



UCSF Department of Medicine

ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL

Inspired to Serve, Ready to Lead: Meet the 2026-2027 Chief Residents



From left to right: Paloma Orozco Scott, MD, MA, Neil R. Powe, MD, MPH, MBA, Roberto Gonzalez, MD, MPH, Lou Xie, MD, MPH.

In July we welcome our new chief residents, who recently completed their internal medicine residencies at UCSF. During the next 12 months, these outstanding physicians will help steer, educate, mentor, and support the 180 interns and residents who rotate through the ZSFG Department of Medicine.

This year's chief residents are, Roberto Gonzalez, MD, MPH, and Paloma Orozco Scott, MD, MA for inpatient care, and Lou Xie, MD, MPH, for ambulatory care. They bring their experience, fresh ideas and extraordinary skills to their new leadership roles. All three share a passion for caring for underserved populations, educating the next

generation of physicians, and improving access to care.

Dr. Roberto Gonzalez Sharing the Joys of Mentorship

Roberto Gonzalez, MD, MPH, grew up in a trailer park in Pacoima, Calif., a town in the San Fernando Valley surrounded by freeways, a small airport, and an industrial zone. "Because of the air pollution, I developed uncontrolled asthma," he said. "It's a medically underserved area with a majority Latinx population. My parents couldn't find a physician who spoke their language or understood their culture, so they took me to Mexico, where a physician

saved my life. That inspired a calling to serve my community."

His mother later advocated for his admission to a top public school. Although it required an hourlong bus ride each way, he received an excellent education. As a Gates Millennium Scholar, Dr. Gonzalez received a full scholarship to attend UCLA, where he majored in psychobiology, minored in education studies, and mentored Black and Brown high school students in Watts through their college application process.

He also volunteered at UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center, helping pediatric patients and their families, including many whose first language was Spanish. "Although I originally thought I would become a teacher, I fell in love with being at the bedside during some of people's most difficult times," said Dr. Gonzalez.

He went on to earn his medical degree and master of public health degree from UCLA. Working with mentors such as Efrain Talamantes, MD, MBA, MS, and Gerardo Moreno, MD, MS, Dr. Gonzalez conducting research on ways to diversify the physician workforce, including conducting outreach to community colleges. As part of his MPH research,





Left to right: Rebecca (Becky) Brusca, MD, ZSFG Inpatient Site Director for the UCSF Internal Medicine (IM) Residency, Neil Powe, MD, Chief of Medicine, and Ilana Garcia-Grossman, MD, ZSFG Ambulatory Site Director for the UCSF IM Residency

he mapped the geographic distribution of various health care systems' hospitals and clinics, and compared that with the region's patient demographics. "It brings me a lot of joy to care for individual patients, but I also care a lot about the bigger issues, including access to medical care," he said.

Even with all his accomplishments, Dr. Gonzalez sometimes wrestled with the challenges of becoming a doctor. "At one point I felt totally defeated, but Dr. Talamantes and I looked at everything I'd done in terms of community service, advocacy, research, and leadership, and he said, 'Roberto, you are an amazing applicant. You should not let this dream go by the wayside,'" recalled Dr. Gonzalez. "I thought, 'This person has an MBA, has worked in multiple health systems and in the community, and is a health services researcher. If he says I can do it, then I can do it.'"

Dr. Gonzalez paid that legacy forward through his leadership positions with MiMentor, a nonprofit focused on mentoring the next generation of health care professionals, especially students of color from low-income backgrounds. "We developed an online platform that allowed

me to mentor people not only locally in Los Angeles, but also nationally," he said.

Many of his mentors had trained at UCSF, and encouraged him to apply there for residency. "UCSF is the birthplace of hospital medicine, has some of the best medical educators in the nation, and provides excellent clinical training," said Dr. Gonzalez. He recently completed the categorical track of the UCSF Internal Medicine Residency Program, and was particularly inspired by his time at ZSFG. "Working with patients who come from similar backgrounds as me was a full circle moment," he said. "Patients appreciate being able to talk with someone who can understand them, and that brings me joy."

His experiences working in the ZSFG Intensive Care Unit (ICU) were especially memorable. "We got to care for the sickest of the sick, which pushed me to be clinically rigorous and build patient rapport at the bedside," said Dr. Gonzalez. "I've felt the most stretched in this space, and it's where all the different aspects of medicine are at their highest intensity." That inspired his plans to become a pulmonologist and critical care physician.

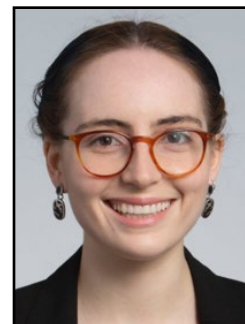
As ZSFG Co-Chief Resident for Inpatient Care, he will help oversee and improve resident rotations on the cardiology, general medicine, and medical ICU inpatient teams. He will also lead the ICU curriculum and run code simulations, and continue teaching clinical reasoning and doctoring skills to all levels of learners. "This is an opportunity to create the teaching home I would want for myself, where people feel safe and welcomed in an inclusive environment," said Dr. Gonzalez.

He will also continue his research about how health policy impacts access to care, and is applying for pulmonology and critical care fellowships. His long-term goals are to work in an academic medical center serving immigrant patients, teach the next generation of physicians, and lead research to eliminate health inequities for medically underserved populations.

Outside of medicine, Dr. Gonzalez enjoys running in Golden Gate Park, spending time with family and co-residents, and exploring the San Francisco food scene with his wife, Maria Laura. They are expecting their first child this fall.

Dr. Paloma Orozco Scott Caring for Patients, Improving Systems

As the granddaughter of Mexican American immigrants, Paloma Orozco Scott, MD, MA, witnessed how health disparities impacted their family. "Although they work so hard every day, many of my family members didn't have access to good health insurance, and it was very evident that people receive different qualities of health care in this country," they said. "I realized I could make a difference as a doctor, both one-on-one, but also at a systems level."



Dr. Orozco Scott grew up in Los Angeles, loving the arts as well as math and science. While earning a bachelor's degree from Brown University in ethnic studies with a focus on Chicano and Latino performance art and cultural studies, they were also accepted to the FlexMed Program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. This early admission program accepts promising college sophomores from a range of academic backgrounds, freeing them to pursue their intellectual passions as undergraduates. Dr. Orozco Scott also worked as a health lead at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, R.I., helping mostly Spanish-speaking parents of pediatric patients access community resources.

After completing a master's degree in American studies from Brown, Dr. Orozco Scott earned a medical degree from Mount Sinai. One of their mentors was nephrologist and medical educator Staci Leisman, MD. "She gave a lecture about the imperfections and inequities in our medical system, and was a great model of someone with a strong moral compass," they said. "She was not afraid to speak up for what she thought was right." That inspired Dr. Orozco Scott and a fellow medical student to successfully advocate for Mount Sinai to change its race-based equation for estimated kidney function to a more equitable and accurate formula.

Dr. Orozco Scott chose San Francisco General Internal Medicine Primary Care Track (SFPC) for internal residency training because of its antiracism curriculum and history of community activism. "This was a post-George Floyd United States, in which many programs were beginning to create these opportunities, but UCSF – and SFPC in particular – had already had those commitments since the 1980s," they said. "The physicians I met here were the people I wanted to work with."

Dr. Orozco Scott appreciated building trust over time with the Richard Fine People's Clinic (RFPC) patients and their families.

One patient had early dementia and was becoming more dependent on their adult daughter. "We had five or six conversations about advanced care planning and end-of-life care, and three or four times I sent forms to their house to fill out," they said. "At our last visit before I graduated, we came to some understandings, and the daughter later told me she had a very honest follow-up conversation with her parent that helped her understand the patient's wishes. She thanked me profusely and felt at peace, and it was transformative for her as a caregiver. That took three years, and was very rewarding."

As ZSFG Co-Chief Resident for Inpatient Care, Dr. Orozco Scott is excited to hold a leadership role in medical education while continuing to learn from strong mentors. They help lead noon conferences for residents, interns, and medical students, sessions for medical students only, morbidity and mortality conferences for trainees and attendings, and intern half-day educational sessions. They also help oversee resident scheduling, the Jeopardy backup coverage system, and precept in RFPC once a week. They also want to continue to foster the internal residency program's relationships with undergraduate and medical school programs that support people underrepresented in medicine to become physicians.

In the future, Dr. Orozco Scott plans to work as a primary care physician and potentially a hospitalist, caring for low-income, Spanish-speaking immigrants. They have a strong interest in medical education and potentially leading a residency program one day. Besides medicine, they enjoy refinishing furniture, playing tennis and basketball, swimming, and cooking hearty stews and Mexican feasts for large groups of friends.

"I'm so grateful for this residency program, which has grown me into the physician I knew I wanted to be," said Dr. Orozco Scott. "I'm deeply privileged to be a doctor and to get to earn the trust of my patients, and I feel hopeful about changing our medical

system to improve care for marginalized patients."

Dr. Lou Xie On the Journey with Patients

Louisa ("Lou") Xie, MD, MPH, was born on the 15th floor of Moffitt-Long Hospital, then grew up in Buffalo, N.Y., Shanghai, and Dallas. "When I moved from China back to America, I felt an incredible culture shock, intensified by coming into my identity as a queer Asian person," said Dr. Xie. "I wanted to become a doctor and focus on gender-affirming care."



While earning a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of Texas at Dallas, Dr. Xie worked at the Human Rights Campaign in Washington D.C., compiling a quality index ranking how well different American health care systems treated LGBTQ patients. While earning their medical degree and master of public health degree from the University of Texas in San Antonio, they volunteered at the PRIDE Clinic, a student-run free clinic that provided gender-affirming care.

"People came from all across Texas and other states to get this care," said Dr. Xie. "That's when I realized I really love primary care. I enjoy sitting down with patients, getting to know them longitudinally, and seeing them again and again. That's why I decided to apply to internal medicine."

Dr. Xie cared for a transmasculine patient who was initially very depressed and anxious. "After our four years together, he came into clinic with an incredible smile," they recalled. "He traveled with us to present at a conference about his clinic experience, and how it saved his life."

Dr. Xie was drawn to the mission SFPCTrack of the UCSF Internal Medicine Residency Program. They cared for patients in the Richard Fine People's Clinic (RFPC), and also provided gender-affirming care to transfeminine patients with HIV through the TransThrive clinic in the Tenderloin, under the mentorship of Royce Lin, MD.

In addition to providing HIV care and hormone therapy, Dr. Xie learned more about gender as a spectrum. "I met my first non-binary patient who was on a very low dose of testosterone and didn't want to present as extremely masculine," they said. "We made sure the hormone levels were not too high, but it's more nuanced than just the serum levels. Ultimately, it's getting a sense of how the patient feels with their current body changes, and making hormone adjustments based on that. That underscores the importance of building longitudinal relationships, especially in primary care. That also helped me with my own gender journey, since my gender expression and identity fell within the fluid range."

Throughout residency, Dr. Xie appreciated the support of the SFPC community. During a particularly stressful inpatient rotation, co-residents encouraged Dr. Xie to take their first-ever sick day to regroup, and SFPC Program Director Joanie Addington-White, MD, invited them to her house to talk and receive support. "Everyone truly cared about me as a person, and wanted me to succeed both personally and professionally," said Dr. Xie. "That perfectly encapsulates residency

and the SFPC cohort."

As this year's ZSFG Chief Resident for Ambulatory Care, Dr. Xie looks forward to providing that same kind of support to interns and residents. They look forward to sharing a few key teaching points even on busy clinic days, as well as developing ambulatory curriculum in partnership with ambulatory chiefs at other program sites, leading ambulatory morning report, and precepting and seeing patients in RFPC, including those who primarily speak Mandarin or Cantonese. Dr. Xie also helps curate the UCSF Internal Medicine Residency Program's social media accounts, highlighting residents' outstanding work and the program's excellence.

"As a trainee, I always looked up to the folks who were able to distill complex medical topics into something easily digestible, and that made me realize I wanted to be a mentor," said Dr. Xie. "It's so nice to give back to this program that has given me so much."

Dr. Xie looks forward to developing their primary care skills and exploring future career directions. Outside of medicine, they enjoy playing Ultimate frisbee, discovering fabulous outfits in local thrift stores, and spending time with their partner, Lauren Gbordzoe, MD, an OB/GYN resident at Kaiser San Francisco, and their two cats.

- Elizabeth Chur

Editors: Neil Powe, Leonard Telesca, Ali Cunningham



Farewell to the 25-26 Chief Residents, Harry Chung, MD, Pooja Lalchandani, MD, and Tamara Sanchez Ortiz, MD - (Left to Right) Ilana Garcia-Grossman, MD, Harry Cheung, MD, Pooja Lalchandani, MD, Tamara Sanchez Ortiz, MD, Beth Harleman, MD, Rebecca (Becky) Brusca, MD, Neil Powe, MD, Rebecca Berman, MD, Joan Addington White, MD.

SPOTLIGHT

- Elaine Khoong, MD, MS, DGIM, and Julie Kim, MD, Endocrinology, are new members of the 2026-2027 [Kaizen Promotions Office Fellowship Cohort](#).
- Raphaella Lipinsky DeGette, MD, DGIM, is the inaugural Clinical Lead for the Quality Incentive Pool (QIP) Program at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG).
- Ryan Assaf, PhD, MPH, DHES, and Jenny Tiskus, MD, Hospital Medicine, are members of the 2026 class of [John A. Watson Faculty Scholars](#).
- Jaya Mallidi, MD, Cardiology, received the [2026 Faculty Teaching Award](#) from UCSF Cardiology Fellows.
- Veronica Manzo, MD, Hospital Medicine has been appointed the assistant director of the Department of Medicine [Program for Clinician-Educator Success \(DOM PRO-cess\)](#).
- Antonio Gomez, MD, Pulmonary, has been appointed program director of the [UCSF Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program](#).
- Ma Somsouk, MD, GI, has been appointed [associate chief of GI clinical research](#) in the UCSF Health Division of Gastroenterology.

