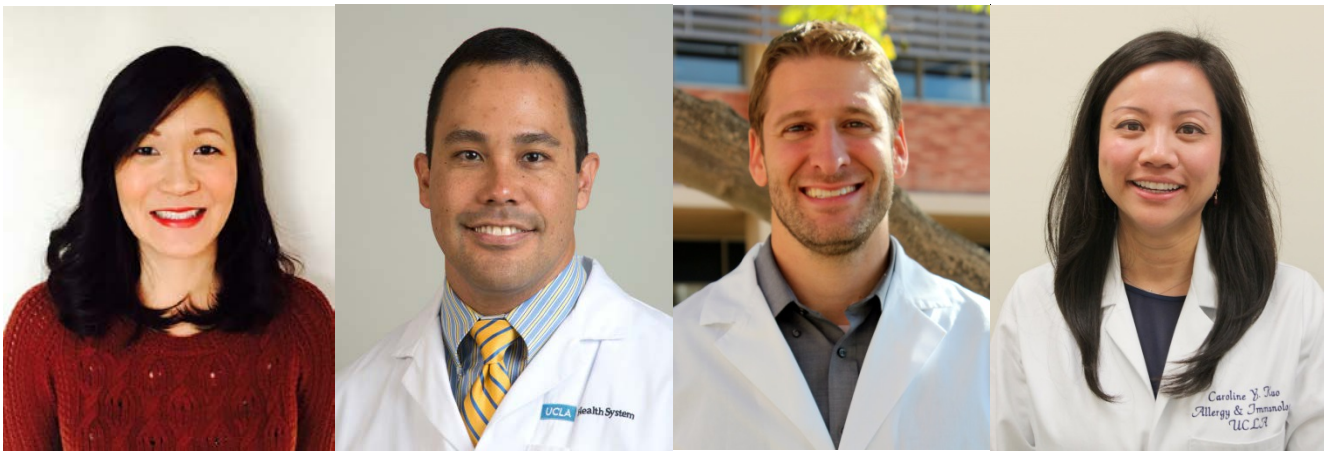
Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA

UCLA Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute

Congratulations to the 2014-2015 UCLA K12 Child Health Research Center Development Award (CHRCDA) Scholars at the CDI Institute



2014-2015 CDI K12 CHRCDA Scholars pictured above from left to right: Chu, De Oliveira, Hanudel and Kuo

Alison Chu, M.D., Pediatric Neonatology

"Endothelial dysfunction in placental insufficiency"

This study will look at changes in blood vessel cells in the placenta in disorders of pregnancy resulting in preterm birth or small babies. We will link the changes in these fetal cells to risk for cardiovascular disease as adults in children born to mothers with placental insufficiency.

Satiro De Oliveira, M.D., Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

"Gene Modification of Hematopoietic Stem Cells for Enhancement of Graft-versus-Lymphoma Effect"

Non-Hodgkin lymphomas (NHL) are the fifth most prevalent cancer in the US, with over 55,000 new cases diagnosed each year in the US; patients with refractory or recurrent NHL have less than 50% of chance of cure. We propose a novel treatment approach by performing gene modification of blood stem cells, which will continuously generate a whole immune system redirected to attack cancer, and develop persistent protection against lymphoma. Detailed evaluation of this approach is required for progression to clinical trials.

Mark Hanudel, M.D., Pediatric Nephrology

"Iron and Fibroblast Growth Factor 23 in Chronic Kidney Disease"

Patients with chronic kidney disease suffer from high rates of cardiovascular disease, some of which may be contributed to by the effects of a recently discovered hormone, fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23). It has been shown that this hormone may be regulated by iron. The goal of our research is to investigate how iron affects FGF23, which may lead to new therapies by which the pathologic effects of this hormone may be minimized.

Caroline Kuo, M.D., Pediatric Allergy and Immunology

"Targeted Gene Therapy in the Treatment of X-Linked Hyper-IgM Syndrome"

Targeted gene therapy for patients with X-Linked Hyper-IgM Syndrome represents the possibility of a cure, especially for those unable to find HLA-matched bone marrow donors. The impact of successful, site-specific genome modification at this locus reaches beyond this disease alone. The results can advance the field of gene therapy and expand its role in the treatment of primary immunodeficiencies and other monogenic disorders.

For information about the CDI Research Grant funding, please visit the CDI website or contact:

CDI Scientific Director: Candace J. Wilkinson, Ph.D. at cwilkinson@mednet.ucla.edu