

UC San Diego

# Department of Surgery News

## May 2025



## Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Department,

With June just two days away, it's hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end. Next week, we will celebrate the graduation of our senior medical students who are about to begin residency training all across the United States. It feels like just yesterday that they were bright-eyed first-year medical students, anxious about the rigorous coursework, how they would interact with patients and their uncertain futures. They leave us still having much to learn, but with the confidence that they will make a significant impact in the lives of many. We are incredibly proud of each one of them.

It has been a busy month in the Department of Surgery. Earlier this week, we hosted one of my favorite events of the year: our Annual Department of Surgery Research Symposium at the Ida and Cecil Green Faculty Club. The event featured 60 research poster presentations and 18 oral abstract presentations delivered by surgeon-

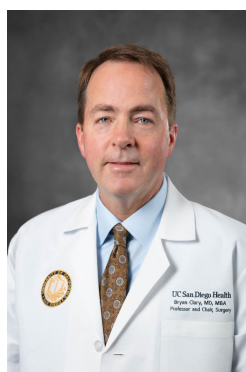
scientists, non-clinician PhD scientists, students, and residents. It showcased an incredible array of innovations, all aimed at improving the future for patients with surgical diseases and conditions.

This year's symposium keynote speaker was Martha Zeiger, M.D., an internationally recognized endocrine surgeon-scientist who serves as the Director of the Center for Surgeon-Scientist Development at the National Cancer Institute in the National Institutes of Health. She discussed the success of surgical science, particularly highlighting the achievements of surgeon-scientists who develop research programs and secure funding at rates comparable to physicians from internal medicine and other disciplines. She emphasized the importance of leadership in surgical research and offered tips on how to thrive in an ever-changing landscape.

For this month's Q&A, we sat down with Anne Wallace, M.D., chief of the Division of Breast Surgery and director of the UC San Diego Comprehensive Breast Health Center. She has been a fixture at UC San Diego for decades, starting from her residency, and is a leader in the field of breast oncology. She is unique in having trained in both breast surgical oncology and plastic surgery, which provides an important perspective on the challenges that patients with breast cancer face. The breast health programs at UC San Diego, housed in the Moores Cancer Center, are a critical resource for patients throughout San Diego and Southern California.

In this month's newsletter, we are also happy to highlight the recent presidential address that Sonia Ramamoorthy, M.D., chief of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery, delivered to the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS). ASCRS is the largest society of colon and rectal surgeons with more than 4,000 members. It is an extraordinary honor and responsibility to serve as president of ASCRS, an organization with many programs and initiatives that aim to improve patient care through education, professional development, and innovation. Congratulations, Dr. Ramamoorthy!

I am always grateful for your continued support and engagement with the department.



**Bryan Clary, M.D., M.B.A.**

Marshall J. Orloff Family Endowed Chair  
Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery  
UC San Diego Health Sciences  
Surgeon-in-Chief, UC San Diego Health



The Department of Surgery relies on the financial support of our alumni and friends to conduct groundbreaking research and train the next generation of surgeons. We invite you to partner with us by contributing to the Department of Surgery Excellence Fund. Every gift, no matter the size, is crucial in advancing our vital missions.

[DONATE](#)

## **Feature Article: 13th Annual Department of Surgery Research Symposium**

---



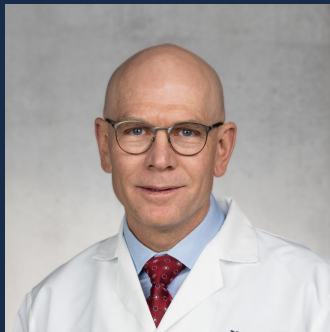


The 13th Annual Department of Surgery Research Symposium was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at UC San Diego. Faculty, trainees, students and staff from all 12 divisions gathered to connect and discuss surgical research, along with the future of surgical science. The keynote speaker was Martha Zeiger, M.D., an internationally recognized endocrine surgeon-scientist at NIH, who spoke about how to succeed as a surgeon-scientist.

[READ MORE](#)

## Featured News

---



**Victor Pretorius, M.B.Ch.B.**, professor in the Division of Cardiovascular and Throacic Surgery, was featured in MSN for performing a complex heart surgery and assisting in a rare disease diagnosis.

[READ MORE](#)

Q&A with Anne Wallace, M.D.

**Anne Wallace, M.D.**, is a professor of surgery, chief of the Division of Breast Surgery and director of the UC San Diego Comprehensive Breast Health Center. She began her career at UC San Diego as a plastic surgery resident and, since then, has performed surgeries in numerous fields and built UC San Diego’s breast program from the ground up.



READ MORE

Research News



Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Milestone

A project led by Sean Perez, M.D., and Elsie Ross, M.D., in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, reached a major milestone. Collaborating with the Department of Nanoengineering, they achieved the first



ever remote, ultrasound-based continuous monitoring of arterial vasculature after major vascular surgery. This represents a major step forward in vascular surgery — opening the door to real-time monitoring during inpatient recovery and, potentially, during care after discharge.



### **Division of Plastic Surgery Hosts 6th Annual Research Symposium**

UC San Diego researchers presented their work in plastic surgery and was held in conjunction with the 2nd annual Dr. Ralph E. Holmes Lectureship. Bruce Bauer, M.D., renowned expert in pediatric plastic surgery, spoke on artistry in plastic surgery and pediatric tissue expansion. Bauer also hosted a microtia carving lab for plastic surgery residents.



## Department of Surgery Attends Numerous Surgical Society Meetings

The meetings included the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons meeting, held in San Diego, CA, the California Society of Plastic Surgeons meeting, held in Napa, CA, and the Pancreas Club meeting, held in Chicago, IL.

## Faculty News

---



### **Sonia Ramamoorthy Speaks at American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Meeting**

Sonia Ramamoorthy, M.D., president of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, delivered a presidential address at their annual scientific meeting in San Diego, CA.

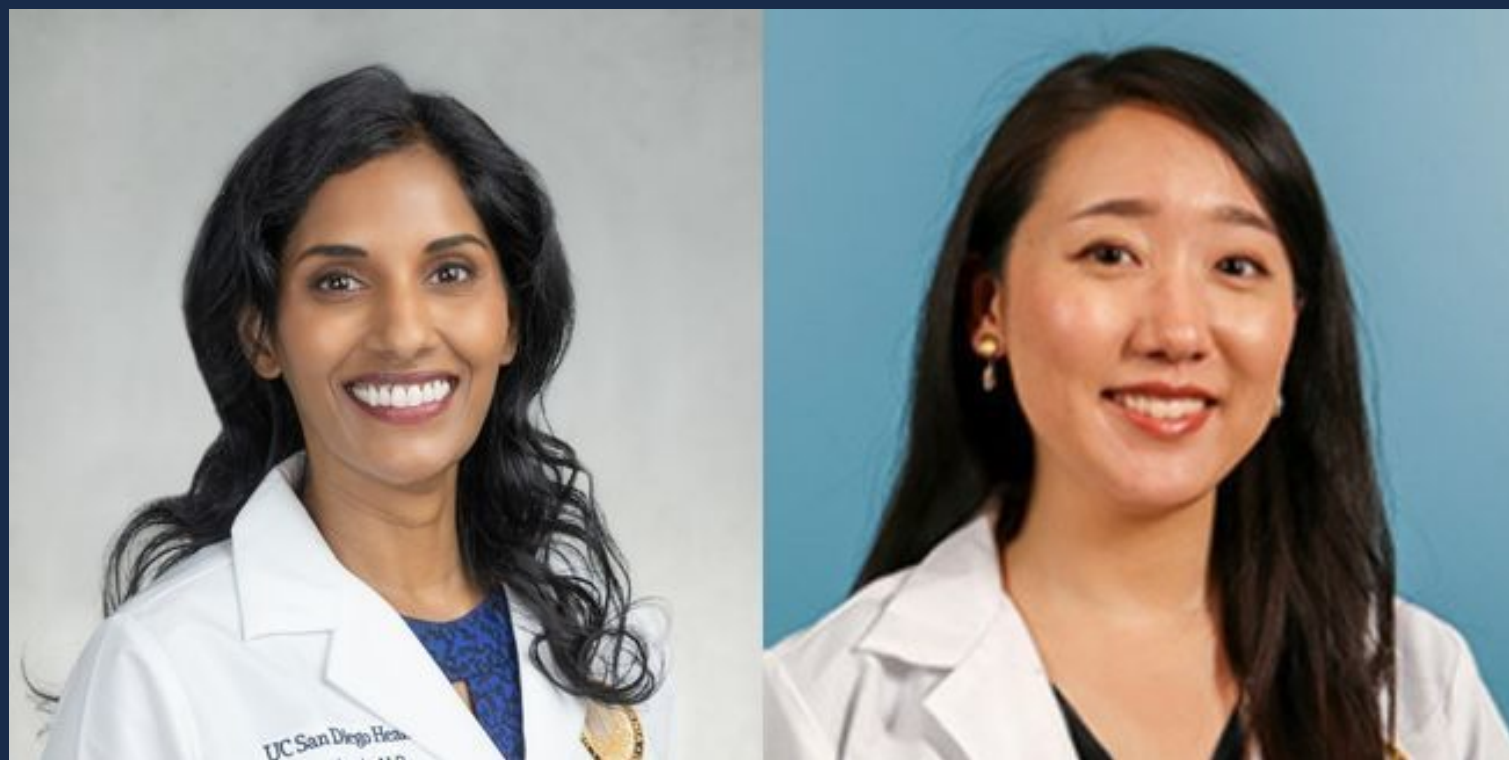
## Training News

---



## Louis Perkins Receives UC San Diego School of Medicine Humanism in Medicine Resident Award

Louis Perkins, M.D., was recognized by third year medical students for his compassionate, dedicated and humanistic approach to care. He will join the UC San Diego School of Medicine's chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, which aims to promote humanism in medicine, and be recognized at the Student Clinicians Ceremony.



## Division of Plastic Surgery Holds Medical Student Suturing Lab

Priya Lewis, M.D., assistant professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery, and Vivian Hu, M.D., plastic surgery resident, held a suturing lab for third-year medical students.

---

This month, the **Center for the Future of Surgery** hosted various surgical trainings, including an endoscopic tools and techniques lab with Hannah Hollandsworth, M.D., from the Division of Minimally Invasive Surgery, as well as a joint lab with the Department of Anesthesiology.





## Alumni Spotlight

---

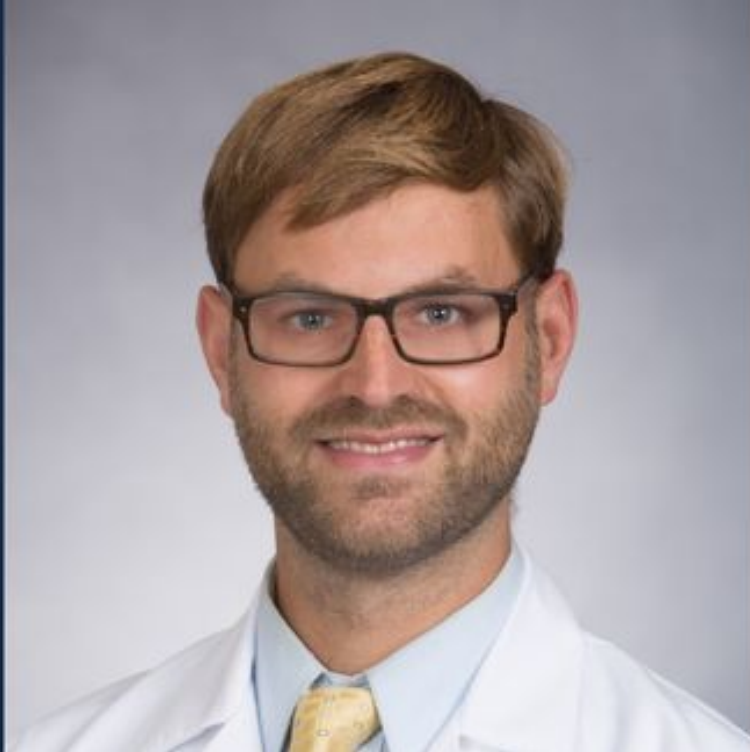


***Benjamin Keller, M.D.***, completed his pediatric surgery and surgical critical care fellowship at UC San Diego. He is now an assistant professor of surgery at UC San Diego and Rady Children's Hospital. Keller is also the surgical director for Rady Children's Hospital's pediatric and neonatal intensive care units and the site director for UC San Diego's pediatric surgery critical care fellowship.

"No doubt, my favorite part of my training was working with all the faculty, trainees, nurses, surgical techs and ancillary staff at UC San Diego Health and Rady Children's Hospital. Surgery is a team sport, and I could not do what I do without everyone else. Each person shows up to work daily with patient care as their priority. This team effort makes UC San Diego and Rady Children's Hospital fantastic places to train and work."

## As Seen on Social Media

---



### **World IBD Day**

In honor of World Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Day, Samuel Eisenstein, M.D., spoke about his commitment to improving IBD care worldwide.



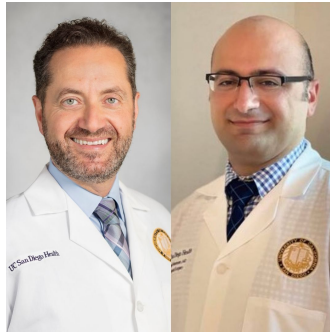
### **Humans of Surgery**

This month, we highlighted Janeen Williamson, nurse case manager in the Division of Breast Surgery, and Pamela Lugo, plastic surgery residency program coordinator.

## Science Discoveries and Recent Publications

---

Our diverse faculty are highly productive and actively disseminate new discoveries relevant to understanding and improving the management and treatment of surgical disease.



Researchers in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery found that visceral branch vessel interventions significantly reduce 30-day mortality, malperfusion-related mortality, and major adverse cardiovascular events in patients undergoing thoracic endovascular aortic repair for type B aortic dissection complicated with visceral malperfusion. [Read More](#)

[READ OUR LATEST PUBLICATIONS BY DIVISION](#)

## Recent Job Listings

---

- [Assistant, Associate or Full Professor \(HS Clinical, Clinical X, In-Residence, Adjunct\) Minimally Invasive Surgery](#)
- [Assistant, Associate or Full Professor \(HS Clinical, Clinical X, In-Residence, Adjunct\) Surgical Sciences](#)
- [Associate or Full Professor \(Ladder Rank/In-Residence\) Surgical Sciences](#)
- [Assistant Professor \(Ladder Rank/In-Residence\) Surgical Sciences](#)
- [Assistant, Associate or Full Professor \(HS Clinical, Clinical X, In-Residence, Adjunct\) Breast Surgery](#)



UC San Diego

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Submit Feedback](#)

### About the Department of Surgery

The Department of Surgery at UC San Diego prides itself on delivering state-of-the-art, nation-leading clinical care to the diverse communities of Southern California and beyond. We are dedicated to transforming the lives of future patients through groundbreaking research and shaping the next generation of surgeons and leaders through our exceptional training programs. These training programs are a key reason UC San Diego Health hospitals rank among the top twenty nationwide and why our School of Medicine is recognized as a leader in research and medical education.

9500 Gilman Dr.  
La Jolla, CA 92093



[Subscribe](#) to our email list.