

As the chief residents of the Department of Internal Medicine we have the pleasure of giving back to a program that we feel has given so much to us. The Internal Medicine residency program at UCSF Fresno continues to provide excellent opportunities to learn in both the inpatient and ambulatory settings. In addition to being a tertiary care center and level 1 trauma center, we frequently make the initial diagnosis on the majority of our patients. Only a few other major academic institutions are at par with the vast array of pathology that we see and manage on a daily basis.

Fresno is a great place to live. The housing costs are markedly lower than other areas of California. Rent for a typical 2 bed/2bath apartment runs for about \$850 a month and a small house would run around \$1300 to \$1600, typically. We have a variety of great restaurants and shopping centers throughout Fresno. In addition, Fresno has a strong sense of community and unique cultural blend. Once you've been here, you will see the true quality of our diverse population and that reflects our practice of medicine.

Having each been a part of this program for several years now, we have seen the program transform into a major academic training facility. There is no medical service, short of organ transplantation, which our institution and residents are unable to provide. In the short time that we have been here at UCSF Fresno, we have seen the program aggressively recruit world-class faculty in various subspecialties. The departments of Cardiovascular Medicine, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Gastroenterology, Neurology, Hematology and Oncology, and General Medicine have each seen their faculty expand significantly. This has not only brought a much stronger emphasis on both clinical and laboratory research, but each new faculty member has been recruited based on their exemplary teaching skills.

Our Chair of Medicine, Dr. Michael Peterson, is among the best in the country and it shows in all of his accomplishments here at UCSF Fresno. He has brought back fellowships of cardiovascular disease and pulmonary disease and the program has been granted full ACGME accreditation and a 5-year review cycle. Dr. Peterson is constantly in the trenches with his interns and residents. His office, as well as the offices of the program director and division heads, has an open-door policy for each and every one of us. He is the strongest advocate for residents and education in medicine and continues to provide strong leadership for our department and the program as a whole.

Dr. Ivy Darden is our program director. She has been with this program for many years and even did her residency training here. She has years of experience as Vice-chair of Medicine at the VA Central California and loves to teach. She has been given numerous awards for her teaching and we all agree that we are lucky to have her. Dr. Darden treats us all like part of her family and is accessible at any time of day or night.

The Department of Internal Medicine recruits 12 preliminary and 13 categorical interns each year. Our recruitment is extremely competitive and our interns and residents are among the brightest in the nation. Our program welcomes individuals of all backgrounds and embraces diversity. We believe that UCSF Fresno will provide the ideal environment for you and your training, and we look forward to the opportunity to prepare you for an exceptional career as a physician.