Greetings from UCSF Fresno Family Medicine!

2011 is here, and with it comes the promise of an exciting future for UCSF Fresno Family Medicine. We just recently completed interviews for the class of 2014! Special Thanks to Drs. Arlin Venturina and Alex Moir as well as Lois Ceja and all our residents for putting together a smooth process and help us better prepare residents for the real world of family medicine. Any suggestions? Let us know!

Please e-mail Donna McBrien, Program Manager at dmcbrien@fresno.ucsf.edu to update your contact information and if you know the addresses of any other alumni please let us know so we can contact them as well.

New HIV Fellowship

Thanks to funding from the Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center (PAETC) Minority AIDS Initiative, UCSF Fresno Family and Community Medicine has started a new 1-year HIV Fellowship. This year’s goal of the PAETC is training the first South East Asian (Hmong) HIV Specialist in the Central Valley. Dr. Hugh Yang is our first fellow because of his commitment to work with communities of color in the Central Valley. All people of color and not just the South East Asian community will benefit from his training. As new faculty with UCSF Fresno Family & Community Medicine, Dr. Yang also has clinical responsibilities including mentoring residents. He works at the Family Health Center located at the Deran Koligian Ambulatory Care Center in Fresno.

The goal of having the fellowship in UCSF Fresno Family and Community Medicine is to create a method that will allow Family Medicine physicians to become HIV specialists. Currently, an HIV specialist title is based on the “HIV specialist credential” recently created by the American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM). Several of our UCSF Fresno faculty have received the HIV Specialist credential established by the AAHIVM. This fellowship will provide Dr. Yang with the necessary training required to become a credentialed provider and serve the specialized needs of central valley residents infected with the HIV virus. A comprehensive program designed to broaden skills in antiretroviral management, opportunistic infections, and co-morbidities associated with HIV are among the many skills Dr. Yang will acquire during his training.

Program Director’s Corner:
Ivan Gomez, MD

Dr. Hugh Yang, 1st HIV Fellow

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University of California
San Francisco
School of Medicine
Fresno Medical Education Program
Faculty and Staff Updates

Sarath Suon, Schedule Coordinator

Sarath came aboard full time with Family Medicine in June, 2010. Previously, she worked in the UCSF Fresno Pediatrics Healthy Steps program. She is responsible for building and maintaining clinic schedules for CMC Family Health Center, Clinica Sierra Vista (CSV) Health Center and Adventist Health Community Care Selma. Sarath knows where faculty and residents are including: vacation, post call, in clinic or on an elective rotation. We are fortunate to have Sarath full time with Family Medicine!

Welcome new Faculty Member, Jennifer Gopeng, MD!

Dr. Gopeng is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Family & Community Medicine. She received her Bachelor’s of Science from University of Santo Thomas in the Philippines and her Medical Degree from St. Luke’s College of Medicine in the Philippines. She then received her ASN degree from Excelsior College in New York and a Master Degree in Public Health from California State University, Northridge. Dr. Gopeng completed her Family Medicine Residency from Natividad Medical Center in Salinas, CA and her Fellowship as a Hospitalist from UCSF Fresno in Fresno, CA. We are fortunate to have someone as skilled as Dr. Gopeng precepting, teaching, evaluating, and educating our residents and medical students at CRMC Family Health Center and other sites.

Susan Jensen, Residency Coordinator

After 28 years of service as Assistant Director of Housing Services with the Housing Authority of the City & County of Fresno and eager for new challenges Susan Jensen made a move into Health Care. Throughout her career with affordable housing she served on several housing industry committees and boards. Susan has also provided volunteer services for Rape Counseling Services, supported local Boys & Girls Clubs and served as past President of the League of Mexican American Women. Prior to coming to UCSF Fresno she worked as an Office Manager for a Neurology Medical Center. Susan’s primary responsibility as the Residency Coordinator is to keep track of all resident information and requirements related to the successful completion of their residency program. Susan is very social, enjoys people and said “It has been a refreshing pleasure to work with everyone in Family Medicine, especially our residents.”

Family Medicine Accreditation

The Residency Program was recently notified by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) that we received another three years of full accreditation. Results of our site visit, which occurred on March 23, 2010, were discussed at the Residency Review Committee meeting last September.

Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to accomplish this.
THE SCOPE

Spotlight on Fellowships

Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship

UCSF Fresno Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program is currently accepting applications for one fellowship position to begin on or around July 1, 2011. This is a one year fellowship offering experience in delivering comprehensive medical and psychological care to patients with advanced, progressive, life-threatening illness with the goal of preventing and alleviating suffering and maximizing quality of life. The fellowship is fully accredited and exists in conjunction with the Family Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Michael Nisco, Program Director, and Dr. Neelu Mehra, Associate Program Director, both board certified in palliative care, oversee the fellow’s didactic and clinical education. If interested, please contact Donna McBrien (dmcbrien@fresno.ucsf.edu).

UCSF Fresno’s Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) Fellowship was accredited by ACGME last March, 2010. Our first full-time fellow, Dr. Khurram Khan, works in conjunction with the Palliative Care consult team established in 2009 at Community Regional Medical Center (CRMC). Drs. Neelu Mehra, Arlin Venturina and Ashkan Imanzahrai address the physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of patients and their families as well as offer assistance in medical decision making to patients at CRMC. While the consult service was projected to provide 200 consults in the first year, 600 have been provided in 12 months.

The Consult service and fellowship program have been so successful that the program is expanding to include a 2nd fellow. In addition to CRMC, HPM fellows will be working with the already developed palliative team in outpatient and inpatient settings at Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Fresno. Drs. Ivy Darden and Lisa Lambreth, both board certified in palliative care, will be providing supervision at the VA Hospital.

New Palliative Care Fellow
Khurram Khan, MD

Dr. Khan is this year’s and our second Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellow in Family and Community Medicine. Dr. Khan received his undergraduate degree from Adamjee Sciences College, in Karachi, Pakistan. He attended medical school at Dow University of Health Sciences also in Karachi, Pakistan and he completed his residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Boston, Maryland.

Dr. Khan stated “there is always a need to focus on issues such as communication skills, psychological assessments and care, family dynamics, medical ethics, bereavement care and cross-cultural issues while taking care of each and every patient. I would like to be equipped with research principles and knowledge of evidence-based medicine to continue life-long learning and to contribute to the field of Palliative Medicine.”
Hello everyone! I just wanted to say hello and let you know that I am alive and well here in Ventura. As of Jan. 2011 I’ve started a new job at Magnolia Clinic in Oxnard, which is a county clinic that serves mostly low income patients and farm workers in the area. It’s not the “raisin capital” or anything but perhaps the next best thing. To the residents: I hope you’re doing well, keeping your stamina up for your rotations and keeping your eyes on the prize (graduating and taking care of your communities). To the faculty: I miss working with you guys and the day to day “familia” at Selma and UCSF Fresno. Keep up the important work of training the “best and brightest” family docs of tomorrow. All of my best wishes to everyone and thanks for all of the support and friendship throughout the years!

Abrazos!

—Doctora Sorlie-Aguilar

New Publication

When Language, Health Literacy, and Miscommunication Collide: Tremors Versus Seizures
Victoria Sorlie, MD; Rebeca A. Lopez, MPH
(Fam Med 2011;43(1):48-50.)

If 77-year old Guadalupe has never had a seizure in her life, why has she just been discharged from the hospital after a seizure medication overdose? This commentary retraces the steps of an elderly Spanish-speaking patient through clinical encounters and the chain of events that led to her hospitalization. Language barriers, limited health literacy and fragmented primary care made communicating symptoms and medication instructions difficult, culminating in this patient’s super-therapeutic doses of medication and subsequent hospitalization. Guadalupe’s experience should compel providers to examine the value of effective communication in patient care, both in medical education and practice.

The 3rd Annual “Hospice and Palliative Care in the Global Community, September (22) 23-25, 2010

This three-day conference was held in the UCSF, Fresno Medical Education & Research Center’s auditorium. It was co-sponsored by Community Medical Centers and Hinds Hospice of Fresno, California. The agenda included over 15 speakers from all over the world discussing a variety of end-of-life issues.

A special pre-conference day was held on September 22 specifically for international attendees. They had the opportunity to experience hands-on hospice care courtesy of Hinds Hospice and the Palliative Care Fellowship in UCSF Fresno Family and Community Medicine.
Ronald Dominguez, MD

"Half of the academic year is already over, which means Match Day is near. We interviewed a record number of applicants this year and hope to have a great group of interns join our program. A big thanks to our current residents for their hard work and dedication to the program."

Ignacio Guzman, MD

We have all invested tons of energy in order to reach this level of medical training. When we are feeling stressed and fatigued, let’s look forward and visualize the great physicians we are becoming!!!! Everyone’s hard work and dedication has been noticed. Thanks to all.

Where are they now?
2010 Family Medicine Graduates

Kanwar Gill, MD
Opened an urgent care in North West Fresno, CA

Jay Hariharan, MD
Sports Medicine Fellowship at the University of Washington in Spokane, WA

Deepika Jannapureddy, MD
Community Medical Providers Fresno, CA

Saira Khan, MD
Private practice in Tracy, CA

Teowdros Kidane, MD
Kaiser Permanente in Fresno, CA

Ila Naeni, MD
Clinica Sierra Vista in Fresno, CA

Thuy Nguyen, MD
San Diego Hospice and the Institute of Palliative Medicine Fellowship at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego, CA

Geeta Ramesh, MD
Clinica Sierra Vista in Fresno, CA

Rinku Shrivastava, MD
Mills-Peninsula Medical Group in Burlingame, CA

Michael Wilson, MD
Adventist Community Care in Selma, CA
California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) tailgate Potluck Party and Football Game on Saturday, November 15, 2010

This year, Family Medicine held a tailgate potluck and football game party at CSU, Fresno (Fresno State) in front of the NCAA National Champions Diamond Dogs Baseball Stadium. Fresno State Bulldogs played the nationally ranked Nevada Wolf Pack that evening. Dr. Ayala lost a bet and “volunteered” to barbeque for everyone. He made the most amazing steak, chicken, shrimp skewers, sausage, lamb and his famous homemade barbeque sauce. All participants were able to eat some amazing food. Guys from Texas really know how to barbeque. There was a large table of amazing appetizers, salads, and desserts including two beautiful birthday cakes. We celebrated three birthday’s that evening including Dr. Ayala, Dr. Tirunagrau, and Ian, Dr. Chavez’ fiancé. It turned out to be a cold night but the action got heated up on the field. It was one of the most entertaining games in recent memory at Bulldog Stadium. No. 21 Nevada earned a come from behind 35-34 win over Fresno State that night. Fresno State’s defense played well for the majority of the game, holding the nation’s No.2 offensive unit to 140 yards under its season average and nine points under its scoring average, but the Dogs came up 1 point short on the scoreboard.

Family Medicine Resident Retreat 2010

Residents and their families/significant others drove to The Pines Resort at Bass Lake on Friday evening where they were greeted by Susan Jensen and Lois Ceja and directed to their chalet. Everyone was on their own for the evening but there were some choices as to "hospitality suites" and chalets where people gathered. Everyone was up and at breakfast the next morning in anticipation of the day’s events which began at 10:00 on the tennis courts. There were lots of fun activities for everyone planned by Dr. Jarman to promote teambuilding. She had plenty of help from Andy Alba, Dr. Ye Min, Susan Jensen, Lois Ceja and their spouses “the Larry’s”.

Teambuilding often means moving out of a comfort zone in order to learn about yourself and others and to build new relationships.

It appears that everyone had a good time while learning more about their colleagues and their families. For instance we now know that the husband of Dr. Lwin is an experienced photographer, hence all the good photos and Dr. Zia’s friend could make a living as a DJ if he ever wants to give up his day job. Again this year the interns were the overall winners with Dr. Ayala being the individual winner. He was the only person who left his watch on the wrong arm until told on Sunday he could change it back. He’s the go-to-guy if you ever need anyone to follow instructions specifically as told, not a bad characteristic for a resident.
THE SCOPE

Community and Staff Events

UCSF Fresno Staff Halloween Party 2010

Family Medicine had a ghastly good time at this year’s Halloween Party celebrated on October 29th at UCSF Fresno in the main lobby. Several staff and faculty decided to dress as their favorite character...the incontestable and irresistible Dr. Ivan Gomez! This was in celebration of the Program Director’s birthday taking place on October 31st. A few staff decided that vampires were the way to go and one staff person decided with two blood sucking vampires a vampire hunter was needed! Mary Fraijo chose a different route and dressed as a mysterious Geisha and stole the show and the award for “best individual costume.” Donna McBrien also won the award for “best salad” at the potluck. Congrats to everyone for getting in the spirit of Halloween.

Family Medicine Christmas Party 2010

The party was a big hit this year and the faculty, residents, staff, and family were delighted with delicious food from Love and Garlic Catering. Our own Dr. Betty Jarman created her signature drinks for the adults and there was a bounce house for the kids. After dinner games began with each table creating their own human Christmas Ornament.

Following the games was dancing as the DJ got everyone up and moving with YMCA. Santa hats, Elf hats, and Reindeer Antlers were given to everyone to get them in the festive mood! The guests arrived with more than 100 cans of food and bags of rice for the Community Food Bank. Family Medicine also collected 19 coats, sweater, and sweatshirts that were delivered to the Boys & Girls Club and $150 in cash was donated to Heifer International. It was a fantastic evening for all and the spirit of giving was abundant.
CROI – Sunday February 27 – Wednesday March 2, 2011
The 18th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) will convene in Boston, Massachusetts.

CCRS – Wednesday April 6, 2011
The Central California Research Symposium will be held at California State University, Fresno Business Center.

UCSF FCM JACK RODNICK MEMORIAL COLLOQUIUM – Thursday May 12, 2011
The UCSF Department of Family and Community Medicine 7th Annual Colloquium will take place in San Francisco, California.

ALSO – Thursday May 19 and Friday May 20 2011
The Family Medicine Program’s Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) course will take place at UCSF Fresno Center for Medical Education and Research.

EXPO – Thursday May 26th, 2011
The UCSF Fresno Family & Community Medicine 2011 Expo will take place from 2 – 4 p.m. at UCSF Fresno Center for Medical Education and Research, Room # 136.