



# Year in Review

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# 2023



# A national model for training mission-driven physicians and scientists who are literally transforming lives



We are proud to share with you UC Davis School of Medicine's many trailblazing successes this year. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked us as the third-most diverse medical school in the country with top 10 rankings in primary care and family medicine. We also ranked in the top 15 for psychiatry and top 25 for public health.

For the second year in a row, UC Davis garnered more than \$1 billion in external research funding. Our medical school's extraordinary faculty scientists and research teams generated 40 percent of that total, with the School of Medicine achieving a new record-high \$401 million in external research in fiscal year 2022–23. The latest Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research ranking also placed UC Davis 32<sup>nd</sup> among the nation's leading medical schools for National Institutes of Health funding.

This year, we were again recognized for our national leadership in training physician leaders who reflect our diverse communities and are uniquely prepared and committed to meeting the needs of California's vulnerable populations.

Following the recent Supreme Court ruling banning affirmative action in college admissions, UC Davis School of Medicine received significant media coverage in the *New York Times*, CNN, *JAMA* and many other outlets about our national leadership in achieving student diversity with race-neutral, holistic admissions.

All of our Class of 2023 graduates who entered the Match Program matched to residencies, with 82% staying in California after graduating. We are delighted that 23% matched at UC Davis Health. Fifty-eight percent of our graduates went into primary care programs.

As you will see in this 2023 Year in Review, UC Davis School of Medicine continues its national leadership, innovation and growth in all our mission areas. Thank you for your partnership as we strive to deliver tomorrow's health care today through trailblazing therapies and technologies, educating a future-ready workforce, and driving excellence in all we do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Murin'.

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

Interim Dean, UC Davis School of Medicine  
Professor, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine



# UC Davis School of Medicine at a glance



UC Davis School of Medicine is the nation's

# 3<sup>rd</sup>

## most diverse medical school

2023–24 *U.S. News & World Report*



Our student body and faculty:

# 539

students



# 848

residents/fellows



# 1,160

faculty

External research funding:

Record-high of

# \$401 million

in fiscal year 2022–23

2023–24 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings:

# Top 10

in family medicine and primary care

# Top 15

for psychiatry

# Top 25

for public health

# Top 50

medical school for research

# Notable achievements

## Top 10 in the U.S. for diversity, primary care and family medicine

*U.S. News & World Report's* 2023–24 graduate school rankings placed UC Davis School of Medicine #3 in diversity and #5 in the nation for family medicine, jumping two spots.

The school also moved up to #7 nationally in primary care, #15 in psychiatry, and #22 in public health. It maintained a high ranking in research, coming in at 50<sup>th</sup> overall.



## UC Davis surpasses \$1 billion in research funding second year in a row

### UC Davis School of Medicine sets new record with \$401 million in external funding

UC Davis is a leading research institution entrusted by many federal and state granting agencies and industry partners to conduct impactful research and leading-edge discoveries. In fiscal year 2022–23, UC Davis achieved more than \$1 billion in external research funding. The School of Medicine garnered \$401 million, a new record in research funding.

“Once again, UC Davis has reached a milestone that few other national universities can claim,” said Chancellor Gary S. May. “These research awards not only advance our university initiatives, but they help shape a better tomorrow for Californians, Americans and the world by addressing some of society’s greatest challenges. Our research will

continue to shape a more sustainable and just future and improve the health of living beings.”

For the last three years, the School of Medicine has steadily increased its research funding through grants from industry partners as well as federal and state agencies.

“We are very grateful to all the funding agencies and industry partners who make groundbreaking medical and health research possible,” said Kim Barrett, vice dean for research and distinguished professor of physiology and membrane biology. “The record research funding garnered by our faculty will allow for new insights into fundamental biology, the development and testing of many potential therapies and a better understanding of the health challenges we’re facing post-pandemic.”



## School of Medicine achieves record NIH funding

The latest Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research ranking named UC Davis among the nation's top medical schools for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding — placing the school 32<sup>nd</sup> nationally.

The medical school broke its previous record for NIH research funding, with more than \$200 million in grants.

“Yet again, the UC Davis School of Medicine’s extraordinary research teams have achieved record high NIH funding and increased our school’s national ranking,” said Susan Murin, interim dean of the UC Davis School of Medicine.

“We are grateful to our pioneering researchers across all disciplines who are discovering pathways to new treatments and cures and helping us deliver tomorrow’s health care today.”

### School of Medicine departments in Top 20 for NIH funding:

- Cell Biology and Human Anatomy, 17<sup>th</sup>
- Dermatology, 14<sup>th</sup>
- Neurology, 11<sup>th</sup>
- Pharmacology, 20<sup>th</sup>
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, 16<sup>th</sup>
- Physiology and Membrane Biology, 14<sup>th</sup>
- Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, 15<sup>th</sup>
- Public Health Sciences, 6<sup>th</sup>
- Urologic Surgery, 10<sup>th</sup>



## UC Davis medical school receives national diversity award for second year

UC Davis School of Medicine was named among the nation's top institutions in higher education for its commitment to diversity and inclusion. The school has earned the honor for two years.

On Oct. 10, the magazine *INSIGHT Into Diversity* announced the school is among 62 institutions of higher education to receive the 2023 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award.

“A strong body of research supports that training future physicians who reflect the community’s diversity leads to better care and better health outcomes,” said Susan Murin, interim dean of the School of Medicine. “We are honored that *INSIGHT Into Diversity* has recognized our ongoing efforts as we work to achieve health equity.”



# Notable quotes

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“I’ve been treating Duchenne muscular dystrophy patients for 30 years. To now have a situation where we can offer transformational, lifesaving gene therapy to these patients to replace a defective gene is incredibly gratifying and rewarding. It’s been an inspiring journey to be on.”

**Craig McDonald**, Professor and Chair of the UC Davis School of Medicine Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

“I want to work with historically marginalized populations, that’s just my jam. I just I want to help people. I want to be like the people who once served me when I received care from Federally Qualified Health Centers. I think that’s my dream life.”

**Chelsea Nash**, UC Davis School of Medicine student

“A lot of our patients, when we see them in clinic, we’re only helping one at a time, and when you get involved in health policy, you’re helping like hundreds, if not thousands of patients all at once, by reducing some of those barriers they face.”

**Karina Morales**, UC Davis School of Medicine student

“We want to thank CIRM [California Institute for Regenerative Medicine] for their support of this program and our partner Shriners Children’s for making this important work possible. Their funding will help us achieve our goal of using stem cells before birth to improve the ability to walk and have bowel and bladder control in patients born with spina bifida.”

**Diana Farmer**, Chair and Distinguished Professor in the Department of Surgery, and principal investigator of the CuRe trial

“We are very grateful to all the funding agencies and industry partners who make groundbreaking medical and health research possible. The record research funding garnered by our faculty will allow for new insights into fundamental biology, the development and testing of many potential therapies and a better understanding of the health challenges we’re facing post-pandemic.”

**Kim E. Barrett**, Vice Dean for Research and Distinguished Professor of Physiology and Membrane Biology

# Philanthropy impact

- Our generous donors provided more than **\$1.8 million** in scholarship funding in fiscal year 2022–23.
- As of fiscal year 2022–23, we raised nearly **96% (\$409 million)** of our \$426.5 million Expect Greater campaign goal that concludes on June 30, 2024.
- Thanks to the support of our generous donors, we raised more than **\$42 million** in fiscal year 2022–23 for student scholarships and aid, research endowments, educational programs, and more.



## Medical student is on a mission to bring healing to marginalized populations



**Chelsea Nash once thought Black people couldn't be doctors — now she's set on becoming one**

Chelsea Renee Geraldine Nash watched helplessly as her mom agonized in an East Bay emergency room.

Nash, about 9 years old, was well aware of her mom's painful, lingering health conditions and disliked how doctors were reacting. "One physician after another came in and they were basically saying, 'there's nothing wrong with you,'" Nash recalled. "Then they said to my mother, 'if you don't leave, we'll have you escorted out.'"

But the experience was so impactful that it became a catalyst for Nash's career choice: She is now a third-year student at the UC Davis School of Medicine.

"I would love to be able to help people like my mother who was hurt and who has pain that often goes unnoticed or dismissed," Nash said. "I want to be the kind of doctor who will say, 'hey, I know your pain is valid and I'm going to give you the best care possible, even if your condition isn't detected in the lab results.'"

Nash belongs to the medical school's TEACH-MS pathway, an acronym for Transforming Education and Community Health for Medical Students. It's a program that prepares a select group of students to fill the shortage of doctors in urban, under-resourced settings like the Oakland neighborhood she grew up in.

"I want to work with historically marginalized populations, that's just my jam," Nash said. "I just I want to help people. I want to be like the people who once served me when I received care from Federally Qualified Health Centers. I think that's my dream life."



## A national model for achieving education equity

### Colleges nationwide turn to UC Davis for proven ways to increase share of students underrepresented in medicine

Colleges and universities seeking to achieve health and education equity without using affirmative action can turn to the UC Davis School of Medicine for best practices, according to an August article published in *JAMA* online.

The August 14, 2023 "Viewpoint" article recaps how and why the school over nearly two decades has significantly boosted enrollment of students historically underrepresented in medical education. The article was authored by School of Medicine faculty members Mark Henderson, associate dean for admissions; Tonya Fancher, associate dean for workforce innovation and education quality improvement; and Susan Murin, the interim dean.

The article, "Holistic Admissions at UC Davis — Journey Toward Equity," was written after the U.S. Supreme Court barred higher education institutions from admitting students based on race. Although California voters passed Proposition 209, banning race-conscious admissions in 1996, the school has stood out as one of few institutions that has steadily increased enrollment of Black, Latino and Native American students.

Over the past 15 years, the article states, UC Davis School of Medicine "has tripled enrollment of these students by developing an admissions model that prioritizes state workforce needs and attention to the mission fit, lived experience, and socioeconomic background of each applicant."

# Future physician leaders with a passion for making an impact

## School of Medicine prepares students to advocate for patients



*Second-year medical students Lucas Johnson, Cynthia Sun and Karina Morales shadowed Assemblyman Kevin McCarty.*

A small group of UC Davis medical students got an inside view of how legislation is created in California's Capitol last summer when they enrolled in a new course on health policy and advocacy as part of the medical school's I-RESTORE pre-clerkship program. The course is one of the many options students can choose from in the required summer curriculum.

The summer program lasts four weeks. A second, related course also started at the same time but lasts all four years of medical school as part of the new I-EXPLORE curriculum. It's called "Area of Scholarly Concentration on Health Policy and Advocacy." A highlight of the program is when students shadow lawmakers and learn about the state's most pressing health issues.

"A lot of our patients, when we see them in clinic, we're only helping one at a time, and when you get involved in health policy, you're helping like hundreds, if not thousands of patients all at once, by reducing some of those barriers they face," said UC Davis School of Medicine student Karina Morales.

The new offerings were added to the curriculum to help students fortify their deep desire to learn more about how policy and advocacy can benefit the underserved patients they expect to care for as doctors.

"I hope students gain a deeper understanding of the legislative process and the various ways they can engage in advocacy," said Juliana Melo, a UC Davis Health obstetrician and gynecologist who created the courses.

The course is offered specifically for students on their two-month break between the first and second year of medical school.



## UC Davis medical student receives prestigious AAMC scholarship

Andrés Maldonado, a third-year UC Davis medical student, was selected by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) as one of the 2023 Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholarship recipients. Maldonado was selected based on his exceptional academic accomplishments at UC Davis School of Medicine, his demonstrated leadership, and dedication to addressing health care and education inequities among underserved populations.

This highly competitive and prestigious scholarship is given to outstanding students entering their third year of medical school who have shown leadership in efforts to eliminate inequities in medical education and health care. Awardees also demonstrated leadership in addressing the educational, societal, and health care needs of underrepresented individuals.

### Incoming Class of 2027 at a glance:

- **137** students
- **58%** are women
- **43%** identify themselves with groups that are underrepresented in medicine
- **39%** are first-generation college students



### 2023 Match Day highlights:

- Graduates matched in programs across 14 states
- 82% of graduates will stay in California and 23% matched into residencies at UC Davis Health
- 58% of graduates matched into primary care residencies



# Snapshots: Caring for our community

## Digital pilot program provides opioid overdose surveillance for local counties

### SMART Cumulus project allows for easy, fast data exchange between health care and public health sites

UC Davis Health has partnered with the CDC Foundation and Boston Children's Hospital on a pilot program called SMART Cumulus. The digital platform allows health care and research institutions to more easily exchange data with public health sites.

For the first application of the program, the organizations have created an opioid overdose surveillance dashboard for Sacramento County Public Health and the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency. The dashboard will allow public health officials to track opioid overdoses across the counties.



## Cancer center researcher awarded grant to study lethal cancers in firefighters

### California climate action grant funds study of carcinogens in smoke and how to prevent cancer risks

UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center researcher and professor of Public Health Sciences Shehnaz K. Hussain has received a \$1.9 million California climate action grant to lead a study of the cancer risks facing firefighters as they battle climate-driven wildfires. Cancer is the leading cause of death among firefighters.

The grant is funded through a partnership between the University of California and the state of California, which awarded over \$80 million in research grants to help put solutions in place that directly address state climate priorities. A total of four UC Davis climate action grants were awarded.

## UC Davis Health brings in-home urgent care to Sacramento

UC Davis Health is now delivering in-home urgent medical care for adult patients who need it most. The health system is collaborating with DispatchHealth, the nation's first comprehensive in-home medical care provider, on the new program. It will provide patients same-day, in-home medical care. The program is designed to improve access to care, deliver a better patient experience, cut down on unnecessary emergency department visits and reduce hospital readmissions.

"UC Davis Health is proud to be the first health care system in Northern California to offer our patients and the community this exciting program which literally brings back house calls for health care," said David Lubarsky, vice chancellor of human health sciences and CEO of UC Davis Health.

# Groundbreaking discoveries – Research partnerships drive health care

## **UC DAVIS FIRST IN THE STATE TO OFFER LIFE-CHANGING THERAPY FOR DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY**

### **Newly approved gene therapy treatment looks promising for halting progression of genetic disorder**

On August 4, the pediatric infusion room at UC Davis Medical Center was abuzz. A 5-year-old boy named Andrew Rodriguez was lying on a bed surrounded by family while receiving an infusion of the first-ever gene therapy for treating Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) for pediatric patients.

Andrew made history that day as the first child in California to receive the groundbreaking, potentially lifesaving infusion treatment that was only recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He was the fourth child in the nation to receive the treatment outside clinical trials.

FDA drug approval of Elevidys was the first approved gene therapy for

DMD, the most common childhood muscle disease. UC Davis contributed to the therapy's FDA approval by being one of the highest enrolling clinical trial sites and providing an exceptional clinical trial experience to patients and their families.

"The typical patient of DMD will progressively develop difficulty getting up off the floor, difficulty sitting up on a chair, lose the ability to jump and eventually walking," explained Craig McDonald, professor and chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. "The treatment seems to stabilize or halt the progression of the disease in follow-up observations. Kids who would normally be in wheelchairs by that point are jumping and running; they're practically indistinguishable from their non-DMD peers."

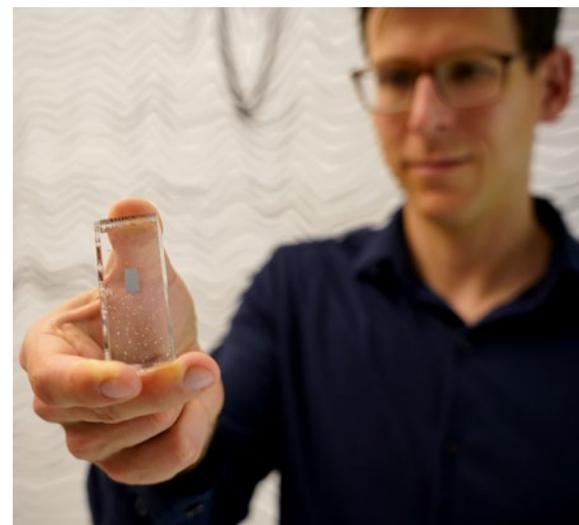
## **NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY RESEARCHER SERGEY STAVISKY AND TEAM AWARDED \$3.5 MILLION IN GRANTS**

### **Grants support transformational brain research that seeks to restore speech of people with ALS**

UC Davis School of Medicine neuroscientist and neuroengineer Sergey Stavisky received two prestigious awards totaling \$3.5 million. The grants will fund research that seeks to restore the speech of stroke survivors and people with ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The first award is \$2.7 million from the U.S. Department of Defense's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Stavisky is also a recipient of the inaugural Pershing Square Foundation MIND Prize (Maximizing Innovation in Neuroscience Discovery) — a \$750,000 award. The three-year grant will fund Stavisky's groundbreaking work in developing new devices that can shed light on the workings of the human brain.



*Sergey Stavisky holds a Neuropixels probe, which is used to record brain activity.*

"The Department of Defense grant allows us to put into practice the new techniques we've been developing for decoding what a person is trying to say directly from their brain activity, even if they're paralyzed," said Stavisky. "Meanwhile, the MIND Prize will help us develop the next generation of tools for understanding — and someday restoring — more complex cognitive functions that are lost due to neurodegenerative diseases."

Stavisky is co-director of the UC Davis Neuroprosthetics Lab with Assistant Professor David Brandman.



*The Rodriguez family and Craig McDonald on Andrew's infusion day at UC Davis Medical Center.*

# breakthroughs

Left to right, Yu-Jui Yvonne Wan, senior author, and Ying Hu, first author of a new study looking at the efficacy of MicroRNA-22 gene therapy for liver cancer.



### **MIND INSTITUTE GETS \$4.7 MILLION NIMH GRANT TO TEST AUTISM INTERVENTION IN COMMUNITY**

**Funding will be used to test ‘Early Start Denver Model’ in agencies**

Researchers in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and the UC Davis MIND Institute have received a \$4.7 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health to study a child-focused autism intervention in community agencies. The Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) is a comprehensive intervention for autistic children ages 1–4. It addresses all areas of development and emphasizes communication and social interaction through everyday activities.

ESDM was tested in research studies at the MIND Institute and shown to improve communication skills and daily living skills. The new grant will allow MIND Institute experts to train behavior analysts in community agencies to use the model, to see if it is effective on a larger scale.

“This is very exciting,” said Aubyn Stahmer, the principal investigator of the study. Stahmer is also the director of the MIND Institute’s Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. “Our goal is to make sure children and families are getting the most up-to-date interventions and this is a key step toward that.”

### **SOFTWARE DEVELOPED AT UC DAVIS ANALYZES CALCIUM ‘SPARKS’ THAT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ARRHYTHMIA**

**SparkMaster 2 will allow biomedical researchers to analyze normal and abnormal calcium activity in human cells**

A team of UC Davis and University of Oxford researchers have developed an innovative tool: SparkMaster 2.

The open-source software allows scientists to analyze normal and abnormal calcium signals in cells automatically.

Calcium is a key signaling molecule in all cells, including muscles like the heart. The new software enables the automatic analysis of distinct patterns of calcium release in cells.

Jakub Tomek, the first author of the research article, is a Sir Henry Wellcome Fellow in the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics at the University of Oxford. He spent his fellowship year at UC Davis, working with Distinguished Professor Donald M. Bers.

Problems with how and when calcium is released by cells can have an impact on a range of diseases, including arrhythmia and hypertension. To understand the mechanisms behind these diseases, researchers use fluorescent calcium indicators and microscopic imaging that can measure the calcium changes at the cellular level.

The new tool builds upon the success of SparkMaster, which was released in 2007 by Bers and Eckard Picht.

### **GENE THERAPY STUDY IDENTIFIES POTENTIAL NEW TREATMENT FOR LIVER CANCER**

**MicroRNA-22 produced better survival outcomes than current FDA-approved drug in mouse study**

A UC Davis study indicates gene therapy that induces the body to create microRNA-22 (miR-22), a naturally occurring molecule, successfully treated mice with hepatocellular carcinoma, the most common form of liver cancer.

The miR-22 treatment also reduced liver inflammation and produced better survival outcomes with no observable toxicity compared to the FDA-approved liver cancer treatment lenvatinib, according to the findings of a new study from

the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center published in *Molecular Therapy*.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICINE RENEWS PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE APPLIED RESEARCH NETWORK GRANT**

UC Davis Health’s Department of Emergency Medicine recently renewed its four-year, \$2.8 million grant with the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN).

PECARN is the nation’s first federally funded pediatric emergency care research network dedicated to preventing and managing acute illnesses and injuries in children. UC Davis Health has been involved in the 18-hospital research network since its founding in 2001.

Nathan Kuppermann, Bo Tomas Brofeldt Endowed Chair of Emergency Medicine, is a founding principal investigator of the network.

With the grant renewal, UC Davis Health will continue to participate in the PRIME (pediatric research in injuries and medical emergencies) research “node” of PECARN along with Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Children’s Hospital of Salt Lake City and EMS affiliate Sacramento Fire Department.

The network has garnered more than \$150 million in extramural grants and published more than 200 articles.



Aubyn Stahmer, autism intervention grant principal investigator, with an infant at the UC Davis MIND Institute.

# Our groundbreaking faculty

## Andreas Bäumlér elected to National Academy of Sciences



**Andreas Bäumlér**, vice chair of research and distinguished professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, was elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences on

May 2, 2023. Members are elected in recognition of their contributions to original research. Membership in the academy is considered one of the highest honors a scientist can achieve.

Bäumlér is a highly cited author of more than 200 papers. His groundbreaking research has focused on the role of intestinal epithelium in the composition of gut microbiota and its effects in infectious and inflammatory diseases.

## Jan Nolta awarded ISCT career achievement award



**Jan Nolta**, director of the Stem Cell Program at UC Davis School of Medicine and director of the UC Davis Institute for Regenerative Cures, was awarded the 2023 International Society for Cell and Gene Therapy (ISCT)

Career Achievement Award at the society's annual meeting in Paris. The award is the society's highest honor and recognizes exceptional contributions and achievements within the cell and gene therapy field.

Nolta is a professor in the Departments of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy and Internal Medicine and is a prolific scientist with more than three decades of experience in human stem cells, gene therapy and clinical trial development. She has published more than 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts in the stem cell field and has been editor-in-chief of the journal *Stem Cells* since 2013.

## Diana Farmer appointed to a leadership role with the National Academy of Medicine



**Diana Farmer**, distinguished professor and chair of the Department of Surgery, has been appointed to a prestigious leadership position within the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). She is the first UC Davis Health faculty member to be assigned to a leadership position with the academy. Farmer was appointed to the NAM membership committee and will also serve as the Vice Chair of Section 6, encompassing surgery, anesthesiology, ophthalmology, and radiology. Farmer's two-year term began July 1, 2023.

## Julie Sutcliffe honored by the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging

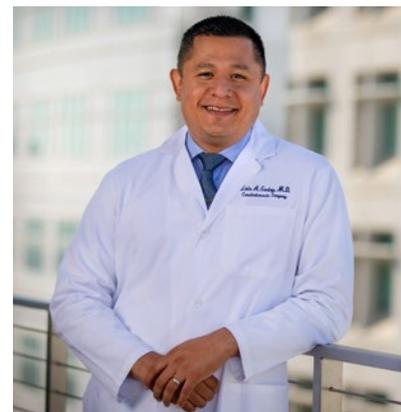
UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center researcher Julie Sutcliffe received the 2023 Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) Henry N. Wagner, Jr., Image of the Year award for her leading edge "theranostics" Phase I clinical trial in patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer.



The SNMMI award recognizes the most promising advances in the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. Sutcliffe also received a \$500,000 grant from the 2023 Mars Shot Fund in recognition of the transformative impact of her research. Sutcliffe is a professor of internal medicine and biomedical engineering at UC Davis, director of the cyclotron and radiochemistry facility at the UC Davis Center for Molecular and Genomic Imaging, and co-director of the center. She is a SNMMI fellow and a fellow of the World Molecular Imaging Society and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

## Luis Armando Godoy awarded AAMC Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship

UC Davis School of Medicine thoracic surgeon Luis Armando Godoy was awarded the prestigious 2023 Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship. He received the national recognition in November at the AAMC annual conference in Seattle.



Continued on next page...

The award recognizes his distinguished leadership in fighting inequities in medical practice and education.

Godoy overcame many adversities in his inspiring path to medicine. An immigrant from a small Mexican village, he went from a farmworker picking stone fruit alongside his parents to working as an assistant professor at the UC Davis School of Medicine. His experiences helped shape his desire to fight inequities and promote diversity in medicine.

## Craig McDonald receives 2023 Top Ten Clinical Research Achievement Award



Chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation **Craig McDonald** and his team received a 2023 Top Ten Clinical Research Achievement Award for McDonald's groundbreaking work developing a stem cell therapy to treat the most severe patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). McDonald is the national principal investigator leading HOPE-2, a multicenter double-blind randomized trial. McDonald's award-winning paper on the HOPE-2 trial was published in *The Lancet*. The Top Ten Clinical Research Achievement Award honors groundbreaking achievements in clinical research from across the U.S.

## Tiffani Johnson elected president of the Academic Pediatric Association



**Tiffani Johnson**, associate professor of emergency medicine, has been elected president of the Academic Pediatric Association (APA). She began her three-year term on April 30.

Johnson serves as a national mentor for the APA Young Investigator Award and New Century Scholars programs. She also co-chairs the APA Race in Medicine Special Interest Group, which seeks to bring awareness to the role of race in the practice of medicine and to provide resources so members can support the healthy development and optimal care of youth.



## Katren Tyler receives career achievement award from Academy of Geriatric Emergency Medicine

Emergency medicine clinical professor **Katren Tyler** was awarded the 2023 Academy of Geriatric Emergency Medicine (AGEM) Education Career Achievement Award. Tyler is the vice chair for geriatric emergency medicine and wellness at UC Davis Health. She was recognized by AGEM for her career achievements in advancing geriatric emergency medicine education through design and dissemination of training strategies, materials and standards for providers from several disciplines.

## Donald Bers receives prestigious mentoring award



Distinguished Professor **Donald M. Bers** is the recipient of this year's Eric N. Olson Mentorship Award from the International Society for Heart Research North American Section. Bers is chair of the Department of Pharmacology and the Joseph Silva Endowed Chair for Cardiovascular Research.

The distinguished award recognizes heart research investigators who are dedicated to mentorship and support for trainees and young scientists.

## Scott Fishman appointed to NIH committee on pain treatment research

**Scott Fishman**, top pain expert and Charles & Patricia Fullerton Endowed Chair in Pain Medicine, was selected by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra to serve on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee (IPRCC).

Fishman is a professor of anesthesiology, executive vice chair for the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, director of the UC Davis Center for Advancing Pain Relief, and executive director of the Office of Wellness Education. The IPRCC was created to enhance pain research efforts and promote collaboration across the government.





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