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## **UCSF Fresno welcomes School of Pharmacy to the valley**

Responding to the severe shortage of pharmacists in the Central Valley, the University of California, San Francisco, Fresno Medical Education Program (UCSF Fresno) welcomes UCSF's School of Pharmacy program to Fresno. Plans are presently underway to help deliver a pipeline of pharmacists to the valley with the appointment of Fresno native, Mitra Assemi, PharmD, director of UCSF Fresno School of Pharmacy.

"We are fortunate to have Mitra head up this exceptional program," said Deborah Stewart, MD, associate dean for UCSF Fresno. "By offering a local training program, we will be better prepared to deliver a pipeline of pharmacists to our community."

Presently, UCSF School of Pharmacy is the only public pharmacy graduate school in the state of California. UCSF School of Pharmacy presently maintains five campuses statewide including San Francisco, South San Francisco, San Diego, Sacramento, and Los Angeles. Fresno will make up the sixth site. The School of Pharmacy program is a four-year doctorate program with an Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) rating.

The School will admit up to eight incoming students in the first year with plans to grow the program to twenty in the next five to ten years. "I am thrilled to return to the valley to start this vital training program," said Assemi. "We will be ready to admit our first students in May 2002."

**To arrange for photos or interviews, please contact Cara Peracchi Douglas at 559.243.3606.**