Eric Widera, MD Receives a Grant from the Veterans Administration Medical Center
December 9, 2008

Eric Widera, MD recently received a competitive grant from the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) to develop a program to expand palliative care services to the outpatient setting. This provides a great opportunity to expand this needed service to many Veterans who have been unable to access them before.

This is recognition of the incredible work Dr. Widera has been doing leading the VAMC Palliative Care Service. The service has grown tremendously under Dr. Widera’s leadership, his work has had great impact improving the quality of life of Veterans who have advanced illness or are at the end of life.

Rebecca Conant, MD receives a grant from the Callison Foundation
December 9, 2008

Rebecca Conant, MD received a grant from the Callison Foundation for core support of the Housecalls program. Since taking leadership of Housecalls, Dr. Conant has greatly expanded the number of patients that we are able to serve. Through Housecalls, Dr. Conant and her colleagues provide exceptional care to the most frail elders in San Francisco, many of whom could not live at home without Housecalls.

The Division of Geriatrics is featured in the Frontiers of Medicine Newsletter
December 9, 2008

The Division of Geriatrics was featured in the Fall 2008 issue of the Frontiers of Medicine Newsletter. This article highlights the work that is being done in the Housecalls Program and Acute Care for Elders Unit. These are two of the programs in the Division of Geriatrics that provide innovative care for seniors. Read Article

Dr. Pierluissi Receives an Early Stage Investigator Award
December 2, 2008

Edgar Pierluissi, MD has received an Early Stage Investigator Award from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation. With the support of the foundation, Dr. Pierluissi will focus his efforts on researching risk factors for Alzheimer’s disease, with the goal of advancing understanding and prevention of the disease. This potentially transformative research could lead to productive collaboration with other investigators in the field and to the design of interventions to prevent or slow Alzheimer’s disease.

The SCAN Foundation will fund the design and organization of a new series in JAMA on aging
November 25, 2008

November 25, 2008

The SCAN Foundation announced Thursday that it will fund the design and organization of a new series in JAMA on aging. The new series seeks to inform and improve practice in the medical care of older people in articles that tell a patient’s story and apply evidence-based answers to key questions that arose for the patient, her family, and her physician. Seth Landefeld, Helen Chen, and Louise Walter in UCSF’s Division of Geriatrics will lead the effort over the next two years. The new series builds on the pioneering Perspectives on Care at the Close of Life series that was developed for JAMA by UCSF’s Steve McPhee, Steve Pantilat, Mike Rabow, Amy Markowitz, and Phil Tisc. For more information, see the news release.

Dr. Harry Weinstein Dies- Leader in Elder Care
November 20, 2008

The Division of Geriatrics and the School of Medicine lost a dear friend on Sunday, November 2, when Harry Weinstein, MD died at the age of 95. Professor of Medicine emeritus, Dr. Weinstein practiced for over 50 years at Mt. Zion Hospital, where he also served as Director of Medical Education. Dr. Weinstein founded the first teaching housecalls program in San Francisco more than 50 years ago. He was revered by students and residents for his devotion to their education and the patients they shared. In 1998, Dr. Weinstein was honored with a gift from Maria and Richard Ury to establish the UCSF Housecalls Program a model teaching practice. Details on a memorial service will be forthcoming.

Stephen Bonasera, Assistant Professor of Medicine, has accepted a position
November 3, 2008

Stephen Bonasera, Assistant Professor of Medicine, has accepted a position to lead a new program in the neurobiology of aging at the University of Nebraska. A Brookdale Scholar and an awardee of the National Institute on Aging and the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Steve has made many wonderful contributions to UCSF and Geriatrics as a doctor, teacher and researcher. We wish him the best in this exciting next stage of his career and look forward to working with him in the development of Geriatrics nationally. Congratulations!

Shahla Haider, Division Administrator, has accepted a new position
October 27, 2008

Shahla Haider, Division Administrator, has accepted a new position as the Director for Administration and Finance for the Department of Urology at Stanford University. Shahla has provided top-notch leadership, management, and counsel to the Division for the past 7 years. We will miss her hard work and thoughtful leadership and wish her the best in this exciting new position. Congratulations!

Seth Landefeld, MD, Chief of the Division of Geriatrics is on sabbatical.
October 16, 2008

Seth Landefeld, MD, Chief of the Division of Geriatrics, is on sabbatical at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. As a Fellow at the Center, Dr. Landefeld will address wasted health care – care that predictably fails to benefit patients, sometimes harming them, or that achieves a benefit that could be achieved at less cost. He seeks to advance understanding of this critical problem and its root causes, and to inform policies that will control and reduce wasted care.

Will Gordon received the award for best poster presentation at the Bay Area Clinical Research Symposium!

October 10, 2008

The Bay Area research symposium attracts the best research fellows faculty, and junior faculty as well as many senior faculty. The competition for this award was very keen. In this edition
as well as many senior faculty. The competition for this award was very keen. In this setting, having a second year medical student win is quite amazing, and a testament to Will's great work and Dr. Steinman's exceptional mentorship. Congratulations!

**Daniel Pound, MD is first runner up in the educational products competition**

**September 22, 2008**

Daniel Pound, MD, who teaches in our Reynolds Mentored Home Visit program for third year medical students during their Family and Community Medicine clerkship, was first runner up in the educational products competition at the recent 2008 Reynolds Grantee Annual Meeting in St. Louis. His "Incontinence Bingo" game, which can be used with groups ranging from 2 – 20 learners, will soon be available to all educators on the [POGOe website](http://geriatrics.medicine.ucsf.edu/news/archives-2008.html).

**Michael Harper is appointed Director of Curricular Affairs**

**September 8, 2008**

G. Michael Harper, MD, has been appointed Director of Curricular Affairs for Graduate Medical Education in the School of Medicine.

**Helen Kao, MD receives the 2008 Excellence in Teaching Award**

**August 25, 2008**

Helen Kao, MD is a recipient of the 2008 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators.

**Michael Steinman, MD, and Douglas White, MD, MAS are recipients of the 2008 Paul B. Beeson Career Development Awards in Aging Research**

**August 25, 2008**

This highly competitive and prestigious award, seeks to create a cadre of clinically-trained faculty who are committed to academic careers in aging research, teaching, and practice. The award is granted to scholars who are laying clinically relevant groundwork in many areas related to aging, including the biology of aging, age-related diseases, as well as health services and clinical management issues, with the aim of enhancing the health and quality of life of older adults. Each grant provides up to $1.3 million over 5 years. Dr. Steinman's project is titled *Guideline Adherence in Elders with Multiple Comorbidities*. Dr. White's project is titled *A Randomized Trial to Improve Surrogate Decision-Making for Critically Ill Elders*. For more information on the award [click here](http://geriatrics.medicine.ucsf.edu/news/archives-2008.html).

**Health-Related Quality of Life Following Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery in Post-Menopausal Women**

**August 15, 2008**

In his article titled, "Health-Related Quality of Life Following Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery in Post-Menopausal Women." Dr. Covinsky examines how quality of life changes after open heart surgery in older women. Dr. Covinsky's research found that while on average, quality of life after surgery is the same as the pre-illness baseline, there is great variability: Some women are much better, but others are much worse. [read abstract](http://geriatrics.medicine.ucsf.edu/news/archives-2008.html).

**Dr. Aronson and Dr. Chang begin 2-year Medical Education Research Fellowships**

**August 12, 2008**

Anna Chang, MD and Louise Aronson, MD begin 2-year Medical Education Research Fellowships. The Office of Medical Education sponsors two faculty members who are medical educators for a two-year fellowship which provides salary support. The purpose of the fellowship is to allow the faculty member protected time and provide guidance in developing expertise in an area of medical education research as a means to becoming an independent medical education researcher and an educational leader locally and nationally. For more information about this program [click here](http://geriatrics.medicine.ucsf.edu/news/archives-2008.html).

**Chronic conditions and mortality among the oldest old**

**August 1, 2008**

Dr. Lee's research found that among patients in their 80’s and 90’s, their ability to do basic tasks, like walking or bathing, was more important than disease diagnoses for predicting death. This suggests that it is important to consider the ability to do basic tasks in addition to disease diagnoses in patients over 80. [read abstract](http://geriatrics.medicine.ucsf.edu/news/archives-2008.html).

**UCSF Geriatrics was ranked in the Top 10 for 2008 by US News & World Report**

**July 25, 2008**

UCSF Geriatrics was ranked in the Top 10 for 2008 by US News & World Report. UCSF's rise to the Top 10 has been catalyzed by grants from the NIH, the VA, the John A. Hartford Foundation.
Louise Walter, MD is quoted in the New York Times

July 22, 2008

Louise Walter, MD was quoted in a recent New York Times article regarding cancer screening in older adults titled "Screening for Cancer in Elderly Fuels Fight." To read the article click here.