



UC San Diego

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology & Palliative Care Newsletter

We are delighted to report that Geriatrics is ranked #11 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report!



#11 GERIATRICS

UC San Diego Health

UC San Diego Health (La Jolla and Hillcrest hospitals) has ranked #1 in San Diego and #5 in California

Not subscribed yet? [SIGN UP HERE!](#)



In this edition:

- Dr. Alison Moore Named Interim Director, Stein Institute for Research on Aging/UCSD Center for Healthy Aging
- The Role of School of Medicine Academic Community Director: Insight from Dr. Winters
- Ruth Covell Senior Award Recipients
- Group Advance Care Planning
- Dr. Rabia Atayee & Pharmacist Entrustable Professional Activities
- What's Happening/Events

Dr. Alison Moore Named Interim Director, Stein Institute for Research on Aging/UCSD Center for Healthy Aging



We are delighted to announce that our division chief, Alison Moore, MD, MPH, has agreed to serve as Interim Director for the Stein Institute for Research on Aging and the UC San Diego Center for Healthy Aging, following the retirement of Dilip Jeste, MD, who served as director for 18 years.

There is tremendous synergy between the work being done through our Division and the Stein Institute for Research on Aging/Center for Healthy Aging. We have a shared interest in improving older adults' health and well-being and encouraging more aging research to promote healthy aging and better care.

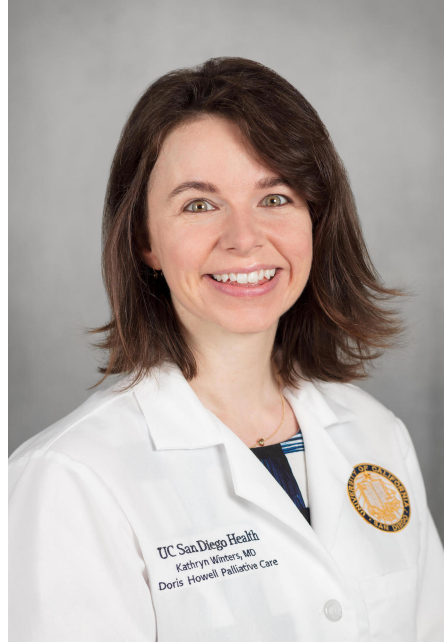
As Interim Director, Dr. Moore will continue working with the Institute's leaders to implement their strategic goals. She will also work to strengthen collaborations with the Health Sciences and General Campus academic community. Additionally, she will work to develop new initiatives that advance the aims of the Center to promote lifelong health and well-being.

As a nationally recognized leader in academic geriatric medicine and as chief of our division, she is an excellent fit for this role.

Congratulations Dr. Moore!!

[More about the Stein Institute](#)

The Role of School of Medicine Academic Community Director: Insight from Dr. Winters



Dr. Kathryn Winters is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Palliative Care Physician

When I was appointed an [Academic Community Director](#) for the UCSD School of Medicine in January 2021, I was grateful and curious to begin serving in this role. The position charges each Director with the privilege of mentoring and advising approximately 25 students from each medical school class year, and in that capacity, to act as a sounding board, voice of reason, and sympathetic ear as the students make their way through training and ultimately go on to apply for residency and then graduate. I started as a Director in the midst of the remote-learning period of the pandemic, and quickly realized that the limitations on my ability to serve my approximately 100 students were significant in a Zoom-dominated world. Slowly slowly though things have changed for the better, and as the School of Medicine has found its footing in a new normal, meetings and classes have largely returned to in-person, and I've had the delight of getting to know many students face-to-face over the past year. Our meetings are often quick and targeted to whatever worries or questions the student brings to the table. It's a wonderful way for me to learn about what it's like to be a medical student these days (it can be really hard and stressful!) and to try to pay forward some of the wonderful mentorship I received from so many faculty right here at UCSD when I was a medical student years ago.

A joyful moment for me as an Academic Community Director came this spring when I attended [UCSD School of Medicine Commencement Ceremony on June 5, 2022](#), which was the first graduation ceremony at the school to take place in-person since before the pandemic. The mood at the event was ebullient and happy for everyone. Students and their families, as well as faculty, enjoyed a beautiful program marked by distinguished speakers -- including [Dr. Lucy Kalanithi](#) -- who gave a powerful speech about her experiences as a physician and as the widow of Dr. Paul Kalanithi who authored [When Breath Becomes Air](#) before his untimely death in 2015. Truly, it was gratifying to be part of the day and to get to add my voice to the large chorus of people wishing the School of Medicine graduates of 2022 safe passage into the next phase of their training. Now, in the midst of summer, I can't help but feel excited when I think about meeting my new batch of first year medical students who will start their orientation in September; I look forward to walking the med school journey alongside each and every one of them!

[More about UCSD's Academic Community Directors](#)

Ruth Covell Senior Award Recipients

Ruth Covell Award in Geriatrics

This award is given to one or more graduating medical students who has expressed an interest in and demonstrated a commitment to geriatrics through scholarly activities, leadership, and/or participation in geriatrics programs at UC San Diego. This award was established in 2017 thanks to the generous support of Dr. Ruth Covell, UC San Diego School of Medicine Professor Emerita.

Students were recognized during a Senior Awards Luncheon held on Saturday, June 4.

*Jonathan Cruz was selected to receive the **2022 Ruth Covell Award in Geriatrics** for his exceptional work and interest in geriatrics, underserved populations and primary care as a medical student. He was past president of the Geriatrics Student Interest Group and received grant support to attend the American Geriatrics Society annual conference. He also held several other leadership roles as part of his work with the Latina/o Student Medical Association, the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinic and Benevolent Heart, a non-profit organization, and helped conduct research regarding language barriers and cancer. He is dedicated to combating health disparities facing LGBTQ, immigrant, minority and elder communities and will continue his work as part of the Family Medicine Residency Program at the University of Miami.*



*Kevin Yang was selected to receive the **2022 Ruth Covell Award in Geriatrics** for his dedication to the care of older people and to research in the area of substance use and misuse in older adults. His work as an aide on a geriatric psychiatry inpatient unit before medical school inspired his interest in the field of geriatric psychiatry. His clinical experience during medical school included working in the UCSD senior medicine clinic and gaining shadowing experience in geriatric psychiatry. He also participated in UC San Diego's Medical Student Training in Aging Research Program after his first year of medical school and won the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry Scholars Program Award in 2021 for one of his projects. He is going to become a psychiatrist and if all goes well for us in the field, a geriatric psychiatrist who will continue to do good work for older adults.*

More about ACP

Dr. Rabia Atayee & the Development of Pharmacist Entrustable Professional Activities

“Dr. Atayee is employee #3 of the UCSD palliative program and has worked tirelessly to pioneer the field of specialist palliative pharmacy, including as a founding member of the Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists. I am so proud of the pivotal role she played in this milestone achievement for the field and look forward to many more years of collaboration.” -Kyle Edmonds, Section Chief of Palliative Care



I have had the pleasure of working as a palliative care specialist pharmacist at UC San Diego Health and serving patients in the community for the last 16 years. In 2020, I was invited by my colleague, Dr. Kshelle Lockman, from University of Iowa, College of Pharmacy to serve on a national 11-member workgroup of hospice and palliative care (HAPC) pharmacists to develop entrustable professional activities (EPAs) for our specialty. EPAs set a foundation for specialty training curricula and entail integrating knowledge, skills and attitudes. They are different than competencies in that they are expected responsibilities after attaining competencies and include tasks after a specific training and outcome measures of those trainings.

EPAs are important for team work as they allow for discussion of entrusted professional skill set, expertise, role, overlapping roles and potential contribution of each member of the interprofessional team. They also strengthen a team approach in patient care and other activities.

Dr. Lockman received a grant from the Sojourns Scholar Leadership Program to lead this project. I was honored to be asked and agreed to serve as Dr. Lockman’s mentor and senior investigator for this initiative. For the last two years, I have worked closely with our team to develop, publish and highlight the EPAs we developed. We developed 15 EPAs with a focus on optimizing medication therapy in alignment with patient and family values, prognosis, and goals of care and providing education on therapeutic interventions to patients, families, trainees and other members of the healthcare team. Our EPA work was published in [Journal of Pain and Symptom Management](#) in 2022.

These published EPAs highlight the HAPC pharmacist's role, as an integral member of the team, in leading initiatives for safe medication use and in tailoring pharmaceutical care while honoring psychosocial, cultural and spiritual needs for patients living with serious illness. These EPAs are expected to serve as a guide for the HAPC pharmacist training and practice standards. Furthermore, these EPAs can highlight distinct roles and support growth of the HAPC pharmacists, with a goal to integrate the HAPC pharmacists in a way that optimizes quality and value of interprofessional hospice and palliative care teams. I am very proud of the work I have accomplished with my colleagues nationally in advancing the role of pharmacists and continuing to identify ways to serve our patients better.

“[Prior to this project] Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) have been developed for physicians practicing in hospice and palliative care, but not for pharmacists. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) has defined EPAs for new graduate pharmacists but hasn't furthered the work to specialty areas [...] these may be the first set of EPAs for specialty pharmacists. In addition to identifying and refining EPAs by consensus, the work group sought feedback from various stakeholder groups furthering dissemination of the work and recognition of pharmacists. Many of these [EPAs] could be modified and applied to other chronic conditions, which I hope can serve as a model for other pharmacy specialties.” -Linda Awdishu, Division Chair, Clinical Pharmacy

[Read the article here](#)

What's Happening/Events

Alzheimer's Association International Conference 2022

July 31st - August 4th
San Diego, USA and Online

The Alzheimer's Association International Conference is being held here in San Diego! This conference brings together the world's leading basic scientists, clinical researchers, early career investigators, clinicians, and the care research community to share breaking research discoveries! Several of our faculty will be attending and/or presenting at this conference, including Dr. Marquine, who will be presenting on the connection of loss of smell due to COVID-19 and long-lasting cognitive problems. A couple of our AD-RCMAR scientists will also be presenting as part of a RCMAR Featured Research Session.

alzheimer's  association®

AAIC  22

[More Info on AAIC](#)

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 Graduating Geriatrics Fellows!!



Dr. Rachael Petry, Dr. Sheila Bhavsar, Dr. Jennifer Li

Congratulations to the 2022
Hospice and Palliative Medicine Graduating fellows!!



Top Row from Left to Right: Dr. Ruth Goodson, Dr. Alexa Chavez, Dr. Kevin Yang & Dr. Holly Yang (Fellowship Assistant Program Director at Scripps)

Bottom Row L to R: Dr. Elizabeth Li, Dr. Amy Picone, Dr. Rhianon Liu
Not pictured: Dr. Donald Moore (Fellow Graduate), Dr. Gary Buckholz (Fellowship Program Director)

Dr. Emily Sladek awarded with Excellence in Teaching Award

Congratulations to Dr. Emily Sladek, who was selected by the graduating geriatrics fellows to receive the annual "Excellence in Teaching Award" for 2021-22 in recognition of her teaching and fellow support. Dr. Sladek is Associate Clinical Professor in the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Care, and Chief of the Geriatrics Section at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. She teaches geriatrics fellows during their rotation at the VA's Community Living Center, which provides skilled nursing care to patients.

**CONGRATULATIONS
Dr. EB Sladek!!!**



Welcome to the 2022-2023 Geriatrics fellows!

Mai-Anh Dam, MD

Belicia Ding, MD

Karun Singla, MD



Welcome to the 2022-2023 Hospice & Palliative Medicine Fellows!

Rachel Cohn, MD

Jennifer Dunlap, MD

Michael Gabriel, MD

Conner Olsen, MD

Brandon Perkovich, MD

Stephanie Schmitt, MD

Debra Yeh, MD



Our Division members in the news:

- Dr. Ian Neel quoted in [Neurology Advisor article](#) about the link between dementia & COVID
- UCSD Chaplain, Allison Kestenbaum, quoted in the [San Diego Union Tribune](#) about her role as a "spiritual counselor" for end-of-life patients and their families

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 and join us in helping older adults live their best lives longer and improving 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.

[SUPPORT US](#)



Contact Us

UC San Diego Health

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
View this email [online](#).

9500 Gilman Drive MC 0665 | La Jolla, CA 92093-0665 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.