MEDIA ADVISORY
April 23, 2008

UCSF FRESNO LAUNCHES NEW, INNOVATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS
Reception on Thursday welcomes students to the community

WHO: Seven medical students from diverse backgrounds, including three with ties to the San Joaquin Valley, are set to take part in a new and innovative UCSF Fresno clinical training program called “Model Madres.” Valley students participating in the program include Jaime Antuna of Mendota, Cynthia Zamora from Merced, and Nima Fayazmanesh, who was raised in Clovis.

WHAT: A reception will be held to welcome the medical students to the community where they will care for patients.

WHERE: UCSF Fresno Center for Medical Education and Research, Room 137, 155 N. Fresno St., Fresno

WHEN: 5 p.m., Thursday, April 24, 2008

WHY: Key leaders at UCSF Fresno redesigned the traditional clerkship training of third-year medical students to attract additional students to Fresno and to provide patients with integrated health care. Attracting medical students to the area is especially important because statistics show that physicians are likely to practice near where they attended medical school and/or conducted residency training.

UCSF Fresno is a leader in innovative educational design of medical student training programs and will be a key partner in the training of medical students at the proposed UC Merced medical school.

Background: “Model Madres” is a unique and newly-designed learning pathway in Fresno for third-year medical students from the UCSF School of Medicine. The pilot program offers students a unique aspect to their training by blending together three distinct areas of medicine – maternal, child, and family health. For six months, the students will work in small groups focusing on a team approach to learning. Participating in “Model Madres” will help students feel comfortable and be competent in caring for patients in an integrated manner. The students will begin their training in July 2008 at Community Regional Medical Center and various health clinics on the University Medical Center campus in Fresno.

The Fresno Regional Foundation is a major sponsor of medical student education at UCSF Fresno.

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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. UCSF Fresno has trained approximately one-third of 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. UCSF Fresno currently trains about 200 medical residents, nearly 200 medical students and a number of fellows in critical care, cardiology and pulmonary 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.