A PUBLICATION OF THE **UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

UC DAVIS HEALTH

Spring/Summer 2025

At the heart of medical innovation

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Shaping the future of care

As your Interim Vice Chancellor for Human Health Sciences and Chief Clinical Officer, I'd like to reaffirm that, over the remainder of this year, we will continue following the same path forward on our strategic plans that has been set for the last several years.

We will continue to keep patient care as our motivation for everything we do, and we are going to be doing many, many things over the next several months.

We are focused on increasing patient access to services as a top 2025 priority within our established strategic plans. This is imperative for our employees and their families, and to meet the growing needs of our communities.

The ever-evolving landscape of health care is increasingly defined by innovation at the intersection of care delivery, new technology, and volumes of data. Yet the one enduring constant is that we are in the "people business" — we should always strive to meet our patients where, when, and how they need us in compassionate, equitable, and inclusive ways.

We open our doors to the world to give our patients opportunities to heal and be well; our educators the support to teach and conduct research; our students chances to learn and grow; and to keep our employees fulfilled working in a nationally acclaimed model workplace.

Rapid change is our new normal in health care. Throughout all the changes, our patients and people-in-need still receive the human touch for their care at UC Davis Health. That aspiration is constant, despite capacity and bandwidth limitations.

Yes, there will always be more to do, more challenges, and more changes that will force us to adjust and adapt, but we will find better ways to work in order to take *better* care of *more* people. This principle is our focus now and into the future, just as it has been over the last several years.

From basic research to new innovations, we are redefining what a next-generation academic medical center looks like, feels like, stands for, and delivers, to patients today and tomorrow. Health care has always been "the people business." As we deal with the many changes of the last few months, and unknown ones still to come, putting people first and patients at the center will remain our North Star.

We are thinking carefully about how UC Davis Health cares for people across space and time, and using technology to help achieve the very best outcomes, every time.

A pivotal aspect of our future involves redesigning care models to embrace patient-centered approaches. This fundamental shift from reactive and episodic care to proactive and continuous preventive care significantly improves care equity, quality, accessibility, and outcomes. By providing care at home, remotely, in outpatient settings, in evenings and on weekends, we can increase access for patients, and offer better experiences, more efficient coordination, and stronger patient-provider partnerships.

The year ahead is the most monumental our health system has ever experienced — with grand openings for Aggie Square, new clinics at our C Street location, the 48X Complex, Parking Structure 7, and our new Folsom Medical Care Clinic. And, in less than five years, the California Tower — an expansion of UC Davis Medical Center — will open and triple our ICU capability, making half of our patient rooms ICU-ready.

The year ahead is the most monumental our health system has ever experienced.

During this time of change, we will always follow science and always put our patients, employees and community members first.

Stay well,

Bruce Hall, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., F.A.C.S.
Interim Vice Chancellor of Human Health Sciences
Chief Clinical Officer

Supporting research discoveries and future scientists is more crucial than ever

This is a challenging time as we navigate the impact of several federal actions to reduce vital research funding. As a national leader in biomedical research with $400 million in external research funding, UC Davis School of Medicine has a lot at stake.

This year, the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research again placed our school among the nation's leading medical schools for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding – with a new record-high $210 million in NIH grants in 2024. Eight departments ranked in the top 20 nationally in their fields, with two in the top 10.

The Hartwell Foundation named UC Davis among the prestigious 2025 Top Ten Centers of Biomedical Research. Distinguished faculty were also honored with top awards by The Hartwell Foundation, Clinical Research Forum and Association for Clinical and Translational Science.

The flood of recent federal research funding reductions — the NIH research funding cuts, in particular — put life-saving advances at risk and disproportionately impact the University of California system as a preeminent NIH-funded research community. The proposed NIH facilities and administration (F&A) cuts are especially destabilizing since it is impossible to conduct research without infrastructure investments to build and maintain labs and facilities, and to cover operations costs to ensure patient safety, security, radiation safety, hazardous waste disposal, and other government-mandated expenses.

We are working closely with UC and UC Davis leaders, and national partners to advance our research mission as these cuts are challenged in the courts. Our commitment to research and training future scientists remains strong, but support from foundations and private donors will be more vital than ever.

Meanwhile, our school is proud to be a key partner of Aggie Square, a first-of-its-kind innovation district on the UC Davis Sacramento campus. It leverages UC Davis' strengths in research and teaching, industry and community to create opportunities across the region.

About 350 of our scientists and affiliated centers will conduct collaborative studies at Aggie Square on public health, neurosciences, cancer, surgical biomedical engineering, and more. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will be a major collaborator in cancer and neuroscience research. The space also offers leading-edge training suites and continuing education.

This spring, *U.S. News & World Report* again recognized the School of Medicine as one of the nation's best graduate schools. We received a Tier 1 (top tier) ranking for excellence in primary care training, and recognition as a leading research school. We also rank 17th for "most graduates practicing in primary care."

We are proud to share that the Association of American Medical Colleges recently selected two of our second-year students to participate in its Developing Future Leaders in Academic Medicine & Science.

Support from foundations and private donors will be more vital than ever.

We also congratulate our Class of 2025 on their Match Day. Eighty-two percent of our graduates will stay in California for residency, with 19 percent staying at UC Davis Health. More than 63 percent matched into primary care specialties.

Thank you for supporting our mission to train the next generation of physicians and scientists who are transforming lives.

Sincerely,

Susan Murin, M.D., M.Sc., M.B.A.
Dean, UC Davis School of Medicine
Professor, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine

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A publication for alumni, donors, faculty and friends of UC Davis Health

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On the cover: Bricks spell out the University of California motto on Aggie Square's Life-Long Learning building. "Fiat Lux" means "Let There be Light." Photo by Jeremy Bittermann (©Bittermann)

Top honors for health care education

U.S. News & World Report released its 2025 Best Graduate Schools rankings in April — and the UC Davis School of Medicine and Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis further advanced their stature as premier training grounds for students who aspire to become primary care physicians and vital health care providers.

UC Davis School of Medicine rankings:

- In Tier 1 (the top tier) for excellence in primary care training. The "Best Medical Schools: Primary Care" category lists 101 schools and ranks them in four tiers; UC Davis School of Medicine was one of 16 in the uppermost tier.
- 17th in the country for "most graduates practicing in primary care."
- In the second of four tiers in the category for medical school research. According to the UC Davis School of Medicine, it had $400 million in total external research funding in fiscal year 2023–24.

"We are honored that UC Davis School of Medicine continues to be recognized as a national leader in training primary care physicians who are passionate about and uniquely prepared to meet the needs of our communities. We are also pleased to be ranked among the country's top medical schools for driving innovations in biomedical research, which is essential to advancing new life-saving health care treatments and cures."

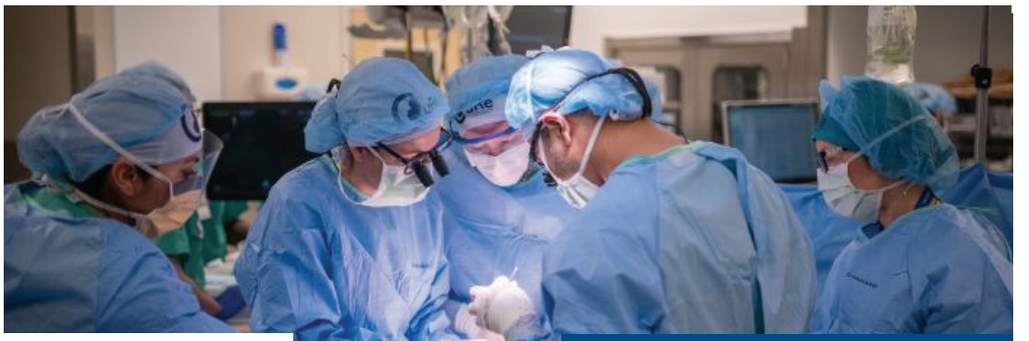
UC Davis School of Medicine Dean Susan Murin, M.D., M.Sc., M.B.A.

Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis rankings:

- For the fifth straight year, the Master's Entry Program in Nursing is among the nation's 30 best — tied at No. 30 with three other schools.
- The school's PA program landed at No. 35, tied with several other schools. The publication bases this list on peer-assessment scores and ranks them every two years.

"We remain proud of the exceptional academic environment we provide and the valued recognition from our peers. Rankings are one lens — and a changing one at that. What remains unchanged is our unwavering commitment to student success, innovation in teaching and our thriving, inclusive campus community. We continue to evolve to meet the needs of California's workforce."

Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing Dean Stephen Cavanagh, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.



UC Davis Medical School among the **nation's best,** *according to 2024 Blue Ridge rankings*

Once again, the UC Davis School of Medicine has placed among the nation's leading medical schools for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding. According to the latest Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research ranking, for the 2024 federal fiscal year, the medical school ranked 33rd nationally. Its NIH funding — nearly $210 million — was a new record for the school.

"These new rankings reflect our continued national leadership in life-saving research breakthroughs," said Susan Murin, M.D., M.Sc., M.B.A., dean of the UC Davis School of Medicine, in March. "From our BrainGate clinical trial of the most accurate brain-computer interface of its kind that translates brain signals into speech, to our development of the world's first stem cell treatment for spina bifida during fetal surgery, our school's research community is making discoveries that are transforming lives. Support for biomedical research has never been more important — lives depend upon it."

Departments in Top 20 for NIH funding:

Public Health Sciences #4
Neurology #8
Cell Biology and Human Anatomy #11
Urologic Surgery #12
Physiology and Membrane Biology #13
Emergency Medicine #17
Neurosurgery #17
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation #19

RESEARCH AT RISK

Federal cuts may affect some awards; status was fluid at press time. For more about benefits of federally funded research and consequences if funding is reduced or eliminated, see p. 24.

UC Davis School of Medicine departments in the Top 20

Eight School of Medicine departments ranked in the top 20 nationally in their respective fields, with two in the top 10 (see list in sidebar). The top three departments in terms of overall NIH funding were Neurology ($35M), Public Health Sciences ($28.4M) and Internal Medicine ($25M). Public Health Sciences ranked the highest in NIH funding among all the other similar programs at UC campuses.

Top NIH-funded principal investigators and centers

This fiscal year, 271 principal investigators (PIs) were awarded 405 NIH grants. The top 10 PIs in terms of NIH funding include:

- For the second year in a row, Rachel Whitmer, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, was the PI with the highest NIH funding at UC Davis. With a total of around $13.7M, she also retained the top ranking for NIH-funded investigators in Public Health Sciences nationwide. Whitmer, who co-directs the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), studies dementia, cognitive impairment and brain pathology among ethnic groups.
- Charles DeCarli, M.D., was the PI for $13.21M. These grants fund his study on incidental white matter lesions on MRI amongst people with cognitive complaints (INDEED) and research at the ADRC. DeCarli is the co-director of the ADRC and a distinguished professor in the Department of Neurology.
- Dennis Hartigan-O'Connor, M.D., Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, was the PI for $3.67M in NIH support. He studies immunotherapies for chronic infections, autoimmunity and cancer.
- Alexander Borowsky, M.D., a professor and director of Molecular Diagnostics in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, was awarded $3.11M for his research on California partnerships for personalized nutrition.

Among the top 10 PIs, the following direct world-class centers and programs at UC Davis Health:

- KC Kent Lloyd, D.V.M., Ph.D., ($5.13M), Mouse Biology Program.
- Ted Wun, M.D., F.A.C.P., ($5.12M), Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC).
- Primo Lara, M.D., ($4.34M), Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- Irva Hertz-Picciotto, M.P.H., Ph.D., ($4.27M), Environmental Health Sciences Core Center.
- Alice Tarantal, Ph.D., ($3.58M), Primate Center for Gene Therapy.
- Melissa Bauman, Ph.D., ($3.12M), Conte Center.

"At a time when NIH support for biomedical research is more vital than ever, we celebrate another exceptional year for UC Davis School of Medicine in terms of NIH funding," said Kim E. Barrett, Ph.D., vice dean for research and distinguished professor of physiology and membrane biology, in March. "While NIH is by no means the only funder of our research, it is the largest single source. It is critical to the vitality of our research mission and our quest for cures for conditions that cause great suffering. This translation of our work is about to get a major boost as we move many research programs into (the) Aggie Square (innovation district)."

One of the **top 20** large U.S. employers in new *Forbes* rankings

UC Davis Health was recently named to *Forbes*' "America's Best Large Employers" list for 2025.

The publication ranked UC Davis Health as the No. 19 employer nationally among 700 institutions with at least 5,000 employees and the top hospital or health system in California. UC Davis Health is also the No. 1 hospital or health system employer in California according to *Forbes*.

UC Davis Health's success as a large health care employer is directly tied to its many efforts to cultivate a model workplace across the organization. The health system provides employees competitive benefits packages which include tuition reimbursement, financial planning, employee discounts, lactation support, generous paid time off and low-cost primary care and childcare. In addition, UC Davis embraces principles of community throughout the institution, specifically its values of kindness, trust and inclusion.

One of "America's Dream Employers"

The *Forbes* America's Dream Employers 2025 award is based on in-depth feedback from employees, assessing areas like career growth, work-life balance, diversity and workplace culture. Awardees are determined through a rigorous survey of both college students and employees, gathering more than 266,000 data points to identify the best employers.

UC Davis Health was also recognized by *Forbes* as 51 on the 2024 list of America's Best Large Employers, 20 on the 2024 list of California's Best Employers, a Best Employer for Diversity 2024 and 2025, and a Best Employer for Women 2024.

A top-performing hospital

UC Davis Medical Center is a top-performing hospital according to national research released by Healthgrades. The medical center received accolades for high-quality patient care, known as Specialty Excellent Awards, in eight specialty areas, plus a specialty award for cardiac care. In addition, for the third year in a row the medical center was named one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for critical care, gastrointestinal care, gastrointestinal surgery, pulmonary care, stroke care, cranial neurosurgery excellence and neurosciences excellence.

One of Newsweek's World Best Hospitals 2025

Newsweek has again named UC Davis Medical Center to its annual list of the "World's Best Hospitals." In the U.S., UC Davis Medical Center ranked 34th, and was the Sacramento region's only to earn recognition. *Newsweek*, in partnership with Statista, Inc., used an online survey of medical experts, patient experience data, hospital quality metrics and a patient-reported outcomes survey to evaluate hospitals in 30 countries.

ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST WORKPLACES FOR WOMEN, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

UC Davis Health has been named to two of *Newsweek's* workplace lists for 2025: America's Greatest Workplaces for Women and America's Greatest Workplaces for Inclusion & Diversity. *Newsweek's* awards are based on an in-depth evaluation of public data, employee feedback, and human resources insights. Selection criteria include compensation and benefits, training and career progression, corporate culture, work-life balance, and overall workplace environment. These honors speak to our ongoing commitment to creating a workplace where people of all backgrounds, identities and experiences are supported, valued, and empowered to thrive.

In Brief

Leadership transition at UC Davis Health

UC Davis Chancellor May announces three leadership appointments

UC Davis Health CEO and Vice Chancellor of Human Health Sciences **David Lubarsky, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.S.A.**, has retired effective Feb. 15, 2025, and has become president and CEO of Westchester Medical Center Health Network. The nine-hospital health system is located near where Lubarsky grew up, in Valhalla, New York.

UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May, Ph.D., has made three UC Davis Health leadership appointments: **Michael Condrin, M.B.A.**, as the interim chief executive officer (CEO); **Bruce Lee Hall, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.**, as interim vice chancellor of human health sciences; and **Susan Murin, M.D., M.Sc., M.B.A.**, as permanent dean of the School of Medicine.

Condrin and Hall began their interim roles Feb. 15, 2025, reporting to May. Murin's appointment is effective from Jan. 1, 2025 through June 2026, reporting to Hall.

"I'm very pleased to have these strong leaders in place on our Sacramento campus to continue driving forward our strategic goals," May said in January. "Mike, Bruce and Susan bring significant experience that will further position UC Davis Health for success as our health enterprise grows to deliver the best patient care, education and research in the region."

Transformational change

Lubarsky led UC Davis Health since July 2018. During his tenure, the organization increased the number of patients by more than 60%, increased and diversified faculty and staff, and made UC Davis Health an employer of choice on national lists of best places to work.

Under Lubarsky's leadership, UC Davis Health has become one of the nation's top health systems for patient outcomes (and always near the top nationally for reduced mortality), and launched a transformational change of its facilities to better care for even more patients. He was named as one of the "top academic CEOs to know" by *Becker's Hospital Review* in December. Lubarsky also focused on restoring community trust in UC Davis Health and demonstrated the university's commitment to improving care for all people.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Lubarsky for his visionary leadership as well as his numerous contributions to advancing our mission of innovation, excellence and outstanding service," May said. "We wish him well in the next chapter of his distinguished career."

While the longer-term UC Davis Health leadership structure has not yet been finalized, Chancellor May anticipated beginning a national search for at least one of the positions in early spring.

INTERIM VICE CHANCELLOR:

Bruce Hall, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.

Hall will have responsibility for the strategic direction of UC Davis Health, including oversight of the UC Davis School of Medicine and Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing. He will participate in campuswide policy development and strategic implementation through membership on the Chancellor's Leadership Council and the Council of Deans and Vice Chancellors.

Hall joined UC Davis in 2024 as chief clinical officer, responsible for oversight of all clinical operations. His previous role was at Washington University and BJC HealthCare in St. Louis, where he served as professor of surgery and as the nonprofit system's chief medical officer. His areas of expertise include performance measurement, quality improvement and facilitating change. For more than a decade, he taught health care economics and management courses, and guest lectured on topics including health care economics, insurance theory, health policy, health care management and industry change.

INTERIM CEO:

Mike Condrin, M.B.A.

As interim CEO, Condrin will establish short-term and long-range strategic and business goals and objectives, monitor financial performance, oversee hospital and clinical operations, and ensure UC Davis Health provides high-quality care.

Condrin has over 20 years of experience as a university health care executive with progressive responsibility in ambulatory care operations, strategic planning, financial management, physician partnership and personnel leadership within the University of California. He began his career at UC Davis in 2002 and has served in a variety of administrative roles, including director of clinical operations and co-leader of ambulatory strategy and operations. Most recently he served as chief operating officer of UC Davis Medical Center.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE DEAN:

Susan Murin, M.D., M.Sc., M.B.A.

Murin served as interim dean starting in November 2021 and is a professor and clinician in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine. Under her leadership, the School of Medicine achieved a full eight-year Liaison Committee on Medical Education accreditation. She launched several critical initiatives to achieve efficiency, consistency and equity, as well as year-over-year historic highs in research funding.

Murin has held numerous leadership positions throughout her 29-year tenure at UC Davis Health. Previously, she was vice dean for clinical affairs and executive director of the UC Davis Medical Group.

Barleben named Aortic Center director

Andrew R. Barleben, M.D., M.P.H., a renowned vascular surgeon and researcher, is the new director of the Aortic Center. The multidisciplinary program housed in the UC Davis Vascular Center provides a full range of medical and surgical treatments for complex aortic diseases such as aneurysms, dissections and genetic disorders.

Barleben was on faculty in UC San Diego's Department of Surgery and at VA Medical Center-San Diego, and co-director of UCSD's Center for Medical Device Engineering and Biomechanics. He has collaborated with multidisciplinary teams to create a special FDA-approved trial to custom-build patient-specific stent grafts. He has also worked on industry-sponsored trials in the aortic arch and created custom options in a compassionate use authorization.

Dall'Era permanent chair of Urologic Surgery

Marc Dall'Era, M.D., professor of clinical urology, has been appointed permanent chair of the Department of Urologic Surgery. Dall'Era has been the interim chair since Sept. 2023. Dall'Era specializes in the management of urinary tract cancers. His research interests include using MRI imaging to detect and evaluate prostate cancer. His focus also includes biomarker discovery and validation in cancer patients. He is a principal investigator on several clinical trials, including those for men with high-risk prostate cancer and has pioneered focal therapy of early-stage disease.

New Women in Medicine and Health Sciences leaders

Bryn Mumma, M.D., M.A.S., has been appointed director and **Catherine Cansino, M.D., M.P.H.**, associate director of UC Davis Women in Medicine and Health Sciences (WIMHS). The program works to advance participation and success of women in all roles within academic medicine.

Mumma is a professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and recently served as chair of the Society for the Academic Emergency Medicine Grants Committee and Bylaws Committee, and chairs the Department of Emergency Medicine's Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in Emergency Medicine Research Committee. Cansino is a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She chairs an Obstetrics and Gynecology Inclusion, Diversity, Antiracism and Equity Task Force, and is department director of faculty development and assistant residency program director.

Center for Mind and Brain co-directors appointed

UC Davis appointed **Ron Mangun, Ph.D.**, and **Amanda Guyer, Ph.D.**, co-directors of the Center for Mind and Brain, which they will lead for the next three years.

The interdisciplinary research center studies the human mind and how the brain gives rise to it, with faculty affiliates from departments across campus including neurology, psychology, linguistics, philosophy, human development and the School of Medicine. Each of the center's 21 research labs is grant funded.

Mangun, a distinguished professor of psychology and neurology, founded CMB in 2002, and this year marks the end of his most recent five-year term. Guyer, a professor of human ecology in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, has served as CMB associate director since 2017.

NEW EXECUTIVES JOIN CANCER CENTER, AMBULATORY SERVICES

Christina Mintner, M.S., has joined UC Davis Health as the Senior Vice President, Associate Chief Operating Officer (ACOO) for ambulatory care services. Mintner brings extensive leadership experience in ambulatory care and population health, most recently serving as Senior Vice President of Population Health & HOMES at Parkland Health in Dallas.

Andrew Bresnahan, M.S.N., R.N., N.E.A.-B.C., has joined UC Davis Health as executive director of the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center and Cell and Gene Therapy. Bresnahan brings more than 15 years of progressive leadership experience, most recently serving as the director of oncology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

In Brief

Becker's C-suite honors for Galante, Kenber

Joseph Galante, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.C.S., the Hospital Chief Medical Officer for UC Davis Health, has been named to *Becker's Hospital Review's* "Chief Medical Officers to Know" list for 2025. **Tammy Kenber, M.S.**, Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) for UC Davis and UC Davis Health, has been recognized by *Becker's* as among the "99 hospital and health system CHROs and chief people officers to know" for 2025.

Clancy to edit new precision medicine journal

The Physiological Society, Europe's largest network of physiologists, has welcomed **Colleen Clancy, Ph.D.**, as inaugural Editor-in-Chief of its *The Journal of Precision Medicine: Health and Disease*. The journal aims to serve as a catalyst for translational research by transforming leading-edge discoveries in genomics, multi-omics, drug discovery, and personalized therapies into real-world translational, technological, and clinical solutions. Clancy is Associate Dean for Faculty and Professional Development and a professor in the Departments of Physiology and Membrane Biology and Pharmacology at the UC Davis School of Medicine. She currently serves as the Interim Chair of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy, and the Director of the UC Davis Center for Precision Medicine and Data Science.

Haczku elected to academy directorship

Angela Haczku, M.D., Ph.D., director of the UC Davis Lung Center and a professor of medicine, has been elected to the American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology Board of Directors as a Director-at-Large. The academy is the leading membership organization of more than 7,100 allergists/immunologists. Haczku will promote research, education and patient care in the specialty over the next four years in this position.

Gurkoff President of National Neurotrauma Society

Gene Gurkoff, Ph.D., associate professor, acting vice chair of research and Bronte Endowed Chair of Neurological Surgery, is serving as the elected president of the National Neurotrauma Society for 2024–25. Gurkoff's research includes pioneering work in neuromodulation and deep brain stimulation (DBS) to restore function in traumatic brain injury (TBI) and epilepsy models. He is a principal investigator on the UC Davis CounterACT center grant, a program addressing the epileptogenic effects of chemical threat agents. In the education space, Gurkoff is a leader in the UC Davis Neuroscience Graduate Group.

Aguilar-Gaxiola appointed to state health equity committee

Gov. Gavin Newsom has appointed the founder and director of the UC Davis Center for Reducing Health Disparities to a state committee charged with finding ways to improve health care access for underserved residents. **Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, M.D., Ph.D.**, will serve on the Protect Access to Health Care Act Stakeholder Advisory Committee, which reports to the California Department of Health Care Services and advises it on how to increase access to care by improving Medi-Cal services. About a third of Californians rely on Medi-Cal for their health care coverage.

Brain-computer interface study wins 2025 Top Ten Clinical Research Achievement Award

Neurosurgeon **David Brandman, M.D., Ph.D.**, and his UC Davis Neuroprosthetics Lab team were selected for a 2025 Top Ten Clinical Research Achievement Award by the Clinical Research Forum. The annual award honors 10 outstanding clinical research studies published in peer-reviewed journals in the previous year.

Brandman and team also received the Forum's most prestigious honor, The Herbert Pardes Clinical Research Excellence Award. It's given for the study that best shows a high degree of innovation and creativity, advances science, and impacts human disease.

Brandman and team were recognized for their groundbreaking work in developing a new brain-computer interface (BCI) that translates brain signals into speech with up to 97% accuracy — the most accurate system of its kind. Their work was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Co-principal investigator is UC Davis neuroscientist **Sergey Stavisky, Ph.D.**, an assistant professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery and co-director of the Neuroprosthetics Lab. Lead author is neurological surgery postdoctoral scholar Nicholas Card. The BCI study is part of a BrainGate2 clinical trial; Brandman is the trial's site-responsible principal investigator.

The Clinical Research Forum is a well-regarded nonprofit that highlights major clinical research advances, representing a portion of the annual return on the nation's investment in the health and future welfare of its citizens.

APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY INNOVATION PRIZE FOR BARRETT

UC Davis Distinguished Professor of physiology and membrane biology **Kim Barrett, Ph.D.**, has been named the winner of the John Snow Public Health Innovation Prize 2024. The prize is part of the Applied Microbiology International (AMI) Horizon Awards.

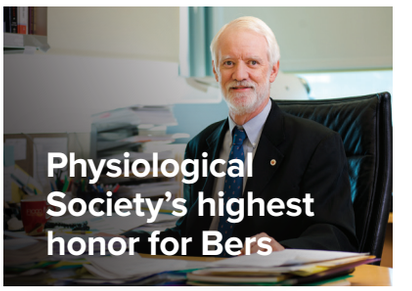
The award celebrates the brightest minds in applied microbiology who have made notable contributions to health and well-being, as well as to clean water and sanitation. It honors their efforts in tackling key health challenges and ensuring safe water access, emphasizing real-world impacts.

Barrett's research specializes in digestive disorders, including inflammatory bowel diseases. Her work is relevant to the understanding of diarrheal diseases, particularly those caused by infectious agents, such as Salmonella and cholera. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and private foundations. It has resulted in more than 300 publications and multiple awards.

PATHOLOGY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FOR HOWELL

Lydia Howell, M.D., distinguished professor emerita and chair emerita of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Academic Pathology (AAPath; formerly the Association of Pathology Chairs).

Honored for her service to academic pathology, as well as her contributions to cytopathology and women's career development, Howell served as AAPath's president during the COVID-19 pandemic and is a founder of the AAPath's Academy of Distinguished Pathology Educators, the Pathology Leadership Academy and their Leadership Development and Diversity Committee.



Physiological Society's highest honor for Bers

UC Davis Distinguished Professor Donald M. Bers, Ph.D., has been elected an Honorary Fellow by The Physiological Society. The society's highest honor presented to an individual, the Honorary Fellowship recognizes people of distinction in science who have contributed to the advancement of physiology.

Bers' scientific work has focused on calcium and sodium transport, signaling and electrophysiology in the heart in health and disease. He has published more than 550 papers, yielding more than 75,000 citations. He has also received continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health for more than 40 years, and has led large research groups, including a 10-year NIH Program Project Grant. Bers also holds the Joseph Silva Endowed Chair for Cardiovascular Research and is the director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute at UC Davis.

Farmer awarded for spina bifida research

In April the Association for Clinical and Translational Science awarded UC Davis Distinguished Professor **Diana Farmer, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S.**, the prestigious Edward H. Ahrens, Jr. Award for Outstanding Achievement in Patient-Oriented Research. The award recognizes her first-of-its-kind work, which combines fetal surgery with stem cells to treat spina bifida. It also honors her excellence in moving basic research from laboratory to patients. Farmer is an internationally renowned fetal and neonatal surgeon, the Pearl Stamps Stewart Endowed Chair and the chairperson of the UC Davis Department of Surgery, chief of pediatric surgery at Shriners Children's Northern California, and founder and co-director of the Center for Surgical Bioengineering.

EXCEPTIONAL LIFE SUPPORT CARE

UC Davis Medical Center has received the Gold Level ELSO Award for Excellence in Life Support from the non-profit Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO), a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and improvement of extracorporeal life support. The award signifies a commitment to exceptional care and demonstrates an assurance of high quality standards, specialized equipment and supplies, defined patient protocols, and advanced education of all staff members.

Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research fellow

Susan Brown, Ph.D., an associate professor of internal medicine, was elected an Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research (AMBR) fellow for her many contributions to the field of behavioral medicine. AMBR is the premier honorary scientific organization for scientists working at the interface of behavior and medicine, with several hundred eminent senior investigators elected as fellows through a highly selective process. Brown's research focuses on behavioral intervention for diabetes and cardiovascular disease prevention, specifically novel interventions that promote healthy lifestyle.

Wingo, Gomes receive Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers

Aliza Wingo, M.D., professor of psychiatry, received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers for her Department of Veterans Affairs research. It is awarded to outstanding scientists and engineers in the early stages of their careers, based on recommendations from federal funding agencies. Wingo combines genetics and functional genomics to elucidate risk genes and brain proteins contributing to the causes of major psychiatric disorders and Alzheimer's disease. Her work has been published in *Nature Aging, Nature Neuroscience, Nature Genetics* and *Nature Medicine*.

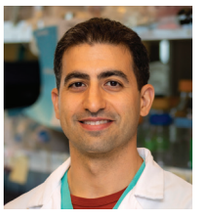
Physiology and Membrane Biology Professor **Aldrin Gomes, Ph.D.**, received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Gomes, who studies how side effects from commonly used drugs such as ibuprofen affect the heart, has personally mentored more than 220 undergraduate students in his 17 years at UC Davis. He is also the director of the MARC and IMSD programs, which aim to support underrepresented and disadvantaged STEM undergraduate and graduate students, respectively.

Neuroscientist earns national educator award

Theanne Griffith, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Physiology and Membrane Biology, received the 2024 Society for Neuroscience Science Educator Award from the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) this past fall. Griffith has written children's books about science, including The Magnificent Makers series which has been honored with awards and national press attention. The writings are about Black and brown children who love science, providing critical representation for young children from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in science.

Ron Mangun, Ph.D., distinguished professor of psychology and neurology and co-director of the Center for Mind and Brain, was also honored with the SfN 2024 Award for Education in Neuroscience. Mangun has trained dozens of undergraduate, doctoral, medical, and postdoctoral trainees, directed doctoral programs at Dartmouth and Duke, and coauthored Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biology of the Mind.

Hartwell award for hydrocephalus research



Pediatric neurosurgeon **Cameron Sadegh, M.D., Ph.D.**, was selected to receive a 2024 Hartwell Individual Biomedical Research Award from The Hartwell Foundation. The award funds early-stage, innovative biomedical research that benefits children in the United States. Sadegh, an assistant professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery, is developing a gene therapy that might improve quality of life for babies with hydrocephalus and other brain fluid disorders. Sadegh is one of only ten scientists nationwide to receive the prestigious award this year; he joins the ranks of UC Davis Health researchers Geoanna Bautista, Roy Ben-Shalom and Erin Brown who were previously selected.

Research award for shoulder and elbow surgery surgeon

Mariano E. Menendez, M.D., shoulder and elbow surgery surgeon for orthopaedics sports medicine, received the 2025 Charles S. Neer Award from the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (ASES), the organization's highest honor for clinical shoulder research. The award recognizes excellence in orthopaedic research and contributions that enhance our understanding of shoulder injuries and rehabilitation. Menendez is co-investigator on a trial which investigated two approaches to shoulder rehabilitation in patients undergoing reverse total shoulder arthroplasty, comparing home exercise-based and physical therapist-led programs.

MEDICAL CENTER REDESIGNATED BABY-FRIENDLY HOSPITAL

Proud to be Baby-Friendly DESIGNATED

UC Davis Medical Center has been officially redesignated as a Baby-Friendly Hospital, following a rigorous review by Baby-Friendly USA. Accreditation lasts five years; UC Davis Medical Center was first designated in 2020. The honor demonstrates continued adherence to the highest breastfeeding standards of care, built on practices consistent with the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding and compliant with the World Health Organization's International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

PHARMACY LEADERS RECOGNIZED

Chad Hatfield, PharmD, MHA, BCPS, vice president and chief pharmacy officer for UC Davis Health, was selected as one of *Becker's Hospital Review's* "75 hospital and health system chief pharmacy officers to know" in 2025 among hospitals and health systems nationwide. The National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP) presented **David Mitchell, PharmD, MBA, CSP, FCPhA**, assistant chief of specialty pharmacy, with its Distinguished Service Award.

Notable quotes

"According to the Center for Global Development, the annual likelihood of a pandemic is two to three percent, which means a 47 to 57 percent probability of another deadly pandemic in the next 25 years."

UC Davis Health Chief of Infectious Diseases **Stuart Cohen, M.D.**, in a March Yahoo News article about pandemic preparedness.

"I think the concern is that we're having multiple strains that are being transmitted from birds to cattle and then from cattle to humans. And the more that that occurs, there's a higher risk of developing further mutations that may facilitate human-to-human transmission and, if that happens and transmission is efficient, then the next thing we're looking at is a pandemic."

Dean Blumberg, M.D., chief of the division of pediatric infectious diseases at UC Davis Health, speaking to ABC News nationwide in February about the detection of a second bird flu virus strain, D1.1, in cattle for the first time.

"It physiologically does not make sense. (Coughing) just would not work to restart a heart that's not beating…It's certainly not something that is recommended in those guidelines because there is no evidence to support it."

Emergency Medicine Professor **Bryn Elissa Mumma, M.D., M.A.S.**, in a widely syndicated *American Heart Association News* article about the ineffectiveness of so-called "cough CPR." Mumma was a co-author of the AHA's advanced life support guidelines update in 2023.

"Wrist mobility aids us in everything from cooking and crocheting to braiding our hair and fastening a button."

Brandee Waite, M.D., UC Davis Health's medical director of sports medicine, in a *New York Times* Well section feature, "How Good Is Your Mobility?"

"The longer produce sits around on store shelves or in our homes, the more nutrients it loses."

UC Davis Health dietitian **Marie Barone, B.S., R.D., C.D.C.E.S., C.S.O.W.M.**, in a January *New York Times* article on the health benefits of frozen foods.

"We don't want to make this all about bells and whistles, but I do think that we want to use technology as an adjunct to help people as they go on this journey."

Helen Kales, M.D., geriatric psychiatrist and chair of UC Davis Health's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, speaking about the role of devices like alarms and sensors in a March *New York Times* article "How to Care for a Loved One With Dementia: 5 Expert Tips." The piece ran after the death of actor Gene Hackman.

A summary of recent findings in clinical, translational and basic-science research at UC Davis

Body of Knowledge

Black women are twice as likely to be diagnosed with Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), an aggressive form of breast cancer with few treatment options. UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers have worked to uncover the genetic determinants of this disparity. Their analysis confirmed the association of a specific cancer-causing gene with racial identity, and assessed to what extent this gene could explain the disparity in the overall survival of TNBC patients. Results from their research were published in *EMBO Reports*.

Asthma is associated with memory difficulties in children, and early onset of asthma may exacerbate memory deficits, according to a UC Davis study published in *JAMA Network Open*. Study authors said this is the first time that the inflammatory disease has been linked with cognitive changes in children. The analysis of data from 2,000 children found kids with asthma had lower episodic memory task scores than children without. The study used NIH data and was supported by the UC Davis Memory and Plasticity Program and by NIH fellowship.

Research from UC Davis Health found that 22% of adults and 10% of children who took part in an air-quality study in California's San Joaquin Valley were breathing detectable levels of pesticides, including one no longer permitted in California because of its numerous adverse health effects. The findings are published in the *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology*. The project was funded through the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Community Air Grant and by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

A study published in *mBio* shows that the mosquito-borne Zika virus hijacks a protein important for brain development to assist its own reproduction. The work shows that related viruses, including dengue virus and yellow fever virus, also use this protein for the same purpose. The discovery could open the way to new strategies to develop vaccines or therapeutics against these viruses. The research was supported by grants from the NIH and the W. M. Keck Foundation.

Recent data from an ongoing study on local roadway injuries highlights the risk of driving under the influence. Of 490 drivers injured in motor vehicle crashes in the past year, 40% had a potentially impairing substance detected including ethanol, cannabis and sedating medications. The study is funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Data will aid the Office of Traffic Safety in trying to reduce roadway injuries and deaths in California.

UC Davis Health has reached over 200 transcarotid artery revascularization (TCAR) procedures performed since 2019, likely the most of any hospital in the Sacramento region. The minimally invasive procedure is used to treat carotid artery disease, a buildup of plaque in the main neck arteries that can lead to stroke. During the procedure, a tube is inserted through a small incision in the neck and into the carotid artery to clear the plaque.

Before TCAR, the main treatment option for carotid artery disease was an open surgical procedure, which leaves a visible scar the length of the neck and carries risk of surgical complications. TCAR takes less than half the time of a carotid endarterectomy, limiting stress on the heart and significantly reducing risk of stroke or heart attack during the procedure.

UC Davis Health has been named a TCAR Center of Excellence for the high quality of its care team and patient outcomes.

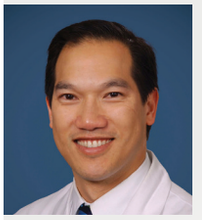
Region's first authorized for minimally invasive TAMBE aneurysm procedure

UC Davis Medical Center has become the first hospital in the Sacramento region authorized to perform a lifesaving minimally invasive procedure to treat thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms (TAAA), a bulging or ballooning of the aorta that extends from chest to abdomen. The new procedure, known as a thoracoabdominal branch endoprosthesis or TAMBE, provides a less-invasive alternative to surgery, offering fewer complications and quicker recovery.

TAMBE is a branched endograft device implanted and deployed by surgeons using fluoroscopy. In 2024 UC Davis Health received U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorization to use the procedure for TAAA, which is often one of the most complex aneurysms to treat due to the complexity of its location.

More traditional open-chest and abdomen surgery to repair the aorta requires lengthy hospitalization and extended recovery. TAMBE can be performed with potentially lower rates of surgical complications, blood loss and death, said **Melissa R. Keller, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor of vascular surgery.

First in Western U.S. to use pVAD, designed to improve high-risk stenting



Co-PIs Garrett Wong (top) and Tai Pham

UC Davis Health cardiologists are among the first in the country to use a novel, low-profile percutaneous ventricular assist device (pVAD) to improve blood flow for cardiovascular patients undergoing high-risk and complex heart artery stenting procedures. The move is part of an early feasibility study through the UC Davis Clinical Cardiovascular Research Unit.

Cardiologists use pVADs during procedures to support blood flow for high-risk patients and treat cardiogenic shock. The new system is smaller than current devices and includes multiple sensors to collect real-time aortic and ventricular pressures and help guide clinical management.

UC Davis Medical Center is one of four sites nationwide to have early investigational access to the new system, and the first hospital in the Western United States to utilize it. Study results will be part of a submission to the FDA for a pivotal investigational device exemption study.

World's first to implant a dual chamber leadless pacemaker into a child

UC Davis Director of Pediatric Electrophysiology **Dan Cortez, M.D., Ph.D.**, has set another world record: He is the first to implant a dual chamber leadless pacemaker in a child. His case report was published in December in the journal *PACE: Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology.*

In this minimally invasive procedure in the UC Davis Electrophysiology Lab, the pacemaker was implanted via the right internal jugular vein (instead of the femoral vein), so the patient could move easily and resume exercise and sports sooner. The device, called the AVEIR dual chamber leadless pacemaker, is different from traditional pacemakers in part because it has no leads or cords and is absorbed by the heart. It is also 10 times smaller than a traditional pacemaker and has been implanted in adults across the country since it received FDA approval in 2023.

Pacemakers are typically placed in children with congenital complete heart block, a rare condition that can lead to sudden death.

A REGIONAL FIRST ENDOVASCULAR ARCH REPLACEMENT

UC Davis Health cardiovascular specialists recently used a novel procedure — an aortic arch repair with dual branched device deployment — to successfully treat a car accident patient whose injuries included a tear in her ascending aorta and aortic arch. For the procedure, the stent graft bridges the gap from the tear in the aortic arch. It has only been done a handful of times and had never been done in Northern California.

The repair involved incisions smaller than the width of a finger and took just under two hours. Surgeons accessed the artery at the top of the legs and delivered branch stents through upper extremity artery access to circulate blood to the brain and arms. An angiogram showed successful repair of the severe blunt aortic injury, said **Andrew Barleben, M.D., M.P.H.**, vascular surgeon and the new director of the UC Davis Aortic Center.

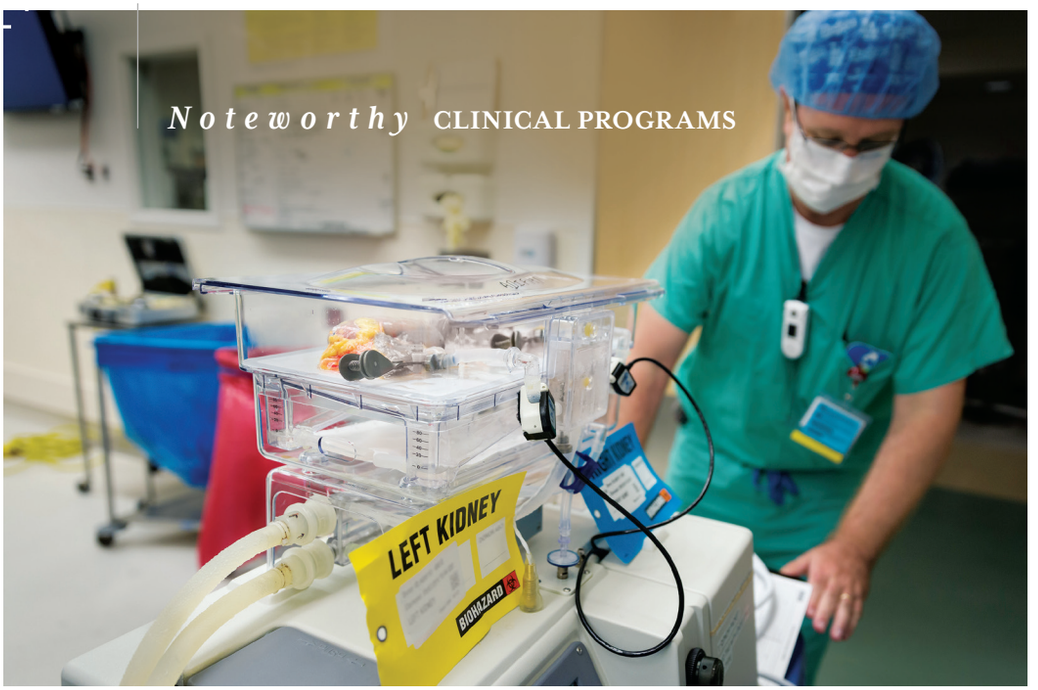
Lymphedema patients are finding relief thanks to a new surgery being offered at the UC Davis Health Center for Lymphatic Disease, which was recently designated as a Lymphatic Education and Research Network (LE&RN) Surgery Center of Excellence.

Newer surgery, designation provide hope for lymphedema patients

Lymphedema patients are finding relief thanks to a new surgery being offered at the UC Davis Health Center for Lymphatic Disease, which was recently designated as a Lymphatic Education and Research Network (LE&RN) Surgery Center of Excellence.

In the past two years, many UC Davis patients have undergone lymphovenous bypass (LVB), a minimally invasive procedure that involves identifying lymphatic channels and connecting them to nearby veins to allow for fluid to bypass blockages. Because vessels are often less than 1mm in diameter, the entire surgery is performed under a high-powered microscope.

Ara Salibian, M.D., a plastic and reconstructive microsurgeon and executive director of the lymphatic center, performed the first LVB on the West Coast utilizing ultra-high frequency ultrasound (UHFUS) mapping; this allows surgeons to visualize tiny lymphatic vessels in real time for more precise, efficient bypasses. The procedure provides new options for improving quality of life in post-cancer survivorship.



Another record-breaking year for Transplant Center


Matsuoka


Alexopoulos

2024 was a record-breaking year for the nationally-recognized UC Davis Health Transplant Center, which gave new life to hundreds of patients in Northern California needing the gift of an organ — often from a stranger.

The kidney transplant program performed 310 kidney transplants in 2024, including 90 from living donors, a UC Davis Health record. The pediatric kidney transplant program set high marks with 12 transplants, also a record.

In the first full calendar year of the liver transplant program, its team performed 44 adult liver transplants — far surpassing its initial year goal of 12 to 14 transplants. The team had a perfect 100% patient survival rate and a graft survival rate of 100%. Both rates are well above the national average of 83%, according to the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS).

Hospital leaders said the success results in part from increased communication and collaboration with community partners, such as Sierra Donor Services, as well as international leaders in transplant care who improved patient processes and education.

The liver transplant program's success during its first year can also be attributed in part to the use of a novel technology called liver perfusion. Approved by the FDA, the process circulates fluid and oxygen through a liver that's already been removed from a donor but not yet transplanted. The process preserves the liver's function and potentially enhances the recovery process for patients.

"The perfusion process allows the liver to spend much less time on ice without blood flow, which is better for the organ," said Lea K. Matsuoka, M.D., section chief for liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery at the Transplant Center. "Additionally, during the procedure, we are able to better assess the quality and function of the liver before it is transplanted — improving the likelihood of a successful transplant."

The UC Davis Transplant Center has been a leader in organ transplantation since its inception in 1985. The program serves patients in the 33 counties UC Davis Health covers, which includes a 65,000- square-mile area north to the Oregon border and east to Nevada. It is the only organ transplant program in California north of San Francisco.

"These accomplishments are a testament to our dedicated team members who have helped us develop innovative ways to help patients achieve a transplant," said Sophoclis Pantelis Alexopoulos, M.D., medical director for the Transplant Center.

UC Davis Health researchers also continue investigating ways to expand the supply of donor kidneys, such as recent studies about optimizing organ assessment and preservation in ex vivo normothermic perfusion and the safety of transplanting from toxoplasma antibody positive donors (TPDs).

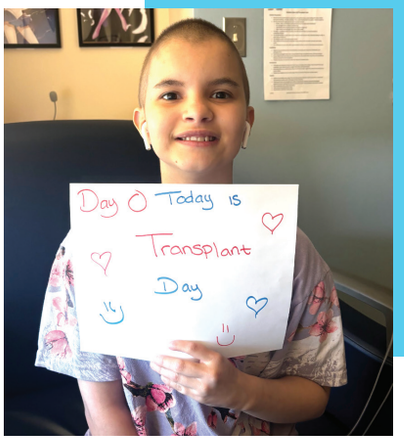
The program performed 310 kidney transplants in 2024, including 90 from living donors, a UC Davis Health record. The pediatric kidney program's 12 transplants were also a record.

Stem cell/bone marrow transplant **program revitalized**

The UC Davis pediatric stem cell transplant (also known as a bone marrow transplant) program — the only provider of this specialized service for children in the Sacramento area — has recently been revitalized.

The program is led by **Lisa Madden, M.D.**, a pediatric hematologist and oncologist at UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, who has expertise in the fields of stem cell transplant and cellular therapies. Some diseases and conditions that can be cured by stem cell transplant include high-risk leukemia, certain lymphomas, sickle cell disease, bone marrow failure disorders, metabolic disorders and immune disorders.

Chief of pediatric hematology-oncology **Marcio Malogolowkin, M.D.**, noted the pediatric program benefits from the expertise and resources developed by colleagues at UC Davis Health's adult stem cell transplant program and Institute for Regenerative Cures, and will soon enable them to bring cell and gene therapies to children in the region.



Designated a Wilson Disease Center of Excellence, **one of 11 worldwide**

UC Davis Health has been designated a Center of Excellence by the Wilson Disease Association. The award recognizes care teams that provide the highest quality care to patients with Wilson disease, a condition that causes the body to retain excess copper. This causes a wide range of health problems, including liver, neurological and psychiatric issues.

UC Davis Health is one of eight health systems in the United States (and the second in California) and only the 11th in the world to be named a Center of Excellence. The center's director is **Valentina Medici, M.D., M.A.S., F.A.A.S.L.D.**, a professor of gastroenterology and hepatology and vice chair for research in Internal Medicine.

Centers of Excellence provide and guarantee certain levels of physician training, laboratory activity, basic research, clinical trials access, and education. The center also collaborates with other centers of expertise such as UC Davis Health's Parkinson's Foundation Center of Excellence.

Nonsurgical alternatives available for thyroid nodules

UC Davis Health has the ability to treat some thyroid nodules through radiofrequency ablation (RFA), a minimally invasive, outpatient alternative to surgery that's not yet widely offered for the condition in the U.S.

Endocrinological surgeon **Claire Graves, M.D., F.A.C.S.**, learned the procedure under one of the first surgeons in the country to perform it, and teamed up with UC Davis Health radiologist **Sima Naderi, M.D.**, to form the UC Davis Center for Interventional Thyroidology, where RFA procedures are offered. Patients typically spend 45 minutes under local anesthesia, and growths decrease by as much as 50–80% after a year.

For patients who don't qualify for RFA because they have a completely fluid-filled or "cystic" nodule, UC Davis Health specialists also offer ethanol ablation as an alternative. In that procedure, the surgeon injects a needle into the cystic nodule, sucks out the liquid and refills it with alcohol.

Graves

Surgeons establish Medical Extended Reality (MXR) Research Group

Surgeons within the Departments of Otolaryngology, Neurological Surgery and Orthopedic Surgery have established the UC Davis Medical Extended Reality (MXR) Research Group, part of the 3D Printing and Visualization Lab at UC Davis Health. They are the first to use extended reality during surgery within the health system, and are collaborating with outside companies, including Xironetic, to be the first in the world to apply augmented reality overlays to a range of complex surgical procedures.

To do this, surgeons wear augmented reality goggles which project 3D computed tomography (CT) and MRI scans that overlay critical information directly onto the surgeon's field of view. The goggles help the surgeon plan the surgical approach, visualize hidden vascular and bone structures, localize instrumentation and implants, and project drilling and cutting guides.

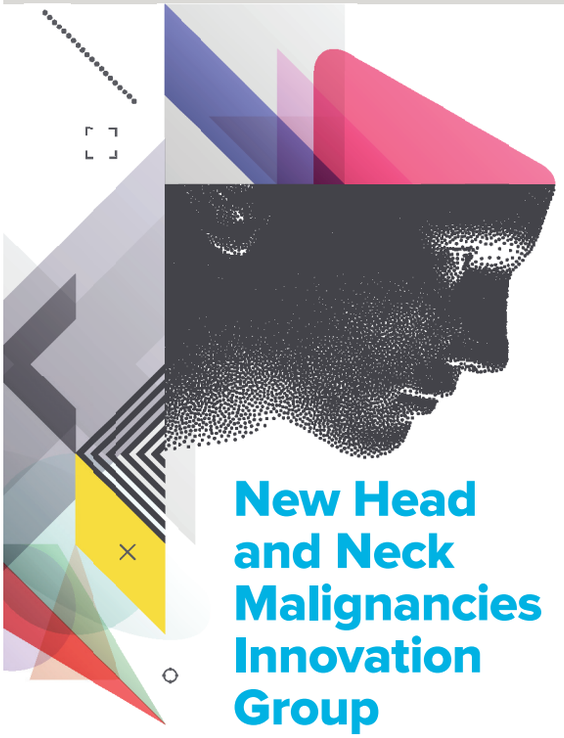
The goggles help to transition virtual surgical plans to the operating room, said **E. Bradley Strong, M.D.**, professor and vice chair of otolaryngology, allowing for better operative field views and visualization of difficult-to-see objects.

The new technology will also have a home in Aggie Square, the leading-edge research and innovation hub opening on the UC Davis Health Sacramento campus (see page 20).

The 3D Printing and Visualization Lab, MXR Research Group, and undergraduate campus TEAM lab (UC Davis Biomedical Engineering) are teaming up to form the leading Visualization and 3D Printing lab/research group in Northern California.

UC Davis Health surgeons are leaders in using augmented reality goggles, which can vastly improve procedures. The MXR group is now using extended reality to better educate patients before surgery as well, providing an immersive and interactive experience to make complex medical procedures more understandable.

And due to its flexibility in integrating physical and virtual environments, UC Davis Health has started to use extended reality in educating fellows, residents and medical students. Trainees now able to see a 3D object in the room that they can manipulate and visualize, versus a picture in a book.

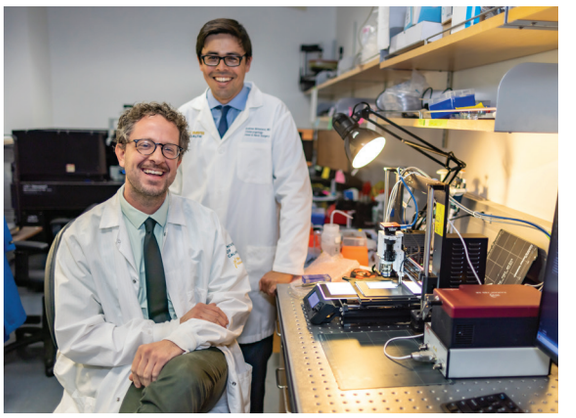


New Head and Neck Malignancies Innovation Group

A new multidisciplinary team of more than 30 biomedical engineers, scientists, oncologists and veterinarians has formed at UC Davis Health to find treatment options for complex and debilitating types of cancer from every angle.

The group, called the Head and Neck Malignancies Innovation Group, is led by head and neck oncology surgeon **Andrew Birkeland, M.D.**, and **Randy Carney, Ph.D.**, a UC Davis professor of biomedical engineering. Team members will work to develop breakthroughs they can move from the laboratory to clinical trials and then patient bedsides.

The group's leaders also include internationally renowned head and neck cancer researcher **Xiao-Jing Wang, M.D., Ph.D.**, who brought with her the first ever



Specialized Programs of Research Excellence grant from the National Cancer Institute. The prestigious five-year $9.8 million federal grant is intended to translate cancer research into clinical interventions.

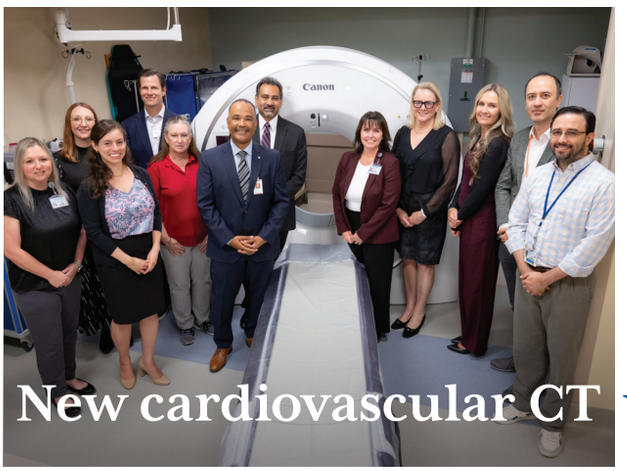
Improving regional access to CAR T cancer therapies

UC Davis Health's Stem Cell Program received a $500,000 grant from California health insurer Health Net this winter to improve cancer patients' access to life-saving CAR T-cell therapies and clinical trials, with the funding helping to promote local production of the immunotherapy.

CAR (chimeric antigen receptor) T-cell therapy reprograms immune cells to better target diseases such as cancer. The grant will support clinical trials and development of improved CAR T-cell products at the UC Davis Stem Cell Program's Alpha Clinic. It will also support therapies that may treat more patients, especially those underinsured and underserved, and aims to reduce costs, boost accessibility and facilitate trials participation. The grant is linked to an ongoing clinical trial for diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, a type of blood cancer.

The UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center's Malignant Hematology, Cellular Therapy and Transplantation Program is the first in the region to manufacture CAR T-cells on-site. The UC Davis team has worked to improve the therapy, decreasing its toxicity and side effects. Researchers also optimized the manufacturing process, reducing the time required from 12 to 8 days and validating the use of fresh rather than frozen products. This achievement enables rapid delivery of fresh CAR T products to patients.

UC Davis has also lowered therapy costs to benefit both patients and the health system, and patients throughout Northern and Central California and the Bay Area can have the opportunity to obtain it at a fraction of current industry costs. The UC Davis program makes treatment affordable and accessible to patients in 33 nearby counties and the Bay Area, said Jan Nolta, Ph.D., who directs the Stem Cell Program.



New cardiovascular CT with AI-enhanced imaging

UC Davis Health's imaging capabilities have taken a significant step forward with the addition of a new cardiovascular CT scanner equipped with AI-enhanced image technology, providing superior resolution that can lead to more confident diagnoses. Additional benefits include reduced radiation exposure, faster scans, and a non-invasive diagnostic alternative to testing. The medical center is the first in California to use the Canon Aquilion ONE / INSIGHT Edition CT scanner, and the first in the United States with a commercial system installed for advanced cardiovascular CT scans.

AGGIE SQUARE

Taking research and education to the next level

Hundreds of School of Medicine researchers are moving into the new state-of-the-art facilities designed to foster public-private collaborations

The UC Davis School of Medicine is a key partner in expanding the university's world-class research collaborations and discoveries at Aggie Square, the new Sacramento innovation district that opened May 2.

About 350 School of Medicine scientists and affiliated centers will conduct collaborative studies on public health, health policy, and emerging technologies in neurosciences, cancer, surgical biomedical engineering and musculoskeletal research. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, a long-standing School of Medicine partner, will also be a significant collaborator in cancer and neuroscience research at Aggie Square.

Developed by Wexford Science & Technology and anchored by UC Davis, Aggie Square is a first-of-its-kind innovation district based on the UC Davis Sacramento campus that leverages the university's strengths in research and teaching, industry and the community to create opportunities across the region. Aggie Square will encompass 11 acres and 1.2 million square feet at full buildout.

"The UC Davis School of Medicine is a nationally recognized research community, with $400 million annually in external research funding," said Susan Murin, M.D., M.Sc., M.B.A., dean of the School of Medicine. "Aggie Square will be a game-changing catalyst for new research discoveries. We're thrilled to be part of this exciting collaboration and help realize Chancellor Gary S. May's vision to create more public-private partnerships."

Aggie Square also will enhance educational opportunities for biomedical and UC Davis health professions students and clinicians with leading-edge anatomical and surgical training capabilities, as well as continuing education programs. The medical school will occupy about 300,000 square feet of collaborative research and education space in Aggie Square.

“Aggie Square is brilliantly designed with collaboration in mind, with researchers from multiple disciplines working side by side in shared lab spaces around core themes… this is an incredible opportunity to literally bring our research community together and make new treatments and cures possible.”

KIM E. BARRETT, PH.D.,
UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
VICE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

“Aggie Square is brilliantly designed with collaboration in mind, with researchers from multiple disciplines working side by side in shared lab spaces around core themes,” said UC Davis School of Medicine Vice Dean for Research Kim E. Barrett, Ph.D. “This is an incredible opportunity to literally bring our research community together and make new treatments and cures possible.”

Driving research and education innovation

Renowned School of Medicine surgical bioengineering scientists Diana Farmer, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S., and Aijun Wang, Ph.D., recently relocated their research lab to Aggie Square.

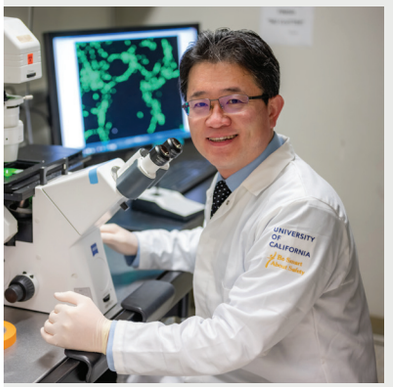
“We’re especially looking forward to more space to house our students and research fellows, and being able to accommodate more simultaneous experiments,” said Farmer, distinguished professor and chair of the Department of Surgery.

SNAPSHOTS: How Aggie Square is advancing innovation in Sacramento

Experts and entrepreneurs tackle pressing challenges through innovative research and technology. Here is a look at three pioneering teams and programs that will now call Aggie Square home:

Focusing on a cure

One of the research groups moving to Aggie Square is the Wang Lab, a prime research hub in stem cell therapy and gene editing for early treatments of birth defects such as spina bifida. The lab develops tools, technologies, and therapeutics that integrate molecular, cellular, tissue and biomaterial engineering to promote regeneration and restore function.



Surgical bioengineering leader Aijun Wang.

Some focus areas include engineering and developing stem cell/gene therapy, extracellular vesicles/nanomedicine, and extracellular matrix/biomaterial scaffolds to treat a wide spectrum of congenital conditions and acquired diseases, said Aijun Wang, professor of surgery and biomedical engineering. Wang is the vice chair for translational research, innovation and entrepreneurship at the Department of Surgery and co-directs the Center for Surgical Bioengineering at UC Davis.

Wang and his team have been collaborating with the Murthy laboratory at UC Berkeley to develop a much-needed cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, one of the most severe types. They are designing a therapy to treat DMD before birth by editing the gene that encodes dystrophin, a key protein in stabilizing muscle fiber. This groundbreaking work is funded by a $2 million Quest Award from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

Revolutionizing surgery and brain monitoring with AI medical imaging

The National Center for Interventional Biophotonic Technologies, or NCIBT, is revolutionizing surgical procedures and brain monitoring using light-based, artificial intelligence-informed technologies. Thanks to a $6.3 million grant from National Institutes of Health, the center moved to Aggie Square at UC Davis.

Fluorescence lifetime imaging (FLIm) technology developed at UC Davis allows for augmented display of diagnostic information in the surgeon’s field of vision.

NCIBT is advancing two optical imaging technologies developed at UC Davis — interventional fluorescence lifetime imaging (iFLIM) and interferometric diffuse optical spectroscopy (iDOS). These technologies pair with an AI-deep learning platform to provide real-time guidance of decision-making during medical and surgical procedures.

UC Davis Health surgeons already use FLIM imaging to detect head and neck cancer and brain cancer during surgery. The center also supports research and development, clinical application, and training and education of the technologies, promoting adoption of iFLIM and iDOS to improve the quality of interventional health care.

Collaborating on new types of cancer treatment

UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center’s new “cancer research hub” will encompass part of the third floor and the entire fourth floor of Aggie Square.

Cancer center researchers already have a successful track record of bridging the gap between scientific discovery and clinical trials, and the new hub will accelerate progress through collaboration and teamwork. An interdisciplinary group of cancer center members will support the work at Aggie Square, including early, mid-career and senior-level faculty and research staff from across UC Davis.

The hub will house highly innovative cancer center shared resources including flow cytometry, a technique that uses laser technology to measure and sort cells. This enables researchers to identify cancer-related markers and monitor treatment responses.

The cancer research team also routinely works with industry partners on early-phase clinical trials, and Aggie Square will increase access to strategic partners within industry, academia and government — all working together to develop cancer drugs and biomarkers.

Wang expressed the team's excitement to join a vibrant community of pioneering research teams and collaborators at Aggie Square, where technologically advanced facilities will fuel innovation at every level.

"This dynamic environment will amplify our team-science approach, accelerate the translation of discoveries into real-world solutions, and unlock new opportunities for commercialization that advance human health," Wang said. "Being part of Aggie Square positions us at the heart of medical innovation — where more bold ideas will be transformed into impactful technologies."

> **"Being part of Aggie Square positions us at the heart of medical innovation — where more bold ideas will be transformed into impactful technologies."**
>
> AIJUN WANG, PH.D.

UC Davis Department of Biomedical Engineering undergraduate students in the Quarter at Aggie Square program will benefit from the surgical bioengineering lab's move to Aggie Square.

"We are the core teaching team for the Quarter at Aggie Square program for biomedical engineering undergraduate junior students," Wang said. "Teaching students at our new translational labs can help them gain more tangible and effective translational and clinical experience."

Courtney Lyles, Ph.D., director of the UC Davis Center for Healthcare Policy and Research, shared that her team is excited about the opportunities for enhanced collaboration that Aggie Square offers.

"We do a great job of that already within our center, but we are thrilled about the opportunity to work even more closely with UC Davis colleagues in other departments, as well as externally with community members, policymakers and beyond," said Lyles. "The entire building is designed for exactly this purpose."

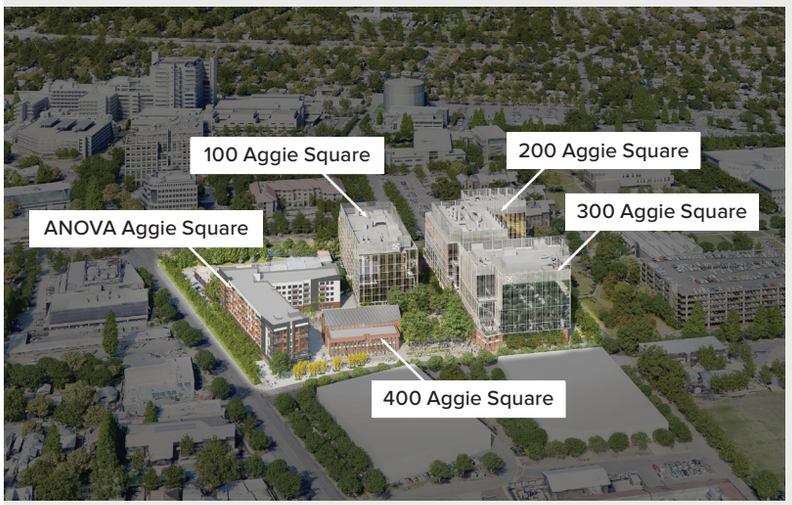
Aggie Square is a partnership of the University of California, Davis, Wexford Science & Technology and the City of Sacramento. Aggie Square will be home to research programs, private industry, classrooms, housing that prioritizes university students, faculty and staff and public programs that engage local communities and entrepreneurs.

More info: **aggiesquare.ucdavis.edu**

Open wet lab space in Aggie Square. With 1.2 million square feet at full buildout, the new innovation district will be a living laboratory for how a research university, private industry and communities can come together to solve society's most pressing challenges.

AGGIE SQUARE BOOSTS UC DAVIS' $13.2 BILLION ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

UC Davis Health's share rings in at $6.26 billion statewide



Phase 1 development of Aggie Square includes the buildings above, with 400 Aggie Square opening in 2026 and 100 Aggie Square not yet built.

Aggie Square is expected to generate about $500 million in regional economic output and support 3,200 jobs annually when all phases are built out. At completion, construction is expected to be responsible for more than 12,100 construction-related jobs in the region, with an economic impact of $1.9 billion.

Statewide, the numbers increase to $2.32 billion and 13,200 jobs. The numbers are from an economic and fiscal impact analysis by Economic & Planning Systems Inc., commissioned by the university and released in February.

"We know that UC Davis continues to be a powerful engine of economic growth in our region and state, improving opportunities for future generations," said UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May, Ph.D. "Our research and innovation help solve some of the world's most pressing problems, and we remain dedicated to strengthening the economy in Davis, in Sacramento, around Aggie Square and beyond."

More highlights from the report:

UC Davis:
UC Davis powers nearly $9.57 billion in economic impact to the Sacramento metro area and $13.18 billion to the state, supporting 61,700 jobs in the region and 68,300 in the state.

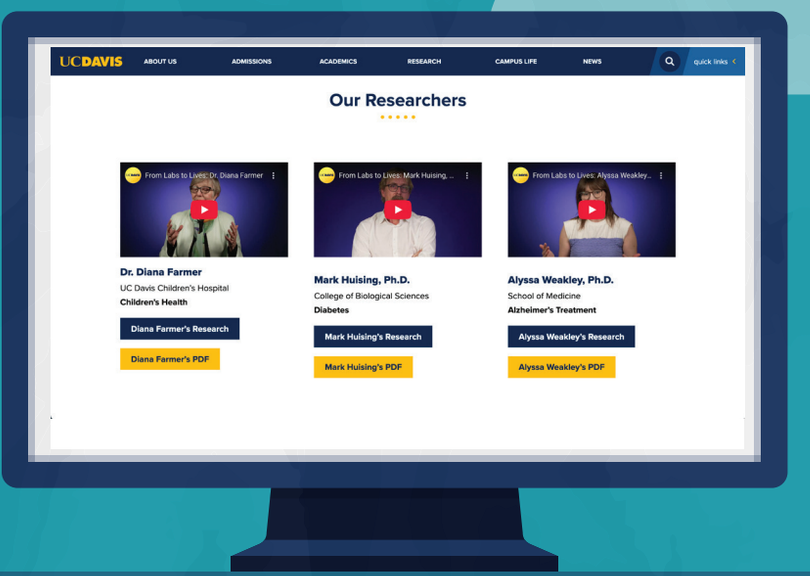
- Direct university spending of $4.45 billion in the local seven-county region and $6.59 billion in the state annually generated impacts of nearly $9.57 billion in the region and $13.18 billion statewide.
- The projected $1.15 billion construction spending for all Aggie Square phases is forecast to result in $1.92 billion in total economic output regionally and $2.32 billion statewide. About 8,300 person-year jobs are estimated to create an additional 4,900 statewide over the construction period.
- Every dollar UC Davis spent in the region generated an additional $1.15 in the region. And for every 10 university jobs in the region, it created an additional seven.
- Throughout California, every university dollar spent generated an additional dollar of economic activity in the state. And every 10 UC Davis jobs led to the creation of nearly nine non-UC Davis jobs in California.
- Excluding UC Davis Health, the university's total spending of $481 million on academic research generates $1.23 billion statewide, and 2,856 jobs in academic research lead to a total of 6,471 jobs statewide.

UC Davis Health:
UC Davis Health was the university's greatest driver of economic activity, accounting for more than 42% of the university's economic activity generated in the local seven-county region and 47% of what the university generated statewide.

- In 2023, UC Davis Health's direct expenditures of $1.84 billion led to a total economic impact of $4.01 billion in the region, or an additional $1.18 for every dollar.
- UC Davis Health had 19,144 employees in the region, and the economic activity generated indirectly and by the spending of its employees supported an additional 11,050 jobs in the region.
- Considered statewide, UC Davis Health's direct expenditures of $3.21 billion had an economic impact of $6.26 billion, or an additional $0.95 for every dollar spent.
- UC Davis Health economic activity generated indirectly and by the spending of its employees supported an additional 3,833 jobs statewide for a total of 34,027 jobs in California.
- UC Davis Health spending on academic research of $474 million and involving 1,460 jobs is responsible for $825 million in economic impact and 3,106 jobs statewide.

From Labs to Lives

A new UC Davis website and video series share how research funding solves real-world health problems



UC Davis has launched a website and video series titled, "From Labs to Lives," to highlight federally funded research, describe how it benefits the public, and share the consequences to the public if funding is reduced or eliminated.

The site features video interviews with UC Davis faculty on both the Davis and Sacramento campuses, and a downloadable one-pager or "flashcard" describing each featured researcher's work (see example content on next page). There are also fact sheets about the power of federal investments in medicine, science and engineering, and a research brief about each federal agency's impact on the university.

UC Davis interdisciplinary research plays a vital role in building the region's economy, and contributes to our nation's global leadership in technology and innovation. Through collaboration between our top-ranked hospital and veterinary school, as well as our science and engineering discoveries, this research directly improves American lives.

For example, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) fosters discoveries and strategies to prevent disease, enhance health and reduce illness and disability. UC Davis was awarded $276 million in NIH funding in 2024. UC Davis researchers have used NIH support to:

- Invent a brain-computer interface that translates brain signals into speech, restoring communication capabilities for people who can't speak due to paralysis.
- Develop a landmark form of surgery to treat spina bifida, a disease that can lead to lifelong cognitive, mobility, urinary and bowel disabilities.
- Create a cure for retinal vein occlusion, a common form of blindness affecting more than 1.6 million Americans, using stem-cell therapy (see next page).
- Advance stem-cell therapy that could eliminate HIV from the body, treat Huntington's disease and address other disorders.
- Create a total-body, highly accurate, low-cost scanner to detect cancerous tumors (see next page), and develop precision, fluorescence-based surgical tools to remove tumors (see Aggie Square story page 21).
- Advance understanding of the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, which affects nearly 7 million people in the United States, to identify effective new treatments (see next page).
- Provide vital support in 2024 for 310 UC Davis graduate students and 161 postdoctoral researchers — individuals who will carry today's discoveries forward.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Defense (DOD) are among other federal agencies that award UC Davis funding for health-related research.

***Some snapshots about federally-supported health research at UC Davis, and its* impacts:**

Alzheimer's Disease

NIH-funded research to prevent Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's disease slowly erases memory, independence and quality of life. **Charles DeCarli, M.D.,** is studying how the brain changes before symptoms appear. His team uses detailed brain scans and genetic research to look for early warning signs — small changes that could help doctors predict who is most at risk. By identifying these clues, his research could lead to earlier diagnosis and new ways to keep the brain healthier for longer.

Alzheimer's affects millions of families, yet there is still no cure. DeCarli's work is critical to understanding who is at risk and how we can protect brain health as we age.

"The most important aspect of academia is its contributions to society in general. I think most people would agree — and experts certainly would agree — that most of the innovation that we see in science and technology today have, at its roots, academic institutions."

– Charles DeCarli, M.D.

Treatments for blindness

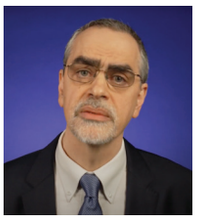
NIH-funded research uncovers stem cell therapy treatment for vision loss

Susanna Park, M.D., Ph.D., is leading groundbreaking research on using stem cell therapy to treat vision loss caused by retinal vein occlusion (RVO)—a condition where blocked blood flow damages the retina, which is like a stroke to the eye and often leads to blindness. Her work focuses on helping the eye heal itself by restoring blood flow and repairing the retina, giving hope to people who currently have few treatment options.

For many, vision loss from RVO means struggling with everyday tasks like reading, driving or recognizing faces. Park's research could change that, offering a way to restore sight and independence.

"It's hard to do trials like this without federal funding support. And so if we have reduced funding, it slows down or impedes any further developments in inventing and developing new treatments for our patients with vision loss."

– Susanna Park, M.D., Ph.D.



Children's health

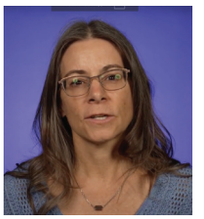
NIH-funded innovation improving safety for our youngest patients

When children need PET/CT scans, they have to keep very still for the duration of their scan, which can be challenging or impossible for some. UC Davis research led by **Ramsey Badawi, Ph.D.**, has developed a total-body PET scanner that is much faster than regular PET scanners, allowing these children to have their scans without needing sedation or anesthetic. This makes the scans safer, and easier on both the children and their parents alike.

This research is also working on new ways to use artificial intelligence to teach regular PET scanners to "see" more like total-body PET scanners do. This will dramatically help to improve access to the benefits of this game-changing technology.

"Total body PET has essentially created a whole new industry, but without the kick-starting of the federal health care dollars to really turn that idea into practice, I'm not sure it would ever have happened. And I think that's true for a lot of these new ideas in health care."

– Ramsey Badawi, Ph.D.



Breast cancer screening

NIH-funded research making screening safer and more effective

Breast cancer affects millions of lives, and early detection can make all the difference. **Diana Miglioretti, Ph.D.**, is leading NIH-funded research to improve breast cancer screening so it catches cancer early while reducing unnecessary stress and procedures. As co-leader of the U.S. Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium, she analyzes data from millions of mammograms to find the best ways to screen people based on their individual risk. Her work helps ensure screening is effective, safe and accessible to everyone.

Miglioretti's research is about more than data — it's about saving lives and improving the screening experience. By personalizing screening guidelines, her work helps detect cancer earlier while reducing false alarms that cause anxiety and extra tests.

"Without continued federal support, AI could be widely adopted before we have sufficient evidence of its effectiveness, potentially resulting in suboptimal patient outcomes, unnecessary procedures and higher health care costs."

– Diana Miglioretti, Ph.D.

Pain management in cancer patients

Federally funded research advancing neuroscience and science communication

Understanding how our nervous system processes sensations is key to developing better treatments for chronic pain and neurological disorders. **Theanne Griffith, Ph.D.**, a UC Davis School of Medicine researcher, is exploring how sensory neurons transmit signals, focusing on proteins important for neuronal communication.

This research is advancing our understanding of pain pathways and nervous system function, and how medical treatments can lead to painful peripheral neuropathy in patients.

"Peripheral neuropathies are painful conditions induced by a variety of things, including chemotherapy. One of the federally funded projects in my lab aims to understand how chemotherapy drugs lead to pain or peripheral neuropathy. That grant is now at risk of losing future funding, hampering my ability to conduct this research."

– Theanne Griffith, Ph.D.

Visit the web site to learn more:
ucdavis.edu/labs-to-lives

Medical student Frank Sierra says volunteering at Clínica Tepati motivates him to continue studying medicine.

Student-run Clínica Tepati **celebrates 50th anniversary**

Thousands of Latino immigrants have received free health care from student volunteers and their physician mentors

Erasmo Rivera is a 48-year-old maintenance worker in Sacramento. He has no health insurance and used to become anxious whenever he or his wife got sick.

One time, his wife was charged $7,000 for a hospital emergency room visit to treat a spider bite, a bill that ended up with a collection agency. Another time, he struggled to pay $160 to see a doctor in a community health center.

But then he discovered Clínica Tepati — the free clinic affiliated with the UC Davis School of Medicine. The clinic in midtown Sacramento is run by student volunteers and aided by physician volunteers. Many of them, like Rivera, speak fluent Spanish. "They treat me really good here," he said at a recent appointment. "It's been a good experience."

Since it was founded in 1974, Tepati has been a lifeline for tens of thousands of local residents who are uninsured or underinsured, and who appreciate being cared for by providers who understand their culture or language.

Tepati has also been an important training ground for thousands of students from the UC Davis School of Medicine in Sacramento and undergraduate students from the Davis campus. In recent years, the UC Davis volunteers have been joined by pharmacy students from University of the Pacific, medical students from California Northstate University and physician assistant students from the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis.

"For many of our students, their first experience caring for patients was at Clínica Tepati or another of our student-run affiliated clinics early in their medical education," said Susan Murin, dean of the UC Davis School of Medicine. "We are proud of our students' deep commitment to health equity and passion for improving the lives of everyone in our community." More than 800 patients visited the Sacramento-based clinic in 2023.

Clinic meets a community need

About 40 undergraduate students, six medical students and several physicians care for patients every Saturday at Clínica Tepati.

The UC Davis School of Medicine had only been open a few years when a group of students and faculty in the early 1970s sought to reduce barriers to health care for a vulnerable segment of Latinos in and around Sacramento. Some of the students were motivated by the Chicano rights movement, a social and political effort to improve the lives of Mexican Americans.

They met with the UC Davis Department of Family and Community

About 40 undergraduate students, six medical students and several physicians care for patients every Saturday at Clínica Tepati.

Tepati is a take on "Tepatli," the word for healer in Nahuatl, an indigenous language spoken by the Aztecs.

Medicine, undergrads from UC Davis and community members to create the primary care clinic with a culturally relevant name: Tepati is a take on "Tepatli," the word for healer in Nahuatl, an indigenous language spoken by the Aztecs.

"Everybody was very enthusiastic about starting the clinic," recalled Mark Diaz, then a UC Davis undergrad. He and other co-founders were eager to provide health care to undocumented people who lacked insurance and didn't quality for government-sponsored coverage. "Clínica Tepati filled this unmet need," he added.

Ever since, the clinic has thrived on its greatest dual features: Providing much-needed health care to underserved patients and offering valuable experience to students dreaming of becoming doctors. Although not all volunteers will pursue a medical career, those who do are proud to list their Tepati experience on résumés, medical school applications and LinkedIn profiles.

"Once students become doctors they come back and supervise other students. That's what happened to me," said Diaz, who trained in the UC Davis family medicine residency program in the early 1980s and now works for the California Public Employees Retirement System.

Students connect with patients

About 150 students volunteer at Clínica Tepati every school year. Most are undergrads and some are first- and- second-year medical students. On any given Saturday, more than 40 volunteers take over the exam rooms, cubicles and reception area of WellSpace Health, a federally funded, non-profit health center. WellSpace, which is closed on weekends, allows Tepati to use its clinic at 1820 J Street.

The hallways buzz with students who form pods to see their patients. The pods, headed by a health professional student, such as a medical student, include an interpreter and a scribe. Each pod cares for two or three patients in unrushed appointments until all 25 or so patients have been seen.

While the health professional students serve as de facto primary care providers, physicians in the role of preceptors are always nearby for consultations. "The majority of the work is done by the students. I just sort of guide them, direct them," said Brenden Tu, a longtime preceptor and clinic medical director since 2009.

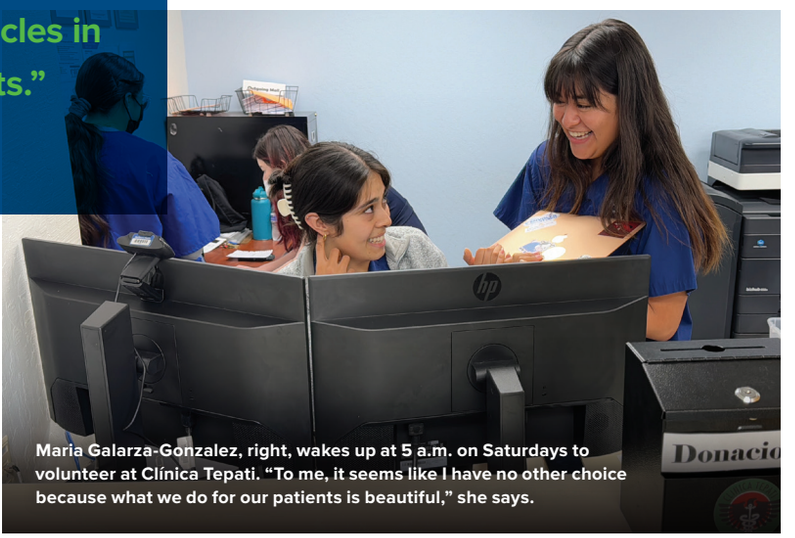
> **"I see more than just the patients. I see my parents, I see my grandparents, my aunts, my uncles in these patients."**
>
> –ALEX PULIDO

Student volunteers belong to a variety of races and ethnicities. Those who are Latino, though, feel a special bond with the patients, the majority of whom are Latino immigrants, and many of whom are monolingual. Latino students often find that their parents share a similar life experience with the patients.

"I see more than just the patients," said Alex Pulido. "I see my parents, I see my grandparents, my aunts, my uncles in these patients." The bond, he said, is a "huge motivating factor" to provide great care, especially when the patients are monolingual Spanish speakers. "It's a huge opportunity for me to be here," added Pulido, who hopes to study medicine at UC Davis or UCLA.

"It's a huge satisfaction for me to see the undergraduates get into medical school," said Tu, a family medicine physician who is at Tepati most Saturdays. "I sort of look at all of the students as my kids, you know, so it's like seeing my kids being successful."

Maria Galarza-Gonzalez is a psychology major at UC Davis who hasn't decided whether she'll apply to medical school. "My goal for my career is not necessarily to become a doctor," she said, "it's to help give back to my community." Galarza-Gonzalez grew up in Waterford, a town east of Modesto that lacks medical providers. For the past three years she has been at the clinic by 7 a.m. and wouldn't have it any other way. "To me, it seems like I have no other choice because what we do for our patients is beautiful," Galarza-Gonzalez said.



Maria Galarza-Gonzalez, right, wakes up at 5 a.m. on Saturdays to volunteer at Clínica Tepati. "To me, it seems like I have no other choice because what we do for our patients is beautiful," she says.

Second-year medical student Frank Sierra, who chairs the Tepati student board of directors, said volunteering at the clinic has had a motivating effect on his schooling. "When we're faced with our first two years of pre-clinical, didactic work, the student-run clinics really help us put a reason to the countless hours we're studying with books," he said. "Sometimes you can forget why you're studying if you don't have that patient interaction."

UC Davis medical residency programs expand to Central Valley

Partnership with Doctors Medical Center in Modesto offers OB-GYN and cardiothoracic trainees new opportunities

Mehnoor Haseeb, a fourth-year OB-GYN resident, spent several weeks on rotation at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto, which she calls a "rewarding" experience, because she cared for patients in the same community where she was raised.

The UC Davis School of Medicine is partnering with Doctors Medical Center in Modesto so selected residents can practice medicine in the Central Valley hospital while training to become board-certified specialists. Residents in obstetrics and gynecology, and cardiothoracic surgery are participating in the partnership.

The alliance adds significant value for trainees eager to gain clinical experience outside of Sacramento, especially in rural and underserved settings. Doctors Medical Center (DMC) benefits too, because residents who train there may eventually want to establish their careers in the area. This can help solve the recruiting challenges faced by Central Valley hospitals and clinics. The partnership launched last year.

"We are delighted to expand and strengthen our affiliations with Doctors Medical Center to better meet the health care needs of communities in the Central Valley," said Susan Murin, dean of UC Davis School of Medicine. "Adding cardiothoracic surgery and obstetrics-gynecology residency rotations to our existing partnership with DMC will give our trainees invaluable experience providing much-needed care in a region where access to these services is limited. Our residents are passionate about community-based care, and this is an excellent, new opportunity for them to make a difference and improve lives."

OB-GYN and cardiothoracic residents have a formal rotation that lasts several weeks during their training. OB-GYN is a four-year residency and cardiothoracic is a six-year program.

"Having the opportunity for our residents to train in Modesto is very different from training in an academic environment because the Central Valley is a region of the state where there's a need for more cardiac and thoracic surgery care," said Gary Raff, a UC Davis Health professor of clinical surgery and program director of the cardiothoracic surgery residency. "This rotation provides a meaningful experience for residents, patients and our partners at DMC."

Caring for patients from rural and urban settings

Chitra Gotluru was among the first OB-GYN residents from UC Davis Health to practice at Doctors Medical Center.

"I really appreciated the opportunity to learn how to provide a wide range of care as a general OB-GYN because the area is a combination of suburban and rural," Gotluru said. "Having the ability to do process improvement and care without the patient having to travel or see a specialist is a tremendous experience."

The Modesto rotation adds a much-appreciated learning environment for OB-GYN residents. They typically experience 60% of their patient care responsibilities at UC Davis Health, and 40% at Kaiser Permanente hospitals in Roseville, Sacramento and surrounding clinics.

"From an educational perspective, this is a great partnership," said Véronique Taché, the OB-GYN residency program director for UC Davis. The residents training in Sacramento and Roseville medical centers, she said, are more likely to treat patients with more severe medical conditions, including obstetrical and gynecological emergencies, since they are referral centers for the surrounding communities and hospitals. The patients in Modesto have more routine and low risk issues.

"You need to see the 'bread and butter' types of conditions that helps build the residents' scope of practice as a generalist OB-GYN," Taché said. "The rotation at DMC gives our residents great exposure and a very good view of what it's like to work in a community-based hospital, in an area with OB-GYN physician shortages."

UC Davis is committed to improve access and fill workforce needs

UC Davis Health's strategy of sending residents to care for patients in the Central Valley is aligned with the state government's goals of filling workforce needs and improving access in medically underserved areas. In fact, the OB-GYN residency program has expanded over the past two years, thanks to hundreds of thousands of dollars in state grants from CalMedForce and the Song-Brown Program.

For OB-GYN fourth-year resident Mehnoor Haseeb, the Doctors Medical Center rotation last year put her closer to the community where she was raised in Modesto, in a Pakistani immigrant family.

"Training at DMC was really rewarding because I got to serve some of the populations I grew up with, in a community where I spent my formative years," she said. "Plus, I received a wonderful educational experience because the physicians at DMC trained me in some procedures that OB-GYN residents usually don't see until the latter part of their residency."

Doctors Medical Center thoracic surgeon John deGraft-Johnson said he's eager to help train "the next generation of top physicians" by instructing them on state-of-the-art procedures.

He recently led a team of physicians, including a UC Davis resident, in a procedure that was celebrated at Doctors Medical Center for being one of the first of its kind in California. The procedure was a robotic-assisted, minimally invasive direct vision coronary artery multi-vessel bypass graft surgery.

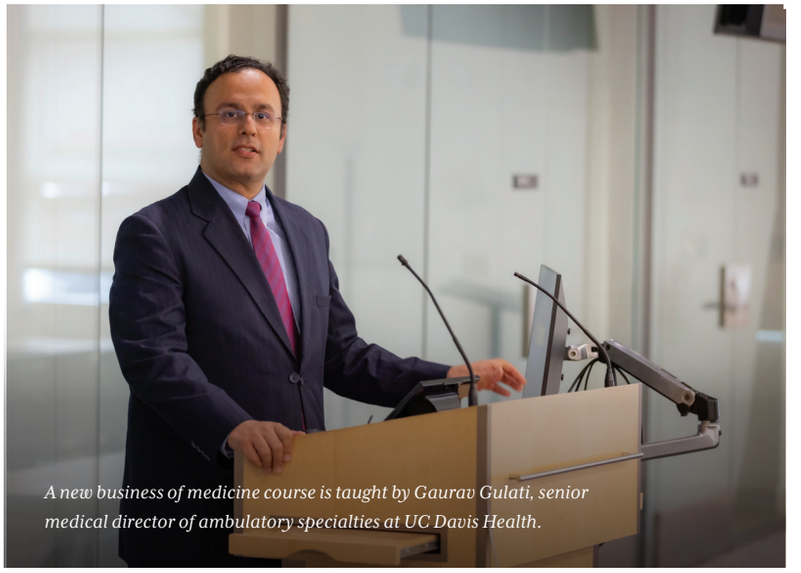
"By expanding our relationship with UC Davis," deGraft-Johnson said, "we are growing the breadth and quality of advanced services that we provide the communities we serve."

"Our residents are passionate about community-based care and this is an excellent, new opportunity for them to make a difference and improve lives."

SUSAN MURIN, DEAN OF UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Doctors Medical Center in Modesto, an area of the medically underserved Central Valley that blends rural and suburban aspects.

Preparing physicians *for the business of health care*



A new business of medicine course is taught by Gaurav Gulati, senior medical director of ambulatory specialties at UC Davis Health.

UC Davis is now one of the few medical schools in the nation to offer a business-focused elective course

Medical schools train future physicians on the complexities of medicine and caring for patients, but after graduating, they often enter residency with little understanding of how the health industry operates.

The UC Davis School of Medicine is committed to changing that. The School of Medicine has implemented a business of medicine course to help third- and fourth-year medical students better understand the industry holistically.

It is one of the few medical schools in the nation to offer a business-focused elective course.

Created and taught by Gaurav Gulati, M.D., M.Sc., M.B.A., senior medical director of ambulatory specialties at UC Davis Health, the course includes discussions on how health care systems function, and introduces prominent issues that physicians often encounter but are not exposed to in medical training.

"Within our I-EXPLORE curriculum we strive to provide diverse opportunities for in-depth exploration of areas of interest while helping students to select and prepare for their residency," said Kristin Olson, M.D., associate dean for curriculum. "The instruction of the business of medicine is another critical tool we can provide medical students to add to their professional toolbox and prepare them to be the health care leaders of tomorrow."

Patient benefits

Patient care is the main reason many physicians chose to go into the field. But, as hospitals increasingly focus on profitability, prescription costs skyrocket and patients see higher bills for insurance, business is an increasing part of a physician's daily work.

A good understanding of the business side can help physicians better understand the challenges their patients face and improve overall patient experience.

"Having a foundation of knowledge — on topics like how insurance systems work, what is the basis for complex billing and coding systems, and how health care organizations are set up and function — allows physicians to help their patients navigate the health system," said Gulati. "This improves patient engagement in their own care and builds patient trust with their provider."

Need for business training of medical professionals

Learning the business of medicine also expands career opportunities for doctors beyond medical practice, providing high-level management skills and strategies. Business-savvy physicians can more easily navigate an increasingly complex care landscape, while also becoming highly effective leaders.

A recent study found hospitals employing physicians as CEOs out-performed those with non-medical leadership.

"As delivery of medical care becomes more complex, it is essential for physicians to develop a good framework for understanding the ever-changing drivers of the business of health care," Gulati said. "By offering this course, we are better training our future physician leaders who will oversee complex health organizations and have a direct influence on patient care."

A good understanding of the business side can help physicians improve patient experience and also take on leadership roles.

Course topics:

- What makes health care a unique business
- Why not-for-profit community-oriented clinics and hospitals still need to be profitable to fulfill their mission
- Evolution, characteristics and properties of the U.S. health care system
- Today's insurance industry landscape
- Discussions on organizational structure, marketing, finance and accounting

Alumni Association updates

Please join us this summer!

Doug Gross (M.D. '90)
President
UC Davis School of Medicine
Alumni Association

Lisa Dicce
Director of Alumni Engagement
646-335-2041 mobile
ladicce@health.ucdavis.edu

Thank you for staying connected and continuing to strengthen our vibrant community. Whether you are mentoring students, donating to the alumni scholarship fund, attending events, or providing patients with outstanding care, your support makes us exceptional!

Class of 2029 Welcome Reception registration link

To inspire the next class, we hope you can join us on July 23, 2025 for a reception welcoming MS1 students. You can learn more about the event and register by scanning the QR code. To discover other ways to support students, visit the SOMAA website at **health.ucdavis.edu/medalumni** (click on the "Volunteer" tab) or contact us.

We also hope to connect with you at Alumni Weekend 2025. The event begins on the evening of Sept. 11 and concludes on the morning of Sept. 14, 2025. All M.D., residency and fellowship graduates are invited.

Throughout the weekend, we'll provide time to connect with peers and host activities for everyone, including lectures from SOM leaders, a special awards reception, and family-friendly programs. There will also be a dinner for alumni celebrating a reunion (grads with class years ending in "5" and "0"). Stay tuned for the full schedule and invitation.

We're proud to have you in the community and want to celebrate your successes. Please share your news by sending a class note through the SOMAA website at **health.ucdavis.edu/medalumni** (click on the "Connect" tab) or contacting us directly at **medalumni@ucdavis.edu** or **916-734-9410**. We're also always thrilled to hear feedback, ideas or just a quick hello!

Thank you again for staying engaged, supporting our students, and continuing to make our community extraordinary. We look forward to connecting with you soon!

In memoriam

AJAY SAMPAT, a gifted educator, Department of Neurology faculty member, colleague, and mentor, passed away on March 13 after a courageous battle with ALS.

Sampat joined UC Davis in 2018 as an assistant professor in the Department of Neurology, Division of Sleep Medicine, after completing medical school at the University of Chicago, residency at Northwestern, and a fellowship in sleep medicine at UCLA. He was promoted to associate professor in 2023.

His impact extended far beyond his clinical expertise. He was deeply committed to medical education, serving as a School of Medicine academic coach and associate clerkship director for the Neurology Clerkship. His ability to engage and inspire learners was unparalleled. He had a gift for distilling complex neurological concepts into clear and accessible lessons — a talent recognized by UC Davis Health neurology residents when they awarded him the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2019.

Even after his ALS diagnosis, Sampat's dedication to teaching never wavered. He continued to lead clerkship sessions, deliver Grand Rounds presentations nationally and mentor learners with the same warmth, patience and brilliance that defined his career.

His innovative "Choose Your Own Adventure" teaching sessions and his insightful sessions on brain imaging were not just educational – they were transformative experiences. Sampat's influence extended well beyond UC Davis. His national presence as an educator and mentor reflected his extraordinary ability to connect with learners and colleagues alike. He taught with humility and authenticity, sharing his personal experiences with the medical profession and elevating the art of "doctoring" nationwide.

The Department of Neurology hosted a celebration of life in May. To honor his remarkable legacy, the department established a scholarship to inspire future generations of medical students to become neurologists who are medical educators — reflecting his lifelong dedication to education and mentorship. The Sampat family shared that the establishment of this endowed fund provided him great comfort during his ALS journey. Donations can be made to the Ajay Sampat, M.D. Endowed Neurology Scholars Award at **give.ucdavis.edu/MNEU/125227?appeal=19516**.

Excerpted from UC Davis School of Medicine memorial announcements.

WALT TRUDEAU, JR., passed away November 11, 2024 at age 93. Arrangements were under the care and direction of Mount Vernon Memorial Park.

UC Davis Gastroenterology and Hepatology held a memorial for Trudeau in April, remembering him on social media as "a beloved colleague and mentor to generations of gastroenterologists in Sacramento and beyond. His impact on us simply cannot be measured. We will miss him dearly."

The Walter Trudeau Excellence In Teaching Award is given for appreciation for a job well done and in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

Excerpted from social media and Dignity Memorial website.

An update from Stephen Cavanagh, dean of the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis

Stephen Cavanagh, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.

Innovating to prepare the nursing workforce of the future

At the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis, we don't just prepare nurses, advanced practice providers and researchers — we prepare leaders, change agents and innovators. As health care rapidly evolves, we redefine education to meet the moment and anticipate the future to ensure our graduates are not only ready to enter the workforce but also equipped to transform it.

A critical element is fostering a new generation of health care professionals who can navigate complex systems, drive meaningful change and advocate for patients in every community.

Expanding access and addressing workforce shortages

One of the most pressing challenges in health care today is the shortage of highly skilled providers. To address this, we are launching our new Doctor of Nursing Practice — Nurse Anesthesia Degree program. It is the first to develop Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) for the UC system, and the sixth in the state.

This program is designed with a dual purpose: to serve the needs of our growing academic health system and the new 48X Complex, while also increasing access to care in underserved and rural areas.

Addressing the mental health crisis through workforce expansion

More than 50% of people with mental illness in our state are not receiving psychiatric care. In response, we lead the UC Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program to expand the number of trained mental health professionals. The first 30-plus students under our leadership graduate this June.

This partnership with nursing schools at UCSF, UCLA and UC Irvine equips advanced practice nurses with specialized skills needed to address mental health challenges in their communities. By leveraging our statewide network, we make a direct and measurable impact on access.

Advancing health equity through curriculum innovation

At the heart of our work is a deep commitment to health equity. We reimagine health care education to ensure graduates are not just skilled clinicians but also advocates for the patients they serve. Our curriculum incorporates simulations that allow students to experience firsthand the barriers many individuals face in accessing care.

In March, our entry-level nursing students participated in a Community Action Poverty Simulation. Given a role to play and tasked with surviving a month, students gain a deeper understanding of the social determinants of health and the challenges of often-fragmented care systems.

Celebrating innovation in education: The DNP-FNP program

This June we celebrate the graduation of the inaugural cohort of our Doctor of Nursing Practice — Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP-FNP) program. Many graduates will remain in their home communities, expanding access to high-quality primary care in regions that need it most. They join our PA alumni and graduates of the Primary Care Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship who choose to serve in underserved areas.

Our unwavering commitment to the future of education

As external forces shift and challenges emerge, our focus remains clear: to prepare a highly skilled, compassionate and innovative health care workforce that can meet the demands of the future.

We reaffirm our commitment to health care excellence and equity for all — because no matter the challenges ahead, the role of clinicians, providers and scientists as healers, advocates and leaders has never been more vital.

We also remain committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment — one that values diversity and ensures that students from all backgrounds can thrive. A diverse workforce is a stronger workforce and it is essential for achieving health equity.

UC Davis nursing school announces accreditation of Doctor of Nursing Practice – Nurse Anesthesia program

New faculty for the DNP-Nurse Anesthesia program bring extensive experience in both education and clinical practice.

Hybrid program is the first in the UC system, sixth in the state

The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis has earned accreditation for its Doctor of Nursing Practice – Nurse Anesthesia (DNP-NA) Degree Program by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA).

This significant milestone marks the first DNP-NA program within the University of California system and only the sixth of its kind in California. The program is set to welcome its inaugural cohort of students in June.

The DNP-NA program is an integrated, full-time, three-year curriculum designed to equip experienced critical care registered nurses (RNs) with the knowledge and hands-on training required to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). The program blends rigorous online coursework with in-person simulation training and extensive clinical experience, ensuring students receive a comprehensive and immersive education.

"Earning COA accreditation validates the quality of our curriculum and faculty and highlights the caliber of the dedicated and supportive staff here at the School of Nursing," said Program Director Jakkarin "Jake" Sareerak. "As a new program, we prioritized hiring the highest caliber of CRNA faculty, many of whom have served in program administrator roles and bring extensive experience in both education and clinical practice."

CRNA programs have transitioned from the master's degree to the DNP level to better prepare clinicians for the increased complexity of patient care and to equip them with advanced leadership and quality improvement skills. This change, supported by accrediting bodies, ensures CRNAs are ready to meet modern health care challenges and lead interdisciplinary teams effectively.

Applicants must hold either a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing Science (BSN) or an equivalent major or a bachelor's degree in another specialty in addition to a Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN) or an equivalent graduate degree.

Graduates of the DNP-NA program will be fully prepared to take on leadership roles in anesthesia care, Sareerak said, which addresses critical gaps in health care access across California.

Addressing the shortage

The demand for anesthesia providers continues to outpace supply nationwide. The American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA) reports that by 2033, the anesthesiology workforce may experience a shortage of approximately 12,500 providers. That is further exacerbated in California's rural and underserved areas.

With 40 million residents, the state has a growing need for anesthesia services, especially as its aging population requires more procedures. In addition, non-operating-room anesthesia sites are increasing due to technological advancements, which require more anesthesia care beyond traditional surgical settings.

By expanding nurse anesthesia education, the School of Nursing is actively addressing this workforce challenge and strengthening the future of anesthesia care in California.

"With the growing shortage of anesthesiologists and CRNAs across the nation, this program is poised to help bridge the gap by preparing highly skilled nurse anesthetists to serve diverse patient populations," said Dean Stephen Cavanagh.

Expansion supports learning and patient care

UC Davis Health is also meeting this need head-on by partnering with the School of Nursing through its expansion efforts. A key milestone in this expansion is the integration of the 48X Complex as part of the program's primary clinical training site.

Expected to open for patients in July, the four-story, 268,228-square-foot complex will feature 14 operating rooms. The large facility is ideal for presenting learning opportunities for CRNA students and addressing the shortage of ambulatory operating room capacity at the main hospital.

"This initiative will provide invaluable hands-on experience for future CRNAs while ensuring a steady pipeline of highly trained anesthesia providers within UC Davis Health, said Kimberly Beres, the chief nurse anesthetist for the health system. "We hope to retain many of the graduates which will help us reinforce our commitment to delivering safe, high-quality anesthesia services and shaping the future of health care excellence."

The DNP-NA program is the latest offering from the top 25, 15-year-old nursing school. The school already offers a popular DNP-Family Nurse Practitioner program which is helping to fulfill California's shortage of primary care providers, along with master's degrees in nursing, physician assistant studies, a Doctor of Philosophy program and a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner post-graduate certificate program.

A comprehensive and immersive learning experience

The DNP-NA program's curriculum is designed to provide an unparalleled educational experience through:

- State-of-the-art simulation training: Students will engage in high-fidelity simulation scenarios that replicate real-life clinical situations, ensuring they develop critical decision-making and technical skills in a controlled environment.
- Diverse clinical rotations: By partnering with other UC campuses, students will complete clinical rotations across a large academic health system, gaining exposure to a variety of anesthesia cases in different health care settings and varied patient populations.
- Mentorship and professional development: The program offers a robust mentorship initiative that pairs students with experienced CRNAs who work at places other than UC Davis Health. Additionally, faculty members provide guidance and professional support throughout the three-year program.
- Commitment to diversity and inclusion: The School of Nursing is dedicated to fostering an inclusive learning environment that values diverse perspectives and backgrounds, enriching the educational experience for all students and ensuring culturally competent anesthesia providers enter the workforce.

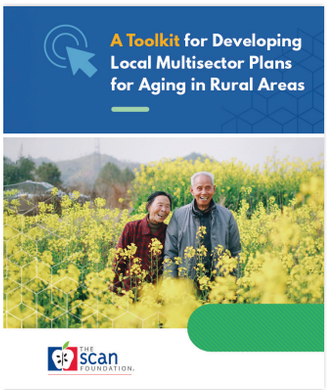
Program Director Jakkarin "Jake" Sareerak

"What truly sets us apart, however, is our commitment to creating a pipeline of highly competent anesthesia providers who will serve underserved communities, reduce health disparities and emerge as future leaders in the profession," Sareerak added.

"With the growing shortage of anesthesiologists and CRNAs across the nation, this program is poised to help bridge the gap by preparing highly skilled nurse anesthetists to serve diverse patient populations."

STEPHEN CAVANAGH, DEAN OF THE BETTY IRENE MOORE SCHOOL OF NURSING AT UC DAVIS

New toolkit helps rural communities *plan for aging together*



A comprehensive new toolkit will help rural communities across the U.S. improve quality of life, health outcomes and well-being of older adults, adults with disabilities and their caregivers.

The effort was led and funded by The SCAN Foundation with support from the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis. It assists rural communities in developing local Multisector Plans for Aging (MPA), a comprehensive strategy that addresses the needs and opportunities of an aging population.

The toolkit and corresponding webinar provide valuable resources to guide local leaders in addressing the unique needs of aging populations in rural areas.

"Older adults in rural communities face unique challenges when it comes to ensuring equitable, timely and accessible home and community care and supports," said Narda Ipakchi, M.B.A., vice president of policy at the foundation. "By listening to those with lived experience, we can develop local-based plans on aging that reflect what older adults living in rural areas say they need and build the supports necessary to ensure they are given the opportunity to age well, with purpose in their community."

To address this gap, The SCAN Foundation launched a Rural MPA Initiative, supporting three coalitions to develop local MPAs. For two years, regions shared with one another, facilitating progress in each region.

The SCAN Foundation funded Pauline DeLange Martinez, M.A., Ph.D., a researcher in the School of Nursing's Family Caregiving Institute, to serve as a bridge among the three regions, coordinating shared learning and advocacy opportunities. She said rural communities can really benefit from developing local, multisector plans for aging because they have a larger proportion of older adults and higher rates of disability.

"Residents in these areas experience greater financial insecurity, with racial and ethnic disparities further exacerbated by geographic inequities. Rural communities also rely more heavily on informal caregivers and face critical challenges such as inadequate transportation infrastructure and a persistent digital divide," DeLange Martinez explained. "Developing tailored, multisector plans for aging can address these disparities and enhance the quality of life for rural residents."

The goals of an MPA

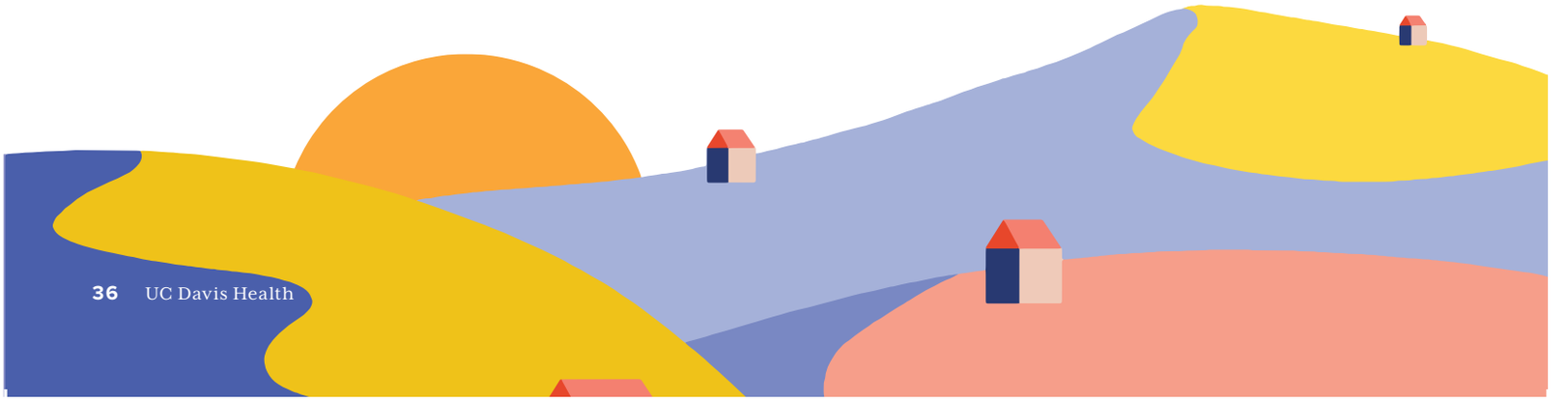
An MPA encourages collaboration across different sectors to fill gaps in services and infrastructure. These can include health care, transportation, housing and care coordination.

The California Master Plan for Aging launched in 2021, brought together state agencies, community leaders, and stakeholders to craft a 10-year blueprint promoting healthy aging. A key realization was that change also needs to happen locally. This new toolkit, which draws upon experiences from the master plan and initiative, is intended to help rural areas meet that challenge.

A new $200,000 grant from The SCAN Foundation in 2025 allows DeLange Martinez to continue her collaborative work and develop policy briefs. This work complements other initiatives in the Family Caregiving Institute, including collaborations with the California Department on Aging to evaluate and advance programs to support family caregivers.

"Rural communities also rely more heavily on informal caregivers and face critical challenges such as inadequate transportation infrastructure and a persistent digital divide."

PAULINE DELANGE MARTINEZ, SCHOOL OF NURSING RESEARCHER



Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing Alumni Updates

A GLOBAL GERONTOLOGY CENTER FOR NURSING SCIENCE

Associate Professor **Roschelle "Shelly" Fritz, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.**, hosted a two-day workshop at the School of Nursing in March with the goal of creating a global gerontology center for nursing science, where scholars from different countries can connect and share ideas faster than through traditional research publications. Fritz said the international center would give nurses working on futuristic care models a dedicated space to collaborate, support each other and advance research that benefits older adults worldwide. "We want the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, in which this global center will be housed, to be the hub of the organization. Then spokes will go out to different countries where others are working on health technology and nursing care models to position us for what it looks like in the future, especially for nurses," Fritz said in a web story. "In my opinion, nurses are going to be the health data brokers of the future." She received a $14,000 seed grant from UC Davis Global Affairs.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RECEIVES UC DAVIS CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

Associate Professor **Laura L. Van Auker, D.N.P., R.N., F.N.P.-B.C., S.N.-C.**, received the Chancellor's Award for International Engagement for outstanding global engagement in advancing the university's teaching, research and service missions. Her nominators shared that she leveraged 25 years of volunteer experience with the Health Education Africa Resource Team (HEART) to create transformative opportunities for UC Davis students and faculty to engage in primary care medical camps in rural Kenya, enhancing health care access and empowering communities through team-based care. Laura brings expertise in health care policy promoting the use of advanced practice registered nurses to improve community health and access, particularly for underserved, diverse and rural communities.

KEY MILESTONE FOR DNP-FNP STUDENTS

A May academic symposium was the first time the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis hosted a formal event where Doctor of Nursing Practice — Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP-FNP) program students presented the outcomes of their scholarly projects. Projects from the 21 graduating students involved designing, implementing and evaluating a quality improvement or practice change in a specific setting, such as a primary care clinic or community health setting.

UC DAVIS HEALTH MAGAZINE

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Increased capacity for outpatient surgeries at **our new 48X Complex**

UC Davis Health is hiring as we open our all new state-of-the-art outpatient surgery center July 1, 2025

The 268,000-sf 48X Complex facility near UC Davis Medical Center is one of the nation's largest outpatient surgical centers of its kind. Some highlights include:

- 14 digitally integrated, robotics- and future-ready surgical rooms
- Biplane CV imaging, photon-counting CT, high-throughput CT, 2-in-1 digital radiography & fluoroscopy, laser-supporting MRI
- 59 recovery bays, 14 extended-stay rooms, clinics, support services

With 48X coming on line, UC Davis Health has a variety of job openings throughout multiple departments. In addition to clinical and nursing roles, we are hiring non-clinical positions in fields such as administration, finance, food services and more. See opportunities at **health.ucdavis.edu/join-the-team**.

UC Davis Health is recognized by multiple outside observers as one of the best employers in California and in America. For examples of these honors, see p. 5 of this issue.