Dear prospective MSTAR student,

Welcome to the MSTAR program at UCSF! We are a satellite program of the UCLA MSTAR training site, meaning that we enact our own research and clinical activities for students based in San Francisco, but coordinate the applications process and “big-picture” national activities with program leaders at UCLA.

**THE APPLICATION PROCESS:**

If you have not already done so, please review the following information:

UCLA (our parent site) MSTAR website: <http://www.geronet.ucla.edu/mstar>

The application deadline is March 1st 2019. Early applications may increase your chances of finding a faculty mentor.

The MSTAR program at UCSF is a mentored research experience and is open to students with an interest in aging research. In addition to the NTC application submitted to UCLA, students who are interested in applying to the UCSF site **must also email to Elaine Chow the following:**

* Start/End Date
* Research Mentor
* Research project title

It is important to note that different MSTAR sites deal with the application process differently. For example, other sites often match students to mentors after they are accepted into the program.

**FINDING A MENTOR**

Due to the popularity and competitiveness of the UCSF program, it is highly encouraged that students seek out and start a relationship with a mentor ahead of time. It is also possible for students who have an established research mentor at UCSF to join the program *if their mentor is doing aging research*. If you have a mentor in mind who is not listed on the UCSF MSTAR mentor list, let us know and we will reach out to the prospective mentor to include him/her as a UCSF MSTAR mentor.

If you do not have UCSF mentor in mind, review the potential mentor list to find a research mentor who is doing work in an area of interest (see below). We recommend contacting the potential mentor directly to see if they have any potential projects for the summer.

In your application, we recommend that you discuss your interest and dedication to aging research and/or clinical care. If you have a project in mind, it would also be important to write about your mentor and potential project (one paragraph or so is fine and it is OK if all the particulars are not yet decided). You and a mentor can finalize the specifics of your project as the summer nears.

**THE MSTAR PROGRAM AT UCSF**

In addition to the mentored research experience, two other core elements run throughout the summer. First, we arrange a variety of clinical experiences in geriatrics and related fields for students. These vary from week to week, but typically occur on 1 to 2 half-days a week. Second, we offer a didactic program with small-group teaching and “meet-the-professor” sessions related to research and clinical care of older adults. These sessions occur on Tuesday mornings. In addition, students are required to attend the Division of Geriatrics Research Works-In-Progress conference, which occurs Wednesday mornings from 8:15 – 9:30 AM.

In the latter part of the summer, all MSTAR students at UCSF will present their research in a symposium. In addition, we strongly encourage all MSTAR students to submit their research to the annual meeting of the American Geriatrics Society, which occurs in May of each year (for example, if a student is with us the summer of 2019, they would go to the AGS meeting in May 2020). There is a special student symposium at the meeting, and it’s a great opportunity to present your research, meet other students from around the country, and get a flavor for the wider community of geriatrics and aging research.

**LOGISTIC CONSIDERATIONS**

* The MSTAR program is a **MINIMUM** of 8 weeks and a maximum of 12 weeks.
* To allow for maximum productivity over the summer, we ask that students complete web-based research compliance trainings before starting their MSTAR experience (these trainings are required for all people at UCSF who do research). This typically involves a few hours of completing a handful of web-based courses.
* The NIH NRSA Pre-doctoral stipend level is $1,978/month. The stipend check is scheduled to arrive late June/early July, so please be sure to plan your finances accordingly (i.e. if you start June 1st, don’t expect a check the first week you are here).

If needed, you may also contact Elaine Chow, the UCSF program administrator, at elaine.chow2@ucsf.edu. Thank you for your interest in MSTAR!

**UCSF Mentor List for the 2019 MSTAR Program**

**RESEARCH MENTORS IN THE UCSF DIVISION OF GERIATRICS**

[***http://geriatrics.ucsf.edu/***](http://geriatrics.ucsf.edu/)

Theresa Allison, MD, PhD

Anna Chodos, MD, MAS

Ken Covinsky, MD, MPH

Jessica Eng, MD, MS

Anne Fabiny, MD

Meredith Greene, MD, MAS

Krista Harrison, PhD

Sei Lee, MD, MAS

John Newman, MD, MPH

Edgar Pierluissi, MD

Christine Ritchie, MD

Stephanie Rogers, MD

Janice Schwartz, MD

Alexander Smith

Michael Steinman

Rebecca Sudore

Victoria Tang

Victor Valcour

Louise Walter

Brie Williams

Michi Yukawa

**Theresa A. Allison**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/theresa.allison>

Email: [Theresa.Allison@ucsf.edu](mailto:Theresa.Allison@ucsf.edu)

Theresa A. Allison, MD, PhD (Musicology), is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Geriatrics, with a secondary appointment in Family and Community Medicine. Clinically, she cares for patients in the San Francisco VA nursing home and makes house calls through the VA Home Based Primary Care program. Dr. Allison’s research integrates medical humanities and health sciences methodology to examine the role of music in daily life for vulnerable older adults. Her current research uses mixed methods to investigate the role of music in dementia caregiving relationships in the home. This summer there are possibilities for research that involves chart review, qualitative data analysis, and/or in-home assessments with people who have dementia and their caregivers.

**Anna Chodos, MD**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/anna.chodos>

Email: [Anna.Chodos@ucsf.edu](mailto:Anna.Chodos@ucsf.edu)

Implementation science, older adults, primary care, safety net, socioeconomically disadvantaged groups, consult geriatrics, advocacy, writing for advocacy, poverty in older adults, interdisciplinary research collaboration, dementia, elder abuse, community-based participatory research

 Dr. Anna Chodos is interested in understanding the unmet needs of older adults who are seen in primary care in the safety net and developing high-quality programs for older adults to address these needs. She is the medical director of the outpatient Geriatrics Consult Service at Zuckerberg San Francisco General and a primary care provider at the adult medicine primary care clinic at ZSFG.

**Ken Covinsky, MD, MPH**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/kenneth.covinsky>

Email: [covinsky@medicine.ucsf.edu](mailto:covinsky@medicine.ucsf.edu)

Activities of Daily Living, Frail Elderly, Geriatric Assessment, Health Status

Dr. Covinsky is interested in the broad determinants of health outcomes in older persons. He uses epidemiologic datasets to examine predictors of health outcomes, and to develop models to distinguish between elders at high and low risk of health outcomes. He is particularly interested in functional status---both in terms of understanding the determinants of functional status outcomes, and the role of functional status in predicting other health outcomes.

Much of his work uses the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), a large study of health outcomes in US persons over the age of 50. The HRS survey provides opportunities to address a wide range of research questions in the elderly. The HRS study can be accessed at <http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/>.

**Jessica Eng, MD, MS**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/jessica.eng>

Email: Jessica.Eng@ucsf.edu

Primary care panel management of complex adults, Interprofessional team care, and Home-based care.

Dr. Eng currently serves as the Medical Director of the San Francisco VA Medical Center's PACT Intensive Management program and the Associate Director of the San Francisco VA Quality Scholars program.  Dr. Eng's goal is to build clinical programs at UCSF and the San Francisco VA Medical Center that apply geriatric principles to adults with complex serious illnesses and improve quality of life and patient outcomes.

**Anne Fabiny, MD**

<https://profiles.ucsf.edu/anne.fabiny>

Email: [Anne.Fabiny@ucsf.edu](mailto:Anne.Fabiny@ucsf.edu)

Dr. Fabiny is a clinical administrator and program developer at the San Francisco VA Health Care System with an interest in both improving existing clinical programs for older veterans and developing new clinical programs to better meet the needs of frail, complex, older veterans.  
  
She is currently working on two projects. One is to improve the clinical care of older veterans with dementia and serious mental illness in the SFVA Community Living Center. The second is to develop an intensive supportive housing site for formerly homeless, older veterans at the Colma housing site being built by Mercy Housing. This is a collaborative venture with the San Francisco VA Health Care System, Health Plan of San Mateo County, the Public Housing Authority of San Mateo County, non-profit social service agencies and the San Francisco VA HUD-VASH program.

**Meredith Greene, MD**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/meredith.greene>

Email: [Meredith.Greene@ucsf.edu](mailto:Meredith.Greene@ucsf.edu)

HIV, polypharmacy, patient-centered medical homes

Dr. Greene is interested in HIV, polypharmacy and geriatric conditions such as frailty in older HIV-infected adults. She is also part of a team of clinicians and researchers working to develop a Patient Centered Medical Home within the UCSF and SFGH HIV clinics for older adults. She is also interested in policy and systems issues to improve the care of vulnerable older adults, including those with HIV infection. Her current clinical work is through the UCSF Housecalls program providing medical care to homebound elderly.

**Krista Harrison, PhD**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/krista.harrison>

Email: Krista.Harrison@ucsf.edu

Krista Harrison, PhD, is a health services researcher focused on improving systems of palliative care for older adults with dementia and other serious illnesses who live in home- and community-based settings. Dr. Harrison is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatrics within the UCSF School of Medicine, an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at the Global Brain Health Institute, and a Pepper Center Scholar.   
  
Dr. Harrison completed her undergraduate degree in Biology and English at Williams College; a PhD in Bioethics, Health Policy & Management at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; and a postdoctoral research fellowship in Geriatrics at UCSF. In addition, Dr. Harrison previously contributed to national program evaluations at Mathematica Policy Research and served as Director of Research and Education at Capital Caring, a large community-based non-profit hospice and palliative care provider serving the Washington DC metropolitan area.   
  
Dr. Harrison’s goal is to build a research program that improves systems of care for vulnerable older adults with serious illness. Her work focuses on palliative care for older adults living at home with severe dementia and on improving the quality of home-based primary care and palliative care. Her expertise includes qualitative and quantitative research methods, implementation science, health policy ethics, and the translation of research to policy.

**Sei Lee, MD, MAS**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/sei.lee>

Email: Sei.Lee@ucsf.edu

Mortality prediction, Prevention, Geriatric Diabetes, Alzheimer’s Prediction

Dr. Lee has 3 main areas of research interest:

1. Individualizing Prevention:

I’m interested in determining how long after a preventive intervention (such as cancer screening) the benefits are seen.  This “lagtime-to-benefit” is unknown for intensive blood pressure control, intensive glycemic control, cholesterol lowering therapy as well as most other common preventive interventions in the elderly.  I’m also interested in predicting which patients have an extended life expectancy (so they are likely to benefit from prevention) and which patients have a limited life expectancy (so they are unlikely to benefit from prevention)

1. Geriatric Diabetes:  I’m interested in how varying levels of glycemic control affects geriatric outcomes such as incontinence, falls and functional decline in the frail elderly.
2. Alzheimer’s Dementia:  I’m interested in how newly developed markers for preclinical Alzheimer’s can help us identify which patients should get treatments to prevent Alzheimer’s.

**John Newman, MD PhD**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/john.newman>

Email: Newman@ucsf.edu

Geriatrics, aging, acute care of elders, frailty, longevity, metabolism, dietary restriction

Dr. Newman's research aims to elucidate the mechanisms of pathways that broadly regulate health span and longevity in mammals, and translate these advances into therapies targeted at elders at high risk for frailty, cognitive decline, and functional dependence. He is specifically interested in mitochondrial and cellular metabolism, deacetylases and histone modifications; the assessment of metabolic health and behavioral function in mouse model systems; and the translational application of aging biology. The goals of his current research include systematically mapping changes in gene expression and histone modifications caused by BOHB in various mouse organs; testing the hypothesis that BOHB improves metabolic, cognitive, or neuromuscular health in middle-aged mice; and assessing longevity in mice consistently exposed to BOHB. This evidence will permit detailed mechanistic follow-on studies of links between BOHB -regulated genes and phenotypes in specific tissues, with identification of targets that are downstream of BOHB for drug discovery.

**Edgar Pierluissi, MD**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/edgar.pierluissi>

Email: epierluissi@medsfgh.ucsf.edu

Hospitalization-associated disability, delirium, acute care for elders

Dr. Pierluissi’s research focuses on improving care for hospitalized older adults, especially those with mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer’s disease. Ongoing projects include promoting mobility in hospitalized older adults. Previous medical student projects have included and analysis of the effectiveness of an Acute Care for Elders Unit in a Public Hospital and Patient Expectations and Attitudes Towards Exercise in the Hospital.

**Christine Ritchie, MD, MSPH**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/christine.ritchie>

Email: [christine.ritchie@ucsf.edu](mailto:christine.ritchie@ucsf.edu)

Chronic illness, multimorbidity, palliative care, symptom burden, patient care complexity

Dr. Ritchie is the Harris Fishbon Distinguished Professor in Clinical Translational Research and Aging in the Division of Geriatrics. She is a board certified geriatrician and palliative care physician and has a long-standing experience in clinical care delivery models, medical home care and advance illness research. Dr. Ritchie’s goal is to build a research program at UCSF at the interface of palliative care and geriatrics that seeks to improve quality of life and patient outcomes for those experiencing complex serious illnesses. She is currently studying the impact of symptom burden on health care utilization in individuals with multiple chronic conditions including cancer, the impact of new home-based clinical delivery models on outcomes, and the role of quality in housecalls medicine. She recently completed a clinical trial evaluating the impact of interactive voice response-based monitoring technology on transition outcomes from the hospital to home.

UCSF Geriatrics Profile: <http://geriatrics.ucsf.edu/about/faculty_profiles.html?key=a175a2c8f7a97a71b624b030638f8587&name=RITCHIE%2CCHRISTINE+S>

**Stephanie Rogers, MD, MPH**

[**https://profiles.ucsf.edu/stephanie.rogers**](https://profiles.ucsf.edu/stephanie.rogers)

Email: [Stephanie.Rogers@ucsf.edu](mailto:Stephanie.Rogers@ucsf.edu)

Prevention of harms of hospitalization (delirium, functional decline),  Acute Care of the Elderly (ACE) units, telemedicine, medical technology,  transitions of care, ageism in medicine.

Dr. Rogers' academic interests include promoting the awareness of ageism in healthcare and need for specialized geriatric care in order to foster improvements in the healthcare system, implementation of geriatric inpatient programs to ensure safety in the hospital and to prevent hospital-related functional and cognitive decline, and the implementation and testing of medical technology particularly in transitions from hospital to home.  She current is leading the Delirium Reduction Campaign at UCSF and is working to implement an Orthopedic-Geriatric co-management service for hip fracture patients.

**Janice Schwartz, MD**

<https://profiles.ucsf.edu/janice.schwartz>

Email: [Janice](mailto:Janice).Schwartz@ucsf.edu

I graduated from Tulane Medical School, am a board-certified internist and cardiologist with significant experience in clinical pharmacology and geriatric medicine. My research goal has been to elucidate age-related and sex-related differences in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics in order to improve medication therapy for older people. I have studied models of aging from in vitro models of cardiac changes with aging to physiologic and pharmacokinetic investigations of healthy humans to population studies of community dwelling elderly, and most recently, frail elderly people.   
  
My current work focuses on improving medication and vitamin use in the very oldest people, in optimizing outcomes in older people receiving polypharmacy, and the translation of new therapies and devices into clinical use to benefit the very oldest and frailest patients. My efforts include translating medical knowledge related to aging and cardiovascular health for the public.

**Alex Smith, MD**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/alexander.smith>

Email: aksmith@ucsf.edu

Palliative care, Disability, Research in diverse communities

Dr. Smith is interested in improving palliative and end-of-life care for older adults.  His current projects focus on the epidemiology of symptoms and health services utilization in the last two years of life using a nationally representative survey linked to Medicare claims data, and developing a survey of quality of life for older adults with late life disability from diverse communities.

**Michael Steinman, MD**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/michael.steinman>

Email: mike.steinman@ucsf.edu

Polypharmacy, Multimorbidity, Prescription Drugs, Drug Industry

Dr. Steinman's research is focused on understanding and improving the quality of prescribing for elders with multiple chronic conditions.  His research program includes studies of risk factors for adverse drug reactions in ambulatory elders; reasons why physicians do not adher to guideline-recommended practices; assessing prescribing quality and defining best practices in patients with common combinations of diseases; measurement of physician adherence to clinical practice guidelines; and developing improved methods for assessing multimorbidity and the burdens of having multiple chronic conditions.  In addition, Dr. Steinman maintains an active research interest in the impact of pharmaceutical industry marketing on physician prescribing behavior.

**Rebecca Sudore, MD**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/rebecca.sudore>

Email: rebecca.sudore@ucsf.edu

Advance Care Planning, Decision Making, Health Literacy, Advance Directives

Dr. Sudore’s primary research focus is on improving advance care planning and medical decision making for vulnerable older adults with limited health literacy. She has designed and tested an informed consent process for patients with limited literacy and an advance directive that is both literacy and culturally appropriate. Her current work calls for a shift in advance care planning from DNR/DNI checklists to preparing patients and their loved ones for medical decision making. Her current research program is focused on designing and testing interactive, literacy-appropriate, web-based interventions to prepare patients and their surrogate decision makers to make difficult medical decisions.

**Victoria Tang, MD, MAS**

http://profiles.ucsf.edu/victoria.tang

Email: Victoria.tang@ucsf.edu

Advance care planning, Decision making, Geriatrics, Surgical care, Geriatric surgery, Hospitalization, Frailty, Functional status, Health services research, Pre-habilitation, Pre-operative care, Implementation science, Quality of life, Clinical epidemiology, Social Vulnerability

Victoria's research focuses on improving the surgical care of older adults. She is currently pursuing several projects that span different aspects of this topic. Victoria is currently studying the long term post-operative outcomes of frail, older adults who underwent the Surgery Wellness Program. In addition, she is extending her previous work in improving advanced directive documentation in the electronic health record, with a recently proposed grant that will improve the understanding of older adult engagement in advance care planning prior to major surgery. On the national level, she is actively engaged in translating research findings into interventions and policies to address the health and social needs of older adults in the surgical setting. As a core team member of the American College of Surgeons Coalition for Quality in Geriatric Surgery Project, Victoria is involved in establishing quality geriatric surgical care standards, quality metrics, and implementation methods for hospital systems throughout the nation.

**Victor Valcour, MD, PhD**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/victor.valcour>

Email: vvalcour@memory.ucsf.edu

Please look at our website for more information: www.ValcourLab.ucsf.edu

Aging with HIV, Cognitive and psychiatric disorders in HIV, Geriatric Syndromes in HIV, International research (Africa, Asia)

Dr. Valcour’s research interests have two major emphases. His primary work addresses how HIV effects the brain and particularly how this is changed when HIV+ patients age into old age. He runs international protocols in Thailand, Cambodia, Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania and Kenya. Local work is done in a cohort of HIV+ patients over 60 years of age. His work is embedded in the Memory and Aging Center/UCSF, allowing mentees broad access to observing clinical and research evaluation in all forms of dementia syndromes. Dr. Valcour has had MSTAR mentees for the past 4 years addressing risk factors for cognitive impairment in aging HIV patients, psychiatric comorbidity and medication. New work addresses geriatric syndromes and frailty.

**Louise Walter, MD**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/louise.walter>

Email: Louise.Walter@ucsf.edu

Mass Screening, Prostate Neoplasms, Prostate-Specific Antigen, Life Expectancy, Comorbidity

Title of Project: Use and Outcomes of Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) Screening in Older Men

 The goal of this project is to quantify the real world downstream consequences of PSA screening and monitoring in older men and how these consequences differ according to life expectancy. For example, we do not know how to best individualize decisions about PSA monitoring in older men who have undergone curative treatment for prostate cancer and how outcomes of PSA monitoring in these men differ according to life expectancy. This study makes innovative use of VA and Medicare claims-based data and electronic health records to determine factors associated with PSA screening and monitoring and the downstream consequences following PSA testing in elderly men across a spectrum of advancing age and comorbid illness.  This is an ongoing study in which students may participate in a structured review of the literature, in analyses of existing data, and in potentially reviewing some medical charts to understand the real world burdens following PSA testing in older veterans.

**Brie Williams, MD, MS**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/brie.williams>

Email: brie.williams@ucsf.edu

Prisoners, Prisons, Geriatric Assessment, Activities of Daily Living, Terminally Ill

Dr. Williams works with collaborators from the criminal justice, correctional health and legal fields to apply the principles of geriatrics and palliative medicine to transform the care of older adults in the criminal justice system. Her current research focuses on understanding the nature, prevalence, and healthcare utilization consequences of multi-morbidity, distressing symptoms, and functional and cognitive impairments in older jail inmates

**Michi Yukawa, MD, MPH**

http://profiles.ucsf.edu/michi.yukawa

Email: Michi.Yukawa@va.gov

Dr. Michi Yukawa is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Division of Geriatrics and a Medical Director of Community Living Center (CLC) San Francisco VAMC.   
  
Dr. Yukawa is a graduate of Brown University School of Medicine, and she completed Internal Medicine residency at Miriam Hospital, one of the teaching hospital for Brown University. In addition, Dr. Yukawa holds a Masters in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She practiced primary care medicine in Boston before she participated in a Geriatric Medicine Fellowship at University of Washington. Dr.Yukawa was a member of the faculty in the Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine at the University of Washington from 2000-2010. Dr. Yukawa joined the Division of Geriatrics of UCSF in October 2010 as an Associate Professor. She is interested in teaching and improving the care of older adults particularly around nutrition and prevention of malnutrition and weight loss.   
  
Clinical  
Dr. Yukawa is committed to serving as the Medical Director for the Community Living Center (CLC) at the San Francisco VAMC and to working with others to provide compassionate and comprehensive care to the veterans. She also supervises geriatric medicine fellows in Geriatric Medicine outpatient clinic at the VAMC, and she attends on inpatient medicine service at the San Francisco VAMC. Her role includes leadership of the CLC in the Geriatrics and Extended Care Service Line and participation in the academic activities of the Division of Geriatrics.   
  
Research  
Dr. Yukawa’s research interests include improving nutrition, preventing weight loss and improving perioperative care of older adults. She conducted several clinical trials while she was at University of Washington and she hopes to collaborate with others to pursue her research interests at UCSF. Her educational interests revolve around chronic illness management of geriatric patients in various settings: outpatient, inpatient and skilled nursing facility. She leads the geriatric section of Life Cycle course to educate second year medical students about geriatric syndromes and management of older adults. In addition, she directs the fourth year medical student elective in geriatric medicine. She hopes to collaborate with educators within the Division of Geriatrics and other department to develop innovative methods to teach medical students, residents and geriatric fellows about management of geriatric patients.

**RESEARCH MENTORS IN OTHER UCSF DIVISIONS AND DEPARTMENTS**

Deborah Barnes, PhD, MPH

Beth Cohen, MD, MAS

Emily Finlayson, MD, MS

Sarah Hooper, JD

Alison Huang, MD, MAS

Jennifer Lai, MD

Eleni Linos

Bruce Miller, MD

Tung Nguyen, MD

Urmimala Sarkar, MD

Anne Suskind, MD MS

Mary Whooley, MD

Melisa Wong, MD, MAS

Kristine Yaffe, MD

**Deborah Barnes, PhD, MPH**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/deborah.barnes>

Email: deborah.barnes@ucsf.edu

Dementia, Cognition Disorders, Risk Factors, Prevention, Epidemiology

Dr. Barnes is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Epidemiology & Biostatistics at UCSF, a Research Health Science Specialist at the San Francisco VA Medical Center, and a Senior Investigator with Tides**well** at UCSF. She is also a consultant with the Clinical and Translational Sciences Institutes and is affiliated with the UCSF Osher Center for Integrative Medicine. Dr. Barnes' research focuses on development of risk prediction models for cognitive impairment and dementia in older adults; identification of factors that may increase or decrease dementia risk and evaluation of potential strategies to prevent, delay onset or ameliorate symptoms of cognitive impairment and dementia. She is particularly interested in the potential protective effects of physical and mental activity and is PI of several randomized, controlled trials in this area. Her research also explores the complex association between depression and dementia.

**Beth Cohen, MD, MAS**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/beth.cohen>

Email: [beth.cohen@ucsf.edu](mailto:beth.cohen@ucsf.edu)

Coronary Disease, Afghan Campaign 2001-, Iraq War, 2003-, Stress Disorders, Post-Traumatic

Dr. Cohen studies the effects of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) on physical health, particularly cardiovascular health. Dr. Cohen is principal investigator of the Mind Your Heart Study, a prospective cohort study of veteran patients designed to understand the mechanisms through which PTSD damages physical health. She is also interested in how PTSD affects health as patients age, and is exploring the impact of PTSD on physical and cognitive function.

**Emily Finlayson, MD, MS**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/emily.finlayson>

Email: Emily.Finlayson@ucsfmedctr.org

Surgery, Activities of Daily Living, Nursing Home Residents

Dr. Finlayson’s work focuses on outcomes after surgery in frail elders. Her research uses Medicare claims data linked to a national nursing home registry (the Minimum Data Set) to evaluated fatal and non-fatal outcomes after major surgery. Current projects examine the impact of surgery on longitudinal functional and cognitive status trajectories in nursing home residents. Students will have the opportunity to participate in literature reviews, analysis and interpretation of data, and manuscript preparation.

**Sarah Hooper, JD**

<https://expertfile.com/experts/sarah.hooper>

Email: hoopers@uchastings.edu

Sarah Hooper is the Executive Director of the UCSF/UC Hastings Consortium on Law, Science & Health Policy and Adjunct Professor of Law at UC Hastings College of the Law. Through the Consortium, she develops interprofessional programs for faculty and students, including educational curricula and degrees, joint research, and clinical training and service programs. In particular, Sarah led the Consortium’s effort to establish the Medical-Legal Partnership for Seniors clinic (MLPS) and now as its Policy Director is working to scale the model locally and nationally.

Sarah’s research focuses on legal issues in aging and dementia care, including health care decision making and informed consent, capacity, elder financial abuse, the link between health and access to civil justice, and models of comprehensive and coordinated care. She is a 2018 Leaders for Health Equity Fellow with George Washington University.

Sarah teaches or has taught "Elder Law & Policy," “Law of End of Life Care,” “Medical-Legal Partnership for Seniors Seminar,” “Concentration in Law & Health Science Seminar,” "Health Law: Research Compliance & Ethics" and “Master of Studies in Law for Healthcare Providers Seminar” at UC Hastings and is a frequent guest lecturer at UCSF.

**Alison Huang, MD, MAS**

[http://profiles.ucsf.edu/alison.huang](https://mail.ucsf.edu/owa/redir.aspx?SURL=AtnudCUSQldgNdslN-OoSQNuc6udwlUVu2ORr74yo3nHaHg7GfLTCGgAdAB0AHAAOgAvAC8AcAByAG8AZgBpAGwAZQBzAC4AdQBjAHMAZgAuAGUAZAB1AC8AYQBsAGkAcwBvAG4ALgBoAHUAYQBuAGcA&URL=http%3a%2f%2fprofiles.ucsf.edu%2falison.huang)

Email: [Alison.Huang@ucsf.edu](https://mail.ucsf.edu/owa/redir.aspx?SURL=mT6ZtBAvyxW8a0vcnA5bSdy5Ga5TagksHUnSwyUvLvTHaHg7GfLTCG0AYQBpAGwAdABvADoAQQBsAGkAcwBvAG4ALgBIAHUAYQBuAGcAQAB1AGMAcwBmAC4AZQBkAHUA&URL=mailto%3aAlison.Huang%40ucsf.edu)

Menopause, Women’s Health, Urinary Incontinence, Urogenital Atrophy

 Dr. Huang's research is directed at advancing understanding of the impact of menopause and aging on health and well-being in women.  She has a particular interest in improving management of genitourinary aging in women, including atrophic changes in the urogenital tract, self-reported genitourinary symptoms, vaginal and urinary tract infections, and sexual function and related quality-of-life domains in older women. She has mentored 3 past MSTAR students on aging-related projects, all of which have involved national meeting presentations and authorship on peer-reviewed research publications for those students. Past projects involving medical students have included analyses of the impact of diabetes to sexual function in older women, treatment strategies for menopausal symptoms in midlife women, and the impact of urinary incontinence on quality of life in older women of diverse backgrounds.

**Jennifer Lai, MD**

<http://profiles.ucsf.edu/jennifer.lai>

Email: Jennifer.Lai@ucsf.edu

Transplant hepatology, chronic viral hepatitis, autoimmune disorders, and cirrhosis, liver transplantation.

Her 3 main areas of research include integrating core principles of geriatrics (e.g., frailty, disability, palliative care, multi-morbidity) to patients with cirrhosis; investigating disparities in organ allocation and distribution; and assessing the impact of liver donor quality on outcomes.

Dr. Lai is the principal investigator for the NIH-funded Functional Assessment in Liver Transplantation (FrAILT) Study which aims to apply measures of frailty and functional status to patients with end-stage liver disease awaiting liver transplantation. Her central hypothesis is that applying principles of geriatric assessment to this population can improve our ability to identify patients who are vulnerable to adverse transplant outcomes. Her research lays the groundwork for therapeutic interventions aimed at "pre-habilitating" patients awaiting liver transplantation to improve their outcomes and quality of life.

**Eleni Linos, MD**

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Email: Eleni.Linos@ucsf.edu

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer, affecting more than 5 million people each year in the United States alone. Understanding how to best prevent and treat skin cancer is tremendously important for both the public health community as well as for individual patients.   
  
Eleni Linos MD DrPH, is dually trained in public health and dermatology. She is a leader in the field of skin cancer research and prevention. Dr. Linos leads a multidisciplinary international research team of postdoctoral fellows, medical students, and research scientists. The team’s primary goals are to better understand the causes of skin cancer and apply this to cancer prevention. Dr. Linos’ team also works to help patients make informed treatment decisions, tailored to their individual preferences and personal characteristics.   
  
Dr. Linos completed her medical education at Cambridge and Oxford Universities in the United Kingdom. She then went on to complete her doctorate at the Harvard School of Public Health in Cancer Epidemiology and then trained to become a board certified dermatologist at Stanford University.  
  
As Director of Diversity for the Department of Dermatology, Dr. Linos is committed to building a broadly diverse dermatology community that nurtures a culture of inclusion in education, research and patient care.

**Bruce Miller, MD**

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Frontal Lobe, Alzheimer Disease, Frontotemporal Dementia

Dr. Miller is Director of the UCSF Memory and Aging Center which strives to provide the highest quality of care for individuals with cognitive problems, to conduct research on causes and cures for degenerative brain diseases, and to educate health professionals, patients and their families. The busy clinic has approximately 3000 appointments per year (1000 new patient and 2000 follow-up visits). Currently, there are 500-1000 individuals participating in the center’s research projects per year. New diagnostic and treatment approaches to Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and non-AD dementias, including frontotemporal dementia, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, progressive supranuclear palsy, and mild cognitive impairment have been established at UCSF.

**Tung Nguyen, MD**

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Asian Americans, Health Disparities, Health Education, Community Health Workers, Community-Based Participatory Research, Vietnam

Dr. Nguyen is a Professor of Clinical Medicine at UCSF, where he sees patients, train health professionals, and conduct community-based participatory research (CBPR) to address cancer screening, tobacco control, and hepatitis B among Asian Americans. He is a Principal Investigator of the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research, and Training (AANCART) ([www.aancart.org](https://mail.ucsf.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=xvZf-B4KcUa7fhsyqaJmy8d2XUainNAILQRNCgVFoIczmI_8lJKTdmn_9rxgMEJYPNVuWEJiMRg.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.aancart.org)), Director of the Asian American Research Center on Health ([www.asianarch.org](https://mail.ucsf.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=xvZf-B4KcUa7fhsyqaJmy8d2XUainNAILQRNCgVFoIczmI_8lJKTdmn_9rxgMEJYPNVuWEJiMRg.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.asianarch.org)), and Co-Leader of the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Cancer Control Program. He also serves as a Commissioner on President Barack Obama’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

**Urmimala Sarkar, MD, MPH**

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Health Information Technology, Social Media, Patient Safety, Health Disparities, Health Literacy, Diabetes Mellitus Type 2

Urmimala Sarkar MD, MPH is Associate Professor of Medicine at UCSF in the Division of General Internal Medicine and a primary care physician at San Francisco General Hospital’s Richard H. Fine People's Clinic. Dr. Sarkar’s research focuses on (1) patient safety in outpatient settings, including adverse drug events, missed and delayed diagnosis, and failures of treatment monitoring, (2) health information technology and social media to improve the safety and quality of outpatient care, and (3) implementation of evidence-based innovations in real-world, safety-net care settings.

**Anne Suskind, MD MS**

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Urology, urinary incontinence, surgical decision making for older adults undergoing urologic surgery

Dr. Suskind’s current research aims to transform surgical decision-making for older individuals undergoing urologic surgery by studying long term outcomes (such as cognition and function) that matter to patients. Dr. Suskind’s research leverages large national databases and innovative analytical techniques to address these important issues. Current projects include building a department-wide database of patients undergoing benign urologic surgery at UCSF combined with preoperative frailty testing and prospectively collecting data on the relationship between frailty and outcomes of various overactive bladder treatments (included pharmacological and procedural therapies).

**Mary Whooley, MD**

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Coronary Heart Disease, Health Behaviors, Cardiac Rehabilitation

Mary Whooley, MD, is a Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at the University of California, San Francisco, and Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. She serves as Principal Investigator of a PCORI-funded study, entitled “Improving Delivery of Patient-Centered Cardiac Rehabilitation” and of the “Heart and Soul Study,” an ongoing prospective cohort study of over 1000 patients with coronary heart disease that has produced over 100 publications by junior investigators.

**Melisa Wong, MD, MAS**

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Geriatric oncology, lung cancer, geriatric assessment, treatment toxicity, quality of life

Dr. Wong’s research focuses on understanding and improving the care of older adults with lung cancer. She studies an expanded, patient-centered definition of cancer treatment toxicity that incorporates functional status, quality of life, and patient-reported symptoms to assist older adults and clinicians in making more informed treatment decisions. Students will have the opportunity to participate in conducting a cohort study of older adults with stage IV lung cancer receiving chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and/or targeted therapy and assist with analysis of quantitative and qualitative data.

**Kristine Yaffe, MD**

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Cognition Disorders, Dementia, Alzheimer Disease, Cognition, Aging

Kristine Yaffe, MD is Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry, Neurology and Epidemiology at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Psychiatry. She also is Chief of Geriatric Psychiatry and Director of the Memory Disorders Clinic at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. In addition, she is also the Roy and Marie Scola Endowed Chair in Psychiatry. In both her research and in her clinical work, she has directed her efforts towards improving the care of patients with cognitive disorders and other geriatric neuropsychiatric conditions.

Dr. Yaffe's research has focused on the predictors and outcomes of cognitive decline and dementia in older adults. She is particularly interested in identifying novel risk factors for cognitive impairment that may lead to strategies to prevent cognitive decline. Dr. Yaffe currently has funded studies investigating physical and intellectual activity, sleep disorders, chronic medical conditions including diabetes, obesity and chronic kidney disease, and depression. Another more recent focus of her work is conceptualization and characterization of Healthy Brain Aging. Her work has been published in numerous prestigious journals including the Lancet, JAMA, and The New England Journal of Medicine and she is currently funded by the NIH, DOD, State of California Public Health Department, the Alzheimer Association and other foundations.

Dr. Yaffe received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed residency training in both neurology and psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco. She then completed a combined fellowship in Clinical Epidemiology and Research Methods and Geriatric Psychiatry also at the University of California, San Francisco.