FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UCSF Fresno ushers in new year, new leader and celebrates 40th anniversary

FRESNO – Established in 1975, UCSF Fresno, the San Joaquin Valley’s largest physician training program, is commemorating its 40th anniversary in 2015 and welcoming new leadership.

UCSF Fresno will celebrate four decades of growing doctors for the San Joaquin Valley at its premier, biennial fundraiser “Valley Visions.” The event will be held on Saturday, April 11 at the Fresno Convention Center Exhibit Hall and will salute UCSF Fresno’s ruby anniversary.

The New Year also brings new leadership at UCSF Fresno. Michael W. Peterson, MD, who has served as chief of medicine since 2002, was named interim associate dean. Dr. Peterson replaces Joan L. Voris, MD, who retired on Jan. 5, 2015, after serving 12 years as associate dean at UCSF Fresno.

Voris had been on faculty at UCSF Fresno since 1990. From the time of her appointment as associate dean, the number of core faculty at UCSF Fresno increased from 77 to 229. The number of residents and fellows trained on an annual basis rose from 172 to 298, representing a 70 percent increase in physicians trained at UCSF Fresno. All but one of the 17 fellowship programs at UCSF Fresno were established under her leadership.

Peterson was recruited to UCSF Fresno twelve years ago as the Valley Medical Foundation Professor of Medicine, UCSF Fresno Chief of Medicine and UCSF Vice Chair of Medicine.

During his tenure in Fresno, Peterson oversaw the growth of the Medicine Residency Program from 45 trainees to its current 68 trainees and the development of six subspecialty fellowships with 30 current fellows in training. He also successfully led the fundraising effort to build out the UCSF Fresno Clinical Research Center, which opened in 2013.

“I am honored to serve as interim associate dean and look forward to continuing the mission of recruiting and training the best and brightest physicians to care for community members as well as conducting research that is important to Valley patients,” said Peterson. “In collaboration with and thanks to our many partners, faculty, medical residents, students, donors and staff, UCSF Fresno has been improving health in the San Joaquin Valley for forty years and will continue to do so for years to come.”

Bruce Wintroub, interim dean of the UCSF School of Medicine said, “Michael Peterson is a trusted leader, and I know he will safeguard our mission of recruiting and training physicians and conducting research addressing health issues affecting the community.”
Peterson received both his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Minnesota. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Wisconsin, where he also served one year as a Chief Resident in Medicine. Following the completion of his residency, Dr. Peterson completed a fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Iowa where he joined the faculty in 1986. He served as Fellowship Program Director in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Iowa and the Curriculum Director for the Foundations of Clinical Practice IV, the fourth semester curriculum for University of Iowa medical students.

Dr. Peterson sits on a number of boards and was elected to the UCSF Academy of Medical Educators. He has received the UCSF Kaiser Teaching Award, the UCSF Fresno Department of Medicine Faculty Teaching Award, and the UCSF Fresno Faculty Research Award. He has published 90 papers in peer-reviewed journals and attracted several million dollars in research grants and contracts.

Established in 1975 and now celebrating its 40th anniversary, 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. A clinical branch of UCSF, the medical education program has trained approximately one-third of Central San Joaquin Valley physicians. Annually, UCSF Fresno currently trains approximately 250 medical residents in eight specialties, approximately 50 fellows in 17 subspecialties and about 250 medical students on a rotating basis.

Faculty and medical residents at UCSF Fresno engage in a broad spectrum of research addressing health issues pertinent to the Valley. 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 Junior Doctors Academy and the Doctors Academy. UCSF Fresno academically prepares students at Fresno State to become competitive applicants to health professional schools and ultimately aims to prepare them for careers in health and medicine. UCSF Fresno also is a key partner in the UC Merced San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education. Please visit www.fresno.ucsf.edu

UCSF is the nation's leading university exclusively focused on health. Now celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding as a medical college, UCSF is dedicated to transforming 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 world-renowned programs in the biological sciences, a preeminent biomedical research enterprise and top-tier hospitals, UCSF Medical Center and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals. Please visit www.ucsf.edu.