

UC San Diego

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology &
Palliative Care Newsletter



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Spotlight: Paula Smith



What is your current profession/role?

I am Executive Assistant to Division Chief Dr. Alison Moore, Research Chief Dr. Anthony Molina, and Clinical Services Chief Dr. Khai Nguyen in the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Care. I am also the Office Manager of the Stein Institute for Research on Aging and Center for Healthy Aging where I support Dr. Moore in her role as Director, Dr. Molina as Scientific Director, and Danielle K. Gloriosso, LCSW, as Executive Director of the Stein Institute.

What initially inspired and motivated you to pursue a career in your field?

I have always been a support person and prefer working behind-the-scenes. Early on I discovered I could make a tangible impact helping leaders facilitate their success. Of all the careers I've pursued, I most enjoy working at a university because of its continuous learning environment.

What parts of your work have been particularly inspiring or rewarding for you?

The satisfaction of being a trusted, strategic partner to our executive leadership team. No two days are the same! Unique challenges and varied projects keep my work engaging.

What is your go-to stress relief activity during a busy workweek?

Swimming in the community saltwater pool near my home. It’s a milder, softer swimming experience with less skin and eye irritation than chlorinated pools.

If you had to choose a different profession, what would it be?

After college I considered being a Script Supervisor but quickly discovered that long hours working on chaotic production sets wasn’t a good fit for me. If I had to choose a different profession, I would be a Film Archivist to ensure that the cultural legacy of cinema is preserved for future generations to enjoy.

What's Happening

Division Night Out: UCSD vs. UCI Basketball

Members of the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Care recently enjoyed a fun night out together at the UCSD vs. UCI basketball game. The outing was a great opportunity to connect outside of the clinic and classroom, celebrate Triton spirit, and strengthen the sense of community that supports our work every day.





*Congratulations
are in order...*

Congratulations to Dr. Annie Nguyen



We're proud to celebrate Dr. Annie Nguyen, who has been elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Health Behavior (AAHB)—a prestigious honor that recognizes outstanding contributions to health behavior research and public health. Fellowship in AAHB is conferred based on rigorous criteria and reflects Dr. Nguyen's exceptional record of scholarship, research impact, and sustained commitment to advancing the science of health behavior. This

well-deserved recognition highlights her leadership in the field and the meaningful impact of her work on improving public health. Dr. Annie Nguyen is an associate professor in both the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Care and the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science. She also serves as the co-lead for our San Diego Alzheimer's Disease RCMAR and its Analysis Core.

[Read more here](#)

Congratulations to Dr. Tala Al-Rousan



We're proud to congratulate Dr. Tala Al-Rousan, who has been named a 2025 Inclusive Excellence Awards Honoree for Health Sciences at UC San Diego Health. Presented by Campus Human Resources and selected by Vice Chancellor John M. Carethers, the Inclusive Excellence Awards recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions to advancing inclusion and diversity across UC San Diego and UC San Diego Health. This well-deserved recognition highlights Dr. Al-Rousan's leadership, commitment, and impact in fostering a more inclusive academic and health care community. Dr. Al-Rousan has an affiliated faculty appointment with the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Care and an assistant professor in the School of Public Health. She also serves as the co-lead for our San Diego Alzheimer's Disease RCMAR and its Community Liaison and Recruitment Core.

[Read more here](#)

In the News...

Dr. Alison A. Moore was recently quoted in The New York Times Well section's article "24 Simple Secrets to a Healthier Life," sharing an empowering perspective on aging. Read it [here](#).

Dr. Ian Neel is featured on [KPBS](#) talking about the expanded Medi-Medi plan in Imperial County — better

coordinated care means better support and outcomes for older adults. Read it [here](#).

Dr. Kyle Edmonds was recently featured in *San Diego Physicians Magazine* with his article, “*Report from the AMA Meeting: Change and Challenges*,” sharing key insights on emerging issues shaping the future of medicine and physician advocacy. Read it [here](#).

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 can accomplish with existing funds. We encourage you to become involved with the UC San Diego Division of 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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