



# UCSF Department of Medicine ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL

## CHIEFS EAGER TO LEAD, SUPPORT RESIDENTS

Every year residency leadership turns to new chief residents who bestow lessons learned from their own experiences on incoming interns and residents. This summer, our 2017-18 chief residents — for Inpatient Medicine, Ambulatory Care, and Quality and Safety — have goals steeped in improving resident well-being and learning for the Department of Medicine at Zuckerberg San Francisco General.

The goal is that strong well-being — aided by mentoring, conferences and programming additions — will increase residents’ ability and willingness to endure challenging work hours, deal with tough situations and assuage stress. And also giving them much-needed experience and confidence working in a safety-net hospital.

“Our main roles are to: one, support the residents, promote their experiences here so that they get to walk away from the General with all the things we enjoyed while here,” ZSFG chief resident Grant Smith said. “And that they get to walk away having experienced and learned a lot, while improving their clinical skills. ... Number two, it is probably on education and teaching. A lot of our day is providing education and conferences for the residents. Support and teaching are the big goals, and we have some projects we will sort of work on so we can accomplish those goals.”

Smith expects to carry on previous residents’ programs, while adding “spice,” he said.

Smith, who graduated from Duke University before attending Harvard Medical School, will partner with Tejaswi (Teja) Kompala as co-chief residents for ZSFG. Both hope to use their experiences serving at ZSFG to create and support the “best experience possible” for residents.

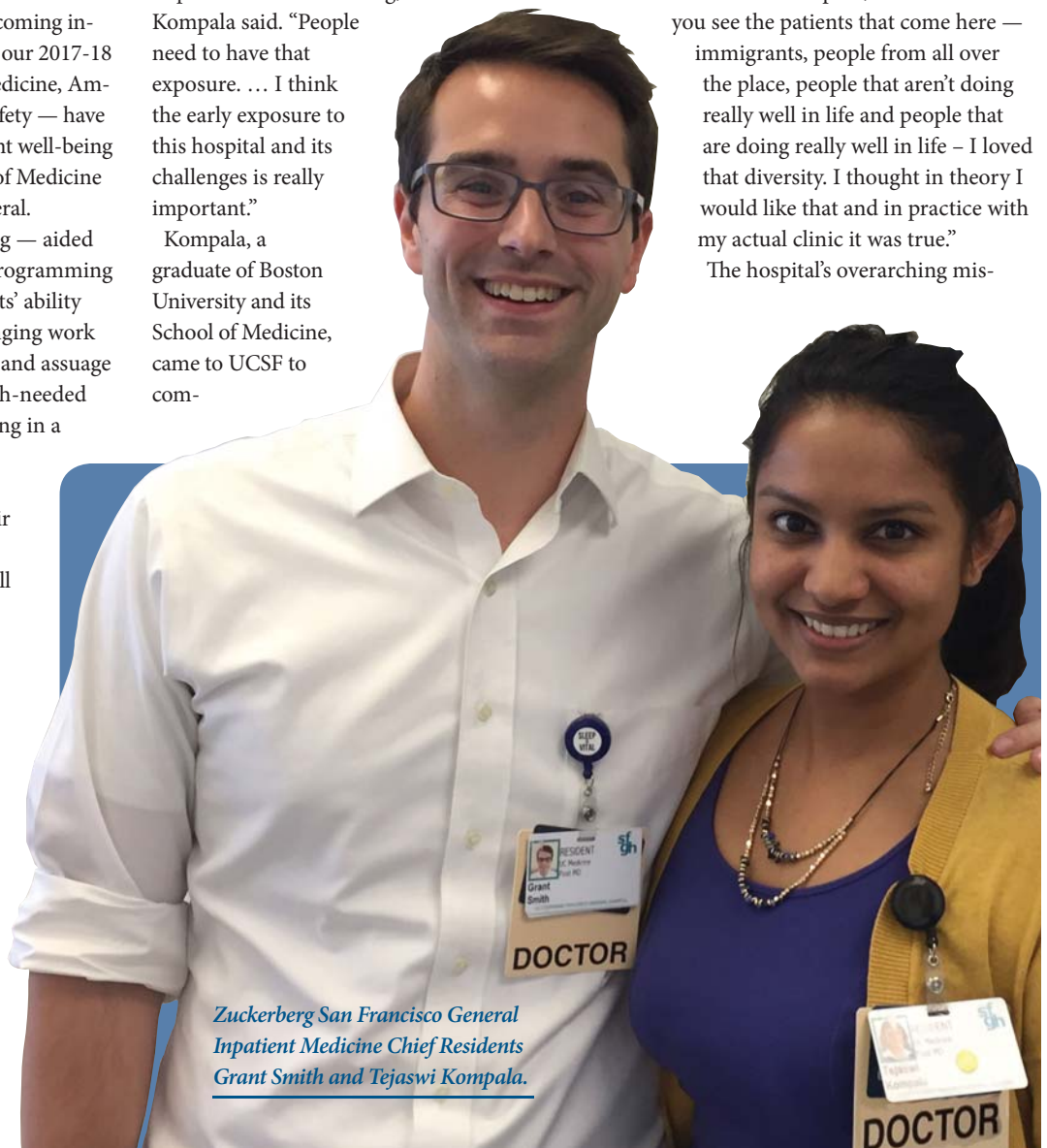
“We see a lot here, which is really important for our training,” Kompala said. “People need to have that exposure. ... I think the early exposure to this hospital and its challenges is really important.”

Kompala, a graduate of Boston University and its School of Medicine, came to UCSF to com-

plete her training because of the experience working in a hospital focused on serving the underserved, she said. Her time at the Division of General Internal Medicine’s Richard Fine People’s Clinic was an irreplaceable experience. “I loved my clinic experience so much,”

Kompala said. “I already had an idea that I would like this hospital, but I think once you see the patients that come here — immigrants, people from all over the place, people that aren’t doing really well in life and people that are doing really well in life — I loved that diversity. I thought in theory I would like that and in practice with my actual clinic it was true.”

The hospital’s overarching mis-



*Zuckerberg San Francisco General  
Inpatient Medicine Chief Residents  
Grant Smith and Tejaswi Kompala.*

sion of serving the communities of San Francisco brings a sense of “belonging,” Kompala added.

Smith, who has a passion for palliative care, has the same love for ZSFG’s patient population.

“I think this hospital is extra special, and one of the things as a trainee I love about the General, is that training here you will leave having some experience you won’t have somewhere else,” Smith said. “You have exposure to people that are totally different ... And you sometimes share some of the most intimate moments of their life with them – the worst day of their life. And getting to share in that, and, hopefully, partner and collaborate in figuring out a plan to help them is really powerful.”

“It’s an incredible experience that if you didn’t get to work at a place like this you might not be able to meet someone with that background and walk of life. It’s such a deep intimate thing. It’s a huge, amazing part of working here.”

To help the residents, Kompala and Smith will expand upon educational conferences and emotional support.

“I think that as the new interns are coming in and I keep on thinking about when I was an intern,” Smith said. “In med school, I did not have exposure to a county hospital or a safety net hospital, so it was really hard with some of the things I saw. It really was emotionally burdensome, initially. I think in talking about some of those things and having our teaching conferences ... we can highlight that it is hard but it is also an incredible experience taking care of these folks, because we are it. We have got to take care of them.”

Helping Smith and Kompala with residents at ZSFG are Quality & Safety Chief Resident Amanda Johnson and Ambulatory Care Chief Resident Christy Soran. The specialty chiefs will work across University of California, San Francisco supporting residents, but they both

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have a special place in their heart for ZSFG. Both were San Francisco General Primary Care Track residents with outpatient medicine experiences at the Richard Fine People’s Clinic.

Johnson received her undergraduate degree from Stanford and went to Harvard Medical School. Soran received her undergraduate degree from Boston College, her masters from Johns Hopkins and attended the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine.

“My work and relationships are here at the General — clinically and personally,” Johnson said. “I’m going to do what I can to get the residents all of the experience in the inpatient and outpatient care that is going on here (at ZSFG). I can use this role to connect people at the General that otherwise they might not have known about. There is history here, and people should be able to tap into it.”

For Soran, diversity makes the hospital special for trainees, she said.

“I think it’s really important that they are exposed to a safety-net hospital because of the diversity of our patients — and really the privilege to serve our patients here,” Soran said. “Also, the staff that work here have such a dedication to the mission and passion to see what their patients are going through every day.”

For Johnson, who has experience in leadership roles throughout her education, the Quality and Safety Chief Resident is a position to promote improvement in the way things are done, she said.

“The opportunity presents this extra capacity for ambulatory education in how can we raise the profile of quality improvements and system redesign that is happening in the medical center,” she said. “To that end, this is an opportunity to promote a framework for quality and safety.”



**Dr. Amanda Johnson**  
*Quality and Safety*



**Dr. Christy Soran**  
*Ambulatory Care*

## SPOTLIGHT

**Larissa Thomas, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine, was awarded the Excellence and Innovation in Graduate Medical Education Award for her curriculum in the Internal Medicine Residency.

“Larissa was a driving force in addressing issues of resident well-being with humanity, intentionality, and thoughtfulness,” said Beth Harleman, MD, Professor of Medicine. “She has spearheaded and championed a curriculum promoting well being, bringing a level of attention and courageous examination of this issue which had previously been lacking in our program.”

— **Binh An Phan, MD** Associate Professor of Medicine in ZSFG’s Division of Cardiology, was awarded the Department of Medicine’s Rector Teaching Award, and the UCSF Cardiology fellows awarded Phan the first Joel Karliner Teacher Award. Phan also recently received a teaching award from the UCSF School of Medicine 2017 class.

— **Michele M. Tana, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology, received the 2017 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Autoimmune Liver Diseases Pilot Research Award.

— **Debra Garcia**, academic coordinator in the ZSFG Hematology & Oncology Division and member of the AIDS and Cancer Specimen Resource in California was awarded the 2017 International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories Special Service Award, which recognizes her “exceptional contributions.”

“The hope is to find if there is a better way to do it,” she added. “I find it invigorating to say I had a hand in it. It’s hard today, but I’ll be able to make it better.”

*Connor Ramey — Communications Specialist*

