



UCSF Fresno
Medical Education
Program
155 N. Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93701
Tel: 559/499-6400

Corinna Kaarlela, UCSF News Director
Source: Brandy Nikaido, Regional Director of Communications, UC Office of the President
Phone: 559.241.7512 Cell: 559.313.6539
E-mail: brandy.nikaido@ucop.edu
Web: www.fresno.ucsf.edu, www.ucsf.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 20, 2007

UCSF FRESNO ANNOUNCES TWO NEW FELLOWSHIPS; INTERNAL MEDICINE RECEIVES HIGHEST ACCREDITATION LEVEL

FRESNO – UCSF Fresno recently received approval to begin two new internal medicine fellowship training programs in cardiology and pulmonary medicine. The fellowships, which begin in July, will expand the local medical education program’s ability to address the shortage of physicians, particularly specialists, in the San Joaquin Valley.

Fellowships offer specific training in an area of expertise beyond residency training and generally last two to three years in length. Cardiology and pulmonary medicine are the areas of medicine that deal with the conditions and diseases of the heart and lungs respectively – two health indicators prevalent in the Valley.

Previously, physicians completing the UCSF Fresno residency program had to go elsewhere for training in these two subspecialties.

Adding to the good news and important to the approval of the new fellowships, UCSF Fresno’s internal medicine program recently received a five-year accreditation, the highest level of accreditation available to a residency program. Only 20 percent of residency programs receive the five-year accreditation cycle.

“UCSF Fresno is extremely pleased that our fellowships were accredited and we appreciate the confidence that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education has placed in us to run a high-quality educational program,” said Michael W. Peterson, MD, chief of medicine and endowed professor of medicine at UCSF Fresno. “We also would like to thank Community Medical Centers and the Veterans Affairs Central California Health System for their contributions to making these fellowships possible.”

The cardiology fellowship will be three years in length, with three fellows taking part each year. The pulmonary program consists of two years with three fellows participating. Training will include inpatient hospital care, ambulatory care, consultative care, and research time. Training will take place at Community Regional Medical Center, the VA hospital in Fresno along with outpatient locations affiliated with UCSF Fresno faculty members.

Potential fellows, some of whom currently are participating in UCSF Fresno’s residency program, will submit paper applications this year. Next year, applicants will apply through the Electronic Residency Application system, a web-based, nationwide application system.

To gain and maintain accreditation, residency programs and sponsoring institutions such as UCSF Fresno and its seven residency programs must meet certain standards and requirements set by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The accreditation process takes place every two to five years, depending on the strength of the residency program. A review committee determines the appropriate accreditation based on a site visit and supporting documentation provided by the program. While accreditation

is voluntary, programs must be accredited to receive federal funds. In addition, medical residents must graduate from ACGME-accredited programs in order to take their board certification examinations. Furthermore, many states, including California, require physicians to complete an ACGME-accredited residency program to receive their medical license.

UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program plays a substantial role in providing health care services to San Joaquin Valley residents and training medical professionals in the region. UCSF Fresno has trained approximately one-third of Valley physicians currently practicing in one of the seven specialties in which UCSF Fresno provides training. Since its inception more than 30 years ago, UCSF Fresno has graduated approximately 60 resident physicians every year, totaling more than 2,000 to date. UCSF Fresno faculty and medical residents also care for the overwhelming majority of the area's underserved populations. UCSF Fresno currently trains about 190 medical residents, nearly 200 medical students and one fellow in surgical critical care each year as well as provides academic preparation programs for middle- and high-school students interested in the health professions.

###