UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Surgery

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Colleagues and Friends of the Department,

Fall is officially here and with it the excitement of a bustling campus with new undergrads who are getting their first real taste of the vibrancy that is UC San Diego. Alumni of years past would likely get lost walking through the campus and would be amazed at the new buildings and the multitude of working cranes that signal that there is no end in sight to the growth that has led UC San Diego to the distinction of having the highest undergraduate enrollment of in the entire University of California system.

Such transformation is also visibly present on the Health Science campuses east of interstate 5 and in Hillcrest, where new building construction projects herald the ongoing and necessary expansion of clinical and academic programming. While breathtaking to view, new facility construction is only one facet of the transformation that I have witnessed and been part of since arriving in 2015. What is even more amazing is the transformation in the breadth, volume and quality of care that is taking place in our facilities.

In this month's newsletter we take time to focus on the recent accolades that have been bestowed upon UC San Diego Health. For the first time in its history, UC San Diego's hospitals have been ranked among the top twenty hospitals in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* (USNWR). Additionally, our hospitals have for *five years in a row* been rated as a top ten performer (in the country) in overall quality by Vizient, Inc.

In eras past, the USNWR rankings overly relied upon relatively soft metrics such as reputation surveys that did not substantively weight objective criteria of performance. In recent years, the methodology of USNWR has significantly shifted to more heavily weighed objective measures of performance. For those of us in the trenches of providing clinical care at UC San Diego, we are not at all surprised with the accolades that have followed the incredible transformation in our clinical programming and processes.

Exceptional quality does not just happen. It requires a commitment across every unit in the organization from physicians and nurses to administration and the thousands of others who make the delivery of our care possible. Quality is the result of a deliberate strategy that starts first with attracting, developing, and supporting the very best team members who are highly specialized and who function well in team-based multidisciplinary environments. When patients come to UC San Diego, they know and expect that their team is focused on, and has special expertise in their specific condition. Exceptional quality is dependent upon the development of reliable care processes that enhance safety, and on an administrative structure that provides resources which enable us to constantly measure our quality and react when necessary. Delivery of the highest quality is also reliant on a culture that puts patients first, and where team members understand the value of their contributions.

For our Q&A this month, UC San Diego Health CEO Patty Maysent provides a glimpse into this incredible performance and transformation. You will find a potpourri of patient, faculty and trainee features that reinforce the incredible work ongoing in the Department by our talented teams.

Thank you as always for your interest in, and support of the Department of Surgery.

Gratefully,

Bryan M. Clary
Chair, UC San Diego Department of Surgery

SUPPORT THE WORK OF UC SAN DIEGO'S DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

With your help, the Department of Surgery at UC San Diego School of Medicine is changing lives. Financial support from our community is critical to providing leading-edge surgical care to thousands of people every year. Your partnership enables UC San Diego's Department of Surgery to continue to serve our region's patients with the most expert care available.

DONATE

UC San Diego Health has once again ranked No. 1 in San Diego, according to the 2023-2024 U.S. News & World Report "Best Hospitals" survey, and for the first time in the academic medical center's history, it was also placed on the 2023-2024 "Best Hospitals National Honor Roll," a distinction awarded to only 22 hospitals nationwide that are recognized for outstanding patient care.

Celebrating National Recognition of UC San Diego Health's High Reliability

It is with tremendous pride that we share UC San Diego Health has earned its place among the nation's top hospitals, being recognized for the first time in our history on the Honor Roll of *U.S. News & World Report*'s annual "Best Hospitals" survey. This year, only 22 hospitals nationwide were recognized with this distinction for exemplary patient care.

To be honored with this national recognition is a testament to the remarkable dedication of talented teams that provide outstanding medical and surgical care to our patients every day.

We continue to rank No. 1 in San Diego and are tied for No. 1 in California along with UCLA, UCSF, Stanford, and Cedars-Sinai.

For the 2023-2024 "Best Hospitals" rankings and ratings, U.S. News & World Report evaluated more than 4,500 hospitals across 15 specialties and 21 procedures and conditions.

Among these, UC San Diego Health ranked in 10 specialties:

- Cancer (20)
- Cardiology, Heart & Vascular Surgery (23)
- Diabetes & Endocrinology (39)
- Ear, Nose & Throat (14)
- Gastroenterology & GI Surgery (18)
- Geriatrics (17)
- Neurology & Neurosurgery (21)
- Obstetrics & Gynecology (15)
- Pulmonology and Lung Surgery (9)
- Urology (32)

UC San Diego Health was also rated as "high performing" in 18 common procedures and conditions, which cover a spectrum of care from heart procedures and treatments for acute kidney failure to orthopedic and cancer surgeries and stroke.

Performance was evaluated using a variety of measures, such as survival rates, discharge to home, complication rates, patient experience, and level of nursing care. The "Best Hospitals" methodology also factors in data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, American Hospital Association, professional organizations, and medical specialists.

As the region's only academic health system, UC San Diego Health prides itself on becoming a highly reliable, learning health care system. Our steadfast approach to improve patient care through reliable systems and processes demonstrates this commitment to our patients each and every day. The measurable results of these efforts can be seen in these rankings.

A heartfelt thank you for Leading the Way in all that you do to care for our community. Thank you for your commitment to make UC San Diego Health the top hospital system in the region.

Q&A: PATTY MAYSENT, CEO

For our Q&A this month, CEO Patty Maysent reflects on UC San Diego Health's remarkable and historic distinction as a member of the Best Hospitals Honor Roll.

Q: What is the significance of UC San Diego Health being on the USNWR honor roll?
A: This is the first time in our history that UC San Diego Health was named to the National Honor Roll, a distinction awarded to only 22 of more than 4,500 hospitals nationwide that are recognized for outstanding patient care. We have earned national rankings in 10 of the 15 specialties and in 18 of the 21 common procedures that USNWR evaluates using clinical outcomes data, level of nursing care, and patient experience scores. Our team members have reached a pinnacle of quality that very few hospitals nationwide achieve, and that no other hospital in San Diego has ever achieved.

Q: Which of the chief accolades that UC San Diego Health received were the most sought-after? Which were the hardest won?
A: UC San Diego Health is on a journey to high reliability. Our focus is on delivering world-class care with an exceptional experience for our patients. This is, above all else, what motivates us. We use Vizient as a barometer of our progress since the measurement approach includes key aspects of what matters most to our patients. Further, Vizient's methodology is based on more current data and is reflective of all patients we serve versus some of the other methodologies strictly focusing on the Medicare patient population.

Q: What was UC San Diego Health's overall methodology or pathway to achieving this distinction?
A: UC San Diego Health is focused on our journey to high reliability. Our Hospital Quality Council meets every two weeks to review key outcomes data that matter to our patients. Our commitment to data transparency and leveraging the principles of a highly-reliable, learning health system ensure we continually strive for improvement of our already exceptional care.

Q: What would you say was the Dept of Surgery's largest contribution toward earning a place on the honor roll?
A: The Department of Surgery's commitment to patient safety, quality, and experience contributes greatly to excellent outcomes for many of our patients. Excellent outcomes for routine and complex surgeries also figure prominently in the methodologies of all safety and quality rankings.

Q: Why are such distinctions important from a patient perspective?
A: Placement within these rankings provides a performance benchmark and serve as a barometer for us. We believe that these rankings help support awareness of the world-class care for UC San Diego Health but recognize patients don't use them solely to determine where to get their care. We are thrilled at being ranked prominently by USNWR, Vizient, Leapfrog and CMS as it helps validate, but also motivate our journey to high reliability.

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vizient®

UC San Diego Health Achieves Top-Performing Quality Ranking by Vizient

We wish to share the exciting news that UC San Diego Health has been recognized as a top performer in the 2023 Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Ranking by Vizient, Inc.

UC San Diego Health was one of only a few members in the “Comprehensive Academic Medical Center” cohort to be recognized for excellence in delivering high-quality care.

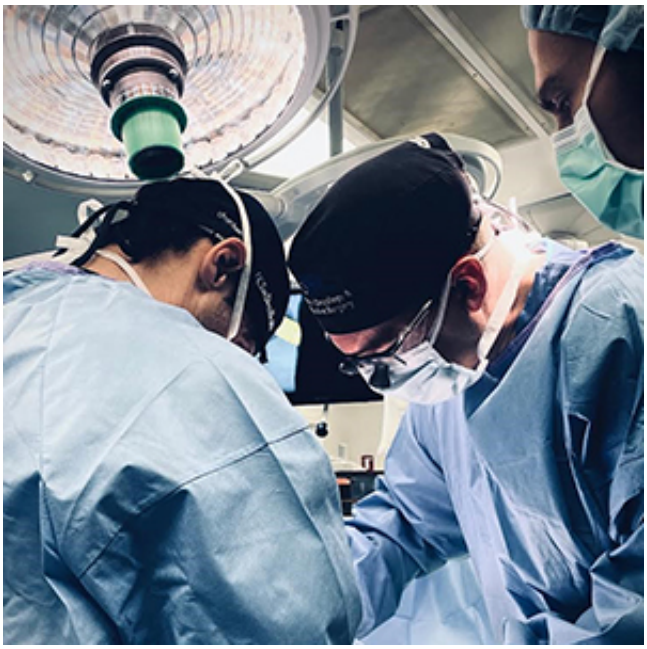
For five consecutive years, UC San Diego Health has been ranked among the top 10 academic health systems in the United States by Vizient. This national data-driven performance award is evidence that our teams are achieving high-quality health care in the domains that matter most: safety, mortality, effectiveness, efficiency, patient centeredness and equity. The award reflects our commitment to being a highly reliable, learning health system that prioritizes safe and high-quality care with zero harm.

The Vizient Quality and Accountability Ranking helps participating hospitals and health systems understand their performance against their peers and identifies structures and processes associated with high performance in quality and safety across a broad spectrum of patient care activity. Unlike other ranking systems that may only evaluate Medicare patients, the inclusivity of all patients in this ranking helps us universally evaluate and improve care for all of our patients, regardless of insurance status.

This year, 784 participating hospitals were segmented into four cohorts for the Vizient Quality and Accountability Ranking. The ranking factors in measures from the Vizient Clinical Data Base and includes performance data from the HCAHPS survey and the CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network.

We thank each of our team members for leading the way to achieving these outstanding results on behalf of our patients. We hope that you are proud of this achievement, as well as our first-ever national honor roll and #1 local ranking in U.S. News & World Report, knowing that the world-class care you deliver is recognized across the country.

CLINICAL NEWS



Navy and UC San Diego Health Team Preserves Student's Professional Dream by Performing First Ever Immediate Jaw Reconstruction with 3D Printed Teeth
With part of his leg bone serving as his new jaw, Felix Ung walked across commencement stage two weeks after surgery

By Tiffany Fox

San Diego, CA - Sept. 29, 2023 – Felix Ung entered UC San Diego as an undergrad four years ago with a dream of attending law school after completing his degree in Cognitive Science. Through hard work and determination, Ung was accepted to New York University School of Law during his senior year at UC San Diego.

Around this time, however, Ung got disturbing news that would have him questioning his future as an attorney. He had been diagnosed with a cyst that had by then destroyed a large portion of his lower jaw. After numerous referrals and appointments, it was determined Ung needed to have two-thirds of his lower jaw removed, including nearly all his lower teeth — a procedure that would require rare expertise and a ground-breaking dental implant restoration using 3D-printed teeth.

With his professional dream uncertain, Ung searched for and found a collaborative team of specialized plastic and dental surgeons with UC San Diego Health and Naval Medical Center San Diego, led by U.S. Navy Commander Dan Hammer, DDS (Navy Maxillofacial Surgeon) and Captain Eamon O'Reilly (Navy Plastic Surgeon), as well as Christopher Reid, MD, of the UC San Diego Health Division of Plastic Surgery.

In a series of complex procedures, sometimes referred to as a “jaw-in-a-day,” the team partnered with the Department of Otolaryngology at UC San Diego School of Medicine to both remove a large portion of Ung’s jaw and transplant — during the same surgery — a portion of Ung’s leg bone to serve as his new jaw, complete with dental implants and 3D printed teeth.

Read more

Colorectal Care with Dr. Sonia Ramamoorthy

Dr. Sonia Ramamoorthy explains how gastrointestinal disorders affecting the colon and rectum can affect your quality of life. Our colorectal experts are leaders in complex procedures, often using minimally invasive techniques to treat a range of conditions. These include inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), pelvic

floor disorders, and colon and rectal cancer. Our team includes world-class surgeons, gastroenterologists and nutritional experts, along with researchers who are working to develop new treatments. More about colorectal care at UC San Diego Health. Watch video

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Acoustic Neuromas: 3 Patients and Their Stories

When Melissa De La O was diagnosed with an acoustic neuroma, also known as a vestibular schwannoma, she already knew about the condition because her father also had it 35 years prior. She chose UC San Diego Health for treatment, and the surgeons were able to preserve Melissa's hearing, which was her main goal for the middle fossa approach surgery. In fact, Melissa is now the patient navigator for our acoustic neuroma program. She applies her personal experience as she guides patients through the process to achieve the best results possible. Meanwhile, when Renee Uribe learned she needed surgery for an acoustic neuroma, she also chose UC San Diego Health for treatment, where the surgeons were able to preserve her facial nerves, which was Renee's main goal for the surgery. Lastly, when Julie Hudash was diagnosed with an acoustic neuroma, she knew it was important to have surgeons with extensive experience and to be "in the hands of people who really cared about me." The care and support she received at UC San Diego Health amazed her. Julie said she didn't just come to UC San Diego Health to get brain surgery, she came to get her life back. And she did.

UC San Diego Health leads the nation in the number of patients and positive treatment outcomes for this rare benign tumor. Although we treat the most patients with acoustic neuroma, we also provide personalized, compassionate care. Our dedicated patient navigator eases patients through the process and our expert team is ready to help patients achieve the best results possible.

Watch Melissa's story:
Patient Now Helps Others Navigate Their Acoustic Neuroma Journey

Watch Renee's story:
Acoustic Neuroma Patient Renee Uribe Explains Why She Chose UC San Diego Health

Watch Julie's story:
It's More Than Just Brain Surgery: Patient Julie Hudash Shares Her Acoustic Neuroma Story

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TRAINING NEWS

UC San Diego School of Medicine honored 141 new medical students at the school's White Coat Ceremony on August 31, 2023. An annual tradition, the ceremony marks the beginning of the medical education journey for these future physicians. Photo by Erik Jepsen/UC San Diego.

UC San Diego School of Medicine Welcomes its 55th Class of Medical Students

The white coat is one of the most recognizable symbols of the medical profession. Receiving your first white coat is an exciting rite of passage.

On Thursday, August 31, University of California San Diego School of Medicine presented the newest members of the medical profession – 141 students in the entering Class of 2023 – with the white coats they will wear throughout medical school. An annual tradition, white coat ceremonies are held by medical schools across the globe to mark the beginning of the medical education journey for these future physicians.

Throughout the ceremony, School of Medicine leaders offered heartfelt advice and encouragement to help the students during their time at UC San Diego and beyond. Faculty emphasized the importance of becoming compassionate caregivers, developing into leaders, advocating for health equity and social justice, and prioritizing personal well-being and health throughout medical school.

Read more

Neurobiology Student Matthew Uzelac Awarded Goldwater Scholarship

Matthew Uzelac, a UC San Diego senior majoring in Neurobiology and Biochemistry, has been selected to receive a scholarship from the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

The prestigious national award provides one year of funding, up to a maximum of $7,500, for students in the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics.

In addition to his core classes, Uzelac conducts research as an undergraduate member of Associate Professor Weg Ongkeko's laboratory in UC San Diego's Department of Surgery. As part of the lab, Uzelac aids the group's investigations of the microbiological and biochemical influences of oncology.

Read more

RESEARCH NEWS

Dr. Michael Bouvet Awarded R01 as an MPI

Michael Bouvet, MD, has been awarded a new R01 as a Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI). This R01 (9 R01 CA280968-05A1) is a collaboration with Dr. Hok Soo Choi (Massachusetts General Hospital) entitled, "Targeting Parathyroid Glands With Novel Fluorophores For Intraoperative Imaging."

This is a major addition to the research portfolio of the Department of Surgery, and will bring in an estimated $854,565 direct costs to UC San Diego over the funding cycle of the grant.

PROJECT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT: Parathyroid glands (PGs) are often difficult to locate intraoperatively due to their small size and poor contrast under the surgical light. Recently, surgeons have been using near-infrared (NIR) autofluorescence as a means to help identify PGs, however, there are false positives and negatives with this technology and room for improvement in sensitivity and specificity. There is an unmet need to develop a reliable, bright NIR probe that can be utilized to 1) identify and preserve normal PGs during thyroid surgery, thus reducing postoperative hypocalcemia complications and 2) identify parathyroid adenomas during parathyroidectomy for patients with hyperparathyroidism. Therefore, an intraoperative imaging method to help surgeons find PGs in real-time while preserving normal tissue represents an unmet clinical need, with no available contrast agents. Our hypothesis guiding this study is that halogenated NIR fluorophores provide sensitive, specific, and real- time image-guidance for improved therapeutic interventions, including noninvasive localization and intraoperative image-guided parathyroidectomy. Under the previous NIH funding #R01EB011523, we have developed over 850 novel NIR fluorophores tailored to endocrine imaging (endocrine-specific NIR fluorophores; ESNFs) and successfully targeted thyroid/parathyroid glands (TG/PG), pituitary glands, thymus, adrenal glands, pancreas, and their tumors. Sharing structural and chemical similarities with naturally occurring hormones and drugs, ESNFs could provide high contrast on endocrine glands for image-guided surgery after a single intravenous injection into mice, rats, and pigs (see Preliminary Data). Under the current NIH/NIBIB funding (#R01EB022230; Image-guided drug delivery for neuroendocrine pancreatic tumor), we have successfully developed a series of oxazine derivatives for targeting pancreas and pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors. Interestingly, many of these agents show specific uptake in other endocrine glands including PGs. Therefore, in this renewal application, Therefore, in this renewal application, we aim to investigate the targeting mechanism of these fluorophores along with their pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics and safety studies. Using the "Structure-Inherent Targeting" strategy, our goal is to increase the specific affinity of targeted fluorophores while minimizing nonspecific uptake in the thyroid, lymph nodes, or fatty tissues of the neck, with no overt off-target adverse effects. Specific Aims are focused on three key areas: 1) systematic optimization of the final formulation with preparative scale-up synthesis, 2) molecular target identification and pre-operative imaging of primary hyperparathyroidism in tumor mice, and 3) evaluation of the targeted contrast agents for intraoperative image-guided tumor surgery. We propose to intensify clinical translation activities during the second award period, including scale-up chemistry and two species toxicity evaluations.

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7 AI-Powered Technologies You Should Know About

Move over, ChatGPT: These artificial intelligence-powered technologies and innovations being developed and implemented at UC San Diego could lead to the next developments in the “AI revolution.” From helping us manage chronic health conditions to deciding which movies to watch, advances in AI can help inform decision-making, accelerate scientific discovery—and even save lives.

Michael Yip, an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, and his team of engineering and clinical collaborators are building surgical robots with artificial intelligence components that can recognize blood, control hemorrhaging, apply sutures, autonomously perform certain surgical procedures and more. Recently, in partnership with the UC San Diego School of Medicine, a 25-pound humanoid surgical robot that Yip co-developed with the U.S. Army’s Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center and SRI International has already helped perform vessel repairs alongside human surgeons. It’s extremely complex work to develop AI algorithms that can recognize individual differences between patients and differences in anatomy, but Yip finds it personally rewarding—and says that these advances could one day save people’s lives.

“Robotics and automation are not only a potential future—they are a future of medicine,” said Yip. “Statistics say that we don’t have enough doctors and surgeons to handle the rising population of patients, so something needs to be done to address the amount of care that people need.” Read more about the 7 exciting projects

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FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Dr. Nicole Goldhaber and Collaborators Win Best BEME Systematic Review

Dr. Goldhaber was a co-author on a paper selected as the Best BEME (Best Evidence in Medical Education) Systematic Review published in 2022 – 2023!

The paper was entitled, Virtual Interviewing for Graduate Medical Education Recruitment and Selection: A BEME Systematic Review, and was published in the journal Medical Teacher.

This prestigious award recognizes excellence, and reflects the Journal’s commitment to the development of evidence informed medical and health professions education through dissemination of information that allows teachers and stakeholders to make decisions on the basis of the best evidence available, presented in a manner that meets the needs of the user.

AS SEEN ON TWITTER

THIS MONTH'S PUBLICATIONS

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Is choosing wisely wise for lobular carcinoma in patients over 70 years of age? A National Cancer Database analysis of sentinel node practice patterns. Goldhaber NH, O'Keefe T, Kang J, Douglas S, Blair SL. Ann Surg Oncol. 2023 Jul 25. doi: 10.1245/s10434-023-13886-6. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37490163.

Extended duration of machine perfusion: Maximizing organ utilization. Brubaker AL, Bensard C, MacConmara M, Elbetanony A, Attia M, Sanchez R, Schnickel G. Liver Transpl. 2023 Jul 12. doi: 10.1097/LVT.0000000000000212. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37432896.

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13978-3. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37488393.

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Distal vessel pulmonary thromboendarterectomy: Results from a single institution. Fernandes TM, Kim NH, Kerr KM, Auger WR, Fedullo PF, Poch DS, Yang J, Papamatheakis DG, Alotaibi M, Bautista MA, Pretorius VG, Madani MM. J Heart Lung Transplant. 2023 Aug;42(8):1112-1119. doi: 10.1016/j.healun.2023.02.1500. Epub 2023 Mar 2. PMID: 37024310.

ASO visual abstract: Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on delays to breast cancer surgery—Ripples or waves? Chung SH, Romatoski KS, Rasic G, Beaulieu-Jones BR, Kenzik K, Merrill AL, Tseng JF, Cassidy MR, Sachs TE. Ann Surg Oncol. 2023 Aug 3. doi: 10.1245/s10434-023-13986-3. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37535273.

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ASO author reflections: Delays in breast cancer treatment during the COVID pandemic—Disparities in delay and a call to action. Chung SH, Sachs TE. Ann Surg Oncol. 2023 Jul 11. doi: 10.1245/s10434-023-13879-5. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37434072

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma induces neural injury that promotes a transcriptomic and functional repair signature by peripheral neuroglia. Weitz J, Garg B, Martsinkovskiy A, Patel S, Tiriac H, Lowy AM. Oncogene. 2023 Aug;42(34):2536-2546. doi: 10.1038/s41388-023-02775-7. Epub 2023 Jul 11. PMID: 37433986.

24th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBRS): One if by land, two if by sea: ASBRS rides into Boston. Brigid KB, Teshome M, Blair SL. Ann Surg Oncol. 2023 Aug 19. doi: 10.1245/s10434-023-14100-3. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37598117.

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Development and validation of a novel hollow viscus injury prediction score for abdominal seatbelt sign: A Pacific Coast Surgical Association multicenter study. Santos J, Delaplain PT, Tay-Lasso E, Biffl WL, Schaffer KB, Sundel M, Ghneim M, Costantini TW, Santorelli JE, Switzer E, Schellenberg M, Keeley JA, Kim DY, Wang A, Dhillon NK, Patel D, Campion EM, Robinson CK, Kartiko S, Quintana MT, Estroff JM, Kirby KA, Grigorian A, Nahmias J. J Am Coll Surg. 2023 Sep 13. doi: 10.1097/XCS.0000000000000863. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37703489.

Mapping the spatial extent of hypoperfusion in chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension using multienergy CT. Bird E, Hasenstab K, Kim N, Madani M, Malhotra A, Hahn L, Kligerman S, Hsiao A,

Contijoch F. Radiol Cardiothorac Imaging. 2023 Aug 10;5(4):e220221. doi: 10.1148/ryct.220221. eCollection 2023 Aug.PMID: 37693197.

ASO Visual Abstract: Is choosing wisely wise for lobular carcinoma in patients over 70 years of age? A National Cancer Database analysis of sentinel node practice patterns. Goldhaber NH, O'Keefe T, Kang J, Douglas S, Blair SL. Ann Surg Oncol. 2023 Oct;30(10):6033. doi: 10.1245/s10434-023-13992-5. PMID: 37626253.

See full list of publications

IN THE NEWS

"Honolulu Burn Unit Put to the Test by Fires on Maui," The New York Times, features former UC School of Medicine alumnus David Cho

"La Jolla is Now Home to One of the Best Hospitals in the US," LaJolla.com, features UC San Diego Health

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JOB LISTINGS

Assistant Professor (Ladder Rank/In-Residence) Surgical Scientists

Associate or Full Professor (Ladder Rank/In-Residence) Surgical Scientists

Assistant, Associate or Full Professor (HS Clinical, Clinical X, In-Residence, Adjunct) Surgical Scientists

Assistant Research Scientist - Surgical Oncology

Assistant, Associate or Full Professor (HS Clinical, Clinical X, In-Residence, Adjunct) Pediatric Surgery

Assistant, Associate or Full Professor (HS Clinical, Clinical X, In-Residence, Adjunct) Pediatric Otolaryngology

Assistant, Associate or Full Professor (HS Clinical, Clinical X, Adjunct, In-Residence) Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery

Assistant, Associate or Full Professor (HS Clinical, Clinical X, In-Residence, Adjunct) Transplant Surgery

Assistant, Associate or Full Professor (HS Clin, Clin X, In Residence, Adjunct) - Plastic Surgery

Assistant, Associate or Full Professor (HS Clin, Clin X, Adj, In-Residence) - Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery

Assistant, Associate or Full Professor (HS Clin, Clin X, Adjunct, In-Residence) Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DR. LOUIS KOSTA, MD, FACS

“My training in General Surgery at UCSD with Marshall J. Orloff and many outstanding other mentors, was a varied and unique experience in multiple facilities, including University Hospital, aka “The U”, San Diego VA Medical Center, Kaiser Hospital San Diego, San Diego Naval Regional Medical Center, Children’s Hospital, Mercy Hospital in San Diego, and Kern Medical Center in Bakersfield, CA. My caseload included treating vascular and thoracic disorders with Drs. Bernstein and Peters, respectively, emergency portacaval shunts for portal hypertension induced bleeding esophageal varices, managing complex GI and endocrine disorders, the whole spectrum of malignancies, including pioneering breast cancer treatment with Dr. Yosef Pilch, who was one of the original NSABP lead investigators, and, as one of the first Level I Trauma Centers in the US, plenty of that!

The departments of Pediatric Surgery with Tim Canty and Plastic Surgery with Jack Fisher provided unique operative experiences in Mexican border communities. Outstanding staff at the San Diego Kaiser Hospital included, most memorably Thoracic and Endocrine Surgeon Perry Ah Tye. And, lest I forget, the UCSD School of Medicine, which Marshall Orloff helped cofound, was and is, an ongoing source of the best and brightest medical students. My most fascinating year…1976-1977.. was my research in Dr. Orloff’s lab, investigating gastrointestinal hormone physiology, and included working with Dr. Roger Guillemin at the Salk Institute in San Diego. Dr. Guillemin was awarded the National Medal of Science in 1976 and the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1977. He correctly predicted that somatostatin, which he discovered, would find vast therapeutic applications in clinical medicine, including managing portal hypertension!

I left the program grateful for very strong and respected credentials, enabling a subsequent interesting and rewarding career in Surgery. What I owe is beyond measure.”

Dr. Kosta is currently an Adjuvant Associate Professor of Gastrointestinal Surgery at Oregon Health Sciences University, a retired Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a previous Director of Trauma Services at Northwest Permanente. He completed his Surgical Residency at UC San Diego in 1980.

UPCOMING EVENTS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

LATEST NEWS

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Surgery at UC San Diego prides itself on maintaining a thriving clinical enterprise in 13 surgical divisions and providing exceptional care to patients; while educating future generations of surgeons and conducting ground-breaking research. Since 1968, our team of internationally recognized surgeons have performed cutting edge surgeries, which today include including awake brain surgery; heart-lung transplants; scarless appendectomies; and incisionless weight-loss surgery. We’re proud of the research breakthroughs we make in surgical medicine and the quality rankings we achieve year after year. surgery.ucsd.edu