamental mechanisms by which animals maintain cellular and whole-body lipid homeostasis. Dr. Tontonoz is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, the American Society for Clinical Investigation (former President), and the Association of American Physicians. He has received a number of national awards, including the Stanley J. Korsmeyer Award from the American Society of Clinical Investigation, the Richard Weitzman Award and the Gerald D. Aurbach Award from the Endocrine Society, and the Jeffrey Hoeg Award from the American Heart Association.

FEATURED STAR AWARDEES & RECENT GRADUATES

OLAWALE O. AMUBIEYA, MD, PhD


MEDICAL SCHOOL:

COLUMBIA COLLEGE OF PHYSICIAN & SURGEONS

RESIDENCY:

UCLA, INTERNAL MEDICINE

CURRENT PROGRAM:

PULMONARY / CRITICAL CARE

MENTORS:

SAM WEIGT, MD; JOHN BELPERIO, MD

TITLE OF CURRENT PROJECT:

CLINICAL OUTCOMES IN LUNG TRANSPLANT

“I decided to continue my research training because I wanted to take the time to build a new skill set that I can use to answer questions and effect change for patients on a larger scale than I am able to with individual clinical interactions.”

CHERIE S. BLAIR, MD, PhD


MEDICAL SCHOOL:

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

RESIDENCY:

UCLA, INTERNAL MEDICINE

CURRENT PROGRAM:

HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT PhD / INFECTIOUS DISEASES

MENTORS:

RAPHAEL LANDOVITZ, MD

TITLE OF CURRENT PROJECT:

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH REPEAT RECTAL NEISSERIA GONORRHEA AND CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS

“UCLA is an amazing place! I decided to stay at UCLA to continue my training because of the strong clinical training and the wonderful opportunities in research. The multi-campus program in infectious diseases also provides a unique opportunity to be exposed to incredibly diverse patient populations and clinical pathology. Furthermore, the structured mentorship and support offered by the STAR Program is unparalleled in providing fellows a strong foundation for a career in academic research.”

JENNIFER CHIA, MD, PhD

**MEDICAL SCHOOL:**

WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE (WEILL CORNELL/ROCKEFELLER/SLOAN-KETTERING TRI-INSTITUTIONAL MD PhD PROGRAM)

RESIDENCY:

ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

CURRENT PROGRAM:

HEMATOPATHOLOGY (HS CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR)

MENTORS:

ALEXANDER HOFFMANN, PhD

TITLE OF CURRENT PROJECT:

EVALUATING THE ALTERNATIVES IN HEMATOPOESIS DRIVEN BY NF κ B DYSREGULATION IN THE BONE MARROW NICHE



The support for early career physician-scientists at UCLA is outstanding. Among the many resources available, the STAR program and its community of trainees and mentors have been particularly helpful as I transition back into basic science after completing my clinical training.

DANIELLE S. GRAHAM, MD, PhD, MBA

**MEDICAL SCHOOL:**

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA; PERELMAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

RESIDENCY:

UCLA, GENERAL SURGERY

CURRENT PROGRAM:

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, DIVISION OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

MENTORS:

THOMAS GRAEBER, PhD; ANUSHA KALBASI, MD; FRITZ EILBER, MD

TITLE OF CURRENT PROJECT:

EVOLUTION, METABOLISM, AND IMMUNITY IN SARCOMA



UCLA fosters collaboration across disciplines, leading to exciting interdisciplinary research.”

JEFFREY J. HSU, MD, PhD

**MEDICAL SCHOOL:**

UCLA

RESIDENCY:

UC SAN FRANCISCO, INTERNAL MEDICINE

CURRENT PROGRAM:

CARDIOLOGY

MENTORS:

LINDA DEMER, MD, PhD

TITLE OF CURRENT PROJECT:

MECHANOBIOLOGY OF ENDOTHELIAL-TO-MESENCHYMAL TRANSITION IN CARDIOVASCULAR CALCIFICATION

“I chose UCLA for my training because of the world-class research training environment offered by the UCLA STAR Program. With international leaders in biomedical and bioengineering research within walking distance of a top hospital like Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, UCLA provided me with the best opportunity to find the optimal balance of receiving rigorous clinical training and being mentored by world-famous scientists. With its demonstrated track record of producing successful physician-scientists, the UCLA STAR Program was the clear choice for me.”

TASHA L. LIN, MD

**MEDICAL SCHOOL:**

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL

RESIDENCY:

MAYO CLINIC, INTERNAL MEDICINE

CURRENT:

HEMATOLOGY / ONCOLOGY

MENTORS:

DINESH RAO, MD, PhD

TITLE OF CURRENT PROJECT:

POST-TRANSCRIPTIONAL GENE REGULATION OF MLL-AF4-MEDIATED LEUKEMOGENESIS

“The best thing about my mentor is that he is a wonderful role model as a physician-scientist. We can become equally excited about the elegance of the science and the clinical relevance of our questions and findings to patient care.”

ASHLEY F. STEIN-MERLOB, MD, PhD

**MEDICAL SCHOOL:**

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

RESIDENCY:

UC SAN FRANCISCO, INTERNAL MEDICINE

CURRENT PROGRAM:

CARDIOLOGY

MENTORS:

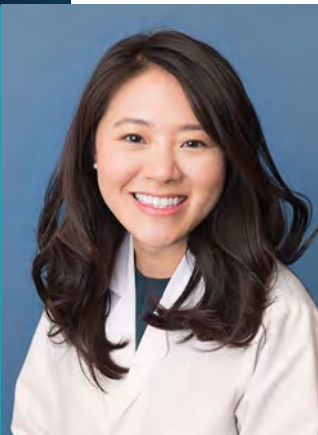
ALAN GARFINKEL, PhD

TITLE OF CURRENT PROJECT:

COMPUTATIONAL MODELING IN HEART FAILURE

“I selected UCLA to continue my training and conduct research because of the many amazing research opportunities at UCLA and the support of the STAR program. Through the STAR Program, I will receive formal research training through a PhD that will help me to pursue an impactful research career in a subject that I am passionate about. At UCLA, I have access to incredible, world renowned researchers in every discipline which can help facilitate novel, interdisciplinary research. For me, this meant the opportunity to pursue a project that integrates both engineering and life sciences. Finally, the STAR Program provides essential support and mentorship to help navigate the challenges of transitioning from a trainee to an early career physician-scientist.”

CARRIE WONG, MD, PhD

**MEDICAL SCHOOL:**

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

RESIDENCY:

YALE, INTERNAL MEDICINE

CURRENT PROGRAM:

GASTROENTEROLOGY

MENTORS:

ROSHAN BASTANI, PhD

TITLE OF CURRENT PROJECT:

BARRIERS TO CARE IN CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE

“The UCLA STAR Program provided a unique and integrated opportunity to further develop my research skills and interests in health services during my gastroenterology fellowship. UCLA was one of very few programs in the country that offered a formal research training program, support, and protected research time for fellows.”

2023 UCLA STAR PROGRAM ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH | FOWLER MUSEUM

TIME	EVENT
5:00-6:30pm	<p>“ART & SCIENCE” RECEPTION & POSTER SESSION <i>Select art galleries open for viewing</i></p>
6:40-6:45pm	<p>WELCOME & INTRODUCTION <i>Tamer Sallam, MD, PhD</i></p>
6:45-6:55pm	<p>OPENING REMARKS <i>Our Commitment to Physician-Scientists / 30-Years of STAR</i></p> <p><i>E. Dale Abel, MD, PhD</i> <i>Linda Demer, MD, PhD</i></p>
6:55-7:10pm	<p>KEYNOTE <i>Dean Steven M. Dubinett, MD</i></p>
7:10-7:20pm	<p>POSTER AWARDS</p>
7:20-7:35pm	<p>HONORING OUR ALUMNI <i>Presentation of Alumni Award by</i></p> <p><i>Quen Cheng, MD, PhD</i> <i>Amy Cummings, MD, PhD</i> <i>Fola May, MD, PhD</i></p>
7:35-7:45pm	<p>ALAN M. FOGELMAN, MD MENTORSHIP AWARD <i>Presented by:</i> <i>Eric Esrailian, MD, MPH</i> <i>Tannaz Moin, MD, MBA, MSHS</i></p>
7:45-8:00pm	<p>SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS / CLOSING</p>

SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SPEAKER



STEVEN M. DUBINETT, MD

DEAN OF THE DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT UCLA UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Dr. Steven M. Dubinett directs the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and is jointly appointed as Distinguished Professor in the Departments of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Molecular and Medical Pharmacology, and Medicine, where he served as Chief of the Division of Pulmonary Critical Care, Sleep Medicine, Clinical Immunology and Allergy between 2006-2021. In 2023, Dr. Dubinett was named Dean of DGSOM at UCLA.

As chief of the division, which serves thirteen clinical locations in Southern California, Dr. Dubinett has recruited over 100 faculty. He has fostered sub-specialization, including programs in Interventional pulmonology, sleep medicine and lung transplantation. The division is home to nationally acclaimed training programs in pulmonary and critical care medicine, sleep medicine, interventional pulmonology, allergy and immunology, and lung transplantation. UCLA Pulmonology has ranked within the top 5 programs by U.S. News & World Report for the past three years. Dr. Dubinett's research focuses on immunity and inflammation in the development of lung cancer. While a pulmonary research fellow in the Department of Pathology at Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Dubinett helped lead the first clinical trial using tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes to treat patients with cancer. While some of the patients with renal cancer and melanoma had very dramatic anti-tumor responses, the patients with lung cancer did not respond to the therapy. Building on original discoveries relevant to immunity and inflammation in the pathogenesis of lung cancer, Dr. Dubinett has developed a translational research program, which now utilizes these laboratory-based discoveries in the translational research and clinical environment.

After joining the UCLA faculty in 1988, Dr. Dubinett began his research program focusing on understanding why lung cancer patients were not responding to immunotherapy, and he has received uninterrupted peer-reviewed federal funding for translational lung cancer research for more than 30 years. Dr. Dubinett, experienced in mentorship, peer review, and academic administration, has trained more than 50-graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty, nearly all of whom have continued in academic or industry research careers.

STAR ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2023



Distinguished Alumni Award

ARLEEN F. BROWN, MD, PhD

CHIEF OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE & HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AT OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE IN THE DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AT UCLA

**DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

Arleen Brown, MD, PhD, is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research (GIM and HSR) at the University of California, Los Angeles. She serves as Chief of GIM and HSR at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center.

Dr. Brown's research focuses on improving health outcomes, enhancing health care quality, and reducing disparities for adults with chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and stroke. She has been a Principal Investigator on studies to improve diabetes care for older adults and minority patients and research to understand clinical, socioeconomic, and health system influences on chronic disease management in under-resourced communities. She is currently a Principal Investigator on several projects, including a study to improve cardiovascular outcomes among persons with a history of trauma who are living with HIV and AIDS, research to reduce disparities in blood pressure control for patients in the Los Angeles County safety net system, and studies to mitigate disparities in COVID-19.

Dr. Brown also co-directs the Community Engagement and Research Program (CERP) of the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute. In this role, she works with teams of community and university partners to ensure that community and research priorities align, promote research in community settings, and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise between all stakeholders.

In 2020, Dr. Brown was selected to lead the California site of the national Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID Disparities. The statewide Share, Trust, Organize, Partner: the COVID-19 California Alliance (STOP COVID-19 CA) effort includes 11 universities and their networks of community partners. In this role, she is working to ensure the integrity of COVID-19 clinical trial studies and standards for protection of voluntary participants while enhancing diversity and inclusive participation in COVID-19 vaccine, prevention, and therapeutic studies.

Distinguished Alumni Award**SANAZ MEMARZADEH,
MD, PhD****PROFESSOR OF GYNECOLOGIC CANCER, DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS
AND GYNECOLOGY, RONALD REAGAN UCLA MEDICAL CENTER****GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY STAFF AND GYNECOLOGIC CANCER
SURGEON, VA HOSPITAL, WEST LOS ANGELES****DIRECTOR, G.O. DISCOVERY LABORATORY, UCLA BROAD STEM CELL
RESEARCH CENTER**

Dr. Sanaz Memarzadeh is a board-certified gynecologic oncologist with over 13 years of active practice. She is an accomplished surgeon and is skilled in gynecologic cancer surgeries (ovarian, endometrial, cervical, vulvar/vaginal cancers), robotic and minimally invasive operations. Compassionate and adept, she specializes in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of all gynecologic diseases. She serves patients at UCLA and also serves women veterans at the West Los Angeles VA hospital.

After the conclusion of her formal residency at the UCLA Medical Center, she continued at UCLA completing a specialized three-year fellowship training in gynecologic oncology. This fellowship is designed to meet the subspecialty requirements of the Gynecologic Oncology Division of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Beyond clinical care of patients, Dr. Memarzadeh is dedicated to leading-edge research to discover new and more effective treatment options for gynecologic cancers. After completing her fellowship training, she went to earn a PhD in the Department of Molecular Biology at UCLA. In addition to being a skilled surgeon, maintaining an active clinical practice, and caring for her patients, she is the Director of the G.O. Discovery Laboratory in the Broad Stem Cell Research Center at UCLA. This independent research laboratory focuses on understanding the molecular pathways of gynecologic cancers and developing new, more effective therapies to help patients. This includes characterizing therapy resistant ovarian cancer tumor cells with the goal of therapeutic targeting of these tumors first experimentally and then implementation in clinical trials. She also has an interest in understanding the causes of uterine cancers including endometrial carcinosarcoma and uterine sarcomas. Her research team focuses on studying genetic pathways that can initiate these tumors, and ways to better target them. On the forefront of translating gynecologic cancer research to the therapy of patients, she has been awarded multiple funding sources for her work, including the Reproductive Scientist Developmental Grant, the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation Grant, a Gynecologic Cancer Foundation Award, and the STOP CANCER Award. Dr. Memarzadeh has authored many published articles in respected journals and textbook chapters.

Dr. Memarzadeh is dedicated to teaching the next generation of physicians and scientists, holding a tenured position as a Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She has received acknowledgments for her capability as a teacher including the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) Excellence in Teaching Award.

She takes a personal role in helping all those who work with her to learn as much as they can with the goal of advancing the field of women's gynecologic cancer care.



Professional Achievement Award

JOSEPH WU, MD, PhD

DIRECTOR, STANFORD CARDIOVASCULAR INSTITUTE

SIMON H. STERTZER, MD, PROFESSOR AND PROFESSOR OF RADIOLOGY

PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Dr. Joseph Wu is a board-certified cardiologist. He is the Director of the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute and the Simon H. Stertzer, MD, Professor of Medicine and Radiology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

The American Heart Association appointed Dr. Wu as its president for fiscal year 2023-2024.

His clinical interests include adult congenital heart disease and cardiovascular imaging. He strives to help each patient achieve the best possible heart health and quality of life.

To advance heart care, Dr. Wu conducts extensive research, focusing on clinical genomics, stem cells, and drug development. The goals of his research are to enhance our understanding of cardiovascular diseases, accelerate the discovery of new drug treatments, and ensure that every cardiovascular patient will benefit from the best of personalized precision medicine being developed at Stanford Medicine.

Dr. Wu has published more than 550 manuscripts with an H-index of 124, and is one of the world's most highly cited scholars in the field of cardiovascular medicine, stem cells, genomics, and precision medicine. His work has appeared in peer-reviewed journals including *Nature*, *Cell*, *Science*, *Nature Medicine*, *Science Translational Medicine*, *Cell Stem Cell*, *PNAS*, *Circulation*, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, *European Heart Journal*, and many more. Dr. Wu also educates the heart specialists of the future. More than 45 of his trainees are now principal investigators of clinical or research studies in major academic centers both in the US and internationally.

He has earned numerous honors, including the Distinguished Scientist Award from the American Heart Association and the Director's New Innovator Award and Transformative Award from the National Institutes of Health. He also received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) from the White House Office of Technology.

Dr. Wu is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), National Academy of Inventors (NAI), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI), Association of American Physicians (AAP), Academia Sinica (Taiwan), Association of University Cardiologists (AUC), and American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE). He is an honorary lifetime member of the Society of Toxicology (SOT).

LEADERS IN MEDICINE

WHY JUDY CURRIER IS EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE AT UCLA



JUDITH CURRIER, MD, MSc

EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIR FOR RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MICHAEL AND SUE STEINBERG CHAIR IN GLOBAL AIDS RESEARCH

DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

What events in your life led you to pursue a career and/or research in medicine?

My interest in research was triggered by my experiences caring for people with HIV in the mid 1980s during residency training in Boston. We frankly had no idea how to best care for people with this new and terrible disease. I had worked in an immunology lab during medical school and had also been interested in primary care, and HIV was a new area of medicine where there was an urgent need. I was also influenced by an experience of obtaining compassionate-use fluconazole for a patient with cryptococcal meningitis as a resident and I saw how this new drug transformed his life in the short term. I was drawn to research to test new therapies for HIV and to conducting research to understand the natural history of this new disease and the related complications.

How have you seen the field of academic medicine evolve over the course of your career?

I have seen changes both in the clinical practice of medicine at an academic center and in the field overall. Over the course of my career, it seems that we keep being asked to do more and more with less in terms of support. Many tasks and activities that were previously handled by support staff, now fall directly to the MD. On the research side- there has been a tremendous growth in many areas of research and better opportunities for research training but continued challenges to supporting physician scientists as they move from training into faculty. There are now better-defined pathways for physicians who want to pursue research, but many more pressures that contribute to making the pathway seem less viable. I am hopeful we can address some of these barriers and pressure points.

What are some of the challenges that are currently being faced in your field?

In my field, infectious diseases, we are facing a crisis of burnout and declining interest in the field among trainees. Sadly, the inequities of the pay structures for our specialty and practice demands for clinicians in ID are undermining our ability to garner interest in our field. This is happening at a time when ID is more critical than ever.

What is your vision for addressing a few of these challenges in your new leadership role?

I am excited about the opportunity to participate in the creation and implementation of a department wide strategic plan for research. I would like to see us harness the resources of the DOM across the divisions to provide stronger support for all types of research across the translational spectrum from basic laboratory research to population health and for different career stages. We need to identify the needs of each of these groups and look for ways to bring efficiency to the research infrastructure.

What inspires you to do the work that you do?

I am inspired by the progress we have made in the treatment of HIV over the past two decades and the power of research to change clinical care.

What advice do you have for our aspiring physicians or physician-scientists?

If you love the process of doing research, stick with it and look for support from your peers and mentors. It is a privilege to be able to spend your time doing this work.

Would you like to share anything else?

I am honored to have this new opportunity in the department of medicine, surrounded by so much talent and passion for research within our faculty. I have been at UCLA now for 25 years and hope that I can share from my experiences to make this the best place to be a physician scientist.



PAST ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



KRISTINA I. BOSTROM, MD, PhD
2018 RECIPIENT

Chief of Cardiology
West LA VA
Professor of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)



ROGER LO, MD, PhD
2018 RECIPIENT

Professor of Medicine / Dermatology,
Associate Chief of Dermatology,
Director of Dermatology STAR Program
UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine



NAZLEEN BHARMAL, MD, PhD, MPP
2017 RECIPIENT

Director of Science and Policy,
Office of the Surgeon General



LINDA M. LIAU, MD, PhD, MBA
2016 RECIPIENT

Professor & Chair, UCLA Department of
Neurosurgery
Co-Director of the UCLA Brain Tumor Center



RICK FAIRHURST, MD, PhD
2016 RECIPIENT

Councilor of the American Society of Tropical
Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
Director of the NIH MD / PhD Partnership
Training Program and Malaria Pathogenesis Lab



KATHLEEN SAKAMOTO, MD, PhD
2019 RECIPIENT

Shelagh Galligan Professor at Stanford
Chief of Pediatric Hematology, Stanford
Director of Scholarly Research, Department of
Pediatrics
NIDDK Council Member

LIST OF STAR GRADUATES AND CURRENT AWARDEES

STAR GRADUATES

Adeyiga, Oladunni	Chen, Katherine	Goodarzi, Mark	Kornmann, Helen
Ajjjola, Olujimi	Cheng, Richard	Gordin, Jonathan	Kulkarni, Rajan
Ambartsumyan, Gayane	Cheng, Quen	Goyal, Deepinder	Kuo, John
Amubieya, Olawale	Chew, Kara	Graham, Danielle	Lai, Alex
Araujo, Jesus	Chiu, Terence	Grimes, Brandon	Lake, Jordan
Bae, Sangmee	Chivukula, Srinivas	Gross, Mitchell	Le, Catherine
Baghdadi, Jonathan	Chow, Jeremy	Guha, Sushovan	Lechner, Melissa
Bakr, Omar	Cohen, Michael	Gupta, Pritha	Lee, John
Balin, Samuel	Connolly, Lynn	Hadaya, Joseph	Lee, John
Bazzano, Alicia	Costa Monteiro, Ana	Hanna, Peter	Lee, Lydia
Beaven, Simon	Court, Colin	Hauptman, Jason	Lee, Delphine
Becker, Todd	Craft, Noah	Hoffman, Jonathan	Lee, Roger
Beddingfield, Frederick	Cruz, Daniel	Hoffman, Jennifer	Lee, Elinor
Bell, Douglas	Cuk, Natasha	Honarpour, Narimon	Lerner, Leonid
Bell, Elijah	Cummings, Amy	Hong, Kurt	Leung, Lucinda
Benhammou, Jihane	Davarifar, Ardalan	Hong, Jason	Lewis, Joy
Bharmal, Nazleen	Dawes, Aaron	Horwich, Tamara	Lewis, Martha
Blair, Cherie	De Vos, Sven	Hsiai, Tzung	Liau, Linda
Bostrom, Kristina	Derhovanessian, Ariss	Hsiao, An-Fu	Lin, Tasha
Brown, Arleen	Dinkler, John	Hsu, Jeffrey	Liu, Jason
Buch, Eric	Do, Duc	Hu, Scott	Lluri, Gentian
Buhr, Russell	Dong, Tien	Hu, Tiffany	Lo, Roger
Bui, Viet	Dorigo, Oliver	Hung, Kin Wai	Lunn, John
Cai, Xinjiang	Doyle, Brian	Jacob, Noam	Luoh, Shih-Wen
Calkins, Kara	El-Nachef, Wael	Jacobs, Jonathan	MacLean, Catherine
Cambou, Mary	Emeruwa, Iheanacho	James, Aaron	Mahajan, Vinit
Cao, Weiwei	Escovedo, Cameron	Janzen, Carla	Mahajan, Aman
Caplan, Margaret	Fairhurst, Rick	Jones, Jennifer	Malin, Jennifer
Capone-Newton, Peter	Fan, Robert	Joudi, Anthony	Martin, Elise
Carpizo, Darren	Farias-Eisner, Robin	Karim, Shaheen	May, Folasade
Carr-Ascher, Janai	Fischbein, Michael	Katsman, Diana	Mehta, Seema
Cesario, David	Fitzgerald, John	Kelesidis, Theodoros	Memarzadeh, Sanaz
Chang, Mohammed	Freije, William	Khosravi, Arya	Miller, Lloyd
Chang, Christopher	Friend, Brian	Kim, Jocelyn	Murad, Douglas
Chang, Elmer	Fulcher, Jennifer	Kim, Joseph	Naeim, Arash
Chang, John	Gansert, Jennifer	Kim, Airie	Nakasone, Elizabeth
Charles-Schoeman, Christina	Ganz, David	Kim, Yan	Nakazawa, Michael
Chaudhry, Basit	Garrett, Matthew	Kim, Benjamin	Narain, Kimberly
Chen, Cheng-Han	Gaut, Daria	Kim, Jenny	Nayeri, Arash
Chen, Jian-Jun	Goel, Gati	King, Jennifer	Nguyen, Thao

Nguyen, Alexander
 Nicholas, Susanne
 Oronce, Carlos
 Oslund, Laura Pinderski
 Packard, Rene
 Padua, David
 Palaskas, Nicolaos
 Park, Steven
 Patel, Jignesh
 Patel, Arpan
 Petrasek, Danny
 Poles, Michael
 Quanquin, Natalie
 Quon, Doris
 Rao, Dinesh
 Razmjou, Amir
 Reckamp, Karen
 Richards, Adam
 Richter, Stefan
 Rivera, Seth
 Rojas, Arbis
 Roybal, Christopher
 Russell, Marcia
 Saadat, Dana
 Sacks, Greg
 Sakamoto, Kathleen
 Salehi-Rad, Ramin
 Sallam, Tamer
 Sasine, Joshua
 Scannell, Christopher
 Scumpia, Philip
 Seet, Christopher
 Sehl, Mary
 Seligman, Benjamin
 Seyfzadeh, Manouchehr
 Sezer, Begum
 Shah, Neil
 Shao, Esther
 Shieh, Albert
 Shih, David
 Shin, Daniel
 Shino, Yusaku
 Shivkumar, Kalyanam
 Silverstein, Cheri
 Simone, Anthony
 Singer, Adam
 Sjak-Shie, Nelida
 Soares, Heloisa
 Song, Mark
 Strobel, Katie
 Su, Thomas
 Sul, James
 Takahashi, Rie
 Tarabichi, Yasir
 Tarn, Derjung
 Tomlinson, James
 Touma, Marlin
 Treyzon, Leo
 Tsai, Steven
 Tsang, Stephen
 Tymchuk, Christopher
 Van Herle, Helga
 Vandiver, Amy
 Vargas, Mauricio
 Vaseghi, Marmar
 Videlock, Elizabeth
 Volkmann, Elizabeth
 Vora, Devendra
 Walling, Anne
 Wang, Jessica
 Watson, Karol
 Watson, Andrew
 Watson, Richard
 Weigt, Stephen
 Weinreb, Ari
 West, Brian
 Wong, Mitchell
 Wu, Joseph
 Yan, Eric
 Yang, Honghao
 Yeh, Michael
 Yiu, Gloria
 Yoon-Schwartz, Diana
 Young, Patricia
 Yuan, Alex
 Yun, James
 Zeidler, Michelle
 Zhu, Ching
 Ziaean, Boback
 Zingmond, David

THANK YOU GRADUATES AND ALUMNI FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

CURRENT AWARDEES

Wong, Carrie
 Stein-Merlob, Ashley
 Chen, Caroline
 Brownell, Nicholas
 Benjamin, Lawrence
 Ara, Ashkan
 Torres, Hugo
 Baclig, Nikita
 Sun, Amy
 Boulier, Kristin
 Hutchins, Elizabeth
 Na, Brian
 Oh, Michael
 Lowe, Sarina
 Lee, David
 Fazio, Jane
 Chia, Jennifer
 Velez, Maria
 Akinkuolie, Akintunde
 Tai, Warren
 Gorin, Aleksandr
 Tripsas, Christina
 Young, Arissa
 Wongvibulsin, Shannon
 Chan, Alvin
 Wang, Diana
 Himmelstein, Georgia (Gracie)
 Burton, Brittany
 Channick, Jessica
 Fenerty, Kathleen
 Alkassis, Samer
 Ren, Jing
 Klingbeil, Kyle
 Ohashi, Minori
 Hong, Jessica
 Nussenzweig, Philip
 Zhang, Jiajia
 Melehy, Andrew
 Good, Samuel
 La Charite, Jaime
 Mohebi, Reza
 Repetti, Giuliana
 Raddatz, Michael
 Zaki, Timothy
 Kim, Sohn
 Li, Rui
 Shiuian, Eileen
 Sun, Alexander
 Zekster, Yuliya
 Huang, Cher
 Te, Tue
 Premji, Alykhan
 Harvey, Lloyd
 Kang, Po Wei (Billy)
 Qian, Kevin
 Reinfield, Bradley

LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE CO-DIRECTORS



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ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS



OLUJIMI AJIJOLA, MD, PhD



FOLA MAY, MD, PhD



TANNAZ MOIN, MD, MBA, MSHS

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS, STAR PROGRAM & CO-DIRECTORS, STAR PSTP



AMY CUMMINGS, MD, PhD



QUEN J. CHENG, MD, PhD

it begins with

