

UCSF FRESNO CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER

UCSF Fresno Medical
Education Program
School of Medicine

Volume 3 / November 2017

FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO

African Adventure is a brand new, 13-acre, state-of-the-art home for a pride of lions, a family herd of African elephants, cheetahs, white rhinos, a brand new giraffe feeding station with 360 degree views of the savanna.



Modeled after Point Lobos, California, **Sea Lion Cove** is one of the most unique and beautiful new sea lion exhibits in the country. You'll be immediately transported to the California Coast with the sound of crashing waves, salty sea air, barking sea lions, harbor seals and brown pelicans.



Stingray Bay allows you to touch and feed cow-nose rays and southern stingrays as they glide beneath your fingertips. It's a safe, fun adventure for the whole family.



RESEARCH RETREAT

The first UCSF Fresno Research Retreat was held on Friday, October 13, 2017, at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. The Chaffee Zoo is a great place to host a meeting or spend the day with your family. Retreat attendees included faculty and staff from all UCSF Fresno departments, as well as faculty from UC Merced and administrators from CRMC. The morning session included presentations on the existing research infrastructure at UCSF Fresno and opportunities to expand and partner with other institutions, like UC Merced (see links to presentations below). The afternoon session included work group discussions about internal research funding, centralized resources and specialized areas of research focus (see page 4).

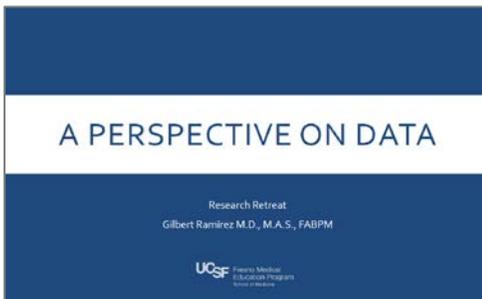
Morning Session: PRESENTATIONS

Here are the speakers and the topics they covered. Click on the title slide to view a PDF of the full presentation.

Introduction to Retreat

*Michael W. Peterson MD
Associate Dean, UCSF Fresno*





A Perspective on Data

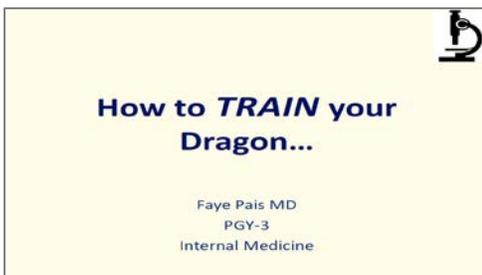
Gil Ramirez MD

Faculty Director of Health Information Technology, UCSF Fresno

ITS: Data Assets and Tools Available for Research

Jennifer Dodd

Systems Administration Manager, UCSF Fresno



Think, Research, Analyze, Investigate, Network

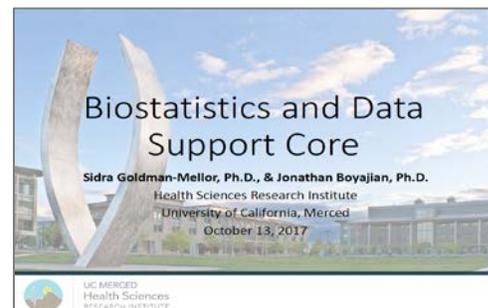
Faye Pais MD

Internal Medicine PGY-3, UCSF Fresno

Biostatistics & Data Support Core

Sidra Goldman-Mellor PhD

Assistant Professor of Public Health, UC Merced



Research with Vulnerable Populations

Nancy Burke PhD

Chair of Public Health, UC Merced

Research Lab: Opportunities for Collaboration

Mark Stecker MD

Chief of Neurology, UCSF Fresno



UCSF Fresno Clinical Research Center

Tim Tyner MS

Director, Clinical Research Center

Research Training at UCSF Fresno

Robin Whitney PhD, RN

Research Director, Hillblom Center on Aging, UCSF Fresno



CCFMG Pilot Grant Funding

Serena Yang MD

Interim Chief of Pediatrics, UCSF Fresno

Quality and Research Support at CRMC

Mark Kestner MD

Chief Medical and Innovation Officer, CRMC



Afternoon Session: WORK GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The following work groups were tasked with discussing and presenting recommendations related to [1] processes for internally funded research (e.g. CCFMG-funded projects), [2] centralized resources to support research, and [3] focused areas of research excellence. A brief summary of these discussions is provided below.

Cheetahs		Giraffes		Rhinos	
Roger Mortimer	FCM	Ivan Gomez	FCM	Patil Armenian	EM
Simon Paul	IM (ID)	Soe Naing	IM (endocrine)	Mark Stecker	IM (neurology)
Yu-Hung Kuo	Neurosurgery	Amir Khan	Neurosurgery	Amy Kwok	Surgery
Andrew Goddard	Psychiatry	Mallory Kremer	OB/GYN	Mark Kestner	CRMC
Jennifer Dodd	ITS	Rachel Dirks	Surgery	Susan Hughes	FCM
Zebras		Elephants			
Danielle Campagne	EM	Gil Ramirez	EM		
Stutee Khandelwal	IM (primary care)	Marina Roytman	IM (hepatology)		
Nathan Hoekzema	ORTHO	Amir Fathi	Surgery		
Aimee Abu-Shamsieh	Pediatrics	Serena Yang	Pediatrics		
Tim Tyner	CRC	Uzair Chaudhary	IM (hem/onc)		
Vipul Jain	IM (PCCM)	Robin Whitney	Hillblom Center		

INTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH

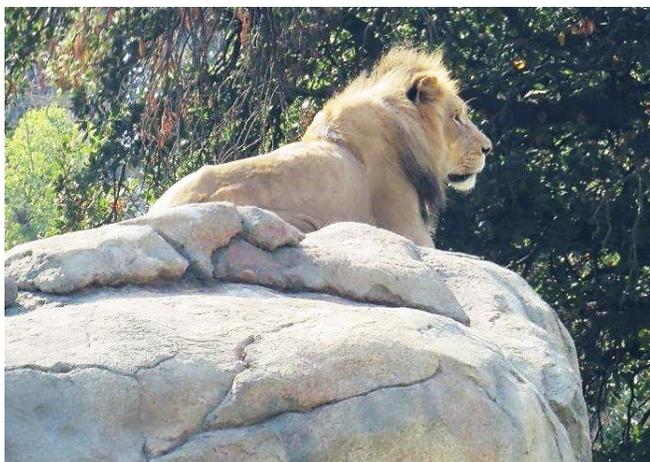
The work groups agreed that the existing internal funding process requires some revision to insure that [1] all eligible faculty are aware and have an equal opportunity to submit for funding, [2] the timeframe and funding amount are sufficient to complete the project, [3] in addition to scientific merit, criteria used to select proposals give more weight to collaboration, relevance to the community and project feasibility, and [4] there is transparency in the process, including clear reporting requirements for continued funding of awarded projects, as well as constructive feedback to faculty of unfunded proposals.

A post-retreat committee was subsequently tasked with synthesizing the recommendations of the work groups to address the following questions: [1] what is the purpose and goal of this program, [2] what have been the challenges with the program, [3] what are the criteria and priorities for funding decisions, [4] what should the process be for selecting awardees, [5] what should be the funding duration and amount, and [6] how often should applications be invited? The committee is currently writing a draft document with an updated process for internally funded projects and plans to circulate a final draft to all faculty by the first of the year.



CENTRALIZED RESOURCES

The work groups also discussed whether resources should be centralized (Dean's office) or disbursed among departments. While some faculty were content with their department-level research support, the consensus



among retreat participants was that centralized resources are needed to overcome existing barriers to conducting research. Some of the recommendations for resources that should be centralized included: [1] biostatistical support (through UC Merced), [2] IT support for data access and extraction, [3] pre-review of protocols to expedite the IRB approval process, [4] coordinator to facilitate collaborative projects between UC Merced, CSU Fresno, UCSF or other institutions, [5] research coordinator(s) to assist with unfunded projects, and [6] better PR to enhance community awareness, increasing opportunities for fundraising and facilitating recruitment of study subjects. The post-retreat

committee is currently drafting a proposal of resource priorities and options to support these positions. A final recommendation will be presented to the Dean's office by the first of the year.

FOCUSED AREAS OF RESEARCH

The concept of focused areas of research was also discussed by the work groups. It was generally agreed that investigators should be encouraged to pursue any area of research, but that there could be a benefit to having focused topics that stimulate collaboration between faculty and are of greater relevance to the community. While the expectation is not for UCSF Fresno to become a renowned research program, we could be recognized as a Center of Excellence in select areas of research, like vulnerable populations and health equity, or medical education curriculum, or geographically-relevant diseases like Valley Fever.