



UCSF Department of Medicine ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL

Voices of ZSFG DOM: Celebrating the Present, Envisioning the Future

As we reflect on a year marked by surprises, challenges, and transformative changes across the globe, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable family we have here in the Department of Medicine at ZSFG. Your passion, creativity, and resilience have

shone brightly through every obstacle we faced. In this December newsletter, we invite you to hear the voices and see the images that capture our journey and triumphs. Looking ahead to 2025, let us continue to lead with our values and set examples

in all our missions. By strengthening our interconnectedness, we can work together to make our community healthier and stronger. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

-Neil Powe



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What do you appreciate about your work or role here at ZSFG DOM?



I am incredibly grateful for my outstanding faculty colleagues. The dedication to excellence and commitment to providing for underserved local and global communities is inspiring. The faculty, students, and other trainees here are what make our institutions stand out.

-Joel Ernst

I'm so grateful to be a part of a committed and compassionate team and organization that works tirelessly to support underserved members of our community.

-Amy Akbarian



I appreciate being in a space where people are committed to providing innovative and quality care without judgment.

-Melody Davenport-McLaughlin

I appreciate the shared excitement in unraveling the complexities of life and our collective devotion to weaving together the wisdom and insights by diverse cultures with the goal of improving the health of our community.

-E. Bimla Schwartz

I appreciate the commitment, passion, and GANAS of my colleagues at the LCOE! They are champions and strong advocates for greater student access and success in healthcare careers. The collaborations we forge with others in the department and community make me proud every day!

-Connie Calderon-Jensen



I appreciate the hard work of colleagues and friends in the Division and the Department. This dedication provides light to the workplace when times are tough.

-Eunice Chang

With the rapidly changing landscape around health technology, I appreciate how our research focuses on improving access and equity, especially among historically excluded patient populations. I also appreciate the fact our projects can have a tangible effect on patients' disease management or healthcare systems tools.

-Cindy Kim

I retired from SFGH after 42 great years, having enjoyed every moment. After retirement, my appreciation is for what SFGH continues to offer me- active participation in committees, meetings, grand rounds, teaching, curbside consults- in short, continuing to do medicine and cardiology! As a retiree, I see no greater benefit than being able to do this. SFGH and I are not through with each other!

-Nora Goldschlager

I look forward to coming to work every day. It is a joy to interact with my colleagues and staff/patients at ZSFG.

-Ramin Sam

I am deeply appreciative of my colleagues, the diversity of experience, opinions, and expertise, and of constantly being challenged to expand my horizon and think creatively.

-Emily Wistar



What hopes do you have for our department, ZSFG, our patients, and/or our community in the future?



My hope is that we continue to be a leader in our field. Continuing to build a culture and collaboration with other research around the world.
-Elizabeth Nguyen

I hope that the great clinical and scientific work that we do here at ZSFG is recognized and brings in further support at a national and international level. We often forget that the work we do here at UCSF ZSFG is often pioneering clinical care and research for safety net populations.

-Sulggi Lee



We are living in a dynamic and challenging time. My hopes and expectations are that ZSFG continues to be a beacon of hope for the community, an excellent place to be educated and to train, a national and world leader in care and research, a joyful place to work for all, and an excellent compassionate place to receive care for our patients.

-Susan Ehrlich

I hope that we can continue to work together to increase access and improve flow across all of our care areas. I hope that we can support our teams to take outstanding and holistic care of our patients, and I hope that our teams have a direct voice in driving change for the better.

-Gabe Ortiz



What is it that we are doing, in the here and now, that makes you proud?

We have an extraordinary combination of clinical care, research and teaching that is very impressive and makes a significant impact.

-Brian Graham

I am proud of the incredible, patient-centered care that our staff and providers give every day.

-Andreas Mitchell

Being here, walking around the halls, seeing the patients - I am reminded of the good work I support and am proud to be part of the team that serves all.

-Christine Khuu

I am so proud of the research being conducted in the Division of Experimental Medicine as well as the community that we have built. The passion of my colleagues inspires me to work hard everyday. I have grown up in the DEM over the last almost 19 years and have formed so many lasting friendships and learned life lessons along the way.

-Vanessa York

We provide high-quality, culturally-sensitive care in an inclusive environment while also teaching the next generation of doctors and advancing medical knowledge of important diseases.

-Laurence Huang

From our team: “We are proud of our nimble, capable research team that is actively responding to important ongoing pandemics including HIV, MPOX, COVID-19. We hope our work will improve the quality of life for our participants and make the world a healthier, safer place”

-Annie Luetkemeyer

Every day, I see rheumatology colleagues and staff go above and beyond to help our patients navigate both their illness and the health care system. The level of caring and commitment they demonstrate is truly inspiring. Whether it’s taking the time to explain a complex treatment plan, advocating for patients to access necessary medications, or finding creative solutions to address social determinants of health, the dedication to making a difference is evident. It’s the combination of expertise, empathy, and teamwork that makes me proud to be part of such an extraordinary rheumatology division.

-Jinoos Yazdany



What connections to your colleagues have you strengthened, and how, at ZSFG?

In our nephrology division, we function as a close-knit family, supporting one another and collaborating as a team to provide the best patient care. We foster an environment where every voice is heard and each idea is valued, ensuring that everyone feels respected and appreciated.

-Rahitha Maria Thomas

I am incredibly grateful to have worked with these 3 leaders, Neil, Laurae and Mike. Your leadership has taught me the importance of resilience and adaptability, especially during challenging times and transitions. I am truly grateful for the time and effort you've invested in helping me grow as a leader.

-Mary Ellen Kelly

In my new role, I have had the privilege of strengthening connections with colleagues that I have worked with for some time. Reconnecting with familiar faces has been both rewarding and energizing. Equally exciting has been the opportunity to build new relationships across the department. In 2025, I am eager to continue deepening these connections and to meet those I have yet to encounter. I am inspired by the collaborative spirit at ZSFG and look forward to contributing to our shared mission in meaningful ways.

-Leonard Telesca

I feel an ever-deepening connection to the diabetes and endocrinology team. I have enjoyed working with the staff in Wards 92 and 81– they make the clinics happen!

-Sarah Kim

Ward 86 is very cohesive and a clinic that prides itself on new innovations to fit the needs of people with HIV.

-Monica Gandhi

As my Division's point person for Pride Hall during its inaugural year, I've worked to make it more than just a workplace—a true home. Initiatives like the drag story hour event held in June 2024 for Pride Month have fostered a sense of community and belonging, helping colleagues feel more connected and supported in our new space.

-Richard Deang



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