Important Dates

8/5 Summer Rotation Begins!
8/10 Sign up for Department Shift Preferences
8/14 Extension Request Deadline
8/18 Preference Sign Ups Open
8/18 Recruitment Committee Deadline
8/31 Admissions Committee Application Opens
9/1 Preferences Sign up Closes
9/2 Labor Day Holiday
9/7 Admission Committee Application Deadline
9/9 California Admission Day
9/10 Sign up for Department Shift Preferences
9/23 UCLA Fall Quarter begins
9/27 Native American Day
9/29 New CE’s in PEDS Department schedule PEDS Child Life and Training Orientation
10/1-10/9 Potential New C.E. Interviews
10/6 Fall Department Assignments and Meeting Information Posted
10/11 New CE’s Acceptance Notification
10/28 DCA Applications Open
10/28 DCA Applications Open
10/31 New CE Check In Day
11/3 Training Day and Department Meetings
11/9 DCA Application Deadline
11/9 Light the Night (LLS) Walk
11/10 Last Day of Summer 2019 Rotation

Be sure to follow the Care Extenders Program on our FACEBOOK!
Measles, HIV, and tuberculosis are examples of infectious diseases that have been a threat to human health for many years. Caused by pathogenic microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses, infectious diseases are among the top 10 causes of deaths in populations living in resource-poor areas. They also affect developed countries such as ours, as seen with Chipotle’s E. coli incident in 2015 and the measles cases in Los Angeles just this year.

The key to treat and prevent outbreaks of these diseases is to detect them rapidly and ideally on-site (i.e., at the point of care). For example, with the case of E. coli, instead of having to send a food sample to a lab and wait for the results to come back, it is much better to test if the bacteria are present in the ingredients as the food is being prepared inside the kitchen.

Point-of-care diagnostics have been around for thousands of years, with the most common and simple example being the pregnancy test. In its preliminary form in Ancient Egypt, the test involved asking a woman to urinate on seeds, and if the seeds grew, it was a good indication of possible pregnancy. Today, the test has evolved into a more scientifically-based detection method that is based on antigen-antibody binding and nicely packaged into a test strip.

The current drawback of the paper immunoassays is their low sensitivity: they cannot detect pathogens at concentrations as low as what is achievable in laboratory tests. Unfortunately, infectious diseases are treatable during the early stages of their development, where their concentrations are low.

UCLA’s Kamei Lab approach to this problem is to pre-concentrate the pathogenic biomarkers prior to detection. The Kamei lab under Principal Investigator Dr. Daniel T. Kamei utilized an aqueous two-phase system (ATPS). An ATPS is very much similar to an oil-water system: when you shake the solution and let it sit, the solution will separate into two phases over time. However, unlike the oil-water system where the oil phase tends to denature biomolecules, the two phases of the ATPS are aqueous-based, thus they provide a mild environment for biomolecules and preserve their native conformations. In an ATPS, it has been demonstrated that biomolecules tend to favor one particular phase, based on their physicochemical properties such as size. As a result, instead of being present throughout the entire ATPS, the biomarkers are forced into one particular phase that is smaller in volume than the entire system, effectively increasing the concentration of the biomarkers in that phase.

Using different ATPSs, we demonstrated successful pre-concentration of biomarkers prior to detection on paper strips. Our integrated ATPS + paper immunoassay technology has been utilized for proof-of-concept detection of chlamydia, virus M13, malaria, and E. coli at lower concentrations than using the assay alone. With the promising results, two Ph.D. graduates and the Principal Investigator of our lab, along with their collaborator, founded Phase Diagnostics that aims to bring our innovations to the hands of the people in need.

Photo Credit of Dr. Daniel T. Kamei from samueli.ucla.edu
Care Extenders have a unique opportunity to witness and be a part of first-hand clinical experiences as well as be at the forefront of one of the best hospitals in the nation. For the 30th consecutive year, U.S. News and World Report places UCLA as one of the top medical centers. UCLA health hospitals in Westwood and Santa Monica is ranked #1 in Los Angeles, and #1 in California and #6 Nationally. All four UCLA hospitals were also lauded by Human Rights Campaign Foundation for equitable, inclusive care. The foundation’s annual Healthcare Equality Index has assessed UCLA facilities on policies and practices reflecting equitable treatment and inclusion of LGBTQ patients, visitors and employees. While all UCLA team members care for all patients UCLA provides expertise in various care for the LGBTQ community and have been designated with the “Rainbow U” LGBTQ Champion design. More than 40 UCLA providers have been earned this distinction. UCLA Health LGBTQ Health Initiative and UCLA Gender Health Program have been offering “Rainbow U” badge clips and pronoun badge holders for our staff and employees.

The UCLA Gender Health Program understands that everyone’s gender journey is unique which is why UCLA provides comprehensive primary care, as well as care that is specific to gender-diverse or gender-transition needs.

By wearing the badge clip and holder, and using correct personal pronouns you:

- Create a compassionate, inclusive and supportive environment for our LGBTQ patients, their families and our staff
- Affirm the value of the transgender and gender-diverse community
- Provide health care with dignity, kindness and respect
- Break down barriers when initiating a conversation

For more information please click on the links provided. UCLA Health LGBTQ Health Initiative, “LGBTQ Champion”, UCLA Gender Health Program, Community Events
The support services quality control surveys are an essential method to report information for UCLA Health in regards to our performances in our hospital services. The data collected further advances UCLA Health’s Mission to deliver leading-edge patient care, research, and education. Care Extenders provide invaluable support to the hospital through the completion of surveys during their volunteer shift. As a liaison, Care Extenders greatly assist in providing the opportunity for patients to provide their meaningful feedback to the hospital by Remembering the CICARE guidelines.

Support surveys are a comprehensive compilation of questions that allow for in-depth feedback for hospital staff. Although the questions may seem repetitive, they provide a detailed look along with trends, and continuity at each hospital service such as nutrition or EVS. The mandatory surveys are conducted in most departments to provide a look into the scope of care throughout the hospital and identify inconsistencies. The support surveys submitted online are compiled each week by the Care Extender Quality Control Coordinator.

The data as well as the graphs generated are then sent to the appropriate departmental personnel.

Feedback is taken seriously and follow ups are often conducted to ensure quality patient experience at the hospital. By conducting support surveys, Care Extenders are actively participating in shaping the direction of the hospital. Each survey tells a patient’s story and gives a voice to their thoughts and concerns.

Thank you for supporting our efforts in providing exceptional care. If you would like to learn more about CICARE and UCLA’s Mission Click on the image below
Care Extenders of the Rotation

Thank you! We appreciate your service and recognize your outstanding performance and dedication to the Care Extender Program!

Nominated by your Spring 2019 Rotation D.C.'s

Jessica Sadeghani
Mayaal Khan
Jay Patel
Tristan Chester
Joon Chang
Annie Chantasirivisal
Elle Mendelson
Roland Yu
Saiyada Haroon
Paola Ruiz
Gabriela Fernandez
Heather Johnston
David Echeverri
Carlos Espinosa
Sion Hwang
If nominated by your Department Coordinator as Care Extender of the Rotation two or more times, you will be eligible for a letter of recommendation!
Alumni Spotlight

Care Extenders is a great stepping stone into our future and we want to highlight and show appreciation to the many awesome Alumni that have stepped through these volunteering doors. Chelsea Jones is our longest recorded Care Extender and all of her hard work and effort in the program has paid off. She started off in the Care Extender Program as a volunteer and would eventually become the Care Extender Program Manager at Santa Monica Hospital. In total, she has been in the Care Extender program for 9 years and has been able to oversee the development of the program during that time. She has been accepted to the prestigious nursing program at the University of California San Francisco and is days away from taking her next steps into her future career as a nurse. Staff and Care Extenders alike are sad to see her go and we would like to take a moment to show our appreciation for all of the hard work and dedication that she has provided for the Care Extender Program.

Thank you all for allowing us to have the opportunity to be a part of your journey! Here are some additional awesome Alumni Care Extenders on their way to making a difference in the world of healthcare.

Zade Hikmat
Year 2 Pharmacy
USC School of Pharmacy

Nguyen (Alex) Le
Masters in Bioengineering

Helen Ming
Year 2 Medical School
Touro University

Samvel Gyurdzhyan
Year 2 Medical School
Stanford Medical School

Silvia Huang
Year 1 Medical School
Saint Louis University School of Medicine

Miah Khan
Year 1 Columbia- Masters in Social Work and Public Policy

Fadi Syriani
Year 1 Medical School
Wake Forest School of Medicine

Kayla Meadows
Year 1 Medical School
UC Davis

We are so proud of you all! Thank you for being a part of the Care Extender Program. Check out our next issue as we spotlight more of our Alumni!
More Ways to Get Involved in the Care Extender Program

Many Care Extenders are always looking for ways to get involved in the Care Extender Program. It goes beyond taking initiative and having a positive attitude. To get the most out of the program and hopefully to have a little fun in the process, please consider the following opportunities below:

**P.A.C. People-Animal-Connection**

Care Extenders and P.A.C. team up every month to spread a bit of joy to patients and staff around the hospital. Care Extenders along with our furry friends walk around to patient rooms as well as hold petting booths at Ronald Reagan Hospital with all different types of pets including but not limited to dogs and miniature ponies! This also allows Care Extenders to see a different aspect of the hospital and the importance of mental health and the support that therapy animals provide. Keep an eye out for C.E. briefs mid-month to sign up! Approximately 4 Care Extenders are invited to volunteer on the last Thursday of every month with P.A.C.

**T.V. Tapings**

T.V. Tapings are a great way to have a little fun outside of the Care Extender Program. You can receive anywhere from 1-3 shift credits for attending a T.V. taping to shows such as “Let’s Make a Deal,” “American Idol” and a variety of other shows. All proceeds made from the event go directly back into the Care Extender Program and helps this volunteer organization continue to run efficiently. Care Extenders are often dressed up according to the theme of the show and with any luck, can win a little bit of money for yourself! T.V. tapings are monthly and can also be found in your C.E. briefs.

**Light the Night (November)**

Every Year UCLA Health Sponsors Light the Night. Money raised from the Light the Night Walk allows The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) to fund treatments for patients who are suffering from all forms of blood cancers. UCLA Health has their own booth and request volunteer assistance. Come out and support this event when the time comes. This year UCLA Health is looking to raise $125,000 and every bit helps. Curing Cancer is in our blood so come make a difference this Fall.

On Behalf of the Director and Leads, we would like to welcome all of the new Care Extenders and welcome back veteran Care Extenders! You truly make a difference in the Care Extender Program and we sincerely thank you for making UCLA Health #1 in L.A!!