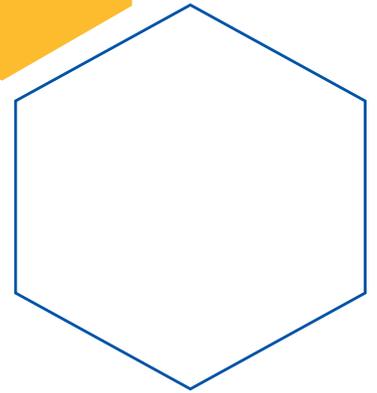


**SUMMER 2020 EDITION**  
**UCLA DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY & PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE**



**UCLA** Health



# Open Circuit

**EDITOR: KAREN SIBERT, MD, FASA**  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR: SHEVAUGHN MARCHESI**

# Table of Contents

3

## FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

By Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD  
Professor and Chair

6

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

By Karen Sibert, MD, FASA  
Director of Communications

8

## A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER FOR OUR RESIDENTS

By Judi Turner, MD, PhD  
Director, Residency Program  
Associate Vice Chair for Education

12

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

RESIDENTS  
FELLOWS

70

## A CHRONICLE OF THE COVID SPRING

*March through May 2020*  
By Karen Sibert, MD, FASA

76

## WE BID A RELUCTANT FAREWELL TO DR. RANDY STEADMAN

80

## TRUE #HEALTHCAREHERO: UCLA ALUM AJIT RAI, MD

81

## SCIENTIFIC EVENING 2020

84

## AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITION – CONGRATULATIONS!

92

## FACULTY APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

95

## SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS

100

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS!

By Shevaughn Marchese

102

## 2020-2021 FELLOWS

108

## RESIDENTS VISIT THE CAPITOL WITH CSA

By Mariam Sarwary, MD

109

## SURVIVING THE COVID-19 SPRING AS A TEAM

By Shelly Anderson, MBA, MSNA, CRNA

113

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF UPDATE

115

## SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

By Shevaughn Marchese

116

## BABIES! OUR UCLA FAMILY KEEPS ON GROWING

118

## AT THE END OF A LONG DAY (OR NIGHT), IT'S GREAT TO COME HOME TO OUR PETS

122

## WITH YOUR HELP THROUGH GIVING...

COVER PHOTO:  
Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

# From the Chair's Desk

By Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD | Chair



## Building on the history; leading into the future

It is an honor and a challenge to take over the reins of our great department after the remarkable past few months.

Our faculty, trainees,

nurses, and staff have come through this crisis so far with courage, spirit, and dedication to the care of all our patients. This Summer 2020 issue of our magazine, Open Circuit, congratulates our graduating residents and fellows, records some key milestones in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, celebrates our newest Class of 2024, and takes joy in our lighter moments.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to extend my most sincere thanks to Barbara Van de Wiele, MD, whose guidance and unwavering leadership over the last two years has kept our department on a steady course. She has been a mentor to so many of us, has made this transition as smooth as possible, and deserves our gratitude, affection and deep respect for everything she has done.

Our department has a great history, dating back to its start in 1951 under the leadership

of John Dillon, MD. At that time, we were only a division under the Department of Surgery, and covered only five operating rooms at the Center for the Health Sciences (CHS). Dr. Dillon opened the first ambulatory surgery program at UCLA in 1962. His ground-breaking manuscript on anesthesia for outpatient surgery, with co-author David Cohen, MD, was rejected by *JAMA* initially on the grounds that it did not reflect “good practice of medicine”, but *JAMA*'s editors relented and published it in 1966.<sup>1</sup> The division finally became a full department in 1971.

Today, our department covers multiple locations across Los Angeles, and serves one of the most diverse populations anywhere. We deliver anesthesia in more than 60,000 surgical cases and procedures each year, covering the full spectrum of perioperative care. We have expanded our reach to critical care medicine, pain medicine, community practice, and telemedicine. Our clinicians are among the best in the world. We are leaders in multidisciplinary care and process redesign. We lead enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) programs, focusing on the concept of integrated practice units.

We have the pleasure of training some of the most talented residents from all over the country, with vast and varied experience.

1. McGoldrick KE. The development of ambulatory and office-based anesthesia. In: The Wondrous Story of Anesthesia. New York: Springer, 2014; 801-2.



Our residency program is ranked in the top ten nationwide, and is also the youngest program in the top ten, reflecting our energy and ability to innovate. Our fellowship programs are among the most competitive in the country.

Our research program is among the best in the world, with four main themes:

- Cardiovascular
- Perioperative organ protection
- Neuroscience, including mechanisms of anesthesia, brain health, and pain
- Perioperative bioinformatics and health informatics, including artificial intelligence.

These four themes are supported by solid basic and clinical research infrastructure, and are led by basic scientists and clinician-scientists. We are committed to the development of the next generation of researchers to lead academic anesthesiology into the future. We are and will continue to be one of the most innovative departments of anesthesiology anywhere.

These are the principles that guide us.

- We are committed to excellence in all aspects of academic medicine: patient care, research, and education. Delivery of the highest quality clinical care

requires that we stay current with new discoveries and translate advances rapidly into our practice.

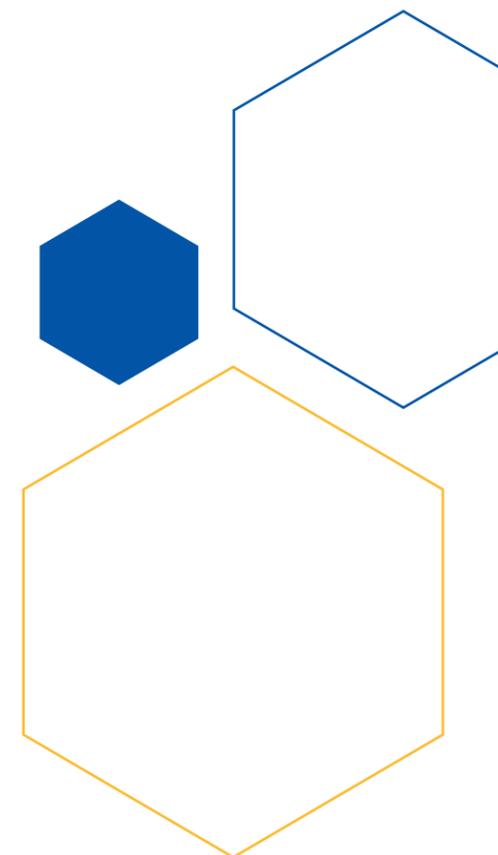
- We are committed to patient-centered care and integrated practice. We integrate the expertise of multiple disciplines to meet the patient's healthcare needs.
- We promote an inclusive culture of professionalism, collegiality, respect, and mutual support. We believe our differences and diverse backgrounds make us stronger and help us provide better care, cutting-edge research and innovation, and world-class education. We believe we are stronger as a team than as individuals. Our collective expertise is what brings our excellence in patient care.
- We create a framework of trust and accountability, and we promote open dialogue and sharing of information.
- We are committed to continuous improvement of the value and efficiency of the care, education, and research that we deliver. We will adapt to change in a manner consistent with our values and those of the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine.
- The health and wellbeing of all our department's physicians, trainees, nurses, and staff are of paramount importance to us personally and to the successful care of our patients.

Though the resurgence of the novel coronavirus in our community this summer will inevitably challenge our department, we have a strong history of working together and facing every crisis as a unified team. Each person

brings different strengths and talents to the team. I believe fully in a concept of leadership built on trust, loyalty, and mutual respect, building on our history and leading into the future. To our alumni and friends, thank you for everything you have done to create this great department. To our current department members, it is a privilege to work with every one of you, every day.

Sincerely,

**Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD**  
*Chair*



# A Word From the Editor

By Karen Sibert, MD, FASA



In ordinary times, putting together our department magazine, *Open Circuit*, involves a great deal of work but is essentially a celebration of our department's achievements

and happy occasions, both individual and collective.

This year, we again have much to celebrate but there is a melancholy tinge – so much of the work we have done this spring has been in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as you will read in the following pages.

For the first time in memory, we were forced to cancel our usual festivities and hold a surprisingly creative and enjoyable Zoom virtual graduation. Read more about it in the words of Residency Program Director Judi Turner, MD, PhD, in her article titled “A Year Like No Other”, and see photos of our faculty delivering dinner to the graduating residents and their families.

Also, for the first time, we published a yearbook that we hoped would help make up for the graduation photo opportunities that we all would miss. We've included the residents' and fellows' individual pages from the yearbook in this issue, along with an article, “A Chronicle of the COVID Spring”, that documents milestones in the “pandemic year” through the end of May.

We welcome a new chair, Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD, our former Vice Chair of Perioperative Medicine, and a new Vice Chair for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Jennifer Lucero, MD, MA, who will also serve as Associate Dean for Admissions at the David Geffen School of Medicine. We welcome new faculty – some of whom are former residents – and a new Class of 2024, entering anesthesiology at a time like no other in our profession's history.

 **ucla\_anesthesiology\_reslife** ...



 Liked by **seanmofidi** and **180 others**

**ucla\_anesthesiology\_reslife** And so it begins... Our UCLA Anesthesiology Class of 2024!

 **#uclanesthesialove...** more

And so it begins... Welcome to our Class of 2024!

## A Word From the Editor



We say a heartfelt thanks to Barbara Van de Wiele, MD, our interim chair for the past two years, who took on a nearly impossible task in guiding our department through the hectic and frightening first few months of the pandemic, and are grateful that she is staying on as Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs.

As always, we celebrate new arrivals of babies joining our UCLA family, and it never fails to make us smile to see the photos of our pets! Please send us your updates and ideas for future articles. We hope you enjoy browsing through this issue of *Open Circuit*!



USAF Thunderbirds paying tribute to first responders and healthcare workers, May 15, 2020



Faculty and residents participate in UCLA protest against racial injustice



# A Year Like No Other for our Residents

By Judi Turner, MD, PhD

This past year has been at once challenging and inspiring for our residents and faculty, and we've met every trial with bravery and grace! There have been so many important events that have changed our lives in important ways.

Our interns at the West Los Angeles VA, especially, learned why remaining "adaptable and flexible" is not only an ABA Essential Attribute but also important to our

wellbeing as anesthesiologists. They faced numerous scheduling changes throughout the year, including the COVID-related postponement of their anesthesia training for the first time since we started our categorical internship in 2006. They were also on the front lines of COVID patient care at the VA, along with our SICU residents and faculty. Fortunately, our newly appointed Assistant Residency Program Director for Anesthesia Interns, West LA VA Hospitalist Satya Patel, MD, provided

## A Year Like No Other for our Residents

them with additional supportive leadership throughout the year. Our intensive anesthesia training for the interns usually starts in March, but this year was different. During the first two weeks, our first group had to take a gigantic leap learning not only anesthesia but also about high-level PPE and participating in department meetings to prepare for the impending pandemic. COVID-19 became a significant factor in our daily workflow and elective surgical cases were canceled. We thought it best to postpone intern training while our DAPM faculty and residents worked quickly to develop safe practices and protocols. Thus, our interns' introductory, one-on-one anesthesia training will extend into July and August this year.

### Our Residents Face COVID-19 Challenges

Our residents have been real leaders in finding solutions to the many COVID challenges, including assisting with identifying DAPM PPE best practices. Residents Christian Seger, Libing Wang, Xuezhi Dong, and Sebastian Kwon collaborated with engineering PhD student Peyton Tebon and faculty members Elaine Liew, Jure Marjic, Soban Umar, and Nir Hoftman on development of a novel negative-pressure isolation device for protection from aerosolized coronavirus during intubation and extubation. Their article was published ahead of print in *Anesthesia & Analgesia* on June 11. Dr. Seger also collaborated with Dr. Umar and residents from Stanford, the University of Florida, and the University of Washington on a commentary in the *Journal of Clinical Anesthesia* on "Medical education in the COVID-19 era: Impact on anesthesiology trainees."

Residents including Bryant Hong took the lead in helping prepare us for COVID intubations by developing an airway simulation scenario provided to all graduating seniors in preparation of their transition to practice. The initiation was timely as our faculty COVID airway team was retired and residents began taking on this additional role on the airway team on call.

Residents Samrawit Abraha, Yusuke Akahoshi, Bryant Hong, Brock Gamez, and Libing Wang created an Intern Manual to facilitate the transition to anesthesia residency.

They recognized that having a DAPM-specific guide of practical information would be a tremendous resource to help with real-time patient care during their initial anesthesia rotation.



2019-2020 Chief Residents Andrew Wu, Matt Klekman, and Colby Tanner

Our 2019-20 Chief Residents – Matt Klekman, Colby Tanner, and Andrew Wu – in particular were called upon to lead in unprecedented ways. They reached out to their counterparts in other COVID-affected areas to inform their surge workforce planning, and developed a novel daily scheduling system to allow residents to remain safe at home when possible while meeting the daily demands of surgical care. Additionally, they provided critical assistance to their colleagues facing multiple daily challenges at work and at home, and proved themselves to be fair and compassionate leaders. The personal and collective leadership exhibited by all of our residents inspired us as faculty!



Chief residents Libby Wang, Azad Hirpara, and Jeff Kim

To provide support and encourage continued resident connections in the early COVID era, a social worker met



with the resident body as a group, and frequent townhall meetings were held with residency leadership. Our resident Wellness Committee leaders organized activities like Zoom Yoga and synchronized movie watching. The Chief Residents also paired up residents with interns so they could have a Big Sib to bounce ideas off and prepare for their rotations.

COVID-19 impacted not only our patient care but has also caused significant changes to our education programs. Rules for physical distancing have meant that most of our didactics have gone virtual. Zoom teleconferences and creative use of recordings to provide simulation training are becoming our new normal. Efforts are ongoing to provide adequate space within the hospital footprint for physically distant didactics.

### Residents Take a Stand On Racial Injustice

Another critical force shaping this academic year was the tragic murder of George Floyd followed by the weeks of protests locally, nationally and internationally. Perhaps it was the fact that we were already raw as a society after weeks of isolation and COVID-related anxiety; perhaps it was the overwhelming sense of déjà vu; but this event sparked a level of passion and a call for change to address systemic racism like never before. It has been acutely felt on our UCLA campus by our own residents and faculty who realize the schism of race that exists in our society and the need to address social and racial injustice.

Our DAPM residents and faculty participated in protests, including the moving Los Angeles-wide

event, “Healthcare Workers for Black Lives Matter”, on June 5. On June 17, residents led a discussion about racial injustice and shared their own stories following a showing of “13th”, a documentary film about how the abolition of slavery led to new forms of injustice with the criminalization and segregation by race that followed. Many residents said that it was the most impactful experience of their medical training.



UCLA residents have demanded a voice and action on racial justice. As a result, recruitment is underway for an Assistant Designated Institutional Officer for Equity and Diversity Inclusion (EDI) in Graduate Medical Education, and for a new Structural Racism & Health Equity Theme Chair at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA who will work together with all DGSOM, Systems-Based Healthcare and College Chairs to ensure a robust focus on anti-racism, structural and social determinants of health and health equity throughout all four years of the medical school curriculum. Our newly formed DAPM

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee will include faculty and resident leaders dedicated to championing efforts in own department and will work actively with our department leaders to seek opportunities for education and activism relating to all aspects of equity, diversity and inclusion. We will be delighted to welcome our new faculty member Jennifer Lucero, MD, MA, in July, who will assume the new role of Vice Chair of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. We are fortunate to have such committed and passionate faculty and residents!



Some of our fabulous residents online for our Virtual Graduation Celebration!

Graduation this year was unlike any in the past. Our CA-2 residents and faculty stepped up to provide our senior residents with a surprisingly intimate and meaningful virtual graduation. They organized a catered dinner with champagne delivered by our dedicated faculty directly to the homes of the graduates. The virtual graduation ceremony included resident highlights and shout-outs to families and friends. Then, incoming chief residents Azad Hirpara, Jeff Kim, and Libby Wang debuted a video of terrific, entertaining skits performed by faculty. All in all, it was a wonderful evening!

Our Fellows’ Graduation and Award Ceremony was also virtual, and provided an opportunity to acknowledge our exceptional fellows. A full description of the awards, with photos of the faculty and resident winners, begins on p. 87.

On June 30, we said goodbye to another colleague, Wayne Hasby, who has retired after more than 27 years of service to UCLA, including nearly eight years as our Program Coordinator and Education Office Manager. We extend sincerest thanks to Mr. Hasby for his outstanding support of the UCLA educational mission, and wish him a



Faculty team sets off to deliver dinner to graduating residents! safe and enjoyable retirement!

As the impact of COVID-19 continues, our recruitment of residents and fellows will be virtual in the coming year. Our department is developing video and other materials for medical students and residents interested in learning more about opportunities for training at UCLA. We look forward to finding innovative ways to share our UCLA family and programs!

Thanks to our dedicated Education Office Staff: Lucelva Mendez, Residency Program Coordinator; Lucine Torosian, Fellowship Program Coordinator; Susan Kim, Assistant Fellowship Coordinator; Jessyka Delgado, Medical Student Coordinator; and Areli Gonzales, Office Assistant.

Thanks also to our faculty leadership: Jack Buckley, MD, Associate Program Director; Christine Myo Bui, MD, Assistant Program Director; Jason Lee, MD, Assistant Program Director for Resident Didactics; Soban Umar, MD, PhD, Assistant Program Director for Resident Research; and Satya Patel, MD, Assistant Program Director for Anesthesia Interns.

Finally, we thank Dr. Barbara Van de Wiele for her years of dedication to our residents and their education. We look forward to working with our new Chair, Dr. Maxime Cannesson, on creative new initiatives in the coming year. Please follow us on Instagram: [ucla\\_anesthesiology\\_reslife!](https://www.instagram.com/ucla_anesthesiology_reslife/)

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR GRADUATES!



RESIDENTS

# Lyndsey Bradley, MD

*I would like to thank my incredible family, whose unwavering support of my goals allowed all of my dreams and aspirations to come to fruition. I would also like to thank all of the mentors, faculty, classmates, and the administration for all of their support and encouragement throughout these four years. I look forward to continuing my education as a fellow in Pain Medicine at UTSW in Dallas, TX. As a servant of the community, I will do my best to always uphold the values of this great department and institution. I know that everyone I have met along this journey made my accomplishments possible – this moment belongs to all of us. We did it!*



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Bradley can be described as diligent, fearless, and welcoming. She has lived all over the US, including North Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, and California. She brings with her a vibrant array of skills and knowledge thanks to her life experiences and training. On call, it wouldn't be surprising to see Lyndsey taking charge and efficiently carrying out multiple tasks while making sure to check up on the rest of her team. She has always been a joy to work with, taking great clinical care of patients while never forgetting to treat each individual patient with dignity and humanity. She is also always entertaining and joyful inside and outside of the ORs. She will be greatly missed here at UCLA as she returns to Texas on her next adventure with her pain fellowship.



# Krista Cascia, MD

*What an incredible four years. Thank you to my family and friends who supported my aspirations and endured my schedule. Thank you to my co-residents for all the love, support, tips and war stories that enabled me to survive call and tough cases. Finally, to the education office and all the attendings, thank you for your patience, knowledge and mentorship. Looking forward to staying at UCLA for OB fellowship!*



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Krista Cascia can best be described as bright, conscientious, and kind. Born and raised in Southern California, she left the comfort of her hometown to complete her undergraduate degree in International Economics at the Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. After deciding on a career in medicine, Krista completed medical school in Chicago at Rosalind Franklin University where she was inducted into the prestigious AOA Society. Krista enjoys teamwork and has not only climbed Half Dome but also ran a full marathon. Her caring and empathetic approach has made her a beloved member of our anesthesia family. Krista became a mother as a CA-2 resident, and, despite the inevitable challenges involved, she has maintained a positive and enthusiastic mindset. Since she was a medical student, Krista particularly enjoyed obstetric anesthesia and we are fortunate that Krista will join our OB Anesthesia team as a fellow this summer!



# Evan Chang, MD

Dear UCLA Anesthesiology family,

*I want to briefly say that it's truly been an honor to train at UCLA over the past four years, and I am incredibly thankful to all my wonderful co-residents and attendings who made the experience memorable. UCLA was my top choice for a residency program because of the rigorous clinical experience and case diversity, and it certainly did not disappoint! I'll never forget the lessons learned here, and look forward to keeping in touch with my colleagues in this post-residency phase of my career. I'm happy to share that I'll be staying in the greater Los Angeles area, and will be joining the anesthesiology department at the Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center after graduation.*



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Evan Chang can best be described as enthusiastic, kind, and diligent. Dr. Chang grew up in Orange County and competed successfully for the Tiger Woods Foundation Collegiate Scholarship. He went on to Occidental College where, as the first in his family to attend college, he not only majored in biochemistry but was also the top student in his major. Evan graduated from medical school at New York University. Anyone who has worked with Evan during these past four years will be unsurprised to learn that he was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Evan is the kind of doctor we all strive to be: compassionate, caring and clinically talented. His kind smile and warm personality will surely make him a hit when joins the Kaiser Medical Group in Baldwin Park.

# Chirag Desai, MD, MBA

*A Spouse's Perspective (written by his wife, Rohini Patel) –*



*As Chirag ends residency at UCLA – for him a program with the perfect combination of academic rigor, complex cases and of course proximity to his family, I often wonder:*

*what would he be doing if not medicine? Like many, his options varied, but his passions would have led him to high-end DJ, ship captain, or investment banker. And although on the outside these careers seem thrilling, for Chirag it would not have been enough. The ups and downs of residency can rarely be described, but for those close to Chirag, the wins were celebrated and the losses acknowledged. As he sometimes wonders what life would have been like if he was DJing for the Hollywood stars or sailing the open ocean, the opportunities, friends and mentors at UCLA have confirmed he made the correct decision. Chirag strives to create a personal experience for each patient under his care, a goal he will continue in his practice as he moves to San Diego next year with his wife.*



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Desai can be described as calm, thoughtful, and intelligent. Having lived throughout southern California, he embodies the cool SoCal spirit. However, behind his composed demeanor he is very driven, and the wheels are always rolling in his brain. Chirag is accomplished in a variety of disciplines that include business (MBA), fitness (Equinox guru), and music (DJ). He has always been a great asset at work and is humble despite all his talents. Early on in his training, he always stepped up to take on big cases and handled stressful situations with great finesse. As a senior, he continued to be humble, walking junior residents through similar complicated cases in a very gentle manner. Unfortunately for us, he will be leaving UCLA for San Diego, to be closer to his busy surgeon wife.

# Daniel Douzjian, MD

*I was born and raised in San Diego, eventually making my way to University of California Santa Barbara where I studied pharmacology. I then attended medical school at Florida Atlantic University with the hopes of coming back to the west coast. I was accepted to anesthesiology residency at UCLA and the rest is history. I have enjoyed my time here immensely, making unforgettable friendships and enduring challenging medical experiences. I love you all. Best wishes.*

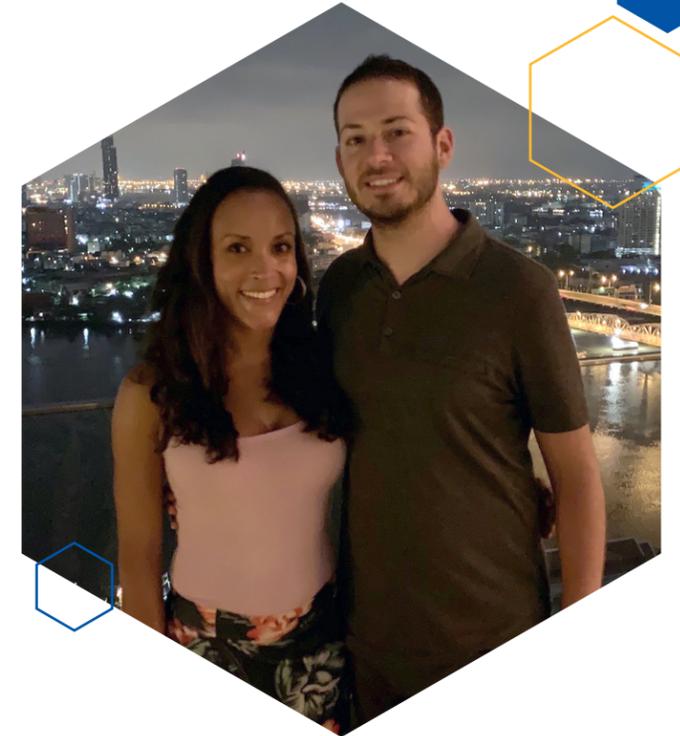


### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Douzjian can be described as jovial, highly skilled, and collaborative. He has always lived near the beach whether it be San Diego, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles or out east in Florida. Daniel always has a sunny disposition, and is a true delight both in and out of the hospital. He gets along extremely well with all his colleagues and helps to lift the mood. He truly embodies the spirit of a team player and his help is always greatly appreciated. Despite his easy-going attitude, he always takes great care to cover every small detail throughout an anesthetic plan. Daniel is always well prepared and passionate about medicine and anesthesiology. He plans to join Anesthesia Consultants of California Medical Group in Escondido.

# Elizabeth Feenstra, MD

*Elizabeth Feenstra grew up in Michigan and moved to Los Angeles for a change of scenery after graduation from medical school at the University of Michigan. She would like to thank her amazing co-residents and attendings for a wonderful four years of residency. She'd also like to thank her boyfriend, Justin, and family for their endless support. She is excited to be staying at UCLA after graduation to complete a fellowship in chronic pain management.*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Elizabeth Feenstra can be described as kind, adaptable, and conscientious. Hailing from the Midwest, she is always extremely polite, genuine and warm, come rain or shine. Like the weather, any stressful situation in the hospital does not faze her or her willingness to step up and take excellent care of the sickest patients. It is always amazing to see how poised and prepared Elizabeth is at all hours of the day and night. Like an elite athlete, she is always disciplined and in top shape at work. She is also very generous and just to all her colleagues, both senior and junior. Once again, we were fortunate to snatch another gem from Michigan. We will thankfully enjoy her company and presence next year since she is staying on as a pain fellow.

# Ari Huverserian, MD

*After a gym session to shake off the nerves, I am to learn my fate on stage during the match day ceremony. The dean eventually calls “Ari Huverserian”, and I dance towards the stage with Armenian music blaring, a move I know would make my father watching from above proud. I open my envelope and exclaim “Anesthesiology, UCLA! ... Woo!”, and I throw my arms up in a victorious pose. My unbridled enthusiasm was fully warranted: I returned home after eight years of training on the east coast and in the midwest, I received amazing training in a world-class institution, and I married the woman of my dreams. I am eternally grateful to UCLA for shaping me as a well-rounded anesthesiologist, and I am excited to write my next chapter at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara.*



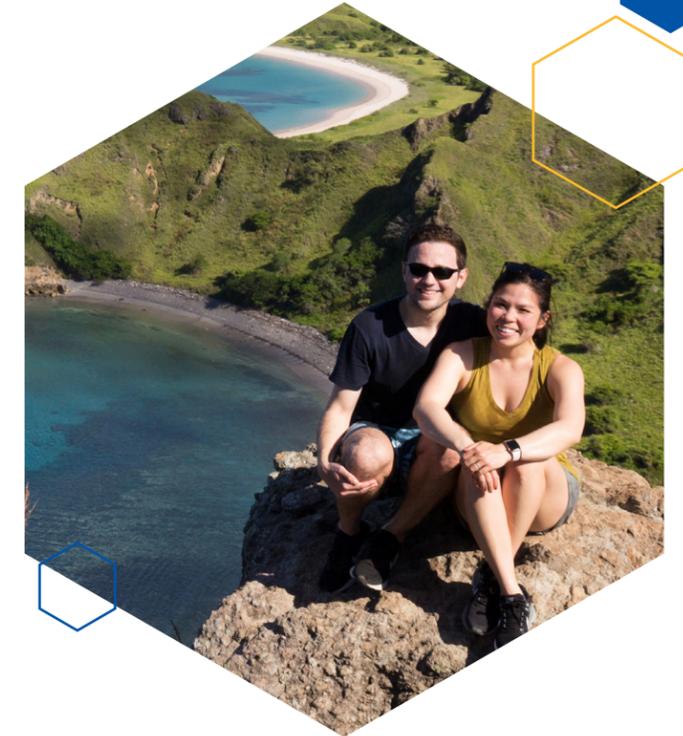
### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Ari Huverserian was born and raised in Los Angeles. He attended University of Pennsylvania for undergraduate and Washington University for his medical education before returning to Los Angeles for residency training. While he is an excellent clinician, Ari also has an impressive track record of research and scholarly activity. Having published seven peer-reviewed journal articles before residency, it was just a matter of time that he embarked on his ground-breaking telemedicine research project during residency. He made us all proud at WARC and ASA meetings, winning awards and accolades. It is hard to find a better public speaker than he is. Ari is kind, humble, and respectful. As attendings, it was always reassuring to have Ari as the Team Captain, as he would take the lead and keep everything under control. Attendings knew that “he’s got this”. It was during his residency that he also tied the knot of marriage in the beautiful surroundings of northern Italy. We wish him all the best in life as he joins private practice at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.



# Matthew Klekman, MD Chief Resident

*Growing up in the serene wine country in Northern California led my wife and me to develop an early appreciation for the beauty of the natural world. We began traveling together in high school as we toured college campuses, and since then, we have set out to explore at every opportunity. We have been fortunate to journey to and appreciate the sites and cuisines of 29 states and 21 countries.*



*Our travel plans have recently been put on hold by the addition of our wonderful son Emerson. We are excited for the new opportunities to enjoy the outdoors that our move up to Portland, Oregon will bring in July. We hope to*

*teach our son about the value of curiosity, perseverance, and exploration of the outdoors. I will begin working in private practice as part of Oregon Anesthesiology Group in August.*

### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Klekman grew up in Long Beach before traveling to UC Santa Barbara for college. He excelled at Tufts University School of Medicine and was nominated for the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. He continued his outstanding performance in his anesthesiology training when he had the honor of being selected as a chief resident by both residents and the faculty. Dr. Klekman’s time in residency was notable for dedication to leadership; he served as a role model to his peers and a mentor to junior residents. His attendings looked forward to working with him due to his composure, cerebral approach to anesthesiology, and exceptional clinical ability as an anesthesiologist. Dr. Klekman will be joining a private practice group at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Oregon.



# Melanie Kusunruksa, MD



**From the Program Directors –**

Dr. Kusunruska can be described by the words witty, confident, and clever. Melanie was born here but grew up in Thailand, returned to LA, and then spent some time in New York. Her diverse and eclectic life journey has prepared her to be in the driver's seat of her training. We were fortunate that Melanie transferred here after she completed her Internal Medicine residency at Irvine. A typical Saturday 24-hour call for Melanie includes leading the care for two STEMIs, an awake fiberoptic for hematoma impinging on a deviated airway, and multiple red-lines at night. Although she has the tough exterior to keep surgical teams in line, inside she has a keen sense of loyalty and kindness that permeates. We look forward to having Dr. Kusunruska in our corner next year as an Intensive Care fellow here at UCLA, while she continues her journey toward another board certification.



# Michelle-Thao Lieu, MD

*Michelle Lieu is a California native who graduated from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and decided to stay at UCLA for residency for the enthusiastic faculty and the diversity of cases. Michelle attributes her fondest memories of residency, in and out of the operating room, to her co-residents, for whom she is incredibly grateful to have trained and grown beside. She will be returning home to Orange County with her fiancé after residency where she will begin practicing at Hoag Hospital – Newport Harbor Anesthesia Consultants.*



**From the Program Directors –**

Dr. Michelle Lieu is a local who grew up in LA and loved playing and coaching tennis. She attended UC Riverside for her undergraduate studies and UCLA for medical school. We fondly remember her as an outstanding Sub-Intern who impressed everyone in the OR with her knowledge and work ethic. Once, after intubation and arterial line placement during a thoracic case, the attending anesthesiologist mistook her for a resident! After completion of her MD, we were fortunate to have Michelle join our residency program. She possesses excellent clinical skills and works extremely hard taking caring of her patients. Her calmness and composure in challenging clinical scenarios are noteworthy, and she has the ability to keep her cool even in the most stressful situations. She manages to keep a smile on her face even with the most challenging patients. Dr. Lieu will be sorely missed as she joins private practice at Hoag Hospital Newport Beach.



# Tracie Lo, MD

*Tracie Lo moved to Los Angeles for residency from New York City with her husband Jack Howard. They welcomed their baby girl Charlotte on May 14, 2020. Tracie will be starting her pediatric anesthesia fellowship at UCLA this summer.*

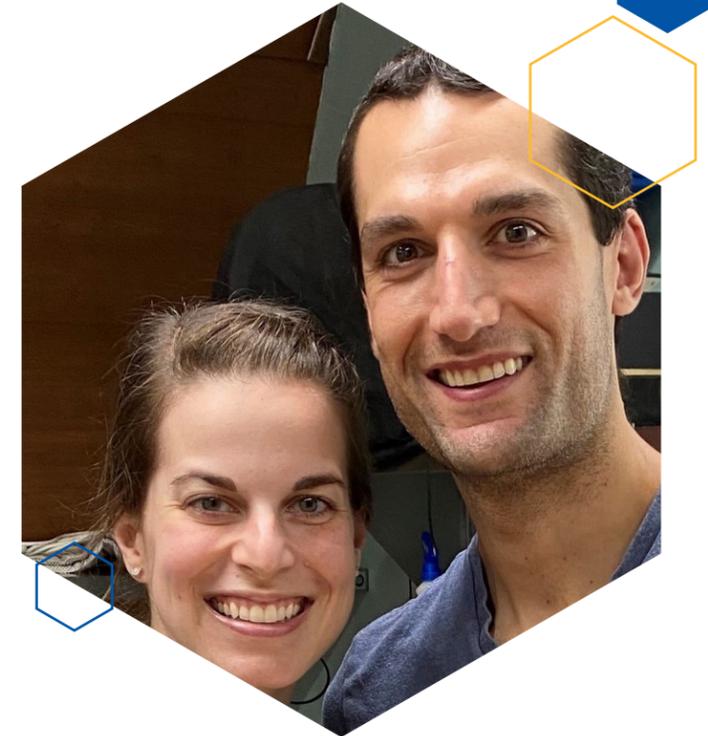


### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Lo can be described by the words diligent, reliable, and astute. Representing New York City, Tracie performs her work with true class and embodies a well-balanced sensibility. When she is taking care of patients, Tracie quietly masters every detail to ensure the very best care for each of them, from the youngest to the oldest. On her day off, she shows up with boxes of treats for those working. There is always someone in the crowd who is the heart of the group, and Tracie has the spirit to bring her classmates and friends together. Tracie’s dedication to our community was unwavering as she welcomed her baby girl this year. We are so very happy that we don’t have to say goodbye, since Dr. Lo will be with us at Ronald Reagan as she pursues a pediatric fellowship.

# Sean Mofidi, MD, MS

*I was born and raised in the Bay Area with my two younger brothers. I attended UCLA for college, and Georgetown for medical school, where I met my wife Jessica, also a California native. After couples matching in Los Angeles, we have made Southern California our forever home. Outside of Anesthesia Start/Stop, I keep myself busy by exploring the outdoors, being an amateur photographer, reading non-fiction books, baking bread, and being a die-hard Lakers fan. I am thrilled to be staying at UCLA for Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Fellowship!*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Sean Mofidi was born and raised in Northern California. He studied history and biomedical research as an undergraduate at UCLA, and then went to Georgetown University for a Master’s in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology followed by medical school. Sean impressed everyone with his serious, well-organized and diligent personality during his Sub-Internship at UCLA. In one particular neurosurgical case, he held pressure on the bleeding radial artery for 30 minutes after an unsuccessful arterial line attempt by the neurocritical care fellow. That’s the kind of team player Sean exemplifies. Fortunately for us, he returned to sunny LA for anesthesiology residency. Sean quickly blossomed into a skillful, intelligent and hard-working resident. In the OR, he has always been able to maintain a calm attitude no matter how challenging the situation. Sean has been a great teacher to his junior residents and medical students. We are excited that Sean will be staying at UCLA as a Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Fellow.



# Christopher Morando, MD

*Growing up I was always on the move. I've lived in eight cities and seen a large portion of the country along the way. Some might call it indecisive, while others call it adventurous. Whatever you call it, I've transformed from a Midwest explorer to a West Coast convert. The amazing experiences I've had at UCLA have reinforced my desire to remain in the Southwest. This coming year I will be moving to Phoenix to join a mixed academic/private practice group and complete a neurosurgical anesthesia fellowship at the Barrow Neurologic Institute. I greatly look forward to the opportunity to expand my knowledge in this subspecialty and to joining faculty at the University of Arizona. Where I settle is anyone's guess, but one thing is clear: California will never be far.*



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Morando can be described by the words dedicated, thoughtful, and sharp. He has lived in many places in the United States – Orlando, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, St. Louis, Columbus, Omaha, and Phoenix – prior to choosing Los Angeles, which might explain why he can fit into any situation and work with anyone. On a regular day, it wouldn't be surprising if Chris decides to volunteer to help out with traumas or fill in for any sick calls. His name has come up as a senior resident who leads by example, and his enthusiasm for our field isn't diminished at 3 a.m. when called for a complicated airway. We will remember Chris for his love of LAFC soccer and his dedication to patient care and teamwork. Unfortunately for us, Dr. Morando will be leaving UCLA as he has been recruited to Arizona for private practice and further training in neuroanesthesia.

# Sheila Navi, MD

*Sheila Navi, born and raised in Los Angeles, lives in Westwood with her husband, Danny and their 2-year-old daughter, Emma. They are thrilled to be expecting baby #2 about June 13! After graduation, Sheila plans to remain in the area, and work at Harbor-UCLA.*

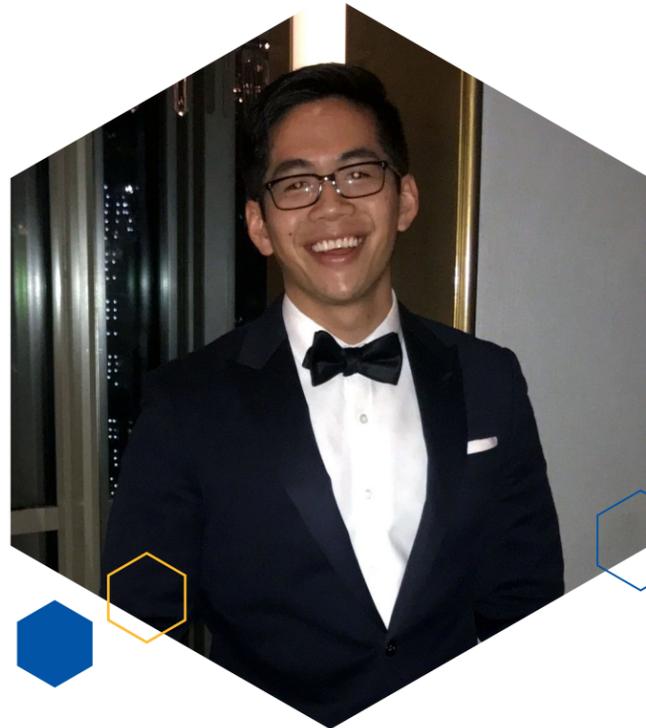


## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Sheila Navi can best be described as smart, committed, and hard working. She graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara before entering the Charles Drew University/UCLA Medical Education Program, where she earned multiple letters of distinction. Sheila has always enjoyed teaching and has proven to be a favorite among our medical students rotating through anesthesia. She has extended this interest by fostering caring relationships throughout her residency. Sheila took on the ultimate challenge of becoming a mother during her first year of anesthesia clinical training and her beautiful daughter will soon have a little brother or sister! Sheila has become an eager and engaged anesthesiologist who will be working at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

# Brian Nguyen, MD

*Brian Nguyen was born and raised in the Bay Area, within the heart of Silicon Valley. He completed his undergraduate studies at UC Irvine, headed to the East Coast to attain his medical degree at the NYU School of Medicine, and then returned to California and UCLA for residency. Following graduation, he will be heading back home to join the East Bay Anesthesiology Medical Group, providing anesthesia care for the Oakland community at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center.*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Nguyen grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area before attending UC Irvine for college, where he graduated with high honors including cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. He continued his record of academic excellence in medical school at NYU. Once at UCLA, Dr. Nguyen was recognized for his unshakable, pragmatic attitude and his work ethic. Attendings noted how he maintained calm and control in the face of enormous challenges. Dr. Nguyen took an active role in teaching; he would take extra time to teach junior residents and medical students how to perform procedures. We will certainly miss him but wish him all the best in his new private practice closer to home!

# Thu Nguyen, MD

*Thu Nguyen is originally from San Diego but has lived in Los Angeles the past eight years. During residency, she often snuck out of the hospital to travel the world including Greece, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, and China. Never once did she run out of Flaming Hot Cheetos or Sourpatch Kids during her adventures. After graduation, Thu will move back home to San Diego where the beaches, traffic, and tacos are better.*

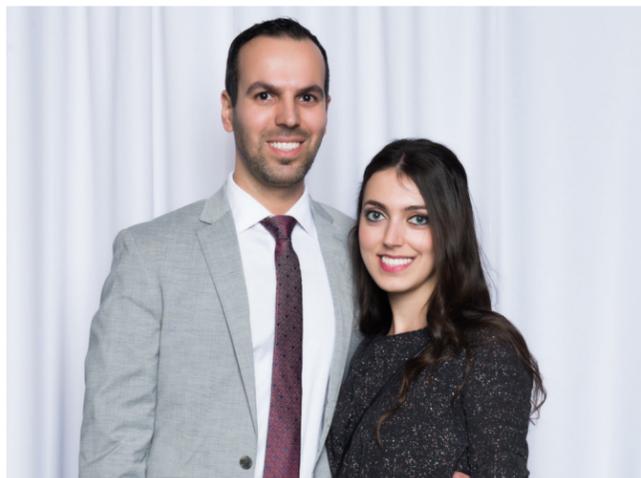


### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Thu Nguyen can best be described as independent, tenacious, and devoted. After emigrating with her family from Vietnam as a child, she grew up in San Diego and completed competitive undergraduate training at Stanford before entering the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Thu was involved in numerous leadership and mentoring activities as a medical student and continued her significant engagement during residency. She excelled since her first weeks working with Jorge Ruiz and Dr. Turner as an anesthesia intern, and has worked hard to overcome any obstacles in order to fulfill her dream of becoming an anesthesiologist. Thu is a dedicated daughter and looks forward to returning to her hometown to join Anesthesia Service Medical Group in private practice this summer.

# Iman Rabizadeh, MD, MBA

*Iman Aaron Rabizadeh is originally from Los Angeles where he received his bachelor's in science with honors from UCLA. Pursuing his passion for the medical field, Iman attended medical school at University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Iman then attended University of Miami School of Business where he earned an MBA with a concentration in healthcare policy and administration prior to the start of residency. Upon graduation from anesthesiology residency, Iman will be doing a fellowship in chronic pain medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Iman Rabizadeh is best described as thoughtful, diligent, reliable, and a truly multi-talented individual. On one of his first weekend calls, he was emergently called from home to care for a coding STEMI patient in the cardiac catheterization lab. Iman diligently took care of the patient and did not show any signs of being new to such a challenging situation. Iman has developed into a superb clinician with an exemplary work ethic. As a team captain, he leads by example and continues to walk the junior residents through complicated cases. We wish Dr. Rabizadeh the best as he embarks on his pain medicine fellowship in Los Angeles.

# Jorge Ruiz, MD, MPH

*Born in Cuba, grew up in Las Vegas, studied in New York, trained in LA, and working in West Hills in private practice. One journey is coming to a close and another is just starting!*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Jorge Ruiz can best be described as calm, meticulous, and humble. Jorge spent his formative years growing up in Las Vegas after emigrating with his family from Cuba. He graduated from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas before entering the New York Medical College. As a resident, Jorge distinguishes himself by being a consummate team player. He is a selfless leader, and clearly enjoys the process of mentoring junior residents who benefit from his inclusive, encouraging leadership style. Jorge is someone who truly understands the benefits of hard work and is willing to make sacrifices in order to accomplish important goals. He is a devoted son and strives to give back to others in his daily actions. Jorge will continue to hone his skills in private practice in Southern California.

# Stephen Shumpert, MD

*Steve has basked in the Southern California sun after enduring four harsh Midwest winters while attending the Medical College of Wisconsin. He and his wife Katie came to town with a 3-month-old baby, and will be leaving UCLA with a now 4-year-old Ezra and 1-year-old Norah. Since Steve's planned acting career never materialized, he will be joining Anesthesia Service Medical Group in San Diego. Thanks be to everyone in the department for all the great memories and support.*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Steven Shumpert completed his undergraduate studies in exercise science from Brigham Young University and his MD at Medical College of Wisconsin. Steve excelled during medical school where he performed cutting-edge basic science research and won multiple research awards. Steve can be described as thoughtful, reliable, and witty with a great sense of humor. Steve has always been a joy to work with, taking great care of his patients while never forgetting to treat each individual patient with respect. He is easy going and humble. As a team captain, he always took great care of the whole team, often spending extra time teaching the junior residents. All these attributes make him an extraordinary anesthesiologist, and attendings are always reassured to have Steve on call with them on busy night calls. Dr. Shumpert will join the private practice Anesthesia Service Medical Group in San Diego.

# Ava Socik, MD

*What an adventure these past four years have been! Thank you sincerely to all of the amazing people that throughout residency have shaped me to the physician I am today. To all of the Attendings and Fellows, thank you for your patience, your continued guidance, and tremendous wisdom. To my fellow residents and peers, without you this journey would have been impossible. I am extremely excited to be staying at UCLA for another year for Chronic Pain Fellowship and looking forward to all that is to come!*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Ava Socik grew up in Illinois, and completed her undergraduate degree in psychology and neuroscience with distinction from Yale University. Ava excelled at Rush University during medical school, winning multiple awards for academic achievements. Fortunately, Ava chose UCLA for residency and she did not disappoint. She won the “Olive View Intern of the Year Award” and continued her academic excellence. Ava stands out for her positive attitude and brilliant work ethic. She always keeps a smile on her face even when the chips are down. She is best described for her friendly nature and calm demeanor. She is a true leader in the OR and leads by example. She is an exceptional anesthesiologist and a great role model for junior residents. We are fortunate to have her continue at UCLA as a Fellow in Pain Medicine.

# Ai-Shan Chloe Tang, MD

*So thankful for all the people I've met and friendships forged in the last four years of residency! The memories and experiences made here at UCLA will always be something I cherish dearly. I'll be starting private practice at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara this fall with a fellow co-resident and I'm super excited to get started! Cheers to our awesome Class of 2020!*



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Tang was born in Taipei, Taiwan, and then moved to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates at a young age. She then spent middle and high school in Irvine, California which she still considers her home. Dr. Tang traveled to the East Coast for college and medical school before we were fortunate enough to have her join us for her residency. Dr. Tang is notable for her courage, honesty, and willingness to go above and beyond to provide outstanding patient care. Junior residents looked up to her as a role model. Attendings trusted her to care for the most challenging patients. Dr. Tang gained the confidence of even the most demanding surgeons. Regardless of the difficult situation, we knew we could always trust Dr. Tang to “save the day”!

# Colby Tanner, MD Chief Resident

*I grew up in up in California, in the Riverside County city of Murrieta. For undergraduate study, I attended Brigham Young University where I met my wife of 10 years, Aubrie. We moved back to California for medical school at Loma Linda University. While in medical school we had the blessing of having 2 children: Eliza (now 7 years old) and Truman (now 4 years old). Since being at UCLA our 3rd child, Calvin was born (now 2 years old) during my CA-1 year. When not working we love going to the beach, Disneyland, riding bikes, hiking and visiting family. We love our UCLA family and all the support we have found here – so much so that I will be staying for Liver Transplant Anesthesiology Fellowship this coming year! Congratulations to all the other graduating residents and fellows!*



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Tanner can be described by the words honest, hardworking, and intelligent. Colby has stayed in the Pacific West, having lived in Ogden and Provo in Utah, and Murrieta and Loma Linda in California. This may have tempered him to keep a calm and cool demeanor no matter what situation he is in. Even early on in his training, Colby was able to get difficult lines, and has an innate sense of managing complicated patients even on the first week of rotations. This year, as one of the chief residents elected by his peers, he has helped to shoulder many challenging situations with integrity. He has been a vital spoke in our granular lattice. It is clear that Colby is someone you want on your team inside and outside of the operating room. We are excited that Dr. Tanner will be staying on as the liver transplant fellow at UCLA.

# Sepehr Tehrani, MD

*To my fellow residents and all the faculty, support staff, and anyone else involved in caring for the UCLA Anesthesiology Class of 2020:*

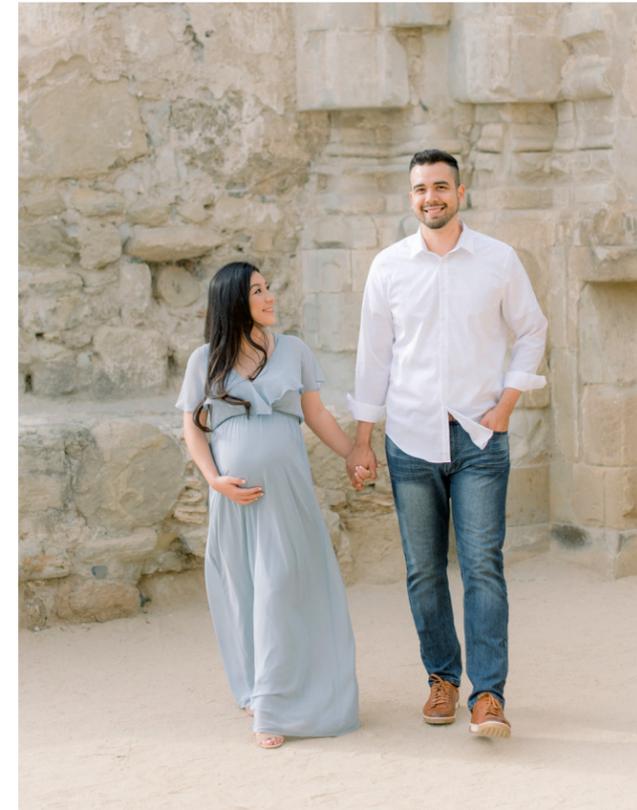
*I joined the class late, transplanted from a different residency program and specialty (which feels like a different lifetime). Thanks to the grace and generosity of Drs. Turner and Buckley, I was granted a spot among the 2020 graduating class. Despite my late start and differing background, I never felt like an outsider and was very quickly made to feel at home among the UCLA Anesthesia family. I could not have asked for a better place to train to be an anesthesiologist, I most certainly could not have asked for better faculty and staff to train me, and I most definitely could not have asked for better classmates/friends to train alongside. Thank you, everyone, for everything! See you around, Space Cowboy.*



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Tehrani started his training as a general surgery intern at UCLA. Within a few months he saw the light, and decided to transition into our residency program. His work ethic and professionalism were apparent in his exceptional performance as a surgery intern even after he decided not to become a surgeon. This is consistent with our experience with Dr. Tehrani; he would never give up on a task or give anything less than 110%. He once spent two hours helping a medicine team get IV access on a patient for whom he wasn't responsible. After he was successful, the internal medicine chief resident praised Dr. Tehrani for his "amazingly positive attitude" and his "excellent bedside manner." He enjoys teaching about virtually anything, from hemodynamic changes to the range of tones of the pulse oximeter. We will greatly miss his determination, enthusiasm, and zest for teaching. Dr. Tehrani will be joining the private practice group at Long Beach Memorial.

# David Valdez, MD



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Valdez can be described by the words efficient, affable, and bright. He has stayed in the southwest part of the United States, from his childhood in Prescott, Arizona, moving to San Diego and then Irvine. In the operating rooms, it wouldn't be surprising if David volunteered for a third simultaneous liver transplant or placed a difficult arterial line without an ultrasound. As David maintained his laser focus on training to be the best clinical anesthesiologist and presenting a best abstract at a meeting, he has transitioned to be a proud father. We will remember him for his warm smile and being a 6'3"ft gentle soul. Next year, Dr. Valdez will be at Langley Air Force Base in Williamsburg, Virginia, and we look forward to his updates on August's latest adventures.

# Andrew Vogler, MD

*I was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago, studied biomedical engineering at Purdue University, and went to medical school at Indiana University. After matching to UCLA for residency, I moved to LA and have had a great four years.*

*A highlight of my residency was my research on the influence of wildfires, air quality, and influenza on the predictive ability of the COLDS score. Our work received the third-place John J. Downes resident research award at the 2020 Society for Pediatric Anesthesia Annual Meeting. Throughout my years at UCLA, I have had the pleasure of working alongside so many amazing people. I will miss everyone but won't be moving far, as I am staying in LA for a pediatric fellowship at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Vogler can best be described as steady, intelligent, and dedicated. Andrew originally hails from Illinois. His calm presence and encouraging approach make Andrew a popular and accomplished teacher for medical students and junior residents whenever he is Team Captain. Andrew has a wry sense of humor and is a pleasure to work with whether in the operating room, the ICU, or on call. Coming from a large family, Andrew has always had an affinity for working with children, and will be beloved by his patients during his upcoming fellowship at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.



# Kelsey Wang, MD

*I was born, raised, taught, and trained in Los Angeles. I grew up in the San Fernando Valley and spent my undergrad and medical school tenure at USC. For residency, I decided it was time for a change and moved (albeit not very far) to UCLA. Next year I will be staying at UCLA for a fellowship in Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Medicine. Thank you to our amazing faculty, my co-residents, friends, and family for supporting me along the way. Special shout-out to my fiancé Michael who put up with my hours, overnight pages, and lack of pay for a decade. I won't let you down!!*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Kelsey Wang can be described as witty, adept, and sage. She is a true ambassador of the City of Angels, having completed all her education and training in LA. After years at USC, this ex-Trojan has seen the light and joined the right university to complete her residency training. Kelsey accurately proves that “brevity is the soul of wit.” She always provides smart and dry humor that is most entertaining, especially during a long, busy call night. More importantly, her profound knowledge and seasoned skills are so welcome during busy calls when dealing with all sorts of complex cases. Furthermore, she always offers a helping hand or open heart to anyone in need. We are blessed to have Kelsey remain as a Bruin and pursue her regional fellowship here.



# Andrew Wu, MD Chief Resident

*Hello I'm Andrew Wu. Despite being preoccupied by the effects of this pandemic, I hope everyone can take a moment to appreciate their accomplishment in not only finishing but excelling through a rigorous and demanding residency. These past few years have been challenging to say the least, but I thoroughly enjoyed getting to call some of the most amazing people I've ever met my colleagues and friends. Something not everyone knows about me is that I was born and raised in China and didn't speak English until I moved to Indiana at the age of 15. Yes, now you know why certain chief emails have many subtle grammatic errors. Starting July, I will be hiding in OR2, 3, and 4 as your cardiothoracic anesthesia fellow.*



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Wu grew up in mainland China and moved to Indianapolis while in high school. Despite the challenges of this move, he excelled and was able to earn a full scholarship to USC. He continued to excel academically in medical school and residency, where he was selected by his peers and faculty as a chief resident. In addition to his extraordinary achievements, Dr. Wu's compassionate personality provided comfort to everyone around him. As a chief resident, he was a leader to his colleagues and a frequent advocate for his fellow residents. Even in the most critical situations, his can-do attitude and leadership in crisis management impressed his attendings. Dr. Wu will stay on with us at UCLA as a cardiac anesthesiology fellow.





ANESTHESIOLOGY  
CRITICAL CARE  
MEDICINE FELLOWS

# Allison Ferreira, MD



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Allison Ferreira - ICU fellow extraordinaire, who brought critical care fellowship to a different level! Dr. Ferreira received a medical degree from Vanderbilt University and completed an emergency medicine residency at UCLA. Allison has redefined the word “hardworking” by always seeking the most challenging and demanding clinical situations, being available to help the team, and dedicating herself entirely to critical care. She overcame all the challenges and obstacles thrown at her by the demanding nature of critical care training, and became an outstanding academic physician and colleague. Kind, humble, enthusiastic, with an endless desire to learn, Dr. Ferreira lights every room with positive energy. We are happy to have Dr. Ferreira joining our UCLA emergency medicine and critical care family!

# Vikram Fielding- Singh, MD, JD

*Thank you for having us as part of the UCLA family!*



### From the Program Directors –

Your honor, I submit to you that Dr. Vikram Fielding-Singh is an outstanding intensivist. He came with incredible credentials, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University, completing a law degree at Yale, returning to Stanford to complete his medical degree and win multiple awards for teaching, writing and research. He then moved on to UCSF for anesthesiology residency before coming to UCLA for dual fellowship training in cardiac anesthesiology and critical care medicine. Vikram is truly a jack of all trades: his clinical acumen is second to none, his medical knowledge is stellar, his teaching abilities are legendary, and his prowess on the tennis court and at the ping-pong table are a sight to behold. Possibly the most remarkable thing about Dr. Fielding-Singh is that he is also a loyal friend, trusted colleague and ever-present confidante. He will be missed (until he returns) as he continues his career in cardiac anesthesiology, critical care and research at Stanford University.

# Samuel Hong, MD



### From the Program Directors –

Don't let the ripped biceps and washboard abs fool you. Dr. Sam Hong is a serious intellectual. He is reliable and hard-working, staying late or arriving early for teaching, learning, patient care, or simply to help a friend. He graduated summa cum laude from California State University, Fullerton, and then completed his medical degree at Keck School of Medicine at USC before joining us at UCLA for his anesthesiology residency and critical care medicine fellowship. Sam was a great resident and a standout fellow in a superior class. He is committed to the wellbeing of not only his patients but also his colleagues. He tries every day to make the world a better place. Dr. Hong is a beloved physician and will truly be missed when he continues his career (and gym membership) at UC Irvine, practicing both anesthesiology and critical care medicine.

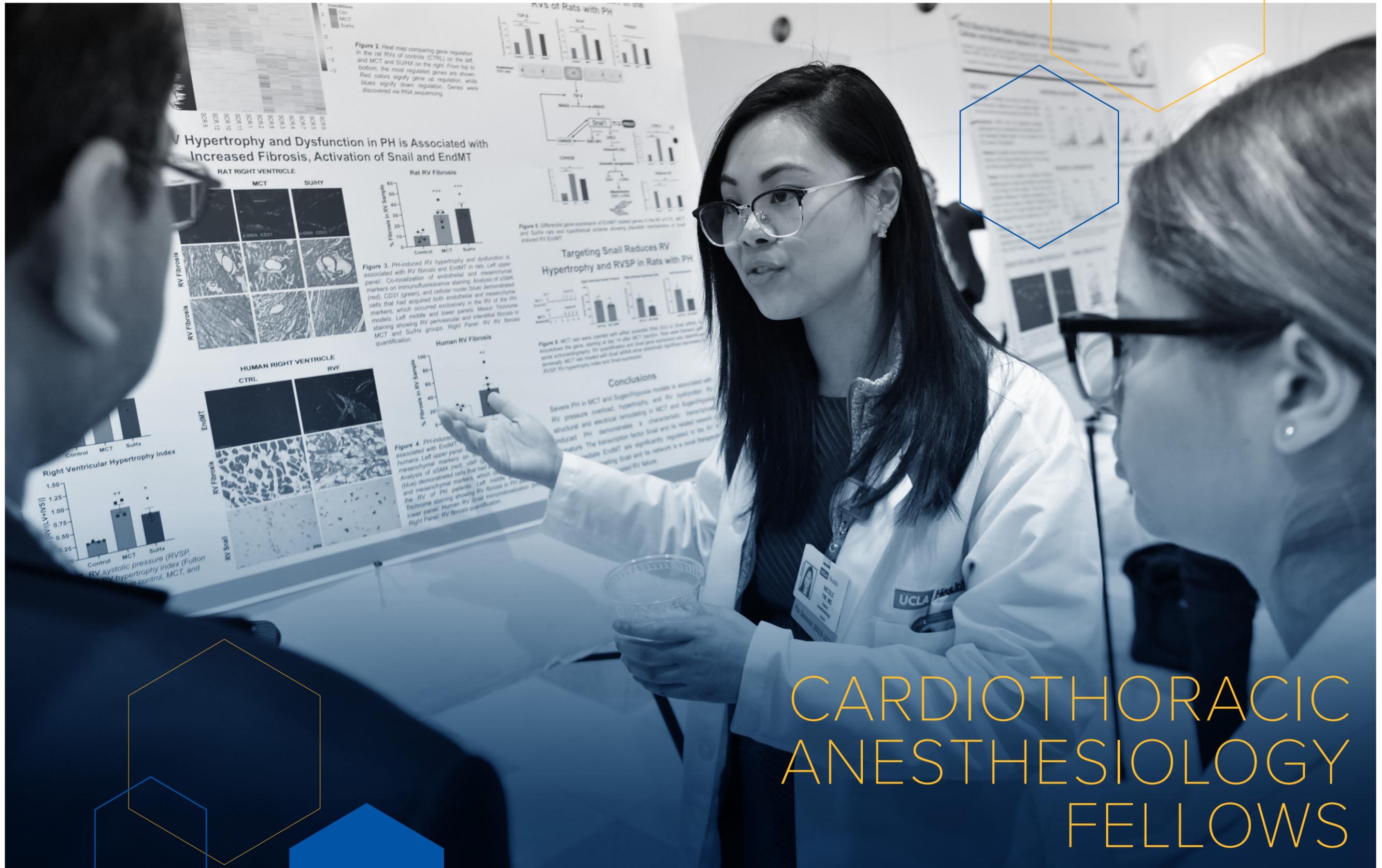
# Eugene Won, MD

*Dr. Won completed his general surgery residency at UC Irvine and joined our department for a one-year critical care fellowship. He will begin a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery starting in July in NJ. "This unique year was defined by our mutual support and camaraderie."*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Eugene Won belongs to the small breed of surgeons with a passion for the critically ill. He received his medical training at Penn State Medical College and completed his general surgery residency at UC Irvine before joining us at UCLA for a critical care medicine fellowship. Of quiet demeanor, hardworking, and inseparable from his phone, Eugene integrated his outstanding surgical traits while being an excellent fellow and transitioning into becoming a true intensivist. His original plans to follow the year of critical care by a fellowship in thoracic surgery was "derailed" within months of starting his fellowship at UCLA by discovering the joy of caring for complex cardiac surgical patients during long hours in the cardiothoracic surgical ICU. Now he has accepted a cardiac surgery fellowship position with the highly productive cardiothoracic surgical group at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Dr. Won, we will miss you and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.



# CARDIOTHORACIC ANESTHESIOLOGY FELLOWS

# Krisztina Escallier, MD

*Krisztina and her husband, Patrick, are thrilled to be back home in Southern California for fellowship after a brief nine years away at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. They welcomed a new baby girl, Emilia, to the family earlier this year, and they are looking forward to staying at UCLA next year for part two of fellowship - Critical Care!*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Escallier completed her residency at Washington University in St. Louis. She is known for being one of the most hard-working and bright fellows in our program, and always asks insightful questions that even some of our most senior attendings struggle to answer. Despite the long hours of fellowship, Dr. Escallier managed to complete a research project on acute kidney injury during lung transplant surgery, and have a baby as well. She can really do it all! We are so fortunate to have Dr. Escallier continue on with us for the 2020-2021 academic year as a critical care fellow.

# Daniel Garcia, MD, PhD

*Thank you for a wonderful year at UCLA!  
Dan, Charlene, Annabelle,  
and Clark Garcia*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Garcia is a lifelong Bruin. After completing his undergraduate degree and PhD at UCLA, he left for medical school at Cornell and residency at Montefiore. He came to our cardiac fellowship with research in mind; he worked on an innovative project on the predictive capabilities of artificial intelligence to predict vasopressor response in the cardiac surgical operating room. Dr. Garcia is known amongst our perfusionists, surgeons, and nurses for being one of the kindest souls to grace a very challenging operative environment. He enjoys spending time with his wife and two young children. We were so happy to have him complete a cardiac anesthesia fellowship and wish him well as he goes on to private practice in Southern California.

# Shaishav Shah, MD

*Thirteen years at UCLA finally comes to an end. I will forever cherish the memories and friendships I developed with this department. The end to this chapter is certainly bittersweet. Will miss my UCLA Anesthesia family.*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Shai Shah completed his residency at UCLA, and was one of the three Chief Residents. In the operating room, his good-natured attitude belied sharp intuition for the complexities of a cardiac anesthesia case. Dr. Shah maintained an excellent relationship with all of the residents, nurses, perfusionists, and surgeons during his fellowship, and his easy approachability made him a continued leader throughout the year. Dr. Shah enjoys coffee, and working out, and we wish him well as he goes on to private practice at Hoag Hospital.

# Nicole Yin, MD

*Thank you, UCLA for all the memories! The last 5 years would not have been the same without your wisdom, spirit, and support. I hope I can make you proud out in the real world!*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Nikki Yin completed her residency at UCLA, and was one of the Chief Residents. She is known for being one of the most meticulous and methodical fellows our program has produced, and spent many long hours both inside and out of the operating room learning all the nitty-gritty details of cardiac anesthesia. Despite the long hours, she maintained a good attitude that made her a pleasure for the entire team to work with. Dr. Yin enjoys spending time with her husband and two cats. We wish her all the best as she goes into private practice at Long Beach Memorial Hospital!



# Nicholas An, MD

*After finishing residency in New York, my wife Arin and I drove across the country to Los Angeles for fellowship. After 2 months in Los Angeles, our bundle of joy, Asher, was born. He seems to agree with the amazing weather here because his weight has been off the charts since birth. I met some amazing people and learned a lot at UCLA. Next year we are headed off to rainy Portland to join OHSU.*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Nicholas An completed his residency at New York University before starting his obstetric anesthesia fellowship at UCLA. Dr. An did an excellent job fulfilling his responsibilities as a fellow and has been an immense help for our department during this pandemic. He was always willing to help with the ever-changing OB schedule, and help out at the attending level in times of need. Dr. An was especially appreciated by the nurses for his easy-going, friendly demeanor and by the residents for taking phone calls to let them sleep at night on their 24-hour shifts. We are all very proud of him! He will be starting his career as an OB anesthesiologist at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Oregon.





# PAIN MEDICINE FELLOWS

# Christy Anthony, MD

*Christy Anthony was born and raised in Los Angeles, where she completed undergraduate and medical school training. She lived in NYC during her anesthesiology residency training and has returned to UCLA for her fellowship in Pain Management. She will be joining a large private practice group in the Pasadena area this summer.*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Christy Anthony joined us after graduating from residency as Chief Resident at Rutgers-New Jersey Medical Center. Dr. Anthony's clinical acumen and technical skills were already excellent, but she grew significantly in her short time here. In addition, Dr. Anthony came to clinic eager to learn and help, with a cheerful attitude despite the long commute and a very busy home life raising a toddler. She is an inspiration to all of us trying to figure out how to juggle all the demands of work and life. Dr. Anthony will be joining the Synovation/Olios Pain Group in Pasadena, and we are excited to continue watching her grow professionally.

# Armen Haroutunian, MD

*UCLA interventional pain management fellowship. General anesthesiology residency completed in Chicago, IL. I will be joining a private practice in Los Angeles, CA.*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Armen Haroutunian came to us from Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. Dr. Haroutunian has been a great fit for our program. He would brave the long commute each day but never seemed tired, approaching every clinic patient and procedure with the same enthusiasm. We have certainly enjoyed watching his professional development. While the pain fellowship is a very busy year, Dr. Haroutunian was even able to find time to keep his anesthesiology skills sharp. He will be joining a pain management private practice group in Los Angeles, and we will surely see him at future reunions in the area.

# Jeffrey Jeng, MD, MPH

*Anesthesia and Pain Fellowship at UCLA. Next year will be joining private practice in Austin. One of the co-founders of UCLA Pain Bros.*

### From the Program Directors –

We were already familiar with Dr. Jeff Jeng as he came from UCLA residency, and he has been a blast to work with during his short tenure here. All year, Dr. Jeng has approached clinical work with precision and efficiency, and his skill set has improved significantly. We could always count on Dr. Jeng to light up the fellows' room! Away from clinic, he was our unofficial social director, and if there was a hint of a dinner or another outing among our group, we could count on Jeff to organize it. (Editor's note: as proof, just check out how many pictures of Dr. Jeng appear in our group photo



section!) Jeff has also been a presence in our department's social media efforts. He will be heading to Austin, Texas, to join Quantum Pain and Orthopedic, and we look forward to seeing him at national conferences down the road.



# James Kim, MD

*I grew up in the heart of Los Angeles. I have two beautiful boys with my wonderful wife. I will be working in private practice in the San Gabriel Valley area. I am a diehard fan of the Lakers, Rams, LAFC, and Dodgers; but more importantly I represent the Berkeley Blue and California Gold. I enjoy running, bicycling, snowboarding, traveling and hiking.*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. James Kim came to us from the University of Washington, and we were thrilled he took the opportunity to come back to Los Angeles. Dr. Kim brought a focused and academic approach to pain medicine, combined with an unflappable personality and an eagerness to do more. Dr. Kim was able to handle all of his clinical responsibilities while juggling two small children at home. We have enjoyed watching him develop into a well-rounded pain physician, and we will miss his presence as well as his eclectic musical tastes. Dr. Kim will be joining the Foothills Pain Management Clinic in Covina, and we look forward to following his career from not very far away.



# Andrea Poon, MD

*Andrea Poon, MD, completed her Pain Medicine fellowship and Anesthesiology residency at UCLA. She is a graduate of Rutgers University-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She is originally from the East Coast, but has adapted well to living in Southern California. In her free time, she enjoys yoga, spinning, outdoor activities, and traveling. She will be joining the anesthesiology faculty at UCLA in August.*



### From the Program Directors –

As Dr. Andrea Poon was a graduate of UCLA, she was a familiar face when she showed up on July 1. Not surprisingly, Dr. Poon brought the same level of professionalism to fellowship. We could always count on Andrea for excellent clinical care and for a calm demeanor when caring for challenging patients. Her IT skills proved invaluable as well, and in this new era of teleconferencing, Dr. Poon saved many conferences and lectures that would otherwise have been lost to the vagaries of Zoom. We have watched Dr. Poon start as a resident and grow over the years, and having her complete her training with us has been a privilege. We are excited that she is staying on at UCLA and joining the Faculty Practice Group.

# Nicole Shin, MD

*Hi, my name is Nicole Shin. I am originally from South Korea and went to school in St. Louis. Living in LA has been an experience I won't forget for the rest of my life. I am grateful for the UCLA family for a great year. I'll miss it very much once I move back to St. Louis. I'm excited to start working at Washington University next academic year. If anyone finds themselves in the Midwest, please feel free to contact me!*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Nicole Shin came to us from the University of Pennsylvania. We are very pleased that we had the chance to train her, even for this short time. During this eventful year which had such an impact on all of us personally and professionally, Dr. Shin's level of focus and flexibility have been impressive. From the time she arrived, Dr. Shin has worked diligently to improve her clinical skills, and we are confident that she is graduating with everything she needs to be an excellent pain physician. Dr. Shin will be joining the faculty at Washington University in St. Louis where she will continue her academic mission, and we look forward to following her career from afar.



# REGIONAL ANESTHESIOLOGY AND ACUTE PAIN MEDICINE FELLOWS

# John Brumm, MD



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. John Brumm completed his anesthesiology residency at the Department of Anesthesiology of Weill Cornell Medical College and New York- Presbyterian Hospital before joining UCLA for his Regional Fellowship. Dr. Brumm has become an integral part of our fellowship, both due to his hard work and his comic relief, and we will miss seeing him on a daily basis. Dr. Brumm has become an expert in regional anesthesia and acute pain medicine and will be returning to Cornell to join the Regional and Acute Pain Faculty. Thank you for all your hard work, John, and if you ever want to move back to L.A., we would be happy to have you join our team!

# Pamela Chia, MD, MS

*I completed my residency and fellowship in Regional Anesthesiology & Acute Pain Medicine at UCLA, and I will be staying on as faculty at UCLA next year. Thank you to everyone in the department, especially the faculty, the education office, my co-fellows, friends and family for your support!*



### From the Program Directors –

Dr. Pam Chia completed her residency at UCLA, and we were overjoyed to have her join the Regional Fellowship. Dr. Chia is a steady, thoughtful presence on the Acute Pain Service, not only caring for patients but also looking out for the well-being of colleagues and staff. In addition to becoming an expert in regional anesthesia, Dr. Chia is an accomplished researcher and has published multiple papers this year. We are very excited to have Dr. Chia joining our faculty at the conclusion of her fellowship.



# Eunice Lee, MD



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Eunice Lee completed her anesthesiology residency at the University of Southern California and came highly recommended to us by the faculty there. She has been a huge asset to our fellowship program. Dr. Lee always has a smile on her face, and is hardworking and dedicated to her patients. Over this year, she has become an expert in regional anesthesiology and acute pain medicine. In July, she will be joining the anesthesiology group at St. Jude Medical Center. We truly appreciate all her hard work and wish her the best of luck in her career!





# A Chronicle of the COVID-19 Spring

*Events at UCLA from March through May, 2020*

by Karen Sibert, MD, FASA



What a strange spring it has been.

The first half of the academic year 2019-20 was perfectly normal. We had wonderful success with our research posters and presentations at the ASA annual meeting

in Orlando, and a great (if noisy!) holiday get-together in mid-December.

In late December and early January, we first started to hear of the new coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, causing a serious outbreak in the city of Wuhan, in China's Hubei Province. At that time, it felt like the distant thunderstorms I remember seeing across the plains as a kid in north Texas. You saw the lightning and steel-gray storm clouds far off, but you knew that the storm was miles away by the length of time it took to hear the thunder.

By the end of January, however, the thunder was closer and more ominous. On January 30, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the new virus a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern", and on February 11 named the resulting disease "COVID-19".

Our annual Scientific Evening was held on March 10. This was the last time a gathering of our department felt nearly normal. We celebrated the remarkable research done by our residents and fellows, ate together, and posed for group photos, while we were uneasily aware that our visiting professor and guest judge, James Eisenach, MD, had been advised not to make the cross-country journey from North Carolina.



The very next day, WHO declared the existence of a global pandemic. At that time, the U.S. had identified only 1,050 cases of COVID-19 in the entire country, across 36 states. But it was clear that the disease had already invaded, causing a surge of cases in New York City. With the number of flights arriving in Los Angeles from China every day at that time, there was no reason to believe that Los Angeles would escape its own surge.

On March 13, Interim Chair Barbara Van de Wiele, MD, announced the creation of an ad hoc departmental COVID-19 Task Force, chaired by Nirav Kamdar, MD, MBA, and Emily Methangkool, MD, MPH. Dr. Kamdar is our Director of Quality, and Dr. Methangkool is Co-Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement. The group began daily meetings to coordinate

department protocols and make sure that everyone clinical – faculty, nurse anesthetists, residents, and fellows – was updated continuously on recommendations and unfolding events. Dr. Van de Wiele, Swati Patel, MD, Medical Director of the RRMC Operating Rooms, and Johnathan Pregler, MD, the Medical Director of Operative Services, met with the health system’s Command Center daily for weeks.

### The EID Intubation Team

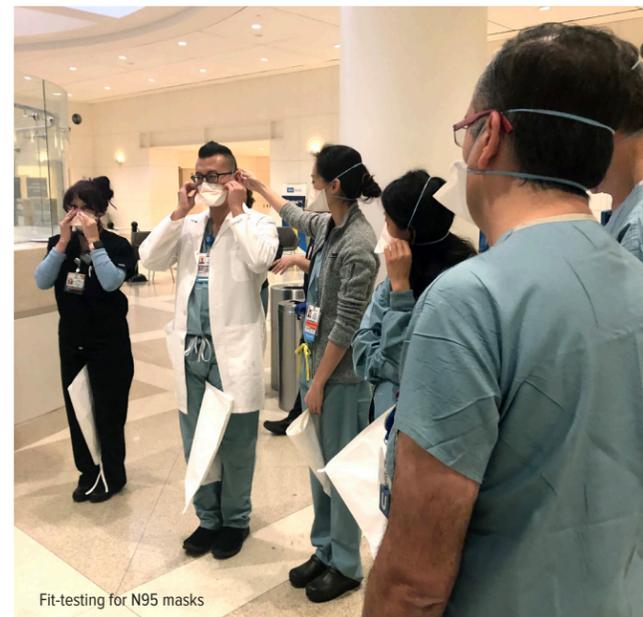
One of the first actions was creation of a faculty Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) intubation team to intubate all patients confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19. This concept mirrored what the department had previously rehearsed during the Ebola epidemic. A core EID team – consisting of Drs. Swati Patel, Joseph Meltzer, Joe Hong, Laleh Jalilian, and Marc Iravani – had been set up then and continued to train with full PPE in the Simulation Center, so we had a model already in place. When it became clear that we were likely to have far more COVID-19 cases than originally expected, the coverage was changed to in-house call, illustrating the daily adjustments and changes of plan that the rapidly evolving situation required.

The reason for the COVID-19 team to consist of faculty members only was because of the widespread recommendation that only the most experienced personnel should intubate COVID-19 patients, preferably using video laryngoscopes to maximize speed and success rate. It was already known that in Wuhan and in northern Italy, in the early days of the pandemic, many physicians and nurses had been infected and died because of inadequate PPE and lack of training in dealing with this new, highly infectious virus. We were determined not to let that happen at UCLA.

Our department is deeply indebted to Victor Xia, MD, for our early awareness of the critical need for high-level PPE for everyone involved in the care of COVID-19 patients or patients under investigation (PUI). Dr. Xia, a native of China, was in personal contact with physicians in Wuhan, and on March 14 he sent photos of the full-body PPE in use for intubations in Wuhan. This was at a time when the CDC recommended only Level II PPE (goggles, N95 mask, gown, and gloves). Thanks to Dr. Xia, the faculty involved in our very first COVID-19 intubations wore full-body PPE, including hoods and shoe covers, and

were fully trained in the proper donning and doffing procedures to prevent contamination afterward.

Joe Hong, MD, Director of Neurosurgical Anesthesiology, performed the team’s first three COVID-19 intubations at Ronald Reagan Medical Center during the nights of March 19 and 20, supported by Nir Hoftman, MD, Johanna Schwarzenberger, MD, and Sepehr Tehrani, MD, the resident team captain. Dr. Van de Wiele came in from home as well, as did Michael Sopher, MD, Vice Chair for Clinical Services. They described a chaotic but ultimately successful bedside process that was streamlined quickly, as the MICU team became more familiar with getting consent ahead of time and all the other steps needed to make it go smoothly.



Fit-testing for N95 masks

At the same time, on March 19, both LA County and the State of California announced the closure of all non-essential retail businesses, and Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered a statewide stay-at-home order. Six counties in the Bay Area had already instituted a shelter-in-place order on March 17, with nearly 1000 cases identified in California, and 19 deaths; Los Angeles County followed suit within days.

UCLA Health began rapidly reducing the elective surgery schedule to free up beds for an anticipated surge of COVID-19 patients, with cancellation of non-urgent operations and daily evaluation of scheduled cases for acuity. Visitors were no longer allowed. By March 18, the daily OR schedule was down to 30 percent of normal,



Paper towels were in such short supply, UCLA started selling them in the cafeteria!



allowing time for multiple training sessions on N95 mask fitting and the different levels of PPE, with appropriate donning and doffing procedures for each. Victor Duval, MD, led multiple training sessions for our department, and created videos and other teaching materials with the help of residents including Nicole Andonian, Talia Dagher, Hewenfei Li, and Libing Wang. Dr. Xia guided the development of a pathway to and from the ORs to keep COVID-positive patients away from the main hallways, and OR 21 became the designated OR for COVID-19 emergency cases.

### Living With Uncertainty

Adding to the uncertainty during late March and early April was the fact that patients presenting for surgery weren’t yet tested for the new coronavirus. As more information emerged, it became clear that patients could be infected before they were symptomatic. It also became clear that although SARS-CoV-2 was spread primarily through droplets, the droplets could become aerosolized during procedures such as intubation, extubation, and bronchoscopy. Many of us were anxious

initially about the availability of adequate PPE, but we were fortunate never to experience the shortages that crippled patient care at other hospitals and exposed their personnel to the coronavirus infection.

The COVID-19 Task Force held lengthy discussions about the best way to handle asymptomatic patients during potentially aerosol-generating procedures, and concluded that Level II PPE would be warranted for all. Based on the number of air exchanges in each OR per hour, the Task Force recommended temporarily that all OR personnel other than the anesthesia team leave before induction of anesthesia and wait 20 minutes outside the OR door before returning to prep, drape, and proceed with surgery. At the end of surgery, all non-anesthesia personnel would leave prior to extubation, and wait 20 minutes to reenter the OR for cleanup and turnover.

Policies and procedures were revised almost daily. The health system leadership at first felt that universal face masks weren’t indicated, but reversed course (along with the CDC) and started requiring face masks to be worn at all times by everyone in the hospital, patients



and staff alike. The last step in hospital-wide precautions was to station nurses at every entrance to all buildings, questioning everyone about any symptoms that might herald COVID-19, and taking the temperature of everyone entering the facilities.

Mid-April was predicted to be the peak time for a surge of COVID-19 in the Los Angeles area, and complex surge

plans were developed in anticipation of having area hospitals overwhelmed as they were in New York City. Drs. Vadim Gudzenko and Joseph Meltzer of our critical care faculty were directly involved in the health system's surge planning for ICU space and ventilator capacity. However, the peak never approached the level of severity seen elsewhere. At RRMCC, the MICU became the designated COVID ICU, but it never reached full capacity; no other ICU space needed to be claimed for COVID patients.

The tension level in the operating rooms started to ebb after the capacity to test for the novel coronavirus ramped up at all the UCLA hospitals. As of April 5, COVID-19 testing was required for all urgent elective cases, and by April 13, for all elective surgery patients within 48 hours of their procedures. The department held extensive discussions about the likelihood of false-negative test results, which was reported as high as 30 percent in some studies. However, Dr. Robert Cherry, the UCLA Health Chief Medical and Quality Officer, provided this information:

*“The analytical sensitivity of our RT-PCR test is very high at >98%. Our own internal data, which is based on repeat testing of patients at UCLA, suggests a 96.7% clinical sensitivity of the test. Based on these data, the negative predictive value of a pre-procedure COVID test done at UCLA is calculated to be 99.986%.”*

On April 22, with testing now widely available, Governor Newsom announced that elective surgery and procedures could begin to resume statewide. As the caseload began to pick up at the UCLA hospitals, UCLA Health issued new PPE guidance for asymptomatic patients with a negative COVID pre-procedural test, eliminating the requirement to keep the operating or procedure room empty for 20 minutes after intubation or extubation. Our department continued to recommend Level II PPE for our personnel during aerosol-generating procedures, in accordance with guidelines from the ASA and Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation. However, Level II PPE became optional for non-anesthesia personnel in operating rooms and procedure suites.

By the end of May, surgery and other procedure volumes were back up to 80-100 percent of normal, depending on the day, and all sites were staffed to accommodate



normal caseloads. The special COVID intubation team was disbanded due to lack of demand. Los Angeles County reported a total of 48,700 cases as of May 27, including 2,195 deaths. More than 50 percent of those who died were residents at institutional settings including nursing homes. UCLA reported only 232 total admissions for COVID-19 since March 9, and 25 deaths. The COVID-19 Task Force reduced the frequency of its meetings to once a week as its agenda continued to shrink. We are confident that our early insistence on appropriate PPE for COVID-19 intubations and surgical cases helped assure the protection of personnel in our department and throughout the UCLA hospitals.

As we dared to believe that the worst of the crisis might be behind us, there was one element everyone could agree upon – the leadership of Dr. Van de Wiele as a critical factor in our department's ability to cope, reach consensus on sound decisions, and maintain forward progress. The adjective “tireless” is overused, but appropriate here. At every meeting Dr. Van de Wiele

made sure – with grace, patience, and tact – that all voices were heard. When UCLA Health announced on May 21 that Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD, our Vice Chair for Perioperative Medicine and for Research, would take over as permanent chair on July 1, we rejoiced in his success and we know that the department's stewardship is in good hands. We doubt that anyone envies him the tough act he has to follow.

Will another COVID surge happen this fall? Will travel to ASA and other meetings ever resume? Will the trend toward virtual Grand Rounds and telemedicine preop visits persist even after restrictions are lifted? When will the next resident happy hour ever happen? As of this writing, no one knows what the lasting effects on our practice will be.

### Year, Interrupted

The academic year follows a predictable course – usually. Summer brings in new residents and fellows, followed by the ASA annual meeting in October and then the holiday party. In the spring, residents and fellows present research at SPA, WARC, the CSA annual meeting, IARS, ASRA, and SCA. Of all those, only the SPA annual meeting made it under the wire in mid-March. All other meetings were canceled. Then in June everyone looks forward to graduation, with its awards, presentation of diplomas, and celebrating with family and friends. That isn't happening this year either, to our collective regret.

Yet we will remember the Class of 2020 for its good cheer, strong bonds among residents, and unquenchable spirit. The team captains every night on call braced for the worst – trauma, code strokes, cardiac cath lab emergencies, and of course COVID-19 patients – and every night they performed beyond expectation. We are grateful to this year's chief residents, Matt Klekman, Colby Tanner, and Andrew Wu. They have done a remarkable job under unprecedented conditions. The new 2020-21 chief residents – Azad Hirpara, Jeffrey Kim, and Libing Wang – have been working alongside them, getting ready to face challenges to come.

To the Class of 2020, residents and fellows – for those who are staying, we welcome you as UCLA colleagues and friends. To those who are leaving, we wish you safe travels and every success. We hope for health and great happiness for all of you in the years to come.

# We Bid a Reluctant Farewell To Dr. Randy Steadman

Just before the COVID-19 pandemic started to demand everyone's full attention, our department gathered together (remember when we could do that?) at a lovely reception to say farewell, congratulations, and thank you to one of our most distinguished alumni, Randolph Steadman, MD, MS.

Dr. Steadman left UCLA at the end of February to accept a new challenge as Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology & Critical Care at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, which as of July is one of the hardest-hit Texas hospitals in the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our numbers are still going up today," Dr. Steadman wrote in a recent email. "I'm still disoriented by the move: different equipment, different Epic build, different formulary, different service lines, you name it! And of course, I didn't expect the atmosphere and culture to be identical, and they're not! Meanwhile, the pandemic has affected everything here, as I'm sure it has done there."

Dr. Steadman has served since 1994 as a UCLA faculty member with special expertise in liver transplantation, and directed our Division of Liver Transplantation for nearly 20 years. In 1996, Dr. Steadman became the founding Director of the UCLA Simulation Center, and has led the way ever since in the use of simulation to advance medical education at all levels of training.

"Dr. Steadman has been a truly effective leader, a gentleman, and a scholar for all the years I've known him," said Barbara Van de Wiele, MD, our interim chair.

The opportunity at Houston Methodist appealed to him, Dr. Steadman says, because of the "nice fit – an active liver transplant program and a large, well-equipped simulation center, along with the opportunity as a chair to build programs."

"Indeed, I picked an interesting time to move!" Dr. Steadman wrote. "Challenges abound in Houston as in Los Angeles. I hope they make us stronger, and leave us healthy!"

At his farewell reception, Dr. Steadman also received awards and thanks from Vice Dean for Education Clarence Braddock, MD, MPH; Executive Chair of Surgery Ronald Busuttil, MD, PhD; and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Lee Miller, MD, among many others.

A native of Florida, Dr. Steadman completed undergraduate work and medical school at the University of Florida in just seven years. He moved then to Los Angeles for internal medicine residency at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and practiced emergency medicine for 10 years at several community hospitals in southern California. In 1992, he began anesthesiology residency at



Dr. Clarence Braddock, Vice Dean for Education, thanks Dr. Steadman on behalf of DGSOM





Dr. Steadman with Drs. Michael Sopher and Jure Marijic

UCLA, and went on to complete a fellowship in medical education and a master's degree in clinical research. In announcing Dr. Steadman's departure, Dr. Braddock described him as a "visionary leader" who promoted the use of simulation not only for our department but for the entire medical school.

"UCLA Simulation Center was the first of its kind in southern California," Dr. Braddock said, "and under Dr. Steadman's leadership, we are proud to note that 80,000 learner hours of simulation training were logged last year. He is the current chair of the UC Simulation Consortium, a network of simulation centers across six UC campuses, and designed the consortium's first research project." Dr. Braddock credits Dr. Steadman's leadership for helping the Dean's Office to secure more than \$22 million in philanthropic funding since the start of the UCLA Simulation Center in 1996.



Dr. Steadman with long-time OR nursing colleagues

Recently, Dr. Braddock announced that Yue Ming Huang, EdD, MHS, will become the new Executive Director of the Simulation Center. She is an Adjunct Associate Professor in our department, and has previously served as the Center's Operations Director and Education Director, overseeing the administration and development of UCLA's simulation programs.

Dr. Steadman chaired the ASA Committee on Simulation Education between 2008 and 2018, and has spearheaded the ASA's Simulation Education Network, Dr. Braddock noted. "He has led many collaborative simulation-based research projects, including grants from the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, the Department of Defense, and the University of California."

"Dr. Steadman has made a huge impact and touched many lives at UCLA," Dr. Braddock said. "His passion for learning and teaching – manifested through countless hours dedicated to medical education, research, role modeling, and mentorship – is both inspirational and irreplaceable."

Dr. Steadman's new email address is [rsteadman@houstonmethodist.org](mailto:rsteadman@houstonmethodist.org). We will miss him sorely, but are happy to note that he has two adult sons who still live in Los Angeles, along with several on-going research projects at UCLA. With so many reasons to come back, we hope he'll make many return visits to campus whenever air travel once again becomes an option.



IMAGES, from top, counterclockwise  
 With Dr. Yue Ming Huang, Sim Center Education Director  
 Steadman award  
 Dr. Steadman receives his official Bruin from Dr. Van de Wiele

# True #HealthcareHero: UCLA Alum Ajit Rai, MD

One of the true heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic is our 2018 graduate Ajit Rai, MD. In early April, he left his private anesthesiology practice in Fresno, where elective surgery had ceased, and headed straight for New York City, the COVID epicenter, where there was desperate need for physician help.



Dr. Ajit Rai on MSNBC

Dr. Rai appeared in an April video clip from The Rachel Maddow Show on MSNBC, where he talked about the “full-blown crisis mode” in New York, the frightening resource depletion, and the critical need for more physicians and nurses to come and work. Since then, he has been featured in local news, in a podcast with Kevin Pho, MD, and on the Today Show.

“The time is now,” Dr. Rai said. “We need you!” Young physicians need to lead the charge, he believes, as older physicians are at higher risk of serious COVID complications.

Dr. Rai, an interventional pain specialist by training, found himself working as a critical care physician in a major New York teaching hospital managing 10 to 15 critically ill COVID patients at a time. He described operating rooms and PACU bays converted to ICU care, with patients on OR ventilators because ICU ventilators were all in use.

Teams of physicians intubated patients – as many as 25 a day, Dr. Rai said – and made rounds placing lines. Nurses who ordinarily worked in the OR and PACU stepped up after crash-course training to function as ICU nurses.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) was in such short supply that each person was issued one N95 mask and expected to make it last for a week by wearing a regular surgical mask over it. “It’s not ideal,” Dr. Rai said drily.

For physicians who want to work, Dr. Rai said, any medical license is now valid across state lines, and emergency hospital credentialing can be accomplished in a day.

This not the first time Dr. Rai has headed toward danger rather than away from it. Last year, after he finished his fellowship training in New York, he worked for several months in Jordan with the nonprofit organization Doctors Without Borders, treating war-injured patients from Syria and Iraq.



Nicole Yin, MD, discusses her poster

## Scientific Evening 2020: Outstanding Research By Our Residents and Fellows

Congratulations to all the young researchers who presented outstanding work at our department’s 2020 Scientific Evening! Their research included hypothesis-based oral and poster presentations, as well as complex-case poster presentations, and the work was carefully reviewed and judged by a panel of faculty members. Special congratulations to the winners:

- Cardiothoracic Fellow **Nicole Yin, MD**, received the Leonard F. Walts, MD, Research Excellence Award for the best overall presentation. With the guidance of her mentor, **Soban Umar, MD, PhD**,

she presented hypothesis-based research on the topic, “Right ventricular failure is associated with endothelial-to-mesenchymal transition mediated via transcription Factor Snai1 in pre-clinical and clinical pulmonary hypertension.”

- Cardiothoracic Fellow **Daniel Garcia, MD**, earned the 1st Place Fellow award for his poster presentation: “Artificial intelligence enabled control of hemodynamic responses by vasopressors and narcotics in cardiac surgery patients.” Dr. Garcia’s mentor is **Prince Neelankavil, MD**.

- **Cecilia Canales, MD, MPH**, received the 1st Place Resident award for her oral presentation on “Preoperative ultrasound-based frailty assessment as a predictor of surgical outcomes.” Her mentor is **Sumit Singh, MD**.
- The 1st Place Research Trainee/Basic Science award went to postdoctoral fellow **Marina Angelini, PhD**, for her work in the laboratory of **Riccardo Olcese, PhD**, on “A new antiarrhythmic strategy targeting the late L-type calcium current.”

Also honored with 2nd place awards were the following:

- 2nd Place Fellow: **Pamela Chia, MD**, for her research with mentor **Eva Boyd, MD**, on “iPACK

block has no additional benefit to patients who receive an adductor canal catheter and intraarticular injection for total knee arthroplasty.”

- 2nd Place Resident: **Emily Walters, MD, PhD**, for her oral presentation, under the guidance of **Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD**, on “Development and validation of a machine-learning model to phenotype surgical patients at risk of developing postoperative sepsis.”
- 2nd Place Research Trainee/Basic Science: Postdoctoral fellow **Lejla Medzikovic, PhD**, for her work in the laboratory of **Mansoureh Eghbali, PhD**, on how “miR-129-5p prevents and rescues cardiac fibrosis by targeting cardiac fibroblast plasticity.”



Lejla Medzikovic, PhD



Dr. Soban Umar, center, with medical students Varina Clark and John Park

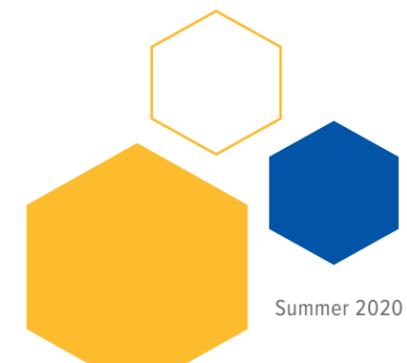
Soban Umar, MD, PhD, who serves as our Director for Resident Scholarly Activity, gave a special mention to UCLA medical students John Park, PhD, and Varina Clark, BS, for their high-quality oral presentations.

Although James Eisenach, MD, president of the Foundation for Anesthesia Research and Education (FAER) was unable to serve as visiting professor and guest judge due to current travel restrictions, an eminent panel of our own faculty served as judges: Tristan Grogan, MS, Rajesh Kumar, PhD, Emily Methangkool, MD, MPH, Wendy Ren, MD, and Susana Vacas, MD, PhD. The oral presentations were moderated by then-Vice Chair for Research Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD.

To the groans of the audience, Dr. Cannesson announced at the end of the evening that the winners wouldn't be announced until the next day because the quality of the entries was so high that the judges needed additional time to complete their scoring. There was mention of difficulties with computer tabulation, leading to some

amused comparisons with the recent Iowa caucuses, and surprise that our department's considerable expertise with machine-learning couldn't overcome the glitch. However, the results were delivered, as promised, the next day.

Our annual Scientific Evening provides excellent preparation for residents as they fine-tune their work each year for presentation at the Western Anesthesia Residents Conference (WARC). Unfortunately, this year's WARC, which was to be held May 1-3 and hosted by the Stanford University Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



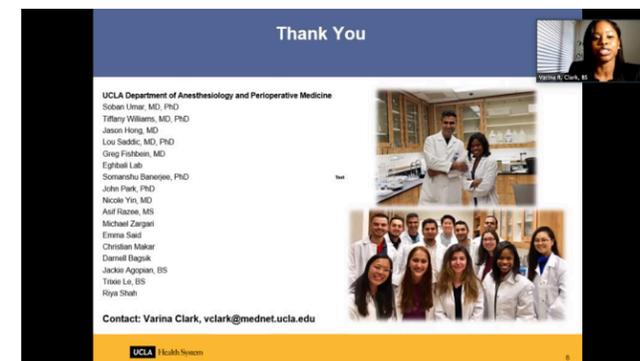
# Awards, Honors, and Recognition – Congratulations!

## Back-to-Back Honors for Medical Student Varina Clark

Congratulations to UCLA third-year medical student Varina Rene Clark, ScB, for her two most recent awards! Under the mentorship of Soban Umar, MD, PhD, she has won a 2020 Minority Trainee Development Scholarship from the American Thoracic Society (ATS), selected for the quality of the science in her submitted abstract, among other criteria.

On June 13, Ms. Clark took first place honors in the Resident Research Day hosted virtually by the California Society of Anesthesiologists (CSA). Her abstract, “In Vivo Knockdown of Snai1 is a Novel Therapeutic Strategy for Right Ventricular Failure,” was selected from among 14 research projects by residents from residency programs across California. She received a \$1000 prize and will have full support to attend the CSA 2021 Annual Meeting next April in San Diego.

Ms. Clark has been working full time in Dr. Umar’s laboratory for the past year as a recipient of a competitive

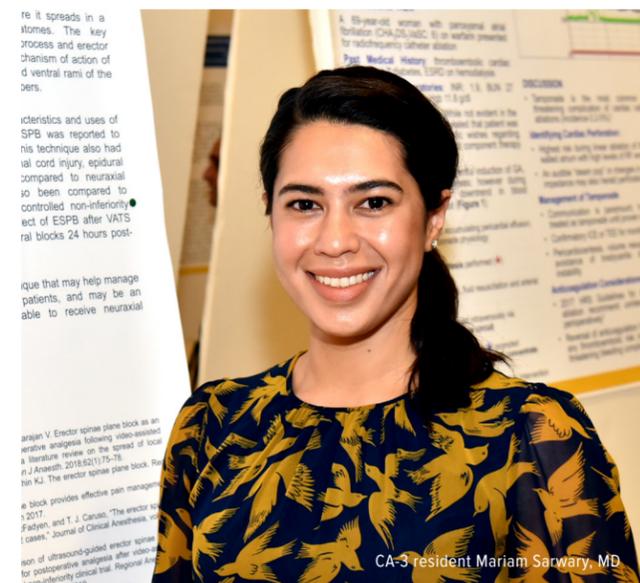


The Umar laboratory group

UCLA Dean’s Leadership in Health and Science Scholarship. The one-year fellowship enabled her to focus on translational research investigating novel gene therapy for right ventricular failure in the context of pulmonary arterial hypertension.

She returned in July to David Geffen School of Medicine to complete her fourth-year medical school studies.

## CA-3 Resident Mariam Sarwary Wins ASA Policy Research Spot



Congratulations to Mariam Sarwary, MD, for winning a coveted spot in next year’s ASA Policy Research Rotation in Political Affairs! Assuming that the COVID-19 pandemic ebbs enough to make it possible, Dr. Sarwary will travel

to Washington DC in March 2021 to participate in a four-week rotation in Washington, D.C., designed to allow resident physicians to experience the political, legislative, and regulatory factors that affect the delivery of patient care.

Dr. Sarwary also has just been elected the 2020-21 Director of the CSA In-Training Forum, representing California residents and fellows. In that position, she will chair the CSA’s Committee on Resident Representation.

During the rotation, according to the ASA, “the resident will achieve comprehensive understanding of health care politics and policy, gain first-hand experience of a political environment, assist in day-to-day activities in ASA’s Advocacy Division, attend lobby events sponsored by ASA, create specific research projects, and explore and report on new law and policy changes affecting the profession of anesthesiology. During the rotation the resident will be supervised by ASA’s Director of Congressional and Political Affairs.”

The rotation is approved by the ABA for residency credit, and includes an award of \$5500 to offset travel and living expenses.

Dr. Sarwary is our current resident delegate to the CSA House of Delegates, and has a strong record of interest in advocacy and legislation related to health affairs. We look forward to hearing about her adventures in Washington!

## CSA Honors

At this year’s California Society of Anesthesiologists (CSA) House of Delegates virtual meeting in June, two of our faculty members were elected to office on the CSA Board of Directors:

- **Johnathan Pregler, MD**, was re-elected to a three-year term as ASA Alternate Director from California. Dr. Pregler is our Director of Operative Services, and a past president of CSA. He was named one of LA Magazine’s “Top Doctors” this year, along with another past president of CSA, **James Moore, MD**.

- **Karen Sibert, MD, FASA**, was elected to the position of President Emeritus, a two-year office. Also a past president of CSA, Dr. Sibert will serve as an adviser to the officers and the Board, with a special interest in legislative affairs and in the engagement of residents in the growth and future of the society. She is our department's Director of Communications, and a regular columnist for the ASA Monitor.



CA-3 Resident **Mariam Sarwary, MD**, our Resident Delegate to CSA, has been elected Director of the In-Training Forum representing residents and fellows.

These UCLA faculty members will serve as Delegates representing CSA at the ASA House of Delegates in October: **Philip Levin, MD** (current CSA Secretary), **James Moore, MD**, **Johnathan Pregler, MD**, **Jeff Rusheen, MD**, and **Karen Sibert, MD**. **Rima Matevosian, MD**, will serve as an Alternate Delegate.

Previously elected to positions in the CSA House of Delegates are the following:

- District 4: **Jeff Rusheen, MD**, Director; **Keren Ziv, MD**, Delegate; **Reza Borna, MD**, Alternate Delegate
- District 6: **Rana Movahedi, MD**, Delegate; **Ali Salehi, MD**, Delegate
- Academic Practice Forum: **Emily Methangkool, MD, MPH**, Delegate; **Siamak Rahman, MD**, Alternate Delegate
- Resident Forum: CA-3 resident **Mariam Sarwary, MD**, Director

## Gregoire Ruffenach, PhD, Wins AHA Career Development Award

Gregoire Ruffenach, PhD, a postdoctoral researcher in our department's Division of Molecular Medicine, has won a prestigious Career Development Award from the American Heart Association in the amount of \$231,000 for three years. Mansoureh Eghbali, PhD, the Director of the Basic Science Training Environment, serves as Dr. Ruffenach's mentor for this award.



Dr. Ruffenach investigates the molecular mechanisms behind pulmonary hypertension (PH), a rare but serious disease that affects primarily women and carries a very poor prognosis. The life expectancy of patients with PPH is only about five years, and during that time patients have progressive decline in quality of life. Dr. Ruffenach is focusing on the role of post-transcriptional regulation of mRNAs in the development of pulmonary hypertension, with the end goal of developing new therapeutic approaches.

Congratulating Dr. Ruffenach, Dr. Eghbali said, "This award is a stepping-stone toward the transition of Dr. Ruffenach to be an independent researcher."

Dr. Ruffenach began his postdoctoral fellowship in the [Eghbali Laboratory](#) in 2017. He earned his master's degree and PhD degree abroad in France and Canada. Since joining our department, he has earned funding with two postdoctoral fellowships from the American Heart Association. In February, he received one of the prestigious UCLA Chancellor's Awards for Postdoctoral Research.

## Undergraduate Michael Zargari Wins Research Prize



UCLA undergraduate student Michael Zargari, working in the lab of Soban Umar, MD, PhD, has won a coveted 2020 Dean's Prize for Excellence in Research. He presented his work at the spring UCLA Undergraduate Research Showcase, where it was judged by a panel of UCLA faculty members.

The title of Zargari's project is "MiRNA10b-5p Inhibition Rescues Severe Pulmonary Hypertensive Rats." After utilizing miRNA microarray and RNA sequencing data, the lab team was able to identify miRNA10b-5p as one of the top upregulated miRNAs in rat models of pulmonary hypertension.

Zargari and his mentor, Dr. Umar, hypothesized that the upregulation of this miRNA is causing vascular remodeling by inhibiting its gene targets in pulmonary hypertensive rats. The team conducted animal studies in which they used a miRNA10b-5p antagomir to decrease its expression in rat lungs, and found improvements in echocardiographic measurements compared to control pulmonary hypertensive rats that did not receive an antagomir. Their hope is that miRNA10b-5p inhibition may be a potential novel therapy in rescuing pulmonary hypertensive rats and may have some human clinical relevance.

A Los Angeles native, Zargari graduated from UCLA this spring, *summa cum laude*, with a degree in biology. In Dr. Umar's lab, he assists in assessing the efficacy of novel drug therapies to treat pulmonary hypertension. He is also a leader in campus organizations including Swipe Out Hunger, The College Awareness Project, and Lend An Ear. He is currently in the process of applying to medical schools.

## Our Annual Graduation Awards!

Representing outstanding achievement on the part of our faculty and residents, our annual department awards were presented this year as part of a virtual Grand Rounds on June 24.

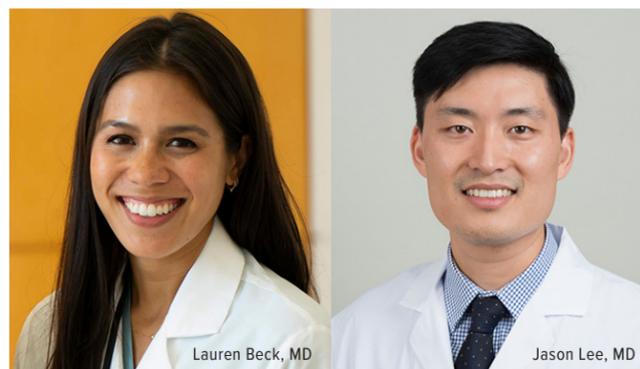


For the first time in recent memory, the same faculty member – **Michael Wolfe, MD** – won the Dillon Award for outstanding performance by an Assistant Professor *and* the Teacher of the Year Award! (Vadim Gudzenko, MD, won both awards in 2015.) Dr. Wolfe is a member of our Division of Critical Care. He earned his MD degree from David Geffen School of Medicine, and then completed residency and fellowship training at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He returned to UCLA for a fellowship

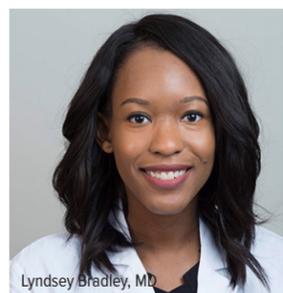
in critical care, and stayed on to join the faculty in 2018. Dr. Wolfe contributed a memorable video to our virtual residency graduation program, capped by a “mic drop” using a laryngoscope instead of a microphone!

Other faculty award winners:

- **Marisa Bell, MD**, a faculty member at Children’s Hospital, Los Angeles, won the Affiliate Teacher of the Year Award.



- **Lauren Beck, MD**, and **Jason Lee, MD**, took Excellence in Residency Teaching Awards.



Graduating resident **Lyndsey Bradley, MD**, received the first-ever Medical Student Educator Award for her outstanding work in teaching students on their core rotations and sub-internships. Earlier this year, Dr. Bradley won an ASA Resident

Scholarship Award to attend the annual ASA Practice Management Meeting. She moves on to pursue a pain medicine fellowship in Texas.

Now a CA-2, **Christian Seger, MD, MS**, claimed the award for Olive View-UCLA Medical Center Resident of the Year. Dr. Seger and a group of his co-residents have been collaborating on a novel shielding device to contain aerosolized particles during intubation and protect clinicians from COVID-19 exposure.



Dr. Christian Seger with protective intubation screen prototype



New CA-1 **Kevin Youssefzadeh, MD**, earned the Anesthesia Intern of the Year award for his outstanding performance during internship at the Westwood VA Hospital. This award was presented to Dr. Youssefzadeh at the VA End-of-Year Luncheon.



**Julius Panelo Roxas**, anesthesia technician, was acclaimed by the residents for his unflagging support in helping them prepare for cases, and received the Perioperative Services Provider of the Award.

The Dillon Award is named for **John Bartley Dillon, MD**, who was appointed as the first anesthesiology division chief at the newly created UCLA School of Medicine in 1951. He went on to become the first department chair when anesthesiology became a full-fledged department. Among his many other accomplishments, Dr. Dillon was a pioneer in the field of outpatient surgery and anesthesiology.

## Studying Metabolic Defects in Obesity, Diabetes, and Heart Failure



Yibin Wang, PhD, in his lab

Yibin Wang, PhD, and his team have won a \$3 million grant from the US Department of Defense to study cardiometabolic diseases including obesity, diabetes, and heart failure, which have a 20 percent higher frequency among military personnel, veterans, and their family members compared with the general population. The situation is especially severe for veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), according to recent government studies.

Studying gene expressions and metabolic profiles in individuals and animals with obesity, diabetes, and heart failure, Dr. Wang’s group has discovered that the most significant changes are not only related to dietary sugar and fat, but also involve branched-chain amino acids (BCAAs). These are only obtained from food sources. Under conditions of obesity, diabetes, or heart failure, the sensing and regulation of BCAAs is defective. This leads

to the accumulation of harmful metabolites from their degradation, causing insulin insensitivity and heart failure.

A regulatory enzyme called BDK (branched-chain kinase) is responsible for shutting down the BCAA degradation pathway in diabetes and heart failure. An inhibitor of this enzyme exerts potent effects to reverse diabetes and prevent heart failure in animal models. This discovery could lead to a new method for treating cardiometabolic disease with BDK inhibitors.

The specific aims of the research project are to bring this new concept to clinical use:

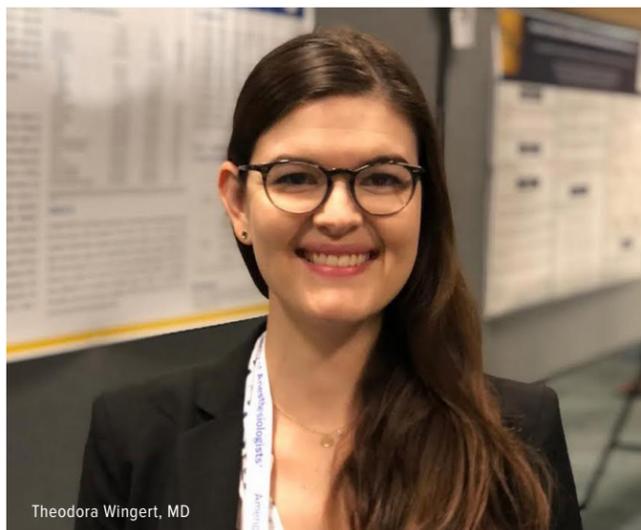
- Develop a new generation of BDK inhibitors with improved potency
- Optimize new BDK inhibitors with analyses including toxicology, potency, route, dosage, and pharmacokinetic studies
- Validate the therapeutic efficacy of the new BDK inhibitors in preclinical animal models of cardiometabolic diseases

The ultimate long-term impact from this study is to bring a totally novel class of therapeutic agent to treat cardiometabolic diseases, addressing an unmet need for the civilian and military population suffering from heart failure, diabetes, and obesity.

## With Our Help, UCLA Health Achieves HIMSS Stage 7 Certification in Analytics!

Congratulations to Theodora Wingert, MD, Eilon Gabel, MD, MS, and our Division of Bioinformatics! They played a key role in helping UCLA achieve certification of Stage 7 in analytics from the nonprofit Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), which works to help organizations achieve best practices in health information and technology using the electronic health record. Stage 7 is the highest HIMSS rank possible, and

reflects a near paperless environment that harnesses technology to support optimized patient care.



Theodora Wingert, MD

Dr. Wingert gave our department's section of the UCLA presentation, highlighting our department's innovative smart screen analytics tool. Dr. Gabel is our Director of Informatics Operations and the chief data architect of our Center of Excellence for Perioperative Analytics. Other participants in the Perioperative Informatics group include Valiollah Salari, PhD, Johnny Quach, MBA, Drew Cheng, MD, and Ira Hofer, MD.

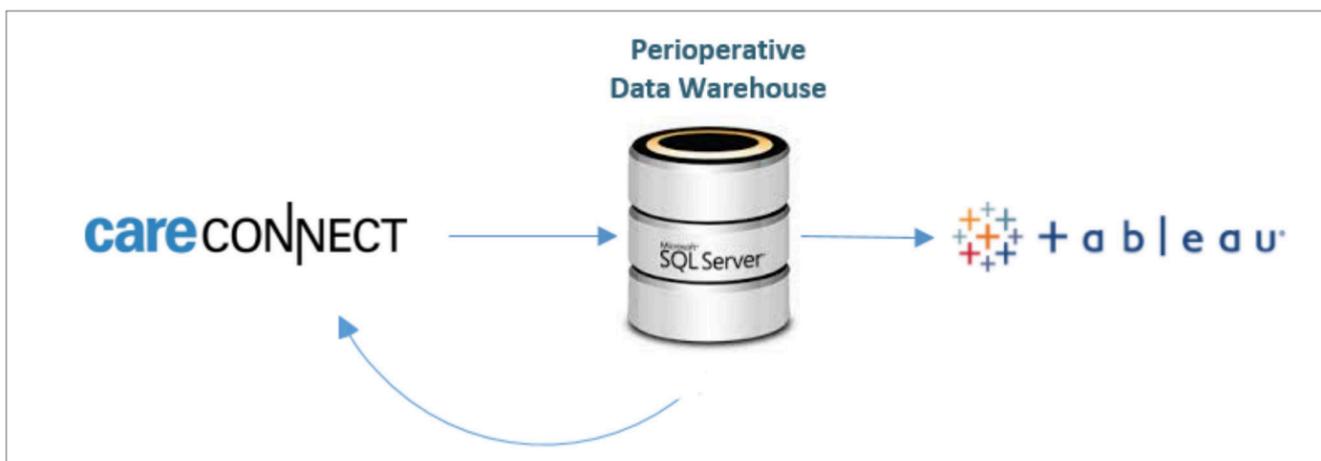
The group was invited to present our department's work developing and implementing phenotyping algorithms focusing on comorbid diseases including end-stage renal disease, diabetes, congestive heart failure, coronary

artery disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The algorithms accurately assess patients' comorbidities on a large scale prior to surgery, identifying complex patients to enable efficient allocation of resources. They also provide data to ensure accurate and comprehensive billing and increase revenue.

Creation of these algorithms for assessing patient comorbidities started with the creation of a unique patient-centric data structure (PATIENT schema) within the Perioperative Data Warehouse (PDW). The PDW is a custom-built, SQL-based data warehouse that extracts key data from Clarity (Epic's relational database) and organizes it into a more user-accessible format in a highly validated and structured way. The PDW is maintained and continually added to by the Center of Excellence for Perioperative Analytics at UCLA.

On its recent validation visit, the HIMSS team was "extremely impressed with all of your interviews and presentations," said Andrew Weaver, who directs program operations for the UCLA Office of Health Informatics and Analytics. "Your effort in preparation, passion in presentation, and utilization of analytics within all areas of our organization has helped lead to this prestigious honor!"

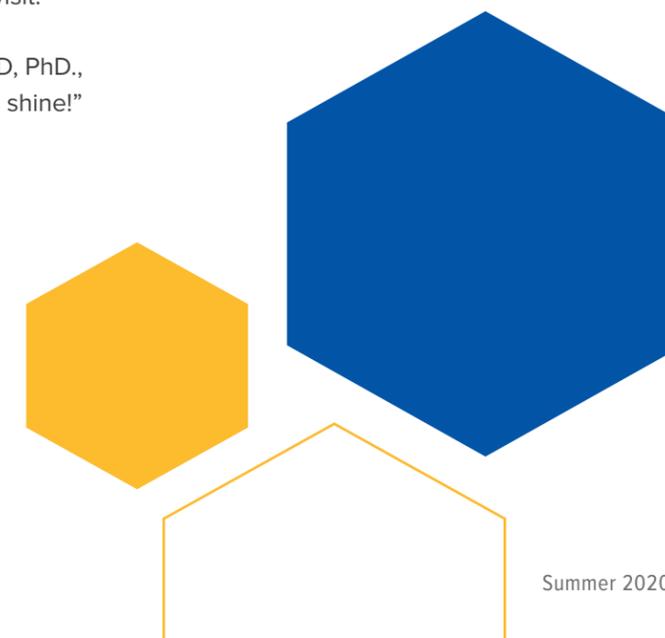
In fact, UCLA Health is now one of only four organizations in the world to achieve HIMSS Stage 7 in three categories: inpatient, ambulatory, and analytics. Stage 7 in analytics specifically means that the organization is achieving personalized medicine and prescriptive



STAGE	HIMSS Analytics <b>AMAM</b> Adoption Model for Analytics Maturity Cumulative Capabilities
7	Personalized medicine & prescriptive analytics
6	Clinical risk intervention & predictive analytics
5	Enhancing quality of care, population health, and understanding the economics of care
4	Measuring and managing evidence based care, care variability, and waste reduction
3	Efficient, consistent internal and external report production and agility
2	Core data warehouse workout: centralized database with an analytics competency center
1	Foundation building: data aggregation and initial data governance
0	Fragmented point solutions

analytics, and has reached a high level of analytics maturity. Our bioinformatics group was selected as one of the health center's most advanced groups to represent the enterprise during the HIMSS certification visit.

Said department chair Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD., "Thank you, Dr. Wingert, for making the group shine!"



# Faculty Appointments and Promotions



## Dr. Neelankavil Named New Chief of Cardiothoracic Division

Prince Neelankavil, MD, takes on new responsibilities as Director of our Division of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology, effective July 15.

In announcing the appointment, Chair Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD, noted that Dr. Neelankavil has “extensive experience, proven leadership skills, and impeccable credentials for success in this position.” Dr. Neelankavil graduated from the UCLA anesthesiology residency program in 2010, and completed a fellowship here in cardiothoracic anesthesiology in 2011. He has been the Cardiac Fellowship Program Director for seven years and the Associate Director of the Division for two years. An outstanding clinical teacher, Dr. Neelankavil has received four teaching awards at UCLA, including Teacher of the Year in 2012 and 2016.

Beyond UCLA, Dr. Neelankavil has been active in the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists (SCA), currently serving on the Program Committee and chairing the Fellowship Program Committee at the annual meeting. He is frequently an invited speaker at national meetings in his areas of expertise, and co-chairs a very successful annual Point of Care Ultrasound workshop. He provides editorial service for the *Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia*, and has numerous peer-reviewed publications on perioperative outcomes for cardiac and non-cardiac surgery, pacemakers, echocardiography, and mentoring.

Dr. Cannesson thanked Jonathan Ho, MD, FASE, for his dedicated service as Division Director since 2013. Dr. Ho will continue to focus his attention on directing UCLA Interventional Cardiovascular Operations.



## Dr. Yue Ming Huang Named Simulation Center's Interim Chief

Congratulations to Yue Ming Huang, EdD, MHS, who has been appointed to the position of Executive Director of the UCLA Simulation Center! She succeeds Randy Steadman, MD, MS, who founded the Center in 1996 and served as Director until this spring.

This has been a highly successful spring for Dr. Huang. In May, she was selected as one of the recipients of the 2020 David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Kaiser-Permanente Award for Excellence in Teaching. Announcing the \$5,000 award, Vice Dean for Education Clarence Braddock, MD, MPH, said that Dr. Huang’s “contributions to the success of our educational endeavors have been exceptional and well recognized with gratitude by trainees and colleagues.”

Dr. Huang is an Adjunct Associate Professor in our department. Since 2000, she has served in leadership roles at the simulation center, including Operations Director, and Education Director. A UCLA graduate, she received her doctorate in education from UCLA’s Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, and completed the DGSOM Medical Education Fellowship at the same time. She also holds a Master of Health Science degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Dr. Huang has overseen the administration and development of simulation programs at UCLA from their early stages, providing strategic planning, operational support, curriculum design, instructor training, and research collaboration with clinical educators, faculty, students and staff. As a co-investigator on grants from Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) and the Department of Defense (DoD), her research explores teaching techniques, teamwork and communication skills, and the effectiveness of simulation training. She has worked extensively with diverse groups who teach and train at the UCLA Simulation Center. Her collaborative cross-disciplinary approach earned her the Faculty Staff Partnership Award from the UCLA Staff Assembly last year.

Not only does Dr. Huang have over 20 years of experience in simulation-based education, she is also recognized across the UC system and nationally in the simulation community. She has been involved since the inception of the UC Simulation Consortium, a network of UC simulation centers, helping lead the current UC-wide sepsis simulation project funded by UCOP Risk Management.

Dr. Huang served as the first Education Chair for the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), and has shared her work at many conferences and in publications. She chaired the Simulation Alliance Task Force when SSH was growing as a new society, bringing together participants from different national and international organizations to discuss collaborative educational initiatives. Earlier this year in January, she was inducted as a Fellow of the SSH Academy, an honor bestowed upon select individuals whose sustained contributions have had an impact in the field of healthcare simulation.



## Welcome to Dr. Jennifer Lucero!

**Our new Vice Chair for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

We are delighted to announce that Jennifer Lucero, MD, MA, has been appointed Associate Dean for Admissions at the David Geffen School of Medicine. She joined our department in July as Vice Chair for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Dr. Lucero was an Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesia & Perioperative Care at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), specializing in obstetric anesthesiology, and served as Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She held a dual appointment in Obstetrics and Gynecology, with clinical interests in preeclampsia and adherent placental disease.

Dr. Lucero has eight years of medical school admissions experience, and participates actively in the recruitment of underrepresented students to the profession of medicine. As a physician of Mexican and Native American descent, she takes a special interest in diversity issues in medicine, and disparities in the delivery of obstetric healthcare to women of color.

A graduate of California State University Northridge, Dr. Lucero earned her MD degree at the Yale School of Medicine. She completed residency first in obstetrics and gynecology, and practiced for two years. Dr. Lucero then undertook residency and fellowship training in anesthesiology at UCSF, and earned an NIH T-32 research fellowship. She has served as director of the UCSF fellowship program and of research in obstetric anesthesiology.

We welcome Dr. Lucero to our department, and look forward to learning from her experience as we expand our ongoing efforts to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion among our faculty, trainees, and staff.

# Selected Recent Publications

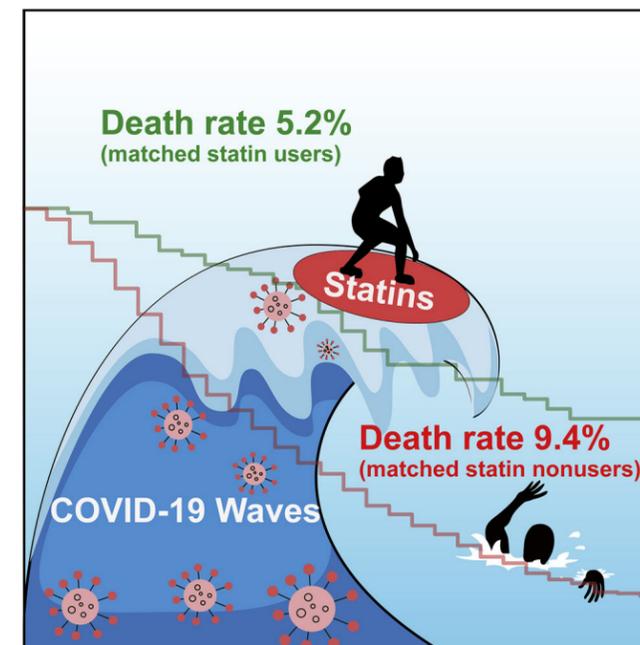
**Editor's note:** Our department continues its tradition of academic accomplishment with these recent publications. Every citation selected for mention here illustrates the results of months or years of work, and of course represents the authors' successful responses to multiple editors' questions and requests for revision. Congratulations to all our accomplished authors! For a more comprehensive view of our publications in clinical and basic science research, please visit the website for [UCLA Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine](https://www.uclaanesthesia.com/).

1. Zhang et al. **In-Hospital Use of Statins Is Associated with a Reduced Risk of Mortality among Individuals with COVID-19.** *Cell Metabolism* 2020  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cmet.2020.06.015>

A new study led by Chinese researchers in collaboration with UCLA's Yibin Wang, PhD, has shown that people hospitalized with COVID-19 who took statin drugs were less likely to die and less likely to need mechanical ventilation than those who did not take statins. Hospitalized patients taking statins had a 5.2% mortality rate, compared to a 9.4% mortality rate in comparable patients not taking statins. Statin use was linked also to lower levels of inflammation, and a lower incidence of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and admission to intensive care units. Dr. Wang is a professor in the Division of Molecular Medicine in the Departments of Anesthesiology, Medicine, and Physiology.

2. Kratzert W, Gudzenko V. **ECPR or Do Not ECPR – Who and How to Choose.** *Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia*, 34 (2020), 1195-1197.  
<https://doi.org/10.1053/j.jvca.2020.01.037>

Wolf Kratzert, MD, PhD, and Vadim Gudzenko, MD, wrote this editorial commentary in response to an article by Dalia and colleagues describing their experience with outcomes and complications with extracorporeal cardiopulmonary resuscitation (ECPR)



at a quaternary referral center. They make the point that outcomes of ECPR have improved and much effort has been focused on the standardization of team protocols, the cannulation process, early notification systems, and post-ECPR care. However, the cornerstone of a favorable outcome remains patient selection. The two crucial questions are:

- a. Should ECPR be offered to the particular patient, and is it appropriate non-futile care?
- b. Should ECLS (extracorporeal life support) be continued? The authors note that once ECLS is initiated, death, defined as circulatory and respiratory arrest, is “challenging to define and even harder to achieve.”

Kratzert and Gudzenko recommend that physicians should start integrating informed consent for ECLS proactively in conversations concerning hospitalized ICU patients, patients with severe comorbidities, and patients who undergo high-risk procedures.

3. Canales C, Lee C, Cannesson M. **Science Without Conscience Is but the Ruin of the Soul: The Ethics of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence in Perioperative Medicine.** *Anesth & Analg* 2020; 130:1234-1243. DOI: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000004728

This special article introduced the May issue of *Anesthesia & Analgesia*, which focused on artificial intelligence in anesthesiology, perioperative medicine, and critical care medicine. The authors pose the question: “Who owns the data that are driving these scientific discoveries and transforming health care?” They conclude that “artificial intelligence–driven health care may be just around the corner. Artificial intelligence promises improved safety and patient outcomes. This can only occur if we take the time to examine the technical, ethical, and moral implications of artificial intelligence. When introducing artificial intelligence, we must take care to do so with a conscience, keeping the patient first,

understanding that humanism is a core component of our practice, while being open to innovation.”



4. Mistic V, Gabel E, Hofer I, Rajaram K, Mahajan A. **Machine Learning Prediction of Postoperative Emergency Department Hospital Readmission.** *Anesthesiology* 2020; 132:968–80. DOI: 10.1097/ALN.0000000000003140

The authors defined a readmission via the emergency department as any patient who enters University of California Los Angeles through any of the emergency departments within 30 days of a surgical case and is then transferred to a subsequent non-emergency department location. This definition was intended to capture patients who return to the hospital in an unplanned fashion and require inpatient or observation level of care, compared with those who were sent home after an emergency department–based evaluation. They concluded that machine-learning techniques can produce clinically useful models for predicting readmissions via the emergency department in surgical patients from electronic health record data. Predictions with high discrimination can occur as soon as 36h after the completion of surgery, giving time for intervention teams to apply readmission reduction strategies while being open to innovation.”

5. Ershoff B, Grogan T, Hong J, Chia P, Gabel E, Cannesson M. **Hydromorphone Unit Dose Affects Intraoperative Dosing.** *Anesthesiology* 2020; 132:981-991. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ALN.0000000000003176>

The authors hypothesized that the unit dose of hydromorphone is an independent determinant of the amount administered to patients intraoperatively. Changing the vial of hydromorphone available from a 2 mg dose to 1 mg was associated with a 49% relative decrease in the probability of receiving a hydromorphone dose greater than 1 mg (risk ratio, 0.51; 95% CI, 0.40–0.66;  $P < 0.0001$ ). The reintroduction of a 2-mg unit dose was associated with a 48% relative increase in the probability of administering a dose greater than 1 mg (risk ratio, 1.48; 95% CI, 1.11–1.98;  $P = 0.008$ ). This observational study demonstrates that unit dose of hydromorphone (2 mg vs. 1 mg) is an independent determinant of the quantity of hydromorphone administered to patients in the intraoperative period.

6. Hofer I, Burns M, Kendale S, Wanderer J. **Realistically Integrating Machine Learning into Clinical Practice: A Road Map of Opportunities, Challenges, and a Potential Future.** *Anesth & Analg* 2020; 130:1115-1118.

In this commentary, the authors argue that health care has been traditionally slow to adopt new technologies, but the time is approaching when machine learning delivers on promises to improve the current and future practice of perioperative medicine. They conclude, though, that “at its core, the practice of medicine will remain largely unchanged. Medicine involves speaking to patients and helping them in what are often the most stressful times of their lives. These higher cognitive tasks, such as understanding a patient’s goals and weighing competing priorities, are unlikely to ever be outsourced to a machine and will likely become a bigger part of the clinical effort of physicians. It is for this reason the term “artificial

intelligence” is increasingly being recognized as a misnomer. The future is likely one of augmented intelligence, where computers become indispensable tools that help us care for our patients, and the physician can devote more of their efforts on patient care.”

7. Zhang P, Zhu L, Cai J, Lei F, Qin JJ, Xie J, Liu YM, Zhao YC, Huang X, Lin L, Xia M, Chen MM, Cheng X, Zhang X, Guo D, Peng Y, Ji YX, Chen J, She ZG, Wang Y, et al. **Association of Inpatient Use of Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors and Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers with Mortality Among Patients With Hypertension Hospitalized With COVID-19.** *Circulation research*. 2020. Epub 2020/04/18. doi: 10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.120.317134. PubMed PMID: 32302265.

This retrospective, multi-center study included 1128 adult patients with hypertension diagnosed with COVID-19. The authors concluded that among hospitalized patients with COVID-19 and coexisting hypertension, inpatient use of ACEI/ARB was associated with lower risk of all-cause mortality compared with ACEI/ARB nonusers. While study interpretation needs to consider the potential for residual confounders, it is unlikely that in-hospital use of ACEI/ARB was associated with an increased mortality risk.

8. Hofer I, Lee C, Gabel E, Baldi P, Cannesson C. **Development and validation of a deep neural network model to predict postoperative mortality, acute kidney injury, and reintubation using a single feature set.** *NPJ Digit Med*. 2020 Apr 20; 3:58. doi: 10.1038/s41746-020-0248-0. eCollection 2020.

The authors hypothesized that machine learning can be used to create models to predict postoperative mortality, AKI, reintubation, and a combined outcome using a single set of features available at the end of surgery. A set of 46 features available at the end of

surgery, including drug dosing, blood loss, vital signs, and others were extracted. Deep neural networks (DNN) were trained on 80% of the data, with 20% reserved for testing. Overall, the DNN architecture was able to create models that outperformed the ASA physical status to predict all outcomes based on a single feature set, consisting of objective data available at the end of surgery.

9. Park J, Banerjee S, Umar S. **In the eye of the storm: the right ventricle in COVID-19.** *Pulmonary Circulation* 2020; 10(3) 1–7DOI: 10.1177/2045894020936660

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to inflict significant morbidity and mortality around the globe. A variety of cardiovascular presentations of SARS-CoV-2 infection have been described so far. However, the impact of SARS-CoV-2 on the right ventricle is largely unknown. Due to its pathophysiologic relevance, the right ventricle finds itself in the eye of the storm of COVID-19, placing it at higher risk of failure. Increased afterload from acute respiratory distress syndrome and pulmonary embolism, negative inotropic effects of cytokines, and direct angiotensin converting enzyme 2-mediated cardiac injury from SARS-CoV-2 are potential mechanisms of right ventricle dysfunction. Early detection and treatment of right ventricle dysfunction in COVID-19 may lead to decreased mortality and improved patient outcomes.

10. Aryan L, Younessi D, Zargari M, Banerjee S, Agopian J, Rahman S, Borna R, Ruffenach G, Umar S, Eghbali M. **The Role of Estrogen Receptors in Cardiovascular Disease.** *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* 2020, 21, 4314; doi:10.3390/ijms21124314

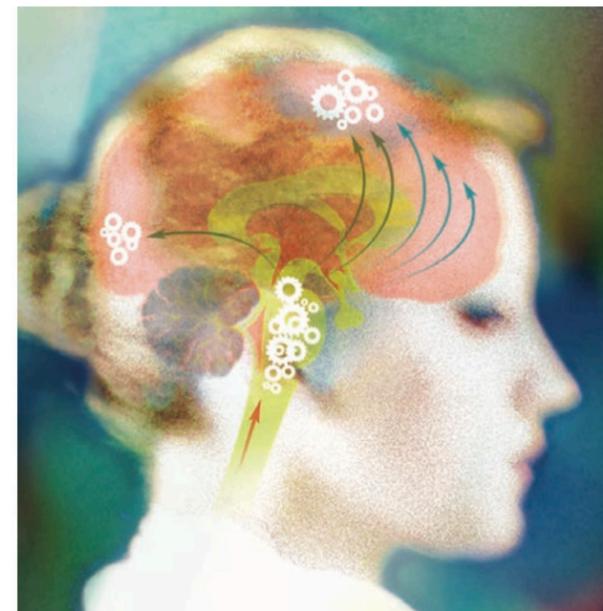
More than 17 million people die worldwide from cardiovascular disease per year, making it the

leading cause of death worldwide. There is considerable evidence suggesting that estrogen modulates cardiovascular physiology and function in both health and disease, and that it could potentially serve as a cardioprotective agent. The effects of estrogen on cardiovascular function are mediated by nuclear and membrane estrogen receptors (ERs), including estrogen receptor alpha (ER $\alpha$ ), estrogen receptor beta (ER $\beta$ ), and G-protein-coupled ER (GPR30 or GPER). Each ER has been implicated in multiple pre-clinical cardiovascular disease models. This review discusses current reports on the underlying molecular mechanisms of ERs in regulating vascular pathology, with a special emphasis on hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, and atherosclerosis, as well as in regulating cardiac pathology, with emphasis on ischemia/reperfusion injury, heart failure with reduced ejection fraction, and heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.

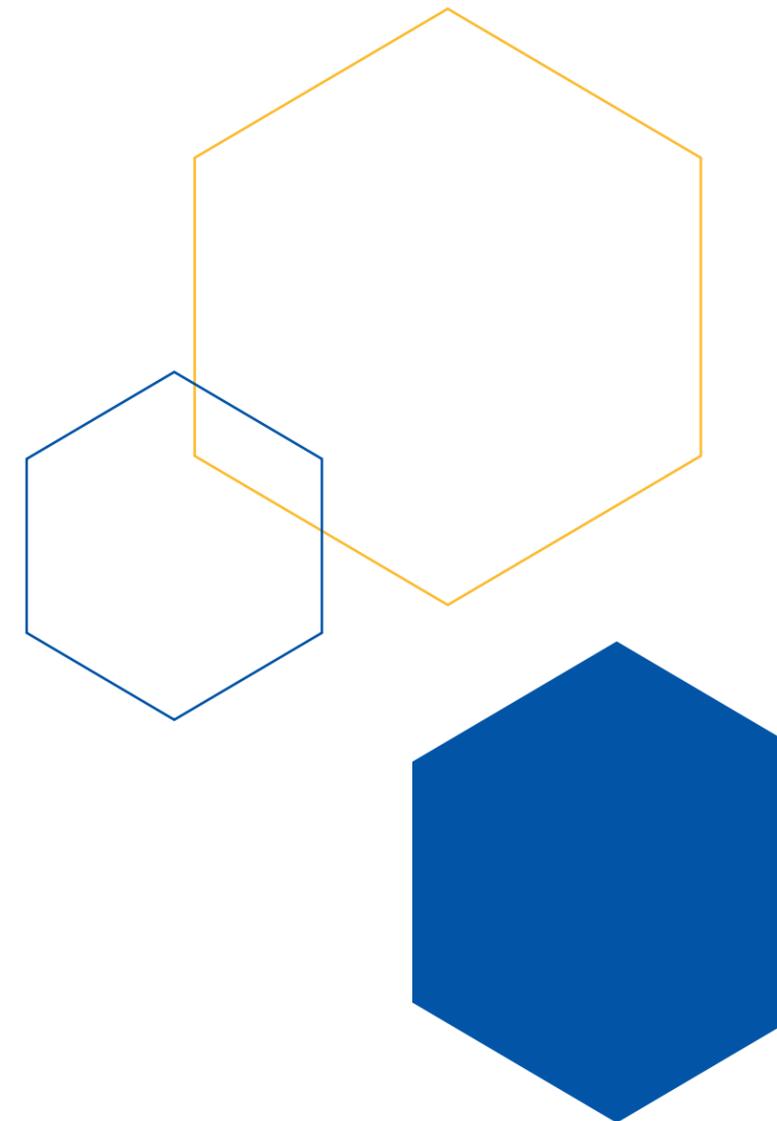
11. Hudson A. **Anesthesia as Decoupling.** *Anesthesiology* 2020; 133:11-12. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ALN.0000000000003366>

In this editorial, Dr. Hudson notes that a cardinal effect of general anesthetics is loss of consciousness. However, disruption of consciousness may be a happy accident; that is, the fundamental common mechanism of anesthetic drug effect may have nothing to do with a special targeting of conscious processing, as opposed to a generic effect on all neurons. After all, anesthetic drugs effect a remarkably wide range of organisms, incapacitating vertebrates, slowing organ movements of plants and even halting the environmental responsiveness of amoebae. An emerging view is that the common effect of general anesthetics is to increase the modularity of communication networks—that is, anesthetics interrupt connections that normally exist between networks so that the networks are

dominated by local activity—thereby disrupting the efficiency of information transfer through the organism and isolating the organism from its surroundings. He reviews a research report by Awal et al. on the effect of volatile anesthesia in roundworms, which demonstrated that disruption of the normal coordination between neurons, rather than suppression of neuronal activity, was the main effect observed with moderate anesthesia.



**“...do general anesthetics equally disrupt relationships between all neurons, or... between particular functional networks...?”**



# Welcome To Our Newest Faculty Members!

By Shevaughn Marchese



**Colleen Yen, MD**

*Obstetric Anesthesiology, Multispecialty Team*

Dr. Yen was raised in Swedesboro, New Jersey and attended college and medical school in Philadelphia. She completed her anesthesiology residency in 2019, and her fellowship in obstetric anesthesiology in 2020, both at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. She had the challenging experience of doing OB cases during the Covid-19 surge in NYC. Her clinical interest is obstetric anesthesia, but she will also join our multispecialty call team on September 1. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and baking, live music, and exercising.



**Linda Li, MD**

*Multispecialty Team*

Dr. Li was born in Minnesota and grew up moving frequently around the East Coast and Midwest. Needless to say, she is excited to experience West Coast living and its lack of freezing weather. She graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School after receiving her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania. After completing her residency at the Brigham and Women's Hospital this year, she will join us on September 1. Her professional interests include medical education and quality improvement projects, and in her free time, she enjoys biking, dabbling in media and design projects, and traveling (when it's allowed).



**Sapna Satyanarayan-Victor, MD, MPH**

*Obstetric Anesthesiology, Multispecialty Team*

Dr. Victor pursued her BA, MPH, and MD education at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and trained at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. She completed fellowship training in obstetric anesthesiology at Stanford University. Dr. Victor enjoys spending time with her husband Aaron and their goldendoodle, Noodle. Her hobbies include hiking, digital art, and tending her vegetable garden, which reportedly has excellent jalapenos! She calls Yorba Linda home, and is excited to move back when she joins us on September 1.

Welcome To Our Newest Faculty Members!



**Valeria Carcamo-Cavazos, MD**

*Acute Pain and Regional Anesthesia, Multispecialty Team*

Dr. Cavazos was born in Mexico City, but calls Olympia, WA home. She studied Biological Sciences and Spanish at Cornell University's College of Arts and Sciences, and Medicine at UCSF. She stayed at UCSF for her anesthesiology residency, before moving to Los Angeles for a Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Her clinical interests include acute pain management with opiate-sparing techniques, including multimodal pain management, and regional and neuraxial anesthesia. She researches the use of distraction techniques for acute pain management. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, yoga, good food and traveling.



**Andrea Poon, MD**

*Acute Pain and Regional Anesthesia, Multispecialty Team*

Dr. Poon completed her pain medicine fellowship and anesthesiology residency at UCLA. She is originally an East Coast native and a graduate of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at Rutgers University. Her professional interests include pain medicine research and medical education. In her free time, she enjoys yoga, cycling, outdoor activities, and traveling.



**Sophia Poorsattar, MD**

*Liver Transplant & Multispecialty Team*

Dr. Poorsattar grew up in Ventura, CA, and enjoyed the beach town's popular coastal and mountain sports, including hiking, kayaking, swimming, and all types of boarding. She is from a tight-knit family of five women, and spends much of her time with them and their families. Dr. Poorsattar is a returning Bruin – she completed both undergraduate education and anesthesiology residency at UCLA. She studied medicine at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and just completed an adult cardiothoracic anesthesia fellowship at UC San Diego. She joins our faculty on August 1 as part of the Liver Transplant and Multispecialty teams. Her clinical interests are solid organ transplant and perioperative echocardiography. Her non-clinical interests are mentorship in medicine and healthcare simulation.



**Pamela Chia, MD, MS**

*Acute Pain and Regional Anesthesia, Multispecialty Team*

Dr. Chia recently completed residency training and a Regional Anesthesia & Acute Pain Fellowship with our department. She completed her MD degree at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia after studying at St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada. Prior to a career in medicine, she studied Marine and Environmental Biology at USC and worked in the field as a research associate.

# 2020-2021 Fellows



## 2020-2021 Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine Fellows

### Kristztina Escallier, MD

Dr. Escallier was born and raised in Southern California and attended UC Santa Barbara for her undergraduate studies. She earned her medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, where she also completed residency and chief residency in anesthesiology. She is on the dual Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine fellowship track. After successfully completing her CT Anesthesiology fellowship year at UCLA, she is now joining us for her Critical Care Medicine fellowship.



### Kasey Grewe, MD

Dr. Grewe grew up in Portland, Oregon and went to Pomona College in Claremont before spending eight years at Columbia as a medical student, anesthesiology resident, and finally chief resident. After an unmatched clinical experience during the COVID-19 pandemic in NYC, she now returns to California to join UCLA for a dual fellowship in Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine. She is joining us for her first fellowship year of Critical Care Medicine, which will be followed by a year of CT Anesthesiology in 2021.



### Melanie Kusonruksa, MD

Dr. Kusonruksa was born and raised in Southern California. She completed her undergraduate studies at UCLA and is proud to be a lifelong Bruin. After completing her Internal Medicine residency at UC Irvine, she happily returned to UCLA for her anesthesiology residency training. She is incredibly excited to continue her journey at our institution as an incoming Critical Care Medicine fellow.

## 2020-2021 Fellows



### James Madrian, MD

Dr. Madrian grew up in Salt Lake City, completed medical school at the Medical College of Virginia, and did residency training at the University of Iowa. He has been practicing as a cardiac anesthesiologist for the past 10 years in Spokane, Washington. He is now joining us at UCLA for a year of Critical Care Medicine fellowship with the plan to return to his anesthesiology group in Spokane and join their group of intensivists caring for cardiothoracic surgical patients in the ICU.



## Liver Transplantation Anesthesiology Fellows 2020-2021

### Courtney Scott, DO

Dr. Scott graduated from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, FL. She did her anesthesiology residency at the Mayo Clinic, during which she served as Class Representative and Resident Chair of Education.



### Colby Tanner, MD

Dr. Tanner, our former Chief Resident, just completed his anesthesiology residency here at UCLA. He earned his MD at Loma Linda University School of Medicine after undergraduate education in Biology and Spanish at Brigham Young University. He enjoys skiing, snowboarding, fly-fishing, camping, running and biking.



## Obstetric Anesthesiology Fellow 2020-21

### Krista Cascia, MD

Dr. Cascia was born and raised in Southern California. She studied International Economics at Georgetown University before medical school at Rosalind Franklin University in Chicago. She recently completed residency training with us at UCLA. Dr. Cascia is married to Andrew Hardison, and has a daughter, Johanna. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, and has even climbed the challenging trail at Half Dome!



### Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine Fellows 2020-21

#### Gary Chan, MD

Dr. Chan's hometown is Westlake Village, CA. He studied bioengineering at UC Berkeley before enrolling at the Ohio State University College of Medicine. He completed his anesthesiology residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. Dr. Chan is interested in regional anesthesia research. He was an avid piano player up until medical school and competed in several international competitions.



#### Gregory Sheehan, MD

Dr. Sheehan earned his medical degree at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed residency at Columbia University Medical Center. Besides regional anesthesia and pain medicine, he is interested in nutrition. Dr. Sheehan studied music at the Crane School of Music and is an accomplished violinist. During his time at Columbia, he co-founded the CUMC Orchestra and served on its board. He has played with the West Islip String Ensemble, and at notable events.



#### Kelsey Wang, MD

Dr. Wang was born in Los Angeles, and grew up in the San Fernando Valley. After completing her undergraduate education at USC, she stayed there for medical school. She completed her residency training with us at UCLA, and is excited to stay on for fellowship training.



### UCLA Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Fellows 2020-2021

#### Candy Ezimora, MD, MBA

Dr. Ezimora grew up in Sacramento before heading to the University of Rochester where she received her MD and MBA. After completing her anesthesiology residency at UNC-Chapel Hill, Dr. Ezimora is thrilled to be coming home to California.



#### Sean Mofidi, MD, MS

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Dr. Mofidi completed his undergraduate studies at UCLA prior to attending Georgetown University for medical school. He returned to UCLA for his anesthesiology residency and we are delighted that he is staying for fellowship. A die-hard Lakers fan, Dr. Mofidi enjoys cycling, running, photography, and exploring the outdoors with his wife.



#### Christine Stypula, MD, MPH

Originally from Pittsburgh, Dr. Stypula joins the UCLA family after completing her residency at Stanford University. Joining the "family business", she will be the fourth cardiac anesthesiologist in her family! Prior to her medical training, Dr. Stypula spent years in international development and global health before receiving her MPH from Columbia University. Her interests outside of medicine include travel, cooking, and golf.



#### Andrew Wu, MD

Born and raised in mainland China, Dr. Wu moved to Indiana at age 15. After a four-year stint in California for his undergrad studies at USC, he headed back to the Midwest for medical school at the University of Indiana. Dr. Wu completed his anesthesiology residency at UCLA, where he was one of the chief residents. He loves all things sports, unfortunately including his favorite football team – the USC Trojans.



### UCLA Pain Medicine Fellows 2020-2021

#### Brittany Aeschlimann, MD

Dr. Aeschlimann was born in Henrico, VA. She studied at West Virginia University School of Medicine and completed residency at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, where she was chief resident. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, exploring new restaurants, wine tasting, yoga and exercise, and enjoying the beautiful California beaches. She moved here with her husband, a Memorial Sloan Kettering radiologist and California native who is happy to return. She is looking forward to a visit from her mom and siblings in Virginia someday soon.

**Jason Daughety, DO, MPH**

Dr. Daughety hails from San Diego and enjoys surfing, golf and ice hockey. He is married with three boys, plus one more due in September, and enjoys spending time with his family. He studied medicine at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed residency at Loma Linda University. His professional interests include neuromodulation and ultrasound.

**Elizabeth Feenstra, MD**

Dr. Feenstra grew up in Michigan and moved to Los Angeles for a change of scenery after graduation from medical school at the University of Michigan. She recently completed residency training here at UCLA and is excited to stay for fellowship training.

**Frederick Li, MD**

Dr. Li comes to us from Irving, Texas. He studied at Texas A&M Health Science College of Medicine and completed residency training at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. His interests include Traditional Chinese Medicine, and professional violin and piano.

**Mark Motejunas, MD**

Dr. Motejunas was born in Milton, Massachusetts, and came to us from New Orleans. He studied medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine, and completed his residency at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

**Ava Socik, MD**

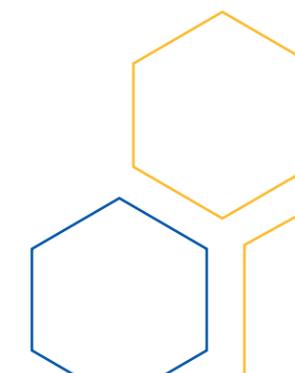
Dr. Socik was born in Chicago and raised in a small farming town in Poland. She studied at Rush Medical College of Rush University Medical Center, and just graduated with the Resident Class of 2020 here at UCLA. Dr. Socik is a newlywed, and she enjoys travel, hiking, cooking, baking and photography.

**Tracie Lo, MD**

Tracie Lo and her husband, Jack Howard, visited from New York City for her UCLA residency interviews, and both loved the program and their trip exploring SoCal. Jack is also a Bruin, in his final year of Dentistry training. The couple enjoy hiking the various trails in LA and look forward to taking along their newborn daughter, Charlotte. Dr. Lo studied medicine at New York Medical College and just completed residency training with us at UCLA.

**Stephen Acosta, MD**

Dr. 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 Clinical Instructor there before joining us. His professional interests are global health and regional anesthesiology. He loves the ocean, has been improving his sailing skills and recently got into kitesurfing.



# Residents Mariam Sawary and Aanchal Prakash at the Capitol with CSA

By Mariam Sarwary, MD

*Editor's note: CA-3 resident Mariam Sarwary is UCLA's Resident Delegate to the CSA House of Delegates. She and CA-3 resident Aanchal Prakash attended CSA Residency Advocacy Day in early March, just before the COVID-19 shutdown began.*



Aanchal Prakash and Mariam Sarwary at CSA Resident Advocacy Day in Sacramento

It was wonderful to be back at the Capitol this year, this time for the CSA Residency Advocacy Day. We were able to meet with legislators in a relaxed setting with time dedicated to learning about what they do and why. It was a pleasure meeting several legislators with medical backgrounds and learning of their journeys to the Capitol.

Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, MD, discussed how his time working in the emergency departments of the Central Valley led him to politics as a way to bring more resources and medical personnel to the area in hopes of combating the lack of primary and preventive care that led patients to the emergency department in the first place. Senator Richard Pan, MD, a pediatrician in Sacramento, discussed how his interest in advocacy began early on as a resident, and how he learned to balance the demands of his career with his goal of bringing about change in his patients' care through policy work.

In addition, we met with some legislators who have no medical background, and heard of their honesty in needing more information when it comes to votes on legislation related to medical issues. Senator Steve Glazer, who has been involved in the issue of safe anesthesia in dental and oral surgery offices, emphasized the importance of advocacy from organizations such as the CSA to help legislators understand the significance and ramifications of bills that come through their offices. He highlighted the need for physicians to share their stories in order to allow legislators to better understand the struggles we face and the implications for our patients.

In meeting with all these legislators, one common theme arose throughout the day. That was the level of sacrifice every one of them has made and continues to make in order to be at the table making crucial decisions for the future of healthcare. Several legislators discussed the drastic pay cut they took in transitioning from working as a physician to serving as a legislator, and others discussed the time away from their families during the weekly commute to Sacramento. However, they remarked on several occasions, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." All the legislators agreed that all the sacrifices were worth it in order to ensure that their voices and the voices of their constituents are heard in the Capitol.



Enjoying Malibu Wine Safari

# Surviving the COVID-19 Spring As a Team

by Shelly Anderson, MBA, MSNA, CRNA

The year 2020 has proven to be a year of change and challenges. The current COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult to deal with at work and at home. The "new normal" has changed several times, and our nurse anesthetist team has been as flexible as ever in response to these challenges.

We expected to add four new CRNAs in March, just as UCLA prepared for a surge of COVID patients. The department was forced to postpone elective cases, prepare new protocols, and meet with staff, patients, and family via Zoom. Most new graduate CRNAs start their first jobs within three months of graduation, after completing their certification exams and employment onboarding. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic

surge planning, the start date for our four new CRNAs was postponed until June 2020, six months after graduation. Luckily for us, they have started work now, expanding our team to a total of 50 nurse anesthetists, and they are adjusting well!



Gloria Nakyeeyune

**Gloria Vanessa Nakyeeyune MSN, CRNA, RRT.** Gloria is originally from Kampala, Uganda, but was raised in Toronto, Canada. She relocated to Los Angeles after high school. She received her Associate's

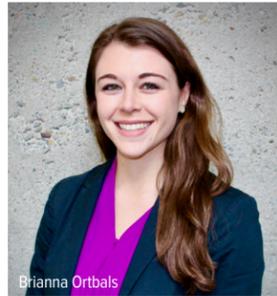
Degree in Respiratory Therapy from East Los Angeles Community College, her BSN from California State University Los Angeles, and her MSNA from Drexel University in Philadelphia. Prior to anesthesia, she worked as a nurse in the Neuro ICU and PACU for two years and as a respiratory therapist for 10 years. Gloria enjoys Pilates, traveling, Sunday brunch, and riding her Peloton.



**Gillian Quian, DNP, CRNA,** grew up in Queens, NY, and moved to Palos Verdes when she was 13 years old. Gillian received her BS from University of Michigan (Go Blue!), completed an accelerated BSN at Lakeview College of Nursing, and

obtained her DNP in Anesthesia from University of Pittsburgh. Her DNP project examined the utility of nasal nitric oxide as a biomarker for adverse airway events in pediatric anesthesia. Prior to graduate school, Gillian worked as a telemetry nurse for two years at Little Company of Mary in Torrance, CA, as an ICU nurse in the Neuro ICU at Vanderbilt University, and later worked at both the University of Chicago and University of Illinois.

Gillian has participated in several medical mission trips abroad, and hopes to continue volunteering abroad as well as engage in research opportunities at UCLA. Gillian's March 2020 wedding was canceled due to the pandemic, but she was still able to exchange her vows at home with an intimate ceremony. She enjoys staying active and just got a Peloton bike- she is looking for coworkers to ride with her! Gillian's favorite hobbies include diving, riding her scooter, and painting – she was a Fine Arts major her first year at Michigan. To round out her list of activities, Gillian was obtaining her sommelier certification before anesthesia school and hopes to complete that someday too!



**Brianna Ortals, MSN, CRNA,** is originally from Kansas City and then went to Texas Christian University in Fort Worth for her BSN. After working in the Neuro ICU in Texas for a couple of years, she did a variety of travel nursing assignments around

the Bay Area before being accepted into Samuel Merritt University's Nurse Anesthesia program. Brianna got engaged to her fiancé Kevin during school, and they are excited to finally start planning a wedding now that grad school is over! Two new jobs brought them both down to Southern California for the first time, and they kicked off their new life with getting an adorable Australian Shepherd puppy. Brianna loves traveling, cooking, playing tennis, and exploring LA!

**Fatima Padron, MSN, CRNA,** was a PICU nurse at Children's Hospital Los Angeles for eight years before obtaining her MSN from Texas Wesleyan University. In her free time, she enjoys spending with her family and her two children.

The spring of 2020 brought many challenges to our department and the nurse anesthesia team stepped up to help support the university's mission. **Shelly Anderson, CRNA,** and **Debbie Paris Teho, CRNA,** joined the DAPM COVID-19 Taskforce that met daily for several weeks to plan a strategy for the entire department. Both Shelly and Debbie met with the hospital's inpatient surge planning team to map out a strategy to utilize extra staff during the ramp down of surgical patients.

**Emily Pinho, CRNA,** and **Erica McCall, CRNA,** worked with the department's planning committee at UCLA-Santa Monica Hospital to prepare protocols and educate staff members on new workflows. Emily and **Allie Goltermann, CRNA,** trained with Shelly and

Debbie to learn the department's PPE plan during surgical cases. All five CRNAs helped train the staff department-wide in order to keep each other safe and show universal support during this anxiety-provoking time. These face-to-face PPE education classes were the few times a group could safely meet.



The pandemic policies moved the CRNA team out of the conference room and onto the Zoom platform. This became the main point of contact on campus, and soon we found ourselves using the platform to meet virtually with colleagues, friends, and family. The CRNA group also stays in contact sharing COVID-19 information, fun memes, and general support for each other on WhatsApp and Slack. These communication apps became a way of sharing vital information while connecting and sharing stories with colleagues.

Our group of 50 works hard to keep connected and support each other, from leaving towel animals for the next person in the call room to taking the time to check on each other in the operating room. That's what makes being a UCLA CRNA so great!

In early March, several of us met outside of work to "un-wine" at the Malibu Wine Safari. Getting together outside of work is a great way to get to know one another, build a strong team, and make memories. Thankfully, we made these great memories together in January and March before social distancing became the new way of life.

In April, the group continued wellness and team building efforts via Zoom with Madeline Elia, a licensed clinical social worker at the Simms-Mann



Integrative Oncology Center. During these past few months, she monitored and proactively offered support, resources and triage for the CRNA group. During this wellness meeting, the CRNA group set up a bike ride to the beach in July. Hopefully, the recent shutdowns will still allow for this outdoor activity to help boost mind, body, and spirit. Building a fun network outside of work, and using technology-based platforms such as WhatsApp, Slack, and Zoom, all help the CRNA team stay connected and active.





# Administrative Staff Update

**Q**uenesha Caballero joined us as a Quality Programs Administrative Analyst on March 23rd, just after the team began working remotely due to COVID-19.



Quenesha Caballero

*home family consists of my husband David, who is a Navy veteran and worked as an aircraft mechanic, and my four children: Damion (20), Tommy (14), Talia (9) and Camilla Rose (16 months). Both my first and last babies were born prematurely and spent three months in the NICU. Damion was born with sickle cell anemia and was later diagnosed with autism. We have had our share of hospital experiences in our personal lives.*

*I always knew I wanted to work in healthcare. I initially wanted to be a registered nurse for pediatric hematology/oncology patients, and then obtained my first ancillary job at Antelope Valley Hospital in 2005. From then on, I knew I needed to help the staff, patients and families but from behind the scenes and that has been my focus since that time.*

*Staying on top of schoolwork with the kids has been interesting, to say the least. It could just be me, but it seems like the workload has increased since they have been "Learning in Place". Working from home has had its benefits (woohoo – no commute!) and challenges (distractions from the family while working), but the wonderful thing about that is that we can rise to those challenges as they help make us stronger.*

*A typical work day for me during these times consists of waking up before the rest of the household, and making my cup of tea. I go to the dining area where my work area is set up, then I log onto my laptop and kick off my work day. Camilla Rose is generally next up, and she wakes up full of energy, singing and stumbling along as she learns to walk. David will*

Our nurse anesthetists continue to find ways to support the UCLA values to ensure Integrity, Compassion, Respect, Teamwork, Excellence and Discovery in the work we do daily. We look forward to continued growth for the rest of 2020 and interactive opportunities to support each other as well as the department.



Baby Yoda towel art



*play my assistant as he gets breakfast going for “the troops”. I set up schoolwork assignments for Tommy and Talia which they complete with some guidance needed every now and then. Damion will generally paint, read and/or play music throughout the day and everyone eats meals together.*

*The kids are very helpful with the baby girl and play a major role in keeping Camilla Rose entertained during work hours. On breaks and lunch hour, I play with the baby, check in on the schoolwork progress, and give ideas for other things that can be done around the house – fun stuff like folding clothes and sweeping floors – it is the highlight of their day, ha ha! Once work is done for all of us, we may watch a movie or TV show as a family, sing karaoke, or do some other form of group activity. All in all, we get through the day, some days more smoothly than others, but to say the least I am truly grateful for this opportunity.”*

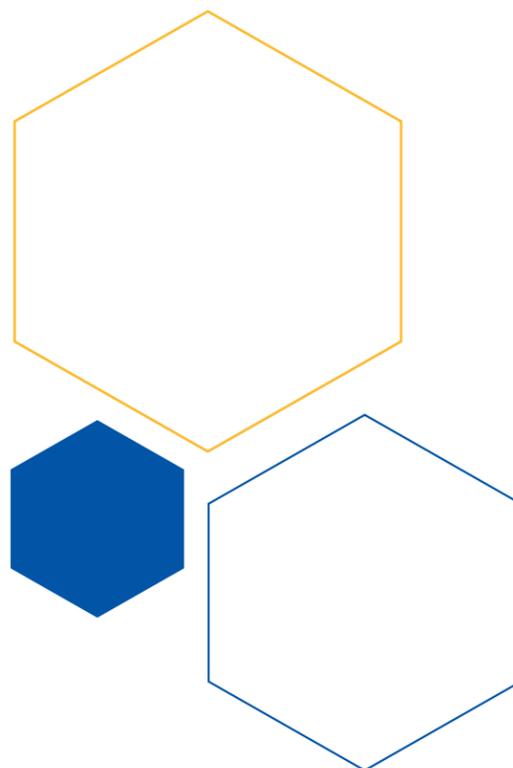
**Maria Cornejo-Guevara, MA**, joined the Clinical Research Team as a Clinical Research Coordinator in early March.



*“I’m a UCLA alumna, graduated with BA in Psychology and later obtained an MA in Psychology from Pepperdine University. I have been research staff at UCLA since 2014 at Semel, Family Medicine, and now Anesthesiology. I enjoy working in research because it has the potential to impact care and the overall wellbeing of vulnerable populations.*

*Working from home has been an interesting transition, but I have found that even in the distance it is easy to feel connected to everyone in the team. Open communication and a collaborative environment have been a great support in my transition to working in the department and from home. Being with my dog while I work has also been great!*

*In my free time, I enjoy going on hikes with my dog, reading, and painting. During the stay-home period I was able to read six books so I’m on track for my goal of 12 books this year! I hope to be able to run a marathon one day when things go back to ‘normal!’”*



# Supporting Each Other

by Shevaughn Marchese



Shevaughn Marchese

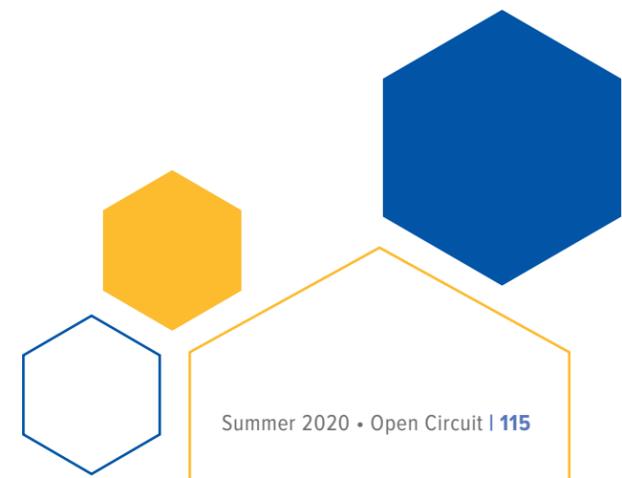
The uncertainty and potential peril many felt during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic posed a new challenge for our peer supporters. We were trained to support colleagues under stress due to personal experiences, but a pandemic was a different situation entirely. We as peer supporters felt the same fight-or-flight urges and had the same practical concerns everyone else faced.

Fortunately, at the start of the stay-at-home order, faculty member Keren Ziv, MD, and I were invited to join the UCLA Health COVID-19 Wellness Taskforce. Pooling resources from the group’s experts, including Brenda Bursch, PhD, and Melissa Brymer, PsyD, PhD, we offered peer supporters educational material specifically created for them during the pandemic, and a dedicated clinical mental health specialist for referrals by peer supporters or self-referrals by individuals. In addition, we distributed resources for our personnel via web and the messaging app, Slack, on topics ranging from self-care to homeschooling. We also ensured 24/7 coverage for Peer Support calls.



Keren Ziv, MD

Several months prior, the health system launched the first Physician Wellness Oversight Committee. Under the direction of Chief Medical and Quality Officer Robert Cherry, MD, and led by psychiatrist Karen Miotto, MD, and Rebecca Wilkinson, Program Manager of the Physician Wellness Program, the group is developing a formal framework for physician wellness organization on campus. Having advocated for this type of supportive oversight for wellness activities in the DGSOM, we continue to contribute insight based on our experience with Anesthesiology Wellness, and look forward to continued leadership from the Wellness Committee.



# BABIES! Our UCLA family keeps on growing



1



2



3



7



8



9



4



6



10



5

## IMAGES

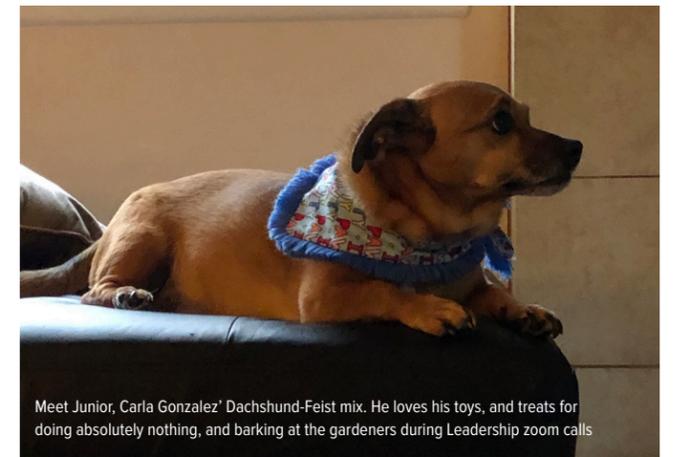
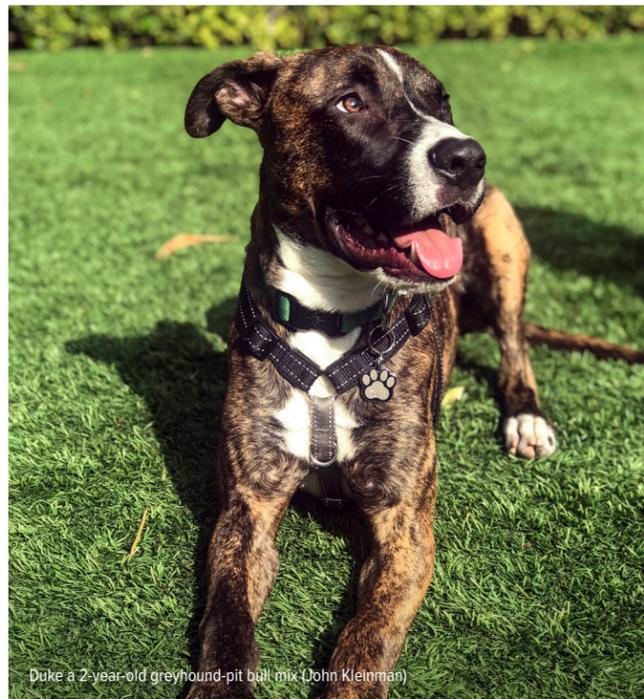
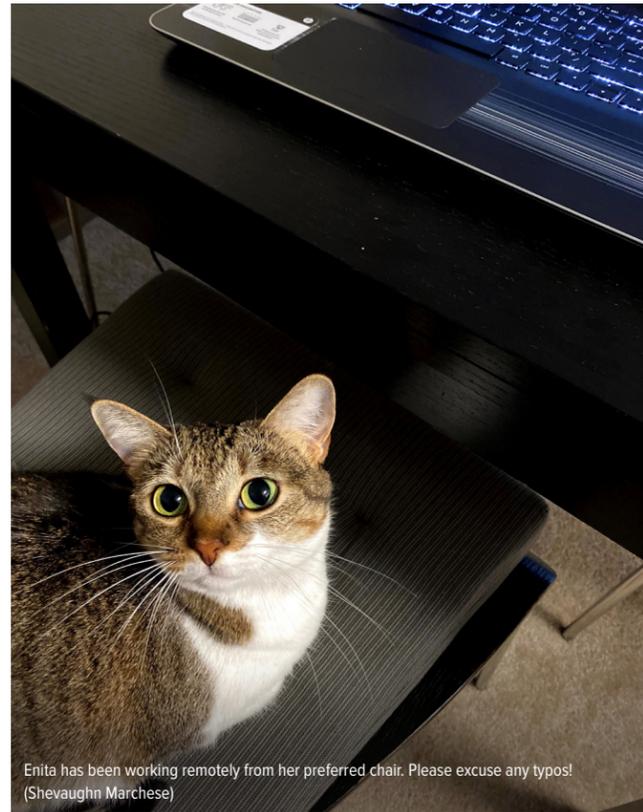
1. Adorable baby Camilla Rose is the youngest member of Quenesha Caballero's family.
2. Arianna, one-year-old daughter of Shevaughn Marchese, loves the beach. The sand wins, hands down.
3. Baby girl Charlotte! Born May 14 to recent graduate Tracie Lo, MD, and husband Jack Howard, 6 lb 9 oz.
4. Big sister Emma Navi rocking baby Hannah
5. Cody Houseman, CRNA, and wife Kelsy welcomed baby girl Nellie Cruz 6 months ago
6. Daniel Lee Wong, born Feb. 21 to faculty member Annie Lee, MD, MBA, and husband Brian Wong. They thank Drs. Jason Hirsch and Stefan Besada for a wonderful anesthesia experience!

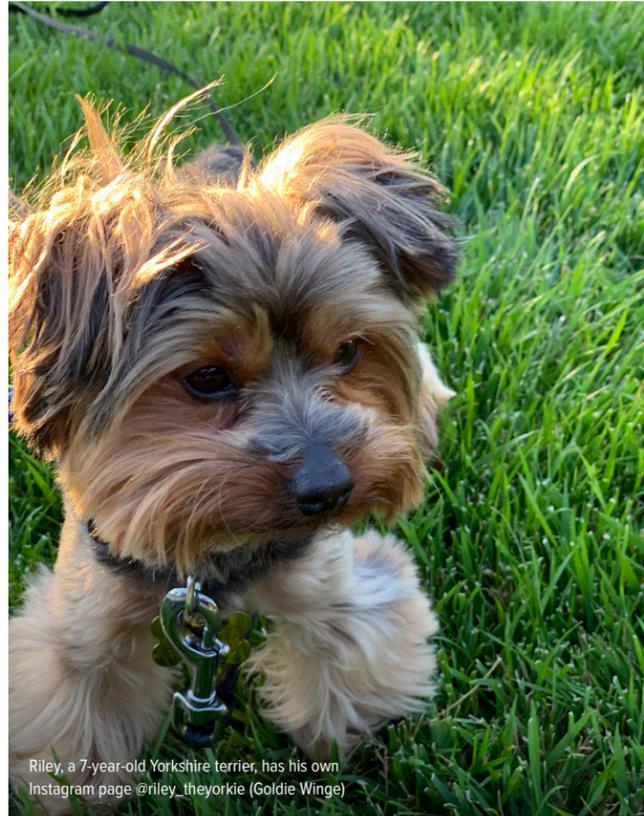
## IMAGES

7. Lucia loves being a big sister to Luka Warren Boldt, born April 28. The proud dad is faculty member David Boldt, MD, MS
8. Proud mom Thao Hoang, CRNA, welcomed baby girl Kennedy Linh Wagner on Jan. 29, weighing in at 8 lb 3 oz.

9. Recent graduate Matt Klekman and his wife Emily welcomed baby Emerson on Feb 19
10. Recent graduate Sheila Navi and husband Danny welcomed cherubic baby girl Hannah on June 11, 6 lb 13 oz.

# At The End Of a Long Day (Or Night), It's Great To Come Home To Our Pets





Riley, a 7-year-old Yorkshire terrier, has his own Instagram page @riley\_theYorkie (Goldie Winge)



Romeo and Blue (Jure Marijic)



Where is Blue?? (Jure Marijic)



Our quarantine kitten Andie learning at the feet of big sister Christie (Karen Sibert)



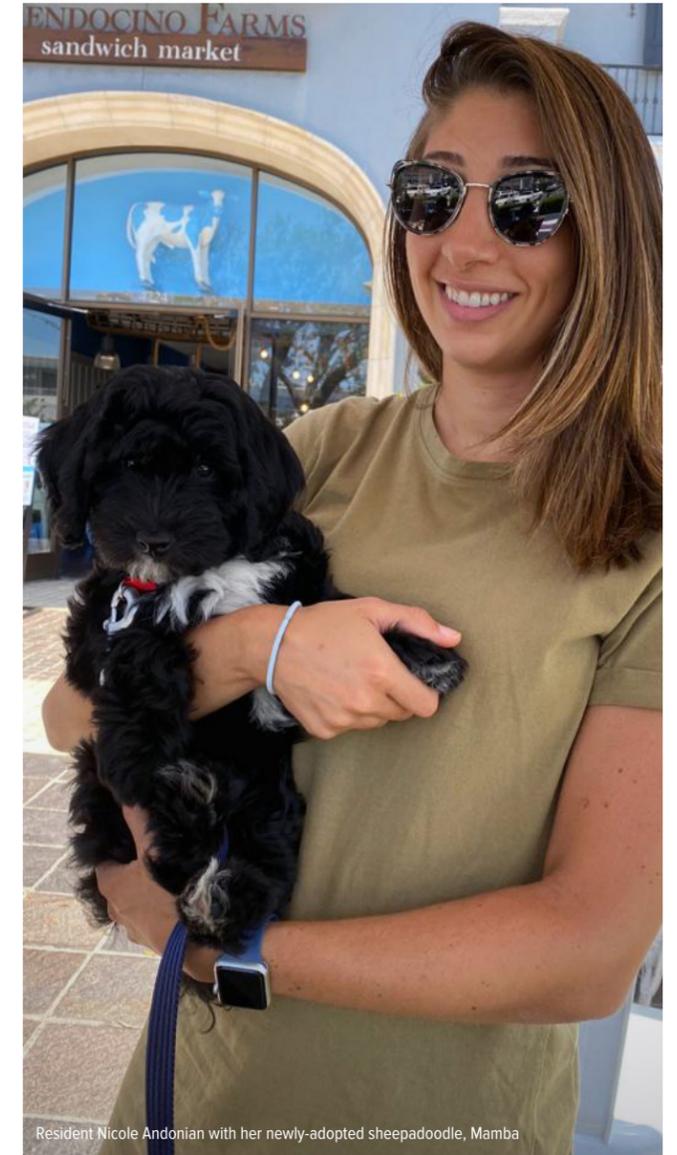
Stella, left, & Reese, right, pose perfectly for mom, Kristin Christian - no treats required!



Sully, a 6-month-old lab pup (Christian Dib)



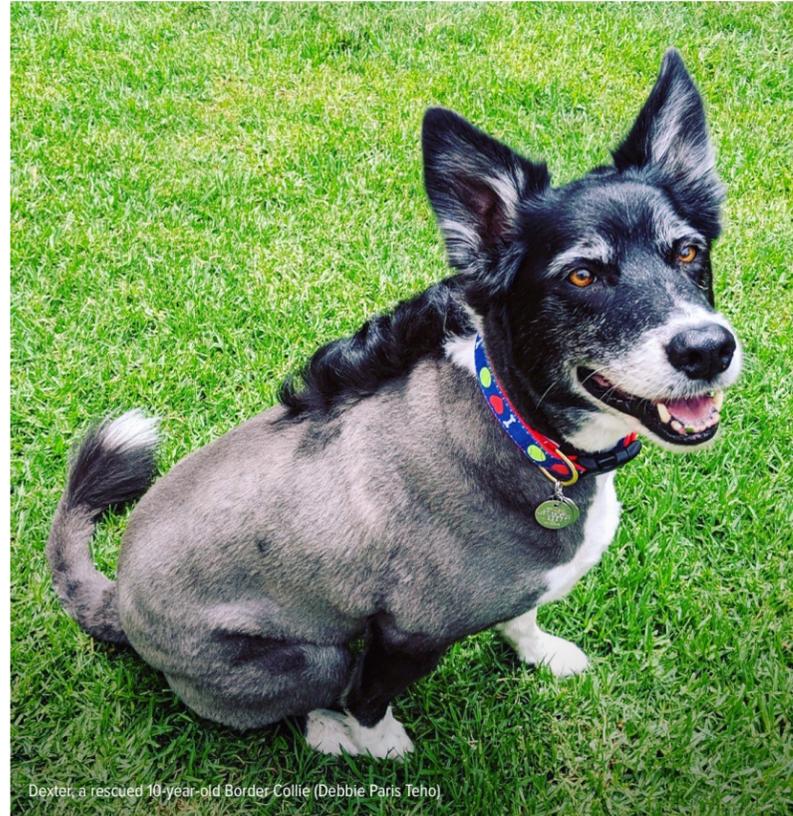
Titus and Frank, rescue German Shepherds (Mary Keyes)



Resident Nicole Andonian with her newly-adopted sheepadoodle, Mamba



Star, age 3+, a sun conure (Ali Salehi)



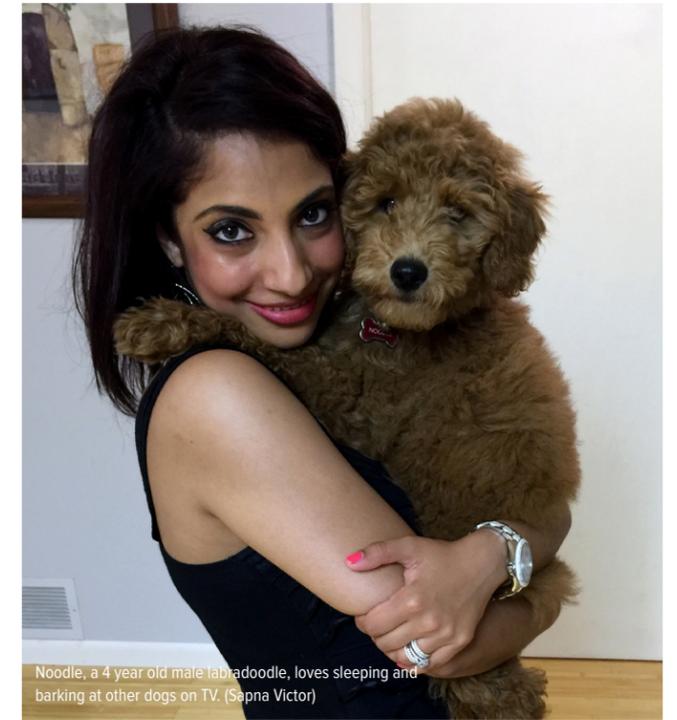
Dexter, a rescued 10-year-old Border Collie (Debbie Paris Teho)



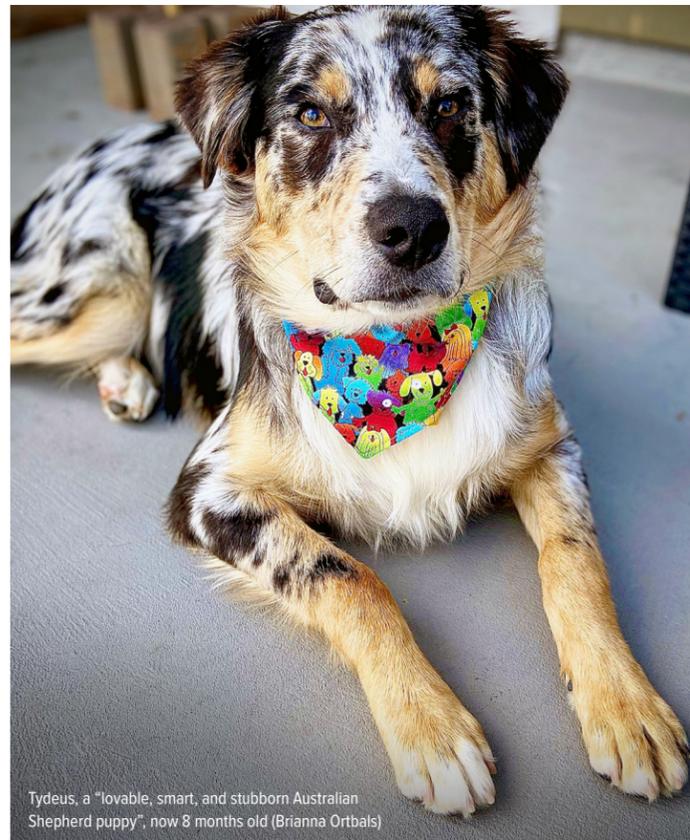
European Great Dane cousins Rome, 10 mos, and Paris, 3 (Allison Leveque)



Gena Dix rescued Stark (named after GOT), a shepherd/terrier/lab mix



Noodle, a 4 year old male labradoodle, loves sleeping and barking at other dogs on TV. (Sepna Victor)



Tydeus, a "lovable, smart, and stubborn Australian Shepherd puppy", now 8 months old (Brianna Ortbals)



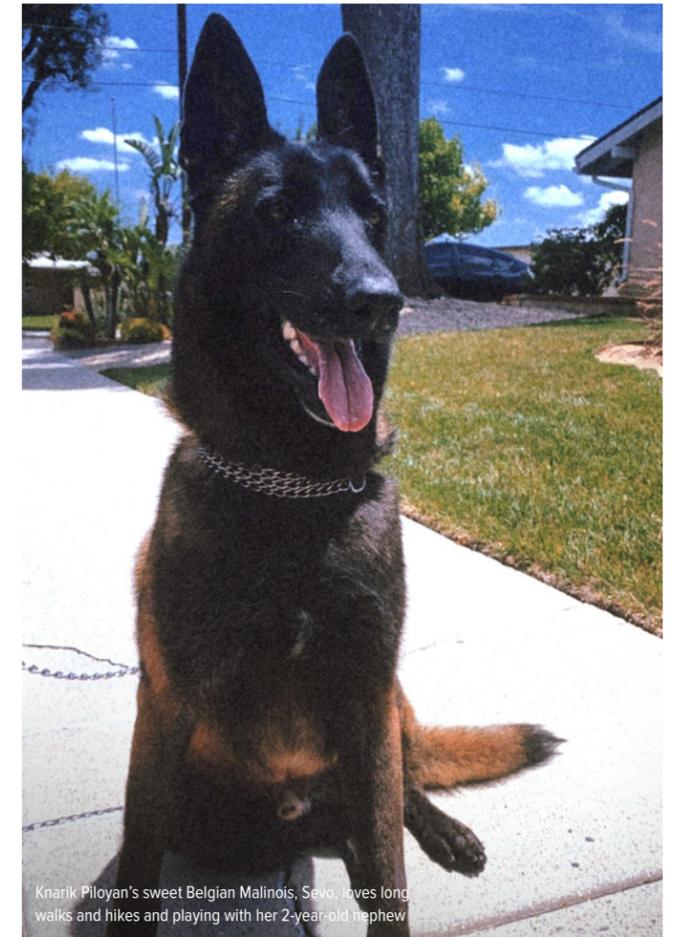
Shangool and Mangool, one-year-old siblings (family of Laleh Jalilian)



Eazy is thrilled he gets to spend more time this summer with Sally Alvarez-Decordova



Tessa the tabby cat, age 2 (Ariea Davani)



Knarik Ployan's sweet Belgian Malinois, Sevo, loves long walks and hikes and playing with her 2-year-old nephew

---

# With Your Help Through Giving...

The UCLA Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine has the potential to advance research, make anesthesia even safer, diagnose risk factors, prevent complications, and give every patient hope for a quick return to health and full activity.

Your generosity can help make this possible through multi-year pledges, outright gifts, commemorative gifts, commemorative gifts, planned giving such as trusts and bequests, and endowed giving. Please consider a gift as part of your year-end tax planning.

## **ONLINE:**

Please visit our website to donate:  
<https://www.uclahealth.org/anes/giving>

## **MAIL:**

Please make your check or money order payable to the UCLA Foundation, and write "Department of Anesthesiology" in the memo line.

## **PLEASE ADDRESS THE ENVELOPE TO THE ATTENTION OF: Stephanie Fisher, Chief Administrative Officer**

Dept. of Anesthesiology Business Office  
10833 Le Conte Ave., BH 714 CHS  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7115

## **PHONE:**

Please call 310-267-8679



# Thank you!

