

VC and CEO Message: Physician and House Officers of the Year Named 3/30/19

This message is sent on behalf of Dr. David Brenner, Vice Chancellor, UC San Diego Health Sciences; Patty Maysent, Chief Executive Officer, UC San Diego Health; Dr. Steven Garfin, Interim Dean, UC San Diego School of Medicine; Dr. Christopher Kane, Dean of Clinical Affairs, UC San Diego School of Medicine; Dr. Thomas Moore, Interim Chief Medical Officer; and Dr. Thomas Savides, Chief Experience Officer.

We are pleased to celebrate National Doctors Day on March 30 and recognize our incredible medical staff, residents and fellows, who day in and day out provide outstanding care to the sickest and most fragile patients in the region and beyond. In addition, we are pleased to announce and honor our outstanding physician and house staff of the year. This year, our Outstanding Physician of the Year is our own Chief of Staff, Dr. Richard Clark. In addition, there was a tie for House Officer of the Year, thus two are honored: Dr. Amy Bellinghausen and Dr. Andrew Bruggeman. These physician leaders have been 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. Richard Clark, Attending Physician of the Year, is a professor of Emergency Medicine, director of the Division of Medical Toxicology and Chief of the Medical Staff. He helped establish the California Poison Control System in 1997, the largest poison control system in the country. He also helped create the Division of Medical Toxicology, which provides inpatient and outpatient consulting services and has one of the most productive medical toxicology fellowship programs in the U.S. He has served since 1997 as the chair of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, and is a member of the Safe Medication Practices Committee and many other committees. The health system depends on his expertise to continuously improve the safe delivery of medications to all patients. He is also dedicated to improving the culture of professionalism.

Dr. Clark earned his medical degree at Medical College of Virginia and completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at Allegheny General Hospital, Medical College of Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh. He has been interested in emergency medicine since a summer job in college as an ED orderly; he still enjoys the anticipation of not knowing what type of case might present each day, as well as caring for underserved populations. He completed a fellowship in Toxicology at the Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix. He joined UC San Diego as an assistant professor in 1991 and soon became the medical director of our poison center.

His colleagues note his dedication to his patients and determination to improve practice personally, within the department of Emergency Medicine, and across the health system.

Dr. Amy Bellinghausen, one of two House Officers of the Year, is a second-year fellow in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. She earned her medical degree at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, and was the PGY3 Resident of the Year in their Department of Medicine in 2017, where she completed her residency in Internal Medicine. She attributes her interest in critical care to her mother, who is a critical

care physician. She spent many hours after school at the nurses' station in the intensive care unit (ICU) where her mother worked. This early interest in critical care was confirmed in medical school.

Dr. Bellinghausen chose UC San Diego for her fellowship training because she loved the people she met during her interview and was impressed with the many opportunities here. Her colleagues note that she provides outstanding care to our patients and often functions at the level of an attending, going out of her way to quickly take command to ensure that critical diagnoses are made, timely actions are initiated and lifesaving resources are mobilized while maintaining a calm and highly professional manner.

She is developing a fellowship research project centered on the needs of ICU survivors, especially the cognitive, physical function and complex medical challenges these patients face. She plans to continue in academic medicine, with an emphasis in post-ICU care.

Dr. Drew Bruggeman, also a House Officer of the Year, is a senior resident in Radiation Oncology who recently completed six months as chief resident. He also completed an internship and residency in Internal Medicine here at UC San Diego after earning a medical degree at University of Toledo College of Medicine. He chose to specialize in radiation oncology based on the unique ability to make an impact both clinically and academically in palliative care for cancer patients.

His plan to become a doctor began in junior high when his father passed away from melanoma. His interest in palliative oncology grew from an appreciation for the exceptional care his father received, especially in hospice. He strives to provide the same level of exceptional, compassionate care to his patients and has been awarded two research grants to study the integration of palliative care into radiation oncology.

Dr. Bruggeman is consistently recognized as a leader with a remarkable level of focus and maturity. He is caring and compassionate, with a marked interest in the care of end-stage palliative patients. He is also noted for his ability to interact with and mentor junior residents. We are delighted that, after completing his residency this year, he will join the Department of Radiation Medicine as an assistant professor and the service chief of Palliative Radiation Oncology.

Please join us in congratulating Drs. Clark, Bellinghausen and Bruggeman, as well as thanking all of our physicians, faculty, medical staff, fellows and residents for their commitment and service to UC San Diego Health. Every team member plays a role in our success and the transformative care we are known for. Because of everyone's dedication, UC San Diego Health stands among the nation's best hospitals for high-quality care and clinical excellence.