



# UCSF Department of Medicine ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL

## RECOGNIZING OUR TALENTED COLLEAGUES

### ZSFG MEDICINE FACULTY AWARDS

The Department of Medicine at Zuckerberg San Francisco General celebrates our talented, innovative, and dedicated members through the 2023 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

Monica Gandhi, MD, MPH  
HIV, Infectious Diseases & Global Medicine

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

"Dr. Gandhi is an outstanding clinician-educator,



Monica Gandhi, MD, MPH

offering endless enthusiasm in providing outstanding clinical care, and in mentoring clinical trainees in infectious diseases and HIV medicine. She is a world-leader in HIV care, and she generously shares her expertise with

her patients and trainees. She plays an instrumental role in directing the ZSFG HIV Clinic (Ward 86). Despite extensive responsibilities, Monica offers constant attention and leadership, keeping the clinic vitally important and up to date with

ever-changing modalities for care and prevention. Monica's leadership of Ward 86 remains an international model for high quality HIV care. She created a new program with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, with rapid development of novel programs for patient care and research, directly benefitting ZSFG patients as the pandemic evolved, and likely contributing to San Francisco faring better than most regions during the pandemic. Monica excels as a spokesperson to the public regarding COVID-19. During the crazy days of the pandemic Monica offered a reasoned voice of expert counsel for the public via many news media outlets. Beyond the humanitarian mission of ZSFG, it is noteworthy that Monica is a leading international researcher on HIV medicine, with outstanding funding and productivity, and that she leads the UCSF Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), a major program for research and training on HIV medicine. These last activities extend beyond ZSFG but help to identify our campus as a leader for HIV research within UCSF and nationally. She was and is the voice of sanity and sensitivity about the COVID pandemic for our hospital, the city, and the nation."

#### Care Experience Award

Christy Soran, MD, MPH  
General Internal Medicine

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. Soran is leading the renowned Office-Based Buprenorphine Induction Clinic (OBIC), which does buprenorphine inductions for patients with

opioid use disorder. Under her leadership, OBIC has created novel care opportunities for patients, including home-delivery of buprenorphine for patients living in SROs. Through her compassionate, patient-centered, programmatic, and community-building approach, she has and continues to create new ways of tackling the opiate epidemic and inspiring and teaching us to deliver sensitive care to patients with substance use histories."



Christy Soran, MD, MPH

#### Clinical Innovator Award

Sithu Win, MD, MPH  
Cardiology

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.

"Dr. Sithu Win displays inexhaustible energy for process and product improvement, but he spends no time on self-promotion. As a result, many of us may not fully understand how Sithu Win's work elevates performance of healthcare teams across services and disciplines. Sithu overhauled antiquated workflows for ECG acquisition and analysis so that each tracing is reported quickly. Cardiac stress imaging that patients often hesitated to pursue at UCSF Health is now available on our campus because of Dr. Win's initiatives. Similarly,



many more patients with valve disease and heart rhythm disorders are now rapidly scheduled for transesophageal echocardiograms and DC cardioversions because of the block time that Sithu negotiated with the Anesthesia Service. Sithu is consistently innovating



Sithu Win, MD, MPH

ways to improve access to non-invasive cardiology diagnostic services, despite that service suffering from sub-optimal staffing and limited ancillary resources. Over the years, he has streamlined the inpatient echocardiogram service, improved access to ambulatory ECG monitoring and is in the process of creating capacity for limited echocardiograms in cardiology clinic to reduce wait times.”

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

Joan Addington-White, MD  
General Internal Medicine

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

“Dr. Addington-White, SFPC Program Director, is at the forefront of training the primary care and general internal medicine leaders of tomorrow. She has successfully trained and mentored hundreds of residents and medical students and cared for thousands of patients during her time as a practicing physician. She draws on her deep experience and extensive clinical knowledge to model outstanding, patient-centered, and evidence-based care. She is an educator to all she interacts with in the humblest of ways and is generous with her time and delights in the practice of medicine. Dr. Addington-White’s joy in clinical care and teaching is shown daily. She is frequently heard sharing an exciting case with colleagues and trainees and will eagerly provide updates on the outcome for that patient. She exemplifies a growth mindset and is constantly updating her knowledge and sharing what she learns through reading, evaluation of new evidence and attendance of and teaching in

didactics for groups small and large. Dr. Addington-White is an innovator in bringing new curricula to the SFPC residents. She brings in outstanding and diverse faculty to teach the residents on topics that will enhance their skills and the reach of their advocacy throughout their careers such as narrative medicine, reproductive health, mental health and wellbeing, addiction medicine and health equity and inclusion. She strives to think about and take concrete action on recruiting and supporting diverse trainees and those underrepresented in medicine to make sure that the future primary care workforce reflects the change and faces our patients need to see.”



Joan Addington-White, MD

**ZSFG Performance/Quality Improvement Award**

Bethlehem Churnet, MD  
Hospital Medicine

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

“Dr. Churnet has restarted our patient safety review in our division and leads quarterly sessions focused on reviewing cases and improving processes. Dr. Churnet brings a balanced, thoughtful, and highly principled approach to review of adverse patient events. She approaches every situation with an open mind, gathers data and perspectives conscientiously, analyzes the situation and engages colleagues in review and discussion of the issues. Because of her we are able to learn lessons from adverse events that change and improve patient care. She creates a non-judgmental environment for discussion of errors. She models professionalism, courage,



Bethlehem Churnet, MD

and high personal standards in her own clinical work as well as her QI leadership.”

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**Outstanding Early Career Investigator Award**

Michael Peluso, MD, MHS, MPhil  
HIV, Infectious Diseases, and Global Medicine

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

“Dr. Peluso’s research focus has been the pathogenesis of HIV infection, mechanisms of HIV persistence, and elimination of HIV reservoirs; these are vital aspects of a high priority research agenda to bring about HIV cure. Michael co-directs clinical trials and related studies to disrupt the HIV reservoir and induce infection remission. With the pandemic, Michael took on a major interest in the pathogenesis of long COVID-19. In this regard he manages a large observational study following people after episodes of COVID-19, with the goal of understanding the long-term biological and immunological consequences of infection. His productivity has been amazing, and the numbers tell the story! At the time of this nomination, Michael had published 97 peer-reviewed papers, including 65 (28 first or last author) since 2021. This is not a misprint – nearly 100 papers, many in extremely high impact journals, less than two years into his faculty career.”



Michael Peluso, MD, MHS

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

Jonathan Graf, MD  
Rheumatology

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

“Dr. Graf is truly a master clinician in our rheuma-



tology group at ZSFG and provides outstanding care to patients as a rheumatologist on the inpatient consult service and our clinic in ward 92. He is the person I turn to when I am struggling with a complex diagnostic or therapeutic decision. He always responds almost immediately, eager to help me think through a patient case systematically, often using his deep knowledge of immunology as well as immense clinical experience to help me think more clearly and advance care for our patients. And he always does it with a smile and enthusiasm that reminds me of what I love most about medicine and rheumatology. He is the doctor's doctor and able to integrate an amazing



**Jonathan Graf, MD**

he brings to his patient encounters in Ward 92 is remarkable.”

**ZSFG Department of Medicine Clinical Fellow Award**

**Samuel Lee, MD**  
HIV, Infectious Diseases & Global Medicine

*This award recognizes a DOM 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. Lee is an absolute gem of a physician and consultant who is beloved for many reasons - his infectious smile, his amiable manner, and his calming approachability - but this year he has really established himself as a local expert for questions related to substance use. He does a very thorough job that is patient-centered in approaching those with substance use disorders. He has taught several didactics including The Approach to Amphetamine use disorders to the SFPC residents, among the highest rated talks of the year. He also has generated data on patients at RFPC who are declined joint replacements and worked

tirelessly on a more systematic and evidence-based approach to caring for these patients. He is constantly teaching, not only about dosing of opiate replacement medications and the fine points of treating withdrawal, but also with the way he approaches patients, the tidbits of history his approach reveals, and his ability to cut through to recognize the most clinically and humanly essential aspects of a patient's story and management needs.”



**Samuel Lee, MD**

**ZSFG Department of Medicine Mentoring Award**

**Mandana Khalili, MD, MAS**  
Gastroenterology

*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. Khalili embodies the values of the Mentoring Award through her sincere connection with trainees interested in health disparities research and her advocacy of scholarly experiences that enrich clinical training for mentees. From the beginning of our mentorship relationship, Mandana demonstrated enthusiasm, caring attention to detail and future-focused thinking that would set me up for success. With her inclusive and cheery demeanor, she welcomed me to join several research teams to help build my skills in data interpretation, writing,



**Mandana Khalili, MD, MAS**

presentation, and publication process. Though one could argue that Dr. Khalili's mentoring helped me to advance my professional goals, she also went above and beyond to support my personal journey. For me, residency was marked by the death of two family members who lost their battle with early-onset cancer. This reality was devastating, and it became

even more pronounced through the daily work that I carried out with hospitalized patients on wards or ICU. During these challenging times, Dr. Khalili provided counsel and made a point to check in on me through phone or zoom. She helped me feel seen during a time when most of my colleagues and certainly patients were unaware of my personal journey of grieving. By advocating that I take care of personal needs during my training, Dr. Khalili helped me to build skills focused on resilience, compassion, and reflection -- core skills that are equally important to the professional skills mentioned above. I look forward to her mentorship throughout my inpatient chief year in internal medicine at the SFVA, my future gastroenterology fellowship, and beyond.”

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**Jane Bailowitz, MD Volunteer Faculty Award**

**Tom Bersot, MD, PhD**  
Endocrinology

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

Dr. Bersot is one of the top lipid clinicians in the nation. He has volunteered as director of the ZSFG lipid clinic bringing that expertise to our patients for over years. In that role he has educated many hundreds of students, residents and endocrinology fellows passing his knowledge along to several generations of physicians. He has gotten formulary approval for new drugs when appropriate. In addition to the clinical care he has provided, for decades, his crew from the Gladstone did all the scheduling and much of the lab processing for ZSFG patients. Dr.



**Tom Bersot, MD, PhD**

Bersot and his clinical team are always available for primary care providers hoping to prevent high-risk vascular complications. Tom happens to be an exceptional listener. Patients and peers appreciate friendly discussions of positive and negative experiences with lipid therapies. We are so fortunate to have a stellar colleague who understands the most



recent and best clinical tools in the field as Director of ZSFG Lipid Clinic for more than 40 years.”

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

Antionette Griffin, RN, MS  
Psychiatry

*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.*



Antionette Griffin, RN, MS

“Antionette is the psychiatry consult nurse and a great asset to ZSFG. She is thoughtful and adept at supporting some of the most behaviorally challenging patients. She is so patient-centered and good at patient engagement, helping teams to focus on patients’ strengths and motivations. When patients are struggling to adapt to the hospital environment due to underlying mental illness, she is an immensely helpful ally, and can help identify ways to better engage the patients. She has spent a lifetime helping us care more compassionately and equitably for our most challenging patients. She has a way of cutting through patient and providers fears to bring a healing and trusting touch to hospital encounters.”

**Professional Altruism Award**

Megha Ambati, MD  
Hospital Medicine

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

“Dr. Ambati is an “unsung hero” for the Department of Hospital Medicine and for ZSFG. When I first joined the department, I was surprised to learn that she was just a moonlighter because she seemed like an integral part of the community. She picks up many shifts, often working long stretches at a time. She is also always so willing and collabo-

rative in helping to cover and swap shifts with colleagues. She is a thoughtful and kind, patient-centered clinician who spends a lot of time with her patients. When I am either receiving handoffs from her or passing my patients to her, I do so knowing that she is thorough and thoughtful. In my administrative role, I am always grateful to see her name on the chart of a socially complex patient, knowing she will be thoughtful about their needs, and I have heard feedback from our nursing colleagues that she is stellar to work with and incredibly collegial.”



Megha Ambati, MD

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award**

Meghan O’Brien, MD, MBE  
Hospital Medicine

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

“Dr. O’Brien’s work in microaggressions focuses on improving equity in the clinical learning environment, supporting faculty development around creating and selecting equitable curriculum. She developed her toolkit for anti-racism and race literacy supporting educators in disrupting normative perceptual frames in their teaching materials, and her work as an Equity and Inclusion Incubator consultant helps colleagues across departments tackle their DEI challenges. She is a champion for all and supports her colleagues and trainees as an ally. She is my go-to expert and I feel lucky to have her in our division.”



Meghan O’Brien, MD, MBE

**SPOTLIGHT**

The UCSF School of Medicine annually bestows Staff Appreciation and Recognition (STAR) Awards  
The 2023 ZSFG DOM STAR Award recipients are:

- Michele Casadei** - AMEND Program Lead, Center for Vulnerable Populations
- Erin Hartman** - Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative Director of Communications, Center for Vulnerable Populations
- Layan Kaileh** - Project Manager, Center for Vulnerable Populations
- Kelly Kiser** - Assistant Division Manager, Division of General Internal Medicine
- Tiana Moore** - Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative Policy Director, Center for Vulnerable Populations
- Pamela Olsen** - Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative Director of Communications Co-Director of Research Operations, Center for Vulnerable Populations
- Lea Troeh** - EatSF Program and Development Associate, Division of General Internal Medicine

The SPIRIT of DOM Award recognizes staff members who have made significant contributions to the missions of the Department of Medicine and who embody UCSF’s PRIDE Values. This Spring’s ZSFG award recipients are:

- Jordan Cuby** - Clinical Research Coordinator, Division of General Internal Medicine
- Ivan Leung** - Clinical Research Coordinator, Division of Hematology-Oncology, ZSFG

**OTHER AWARDS**

- David Chia, MD** - Division of Hospital Medicine received the Residency Advising & Development Advisor of the Year Award.
- Priscilla Hsue, MD** - Division of Cardiology, has been elected to serve as the Vice President of the American Society of Clinical Investigation.
- Jaya Mallidi, MD**, - Division of Hospital Medicine received the Patricia Cornett Subspecialty Faculty Teaching Award.
- Flona Ng**, - received the Julius Krevans Award honoring an intern who exhibits clinical excellence, professionalism, and commitment to the mission of ZSFG to care for the underserved.
- Neil R. Powe, MD**, - Received the 2023 Robert J. Glaser Award from the Society of General Internal Medicine.

Laurae Pearson

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