

# UC San Diego

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### The Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology & Palliative Care Newsletter



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#### In this edition:

- Celebrating 10 years of Division Leadership with Dr. Alison Moore
- UCSD Years of Service
- What's Happening
- Congratulations
- In the News...



## Celebrating 10 Years of Division Leadership: Dr. Alison Moore



***What do you love most about your work here at UC San Diego?***

The people who are brilliant and kind and wise and collaborative.

***What accomplishments or moments stand out as especially meaningful***

***a) over the last 10 years here at UC San Diego?***

Building the division from one focused on geriatrics, to one including gerontology and now one that includes geriatrics, gerontology and palliative care.

***b) overall, in your career?***

Being given the opportunity to make an impact in aging research through mentorship and program building and leadership.

***How has the field of geriatrics evolved since you began your career, and what changes have been the most exciting to witness?***

There are now a number of programs and frameworks that are focused on improving care for older adults, which is one of the biggest changes (e.g., [the 4Ms](#) and [the 5Ms](#), [HELP](#), [Ortho Co-Care](#), [GWEPs](#), Deprescribing networks, the [GUIDE program](#) and more). Geriatrics is also getting increasingly interdisciplinary with major growth in the numbers of physician assistants, nurse practitioners and other disciplines entering the field. Also, programs like [Clin-STAR](#), [GEMSSTAR](#) and [Beeson](#) have fueled non-geriatrics clinical disciplines (e.g., oncology, surgery, neurology, pharmacy, social work) to conduct aging research.

***What opportunities do you see for UC San Diego to continue leading in aging research, education, and clinical care?***

There are so many! We are a hub for aging research with our [Alzheimer's Disease RCMAR](#), [Stein Institute for Research on Aging](#) and [Alzheimer's Disease Research Center](#), along with individual aging researchers in the departments of medicine and bioengineering, public health and at the VA; and education with our [San Diego/Imperial Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program \(GWEP\)](#) and [fellowship programs](#); and our growing clinical care landscape at the VA and here at UCSD. We have been consistently growing in all of these domains.

***Any future goals in the years to come?***

Always! Keep on growing. Become known as a hub for healthy aging research, education and clinical care. Keep on growing our clinical offerings in geriatrics and palliative care by collaborating with other clinical disciplines such as oncology and even starting a healthy aging clinic linked to our research and education program. Continue to build our reputation in excellence in education in all three

# Congratulations

Thank you for your wonderful leadership, Dr. Moore! Our division has benefited greatly from your leadership and our growth in so many areas has been astounding! We are very grateful!

## Other Milestone Years of Service

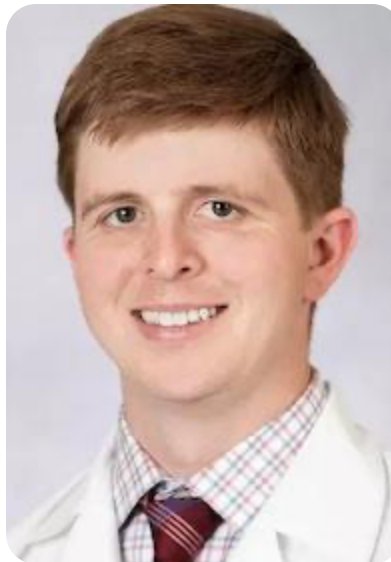
Congratulations on 10 Years of Service!

Veronica V. Gonzalez, M.D.



Assistant Professor, VA San Diego Healthcare System

Ian Neel, M.D.



Associate Professor

Khai Nguyen, M.D., M.H.S.



Geriatrics Clinical Services  
Chief  
Professor

Congratulations on 5 Years of Service!

Paula Mesarwi, M.D.

Tessa Antalan, M.D.





Associate Physician

## What's Happening

### The 2026 Annual RCMAR Meeting



RCMAR Annual Meeting 2026  
Rockville, MD

The RCMAR 2026 Annual Meeting was held June 29-30, 2026 at the National Institute on Aging (NIA) facilities in Rockville, Maryland. The event gathered over 100 people representing all 17 RCMAR Centers from across the country. Participants presented scientific advances in social, behavioral, psychological, and economic research studies on aging, Alzheimer's disease (AD) and AD-related dementias (ADRD), and health disparities among older adults. The meeting also provided valuable opportunities for RCMAR investigators, directors, faculty, mentors, and program managers to network and collaborate across the RCMAR community, as well as to engage with NIA staff.



[More about the San Diego AD-RCMAR](#)

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## Welcome to Our 2026-2027 Geriatrics and Hospice & Palliative Medicine Fellows

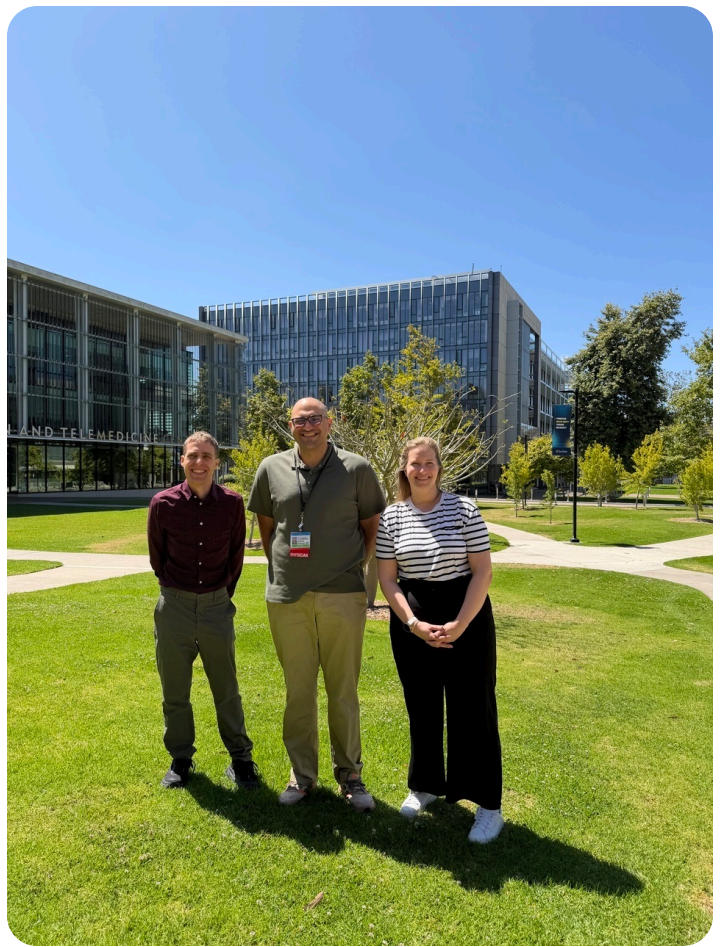
The UC San Diego Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Care is excited to welcome our 2026-2027 class of Geriatrics and Hospice & Palliative Medicine fellows. As they begin this next chapter of their training, we look forward to supporting their growth as compassionate clinicians, educators, researchers, and future leaders in the care of older adults and patients with serious illness.

We are thrilled to welcome this outstanding group to the UC San Diego community and look forward to celebrating their accomplishments throughout the coming year.





Our current 2026-27 Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellows; Alison Aronstam, Han Bao, Kevin Han, Susan Kennedy, Justin Nathan, Katrina Sadang, Jamme Schoephoerster, and Elaine Yan with Fellowship Directors Tolúwalàṣẹ "Làṣẹ" Ajayi, and Holly Yang.



Our current 2026-27 Geriatrics Fellows: Diamond Berg, Ashkan Hashemi, and Guy Treves



# Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Bootcamp 2026



Our 2026-27 Geriatrics fellows kicked the year off with boot camp



Our 2026-2027 Hospice & Palliative Medicine Fellows began their fellowship journey with orientation

[More about our Fellowships](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



## HAVE FEEDBACK?

We are committed to fostering a supportive learning environment and continuously improving our fellowship and education programs. Trainees, faculty, and staff are invited to provide anonymous feedback regarding our education programs any time using the Education Portal Comments Page.

[Access the anonymous feedback form here](#)

*Congratulations  
are in order...*

## Congratulations to Our 2025-2026 Geriatrics Fellowship Graduates

Emily Venvertloh, Will Fleming, and Julia Larson







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## Congratulations to Dr. Ian Neel

Congratulations to Dr. Ian Neel on receiving the 2025–2026 Excellence in Teaching Award from the UC San Diego Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program. This distinguished honor is especially meaningful because it is nominated and selected exclusively by the graduating Geriatrics Fellows, recognizing a faculty member who has made an exceptional impact through mentorship, clinical teaching, and unwavering support of fellows throughout their training. We thank Dr. Neel for his dedication to educating and inspiring the next generation of geriatricians.



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## Congratulations to Our 2025-26 Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship Graduates

April Butler, Errica Capossela, Zachary Fica, Alban Holyoke, Sawyer Kieffer, Michael McEnany, Michelle Quan, & Kim Winiker





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## In the News...

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Dr. Lindsey Yourman co-authored a new JAMA Internal Medicine Viewpoint, “Artificial Intelligence and the Financialization of Medical Knowledge,” which examines how AI platforms may shape the future of clinical knowledge. Read it [here](#).

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Dr. Ian Neel spoke with KPBS about the real health risks of extreme heat and how to recognize signs of heat-related illness. Read it [here](#).

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Dr. Ian Neel is featured by KPBS News, sharing his expertise on a proposed Medicare rule that could make advance care planning conversations a more routine part of care. Read it [here](#).

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Dr. Alison Moore is featured in CNN Health, providing an expert perspective on GLP-1 medications and healthy aging. Read it [here](#).

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Dr. Michael Corley's research is featured in The New York Times article, "Are Weight Loss Drugs Also Longevity Drugs?"—exploring the emerging science behind GLP-1 medications and healthy aging. Read it [here](#).

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Dr. Ian Neel shares expert insight in a new PolitiFact article on heat-related illness, medication risks, and why older adults are especially vulnerable. Read more [here](#).

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Dr. Alison Moore was featured in UC San Diego Today following her election as President of the American Geriatrics Society. Read more [here](#).

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#### Recent publications from PubMed:

### [Central Nervous System T-cell immune architecture, and not HIV burden, tracks with cognition under long-term viral suppression](#)

Despite effective antiretroviral therapy, HIV persists in the central nervous system (CNS) and may contribute to neuroinflammation and cognitive impairment. How viral persistence, immune responses, and regional CNS T-cell architecture relate to cognitive functioning remains unclear. We performed a cross-sectional, multi-compartmental immune-genomic study in 12 people with HIV on long-term viral suppression enrolled in the Last Gift rapid autopsy program. Quantitative HIV reservoir measures...

Mon, Jun 15, 2026

[Read more](#)

### [Palliative Care Social Work Interventions and Co-occurring Outcomes: A Six-Year Descriptive Cohort](#)

CONCLUSION: Structured PCSW flowsheet documentation captured reproducible patterns of intervention and co-occurring outcome at scale. Several patterns were directionally consistent across teams and within first encounters and merit prospective evaluation as candidate quality indicators or staffing benchmarks. Same-clinician same-source recording and the absence of interrater reliability and construct validity testing constrain inference; future work will require multisite psychometric and...

Thu, Jun 11, 2026

[Read more](#)

### [Identification of DNA methylation signatures of smoking in women and associations with cardiovascular disease mortality](#)

risk in women; however, limited research has examined smoking-associated DNA methylation (DNAm) changes in women. We measure whole blood DNAm (EPICv2) and self-reported smoking (three-category, pack-years, and years since cessation) via questionnaires in 6,005 Women's Health Initiative Memory Study participants....

Tue, Jun 09, 2026

[Read more](#)

## [Large Language Models for Summarizing Advance Care Planning Information From Goals of Care Notes in the EHR](#)

CONCLUSIONS: LLMs can effectively extract structured ACP information, particularly in well-documented categories, suggesting potential for scalable, data-driven feedback loops that improve the provision of care. However, accuracy challenges remain, and further refinement is needed for nuanced qualitative content categories.

Mon, Jun 08, 2026

[Read more](#)

## [Inhibiting glycan degradation prevents HIV-induced inflammaging and cognitive impairment](#)

CONCLUSIONS: These findings implicate glycan degradation as a contributor to inflammation and cognitive impairment in HIV and highlight glycan preservation as a promising strategy to mitigate inflammation, premature aging, and cognitive decline during viral infections.

Fri, Jun 05, 2026

[Read more](#)

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## We want your feedback!

Did you know that the division has a virtual suggestion box where you can provide anonymous feedback? [You can access that here.](#)

You can also access the virtual suggestion box on the division's [website](#) – scroll to the bottom of the homepage and click on the feedback link.

Not signed up yet? SIGN UP HERE

Please consider donating to our mission. While we continue to make great strides, we are limited on what we

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Geriatrics, Gerontology, and Palliative Care. Join us to help older adults live their best lives longer and improve care for individuals with serious illness. By supporting our efforts, you can ensure that our research, education programs, and clinical care keep pace with the needs of our community and remain strong.

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