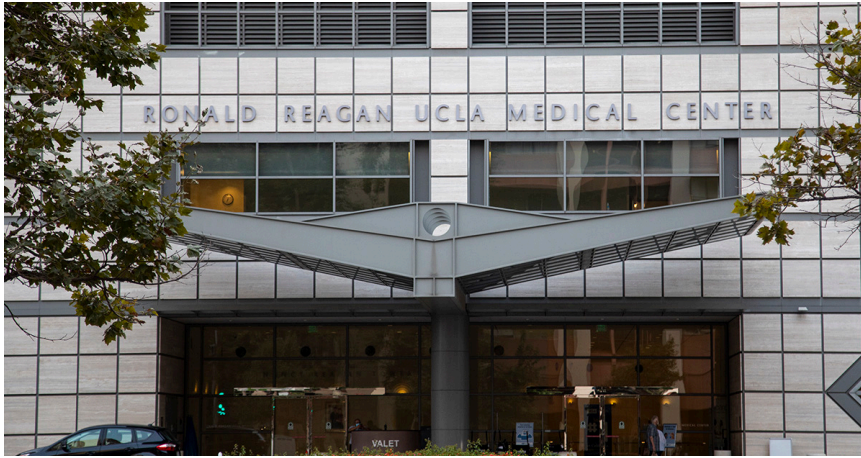


NEWSLETTER

Geriatrics



Welcome!



Dear Colleagues, Alumni, and Friends of UCLA Geriatrics:

We are starting a regular newsletter to update you about what we have been up to in the UCLA Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology. We are proud of our accomplishments this year. We hope you enjoy learning about the exciting things happening at UCLA.

Leadership Changes

We welcomed a new division chief, Arun Karlamangla, MD, PhD, who brings many years of experience as a passionate educator, researcher, and leader to the position. We are grateful to Dr. David Reuben for steering the division for three decades and leading it to a place of national prominence. We also welcomed Dr. Patricia Harris as our new clinical chief this year. Dr. Harris is a leader in the care of home-bound older adults and served previously as chief of geriatrics at USC.



Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program

For more than a decade, the award-winning UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care (ADC) Program has been providing comprehensive dementia care for persons living with dementia and their caregivers. The UCLA ADC was one of the first Centers for Medicare and

Medicaid Services Health Care Innovation (CMMI) Innovation Challenge Awardees. Its success in improving clinical outcomes for both patients and caregivers as well as reducing costs to Medicare provided strong support for the implementation of the new CMS model Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) in 2024. UCLA is one of the established-track GUIDE participants and continue to innovate, including providing enhanced respite services and creating software systems that facilitate care and implementing GUIDE requirements. This past year the ADC program also implemented a new webinar series, *Better Caregiving for All*, a monthly virtual series addressing the needs of populations that have not been the focus of traditional caregiver training/education in the past.





Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine

For the past 41 years, the UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine has been a leader in providing physicians, pharmacists and other health professionals the essential knowledge and skills to care for older patients. The four-day course and board review in geriatric medicine emphasizes an evidence-based, practical and functional approach to the comprehensive care of older adults. Last year, 325 participants attended the course! This year, we will be holding the course on September 17-20, 2025 in a virtual format.

Geriatric Nursing Excellence

The inpatient geriatric unit at UCLA Medical Center Santa Monica received the gold level designation of the prestigious Beacon Award for Excellence. This is a national nursing award given out by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses to nursing teams for exceptional care that puts patients first and signifies the collaborative work environment between our geriatricians and nursing staff. Additionally, the VA Geriatric and Extended Care Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Program continues to excel in educating nurse practitioners in age friendly care.

**Beacon
Award for
Excellence**

UCLA Eugene and Maxine Rosenfeld Medical Home Visit Program

The Program was established in 2013 with generous support from Eugene and Maxine Rosenfeld, whose commitment to advancing healthcare for seniors made UCLA's vision a reality. Their enduring legacy inspires us to innovate and expand our services, ensuring that every senior in our community receives the care and respect they deserve. Patients get their primary care at home from two providers, an MD and an NP, allowing frail, home-bound individuals avoid institutionalization and unnecessary hospitalizations.

National Presence

Our faculty are working nationally to move geriatrics care forward. Drs. Teresa Seeman and David Reuben have advisory roles in the NIH, and Dr. Harris's Medical Home Visit Program is part of the national eLearning network to set standards for home visits with CMS. Dr. Karlamangla was an invited speaker at the California State Assembly Select Committee on Reproductive Health's public hearing on "Menopause as a Social and Workplace Issue" in March 2024. Additionally, Dr. Karlamangla was an invited content area expert at the NIH Pathways to Prevention (P2P) Workshop on Improving the Management of Menopausal Symptoms in January 2025.

Community Presence

The UCLA Division of Geriatrics has been instrumental in supporting and funding the UCLA Med Scholars Program. The program aims to create a pipeline to careers in the medical field for young learners from underrepresented groups in healthcare and is attended by high school students. Dr. Deborah Saliba was appointed to the LA Jewish Health Brandman Research Institute Board of Directors. Finally, the geriatric medicine fellows give monthly lectures at Wise & Healthy Aging, a community-based nonprofit organization in Santa Monica.

Fellowship



The UCLA-VA Geriatric Medicine Fellowship is thriving under the leadership of Program Director Dr. Erin Cook. Dr. Cathy Lee and Dr. Valerie Wong have joined the leadership team as the associate program directors. New partnerships have been formed with the Los Angeles Jewish Health Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and Cedars Sinai Geriatrics Program where fellows can participate in a two-week elective. For the past two years all fellows have had their abstracts accepted at the AGS Annual Scientific Meeting showcasing their quality improvement projects.

Research Training

Research training programs designed to support and advance the careers of emerging scholars in the field have been well subscribed, and we expect to see a new generation of researchers in aging and aging affiliated fields start to make their presence felt nationally. These fully funded fellowships include the UCLA National Clinician Scholars Program, UCLA NRSA T32 Primary Care Research Fellowship, Greater Los Angeles VA Advanced Fellowship in Geriatrics, UCLA Specialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) Program, the UCLA STAR Physician Scientist Training Program (a research track for internal medicine residents), and the Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR).



Research Excellence

Our multicampus faculty continue to advance scientific progress. For fiscal year 2023-2024, the faculty secured 21 new NIH grants and 2 VA Merit awards, and published over 70 research articles. Dr. David Reuben's JAMA Internal Medicine article on Dementia Prevention and Treatment: A Narrative Review (PMID: 38436963) was one of the most viewed articles of 2024. We are proud of our junior faculty member, Dr. Minori Ohashi, who was accepted to the prestigious Butler Williams Scholars Program for her stem cell research that aims to develop interventions to reverse cellular aging and attain healthy longevity. Other exciting research includes the discovery of a new class of age-induced transcripts (PMID: 39603705), data showing that the mitochondrial genome turns over much more slowly than previously thought (PMID: 39312152), and documentation of increase in number of fractures in prediabetic women before they become diabetic (PMID: 37219902).

