



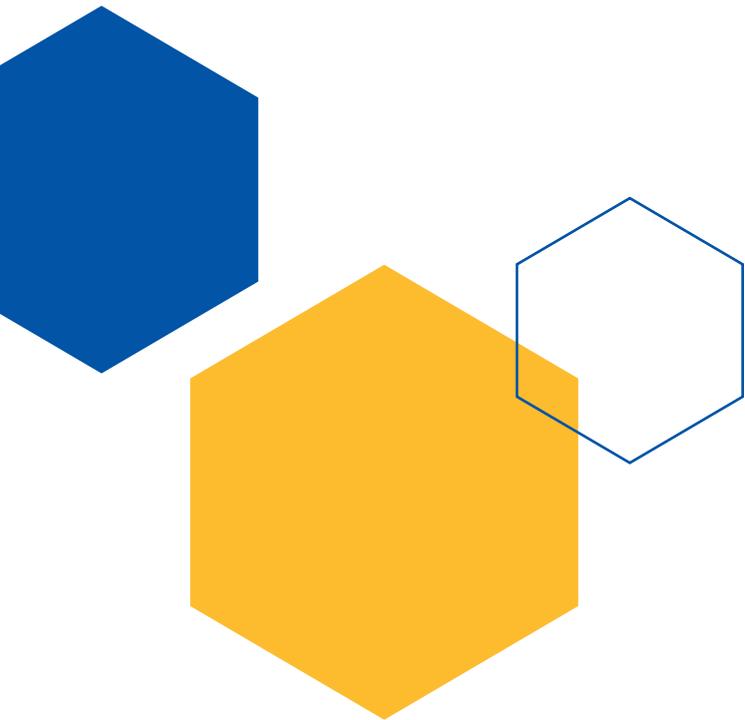
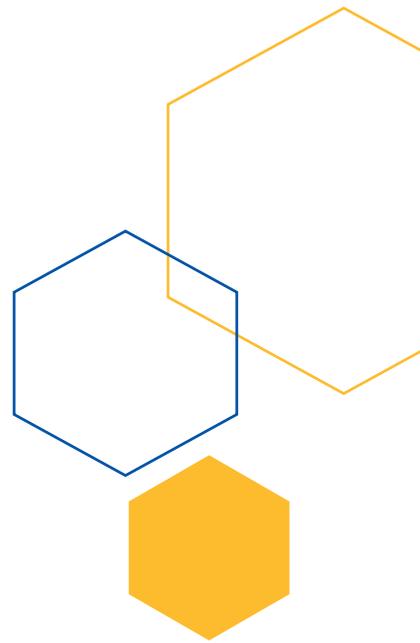
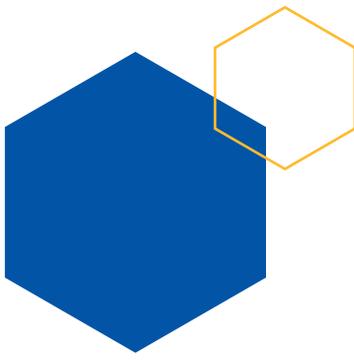
# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!

**UCLA DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY  
& PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE**



David Geffen  
School of Medicine

**UCLA** Health



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**EDITOR: KAREN SIBERT, MD, FASA**  
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# Chair's Farewell

By Barbara Van de Wiele, MD | Interim Chair



Dear Graduating Residents and Fellows,

Congratulations on your graduation!

Let's celebrate everything you achieved to get to where you are today.

Let's celebrate the leadership of the department educational programs, the staff, those involved in didactic and clinical education, and everyone generous enough to share their experience and knowledge with you.

Let's celebrate the fortitude of your class during an uncertain time.

Let's celebrate a bright future for all of you, with success as each of you defines it.

And on that note, I leave you with the following quote: "Whatever you think you can do or believe you can do, begin it. Action has magic, grace and power in it."<sup>1</sup> I hope it will be an inspiration for you as it has been for me.

With best wishes in challenging times!  
Stay safe –

**Barbara Van de Wiele, MD**  
**Clinical Professor and Interim Chair**  
*UCLA Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine*



1. Quote (widely) misattributed to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a misattribution (likely) originating in the book *The Scottish Himalayan Expedition* (1951) by William Hutchinson Murray, a Scottish mountaineer.



# Remembering a Remarkable Year

By Judi Turner, MD, PhD



The UCLA Anesthesiology Class of 2020 will remember graduation for reasons that are unique in the history of our department, health system,

and country. As has happened to so many graduates this year, the requirement to adhere to rules for social distancing has precluded their hard-earned and much-anticipated annual graduation ceremony that serves to honor these doctors' many years of preparation and training.

When our residents joined the UCLA Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine as interns in June 2016, they could not have guessed the events that they would experience. During their first summer in training, the Summer Olympics were held in Brazil, the first games to take place in South America. In 2017, SpaceX recycled and reused a space rocket for the first time in history. In 2018, Meghan Markle married Prince Harry, and we experienced the longest lunar eclipse of the 21st century. In 2019, scientists from the Event Horizon Telescope project announced the first-ever image of a black hole, located in the center of the M87 galaxy.

Our graduating class also experienced many firsts at work during their time here at UCLA. They were among the first residents to use sugammadex regularly in the operating room, to participate in unionization (including successfully advocating for a significant housing stipend), and to experience and shape our response to the unprecedented demands of patient care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The leadership, ingenuity, and heart that these class members have demonstrated throughout their training, and especially in the recent challenging months of the current health crisis, are inspiring to everyone with whom they work. We are confident that they have the skills and experience to go out into this evolving healthcare world ready for any challenge!





In an attempt to provide these deserving new anesthesiologists with an alternative, physical memorial of this momentous time, our department created this Class of 2020 yearbook. We hope that this memento will serve as a token of our appreciation to be enjoyed into the future by our graduating residents and fellows.

Best wishes in your personal and professional futures!

**Judi Turner, MD, PhD**  
*Residency Program Director*





# A Normal 2019, and Then Came the COVID Spring

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 RRMCM 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 the 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 only faculty members 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 (PUJ). 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 the 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.



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



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



daily OR schedule was down to 30 percent of the normal schedule, 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 RRMU, 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.

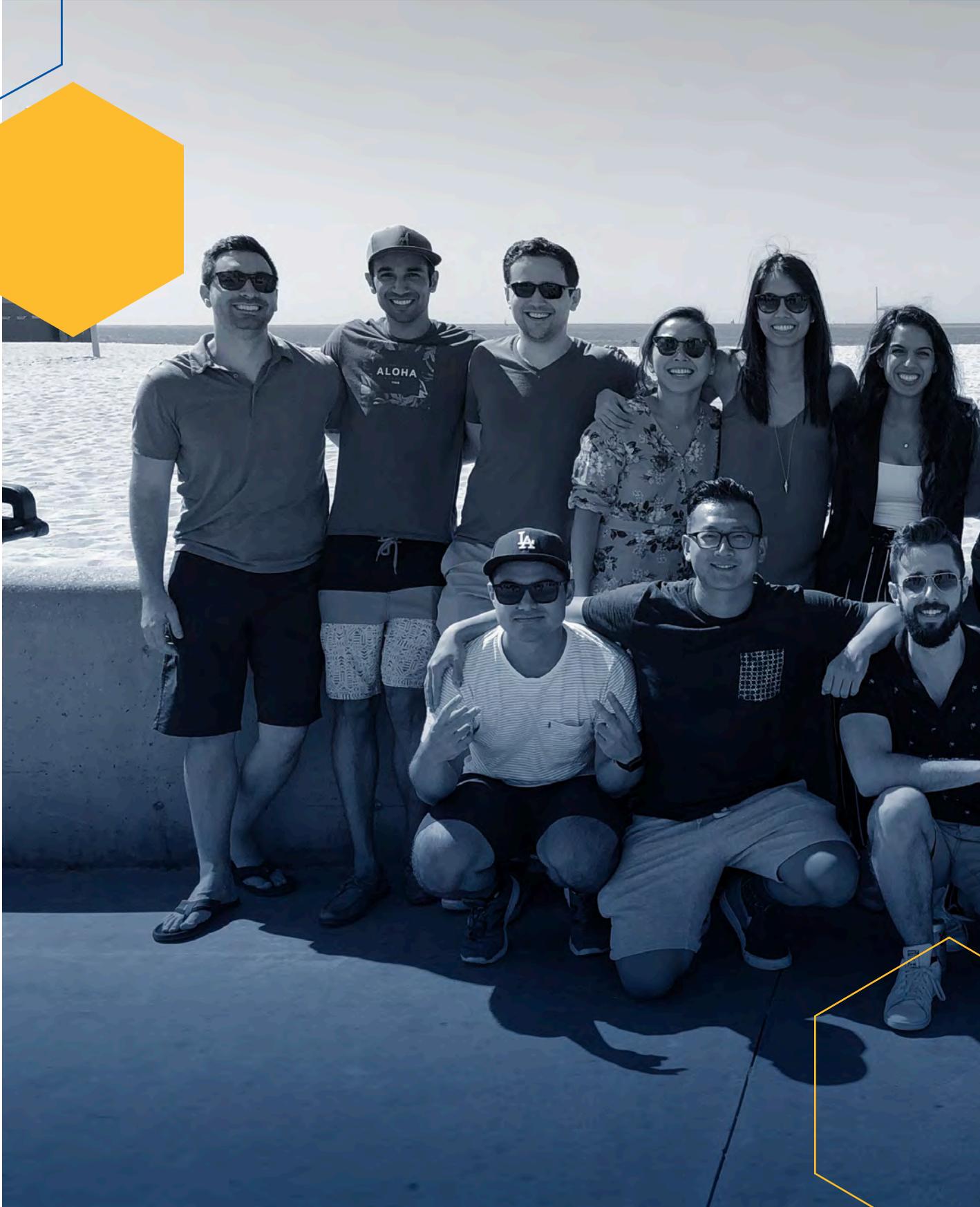
Will another COVID surge happen this fall? Will travel to ASA and other meetings ever resume? Will the trend toward virtual Grand Rounds and telemedicine preop visits persist even after restrictions are lifted? When will the next resident happy hour ever happen? As of this writing, no one knows what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





# 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!*



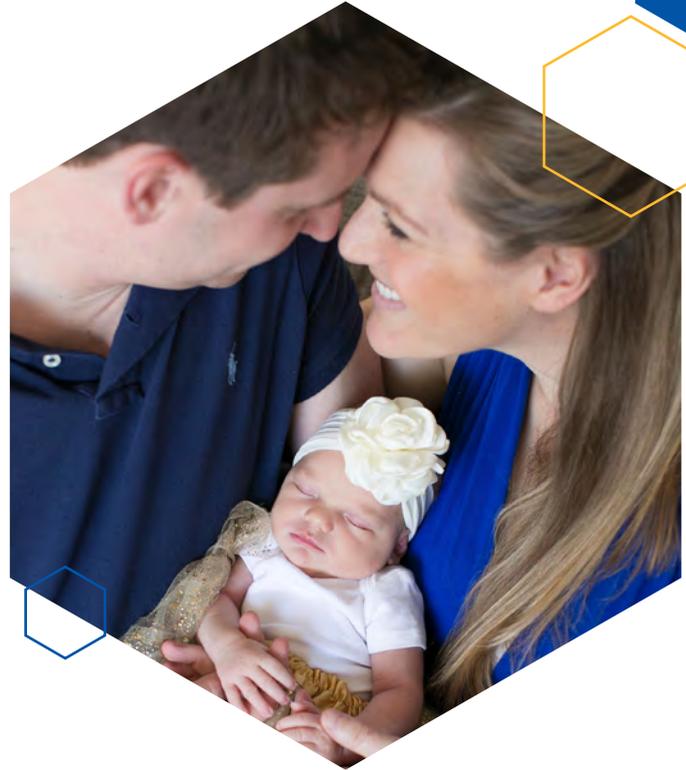
## From the Program Directors –

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.*

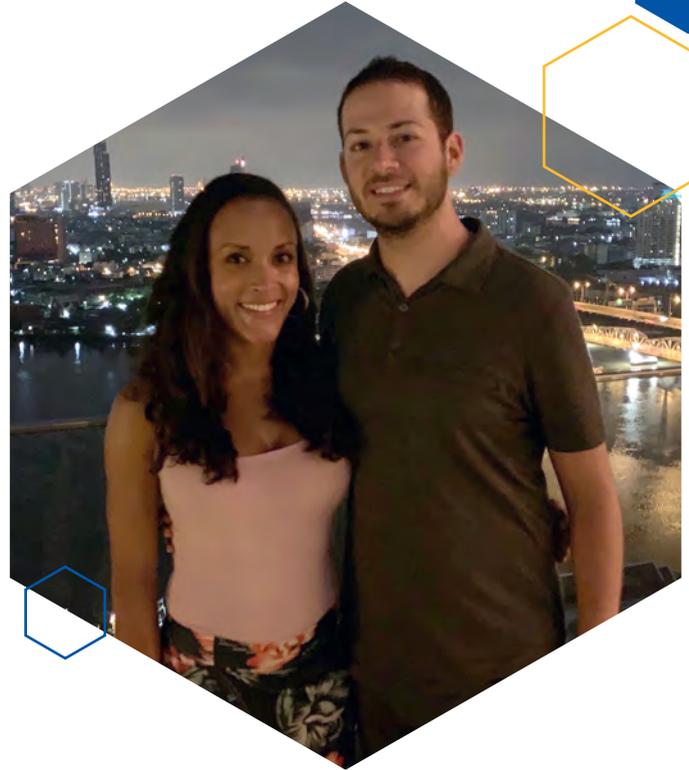


## From the Program Directors –

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.

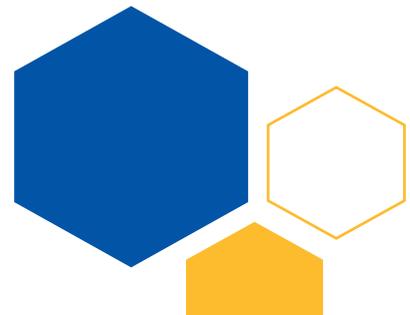
# Elizabeth Feenstra, MD

*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.



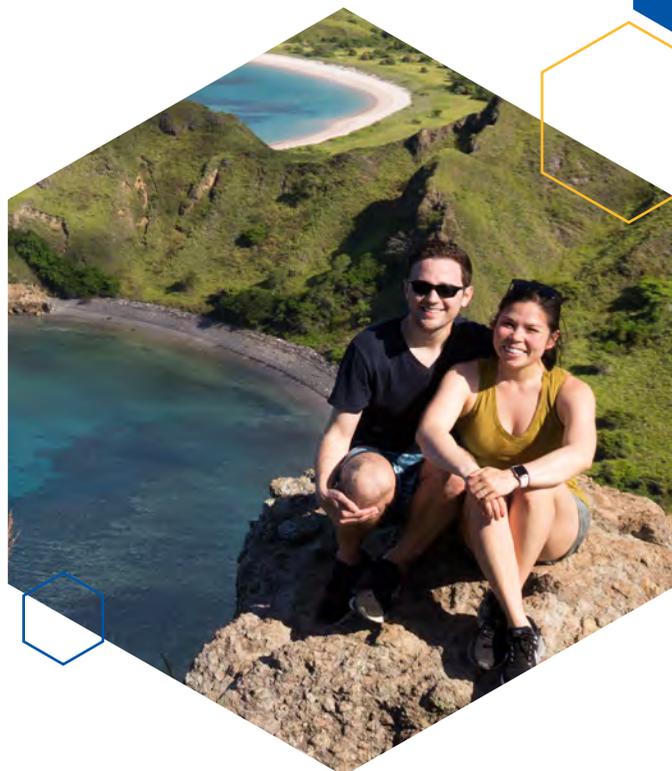
# Matthew Klekman, MD *Chief Resident*

*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 Kusonruksa, MD



## From the Program Directors –

Dr. Kusonruska 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. Kusonruska 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.*

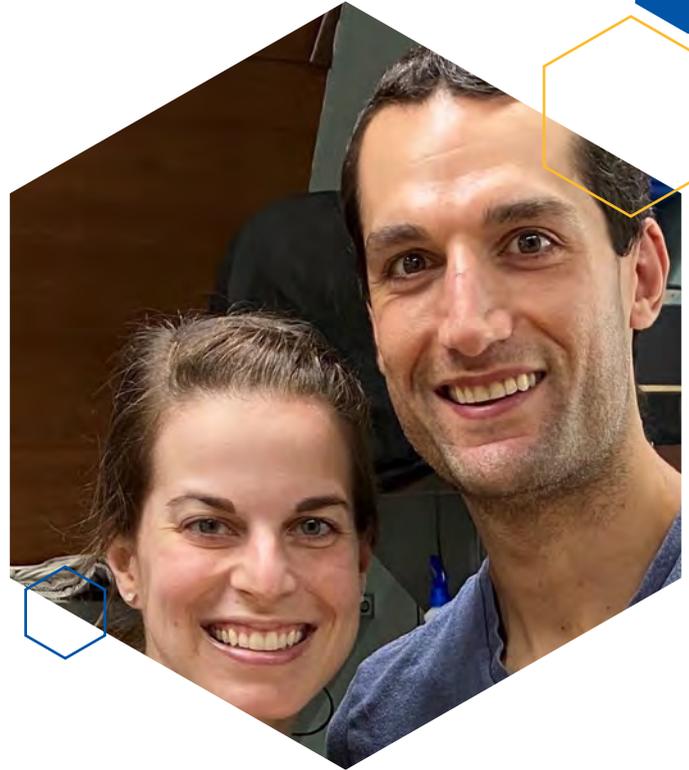


## **From the Program Directors –**

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.*

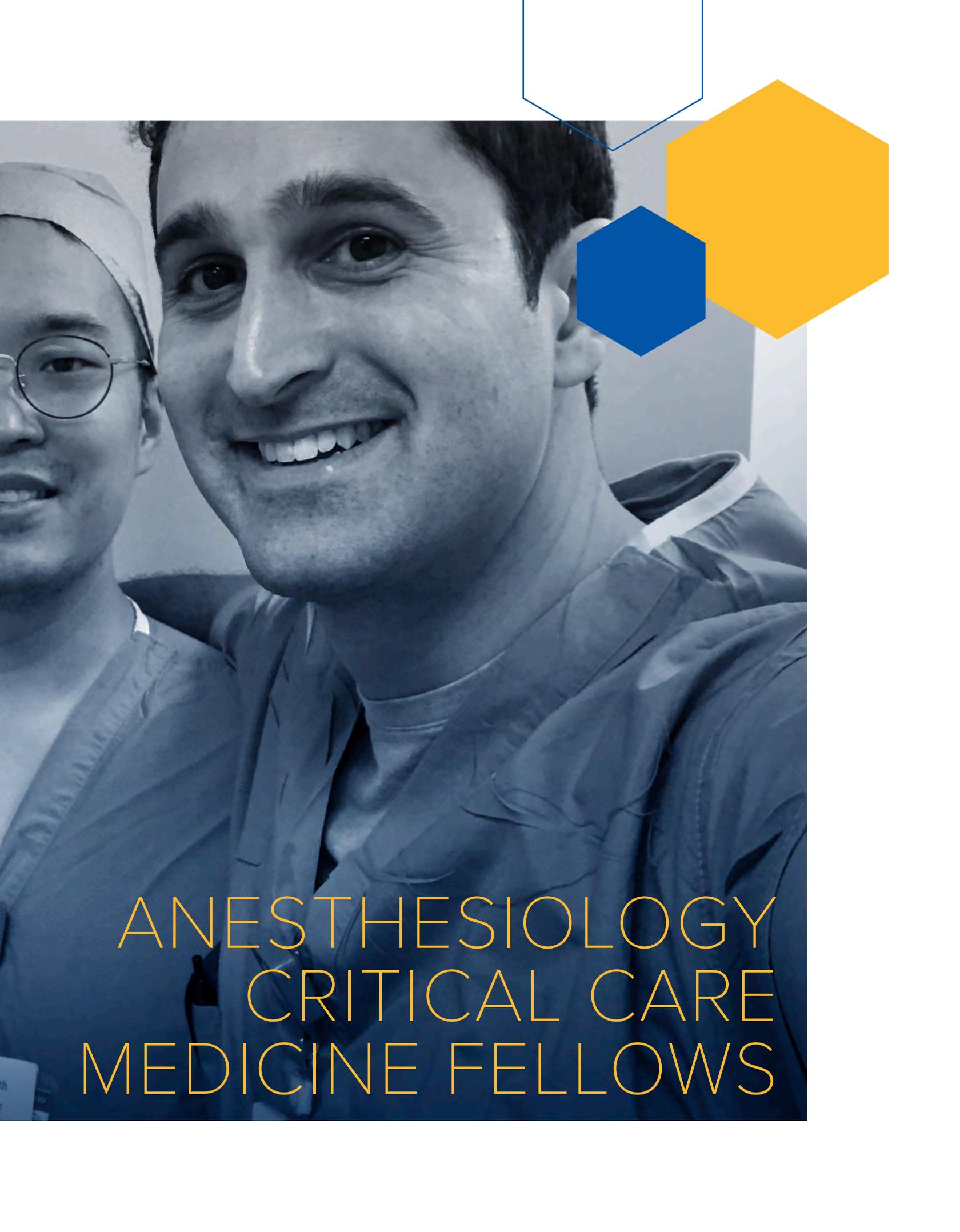


## From the Program Directors –

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.

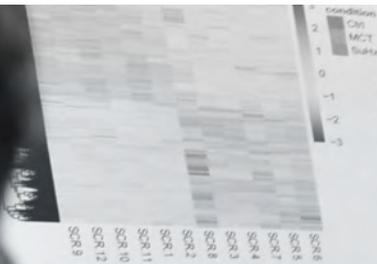
# Eugene Won, MD

*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."*



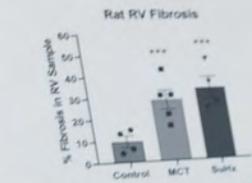
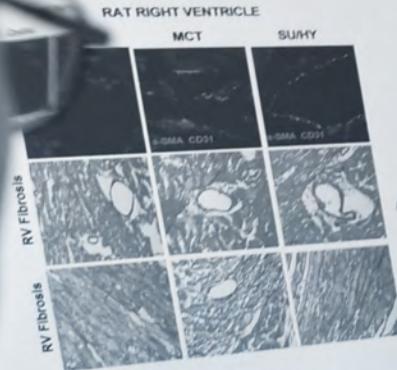
## From the Program Directors –

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.

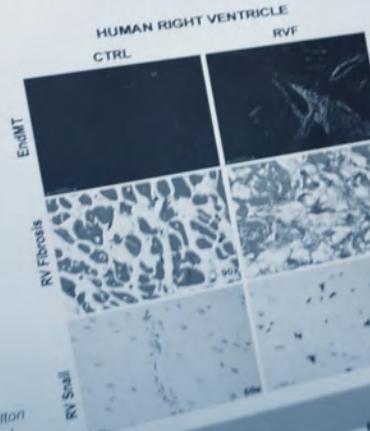


**Figure 2.** Heat map comparing gene regulation in the rat RVs of controls (CTRL) on the left, and MCT and SuHx on the right. From top to bottom, the most regulated genes are shown. Red colors signify gene up regulation, while blues signify down regulation. Genes were discovered via RNA sequencing.

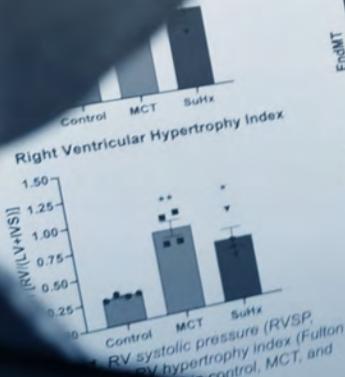
## RV Hypertrophy and Dysfunction in PH is Associated with Increased Fibrosis, Activation of Snail and EndMT



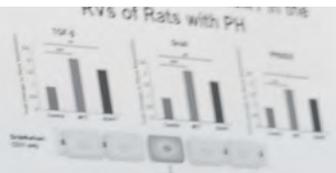
**Figure 3.** PH-induced RV hypertrophy and dysfunction is associated with RV fibrosis and EndMT in rats. Left upper panel: Co-localization of endothelial and mesenchymal markers on immunofluorescence staining. Analysis of αSMA (red), CD31 (green), and cellular nuclei (blue) demonstrated cells that had acquired both endothelial and mesenchymal markers, which occurred exclusively in the RV of the PH models. Left middle and lower panels: Masson Trichrome staining showing RV perivascular and interstitial fibrosis in MCT and SuHx groups. Right Panel: RV RV fibrosis quantification.



**Figure 4.** PH-induced RV hypertrophy and dysfunction is associated with EndMT in humans. Left upper panel: Co-localization of endothelial and mesenchymal markers on immunofluorescence staining. Analysis of αSMA (red), vWF (blue) and cellular nuclei (blue) demonstrated cells that had acquired both endothelial and mesenchymal markers, which occurred exclusively in the RV of PH patients. Left middle and lower panels: Masson Trichrome staining showing RV fibrosis in PH patients. Right Panel: Human RV Snail immunofluorescence staining and RV fibrosis quantification.



RV systolic pressure (RVSP), RV hypertrophy index (Fulton index) in control, MCT, and SuHx groups.



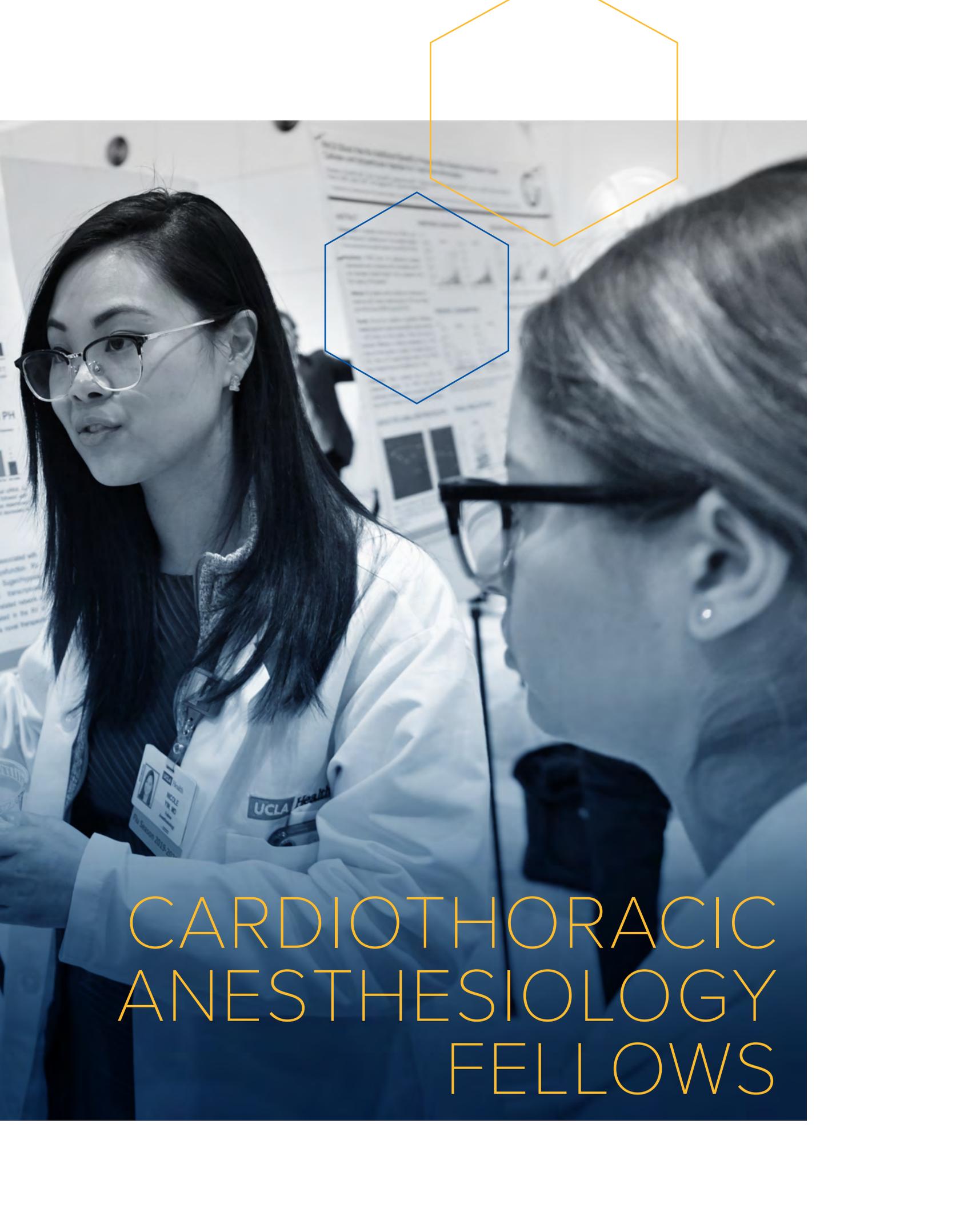
**Figure 5.** Differential gene expression of Snail1 and Snail2 in the RV of CTRL, MCT, and SuHx rats and hypothetical scheme showing possible mechanisms of PH-induced RV EndMT.



**Figure 6.** MCT rats were treated with either vehicle (Veh) or Snail inhibitor (Snaili) for 14 days. Left panel: Echocardiography. RV hypertrophy and RVSP were significantly reduced in Snaili-treated rats. Right panel: Echocardiography. RV hypertrophy and RVSP were significantly reduced in Snaili-treated rats.

### Conclusions

Severe PH in MCT and SuperHypoxia models is associated with RV pressure overload, hypertrophy, and RV dysfunction. Structural and electrical remodeling in MCT and SuperHypoxia-induced PH demonstrates a characteristic remodeling phenotype. The transcription factor Snail and its network are significantly upregulated in PH and its network is a novel target for PH therapy.



# 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.

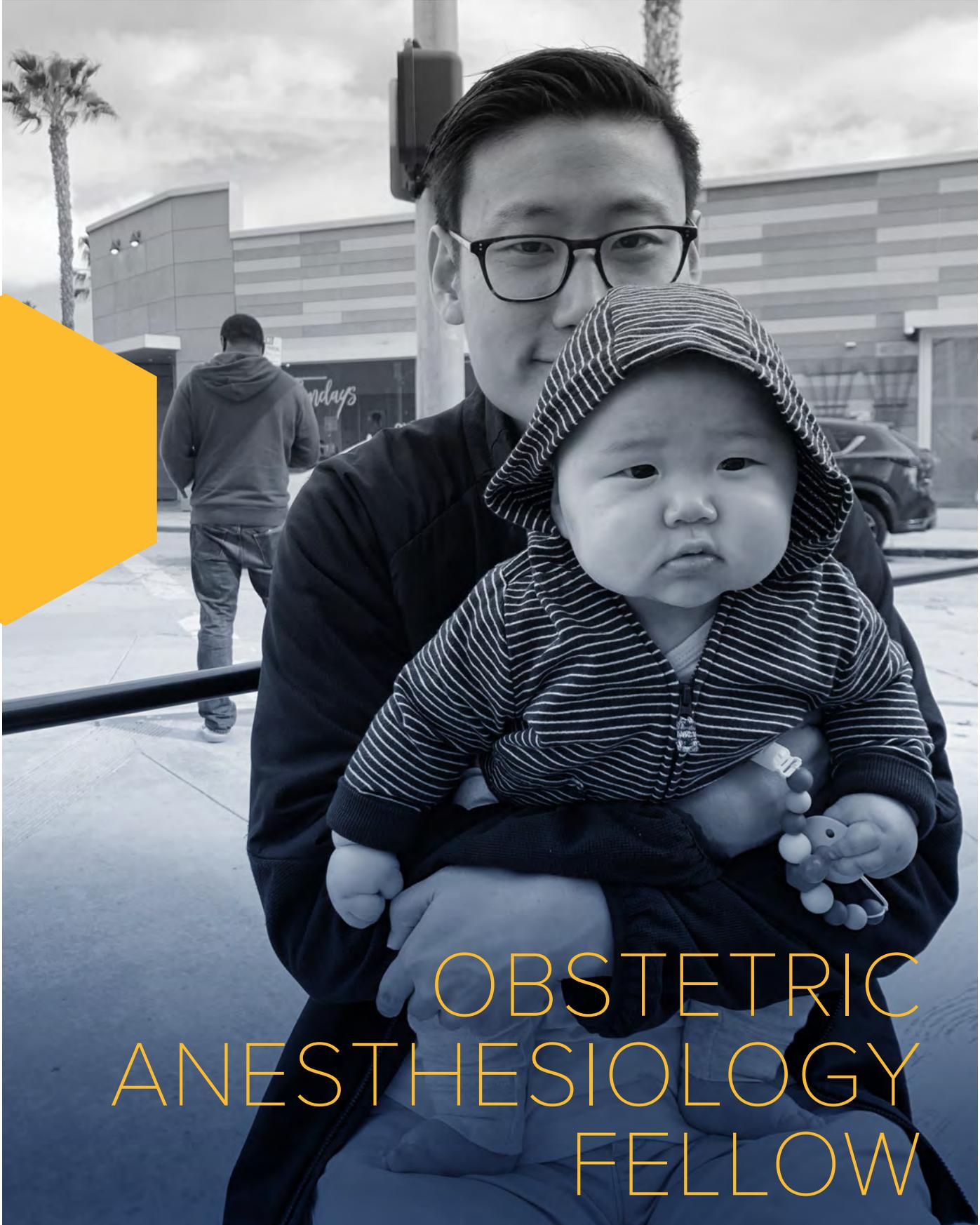
# Nicole Yin, MD

*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!

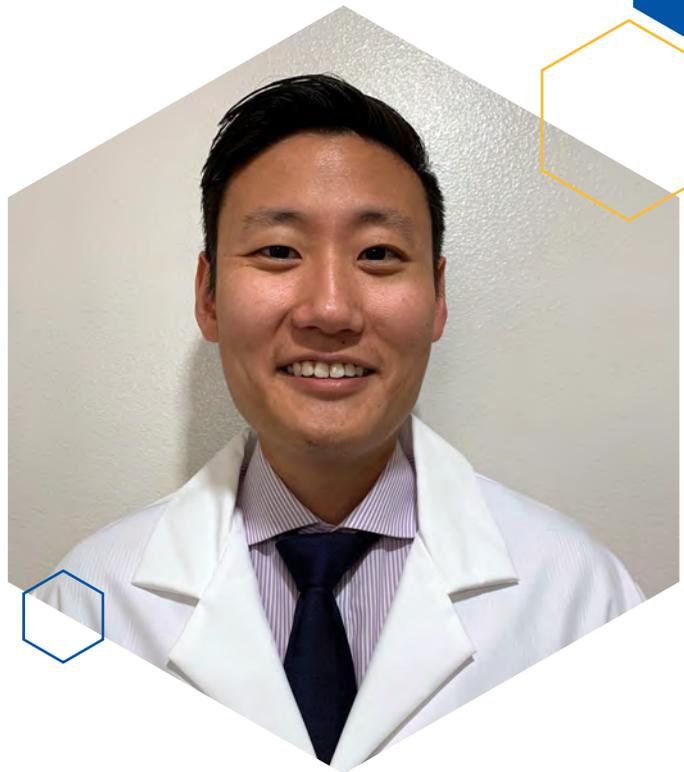


OBSTETRIC  
ANESTHESIOLOGY  
FELLOW



# 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.



Bariatric



on to PACU more SUGA patients  
d from PACU before 60 minutes  
ed to NEO patients. (p <0.042)  
ts were found to have more  
f higher respiratory rates (RR >20  
min) than the SUGA group from time  
PACU to time to discharge (p<0.05).  
nt differences in PACU  
les: 15 minutes, 30  
nce in time to  
09, +10 at 7

Rate of Catheterless Arterial  
Surgical Prophylaxis in  
Department of Cardiovascular  
Medicine



# 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.

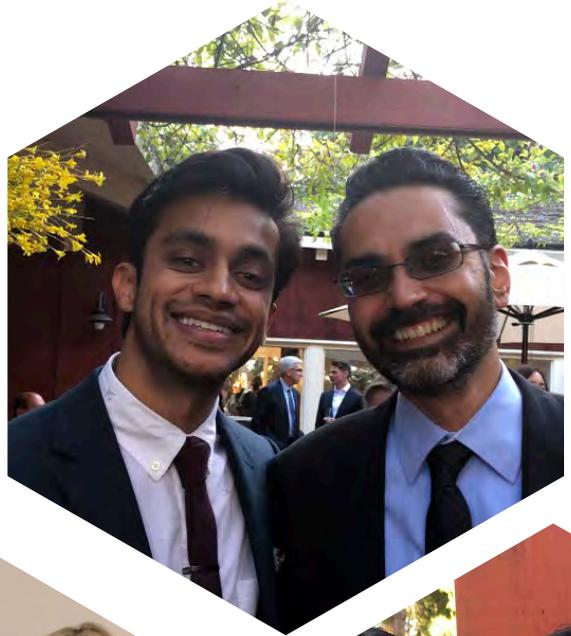


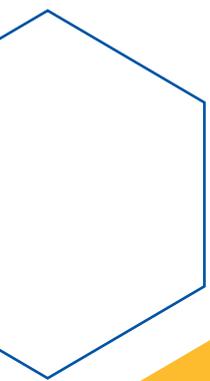
# Eunice Lee, MD



## 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!







# CLASS ALBUM



























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

