New Updates within General Internal Medicine

-The newly revamped UCSD Division of General Internal Medicine website is live! You can access it at: https://medschool.ucsd.edu/som/medicine/divisions/genmed/pages/default.aspx

-Dr. Neil Farber has written a new book, "Serendipity: Ready, Set, Go! Recognizing and Utilizing Unexpected Events to Enhance Your Career and Life." His book will be coming out online on Amazon and Barnes & Noble as well as in paperback in bookstores in the next several months.

-Dr. Heather Hofflich is currently principal investigator of a clinical trial evaluating the different formulations of abaloparatide, a medication for osteoporosis.

-Dr. Carl Stepnowsky’s grant application titled “Effect of Myofunctional Therapy on Outcomes in Mild to Moderate Sleep Apnea” was recommended for funding by the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (RR&D). It is a 4-year, $1.1M grant that will investigate the efficacy of a daytime therapeutic option for patients for whom CPAP may be too burdensome of a therapy.

-Dr. Jeff Jenks and Dr. Martin Hoenigl (from the Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health) are collaborating on a number of projects:
  -They are enrolling patients in a phase II clinical trial at UC San Diego Health to investigate Olorofim (drug F901318) for the treatment of invasive fungal infections resistant to traditional therapy.
  -They are also working on a multi-center study to investigate the prevalence of invasive aspergillosis and the performance of diagnostic tests for invasive aspergillosis in patients hospitalized in intensive care units with severe COVID-19 infection.
  -Additionally, they were awarded a grant from Pfizer to investigate point-of-care testing for invasive aspergillosis.
  -Dr. Jeff Jenks and colleagues wrote an article, “Latent Tuberculosis Screening Using Electronic Health Record Data,” that was accepted for publication in the September 2020 edition of Emerging Infectious Diseases (doi: 10.3201/eid2609.191391).

-Dr. Eduardo Grunvald has submitted a case report for a bariatric surgery patient with heterotaxy syndrome and congenital heart disease, a case never before reported in the medical literature. He also co-authored a study evaluating screening for sleep apnea in bariatric surgery patients, currently in review. Dr. Grunvald is a collaborator with the Division of Gastroenterology on a grant investigating pharmacological weight loss in patients with ulcerative colitis. He is also a collaborator with the Division of Minimally Invasive Surgery on a grant investigating physical activity trackers and outcomes after bariatric surgery. In collaboration with the Department of Family Medicine and the Center for Integrative Medicine, he is a co-investigator on a recently approved grant for a project exploring the use of shared medical appointments for delivery of lifestyle interventions in weight management.
- **Dr. Lori Wan** was named the recipient of the FY20 Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine Innovation Educational Grant with the opportunity to present her project, “Exploratory Study to Increase Knowledge of Medicine-Pediatric Trainees on Transition of Care from Pediatric to Adult Medicine,” during the Academic Internal Medicine Week 2021. Co-investigators are Shannon Leung, MD (UCSD General Pediatrics) and Sarah Mennito, MD (Medical University of South Carolina).

- **Dr. Edward Chao** is the principal investigator of a clinical trial of a wearable, needle-free continuous glucose sensor and its performance compared with glucometer readings. He is collaborating with Joseph Wang, DSc, of UCSD Nanoengineering, whose team developed this biosensor. An abstract was accepted for a poster presentation at the 80th Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association in June. He is interested in harnessing innovative technology as another tool to enhance engagement, as well as improve outcomes and quality of life for individuals living with diabetes.

- **Dr. Amy Sitapati** has been engaged in multiple research endeavors:
  - She is an investigator and leader on the California Integrated Vital Records Systems project in collaboration with Dr. Mike Hogarth. They are planning a summer launch of a new version of the state decedent records system.
  - She is an investigator and leader in the “All of Us,” a NIH precision medicine initiative designed to recruit a large and diverse participant group for research. She is working to identify future participants and support retention. She, along with Dr. Lucila Ohno-Machado, Dr. Ryan Moran, and team, recently launched a satellite site for the study.
  - She is working with Dr. Lori Daniels to study cardiovascular considerations with COVID-19.
  - Her manuscript, "A Case Study of the 1115 Waiver Using Population Health Informatics to Address Disparities," was accepted for publication in *JAMIA Open*. Her manuscript "Readmissions AI case study" with Dr. Sally Baxter and Dr. Jeremy Bass was submitted in revisions to *ACI Open*. She has also submitted a number of manuscripts, including "COVID-19 Pandemic Response: Swift Adoption of Telehealth at an Academic Health Center" with co-authors Dr. Ming Tai-Seale, Dr. Marlene Millen, Dr. Brett C Meyer, Dr. Lawrence Friedman, Dr. Brian Clay, and Dr. Christopher Longhurst.

- **Dr. Melinda Chen** is working on an AHRQ-funded study with Dr. Lawrence Casalino and researchers at Weill Cornell Medical College and the University of California, San Francisco to define characteristics of high-performing primary care physician partnerships with their staff and care teams. They are also assessing the impacts of physician partnerships with their staff and care teams on healthcare quality and burnout.

- **Dr. Amy Huang** and third-year medical student Erica Anunwah have a clinical vignette poster entitled, “Where to Draw the Line? Balancing Diagnostic Work-up for Incidental Findings in a Nonverbal Patient,” that was accepted at the Society for General Internal Medicine National Meeting. A case report was also submitted to the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference. Dr. Huang and Medicine-Pediatrics resident Dr. Pooja Jaeel submitted a quality improvement project abstract to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "Creating a Transitions of Care Curriculum at a Federally Qualified Health Care Center."
Dr. Bernice Ruo is creating a mentoring program for junior faculty to increase academic scholarship as part of her mini-grant project. She also presented a workshop, “Giving Feedback: Techniques and Tips for Challenging Situations,” earlier this year at the regional Society for General Internal Medicine meeting at UC Irvine. She co-authored an abstract that will be presented virtually at the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, "Impact of Health Literacy and Social Support on Self-Efficacy Regarding Self-Care among Patients with a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD): Findings from the Mechanical Circulatory Support: Measures of Adjustment and Quality of Life (MCS A-QOL) Study.”


Dr. Lawrence Friedman and colleagues, Dr. Brian Kwan, Dr. Stacy Charat, Dr. Darcy Wooten, Dr. Deanna Hill, and Dr. Nivedita Restaino, submitted a manuscript for publication, “A Practical Framework for Conducting Video Telemedicine Visits with Trainees.”

Other Updates

The American College of Physicians 2021 Internal Medicine Meeting is slated for April 29 through May 1, 2021 in Orlando, Florida.
https://annualmeeting.acponline.org

The 2021 Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting will be held in Boston, Massachusetts from April 21 through 24, 2021.
https://connect.sgim.org/annualmeeting/about/key-dates

New Updates on Resources for Scholarly Activity at UCSD

The GEM Challenge: Funding is available for interdisciplinary projects to address COVID-19 healthcare problems with the use of engineering technology. Applications should include partnership with at least one clinically active UCSD faculty member and an engineering faculty member.

COVID-19 Research Data: COVID-19 research data (registry, repository) is available to the UCSD community through partnership with the UCSD Health Department of Biomedical Informatics, Altman Clinical and Translational Institute, and UCSD Health Information Services.
https://healthdata.ucsd.edu/

2020 Request for Applied Research Applications from the Sanford Institute for Empathy and Compassion: Grant funding is available for cross-disciplinary projects
that integrate measures of brain, body, behavioral, and social interaction in applied settings to foster empathy and compassion. Projects that are relevant to patient interactions with health care professionals and their relationship to burnout are especially encouraged. First-phase abstracts are due June 12, 2020. [https://empathyandcompassion.ucsd.edu/research/Funding%20Opportunities.html](https://empathyandcompassion.ucsd.edu/research/Funding%20Opportunities.html)

- **2020 Moores Cancer Center “Cancer Center Support Grant”**: Funding is available for pilot research projects addressing prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer and involving collaborations between UCSD and San Diego State University faculty. Applications are due May 29, 2020. For inquiries, contact: Dr. Angela Ballantyne at [aballantyne@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:aballantyne@health.ucsd.edu)

- **Loss Prevention Grant Program**: The University of California Office of the President-Risk Services Professional Medical and Hospital Liability Program, in partnership with the risk management office, is offering funding for projects to reduce the frequency or severity of loss at the University of California. Applications are due June 8, 2020. For inquiries, contact: Melissa Duke or Sheri Hamel at 619-471-0567.

- **The Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute Accrual to Clinical Trials (ACT) Network**: Access a real-time, nationwide platform of aggregate patient data to explore and validate feasibility for clinical studies and identify potential collaborators for multi-institutional studies. This service is free, and registration is required. [https://medschool.ucsd.edu/research/actri/Informatics/Pages/Accrual-to-Clinical-Trials-ACT.aspx](https://medschool.ucsd.edu/research/actri/Informatics/Pages/Accrual-to-Clinical-Trials-ACT.aspx)

**Making Connections**

- **Wanted!** Junior faculty (assistant professors) who are interested in working in mentored groups on scholarly projects such as clinical vignettes, workshop submissions, or clinical research or quality improvement projects. You can but do not need to have your own idea. We will be working in clusters on group projects collaboratively to make it fun, productive and much easier than doing it alone! Contact [Dr. Bernice Ruo](mailto:bruo@health.ucsd.edu) at bruo@health.ucsd.edu for more details.

- **Dr. Amy Sitapati** invites faculty seeking research or scholarly activities related to health care quality and informatics to reach out to her about potential collaborations. If you are interested, please contact her at: [asitapati@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:asitapati@health.ucsd.edu).

- **Dr. Ian Jenkins** and colleagues from UCSD's hospitalist and surgery divisions are interested in investigating venous thromboembolism care and prevention, especially in perioperative settings. If you are interested in collaborating, please contact Dr. Ian Jenkins at [ihjenkins@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:ihjenkins@health.ucsd.edu).

- **Dr. Ian Jenkins** and colleagues from the UCSD Hospitalist Division (Koola, Horman, Kviatkovsky, Kwak, and Hong) are developing surveys of patients/families on their experiences with 1) medical distancing and 2) visitor restrictions due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Please write [ihjenkins@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:ihjenkins@health.ucsd.edu) if you are interested in collaborating.
Please contact the UCSD Division of General Internal Medicine Research Subcommittee with any updates or resources you would like to share in future newsletters. Also, if you are interested in forging connections or either soliciting or offering help with scholarly projects, please let us know!