

RESURG

Research Experience in SURGery

MISSION STATEMENT

Our vision is to promote, develop, and train students to become competent research professionals, while mentoring them in their professional and educational goals.

Visit Our Website:

<http://health.ucdavis.edu/surgery/resurg.html>

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Email Us: hs-resurg@ucdavis.edu

CURRENT PROJECTS

The Role of GAS6/AXL Expression in Malignant Melanoma and GI Cancers

Research Classification: *Prospective Observational*

Principal Investigator: *Amanda Kirane, MD & Sepideh Gholami, MD (co-PI)*

Research Assistants: *Kritika Sharma (lead)*

Anticipated Enrollment #: 200

The goal of this study is to assess the expression of the protein Ax1 as a clinical correlate of prognosis and response to therapy in malignant melanoma. We also aim to evaluate another protein, Gas6, as a serum marker of disease stage and response to therapy in multiple organ tumors, including gastrointestinal tumors. This study aims to assess the expression of these two proteins as serum biomarkers that reliably predict response to immunologic therapies in patients with melanoma. We hope to use the results of this study as a basis for future therapeutics and as a potential biomarker of response to immunotherapies.

COVID-19 Mortality Among Obese and Morbidly Obese Patients

Research Classification: *Retrospective*

Principal Investigator: *Shushmita Ahmed, MD*

Research Assistants: *Kevin Ly (lead), Amber Solt*

Anticipated Enrollment #: 400

The aim of this study is to determine the effect body mass index (BMI) has on mortality and other critical-care outcomes in patients with COVID-19. Evaluating connections between morbidity and readmission / prolonged symptoms is done as well.

Patient Engagement to Manage Lower Extremity Wounds

Research Classification: *Prospective Observational*

Principal Investigator: *Misty Humphries, MD*

Research Assistants: *Ashley Truong (lead), Angela Aguirre, Andrea Sommer, Ryan Nguyen, Taylor Silva, Rafael Ricon, Elias Jbeily, Kritika Sharma, Amanda Aquilio, Naomi Cinque, Kevin Ly*

Anticipated Enrollment #: 75

The aim of the study is to determine how patient activation affects outcomes for patients with lower extremity vascular disease. The project is currently screening and enrolling patients for this study.

How Does Obesity Affect Outcomes After Bariatric Surgery

Research Classification: *Retrospective*

Principal Investigator: *Victoria Lyo, MD*

Research Assistants: *Alexis Chirco (lead)*

Anticipated Enrollment #: 300

The aim of this study is to compare the clinical outcomes of obese and non-obese patients with intestinal disease as well as the associated medical costs of treatment. This study also looks at the prevalence of developing new intestinal disease following bariatric surgery.



PHYSICIAN Q&A

Meet **Dr. Shushmita Ahmed!** Dr. Ahmed is a Foregut, Bariatric and General Surgeon at UC Davis Medical Center. RESURG is currently working with Dr. Ahmed on a research study. We were able to ask Dr. Ahmed a few questions about her career, the research she is currently working on, and what it is like to have RESURG assist her with her research.

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career.

A: I grew up in California and I went to undergrad at UC Irvine where I studied molecular biology and biochemistry. I went to Stanford for medical school and my general surgical residency training, and I completed my minimally invasive surgery fellowship at UC Davis. I am now a foregut, bariatric and general surgeon.

Q: What is a project that RESURG has assisted you on and can you explain the purpose of your study?

A: The project that RESURG has helped me with is looking at the effects of obesity on outcomes in patients who have COVID-19. We are primarily looking at mortality but are also studying morbidity, such as readmission and prolonged symptoms in patients with and without obesity.

Q: What has been your favorite part about having RESURG work with you on your studies?

A: The research assistants are always willing to help, and their flexibility has been really great. They've been very eager to learn and they're great at taking feedback. As a result, they do a good job. They are dependable and responsible, and I have really enjoyed that.

Q: What do you have to say about RESURG overall as a program?

A: I think it's a great program for the students that are involved as well as the faculty that need assistance. I feel really grateful that this program exists because I couldn't have done this project on my own. They also paired me with a really great research assistant that I am thankful for. I am very much in support of the program and their process. Because of how much they have helped me, I want to know how else I can help mentor these research assistants. I feel like we have developed a relationship and I have become more invested in trying to help them with their interests and education as well. I think it's a great collaboration and a great program.

HOW IS RESURG CURRENTLY DOING?

Physicians RESURG is Currently Assisting: 15

RESURG RAs Assisting on Research Studies: 16

Research Studies RESURG is Assisting on: 22

Divisions RESURG Currently Supports: *Vascular, Oncology, Pediatrics, Plastics, Trauma, Cardiothoracic, and Foregut, Metabolic and General Surgery*

NEW STUDIES FROM THIS QUARTER:

- **FireArm Safety Study**
 - Principal Investigator: *Edgardo Salcedo, M.D*
- **Assessing Role of Imaging Sharing Prior to Vascular Surgery E-Consults**
 - Principal Investigator: *Misty Humphries, M.D*
- **Adherence to Best Practice Guidelines for Palliative Care in Trauma and Acute Care Surgery ICU Patients**
 - Principal Investigator: *Misty Humphries, M.D*
- **Prevalence and Associations of Methamphetamine Use in Patients Admitted to Surgical Services**
 - Principal Investigator: *Kathleen Romanowski, M.D*

RESEARCH STUDY SPOTLIGHT

Prevalence and Associations of Methamphetamine Use in Patients Admitted to Surgical Services

Research Classification: *Retrospective*

Principal Investigator: *Kathleen Romanowski, M.D*

Research Assistants: Elias Jbeily, Taylor Silva, Ryan Nguyen

Why Study This?

The hope of this study is that it will lead to a better understanding of the prevalence of methamphetamine use in patients who are admitted into the surgical services and additionally find patterns in the data that we record to further better care.

FEATURED RA



“Hi, my name is Taylor Silva, and I am a research assistant in RESURG. I am currently working on a study called “Prevalence and Associations of Methamphetamine Use in Patients Admitted to Surgical Service”. I am lucky to work alongside Elias Jbeily and Ryan Nguyen who are fellow research assistants and together we work under our PI who is Dr. Romanowski. Our study is a retrospective study, meaning we look at patient charts of individuals who have been admitted to both Trauma and Burn services within the time frame of 2015-2019. Overall, the purpose of this study is to analyze the prevalence and associations, such as mechanism of injury, cost of care, cardiovascular parameters, specifically of amphetamine use in the patients admitted to the surgical service during that specific time frame mentioned before of 2015-2019. Through this study I personally have learned how to navigate patient charts and manage a large quantity of data.” – **Taylor Silva**

HAVE A STUDY YOU NEED HELP WITH?

Request Assistance [HERE](#). To learn more about our program visit our website [HERE](#).