



# IN THE LOUPE

UCSF DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

APRIL 2023

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The rains have relented and Spring has finally come to San Francisco and the Bay Area. With the sun and warmth comes beauty, color, and the opportunity to focus on the future, with ambition and aspiration. We are incredibly excited about the outcome of **Match 2023**, with our most diverse set of incoming interns joining our training programs in general, plastic, and reconstructive, and vascular surgery. We look forward to welcoming them on campus in June.



Dr. Julie Ann Sosa

We also are in the midst of multiple faculty recruitments. **Drs. Jackson, Garber, and Zhao** are introduced on page 8, but more new faces will be announced over the coming weeks.

Please stay tuned.



One of the most important – and overdue – developments of the last couple of months has been our Department-wide **Parenting in Surgery initiative**. There are many to thank for their leadership and hard work; in particular, it is important to recognize **Drs. Lan Vu** and **Alexis Colley**, as well as the **Muriel Steele Society** (led by **Drs. Mika Varma** and our **Director for Gender Equity, Lucy Kornblith**), working together collaboratively with the **Office of Graduate Medical Education** and the **UCSF Lactation Accommodation Program**. The new UCSF Department of Surgery '**Parenting in Surgery**' website has launched; it will serve as a vital resource for trainees and faculty and highlights several initiatives. In short, UCSF Surgery has made a commitment to mitigate the physical and emotional demands of childbearing, childrearing, and parenting during surgical training. From pre-conception considerations to postpartum recovery and return to work, we have developed comprehensive guidelines and best practices that we call on all of our department to enthusiastically support. Our Guidelines on family leave for surgical trainees help decipher the American Board of Surgery's policy on family leave for surgical trainees both for residency and fellowship training. It may also help residents expecting to be new parents plan for their family leave time. The lactation wellness program policy aims to serve not only as practical advice to faculty, trainees, and staff but also as a statement of support for each person's family choices. Our lactation fund for trainees is a Departmental commitment to cover the expense of lactation supplies of up to **\$500 per resident**. And our new parent surgeons program is intended to foster mentoring relationships between parents and parents-to-be, helping to answer questions and address the anxiety that comes from navigating how best to balance new roles as parents with ambitions as surgeons. Our intent through the new parent mentorship program is for current parents (mothers AND fathers!) to offer experience-based support. This is a work in progress, informed by the feedback received.

As a reminder, we are excited to invite the department to attend the **Parent Mentorship Program Launch Party** on **April 22** from **noon to 2 pm** at 'The Porch' in Spark Social. Questions about the event should be directed to **Drs. Ava Yap** and **Vu**. Finally, we would like to recognize **Dr. Laura Wong** for designing the beautiful new logo for the website.



**UCSF**  
Parenting in Surgery

# NEW INTERNS

## General Surgery Categorical Interns



**NATALIE ESCOBAR**  
New York University



**ANYA GREENBERG**  
University of California,  
San Francisco



**RUSSYAN MABEZA**  
University of California,  
Los Angeles



**MIGUEL NUNEZ**  
University of California,  
San Francisco



**KELSEY RANKIN**  
Yale University



**DOMINIQUE TUCKER**  
Case Western Reserve  
University



**MAKDA ZEWDE**  
Icahn School of Medicine at  
Mount Sinai



**ANNA ZHAO**  
Yale University

## Plastic Surgery Categorical Interns

## Vascular Categorical Intern



**MELINDA LEM**  
UC Irvine



**RACHEL PYON**  
Saint Louis University



**SIYOU SONG**  
University of California,  
San Francisco



**ERIC SMITH**  
University of California,  
San Francisco

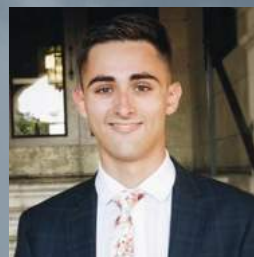
## General Surgery Preliminary Interns



**YINGYOT ARORA**  
University of Miami



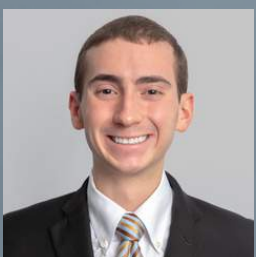
**JOSEPH DAO**  
Penn State University



**RYAN KEYHO**  
UT Health Houston



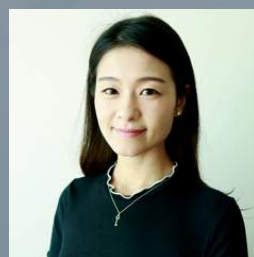
**HELENA RECORD**  
University of California,  
San Francisco



**SEBASTIAN RODRIGUEZ-TORRES**  
University of Pittsburgh



**FERNANDA ROMERO  
HERNANDEZ**  
Universidad Autónoma de  
Querétaro



**ANNIE YANG**  
Virginia Commonwealth  
University



**ALLISON ZHENG**  
Western Michigan  
University

# Education

**Natalie Rodriguez** (Surgical Simulation Fellow) presented her work on near peer feedback and communication style in open surgical skills kidney transplant simulation model during the UC Simulation Symposium on December 9, 2022

**Fara Dayani** (Surgical Simulation Fellow) presented her work on video-based feedback for surgical residents at the UC Simulation Symposium on December 9, 2022



**Minnie Park**

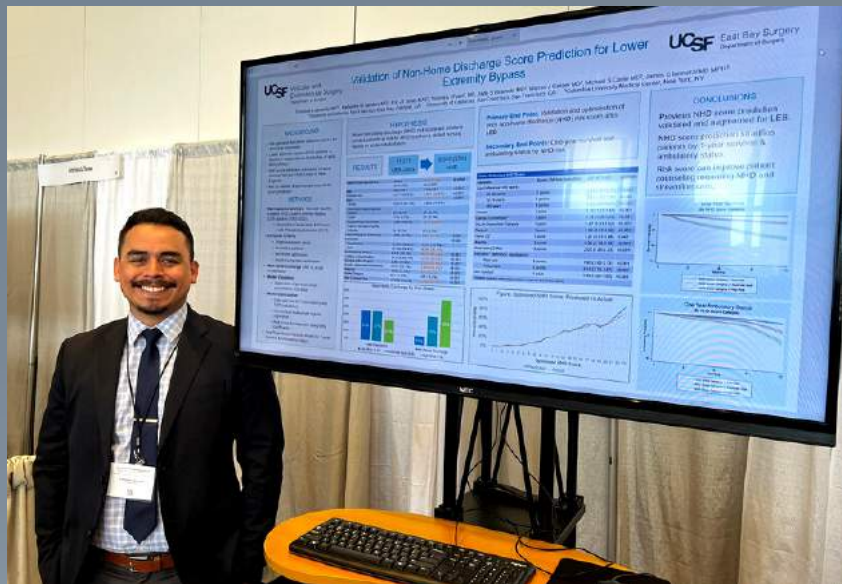
We couldn't be happier to announce that **Minnie Park** will stay on after graduation to be our 2024-2025 Microsurgery Fellow

**Riley Brian** (General Surgery Research Resident, Surgical Simulation Fellow) presented his work on development of a novel home laparoscopic curriculum at the UC Simulation Symposium on December 9, 2022

**Hannah Decker** (General Surgery research resident) presented on improving IPV screening in trauma at PCSA 2023

**Caroline Melhado** (General Surgery research resident) presented at ASC 2023 on functional impairment after firearm injury in children

Incoming 23-24 General Surgery PGY1 resident **Russyan Mabeza** published a scoping review in JAMA Network Open on programs' success in recruiting underrepresented in medicine trainees



**Dr. Emanuel A Jaramillo of UCSF Vascular**

**Surgical Education Week**, the combined meeting of APDS and ASE, will take place in San Diego, California, from April 11th to 15th. Our UCSF surgical education group will have 4 workshops, 8 presentations, 3 posters, and 2 people receiving awards

**Audrey Brown** (General Surgery research resident) presented on the utility of transcriptomic analysis in pancreatic cellular rejection at the The European Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association Symposium in January 2023

**Mignote Yilma's** Poster was selected for the Poster of Distinction Award at the 2023 American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) Winter Symposium

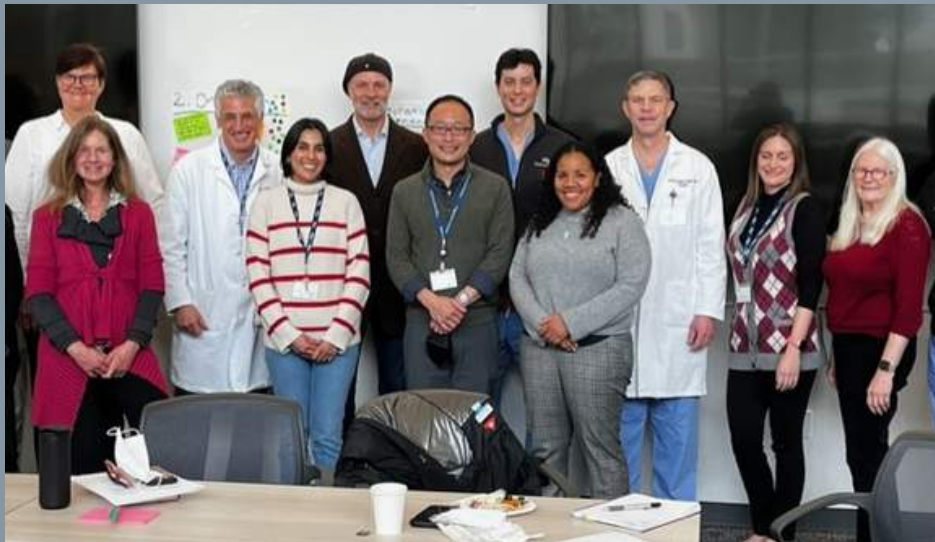
**Patricia Conroy** (General Surgery PGY4) was co-author of a paper in Journal of Surgical Research on Accurate Identification of Mucinous Pancreatic Cystic Lesions Using Small-Volume Analytes



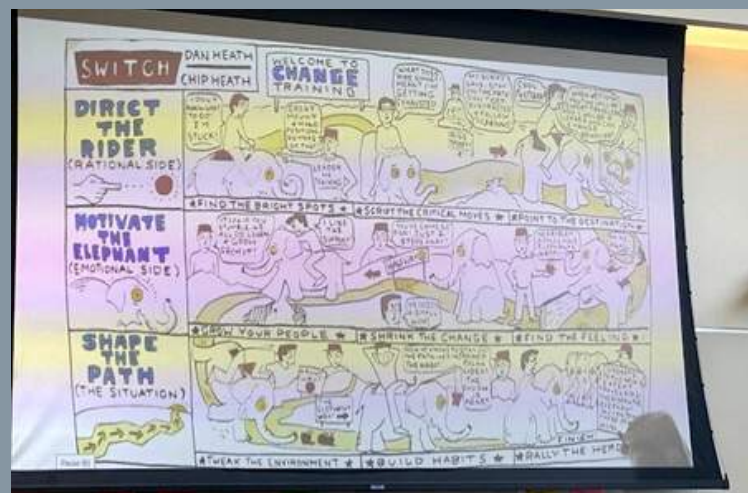
**Amandine Godier-Furnemont** (General Surgery research resident) evaluated the effectiveness of a novel wound therapy device for low resource settings, published in the World Journal of Surgery

# Education Part II

The Department of Surgery **surgical fellowship coordinators and program directors** had a productive retreat on **Friday, March 3rd**. The retreat focused on enhancing the educational structure and ensuring surgical fellowships adhere to the best educational standards. The group learned from one another, focused on the best methodology of introducing change, and spent quality time team building. Each pair, coordinator and PD, identified next steps for their fellowships. The educational



team, with **Dr. O'Sullivan's** support, also identified clear next steps in how the education office can support all fellowships; to include a half day orientation for all fellows on research, teaching, working with other learners, leadership skills, and more. Very thankful to **Heidi Crist** from the **UCSF Surgery education office** for the amazing effort she invested in organizing this and her continued leadership with fellowship coordinators.



**Daniel Hoffman** (General Surgery research resident) presented his findings that pancreatectomy with vascular resection is not associated with increased mortality at the **2023 AHPBA Annual Meeting**

**Nichole Starr's** (General Surgery PGY5) work with the **Lifebox Clean Cut program** was included in the 2022 Lifebox Annual Report, which showed lasting results from a follow up audit of more than 3000 patients at 7 hospitals

**Hillary Braun** (General Surgery PGY5) was selected as a UCSF Health Exceptional Physician for the 2022-23 academic year

**Phoebe Miller's** (General Surgery PGY1) paper on AHPBA senior leaders' assessments of SWOT facing fellowship training in HPB surgery was referenced at the **Presidential address of the AHPBA 2023** in March

**Caroline Stephens** (General Surgery research resident) helped successfully complete 3 days of training in pediatric emergency surgeries, sponsored by UCSF CHESA

General Surgery research resident **Jane Wang** presented her work on predicating post-hepatectomy liver failure and postoperative complications after major hepatectomy at the **2023 AHPBA Annual Meeting**



UCSF Plastic Surgery Resident **Jacquelyn (Alex) Knox** was accepted into a year-long Surgical Education Research Fellowship (SERF) through ASE

**Riley Brian** (General Surgery research resident) was accepted into a year-long Surgical Education Research Fellowship (SERF) through ASE

# Research

**\$3.77  
Million**



**Dr. Amanda Sammann**

**Dr. Rebecca Pelvin**

**Dr. Amanda Sammann** (PI) and **Dr. Becca Plevin** (Co-PI) in the Department of Surgery and **Dr. Lauren Chalwell** and **Dr. Nancy Anaya** in the Department of Emergency Medicine were awarded a three year **\$3.77M California Violence and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant** to support the **Wraparound Project**, a Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center.

This funding will support the growth of the program through three aims: **(1)** Increase access to and engagement with WAP services through the implementation of a mobile app (“WrapApp”); **(2)** Increase access to and engagement with mental health services for victims of violence; **(3)** Strengthen leadership structure to enhance workflows, program evaluation, and gun violence research.

## Catalyst Awards

Minnie Sarwal, MD, PhD and Swas Sur, PhD - Novel Renoprotective Drug Target Discovery in an Established Renal Tubular Injury Model



Alexander Lin, MD, MBA, FACS - Improving Health Equity of Children with Cleft Palate - Artificial Intelligence to Improve Early Detection of Surgical Speech Problems

**Dr. Minnie Sarwal**

**Dr. Alexander Lin**



## UCSF Surgery 2023 Castle Connolly Top Doctors

Congratulations to the **39** doctors from our department who were named to Castle Connolly's list of the Top Doctors for 2023! We are pleased that so many familiar faces and names from UCSF are continuing to lead the country in their specialties

### Clinical Trials Research Tips and Best Practices In this issue: New NIH Data Management & Sharing Policy

How we can help you meet this requirement!!!

**The National Institutes of Health** has issued a new Data Management & Sharing (DMS) Policy which took effect on **January 25, 2023**, with the goal of promoting the sharing of scientific data to facilitate the development of treatments and products that improve human health. Under this policy, NIH will require all researchers seeking grant funds that generate scientific data to submit a detailed 2-page Data Management and Sharing

#### Plan that outlines

- what data will be shared and when,
- how it will be managed and shared,
- how compliance will be monitored by the institution, and exactly where the data will be made available.



The expiring 2003 policy only applies to grants requesting more than **\$500,000** of direct costs in a single year, whereas the new 2023 policy removes this threshold and applies to any research funded in whole or in part by NIH. Grant proposals should include allowable costs associated with data curation, management, and data preservation and repositories.

Tools to help investigators understand the new DSM Policy, including templates and guidelines, are available at <https://tinyurl.com/y3vxut42>. Individual help and guidance is also available from our own **Ji Choi @ Ji.Choi.ucsf.edu**.



**Dr. Charlene Blake, cardiac anesthesiologist, Fatou Gaye, patient, Dr. Amy Fiedler, cardiac surgeon, and Ashley Risso, perfusionist, outside of UCSF.**

We honor a trail-blazing group at UCSF Medical Center that became the **first all-female surgical team** to perform a heart transplant this past December. Among the eight women, several of whom are not pictured they had performed thousands of complex surgical procedures during their careers. But when they were randomly assigned to the heart transplant, they unwittingly made history.

This is not the first milestone for women in medicine at UCSF. Fiedler explains that our previous chair of the department of surgery at UCSF, **Dr. Nancy Ascher**, is the **first woman to ever perform a liver transplant**.

## New Hires



**Dr. Camille Jackson**

born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, will soon join the UCSF Department of Surgery as an **Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery and Vascular Surgeon** based at **Highland Hospital in the East Bay**.



**Dr. Kent Garber**

currently a second-year trauma and acute care surgery fellow at UCSF, will join our department as an **Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery and Trauma and Acute Care Surgeon** at **UCSF Parnassus and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG)**.



**Dr. B. Mark Zhao**

born in China & raised in Michigan and California's Central Valley, will join the UCSF Department of Surgery as an **Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Section of Colorectal Surgery and Division of Surgical Oncology** based at **Mission Bay** this fall.



# Accomplishments

In response to The New York Times article, "Tonya Ingram Feared the Organ Donation System Would Kill Her." It Did. Three of UCSF Surgery faculty members **Dr. Peter Stock**, **Dr. Nancy Ascher** & **Dr. John Roberts** wrote an article in [MedPage Today](#) opposing the dismantling of United Network for Organ Sharing. Our transplant



**Dr. Peter Stock**



**Dr. Nancy Ascher**



**Dr. John Roberts**

surgeons wrote, "Attacking our complex and nuanced organ transplant system without realistic solutions only diverts time and resources from this lifesaving work" in the story that was published by MedPage Today <https://tinyurl.com/3m7whcmj>



**Dr. Julie Ann Sosa**

A new study from researchers at Tulane University, Georgia State University, & UCSF, including our Chair and senior author **Dr. Julie Ann Sosa**, was published in The New England Journal of Medicine. The study "[Cancer Screening after the Adoption of Paid-Sick-Leave Mandates](#)" has found more people get screened for cancer when employers are mandated to provide paid sick leave. "The largest coverage expansion came in 2015 when California mandated paid sick leave for 7 million workers." By the end of 2022, nearly 20 million workers in the U.S. gained paid-sick-leave coverage.

**UCSF's lung transplant program has been awarded INTERLINK's Chairman's Award for Transplant Excellence!**



**Dr. Joseph Cuschieri**

**Dr. Tammy Chang's** laboratory reported on generating human stem cell-derived liver organoids using low-gravity culture conditions that induce tissue self-assembly. Microgravity organoids are highly functional & may be developed for clinical tissue replacement therapy. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/b5km7edj> for more



**Dr. Tammy Chang**

on the recently published paper titled "Self-assembled Matrigel-free iPSC-derived liver organoids demonstrate wide-ranging highly-differentiated liver functions" + learn more about Dr. Chang's UCSF Lab <https://livertissueengineering.ucsf.edu>.

**Dr. Joseph Cuschieri**, Trauma Medical Director at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center & UCSF Surgery Professor, has been named **Chief of Surgery at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center**.

**Dr. Laura Esserman**, Breast Surgeon and UCSF Health Breast Care Center Director. Dr. Esserman has been selected to receive the **Center for Conscientious Leadership 2023 Leader of the Year Award** and was honored on **March 17, 2023**, in Menlo Park, CA.



**Dr. Laura Esserman**



**Dr. Jeffrey Velotta**

UCSF East Bay Faculty Member, Thoracic Surgeon, & Assistant Professor of Surgery **Dr. Jeffrey Velotta** is now a **2023-2024 Society of Asian Academic Surgeons Visiting Professor**.

In a joint **UCSF Transplant & Stanford Abdominal Transplant Program** initiative to save organs and improve transplant outcomes, UCSF Surgery resident **Dr. Keith Hansen** and **Dr. Marc Melcher** have been awarded \$1,000,000 from Stanford Medicine Catalyst to develop the Kidney pod.



**Dr. Keith Hansen & Dr. Marc Melcher**

# UCSF SURGERY SKILLS LAB

On April 6th, 2023, **13** young women from **San Francisco High Schools**, accompanied by **Elisabeth** and **Gabi** from **Envision**, joined us in our Skills Lab, managed by **Virginia Schuler**, to learn how to prep for surgery with two of our residents, **Dr. Riley Brian & Dr. Natalie Rodriguez**, and our lab tech **Louis Solis**. During this special session, they learned surgical knot tying, the sterile technique for prepping for surgery, and the fundamentals of laparoscopic skills (FLS).

**Envision** is an internship program in partnership with the **UCSF Department of Neurosurgery** and the non-profit organization **Oasis for Girls** to expose young high school girls of color from under-represented communities in San Francisco to careers in medicine and health-science fields, as well as to help them build important professional skills to enrich their future.



## Stop the Bleed x Las Lomas High School

We coordinated a Stop the Bleed class for Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek. We trained almost **40** students and their teachers in STB. It was supported by **SFGH Trauma Program staff and regional partners from Highland, John Muir and**

**Eden Trauma Centers**. Most exciting was that UCSF Medical Student Madeline Matthys joined our instructor pool! She is the **FIRST** Med student we have trained through the Surgery 110 Clerkship class that has helped us teach a community class. We were thrilled to have her participate and the students loved working with her, discussing all things STB and asking lots of questions about her path through Medical School and beyond.



# APP News



Neil Weigand

**Neil Weigand, PA**, recently joined **UC Health** as the **Manager of the General Surgery Advanced Practice Providers**.

Neil graduated with his Bachelor's and Master's in Clinical Health Sciences from the **University of Washington School of Medicine MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program**. He has an extensive surgical background with over a decade of experience as the General and Vascular Surgery PA Surgical Hospitalist in Seattle, WA, and as a clinical lead at Virginia Mason Medical Center in the General/Colorectal Surgery Department. He has been awarded the "**Preceptor of The Year Award**" on more than one occasion.

Before obtaining his bachelor's degree, Neil honorably served in the **US Army as a laboratory technologist in the Department of Clinical Investigations**. In this new role as an APP manager, Neil will work closely with the **APPs, General Surgery leadership, Office of Advance Practice Providers, and Ambulatory Care administration** to ensure there is alignment with the department and UCSF Health regarding clinical services, policy, expanding access to care and quality improvement.



Natalie Fong



J. (Jax) Parthasarathy



Linda Pan



Christina (Christi) Choa

Join us in welcoming the newest members of our APP Team for General Surgery at Parnassus: **Natalie Fong, Jacqueline (Jax) Parthasarathy, Linda Pan** and **Christina (Christi) Choa**. Natalie, Jax, Linda and Christi join our strong and expanding group of **10 APPs**, covering of our **4 service lines** and have all been onboarded since August of 2022. They sought out our positions at **UCSF General Surgery** because of the organizational goals and structure, but also the strong knowledge of our more tenured NPs, the cohesiveness of the current NP team, and educational/growth opportunities within our group.

**Natalie** comes to us from **Beth Israel Lahey Health** in Cambridge, MA where she worked as a bedside nurse in a 23-bed med/surg unit. She received her **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner degree (ACNP)** from **MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston, MA in 2020** and her undergraduate from **UC Berkeley**. **Jax** is one of our own having been a bedside nurse most recently with the **Critical Care Resource Team** and having received her **ACNP from UCSF in 2022**.

**Linda** is also from San Francisco having received her **Family Nurse Practitioner** degree from **San Francisco State University in 2019**; and having worked with **San Francisco Surgical Medical Group** for about 3 years as an NP. **Christina** comes to us from the **Neurosurgical ICU** as a bedside nurse here at UCSF and having received her **FNP from Sonoma State University in 2021**.

# SAN FRANCISCO & SUNSETS

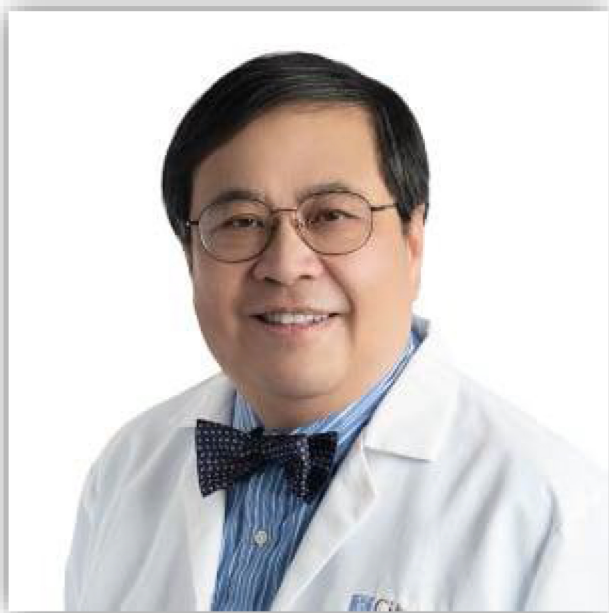
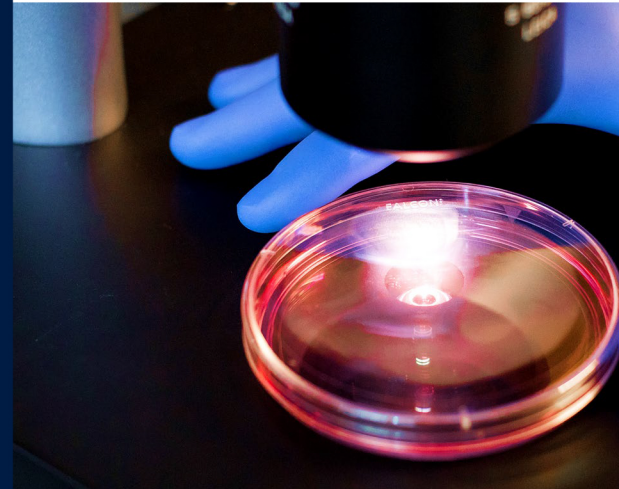
On Wednesday, March 29, from 4:30-6:00pm on the 3rd floor of 513 Parnassus we held our first ever art gallery reception based on "San Francisco & Sunsets." Our goal is to make the hallway a center of our Department reflective of the many talents of its members.

We had a wonderful turn out and mixed crowd which consisted of faculty, residents, fellows and staff for this event which provided food and drinks for all. Thank you to all who submitted art for consideration and round of applause for the artisans whose work is now on display for the next few months.



# 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Symposium

**UCSF** Department  
of Surgery



**Yuman Fong, MD**  
2023 Dunphy Professor  
Chair, Department of Surgery  
City of Hope Medical Center

**May 3, 2023**

**7 AM – 4 PM**

521 Parnassus Avenue

Room CS-0101



To watch remotely, scan QR code or visit  
[tiny.ucsf.edu/ResidentResearchSymposium](https://tiny.ucsf.edu/ResidentResearchSymposium)