UCSF Fresno Will Welcome 100 New Physicians This Summer
One medical school graduate from Fresno overcomes odds to become a physician

FRESNO - UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program wrapped up another successful recruitment period on March 21 – this year’s Match Day. As a result, 100 new physicians will start their residency and fellowship training at UCSF Fresno this summer.

One of the incoming medical residents is Andres Anaya. Anaya conducted third-year rotations in obstetrics and gynecology and surgery at UCSF Fresno last year. A Fresno native and graduate of the UCSF School of Medicine, he will return to UCSF Fresno in July to begin residency training in emergency medicine. Anaya’s path to becoming a physician was anything but typical.

Anaya was born the eldest son of Mexican immigrants, both of whom are deaf. His first language was American Sign Language. At the age of 5, he began translating for his family. Economic, cultural and social challenges soon led to academic difficulties for Anaya at school. After graduating from high school, he took a job in a tire factory where he suffered an industrial accident. The accident landed him in the emergency department, leaving him temporarily paralyzed and physically and emotionally traumatized. It took several years to overcome his injuries, but from then on, he set his mind to becoming an emergency medicine physician.

“I am an ordinary man who has had the opportunity to have an extraordinary life, all because I got a chance at a comeback,” said Anaya. “I would like very much to use my story to get kids from the Central Valley to believe their dreams are possible.”

Match Day occurs every year in March and is the time when medical school graduates learn where they will spend the next three to five years conducting the postgraduate training necessary to practice medicine in the United States. Medical residents who wish to continue their training beyond residency also may take part in Match Day. As part of the process, medical school graduates and residents typically register with the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). When the resident or fellow and the prospective medical education program mutually agree on the selection, a “match” has occurred.

The UCSF Fresno residency programs that participated in the NRMP match received more than 4,000 applications and conducted 1,150 interviews for 78 positions. UCSF Fresno fellowship
programs that took part in the October/December NRMP match received approximately 700 applications and conducted nearly 200 interviews for 13 positions. The remaining programs filled available positions through another matching service or through interviews. UCSF Fresno currently offers residency training in eight specialties and fellowship training in 14 subspecialties.

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UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program, established in 1975, plays a substantial role in providing healthcare services to residents of California's San Joaquin Valley and training medical professionals in the region. A clinical branch of UC San Francisco (UCSF), the medical education program has trained approximately one-third of Central San Joaquin Valley physicians. Annually, UCSF Fresno currently trains approximately 245 medical residents in eight specialties, nearly 50 fellows in 14 subspecialties and about 250 medical students on a rotating basis.

UCSF Fresno faculty and medical residents engage in a broad spectrum of research addressing health issues pertinent to the Valley. UCSF Fresno faculty and residents also care for the overwhelming majority of the region's underserved populations.

In addition, UCSF Fresno provides academic preparation programs for middle- and high school students interested in the health professions through the Doctors Academy and Junior Doctors Academy. UCSF Fresno is a key partner in the UC Merced San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education.

UCSF is a leading university dedicated to promoting health worldwide through advanced biomedical research, graduate-level education in the life sciences and health professions, and excellence in patient care. It includes top-ranked graduate schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy, a graduate division with nationally renowned programs in basic biomedical, translational and population sciences, as well as a preeminent biomedical research enterprise and two top-ranked hospitals, UCSF Medical Center and UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital.

For further information, please visit www.fresno.ucsf.edu and www.ucsf.edu