Members of the MPGMG Executive Committee
- UCLA Division of Geriatrics: Arun Karlamangla, Patty Harris, Nelva Macdonald
- VA Division of Geriatrics: Cathy C Lee
- VA Geriatrics Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC): Cathy Alessi
- VA Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC): Manuel Eskildsen
- Harbor UCLA Geriatrics: Mailee Hess
- Borun Center and Advanced Research Fellowships: Deb Saliba
- Geriatric Medicine Fellowship: Erin Cook
- Intensive Course (IC): Dan Osterweil

Mission/Charter of MPGMG
1) Provide guidance for all multicampus geriatrics initiatives/programs, such as Geriatric Medicine fellowship, Advanced geriatrics research fellowships, Intensive Course, CAGI (California Academic Geriatrics Institutions) meetings, and Geriatrics Grand Rounds.
2) Recognize exceptional/inspirational faculty with awards.
3) Facilitate and champion communication/collaboration (including research) between campuses
4) Disseminate selected list of achievements (such as grants/honors/awards) to faculty and to lay public using for instance social media (e.g., in the Geriatric Medicine fellowship X feed).

Updates from Multicampus Programs & Units

<u>Awards</u>
The MPGMG recognizes exceptional and inspirational faculty with five annual awards (listed below). A selection committee, composed of representatives from the IC and each MPGMG site has begun the process for selecting recipients for the awards. This year's selection committee is composed of Dan Osterweil, Sue Charette, David Ganz, Manuel Eskildsen, Shirley Wu, and Deb Saliba, and chaired by Patty Harris. Nominations are being requested from the UCLA community. Please address your nominations to Patty Harris and submit to Ana Reynoso.

List of Awards
1. *Arthur Cherkin Award* recognizes a distinguished career in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology
2. *Renata '58, MA '61, MA '66 and Peter '51, MD '56 Landres Award* for Clinical Teaching and Research Excellence that improves the health or well-being of older persons
3. *Drs. Dan and Erna Osterweil Award* (and IC Lecture) for Innovation in Geriatric Medicine
4. *Arthur C. Cherkin Memorial Award* (and IC Lecture) in Neuroscience
5. *David H Solomon Award* (and IC Lecture) for lifelong commitment to Geriatrics

<u>Geriatric Medicine Fellowship:</u>
1. Fellows graduation celebration will be on June 11th, 2025, at the UCLA Fowler Museum.
2. Next year's class will have 10 fellows, with 3 fellows based at WLA VA, 2 at Harbor, 3 at UCLA, and 2 at the Sepulveda VA.

Combined Fellowships:
1. We are beginning discussions on stitching together a combined Geriatric Medicine fellowship and MBA program.

VA GRECC & GEC:
1. Several recent federal directives relate to the VA. Guidance is being provided by the VA on how to implement them. GRECC and GEC continue to meet or exceed performance measures.

Harbor UCLA Geriatrics
1. Harbor is recruiting one more Geriatrician for a full-time position. The position includes some Internal Medicine clinical work.

Researcher Spotlight: Dr David Ganz
David Ganz, MD, PhD is a geriatrician and health services researcher based at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, UCLA, and RAND. Since joining the UCLA faculty in 2007, he has focused on applied research to improve the quality of care delivered to older adults in routine practice. Dr. Ganz's interest in geriatrics was influenced by growing up near all four of his grandparents, and as a medical student, enjoying the wisdom and poise of older patients. His interest in applied research and quality improvement dates to his time in medical school, when researchers found that even evidence-based treatments for heart disease like aspirin and beta blockers were not being reliably provided to all who could benefit. Since then, although the use of medications recommended for heart disease has improved dramatically, improving the quality of care for geriatric syndromes continues to be a challenge, despite the growing knowledge base in geriatrics.

Over the past 15 years, Dr. Ganz has worked extensively with claims data from Medicare, which provides health insurance to more than 95% of adults age 65 and older in the US, to gain insights into care delivery for older adults with injuries from falls, and more recently to understand the use of medications for opioid use disorder in older adults. He is at the forefront of research to find ways to reliably use data routinely collected by health systems in research. Routinely collected data are inexpensive to obtain. However, repurposing the data for research requires addressing their limitations, like not having the level of detail and accuracy as data explicitly gathered for research studies.

To that end, Dr. Ganz has been using data from the Strategies to Reduce Injuries and Develop Confidence in Elders (STRIDE) study that involved over 5000 adults age 70 and older at increased risk for fall injuries, as a gold standard dataset to assess the usefulness of Medicare claims data. STRIDE study interviewers called patients directly to ask whether they received medical care for injuries from falls and used an extensive adjudication process to verify the falls. Using these verified falls data as the gold standard, Dr. Ganz, along with Dr. David Reuben and colleagues at Yale, Brigham & Women's Hospital, and the University of Michigan, showed that an algorithm to identify fall injuries using Medicare data exclusively was sufficiently accurate for use in research. This opens the door to using Medicare data more routinely in epidemiologic studies, policy analyses, and long-term follow up of clinical trials.