



# UCSF Department of Medicine ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL

APPRECIATING AND HONORING EXCELLENCE

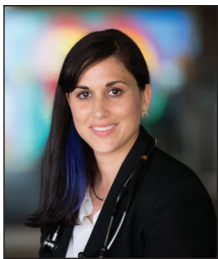
## ZSFG MEDICINE FACULTY AWARDS

The Department of Medicine at Zuckerberg San Francisco General celebrates our talented, innovative, and dedicated members through the 2024 ZSFG Medicine Service Awards. These awards are an opportunity to express gratitude for faculty commitment to the hospital and department's goals. Peers, through comments, provided nominations.

### John Murray, MD Award for Excellence in Internal Medicine

Neeta Thakur, MD  
Pluminary, Critical Care, Allergy and Sleep Medicine

This award is presented to a Medicine faculty member in recognition of academic excellence and dedication to the humanitarian mission of ZSFG.



Neeta Thakur, MD

Dr. Neeta Thakur is a dedicated physician-scientist committed to improving the health of underserved communities. She leads a diverse research group studying the impact of social and environmental stressors on lung disease in marginalized populations. Her work has identified factors such as poor neighborhood health and historical redlining as predictors of increased asthma exacerbations, independent of pollution. Dr. Thakur has significantly contributed to shaping clinical care guidelines and policies, including serving on national taskforces and chair-

ing the American Thoracic Society's Health Equality and Diversity Committee. She also contributed to race-neutral reference ranges for pulmonary function tests, reducing historic biases. In her clinical role, Dr. Thakur serves underserved communities in the ZSFG MICU and the Chest Clinic, the only Pulmonary Clinic in the DPH. She coordinates care to ensure excellent multidisciplinary, patient-centered care and is currently conducting a clinical trial on a hybrid care delivery method for Pulmonary Rehabilitation. This trial aims to expand access to Pulmonary Rehab for populations facing travel barriers and reduce delivery costs, benefiting many patients insured by programs like SFHP. Dr. Thakur exemplifies the mission of ZSFG through her unwavering commitment and innovative work.



2024 ZSFG Department of Medicine Faculty Award Winners. The virtual award ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2024.

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### Care Experience Award

Jaya Mallidi, MD  
Cardiology

This award is given to a faculty member at the Assistant Professor level and recognizes dedication to the care experience, respect for patients, and shared decision-making to meet patients' needs.

Dr. Jaya Mallidi exemplifies the qualities of a clinician-leader and serves as a role model to residents and fellows alike. Her passion for teaching, attention to detail, and superlative



Jaya Mallidi, MD



clinical care are unmatched. Dr. Mallidi has gone above and beyond by coming in overnight to manage multiple critically ill patients and tirelessly advocating for patient transfers to higher levels of care when needed. She works closely with patients to achieve a shared understanding of their health problems, demonstrating both exceptional clinical skill and deep empathy. Her kindness, dedication, and service-oriented approach make her a deserving recipient of the Care Experience Award.

**Clinical Innovator Award**

Elizabeth Imbert, MD  
HIV, ID, and Global Medicine

*This award is presented to a person who has developed and implemented an innovative tool, process, or pathway for care that has had an impact on operations, efficiency or documentation.*



Elizabeth Imbert, MD

Dr. Elizabeth “Liz” Imbert has pioneered the POP-UP low-barrier clinic at Ward 86, specifically catering to individuals with HIV who are experiencing homelessness and face challenges in accessing traditional primary care. Since 2019, Dr. Imbert has led this program, expanding it from a small pilot project to a large clinic that serves some of the most complex and socially vulnerable patients. Her efforts have been instrumental in securing funding and establishing a robust multidisciplinary team, ensuring comprehensive support services for POP-UP patients. Under her guidance, HIV viral suppression rates have improved dramatically, from 0% at enrollment to nearly 80% across the cohort. Dr. Imbert’s innovative approach has had a profound impact, not only at Ward 86 but also through her support of other safety net HIV clinics in implementing similar models. She provides direct technical support and leads workshops at national and international meetings to share her successful strategies. Beyond her leadership in POP-UP, Dr. Imbert is an outstanding clinician and colleague, making her truly deserving of the Clinical Innovator Award.

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

Alex Logan, MD  
Hospital Medicine

*This award recognizes a faculty member who has advanced medical education at ZSFG through exceptional leadership, curricular innovation, and mentorship of trainees.*

Dr. Alex Logan is a phenomenal educator, consistently demonstrating a deep commitment to supporting the education of learners at ZSFG. On the wards and during formal didactics, Alex displays outstanding teaching skills, infusing energy and engagement into his sessions. He excels at distilling difficult concepts into easy-to-understand learning points and provides frequent, insightful teaching moments on rounds and through afternoon chalk talks. Additionally, Alex conducts innovative POCUS sessions for third-year medical students, capturing their attention with thoughtful questions and hands-on scanning opportunities. Learners consistently rave about his teaching abilities and leave his sessions energized about clinical medicine.



Alex Logan, MD

Alex’s dedication extends beyond teaching; he is deeply invested in the professional growth of individual learners. He proactively provides constructive feedback and regularly checks in on their progress. His enthusiasm for bedside learning is infectious, and his novel approaches, such as daily WhatsApp quiz questions and harm reduction sessions, help teams grow and learn effectively. Residents frequently express how fortunate they feel to work with Alex, reflecting on the fun and growth they experienced alongside him. His passion for education, tremendous teaching skills, and profound impact on learners make him highly deserving of the Distinction in Medical Education Award.

**Henry F. Chambers, MD Medicine Subspecialty Consultant Award**

Sarah Kim, MD  
Endocrinology

*This award recognizes an outstanding subspecialty faculty member who exemplifies the contributions of longtime Infectious Disease specialist Henry (Chip) Chambers.*

Dr. Sarah Kim is an invaluable resource at ZSFG, renowned for her extensive knowledge and experience in diabetes and weight management. As the director of the Diabetes and Weight Management Clinics, she addresses the high needs of our patients with compassion and expertise. Dr. Kim is approachable and generous in sharing her insights on challenging cases, making her a go-to consultant for both faculty and clinicians. Her ability to provide clear, actionable recommendations is highly valued.

Dr. Kim’s exceptional skills in internal medicine, pediatrics, endocrinology, and diabetes care have empowered her colleagues in managing complex comorbidities like heart failure, kidney disease, and stroke. She has pioneered innovative nutrition programs and the ZSFG Weight Management Clinic, emphasizing physical activity, stress reduction, and healthy food choices. Her leadership in using advanced treatments, such as GLP-1 agonists, has been instrumental.



Sarah Kim, MD

Dr. Kim’s dedication extends beyond patient care; she is always available to support her colleagues and patients, offering her expertise on perplexing diabetes management scenarios. Her tenacity, academic creativity, and unwavering commitment to the highest standard of care make her truly deserving of the Henry F. (Chip) Chambers, MD Medicine Subspecialty Consultant Award.



### ZSFG Performance/Quality Improvement Award

Lucas Zier, MD  
Cardiology

*This award recognizes the exemplary commitment to improve areas of performance at ZSFG, including quality, efficiency, and access.*



Lucas Zier, MD

Dr. Lucas “Luke” Zier embodies quality improvement through his innovative efforts to standardize inpatient heart failure care. His work on the care path in Epic serves as a model for chronic care delivery, not only across the San Francisco Health Network (SFHN) but also nationwide. As a co-founder of the PROSPECT lab (Pioneering Research and Organization Solutions to Provide Equitable Care through Technology), Dr. Zier leads numerous initiatives to enhance care delivery.

Together with Jonathan Davis, Dr. Zier has employed lean and improvement skills to implement heart failure and troponin pathways in Epic. This work has elevated the standards of inpatient heart failure and interventional care, significantly contributing to reducing heart failure readmissions among Black African Americans. Additionally, Dr. Zier’s expertise in AI and improvement work has been shared in multiple venues, showcasing his commitment to advancing equitable healthcare. Dr. Zier’s dedication and impact make him a highly deserving recipient of the Performance/Quality Improvement Award.

### Outstanding Early Career Investigator Award

Matt Durstenfeld, MD  
Cardiology

*This award recognizes a research faculty member at assistant professor level for demonstrating exceptional research productivity.*

Dr. Matt Durstenfeld has made substantial scientific contributions and demonstrated prolific productivity as a junior faculty member at ZSFG.

His primary research focuses on the cardiovascular consequences of infectious diseases, including COVID-19 and HIV, establishing him as a national thought leader in this field. He led the Cardiovascular Impact Study, using advanced cardiovascular assessments to study cardiac function in post-COVID patients, and a multi-institution team examining COVID-19 infection among people with and without HIV. In just three years, Matt has published 50 manuscripts, with 11 as first-author.

Currently, Matt co-leads CPET measurements for several significant studies, including the OUTSMART study on monoclonal antibodies for Long COVID, the RECOVER-VITAL study of Paxlovid, and the NIH-funded REVERSE-LC trial of baricitinib for Long COVID. He also leads a pilot study on cardiac rehabilitation for chronotropic incompetence in Long COVID and recently received a K23 from the NHLBI for research on cardiorespiratory fitness among people with HIV. Matt has secured independent funding from multiple sources, including the Center for AIDS Research and internal grants for various projects.

Beyond his research, Matt has been an exceptional mentor to many residents and cardiology fellows, guiding projects on disparities in heart failure and cardiovascular risk among vulnerable populations. His mentorship includes residents and fellows working on diverse topics, such as socioeconomic disparities, substance use, and sex differences in cardiovascular risk prediction. Matt’s remarkable achievements and dedication to advancing our understanding of cardiovascular health make him highly deserving of the Outstanding Junior Investigator Award.



Matt Durstenfeld, MD



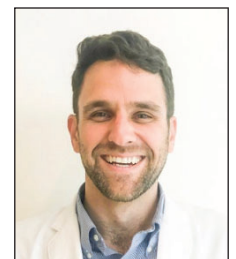
### ZSFG Department of Medicine Clinical Fellow Award

John Landefeld, MD  
Rheumatology

*This award recognizes a Department of Medicine clinical fellow who who strongly embodies the mission to provide high quality and compassionate care to vulnerable and underserved patients and a dedication to the eradication of disparities in health and healthcare.*

Dr. John Landefeld exemplifies the qualities recognized by the ZSFG Clinical Fellow Award through his outstanding care for patients with rheumatic disease and dedication to meeting their primary care needs. His presence on service consistently leads to an increase in in-patient rheumatology consults, demonstrating his impact and commitment.

John is not only an exceptional clinician but also a generous and engaging teacher. He is adored by patients, residents, and colleagues alike for his excellent communication skills, compassion, and unwavering kindness. His ability to connect with and support both patients and the medical team highlights his exemplary role as a clinician and colleague. Dr. Landefeld’s dedication and exceptional qualities make him highly deserving of the Clinical Fellow Award.



John Landefeld, MD, MS

### ZSFG Department of Medicine Mentoring Award

Jinoos Yazdany, MD, MPH  
Rheumatology

*This award is given in recognition of exemplary contributions in mentoring students, postgraduate trainees or faculty members. Mentoring achievements may pertain to clinical, educational or research activities.*

Dr. Jinoos Yazdany is an extraordinary mentor whose guidance has profoundly impacted the careers of many in the field of rheumatology. Her



support has enabled mentees to publish numerous first-author manuscripts in high-impact journals, secure significant grants, and pursue independent careers in academic medicine, research, and education. Her exceptional mentorship has been pivotal in the professional development of many, including trainees at UCSE, the University of Washington, and other prominent institutions. Dr. Yazdany is known for her wisdom, generosity, and ability to create opportunities for her mentees, making her an exemplary role model.



Jinoos Yazdany, MD, MPH

Dr. Yazdany's mentoring extends beyond traditional guidance; she actively engages in her mentees' professional growth by providing career advice, reviewing grants and manuscripts, and maintaining an open-door policy for questions and brainstorming. Her mentees praise her for her thoughtful and caring nature, which fosters an environment that nurtures personal and professional growth. Her efforts have led to mentees receiving prestigious awards, publications, and promotions. Her impact is evident in the successful academic and professional careers of her mentees across various institutions.

Dr. Yazdany's unique ability to balance her prolific research and clinical work with her dedication to mentoring sets her apart. Her unwavering support, innovative thinking, and genuine care for her mentees' success have made her a beloved and invaluable mentor. She is highly deserving of the Mentoring Award for her remarkable contributions to the growth and development of the next generation of clinician-researchers.



### Jane Bailowitz, MD Volunteer Faculty Award

Ramona Doyle, MD  
Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

*This award recognizes the contributions to medical services of a volunteer faculty member, not directly or fully appointed in the Department of Medicine, and honors the memory of Jane Bailowitz in recognition of her service to the Division of General Internal Medicine.*

Dr. Ramona Doyle exemplifies the spirit of this award through her remarkable dedication to the pulmonary hypertension program at ZSFG. As a volunteer clinician, Dr. Doyle manages a substantial load of medically complex patients with unwavering commitment. Her collaborative work with the PH group at Parnassus further demonstrates her dedication, as she extends her volunteer efforts to ensure comprehensive care for her patients. Dr. Doyle's contributions have been invaluable to the pulmonary hypertension program, reflecting the highest standards of volunteer service in medicine.



Ramona Doyle, MD

times. His role, often thankless, has been vital in maintaining the smooth operation of night shifts. Justin is also known for his willingness to address concerns and actively work towards solutions, always with a positive attitude. His flexibility in accommodating colleagues' scheduling needs further demonstrates his altruistic nature, ensuring that the team can balance their professional and personal obligations. Dr. Tien's commitment to his colleagues and patients alike makes him highly deserving of the Professional Altruism Award.

### Robert Lull, MD Non-Internal Medicine Consultant Award

Adnan Alseidi, MD, EdM  
General Surgery

*This award was named in memory of Robert Lull, longtime Chief of Nuclear Medicine and honors faculty in a specialty other than Internal Medicine for excellence in teaching and patient consultation.*

Dr. Adnan Alseidi is a remarkable individual and a gifted gastrointestinal surgeon specializing in hepatobiliary and pancreatic diseases. His expertise provides much-needed care for patients at ZSFG, making him an invaluable consultant to providers



Adnan Alseidi, MD, EdM

who rely on his encyclopedic knowledge and ability to explain complex concepts. He consistently attends the weekly medical-surgical conference in the GI division, where he educates colleagues about surgical perspectives and approaches, helping them navigate difficult cases.

### Professional Altruism Award

Justin Tien, MD  
Hospital Medicine

*This award is given annually to recognize a faculty member who embodies the humility, empathy, and courage as an unsung hero, who consistently demonstrates selfless collaboration and a commitment to the well-being of their colleagues.*



Justin Tien, MD

Dr. Justin Tien exemplifies professional altruism through his tireless work as a night hospitalist at ZSFG. Despite the rising number of admissions and increased inpatient census over the past few years, Justin remains unwaveringly professional, supportive, and dedicated to providing high-quality, patient-centered care even during the busiest

Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Alseidi goes above and beyond in his commitment to teaching and mentorship. He is always available to assist with challenging cases, answering calls or texts anytime. His thoughtful decision-making, combined with his pleasant and respectful demeanor, makes him beloved among his peers. His extraordinary ability to convey deep knowledge with humility and approachability sets him apart. He is highly deserving of the Non-Internal Medicine Specialty Consultant Award for his exceptional contributions to patient care and medical education.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award

Katherine Lupton, MD  
General Internal Medicine

*This award is given annually to recognize a faculty member who embodies humility, empathy, and courage as an unsung hero, who constantly demonstrates selfless collaboration and a commitment to the well-being of their colleagues.*



Katherine Lupton, MD

Dr. Katherine “Kate” Lupton has made exceptional contributions to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Department of Medicine and the UCSF School of Medicine. A passionate advocate for improving the climate of diversity and belonging, Dr. Lupton

has worked extensively to advance equity and anti-racism. As a 2016 John A. Watson Faculty Scholar, she played a key role in implementing holistic review in intern selection for the UCSF internal medicine residency program, significantly enhancing the diversity of our residency class. She also serves as a Curricular Component Liaison with the Anti-Oppression Curriculum Initiative and co-leads the Equity and Justice in Education (EJE) Works in Progress.

Dr. Lupton is a core preceptor for medicine residents at ZSFG, a Resident Advising and Development (RAD) coach, and directs both the Specialty Practice Ambulatory Sub-Internship (SPAN) and the Health Professions Education pathway for Graduate Medical Education. Her unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment is reflected in her numerous educational initiatives and research efforts. We celebrate her outstanding contributions and look forward to her continued impact in our community.

*Laurae Pearson  
Editors: Neil Powe, Laurae Pearson*

## SPOTLIGHT

### June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month

For UCSF events please visit:  
<https://lgbt.ucsf.edu/pride>

**Antonio Gomez, MD**, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, Allergy, and Sleep Medicine received the 2024 UCSF at ZSFG Exceptional Physician Award.

**Margot Kushel, MD**, Division of Vulnerable Populations received the 2024 Holly Smith Award for Exceptional Service to the School of Medicine.

### The UCSF School of Medicine annually bestows STAR Program Achievement Awards

**These awards recognize staff who have shown sustained exceptional performance or significant contributions over an extended period of time, that reflect at least one of the UCSF Chancellor’s Priorities or UCSF PRIDE Values.**

### The 2024 ZSFG DOM Star Award recipients are:

**Amelia Alonis**

Health Professional Education Specialist  
Pulmonary, Critical Care, Allergy, & Sleep Medicine

**Khamal Anglin**

Field Research Manager  
HIV, Infectious Diseases, & Global Medicine

**Hilary Bethancourt**

Research Data Analyst  
HIV, Infectious Diseases, & Global Medicine

**Paul Couey**

Clinical Research Supervisor  
Hematology & Oncology

**Cheyenne Garcia**

Research Data Analyst  
Center for Vulnerable Populations

**April May Gidda**

Administrative Officer  
Gastroenterology

## SPOTLIGHT

### 2024 ZSFG DOM Star Award recipients continued:

**Sarah Hutchinson**

Academic Program Officer  
Pulmonary, Critical Care, Allergy, & Sleep Medicine

**Ronli Levi**

Research Data Analyst  
HIV, Infectious Diseases, & Global Medicine

**Kenny Perez**

Academic Program Officer  
Center for Vulnerable Populations

**Elizabeth Nguyen**

Financial Services Analyst  
HIV, Infectious Diseases, & Global Medicine

**Anicia Santos**

Administrative Officer  
Pulmonary, Critical Care, Allergy, & Sleep Medicine

**Maria Solorzano**

Administrative Officer  
Hospital Medicine

**Edward Wiedeman**

Research Financial Analyst  
Central Administration

### TEAM AWARD

**Faviola Garcia**

Research Data Analyst  
General Internal Medicine

**Cindy Kim**

Research Data Analyst  
General Internal Medicine

**Kristan Olazo**

Research Data Analyst  
General Internal Medicine

**Nilpa Shah**

Academic Program Management Officer  
General Internal Medicine

