

The UCSF RadOnc Beam

News & Ideas from the UCSF Radiation Oncology Team

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BIPOC Interest Group Turns One Year Old

Lindsay Williams

Diversity Committee Co-Chair

May 25th, 2021, marked the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's murder. His life was stolen from him by the hands of five Minneapolis police officers. The outrage and the civil uprising that followed this tragic event spurred the creation of the Radiation Oncology BIPOC Interest Group a few weeks later. This June, the BIPOC Interest turned ONE year old! Collectively, the group has played a vital role in improving the workplace for underrepresented minority (URM) staff in the department and within the Cancer Center.

The group has hosted and held many important conversations and brainstorming sessions on anti-racism and URM self-care with esteemed guests such as Vice Chancellor, Dr. Dan Lowenstein, of the UCSF Safety Task force; Holistic Healer and Founder of Wellness Official, Millana Snow; Pre-Law HBCU student and community activist, Essence Winston; and many more. Members of the BIPOC Interest Group further the vision by organizing and hosting meaningful forums (Identity in the Workplace Seminar), participating in the improvement of the work environment (SDAS Steering Committee), and educating others on inequalities and injustice (Inquiry into Racism and Health Inequities lecture series).

The group is always looking for more URM Rad Onc staff members to join and take part in making UCSF a safer, more inclusive place to work. If you are interested in joining, please email Lindsay.Williams@ucsf.edu or CJTeerawattanasook@ucsf.edu.

Diversity & Inclusion

The BIPOC Interest Group takes its mission statement very seriously: The Rad Onc BIPOC Interest group is a safe and inclusive space where BIPOC staff can share their experiences with discrimination in the clinic and workplace. Through these shared experiences, we will build awareness of and take action against racial injustices within the UCSF community through education, outreach, and improving the patient and staff experience. And the group continues to uphold the sentiments of its mission statement through outreach with staff and the community, informational sessions, and more.

Some members of the Radiation Oncology BIPOC Interest Group pictured from left to right: Valerie Hewlett, Authorizations Coordinator & BIPOC Interest Group Treasurer; Lindsay Williams, Administrative Director & BIPOC Interest Group Founder and President; CJ Teerawattanasook, Authorizations Coordinator & BIPOC Interest Group Vice President; Ashley Argumedo, Practice Coordinator & BIPOC Interest Group member; Misty Reyes, Practice Coordinator & BIPOC Interest Group Secretary; and Erica Sainz, Medical Assistant & BIPOC Interest Group member.



Diversity & Inclusion

PROPEL Program Provides Trainees from Historically Underrepresented Backgrounds with Research Experience and Career Mentorship

The Post-baccalaureate Research Opportunity to Promote Equity in Learning (PROPEL) is a program founded by our own Dr. Paola Betancur, PhD, along with UCSF collaborators.

What is PROPEL? PROPEL is a post-baccalaureate research opportunity to promote equity in learning. The program was virtually founded back in November 2020 by a group of UCSF faculty and administrators with the goal of enhancing the training of underrepresented post-baccalaureate groups aspiring to enter PhD programs in the biomedical field by providing for a one to two-year period to include: (1) Substantive experiences in rigorous biomedical research through full-time mentored and paid research positions (through modest funds and participating labs sponsorship); (2) Career mentoring through a series of workshops and educational enrichment activities taught by PROPEL faculty and assisted by UCSF PhD students; and (3) A safe environment that promotes professional development, personal growth, and self-awareness through community building activities.

How to participate as a faculty sponsor: Research faculty that have an SRA or Junior Specialist position open in their labs are encouraged to register for the upcoming matchmaking event taking place in January 2022 (or ask for access to our list of current applicants) to identify a candidate. Next, the faculty together with the identified candidate, have the option to apply to NIH diversity supplements to obtain funds to cover the salary of the trainee. The PROPEL program officially started its 2021-2022 cycle in July with a symposium highlighting the previous and current PROPEL trainees and providing an introduction/description of the program. More than 50 trainees are currently enrolled in the program for this cycle!

Rad Onc in PROPEL: 20K in funds has been kindly contributed by the Department of Radiation Oncology to partially support the salary of two underrepresented post-baccalaureate scholars who have been or will soon be hired for a research staff position by any of our research faculty. For more information, please contact Dr. Paola Betancur.

PROPEL Website: <https://propel.ucsf.edu/>



Welcome

Please join us in welcoming the following new faculty, residents, and staff members to UCSF Radiation Oncology:

MD Faculty:



Dr. Lisa Singer, MD, PhD, a former medical resident of UCSF Radiation Oncology, joined our MD faculty as an Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology on July 1st, 2021. Dr. Singer's areas of focus involve patients with breast cancer and other solid malignancies, and she is primarily located at our practice in the Precision Cancer Medicine Building on the Mission Bay Campus. Dr. Singer also serves as Clinical Director of our MRI Program. After completing a fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2018, Dr. Singer joined the faculty in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where she worked to build a clinical and research program in radiation oncology utilizing MRI. She served as MR Medical Director in the department, as an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School, and led multiple prospective clinical trials evaluating the use of MRI for image-guidance and treatment response assessment in radiation oncology. Nationally, Dr. Singer serves on the Board of Directors for the American Board of Magnetic Resonance Safety, represented BWH/DFCI in a national MR-linac breast cancer consortium, and co-developed #NextGenBrachy, as well as national simulation-based educational workshops in radiation oncology. Prior to working in Boston, Lisa completed her MD at UCSF, PhD in Bioengineering at UCSF and UC Berkeley focusing on breast MRI, residency in Radiation Oncology at UCSF, and undergraduate degree at Stanford University. Dr. Singer is excited to have returned to UCSF to care for patients, and to collaborate with colleagues on work advancing the use of imaging to improve cancer treatments and outcomes.

Physics Faculty:



Dante Capaldi, PhD, will join our Physics faculty as an Assistant Professor on November 1st. Dr. Capaldi recently completed his Medical Physics Residency and Postdoctoral Fellowship at Stanford University. Prior to his residency, Dr. Capaldi simultaneously completed both PhD and MCISc degrees in Medical Biophysics at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, in 2018. His PhD research, funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), focused on the development and application of novel image acquisition and analysis methods to measure pulmonary ventilation in patients with lung disease. Dr. Capaldi's research areas involve imaging and data science. He will be located primarily at our practice at Parnassus where he will be assisting the CNS team.

Dr. Hui Lin, PhD, joined our Physics faculty as an Assistant Professor, In-residence on August 1st, 2021. Dr. Lin's research areas involve Machine Learning for motion management and prediction, Artificial Intelligence-driven automated segmentation, and High Performance Computing for radiation dose calculation. After completing her PhD at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2018, Dr. Lin joined the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania as the first three-year track medical physics resident of the program. Through her residency, she built a machine learning-based lung tumor predictor that has been funded by a Varian AI seed grant, and developed a deep learning model for cardiac substructures auto segmentation that has been awarded the ASTRO 2020 Resident Recognition Award. She was the Chief Resident during her last year at UPenn and served as the voting member of the Radiation Oncology Education Steering Committee and Radiation Oncology Protocol Committee of UPenn. Dr. Lin is a committee member and an active reviewer of multiple international journals, including but not limited to Frontiers in Medicine and Public Health, Physics in Medicine & Biology, and Medical Physics. Dr. Lin is excited to join the department and looks forward to bringing state-of-the-art technologies to advance patient care and clinical decision-making in radiation oncology. Dr. Lin is located primarily at our practice at PCMB at Mission Bay.



Physics Faculty:



Dr. Tomi Nano, MCISc, PhD, completed his Medical Physics Residency in June 2021 in our department. He joined our UCSF Physics faculty as an Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology on July 1st, 2021. Dr. Nano's areas of expertise are in SBRT treatments, imaging guid-

ance, and motion management. He has strong interest in developing the UCSF programs in artificial intelligence, imaging, and proton therapy. Before his residency, Dr. Nano completed his PhD at Western University (London, Ontario, Canada) and Robarts Research Institute in Medical Biophysics. His research focus was on image quality and signal-to-noise optimization in x-ray detector for applications such as breast cancer screening. Dr. Nano developed a novel x-ray detector design that enables the identification of imaging biomarkers for improved detection of benign versus malignant breast microcalcification morphology. During his residency, he worked on evaluating CyberKnife imaging dose and tumor tracking performance, as well as measuring liver motion during SDX treatment breath-hold. Additionally, he developed predictive machine learning models for IMRT patient QA, deep learning methods for automatic segmentation of brain metastases, and automatic treatment planning with GammaKnife. Dr. Nano served on the Radiosurgery Society Residents Association and has recently joined the board of advisors for Rayos Contra Cancer Global Radiotherapy. Dr. Nano is excited to have joined the UCSF Rad Onc family as faculty and is primarily supporting the services at our Mount Zion campus, as well as collaborating with PCMB and Parnassus programs. Additionally, he is contributing to the ocular proton service and working with the proton therapy teams at UCSF and Davis



Dr. Katie Lichter, MD, MPH, studied business and economics at the University of Denver. Prior to attending medical school at Loyola University, she spent two years in Central America focused on international development before pivoting to launch an e-commerce company in Nairobi, Kenya that was focused on the "last-mile distribution" of essential medical supplies. During her time in medical school, she attended Johns Hopkins and completed a Master's in Public Health degree focused on epidemiology, biostatistics, and health disparities. Dr. Lichter's research interests lie in understanding the carbon footprint of oncology care. She is interested in the development of climate-smart technologies to create sustainable, scalable solutions to expand global access to radiotherapy. In 2020, Dr. Lichter moved to the Bay Area to complete her internship in internal medicine at St. Mary's Medical Center and has been looking forward to joining the UCSF Radiation Oncology class of 2025.

Medical Residents:



Dr. Jie Jane Chen, MD, earned a medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed a preliminary medicine internship at Brigham and Women's Hospital, prior to joining the UCSF Radiation Oncology Residency Program. Dr. Chen's research interests

include investigating clinical outcomes for patients with cancer, integrating palliative radiotherapy and specialty palliative care, and optimizing patient-provider communication. Dr. Chen is passionate about medical education and mentorship, quality improvement, and fostering diversity, inclusion, and community. As a native Californian, she has anticipated returning to and serving patients in the Bay Area. Outside of the hospital, Dr. Chen enjoys exploring nature, swimming, and dancing.

Dr. Will Chen, MD, grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii, and attended Stanford University where he majored in computer science. He completed his medical training at Yale School of Medicine, where he worked on developing new single-cell approaches to studying tumors and cancer drug-screen experiments. Before starting residency, Dr. Chen worked as a research fellow in the lab of Dr. Felix Feng and studied genomic and epigenomic drivers of metastatic prostate cancer. He completed a preliminary medicine internship at Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco prior to joining the UCSF Radiation Oncology Residency Program. Outside of the lab and hospital, Dr. Chen enjoys playing tennis, listening to live music, and drinking bubble tea.



Medical Physics Residents:



Dr. Ramos-Méndez, PhD, worked at UCSF as a Post-doctoral Employee and eventually as an Assistant Researcher before joining our department as a Medical Physics Resident. During this time, Jose's research focused on developing condensed-history and track-structure

Monte Carlo simulation frameworks to assist radiation therapy research. Jose became one of the core developers of the TOPAS (Tool for Particle Simulation) simulation framework that facilitates Monte Carlo simulations for radiation therapy research. Dr. Ramos-Méndez is one of the core developers of the TOPAS-nBio and Geant4-DNA frameworks, developed to investigate the connection between physics, chemistry, and biology at the sub-cellular scale. Dr. Ramos-Méndez enjoys mentoring. He has directed two MSc and one PhD thesis on estimating DNA damage from ionizing radiation using the Monte Carlo method.



Dr. Kamal Singhrao, PhD, earned his Doctorate in Therapeutic Medical Physics at the University of California, Los Angeles. His dissertation was focused on the clinical development of prostate MRI-only simulation imaging for radiotherapy planning. Dr. Singhrao completed

his undergraduate education in physics and astronomy at University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Singhrao gained experience in the radiation oncology field as a post-baccalaureate staff researcher at UCSF. Dr. Singhrao's research interests include the development of novel technologies to improve the efficacy and efficiency of radiotherapy procedures and the clinical implementation of novel imaging methodologies such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging-only (MRI-only) simulation into radiotherapy clinics. Outside of work, Dr. Singhrao enjoys hiking, cycling, and making his own infusion liquors.

Staff:

- **Rachel Cassan** joined our department in April as a Temp MA at our Parnassus practice
- **Sarah Conrad** joined our department in June as a Per Diem RN at our PCMB practice at Mission Bay.
- **Andrew Cooke** joined our department in July as an IT Systems Clinical Professional, supporting our ARIA Oncology Information System project and post project OIS optimization. Andrew will be based primarily at Mission Bay.
- **Diane Hutton-Demsher** joined our department in March as a Per Diem RN at our Parnassus practice. Diane has an ICU background and is the pediatric NORA RN for the pediatric Gamma Knife. Her role provides care to the pediatric patients and supports anesthesia, because there is no pediatric support services at Parnassus.
- **Allison Magyar** joined our department in February as an RN at our PCMB practice at Mission Bay.
- **Allyson Mallari** joined our department in May as a Breast New Patient Coordinator and Radiology Scheduler at our PCMB practice at Mission Bay.
- **Ketsourine (Ket) Nguyen**, our Excel Program Intern, has been hired as the new Practice Coordinator 3 at PCMB and will start on 10/18/21
- **Dashawnte Smith** joined our department in March as an MA at our PCMB practice at Mission Bay.
- **Julia Tran** joined our department in March as a Per Diem RTT at our Mount Zion practice and recently was moved into an FTE position. Julia also provides coverage at our PCMB practice at Mission Bay.
- **Elise Williams** recently joined our department in May as a Per Diem RTT at our PCMB practice at Mission Bay.

Educational Programs

Miriam Gray, Educational Programs Manager
Dr. Steve Braunstein, MD, PhD, Residency Program Director
Dr. Martina Descovich, PhD, Director of Medical Physics Residency Program

As we recently bid farewell to 2021 graduated residents Drs. Rose Li, Matt Susko, Michael Zhang, Matthieu Lafreniere, and Tomi Nano; we have welcomed five new Radiation Oncology Residents. Drs. Jie Jane Chen, Katie Lichter, and William S. Chen began their PGY-2 medical residency training July 1st of the 2021-2022 academic year; and Drs. Jose Asuncion Ramos Mendez and Kamal Singhrao commenced their first year of Medical Physics Residency on the same date. Biographies of the new residents can be found in the Welcome section of the newsletter.

Each year the Medical and Physics Residency Training Programs embark on the joyful, yet laborious undertaking of recruiting new residents into each program. Recruitment efforts are guided by each programs' accrediting body, UCSF standards, as well as Match guidelines governed by the NRMP (Medical Residency Program) and M-RAP (Physics Residency).

Historically, after the Selection Committees review hundreds of applications and complete holistic application reviews, candidates are selected for interviews and invited to a full day of onsite interviews, group recruitment events, and site tours. For the first time in the history of each residency program; in person interviews and the excitement of meeting, greeting, and interacting with highly qualified candidates was not plausible due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Determined to share with candidates all that UCSF Radiation Oncology Residency Training Programs have to offer and, in an effort to recruit qualified candidates to the programs, the leadership of each program, including residents and faculty, pivoted to an alternative recruitment format.

Match 2021 was largely successful due to virtual open houses that were held to showcase the training environment in advance of interviews and subsequently, further success was found in the implementation of remote interviews where invited candidates had the opportunity to meet virtually face-to-face with faculty and residents for interviews in lieu of on-site interviews. The remote interview platform provided the programs the opportunity to connect with a larger pool of potential applicants and afforded greater ease and significantly lower financial impact to applicants.



The Medical Residency Program received approximately 114 applications, interviewed 30 candidates, and successfully matched 4 residents who will join the department in July 2023. The Physics Residency Program received approximately 101 applications, interviewed 24 candidates, and successfully matched 2 Physics Residents who joined the residency program July 2021.

The Residency Program leadership extends its sincere gratitude to the respective Selection Committees and to all faculty and residents who participated and helped to engage candidates. We appreciate faculty and residents who provided a welcoming environment and who communicated the mission and values of UCSF and our department.

Tracking UCSF Department of Radiation Oncology Research

Dr. Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff, PhD

*Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology
Vice Chair of Research & Director of Radiation Biology*

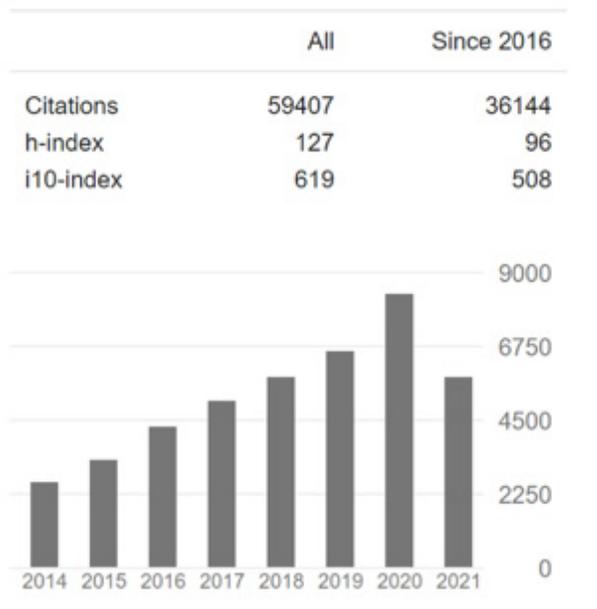


One of the challenges to reviewing the research publications in the department is keeping track of them! To track this information, we have created a Google scholar group that 'should' capture those publications from our faculty and residents:

https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=YPXICSQAAAA-J&view_op=list_works&sortby=pubdate

In the first half of 2021, our faculty published an impressive 84 papers on topics that range from residents as teachers to recurrence rates to molecular signatures. Five of these papers have already been cited five times or more, including a report from NRG that has been cited 15 times in less than a year. Faculty were first or senior authors of primary publications in J Clinical Investigation, Science Translational Medicine, Clinical Cancer Research, and JAMA Oncology, as well as the Red Journal.

Google Scholar also tracks citations of all publications from the department. It is inspiring to see the upward climb in just the last five years. Our department publications garnered nearly 9000 citations in 2020 and has a cumulative h-index of 127, which is great even though I am not sure how it is calculated as it is a metric that measures both the productivity and citation impact of the publications of a scientist or scholar. Keep in mind that citations build over time, so this graph reflects the ongoing impact of the research from our faculty over their careers.



One can rank the publications by number of citations, which serves to highlight the impact of Dr. Felix Feng's contributions. A Cell paper that he co-authored defined prostate cancer signature (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2015.05.001>) and the role of long non-coding sequences published in Nature Genetics (<https://doi.org/10.1038/ng.3192>) have been cited about 2000 times in just five years.

Even though we are all looking forward to returning to 'normal', the evidence that UCSF Radiation Oncology research continued to have impact in a highly disruptive year is rewarding.

Physics Division

Academics

In the Medical Physics division, we have an opportunity in the coming year to organize our academic research programs into two categories: clinical translational and basic science medical physics. This distinction will provide focus on existing strengths in hyperthermia, brachytherapy, motion management, knowledge-based planning, quantitative imaging, statistical learning, biological/dose simulation, and modelling. There is tremendous opportunity to study unique clinical questions at the intersection of data science, imaging, and biology. This stems from the belief that part of the fight with cancer is to solve a complex mathematical optimization for each individual patient. This will require expertise and novel methodologies in many areas of medical physics. As such, we have continued to place investments in data science and imaging as reflected by the recent hires of Drs. Katelyn Hasse, Tomi Nano, Hui Lin and Dante Capaldi. We look forward to welcoming them to the team as we continue to prioritize excellence in clinical care and further develop the Physics division priorities along the strategic goals of the department.

MEDomics Work Published in Nature Cancer

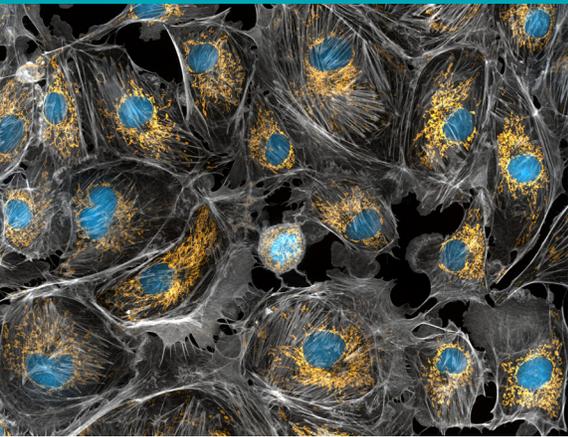
An important and well-received paper on the MEDomics work undertaken by our department's Physics and MD faculty, post docs, and collaborators was recently published in Nature Cancer and can be found here: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43018-021-00236-2>

"MEDomics" is a novel approach using hospital-based medical notes to refine predictions and prognosis in cancer patients over time. The work was pioneered at UCSF in our department, and is the result of a collaboration among an international consortium comprised of U.S. (UCSF), Canadian (McGill, Université de Sherbrooke, Montreal), and European centers (Oncoray in Dresden and Maastricht University). The consortium has created a secure, dynamic, continuously learning, and expandable infrastructure, designed to constantly capture multimodal electronic health information, including imaging, across a large and multi-centric health-care system (watch an animation here: https://youtu.be/2030Pdgm3_4).

Of this ground-breaking work, our own Dr. Olivier Morin, PhD, leader on the project and first author on the paper says, "We reported results of the first longitudinal approach to natural language processing of unstructured medical notes and demonstrated its ability to update and improve a prognostic model over time, as a patient's oncologic illness course unfolds." Dr. Catherine Park, MD, Chair of UCSF Radiation Oncology and co-senior author adds, "With this data, we were able to validate findings of published clinical trials using real-world data, e.g. the positive impact of immunotherapy in lung cancer. In addition, there are exciting opportunities to generate hypotheses based on associations from patients' individual health profiles and risk factors."

We look forward to sharing more news about this cutting-edge work and associated research as the project continues to thrive. For more information on the project and the consortium, please visit www.medomics.ai.

Quality and Safety



In Radiation Oncology, our aim is to achieve the highest level of measurable quality and safety in all aspects of modern radiation oncology. Our team of MDs, physicists, and dosimetrists work in close partnership to achieve consistent excellence in clinical care, education, and research. The safe delivery of radiation is made possible in large part by the numerous hours of machine quality assurance (QA) performed by our physics team.

Significant improvements have been made over the past few years around standardization, workflow, and documentation. We now have the opportunity to build on this foundation and focus efforts this coming year on incident report workflows, training and education, the transition to ARIA, promoting a culture of safety, and Physics-based goals such as refining new technology processes, updating policies and procedures, and machine integration.

Given these changes in our field, the department's QA focus in the coming years will be on building further on seven key pillars of QA:

1. Compliance and accreditation
2. Planning and new process review
3. Review of incident reports (IRs)
4. Reporting/benchmarking
5. Case review/chart rounds/FIRST/M&M
6. Continuous education in-services
7. Policies and procedures

On behalf of the QA leadership group, we look forward to partnering with all of you in these areas.

Dr. Lauren Boreta, MD
 Dr. Nicolas Prionas, MD, PhD
 Dr. Emily Hirata, PhD
 Dr. Olivier Morin, PhD
 Nina Pitts
 Lindsay Williams

Operations

As we close out Fiscal Year 2021 and enter Fiscal Year 2022, we wanted to share with everyone a list of just some of our accomplishments and a peek at just some of what's to come. Our hope is that this list of successes from the past year is a reminder of how much we can accomplish even during incredibly challenging times. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped make all of this possible.

—Alan Taniguchi, Dr. Hirata, Dr. Boreta, Dr. Prionas, and Nina Pitts



This past year's accomplishments/successes:

- Opened the HDR procedure room at PCMB (during a pandemic!)
- Increased our use of MRI Sim by adding new disease groups
- Upgraded HDR at both Mount Zion and PCMB
- Went live with ticket self-scheduling for our follow-up visits
- Rolled out e-consents
- Did our first DIBH
- Transitioned to telehealth during lockdown and now have transitioned to a hybrid in-person and telehealth model to provide optimal access for our patients
- Operationalized an ever-evolving list of COVID-19 related workflows, often without skipping a beat
- Worked fearlessly in the office and tirelessly at home
- Completed heterotopic bone Sims and Treats at Mount Zion to support the Orthopedic move to Mount Zion OR
- Completed major upgrades to systems: commissioned Versa photons in RayStation, Tomo iDMS upgrade, Mobius upgrade, etc.
- Record IP add-on volume at Parnassus
- New CT Scanner upgrade and roll out of IV contrast at Mount Zion

This next year will bring:

- ACR re-accreditation!
- ARIA Go Live summer 2022
- Gamma Knife reload
- Continue major Physics upgrades: RayStation v10B, MIM v7, commission Tomo in RayStation, commission electrons in RayStation
- MRI-based planning for MRI
- Rollout of DIBH at Mount Zion
- Joint Commission survey

Clinical Trials

Open clinical trials with Radiation Oncology Faculty PI

PI	Protocol#	Study Title	Funding	6 Month Accrual
Catherine Park	187513	Hypofractionation after breast reconstruction for breast cancer (FABREC)	DFCI/PCORI	4
Sue Yom	162010	Nivolumab + chemoRT for patients with nasopharyngeal cancer	BMS	0
Sue Yom	166520	PembroX: Pembrolizumab +/- SBRT prior to surgery for NSCLC (PembroX)	Merck	Closed to Accrual
Sue Yom	18201	Phase 1/2 trial of concurrent RT, cisplatin, and BMX-001 in locally advanced H&N cancer	BioMimetix	0
Sue Yom	NRG-HN001	Phase II and III studies of individualized treatment for nasopharyngeal cancer based on biomarker EBV DNA (HN 001)	NRG	0
Sue Yom	NRG-HN004	Phase II/III trial of RT and concurrent durvalumab vs. RT and concurrent cetuximab in H&N cancer patients with a contraindication to cisplatin (HN 004)	NRG	0
Sue Yom	NRG-HN005	Phase II/III trial of deintensified RT for patients with favorable oropharyngeal cancer (HN 005)	NRG	0
Sue Yom	RTOG 1216	Randomized Phase II/III Trial of Adjuvant Radiation Therapy with Cisplatin, Docetaxel-Cetuximab, or Cisplatin-Atezolizumab in Pathologic High-Risk Squamous Cell Cancer of the Head and Neck (RTOG 1216)	NRG	3
Tony Wong	CC# 18551	Phase II study of salvage RT and ADT +/- abiraterone acetate and apalutamide for rising PSA after radical prostatectomy (Formula-509)	DFCI	Closed to Accrual
Tony Wong	CC#20727	STEEL: Phase II trial of salvage RT with standard or enhanced ADT in patients with post-prostatectomy PSA recurrences with aggressive disease features (RTOG 3506 STEEL)	RTOG Foundation	4
Mary Feng	CC# 19721	Phase II study of hypofractionated RT to augment immune response in patients with metastatic GI cancers progressing on immune therapy (ARM-GI)	Varian	0
Osama Mohamad	GU008	Randomized Phase III Trial Incorporating Abiraterone Acetate with Prednisone and Apalutamide and Advanced Imaging into Salvage Treatment for Patients with Node-Positive Prostate Cancer After Radical Prostatectomy (GU-008)	NRG	1

Studies in the pipeline with Radiation Oncology PI

PI	Protocol#	Study Title	Funding	Current Status
Mary Feng	CC# 194522	Phase II trial of palliative hypofractionated RT followed by Durvalumab +/- Tremelimumab for advanced HCC	Astra Zeneca	Will open 10/2021
Mary Feng	CC#21721	Optimization of MRI for Liver Radiotherapy (Liver MRI)	UCSF-IIT	Will open 10/2021
Mekhail Anwar	CC#21723	Biologically-Selected Metastatic Adenocarcinoma of the Pancreas Treated with Radiation Therapy (B-smart)	UCSF-IIT	IRB
Osama Mohamad	CC#21726	Prostate oncologic therapy while ensuring neurovascular conservation: a phase II randomized controlled trial of stereotactic ablative body radiotherapy (SABR) with or without neurovascular sparing for erectile function preservation in localized prostate cancer (POTEN-C)	UT Southwestern	IRB
Sue Yom (written by Jessica Chew)		Addressing taste dysfunction with miraculin in head and neck cancer patients receiving radiation therapy: A double-blinded, placebo-controlled, randomized phase III trial (Miraculin)	UCSF-IIT	Site committee Approved
Sue Yom	CC#21728	Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) for Early Treatment of Oligometastatic Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma: The SOLAR trial(SOLAR)	UCSF-IIT	PRMC Approved
Alon Witzum		Breath Buddy: A digital intervention to improve breath-hold length and reproducibility for patients receiving radiation for cancer treatment (Breath Buddy)	UCSF-IIT	Site committee

Accolades



- The following awards were presented at the June 4th, 2021, UCSF Radiation Oncology Resident Graduation Ceremony. Please joining us congratulating all of the recipients!
 - The ARRO Educator of the Year Award was presented to **Dr. David Raleigh, MD, PhD**. This award is presented annually to “one outstanding faculty member at each participating institution.” The Medical Residency Chief Residents communicate with all program residents and collectively select the award recipient.
 - The Lawrence Margolis Lifetime Teaching Award was presented to **Dr. Sue Yom, MD, PhD**. This award is collectively decided on by our Medical Residents and it is presented annually to a faculty member who has made significant contributions to education within the department and who demonstrates a sustained commitment to training within and outside of the department at all levels.
 - The Jean Pouliot, PhD, Teaching Award was presented to **Zeke Ramirez, PhD**, Chief Dosimetrist. This award is collectively decided on by our Physics Residents and is given in honor of Dr. Jean Pouliot, PhD, to a recipient for excellence in teaching. The recipient of this award has greatly contributed to Physics Resident education in UCSF Department of Radiation Oncology Physics Residency Program.
 - The MVP Award was awarded to **Madeleine Bogdanov, RTT, CMD**, Medical Dosimetrist. This award is decided upon and presented by our Medical Residents to a department member who they believe has contributed to significantly to the residents and their education during the past year.

- The UCSF School of Medicine Dean’s Diversity Fund Committee has selected **Dr. Paola Betancur, PhD**, as a recipient of the Dean’s Diversity Fund Award and she has been named a member of the 2021 Class of John A. Watson Faculty Scholars. The UCSF School of Medicine Dean’s Diversity Fund was established in 2015 to support the recruitment and retention of faculty who share the university’s commitment to diversity and service to underserved or vulnerable populations. Each year eight faculty members are selected and named the John A. Watson Scholars in honor of John A. Watson, PhD, a pioneer for diversity, an inspiring mentor, and a tenacious scientist whose service to the UCSF School of Medicine spanned forty-six years.

- **Lisa Mannheimer-Miller, RN**, Parnassus, received the excellence in Neuroscience Award

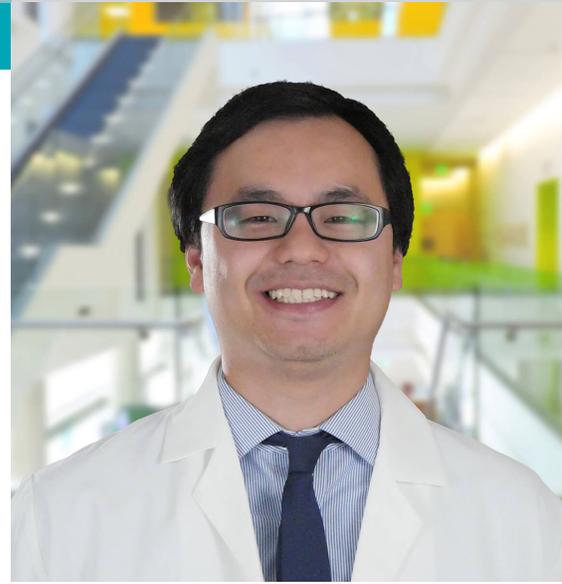
Spotlight

Dr. Sue Yom, MD, PhD, named Editor-in Chief of Red Journal

We are excited to announce the appointment of our own Dr. Sue Yom, MD, PhD, as the new Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics (Red Journal), the flagship journal for the field of radiation oncology. Dr. Yom begins her term on January 1, 2022, succeeding Dr. Anthony Zeitman. She has been part of the journal's editorial team for many years and is currently Deputy Editor. Her innovations have included a new peer-review format, and new content such as the Gray Zone case studies, the Statistics for the People and podcasts. According to the journal, "When she begins her term, Dr. Yom will be only the second female Editor-in-Chief of a major journal in the radiological and imaging sciences." Of her new role, Dr. Yom says "I am incredibly honored to take up this new role—and also very grateful to UCSF for providing me with the clinical and academic background needed to do this and for the support of the department in developing this part of my career." Please join us in congratulating Dr. Yom on her appointment!



Coffee Talk



With Dr. Julian Hong,
MD, MS

*Assistant Professor
Department of Radiation Oncology*

Q What first drew you to the field of Radiation Oncology?

Radiation oncology is a really unique field—for me it was the intersection of working closely with patients and the physics/technology.

Q What is the most interesting part of your job?

Meeting and learning from all the people I interact with in the clinical and informatics worlds. In a given day, I get to talk with patients, our interdisciplinary clinical team, computer scientists—there's something new and interesting every day.

Q Did you take up any new hobbies over the past year during the pandemic?

So I now have this huge Lego collection...

Q What do you do to unwind?

Legos as mentioned above (frequently with our 3 year old). I used to go to the movies a lot (as things open up I'll drag Dr. Steve Braunstein to see Black Widow). Fantasy sports. Having friends over. Eating food—I noticed that we didn't have the lunch question this time, but my answer is "I'm still waiting for the Gott's to open."