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UCSF Fresno faculty members honored with Excellence in Teaching Awards

FRESNO - Alex Sherriffs, MD, and Joan Rubenstein, MD, faculty members at UCSF Fresno, were recently honored with the 2008 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine.

Sherriffs and Rubenstein were recognized for their front-line contributions to the education of medical students and residents at UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program.

The Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators is dedicated to creating an environment that enhances the status of teachers of medical students at UCSF, promotes and rewards teaching excellence, fosters curricular innovation, and encourages scholarship in medical education.

The Excellence in Teaching Awards program was established in 2005 as peer-nominated awards for UCSF and UCSF Fresno teaching faculty.

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UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program plays a substantial role in providing healthcare services to residents of California's San Joaquin Valley and training medical professionals in the region. The medical education program has trained approximately one-third of Central San Joaquin Valley physicians currently practicing in one of the seven specialties in which it provides training. Since its inception more than 30 years ago, UCSF Fresno has graduated more than 2,000 resident physicians. UCSF Fresno faculty and medical residents care for the overwhelming majority of the area's underserved populations. On an annual basis, the program currently trains about 200 medical residents, nearly 200 medical students and a number of fellows in cardiology, critical care, hospitalist, infectious disease, minimal invasive surgery, pulmonary medicine and wilderness medicine. UCSF Fresno also provides academic preparation programs for middle- and high school students interested in the health professions through the Doctor's Academy and Junior Doctor's Academy. UCSF Fresno is a key partner in the proposed UC Merced School of Medicine and will play a significant role in the training of medical students at the planned school.