We are pleased to celebrate National Doctors Day and to announce UC San Diego Health’s Attending Physician of the Year, Michele Ritter, MD, and House Officer of the Year, Keith Roby, MD. Both physician leaders were selected for their excellence and dedication in patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning, communication, professionalism and system-based practice.

National Doctors Day is held annually across the United States on March 30 and honors outstanding physicians for their extraordinary commitment to serving the health care needs of the community. We applaud and thank our physicians for all that they do for our patients and their families, and for their extraordinary contributions to UC San Diego Health.

Dr. Michele Ritter, Attending Physician of the Year, is an associate clinical professor in the Department of Medicine, director of the Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) Program, and director of the Outpatient Clinic in the Division of Infectious Diseases. In these roles, she leads by example in providing outstanding continuity of care for patients who need ongoing complex antibiotic management after discharge. Her expert understanding and navigation of the many support systems improves patient outcomes and increases the efficiency of our health care delivery.

Her colleagues note her exceptional clinical skills and deep compassion. Her relaxed manner and talent for active listening puts patients, trainees and colleagues at ease. Her professionalism creates the patient-provider trust needed to assist patients through the healing process as well as an ideal learning environment for residents and medical students. She helps her patients navigate their complex diagnoses and treatment plans through her accessibility and deep empathy for and commitment to them. She exemplifies on a daily basis the Experience we strive to create at UC San Diego Health.

Dr. Ritter earned her medical degree at Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Georgetown. She then completed a two-year fellowship in Infectious Disease at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She joined UC San Diego’s faculty as an assistant clinical professor in 2010. The people – physicians whom she admires and trusts, staff throughout the hospital, and her patients – are the driving force for her deep devotion to UC San Diego Health.
Dr. Keith D. Roby, House Officer of the Year, is the chief resident in Dermatology. He was born in Naples, Italy, and grew up in a Navy family, spending much of his childhood here in San Diego. He graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology from UC San Diego and earned his medical degree at UC San Diego School of Medicine. He is an excellent communicator and builds rapport with patients by learning about them as a whole – their careers and hobbies. He works effectively in both inpatient and outpatient settings and has been involved in several quality improvement projects.

Dr. Roby was Intern of the Year in 2015 at Intermountain Medical Center, where he completed a transitional year internship. Prior to attending medical school, he conducted research in Dr. Edward Callaway’s Systems Neurobiology lab at the Salk Institute.

His interest in dermatology, specifically pigmented lesions and cutaneous oncology, was influenced by the passing of his grandfather from metastatic melanoma at a relatively young age (early 40s), and by the mentorship of Dr. Anna Di Nardo. We are thrilled that Dr. Roby will join our Department of Dermatology as an assistant clinical professor after his residency.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Ritter and Dr. Roby, as well as thanking all physicians, faculty, medical staff, fellows and residents for their commitment and service to UC San Diego Health. They are supported by nurses, pharmacists, social workers, laboratory technicians, environmental services staff, medical residents, security staff, administrators, and many more. Because of everyone’s dedication, UC San Diego Health stands among the nation’s best hospitals for clinical excellence and quality care.