

# UCSF GeriNews

A multi-campus division

July 12th, 2024



Please join us in welcoming **Shira Rutman**, Project Director to the UCSF Division of Geriatrics!

Shira joined the Division on Monday, July 1st, and will be working closely with [Krista Harrison, PhD](#) on the Hospice Equity for people impacted by Alzheimer's and Related Dementias (HEARD) study funded by the NIH.

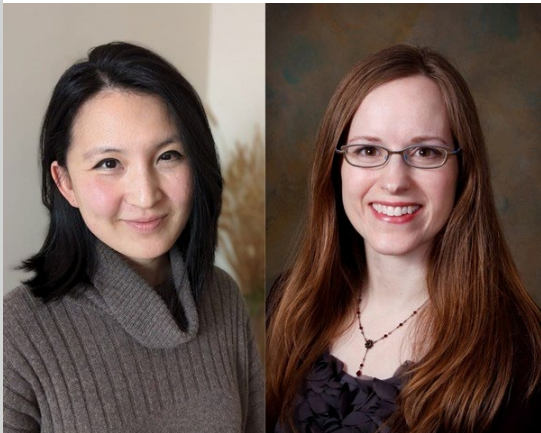
[Learn more](#)



Congratulations to [Anna Chodos, MD, MPH](#) who has been promoted to Full Professor effective July 1, 2024!



[Stephanie Rogers, MD](#) has been elected to serve on the [UCSF Medical Staff Executive Medical Board](#) as a Member At Large effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. Dr. Rogers was elected by majority vote of the UCSF medical staff to serve in this important medical leadership role. Congratulations, Stephanie!



[Lingsheng Li, MD, MHS](#) (@lingshengli) and [Rebecca Sudore, MD](#) (@prepareforcare) were quoted in the [June 2024 issue of Medical Ethics Advisor](#) on the topic of surrogate preparation in advance care planning.





[Jasmine Santoyo-Olsson, DrPH, MSc, T32](#) geriatrics research fellow (mentor [Rebecca Sudore, MD](#)), was selected to participate in the [2024 Alzheimer's Association Interdisciplinary Summer Research Institute](#) and was selected as a UCSF Center for Aging in Diverse Communities (CADC) Scholar with co-funding with the UCSF Pepper Center starting July 1, 2024. Her [CADC pilot study](#) is entitled "Meeting the advanced care planning needs of rural, historically marginalized racial and ethnic caregivers of persons living with dementia".



[Todd James, MD](#) has been invited to join and has accepted a position on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Geriatric Emergency Medicine (JGEM). This peer-reviewed journal, which launched in January 2020, aims to prepare America's professional workforce to deliver excellent emergency care for acutely ill and injured older adults. This initiative is partially sponsored by Advocate Health Wisconsin and the Geriatric Emergency Department Collaborative. Key philanthropic supporters include the John A. Hartford Foundation, West Health Foundation, and Stanley Kritzik.



[Kara Bischoff, MD](#), Division of Palliative Medicine, along with Division of Geriatrics members [Kanan Patel, MPH, MBBS](#), [John Boscardin, PhD](#), and [Alex Smith, MD, MPH, MS](#) published a [modern validation of the Palliative Performance Scale \(PPS\) in JAMA Network Open](#). The PPS is the most widely used prognostic index on [ePrognosis](#). It's also the most inaccurate, likely because it was developed when palliative care consults were for patients on the brink of death. Kara evaluated PPS in a modern validation cohort and updated ePrognosis.





[Sarah Hooper, JD](#), Professor of Practice and Executive Director of the UCSF/UC Law SF Consortium on Law, Science & Health Policy

Weds, September 25th, 2024

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Location: TBD

[Zoom Registration Link](#) (remote)

[View Past Grand Rounds Recordings](#)

## GERIATRICS SPOTLIGHT

The Geriatrics Spotlight initiative fosters community building within the Division, especially during this age of hybrid/remote work where it can be challenging to find ways to interact with colleagues outside of your immediate teams. This is a way for Division members to learn more about all the wonderful work we're doing!

This week, we get to know our division members, **Ken Covinsky** and **Ashwin Kotwal**.



### **Ken Covinsky**

**Title:** Professor of Medicine, Associate Chief, Geriatrics Research

**Joined Division:** 1998

**Work site(s):** SFVAHCS

**Email:** [Ken.Covinsky@ucsf.edu](mailto:Ken.Covinsky@ucsf.edu)

***His favorite aspect of his position is the people.*** He works with a group of people who are amazing - faculty, staff, and trainees. People are so committed to the mission of addressing the needs of older people. People have so many different talents and abilities. Louise and Karen are so good at identifying what people are good at and how they can progress in their careers to have an impact.

***What is the best advice you've ever heard?***

"Sometimes we spend too much time thinking about how to divide a pie when with a little work together we can all have a full pie. We can also take full credit together for successes."

[Learn more about Ken](#)



**Ashwin Kotwal**

**Title:** Assistant Professor

**Joined Division:** 2017

**Work site(s):** SFVAHCS

**Email:** [ashwin.kotwal@ucsf.edu](mailto:ashwin.kotwal@ucsf.edu)

***What is a professional goal you would like to accomplish by the end of this year?***

Ashwin would love to see one of his grant applications funded! Securing a large grant would be a major milestone for him. However, his key focus is on taking his research to the next level and making a significant impact.

***What's one "fun fact" about you that not many people know? (e.g., hidden talent)***

Ashwin plays the piano and saxophone. He recently brought them into the home and started playing again. His son, Dev, is also learning some tunes.

[Learn more about Ashwin](#)



[Palliative Care in Liver Disease: A Podcast with Kirsten Engel, Sarah Gillespie-Heyman, Brittany Waterman, & Amy Johnson](#)

[Visit the GeriPal Blog](#)

## GERI TWEET OF THE WEEK

“

By request, [@EWidera](#) and I are recording a [@GeriPalBlog](#) podcast tomorrow on Fitness for Public Office and Ageism, guests [@LouiseAronson](#) and [@geri\\_doc](#). Where's the boundary? What are the concerns? What's legitimate and what's not? [Please reply](#) with your questions and media links. Example image for discussion below. <https://economist.com/leaders/2024/07/04/why-biden-must-withdraw>

”

- [Alex Smith, MD @AlexSmithMD](#)

## GERI COMMUNITY RESOURCE



Welcome to UCSF  
Geriatrics Community  
Resources



This week's Geri Community Resource is: [Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#).

## ⋮LIGHTHOUSE⋮

FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired offers blind & low vision skills training. From learning essential safe travel skills in your home and community to accessing your mail or favorite book, the LightHouse strives to meet the needs of any individual seeking to improve their quality of life and self-reliance. Everyone has their own unique path and pace for learning new skills, and Lighthouse teachers will meet you where you are and support your growth. If you're open to exploring new methods and adapting to your evolving vision, they're here to offer the training and support you need. To receive low vision or blind skills training, contact: 415-694-7323

[Find Geriatrics  
Community  
Resources here](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 17:** Geriatrics Works in Progress

8:30-9:40AM

Speaker: MSTAR Student  
Presentation Practice

[Zoom](#)

**July 24:** Geriatrics Works in Progress

8:30-9:40AM

Speaker: Dr. Angela Suen

[Zoom](#)

**July 31:** Geriatrics Works in Progress

8:30-9:40AM

Speaker: Dr. Thiago Avelino  
Silva and Dr. Marlon Aliberti

Location: Geriatrics  
Conference Room, Building  
1 3rd Floor, SFVA

[Zoom](#)

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**UCSF Division of Geriatrics  
is Recruiting!**

**Current Career Opportunities:**

- [Clinician Educator \(JPF04355\)](#)

[Click here for more details>>](#)

- [Research Scientist \(JPF04741\)](#)
- [Harris Fishbon Distinguished Professor for Clinical Translational Research in Aging \(JPF04285\)](#)
- [Research Assistant III \(RESEA001465\)](#)

## GIVING



Donations play a vital role in sustaining our Mission.  
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For questions, comments, or suggestions, email [GeriAdmin@ucsf.edu](mailto:GeriAdmin@ucsf.edu)

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