



UCSF Department of Medicine

ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL

THE SPECIAL TALENTS OF OUR REMARKABLE FACULTY & STAFF

2019 ZSFG MEDICINE FACULTY AWARDS

Every year the Department of Medicine at Zuckerberg San Francisco General celebrates its hard-working, talented and dedicated members through the ZSFG Medicine Service Awards. These awards are an opportunity for the department to express gratitude for faculty commitment to the hospital and department's goals. Their peers, through comments, provided nominations.

John F. Murray, MD Award for Academic Excellence in Internal Medicine & Dedication to the Humanitarian Mission of ZSFG

Alicia Fernandez, MD
General Internal Medicine

Since 2003, this award has recognized faculty who show dedication both to excellence in internal

medicine and toward realizing the humanitarian mission of ZSFG.

Dr. Fernandez's focus towards issues of social justice locally, nationally, and internationally was cited by multiple nominators. She has committed herself

both in interpersonal means, such as

Dr. Alicia Fernandez

mentorship of underrepresented minority students and faculty and founding the Latinx Center of Excellence at UCSF, and in academic focus, studying health care disparities and racism directed towards providers.

"Dr. Fernandez has a long history of clinical care,

research and teaching about the care of the underserved," wrote one nominator. "Since her days as a resident, she has been a clear-sighted patient advocate and someone who has been able to frame many of the issues that arise in the care of the underserved in ways that have helped generations of students, residents and her colleagues gain deeper insights into how to deliver the highest standard, compassionate, patient-centered medical care to patients for whom many barriers to this care exist. Her passion for these issues is exhibited in ways both small and big."

Henry F. Chambers, MD Medicine Subspecialty Consultant Award

Lucas Zier
Cardiology

Established in 2004 and renamed in 2013 for longtime Infectious Disease Chief, Chip Chambers, this honor is awarded to an outstanding medicine subspecialty faculty member in recognition of contributions to medical service at ZSFG.

"Dr. Zier is a cardiologist with the knowledge of a sub specialist but the heart of a primary care physician," wrote his nominating colleague. "He is impressive in his advanced knowledge and skill as an interventional cardiologist but more than that he is a constant advocate for his patients, who goes the extra mile to involve the primary team/care providers; the patient's family and most importantly, the patient themselves in the complexities of their care."



Dr. Lucas Zier

Dr. Zier was also recognized by peers for his work in decreasing heart failure readmissions and deaths in the SF Health Network and pursuing avenues to bring together expert teams across ZSFG and UCSF to offer the most comprehensive care resources for patients with complex coronary artery disease and structural heart disease.

"It's very meaningful because in my mind it is a representation of the collaboration between excellent generalists here and specialty care," said Zier. "Certainly consultants are only as good as those who are consulting them. I'm extremely happy to work with a group of generalists and primary care physicians who care so much about their patients. It so great to be able to contribute. It's just thrilling. There have been tremendous improvements over the past few years."

Jane Bailowitz, MD Volunteer Faculty Award

Devora Keller
Tom Waddell Urban Health Center

This award is unique in recognizing the contributions to medical services of a volunteer faculty member, including

instructors at community or ambulatory sites, volunteer medical service attendings, and faculty not directly or fully appointed in the DOM. Established in 2010, it honors the memory of Jane Bailowitz in recognition of her service to DGIM.

Dr. Keller is respected for her commitment to advocating for underserved patients, both at a



Dr. Devora Keller



systemic and individual level, as an assistant professor of medicine and general internist at ZSFG, Medical Lead of the Emergency Department Cast Management program at ZSFG, and practitioner at the SFDPH Tom Waddell Urban Health Center. Nominating colleagues noted Dr. Keller's ability to make time for health care partners across locations as well. "She teaches residents how to be a high quality primary care provider for predominantly homeless populations," one peer wrote. "And she serves on the addiction medicine faculty providing compassionate care and teaching residents, fellows, and faculty best practices on care of these patients."

Robert Lull, MD Non-Internal Medicine Consultant Award

Jack Chase
Family and Community Medicine

Although established in 2004, this award was named in memory of Robert Lull, longtime Chief of Nuclear Medicine, in 2006, and honors faculty in a specialty other than Internal Medicine for excellence in teaching and patient consultation. Dr.



Dr. Jack Chase

Chase's nomination identified multiple initiatives that he has dedicated his time and attention towards in pursuit of improving care for underserved populations. "Jack Chase has been at the center of so many efforts to improve the care of our most vulnerable patients from helping found the Social Medicine consult; working with the Ethics Committee, the Palliative Care consult; Complex Care Management; Addiction medicine consultation," wrote his nominator, "He has been indefatigable in his attempts to help our system work better."

ZSFG Performance/Quality Improvement Award

Reena Gupta, MD
General Internal Medicine

Established five years ago, this award recognizes the exemplary commitment to improve areas of performance at ZSFG, including quality, efficiency,

and access. Since beginning her residency in 2005 at ZSFG and onward, Dr. Gupta has garnered respect for her work in health care equity. She has served as the Associate Medical Director of the Richard Fine People's Clinic and was appointed Medical Director of the Public Hospital Redesign and Incentives in Medi-Cal (PRIME) and Care Transformation for the SF Health Network in 2016.



Dr. Reena Gupta

"Until I was recruited as a consultant for the PRIME-QIP Program," wrote a nominating colleague, "I did not fully appreciate how essential Reena's dedication to this mission is for the San Francisco Health Network and the patients we serve. Reena Gupta leads a team of talented analysts who communicate our professional dedication to the state and federal agencies that fund our endeavors."

ZSFG Department of Medicine Mentoring Award

Urmimala Sarkar, MD
General Internal Medicine

This award is given to a Medicine faculty member in recognition of exemplary contributions in mentoring students, postgraduate trainees or faculty



Dr. Urmimala Sarkar

members. Mentoring achievements may pertain to clinical, educational or research activities or a combination of these areas. Dr. Sarkar is recognized as a mentor to trainees, residents, and faculty members, not just by helping to map career trajectories and navigating the UCSF and ZSFG networks, but by investing her time and guidance in coaching overall life balance and success.

"She has been a career mentor, a personal mentor, and a fierce advocate for me," remarked a former fellow in nominating Dr. Sarkar. "As a career and personal mentor, she has implemented a tailored program with specific tools to help me with time management, goal setting, and research productivity. What distinguishes Urmimala as a mentor is that she exemplifies the art of team building and leadership. She has an uncanny methodical way of making everyone on her team feel uniquely valuable in a way that is extremely motivating and uplifting"

Care Experience Award

Kelly Han MD
Hospital Medicine

The Care Experience award is given annually to a career faculty member at the Assistant Professor level who has been appointed five years or less and who spends significant time in the clinical setting. The award recognizes dedication to the care experience, respect for patients, and shared decision-making to meet patients' needs.



Dr. Kelly Han

As a faculty hospitalist over the past three years, Dr. Han has become known for her dedication to patient care, resolutely pursuing excellent care for her patients.

Dr. Han's nomination noted her focus on increasing patient access to knowledge. "Kelly put in all efforts necessary to assure there is shared decision making and that all options are offered and understood by the patient," noted a colleague. "(Dr. Han) is leading efforts to improve the patient experience at the hospital level, focusing on improving interdisciplinary communication to enhance patient's readiness for discharge (an important PRIME metric) with mentorship from Jeff Critchfield and others."

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**ZSFG Department of Medicine
Clinical Fellow Award**

Jehan Budak, MD
Infectious Disease

This award was created in 2015 to recognize a DOM clinical fellow who has rotated at ZSFG who strongly embodies the mission to provide high quality and compassionate care to vulnerable



Dr. Jehan Budak

and underserved patients and a dedication to the eradication of disparities in health and healthcare. In nominating Dr. Budak, peers remarked on her diligence and responsiveness and commitment to continued and complex learning.

“Jehan is super friendly, thoughtful, diligent, and smart,” wrote one nominator. “She never shies away from a clinical question and always seems to revel in the learning opportunity.” Additional colleagues remarked on Dr. Budak’s commitment to teamwork. “Jehan is a wonderful infectious disease fellow to work with—she makes her office an open space for us to drop by and ask questions about complex cases,” wrote one colleague. “She is never too rushed to help us, despite her crazy patient load, and could often be seen late at night working with us. She also would go to patients’ rooms and follow up with them at late hours even when it was not a critical question, and would update us with concerns for discharge.”

**ZSFG Department of Medicine
Distinction in Medical Education
Award**

Larissa Thomas, MD
Hospital Medicine

The Distinction in Medical Education Award, established in 2016, is granted annually to a faculty member in the ZSFG DOM who has advanced medical education at ZSFG through exceptional leadership, curricular innovation, and mentorship of trainees.

Dr. Thomas’ interests in growing medical education extends to work in building physician

well-being initiatives and trainee well-being. She is the Associate Program Director for UCSF Internal Medicine Residency and Director of Well-being for the UCSF GME.

In addition, Dr. Thomas is a member of the steering committee of the national Collaborative for Healing and Renewal in Medicine (CHARM), a working group to establish best practice recommendations for physician well-being.

As one colleague noted in nominating, “Larissa is a champion for trainees, particularly in the areas of wellness, which has become a major shift in our own program and nationally. Her dedication to wellbeing and her openness in sharing her own experiences has made her someone we look forward to working with on the wards.”



Dr. Larissa Thomas

**Outstanding Junior Investigator
Award**

Oanh Nguyen, MD
Hospital Medicine

A research faculty member at assistant professor level at the time of nomination is recognized for demonstrating exceptional research productivity or potential annually with the allocating of this award.



Dr. Oanh Nguyen

to recognize as a future leader,” commented one nominator. She is recognized for her dedication to work investigating and delivering care to underserved populations and identifying gaps in service.

Dr. Nguyen’s passion for research and peer-to-peer mentoring was noted in being nominated. “Oanh is just the type of very bright, energetic, self-motivated, well trained promising young investigator that the ZSFG Outstanding Junior Investigator Award is designed

“While she is early in her investigative career, she already has 32 peer-reviewed publications (11 as first author and 3 as senior author), with another 4 first-authored manuscripts under review or in preparation,” noted one colleague. “Her research agenda on designing and evaluating novel ways to reduce hospital readmissions by addressing unmet social needs during the transition from hospital to home is rigorous, innovative, ripe with future grant opportunities, and is likely to have important clinical and public health impact that is directly aligned with the mission of ZSFG.”

Professional Altruism Award

Beth Harleman, MD
Hospital Medicine

This award is given annually to recognize a faculty member who embodies the humility, empathy, and courage as an unsung hero of the ZSFG professional community. The recipient is highlighted as one who consistently demonstrate selfless collaboration and a commitment to the well-being of their colleagues.



Dr. Beth Harleman

As Associate Chair for Faculty Experience in the UCSF DOM, Dr. Harleman has exhibited these qualities and been noticed by peers for her commitment to improving the work environment for all. “Her door is always open,” noted one nominator. “She is a cornerstone in our community who always connects people, strengthening our hospital as a whole.”

Other nominators summed up that Dr. Harleman is renowned for her “thoughtfulness, her kindness and her wisdom” as well as her integrity and professional generosity.

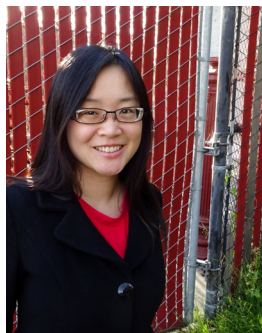
“Our job is to convince the people that we work with of their brilliance, to take an interest in their lives, to care about them as individuals and to reinforce that we all must do the very best that we possibly can,” remarked Harleman. “That realization was incredibly energizing and now, when I push myself, it’s because it feels right to be here, to be who I am and to do my best for others.”

ZSFG STAFF STAR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Several of our ZSFG Department of Medicine staff received a STAR Achievement Award from the UCSF School Of Medicine. These awards recognize sustained exceptional performance or significant contributions over an extended period of time that also reflect at least one of the UCSF Chancellor's Priorities or UCSF PRIDE Values.

Susan Lau Experimental Medicine

Beginning with a volunteer position as a high school student, San Francisco native Susan Lau's



Susan Lau

career with UCSF spans five locations, including Parnassus, Mission Bay, VA, Laurel Heights and ZSFG, and interaction with multiple departments. Her placement at ZSFG with the Division of Experimental Medicine six years ago, brought her full circle in many ways and realizes lifelong goals. "I was actually born at the General," explained Lau. "My parents immigrated here to make a good living and ever since I was a little girl I wanted to make a contribution."

Lau is particularly drawn to the community feeling within the division and the balance of faculty and staff's commitment to patients with innovative research. She is most proud of her reputation of finding solutions regardless of the issue. "No project is too big or small," said Lau. "If given the opportunity, I will do it. Even just to get feedback, I will commit to a project just to advance us further. I am always learning."

Stephen May HIV, Infectious Diseases, & Global Medicine

Stephen May has greatly impacted the Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases, and Global Medicine over his time at ZSFG, with roles including the ACTG (AIDS Clinical Trials Group) regulatory analyst, Addiction Medicine and HIV fellowship

administrator, and coordinator for the annual Mentoring the Mentors.

"Steve had so many hats in fact," noted Division Manager Jenny Fowler, "That we need two people to fill them all at his retirement!" While May will be leaving ZSFG this summer, his reputation for integrity, commitment, and professionalism will carry on as examples of PRIDE values. Most recently, he was praised by his colleagues for his outstanding contributions to the launch of the UCSF Primary Care Addiction Medicine Fellowship, which prepares primary care physicians to become leaders in the care of persons with substance use disorders in the city's safety net communities.



Stephen May

Raeni Miller Central Administration

Raeni Miller celebrates a fifteen year milestone with ZSFG DOM this year, and 16 with UCSF. She was drawn to the dedication of providers here and is continually inspired by faculty and staff devoted to helping underserved populations across a spectrum of roles. Miller cited the diverse group of collaborators that she interacts with at ZSFG as well as her team of post-award research finance



Raeni Miller

analysts as points of both inspiration and pride. "Working with researchers and grants, all the PRIDE values factor into my role every day," said Miller. "Who I work with, and what we work on together, changes day to day, but no matter the situation, I provide trustworthy support so they can make informed decisions in order to reach their goals." Miller's strengths as a precise and collaborative manager, as well as her commitment to integri-

ty were noted by colleagues. Her work with the Experimental Medicine Division Manager to conceive and develop an educational series to train administrators from Brazil how to navigate NIH grants management and create strong partnerships with principal investigators highlights both her dedication to public service and education as well. While Miller makes a profound impact with her analytical work at ZSFG, she shines creatively as well in her time out of the office, as both a print-maker and quilter, and running a record label with her husband.

Justin Moore Experimental Medicine

Although Justin Moore joined the ZSFG DOM this March as Division Manager for Experimental Medicine, faculty and staff first encountered his dedication and commitment in his previous role as Staff and Faculty Experience Specialist for the UCSF DOM.



Justin Moore

Newly created as a conduit to address engagement, the specialist role was informed and expanded by Moore as the first employee in the position. Moore was drawn to the opportunity to continue his career focused on social justice, equity, and education, drawing from his background teaching in public and private institutions from 3rd graders to University level. In transitioning to ZSFG, Moore hopes to continue his focus on building teams and impacting change. "I have been able to see how ZSFG and UCSF work together and how unique they are in offering world class service and working in community in the heart of the city," said Moore. "My education and training has been in underrepresented groups and this is a way to continue in a way that has meaning and a meaningful draw." Moore is excited to be joining the DEM at a time when it is embracing growth and change with a new chief and additional faculty. "All these things are changing the face of the division in the next decade and I'm thrilled to death to be preserving its amazing history and to help

shape the future,” said Moore. “The division is entering its next decade and phase and I’m so excited to be a part of this and what happens next.”

**Natalie Nardone
Cardiology**

Natalie Nardone began her career at UCSF seven and a half years ago, but pursued a position at ZSFG after two years, to both support the research mission and become a part of advancing knowledge for the betterment of public health.



Natalie Nardone including a long stay in a hospital research ward. The study completed on time with no patient drop-outs and is a credit to Nardone and the team’s exemplary work and outreach. Nardone credits her embracing of PRIDE values as a key to success.

“PRIDE is a part of my every day,” noted Nardone. “And how I encourage my team to make UCSF not only a great place to work, but a great place to be!”

**Vanessa York
Experimental Medicine**

Vanessa York joined UCSF and ZSFG when the Department of Experimental Medicine was newly created, with a strong interest in the HIV research underway by department investigators.

Thirteen years later, as the Operations Manager for the division, she is recognized for her excellence in interacting across multiple organizational groups and campuses, as well as with outside vendors.



Vanessa York

“All the PRIDE values factor into my role,” noted

York. “In my role, it is important for me to act professionally and treat all with respect no matter how difficult the situation is and to set a good example for the other members of my division. It’s important for me to help our division continue to run smoothly and make sure that all feel included.”

York is most proud of navigating the past year of

personnel and lab changes in the division and her ability to respond to new tasks and responsibilities. Aside from tackling these new challenges with great success at ZSFG, in her free time Fshe enjoys cooking and spending time with family and friends.

Brooks Bigart

Editors: Neil Powe, Laurae Pearson

SPOTLIGHT

ZSFG Medical Spot Awards

UCSF Spot Awards recognize noteworthy employee achievements and significant contributions for a specific project or task over a relatively short period of time. Several ZSFG staff were recognized this year.

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| Canice Ahearn, HIV, ID, & Global Medicine | Ashley Lamsen, Lung Biology Center |
| Amber Almanzar, HIV, ID, & Global Medicine | Jen Lau, Gastroenterology |
| Amelia Alonis, Pulmonary | Karen Lau, Central Administration |
| Brooksley Bigart, Central Administration | Jennifer Lee, HIV, ID, & Global Medicine |
| Doug Black, HIV, ID & Global Medicine | Courtney Liebi, HIV, ID & Global Medicine |
| Rosalie Chian, Nephrology | Julia Moore, HIV, ID & Global Medicine |
| Mary Dejesus, Pulmonary | Justin Moore, Experimental Medicine |
| Suzie Demirdjian, HIV, ID, & Global Medicine | Justin Nghe, Occupational Medicine |
| Jeannie Fong, Pulmonary | Katie O’shea, Cardiology |
| April Marie Gidda, Gastroenterology | James Peng, HIV, ID & Global Medicine |
| Valerie Girling, Experimental Medicine | Rubin Rodriguez, Nephrology |
| Mari Griffin, Pulmonary | Alex Sanchez, Hospital Medicine |
| Gloria Hernandez-Fisher, Hematology-Oncology | Leila Sheira, HIV, ID & Global Medicine |
| Karla Iniguez, Cardiology | Maria Solorzano, Hospital Medicine |
| Elena Jensen, HIV, ID, & Global Medicine | Edward Wiedemann, Central Administration |
| Julia Kay, Rheumatology | Dawnee Wong, Central Administration |
| Jennifer Ko, Cardiology | Anna Yau, Nephrology |

ZSFG Milestone Service Recognition

UCSF honored staff members with ten years or more of service on May 10 in a Milestone Service ceremony. Congratulations to the ZSFG staff members celebrated for their longstanding dedication.

10 Years

- Jessica Ainsworth, DGIM
- Bernadette Barbante, Experimental Medicine
- Vanessa Blaz, HIV, ID & Global Medicine
- Edward Jacobs, HIV, ID & Global Medicine
- Alexander Louie, HIV, ID & Global Medicine
- Trisha Mao, Cardiology

- Xavier Farias, Experimental Medicine
- Lucia Wang, Occupational Medicine

15 Years

- Raeni Miller, Central Administration
- Jaimmie Cuartero, HIV, ID & Global Medicine

- Jennifer Legac, HIV, ID & Global Medicine
- Oliver Beech, Pulmonary

20 Years

- Julius Cervania, Nephrology
- Alex Rodas, Gastroenterology
- Ellen Stein, HIV, ID & Global Medicine

25 Years

- Polly Cheung, Cardiology
- Amy Lee, Nephrology

- Viva Tai, HIV, ID & Global Medicine

30 Years

- Mary Dejesus, Pulmonary

