

Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Education Newsletter

Letter from the Program Director

The 2017 – 2018 academic year represented the final year of our independent residency program. Since graduating its first residents in 1953, the UCLA Plastic Surgery Independent Program has served as one of the premiere plastic surgery training pathways for residents who have already completed a foundational residency in General Surgery or subspecialty surgery. The transition to an integrated program, which began in 2013 and will graduate its first class of residents in 2019, shifts plastic surgery to a core training program, accepting applicants straight out of medical school.

This transition represents a paradigm shift for our training program and we have used this past year to prepare for it by reevaluating and restructuring our didactic curriculum. We are incorporating more dissection courses into our educational schedule and creating more opportunities for residents to engage each other as both teachers and learners. We have relocated our Visiting Professor series to the Luskin Conference Center and look forward look forward to another year filled with talks from leaders in the field.

In an effort to continue developing its ongoing research projects and clinical outcomes studies, UCLA Plastic Surgery recruited a research coordinator. Irene Chang has spent the last year working with residents and faculty on wide range of studies and quality improvement projects. We look forward to our residents' and faculty presenting their research at Plastic Surgery's national meeting in Chicago.

For more than 65 years, UCLA Plastic Surgery has trained academic plastic surgeons. Graduates of our programs have gone on to join the faculty at UCLA, USC, Stanford, the University of Pittsburgh, Johns Hopkins, the Mayo Clinic—the list goes on. Our integrated program builds on a foundation of academic excellence and we hope its trainees will continue adding to UCLA Plastic Surgery's storied legacy.

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Special points of interest

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- New Research Coordinator
- Resident Awards and Accolades
- Thank You Notes
- Graduation

George Pull

George Rudkin, MD, FACS
Clinical Professor and Program Director
UCLA Division of Plastic Surgery

YOU'RE INVITED

Resident and Fellow Welcome Reception

Tuesday, July 10th 5:30PM

Luskin Conference Center

The reception will be held before dinner conference.

Please RSVP to Megan Fuller

Welcome New Residents and Fellows!

Please join us in welcoming our new residents and fellows to UCLA! We look forward to another wonderful year. We matched with three exceptional residents and look forward to seeing their accomplishments as they begin their training. PGY1 Residents will begin their rotations June 24, 2018.

Jake Alford, MD
UT Southwestern

Han Hoang, MD Craniofacial Fellow

Meaghan Barr, MD
David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA

Christopher Reid, MD Microsurgery Fellow

Karie Villanueva, MD
Geisinger Commonwealth

Joshua Rouch, MD Transferring in as PGY3

Dr. Fu Chan Wei is the type of surgeon we all strive to be like—innovative, knowledgeable, technically skilled, and extremely humble. Despite his status, he is one of the kindest and most inspiring people I have met. - Raquel Ulma, MD, DDS

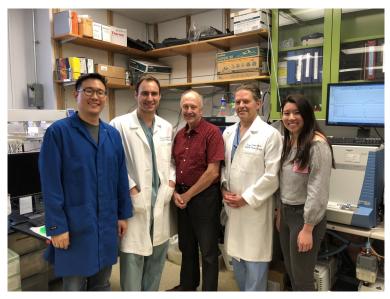
Dr. Fu-Chan Wei Visits Los Angeles

We had the pleasure of inviting Dr. Fu Chan Wei to UCLA. Dr. Wei, the highly revered microsurgeon from Chang Gung University Medical College in Taiwan, is best known for fibula free flap. Plastic Surgery faculty and residents from across Southern California gathered at the Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles for an evening of dinner and grand rounds. UCLA Residents had the pleasure of listening to an additional lecture by Dr. Wei at our Wednesday morning didactic conference.







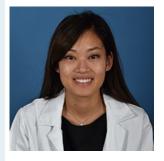




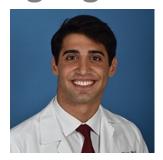




Education Program Highlights







In June 2017, UCLA Plastic Surgery welcomed new trainees.

University

Vicky Kang, MD College: NYU Medical School: Rush Medical College

Corbin Muetterties, MD
College: College of
William and Mary
Medical School: Temple

Sean Saadat, MD
College: George Mason
University
Medical School: George
Washington University

Plastic Surgery Boot Camp

In August 2017, Vicky Kang, MD and Sean Saadat, MD attended the 3rd Annual ACAPS Plastic Surgery Boot Camp in San Diego.

"The purpose of this new program is to facilitate the transition of both Integrated and Independent residents into Plastic Surgery training. We believe the Boot Camp will provide standardized and timely exposure to critical clinical content in Plastic Surgery, helping to keep us both accountable for the global education of our trainees and on the forefront of adult surgical education. We have therefore established a "hands-on", practicum-based, three-day weekend course; focusing on high-yield topics, in a "low/no risk" educational environment." -ACAPS







Residents Learn How to Use Their Head



Michael Bentz, MD, Chair of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Wisconsin, Madison led a Mohs reconstruction lecture with the residents through the use of Styrofoam heads. Residents spent the morning with Dr. Bentz mapping out a variety of facial defects and worked together to carefully plan the reconstruction.





"It was an honor having the opportunity to work with Dr Bentz, who remains one of the true leaders in the field of plastic surgery. His dedication to resident education was clearly evident in the time he invested to prepare a hands on teaching lab focused on teaching us the fundamentals of local flap reconstruction in Mohs surgery" - Corbin Muetterties, MD

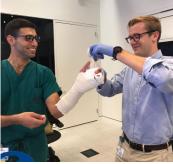




CASIT: Advancing Surgical Skills Through Innovation

The Center for Advanced Surgical and Interventional Technology (CASIT) has been home to many of our didactic events this year. Residents had the opportunity to create ears from silicone, practice splinting, and participate in a cleft-lip lab with a newly designed 3D printed model. Hannah Riedle, a graduate student at FAU Erlangen Nurnberg University in Germany, is conducting her dissertation research on silicone based 3D printing for biomedical applications. We had the pleasure of welcoming Hannah to Los Angeles and watching her work come to life in CASIT.























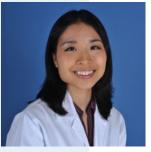








Awards & Research



Nance Yuan, MD attended the annual ASPS meeting in Orlando, Florida presenting her abstract titled *A Successful Approach for Salvage of Infected Breast Implants in the Setting of Acellular Dermal Matrix*.



Gina Farias-Eisner, MD was awarded a \$1,500 travel scholarship to attend the 2018 Women in Plastic Surgery Retreat by the ASPS Women Plastic Surgeons Steering Committee. She was selected out of a record number of applicants.



Ginger Gruszynski, MD attended the annual ASRM meeting in Phoenix, Arizona to present her research on decreased surgical site infection rates after implementing a standardized protocol.



Sean Saadat, MD attended the annual Facial Aesthetics and Rhinoplasty Symposium Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada with faculty member, Dr. Jason Roostaeian. Dr. Saadat helped to create a presentation outlining the difference between septal extension grafts and Columellar strut grafts in rhinoplasty and their impact on nasal tip projection and rotation.



Miles Pfaff, MD attended the annual Association of Craniofacial Surgery meeting in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania to present research done with fellow resident, **Edward Nahabet, MD**, on Psychosocial Dysfunction Of Children With Craniofacial Anomalies And Monolingual Spanish Parents In Los Angeles.

Cathy Tang, MD attended the annual AAPS Aesthetic meeting in Manhattan, New York to present a case series conducted with Dr. Thomas Willson on breast implant capsule related squamous cell carcinoma.



Michael DeLong, MD has accepted a year long research fellowship with the FDA. Dr. DeLong will be the Senior Staff Fellow at the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health working with the general surgery and plastic surgery regulatory branches as a clinical consultant and project leader.



Plastic Surgery Welcomes New Research Coordinator

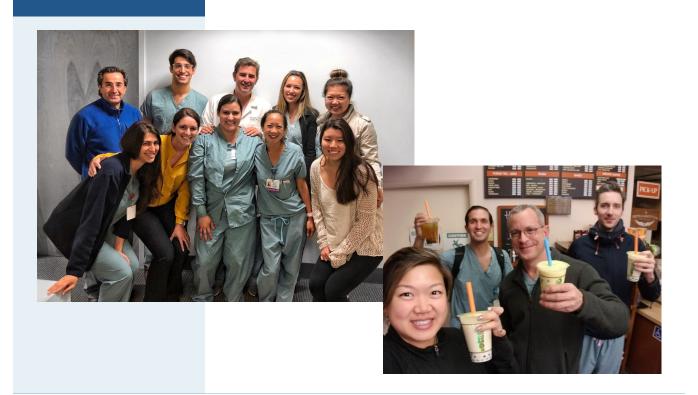


Irene Chang joined the Plastic Surgery team as the Research Coordinator in September 2017. Working closely with both resident and faculty physicians, she facilitates numerous research projects that aim to reduce complication rates, increase patient satisfaction, and improve care. Within the past year at UCLA, her work has contributed to over 15 research projects and resulted in co-authorships on poster presentations and manuscript submissions.

Irene graduated in May 2017 from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor's degree in Molecular and Cell Biology. Irene was born and raised in Santa Monica, CA. Her favorite local eatery is Sunny Blue, a casual Japanese omusubi hotspot.







"I've always valued the emphasis on mentorship at UCLA. Attendings and senior residents are committed to our growth and that brings us all closer as a division" - Kameron Rezzadeh, MD (PGY2)



Lights, camera, action! The UCLA Plastic Surgery Integrated Residency Program rolled out a new recruitment video this year. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it a success! It currently has over 5,500 views. Visit our website to check it out!

Encouraging Women In Surgery



Cathy Tang, MD and **Irene Pien, MD** participated in the combined Surgery and Women in Surgery Interest Groups. The groups inform and guide medical students who are interested pursuing a surgical career. "It is wonderful to be able to mentor students who have such enthusiasm to start their careers. It reminds me of why I pursued this profession in the first place" - Cathy Tang, MD

Going the Distance







Ever wonder what our residents do outside of the hospital? **Jessica Chang, MD** and **Gina Farias-Eisner, MD** ran the Los Angeles Marathon. Over 24,000 athletes from all 50 states and more than 63 countries set out from Dodger Stadium to the finish line in Santa Monica.

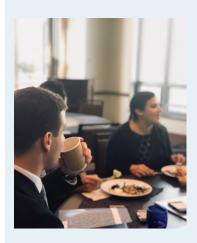
Residency Program Interviews

This years interview season was exciting as we transitioned from holding interviews in the Plastic Surgery clinic to inviting applicants to the newly built, UCLA Luskin Conference Center. Similar to prior years, we received over 200 applications for our three PGY1 spots in Plastic Surgery. Interviews were held in December and January. Our faculty invited 24 applicants to interview.

We truly enjoyed getting to know the remarkable and talented young men and women who applied to our program.













UCLA Plastic Surgery was featured in the Winter 2017 issue of the Plastic Surgery Resident magazine. Check it out online.



Exciting News!

Weddings:

Irene Pien, MD

Birth Announcements:

Miles Pfaff, MD - River Alejandro Pfaff Andrew Vardanian, MD (Faculty) - Matthew James Vardanian



Irene Pien, MD was married at the Santa Barbara courthouse in November 2017.



Miles Pfaff, MD welcomed River Pfaff this year. Pictured: River and Loic Pfaff

Tara and Jill: You are always good for a smile and a laugh and can brighten anyone's day. *-Cathy Tang, MD*

Irene: Thank you for your help with my research this year.
Your can-do attitude has strengthened our entire division. You rock!
-Ginger Gruszynski, MD

Tamala: You have become such a great addition to the Harbor Plastics family. Thanks for being available at any hour, any day to offer a helping hand. *-Ginger Gruszynski, MD*

Jonathan & Alan: Thank you for taking care of our CASIT sessions and special requests. We appreciate you!

A special thanks to **Irene Chang** for helping to ramp up our research productivity this year.

-Cathy Tang, MD

Thank

Kris and Andrew: Our OR mom and dad, for making sure cases run smoothly and for keeping us entertained with delicious treats, and trivia questions of the day. *-Cathy Tang, MD*

Grace & Travis: Thank you for making our dissections organized and educational. The hands on experience is invaluable and we couldn't do it without you.

Dr. Willson: Thank you for opening up your home to the residents every month for teaching and fellowship.

Tamala: For her indefatigable dedication to our Harbor-UCLA team and patients. We are so grateful to you for your exceptional organizational skills in scheduling cases and clinic, your compassion and kindness for our patients, your enthusiasm and energy for assisting us no matter the time or location, and your recognition that snacks and hydration immediately improve resident happiness. Your contagious laughter and hard work make our day to day experience as resident surgeons enjoyable and less stressful. Thank you for everything! *-The Residents*

Thank you to all of our 2017—2018 Dinner Conference Speakers

Babak Mehrara, MD
Val Lambros, MD
Prosper Benhaim MD
Christopher Crisera, MD
C. Scott Hultman, MD
Michael Bentz, MD
Elizabeth Hall-Findlay, MD

2018 Excellence In Education Faculty Awards

Prosper Benhaim, MD Arezou Yaghoubian, MD

2018 Resident Research Award

Ginger Gruszynski, MD

2018 Outstanding Resident Teacher Award

Ginger Gruszynski, MD

2018 Highest In-Service Exam Score

Michael DeLong, MD

Graduation

Congratulations to our graduating residents and fellows! We wish you all the best as you continue your careers in Plastic Surgery.

Where are they headed?

Residents:

Andrew Li, MD —Hand Fellowship, UC Irvine
Cathy Tang, MD— Hand Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University
Raquel Ulma, MD, DDS—Craniofacial Fellowship, University of Michigan

Fellows:

Casian Monaco, MD— Assistant Professor, Albany Medical Center Thomas Willson, MD—Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Reconstructive, and Cosmetic Surgery, Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont













2017 -2018 Residents & Fellows

Integrated Program

Vicky Kang, MD

PGY1 Corbin Muetterties, MD

Sean Saadat, MD

Alex Lambi, MD, PhD

PGY2 Edward Nahabet, MD

Kameron Rezzadeh, MD

Jessica Chang, MD

PGY3 Irene Pien, MD

Michael Januszyk, MD, PhD

Michael DeLong, MD

PGY4 Gina Farias-Eisner, MD

Miles Pfaff, MD

Mark Gruszynski, MD

PGY5 Ginger Gruszynski, MD

Nance Yuan, MD

Independent Program

Andrew Li, MD

PGY8 Cathy Tang, MD

Raquel Ulma, MD, DDS

Fellows

Craniofacial Fellow Thomas Willson, MD

Microsurgery Fellow Casian Monaco, MD

2018 -2019 Residents & Fellows

Integrated Program

Jake Alford, MD PGY1 Meaghan Barr, MD

Karie Villanueva, MD

Vicky Kang, MD

PGY2 Corbin Muetterties, MD

Sean Saadat, MD

Alex Lambi, MD, PhD

PGY3 Edward Nahabet, MD

Kameron Rezzadeh, MD

Joshua Rouch, MD

PGY4 Jessica Chang, MD

Irene Pien, MD

Gina Farias-Eisner, MD

PGY5 Miles Pfaff, MD

Nance Yuan, MD

PGY6 Mark Gruszynski, MD

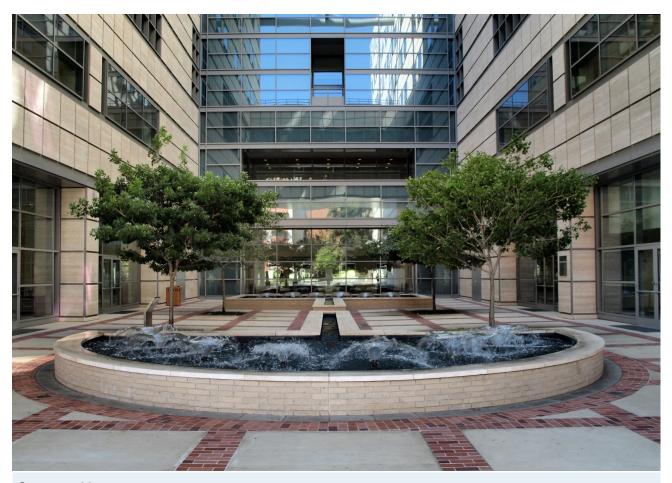
Ginger Gruszynski, MD

Research Year Michael DeLong, MD

Fellows

Craniofacial Fellow Han Hoang, MD

Microsurgery Fellow Christopher Reid, MD



Contact Us

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