

The UCSF RadOnc Beam

News & Ideas from the UCSF Radiation Oncology Team

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

*Dr. Lauren Boreta, MD
Dr. Paola Betancur, PhD
and Lindsay Williams*



In February, the three Rad Onc Diversity Committee Co-chairs submitted their annual Diversity Evaluation and Action Plan to the UCSF School of Medicine's Chairs and Directors Counsel on Diversity. The feedback the committee received was overwhelmingly positive, with special recognition given to the Patient Transportation Program, exit interviews for exiting female faculty, DEIA-focused talks and sessions, and the department's continued work on fostering a radiation oncology pipeline for underrepresented minority students. An area of opportunity identified by the Chairs and Directors Counsel on Diversity was to provide more detailed information with data and metrics around how to support the climate for staff and learners (once learners are enrolled in DEI-based programs). If there is any interest in joining the Rad Onc Diversity Committee and helping develop and track data/metrics, please send an email to Lauren.Boreta@ucsf.edu, Paola.Betancur@ucsf.edu, and Lindsay.Williams@ucsf.edu.

The UCSF PROPEL Program, which provides paid internships to underrepresented minority students, continues to grow under the leadership of Radiation Oncology Diversity Committee Co-chair, Dr. Paola Betancur. The number of scholars matriculated in the program increased from 11 in 2020 to 150 in 2024 and funding to the program has also doubled with the support from the Dean's Office and philanthropy. This year, we have our first cohort of students exiting the program, with a total of 24 scholars advancing to health-related careers with 98% pursuing a PhD degree or joining the medical training scientist program (MSTP). The program is continuing to achieve its goal of increasing diversity in biomedical sciences. Email Paola.Betancur@ucsf.edu for more information.

Lastly, in January, the Radiation Oncology BIPOC Interest Group held their inaugural annual in-person gathering at Spark Social. The group members shared stories and reflections with one another while enjoying delicious cuisines from the local food trucks. Vice President, CJ Teerawattanasook, and Treasurer, Valerie Hewlett, spoke about the role the group has played in creating a more inclusive environment in the department. The group's goal for 2024 is to promote wellness activities rooted in BIPOC communities. Email CJTeerawatt@ucsf.edu and Lindsay.Williams@ucsf.edu with inquiries.

- 1 | Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
- 2 | Educational Programs
- 4 | Physics Division
- 6 | Quality and Safety
- 7 | Operations
- 8 | Clinical Trials
- 10 | Welcome
- 13 | Staff
- 14 | Special Announcements
- 16 | Accolades
- 17 | Coffee Talk



Above: PROPEL Scholars and others attend the PROPEL Annual Symposium on May 30th, 2024



Above: Radiation Oncology BIPOC Interest Group members attend their inaugural annual in-person gathering at SPARK Social SF.

Top row, left to right: CJ Teerawattanasook & her daughter, Ashley Argumedo, Brittany Robertson, Africa Jackson, and Lindsay Williams.

Bottom row, left to right: Jiana Fontenot and Valerie Hewlett

Educational Programs

Miriam Gray, Educational Programs Manager

Dr. Steve Braunstein, MD, PhD, Residency Program Director

Dr. Katelyn Hasse, PhD, Director of Medical Physics Residency Program

Recruitment Match Process and Outcomes

The multi-month Match 2024 recruitment efforts for Medical and Physics Residency programs culminated in a fourth year of virtual informational program sessions and face-to-face interviews with faculty and residents where each program exhibited their respective training environment.

In careful compliance with UCSF GME recruitment policies, Match guidelines, and adherence to accreditation body standards, the Medical and Physics residency training programs engaged in transparent and equitable selection processes for participants. Both programs had successful Match outcomes with both programs filling all available positions.

The Medical Residency Program received approximately 129 applications, interviewed 30 candidates, and matched 3 residents who joined our department in July 2025.

The Physics Residency Program received approximately 108 applications, interviewed 20 candidates, and matched 2 Physics Residents who joined the residency program July 2024.

The Residency Program leadership extends its sincere gratitude to the Selection Committee membership 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.



Above: Drs. Dante Capaldi, Katelyn Hasse, and Ke Sheng present Dr. Evan Porter with his diploma

2024 Resident and Fellow Graduation Event

The 2024 Resident and Fellow Graduation Event was held on Friday, May 17, 2024, at the Park Chalet in San Francisco. Along with graduating residents being presented with their diplomas, the following awards were presented:

Physics Residency Training Program Award 2024:

The Jean Pouliot, PhD, Teaching Award was awarded to **Michael Lometti, MS**

Medical Residency Training Program Award 2024:

The RSNA Research and Education Foundation Roentgen Resident/Fellow Award was awarded to **Dr. S. John Liu, MD, PhD**

The 2024 Lawrence Margolis, MD, Lifetime Teaching Award was awarded to **Dr. Sue Yom, MD, PhD**

The 2024 ARRO Teacher of the Year Award was awarded to **Dr. Emi Yoshida, MD**

Please join us in congratulating each of the 2024 award recipients!

Education Programs (continued)

New Academic Year

Drs. John Liu, Lisa Ni, and Christina Phuong completed their medical residency training at the end of June 2024 and are transitioning into their new career paths. Dr. Phuong will be entering practice at the NorthBay Health Cancer Center in Vacaville; Dr. Ni will be joining the faculty at University of Washington; and Dr. Liu will be joining the faculty at UCSF as a physician scientist.

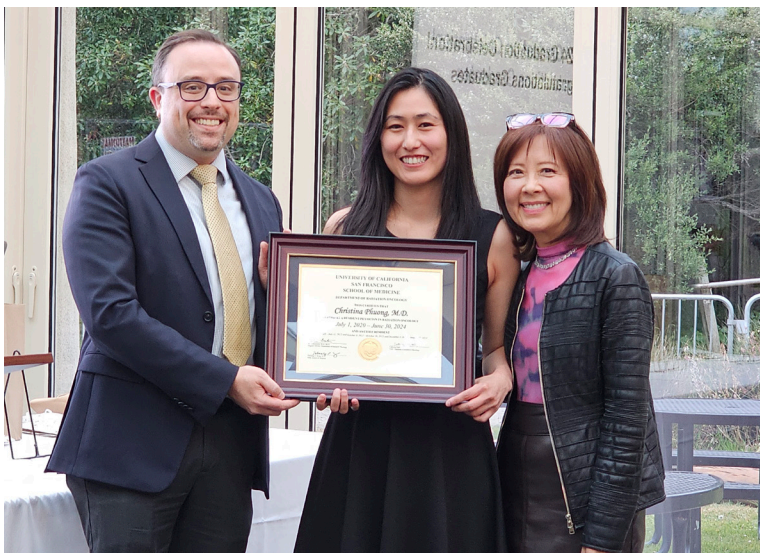
Drs. Oi Wai April Chau and Evan Porter graduated from the Medical Physics Residency Program and began their respective appointments at Mayo Clinic and UCSF.

We welcomed five new Radiation Oncology Residents in July 2024: Drs. Brooke Braman, Michael Gribble, and Anthony Menghini began their PGY-2 medical residency training July 1st of the 2024-2025 academic year and Drs. Jiayi Du, PhD, and Jorge Naoki Kondo, PhD, commenced their first year of Medical Physics Residency in July 2024.

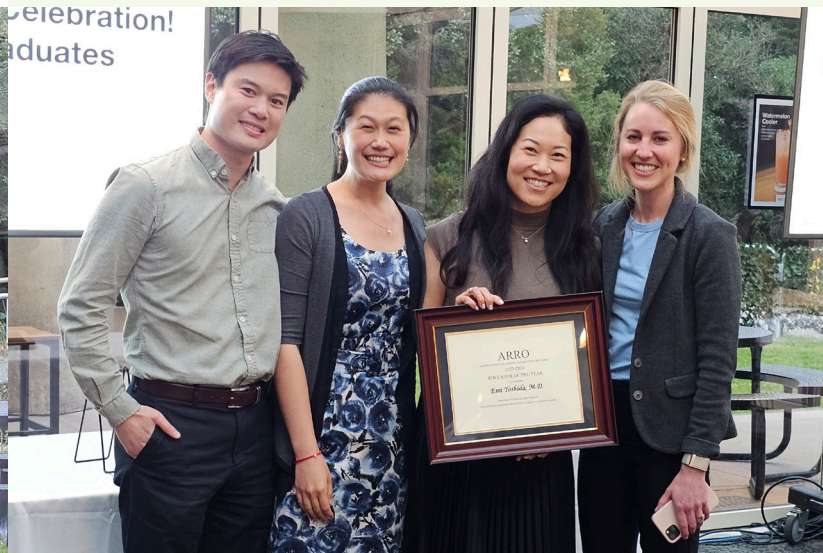
Please see brief biographies of our department's newest trainees in the Welcome column of this newsletter. We look forward to you connecting with each trainee throughout their training.



Above: Dr. Steve Braunstein (right) presents Dr. John Liu (left) with The RSNA Research and Education Foundation Roentgen Resident/Fellow Award



Above: Drs. Steve Braunstein and Catherine Park present Dr. Christina Phuong (center) with her diploma



Above: Drs. William S. Chen, Jie Jane Chen, and Katie Lichter present Dr. Emi Yoshida with The 2024 ARRO Teacher of the Year Award

Physics Division

The Physics Division has been busy working on many important projects over the last several months. Below is brief overview of what our team has been up to:

Physics project updates:

- VMAT for CSI patients at PCMB: Monica Hira, Sara Long, Dr. Evan Porter, Dr. Alon Witztum and PCMB RTTs have successfully implemented a VMAT for CSI patients using robust optimization. We have treated 7 patients to date.
- Mobile CT for HDR at PCMB: Dr. Adam Cunha successfully commissioned the system in May.
- Hyperthermia Program Transition: Mike Lometti and Dr. Adam Cunha will be taking over the clinical Hyperthermia Program starting in July.
- Berkeley Outpatient Center's new Halcyon will be installed in July. Drs. Manju Sharma and Evan Porter are leading the acceptance and commissioning.
- Parnassus New TrueBeam will also be installed in July. Gaurav Shukla and Dr. Dante Capaldi are leading the acceptance and commissioning.

We would also like to celebrate the individual and team accomplishments of our following Physics Division members:

Dr. Ke Sheng will give the 2024 AAPM Presidential Symposium talk in Los Angeles on July 22nd, 2024.

Dr. Katelyn Hasse graduated from the UCSF Teaching Scholars Program. A ceremony will be held on September 10th, 2024.

Dr. Qihui Lyu received the 2024 MZHF RAP award for her proposed brachytherapy CT work in May of this year.

Dr. Manju Sharma was selected as a mentor for AAPM's International Council Associate Mentorship Program in May of this year.

Work by **Drs. Hui Lin, Olivier Morin**, et al – “Boosting Decoder Performance via Dynamic Prompting from Patient Similarity Embeddings for Outcome Prediction” – has been selected as Best in Physics (Therapy) for AAPM 2024.

Dr. Adam Cunha was elected AAPM Fellow in April of this year.

Mike Lometti was named the recipient of the 2024 UCSF Radiation Oncology Jean Pouliot Physics Educational Award in April.

The Cardiac SBRT Team was selected in April as a winner of the PIPE-sponsored Interprofessional Collaboration Award for 2024! The Team is led by **Dr. Lisa Singer** with physics support from **Drs. Hui Lin** and **Emily Hirata**.

Drs. Qihui Lyu and **Hui Lin** started as the core members of Joint UC Berkeley and UCSF Bioengineering graduate program in April.

Dr. Olivier Morin was awarded the Cancer Center Seed Award for her proposal entitled “Building a Multimodal Vision-Language Model for Precise Spatial-Temporal Prediction of Glioblastoma” in April.

Dr. Dante Capaldi's Radiology CTI paper on free-breathing proton MRI ventilation was editorialized in March and a podcast ensued.

Physics Division (continued)

Continued individual and team accomplishments of our Physics Division members:

Dr. Dante Capaldi started as a voting member on the AAPM Joint Working Group for Research Seed Funding Initiative in March.

Drs. Dante Capaldi, Tomi Nano, Emily Hirata, et al, made it onto the cover of the March-April 2024 issue of *Practical Radiation Oncology*.

Dr. Olivier Morin started as a voting member on the AAPM Science Council in January.

Dr. Emily Hirata was awarded the UCSF Department of Radiation Oncology Exceptional Service Award in October of 2023.

Dr. Hui Lin presented “Investigating the Aggregation Methods of Contextualized Transformer Embeddings of Long Electronic Health Record Notes for Glioma Overall Survival Prediction” at the 2023 AAPM Science Council Session last July.

Personnel updates:

UCSF physics resident, **Dr. Evan Porter**, accepted an Assistant Professor offer to start in September 2024.

Two new physics residents, **Dr. Jorge Naoki Dominguez Kondo** from UCSF, and **Dr. Jiayi Du** from UCLA began in July 2024.

Dr. Alon Witztum has been appointed the Director of Radiation Oncology Reporting.

Dr. Dante Capaldi has been appointed the Associate Director for the Physics Residency Program.

Dr. Adam Cunha has been appointed the Director of CAMPEP Graduate Program.



Above: Drs. Evan Porter, Dante Capaldi, Jorge Naoki Dominguez Kondo, and Gaurav Shukla perform acceptance testing for the new TrueBeam machine at Parnassus



Above: Physics Division members and others attend a Medical Physics Resident Graduation celebration at SPARK Social SF. Top row left to right: Dr. Dante Capaldi, Gaurav Shukla, Garrett Roe, Dr. Teddy Geoghegan, Dr. Oi Wai April Chau, Dr. Katelyn Hasse, Dr. Qihui Liu, Dr. Evan Porter, Dr. Rachel Sabol, Dr. Jie Jane Chen, and Dr. Rachel Conger. Bottom row left to right: Dr. Emily Hirata and Ali Rode

Quality and Safety

Vernon Cheam, RTT

Dr. Emily Hirata, PhD

Mary Mok, RN

Nina Pitts

Dr. Nicolas Prionas, MD, PhD

Dr. Ke Sheng, PhD

Lindsay Williams

The past year has been an exciting time on the Quality and Safety front as we strengthened our culture of safety through inter-disciplinary participation in multiple improvement initiatives across the operation and by building the foundation of a modern digital Quality program. Our department continues to be a role model within the Cancer Center, demonstrating a deliberate and methodical approach towards building a culture of safety with participation from all stakeholders. At the annual UC Health Continuous Process Improvement Committee meeting, our department was specifically commended for the collaboration in quality initiatives across all branches of our team. We highlight some of the ongoing work below:

- **Digital Quality Program:** Thanks to the significant effort that went into successfully transitioning to a new Oncology Information System (OIS) in the fall of 2022, moving from Mosaiq to ARIA, and building structured tiered treatment planning workflows in the OIS, we now have a robust digital record of our clinical operation that enables automated quantification of our workflows and processes. **Dr. Alon Witztum** led the charge into a new era of digital reporting that enables rapid quantification of process metrics, empowering data-driven interventions, and quicker innovation cycles. Automated dashboards have been built to understand and support daily operational tasks and to more transparently follow the progress of patients through our system.
- **Safety Scripts:** In line with our culture of learning and improvement, **Dr. Evan Porter** used the lessons from a reported incident to identify gaps in the simulation to treatment workflow and build automated tools to catch common pitfalls and safety issues, such as inconsistent structure naming, common planning errors, and outlying dosimetric values. His SafePlan software is already being used by Dosimetry to improve efficiency at key planning bottlenecks and earned him an oral presentation at the American Association of Physicists in Medicine annual conference.



- **Guardrails PCMB Expansion:** After a successful rollout at Mount Zion, we expanded the Guardrails system to PCMB; this system identifies patient cases that may be at risk of falling behind in the planning process as early as possible in the workflow such that support can be provided and last-minute urgency and/or delays can be avoided. In doing so, we prioritize protecting the time for safety checks. The rollout was smooth, with little disruption to operational flow at PCMB, and only ~5% of cases requiring a shift in start date.
- **Transportation Support Program:** Our administrative team continues to coordinate our transportation support program which provides disadvantaged patients with free transportation (Uber and Yellow Cab) to/from radiotherapy appointments to reduce treatment interruptions, patient anxiety, unplanned Emergency Department visits, and lost time from work/life. Utilization rates remain high, and the program has been expanded to cover a 50-mile radius. Under the leadership of **Dr. Katie Lichter**, the program has shifted to emphasize Uber Green rides to minimize the carbon footprint from transportation; this year, this effort avoided emissions equivalent to the carbon sequestered by >1 acre of forest.
- **Other Process Improvements:** Many daily processes have been re-evaluated and improved across the department. There is ongoing work to improve the management of patients with implanted cardiac devices with interdisciplinary leadership from nursing, therapists, administrators, and physicians. Under the guidance of **Lennie Garcia**, our Medical Assistants revamped the consent verification process to minimize the number of missing consents and last-minute requests for consent completion.

As it is with continuous process improvement, a lot was accomplished this year, but there is more to come. For more updates throughout the year and for other departmental information, check out the Radiation Oncology Wiki, another component of our digital department spearheaded by **Andrew Cooke**. Congratulations to all for your contributions to our department's improvement and safety!

Operations

Dr. Lauren Boreta, MD

Dr. Emily Hirata, PhD

Nina Pitts

Dr. Nicolas Prionas, MD, PhD

Alan Taniguchi

We are pleased to share the following Operations updates with you listed by site:

Mission Bay:

- Mobile CT planning is underway for PCMB HDR patients, we are currently in the training phase, patient use is expected in Summer 2024.
- The Cardiac SBRT team led by Dr. Lisa Singer has won the interprofessional collaboration award.
- Our first Associate Chief RTT position has been posted for Mission Bay. These positions will eventually be rolled out at all sites.
- PCMB's Service Line Podding A3 project successfully developed service line pods and addressed low rates of Visit Navigator completion for Video Visits (improved by 80% and completion by 45%). This work was featured on a poster at the UCSF Health Improvement Symposium.
- The PCMB MAs and RNs were recognized during Patient Experience week for the work they have been doing to improve the patient experience.

Mount Zion:

- We have stopped using the Simulator at Mount Zion for patient use as of March 2024, so our Ocular patients are now using our CT Simulator for their simulations.
- Mount Zion's In-Person Clinic Rooming A3 project has increased the % of patients roomed at or before their appointment time with visit navigator completed and provider paged from 46% to 90% over a nine-month period. There were multiple interventions that contributed to this, but the main shoutout is for our wonderful MAs and their efforts on this project.



- The Mount Zion MA and RN teams have been nominated for a PRIDE experience award for consistently going above and beyond for our patients.

Parnassus:

- Artiste was decommissioned at Parnassus in January 2024.
- New True Beam planning at Parnassus is underway with treatment of the first patient expected in Fall 2024.
- TBI scheduling workflow at Parnassus has been improved to utilize APEX resources as opposed to email.
- Moffitt-Long's In-Basket Triaging A3 project aims to improve and standardize how RNs and PCs address patient MyChart messages (work in progress).

All Sites:

- Contact Center go-live for Pod 1 (Radiation Oncology GU and GI) went fully live on 3/19/24. The Contact Center handles incoming calls and referrals for New Patient scheduling and Follow Up scheduling for our GU and GI patients.
- ARIA encounters have been optimized for NPCs and MD Support PCs to streamline processes. Oncology G

Clinical Trials

Studies Open in 2024

PI	Protocol#	Study Title	Funding	6 month Accrual	Study Status
Dr. Park	187513	Hypofractionation after breast reconstruction for breast cancer (FABREC)	DFCI/PCORI	0	Closed
Dr. Yom	162010	Nivolumab + chemoRT for patients with nasopharyngeal cancer	IIT/BMS	1	Open
Dr. Yom	166520	PembroX: Pembrolizumab +/- SBRT prior to surgery for NSCLC (PembroX)	IIT/Merck	0	Closed
Dr. Yom	18201	Phase 1/2 trial of concurrent RT, cisplatin, and BMX-001 in locally advanced H&N cancer	BioMimetix	0	Closed
Dr. Yom	NRG-HN001	Phase II/III studies of individualized treatment for nasopharyngeal cancer based on biomarker EBV DNA	NRG	0	Closed
Dr. Yom	NRG-HN004	Phase II/III trial of RT and concurrent durvalumab vs. RT and concurrent cetuximab in H&N cancer pts with a contraindication to cisplatin	NRG	0	Closed
Dr. Yom	NRG-HN005	Phase II/III trial of deintensified RT for favorable oropharyngeal cancer	NRG	0	Open
Dr. Chan	RTOG 1216	Phase II/III Trial of adjuvant RT with cisplatin, docetaxel-cetuximab, or cisplatin-atezolizumab in pathologic high-risk squamous cell cancer of the head and neck	NRG	0	Open
Dr. Wong	CC#20727	STEEL: Phase II trial of salvage RT with standard or enhanced ADT for post-op PSA recurrences with aggressive disease features (RTOG 3506 STEEL)	RTOG Foundation	0	Closed
Dr. Wong	CC#18551	Randomized Phase II Study of Salvage XRT + ADT +/- Abiraterone Acetate and Apalutamide (ARN-509) for Rising PSA after Radical Prostatectomy with Adverse Features. Facilitating Optimal Radiation Management Using Leuprolide, Abiraterone Acetate, and Apalutamide (FORMULA-509 Trial)	DFCI	0	Closed
Dr. Feng	CC# 19721	Phase II study of hypofractionated RT to augment immune response in metastatic GI cancers progressing on immune therapy (ARM-GI)	IIT/Varian	2	Open
Dr. Feng	CC# 194522	Phase II trial of palliative hypofractionated RT followed by durvalumab +/- tremelimumab for advanced HCC	IIT/Astra-Zeneca	1	Open
Dr. Feng	CC# 21721	Optimization of MRI for Liver Radiotherapy	UCSF-IIT	1	Open
Dr. Wong	CC#21726	Phase II randomized trial of SABR with or without neurovascular sparing for erectile function preservation in localized prostate cancer (POTEN-C)	UT Southwestern	0	Closed
Dr. Hong	NRG -GU008	Phase III trial of abiraterone acetate with prednisone and apalutamide and advanced imaging in salvage treatment for node-positive prostate cancer after prostatectomy	NRG	0	Open
Dr. Hong	NRG-GU 009	Parallel phase III randomized trials for high risk prostate cancer evaluating de-intensification for lower genomic risk and intensification of concurrent therapy for high genomic risk with Radiation (PREDICT-RT)	NRG	0	Open

Clinical Trials

Studies Open in 2024

PI	Protocol#	Study Title	Funding	6 month Accrual	Study Status
Dr. Hong	NRG-GU 010	Parallel phase III randomized trials of genomic-risk stratified unfavorable intermediate risk prostate cancer: De-intensification and intensification clinical trial evaluation (GUIDANCE)	NRG	0	Open
Drs. Yom/Chew	CC#22721	Phase III trial addressing taste dysfunction with miraculin in head and neck cancer patients receiving RT	UCSF- IIT	8	Open
Dr. Yom	CC#21728	SBRT for Early Treatment of Oligometastatic Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma: The SOLAR trial	DFCI	0	Open
Dr. Chan	NRG-HN009	Randomized phase II/III trial of RT with high-dose cisplatin every 3 wks vs. RT with low-dose weekly cisplatin for patients with locoregionally advanced SCC of the head and neck	NRG	1	Open
Dr. Singer	CC#22725	Magnetic resonance Imaging in Radiotherapy for breast cancer (MIRROR): A Pilot Study of MRI Simulation	UCSF- IIT	1	Open

Studies in the Pipeline

PI	Protocol#	Study Title	Funding	6 month Accrual	Study Status
Dr. Chan	NRG-HN006	Randomized phase II/III trial of sentinel lymph node biopsy vs. elective neck dissection for early stage oral cavity cancer	NRG		
Dr. Braunstein	NRG-BN012	A randomized phase iii trial of pre-operative compared to post-operative stereotactic radiosurgery in patients with resectable brain metastases	NRG		
Dr. Hong	CC#23722	Wearable Activity Tracking to Curb Hospitalizations (WATCH)	UCSF - IIT		
Dr. Chan	CC#24722	A Prospective International Multicenter, Pivotal, Single Arm, Open Label Clinical Study to Assess the Efficacy and Safety of Intratumoral Alpha DaRT224 for the Treatment of Patients with Recurrent Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma (Alpha Tau)	Alpha Tau Medical-LTD		
Dr. Feng	CC#24721	An International, Prospective, Open-label, Multi-center, Randomized Phase III Study comparing lutetium (177Lu) vipivotide tetraxetan (AAA617) versus Observation to delay castration or disease recurrence in adult male patients with prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) positive Oligometastatic Prostate Cancer (OMPC)	Novartis		
Dr. Chen	CC#24724	A Pilot trial of adjuvant hypofractionated stereotactic radiosurgery for intermediate-risk meningioma (SRS-AIM)	UCSF - IIT		
Dr. Yom	RTOG 3521	TRANSPARENT: Single-Arm Study of Toripalimab in Combination with Cisplatin and Gemcitabine in Recurrent Metastatic Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma Systemic Treatment Naïve Participants	RTOG Foundation		
Dr. Yom	CC#239814	An Evaluation of Changes in the Relationships Between Fatigue and Molecular Mechanisms in Cancer Patients Receiving Curative-Intent Combined Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy (CCRT)	NCI		

Welcome

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

Post-Doctoral Fellow and Clinical Instructor:

MD Faculty:



Dr. Alex Hotca, MD, will join our department as an Assistant Professor on September 3rd, 2024. Dr. Hotca's primary focus will be the treatment of Gastrointestinal and related cancers, and she will be located at PCMB on the Mission Bay campus. Dr. Hotca was born in Romania. She obtained

her BA in Biology from Hunter College in New York and completed her medical education at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. She returned to NYC to complete her Radiation Oncology residency at Mount Sinai Hospital, where she served as chief resident and developed both clinical and research interests in GI malignancies. Her research passion lies in enhancing patient care through multi-specialty collaborations, developing preventive measures to boost patient quality of life, and identifying potential predictive biomarkers for radiation-induced toxicities. Dr. Hotca is deeply committed to caring for the diverse patient community at UCSF and looks forward to being involved in innovative clinical trials. Outside of patient care, Dr. Hotca is an avid traveler and marathon enthusiast, having raced across various global destinations, and loves exploring new restaurants. When not on the move, she cherishes quality time with her family, friends, and her beloved cat, Lily.



Dr. John Liu, MD, PhD, will join our department on August 1st, 2024, as an Assistant Professor joint between Radiation Oncology and Neurological Surgery. Dr. Liu's clinical area of focus will be the treatment of adults with CNS malignancies and his clinic will be located at Parnassus.

Dr. Liu received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University in Chemical and Physical Biology. He completed his MD and PhD training at the University of California, San Francisco. He continued onto residency in Radiation Oncology at UCSF and pursued postdoctoral research as a Holman Pathway Research Fellow with Luke Gilbert, David Raleigh, William Weiss, and Mitchel Berger. Dr. Liu is a Principal Investigator at the UCSF Brain Tumor Center, with a research focus on functional genomics in brain tumors and using CRISPR/Cas9 tools to understand and overcoming treatment resistance in malignant glioma. Outside of the lab and clinic, John enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter and is frequently seen cycling in the early mornings around the many hills of the San Francisco Bay Area.



Dr. Steven N. Seyedin, MD, will join our department as an Assistant Professor on August 1st, 2024. Dr. Seyedin's clinical area of focus will primarily involve Genitourinary and related cancers and his clinic will be located at PCMB on Mission Bay. Dr. Seyedin received his medical

degree at David Geffen School of Medicine in 2014 followed by completing his clinical residency in 2020 at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics. From 2020 until June 2024, he served as an Assistant Professor at UC Irvine focused on treating genitourinary cancer. His research interest involves investigating biomarkers predicting response to radiation therapy in muscle invasive bladder cancer. During his spare time, he enjoys playing tennis, cooking, and reading while drinking espresso.

MD Faculty:



Dr. Matt Susko, MD MS, will join our department as an Assistant Professor on September 3rd, 2024. Dr. Susko's clinical area of focus will primarily involve Palliative Care/CNS at Parnassus. In addition, Dr. Susko will be assisting in covering the Ocular service at Davis. Dr. Susko initially

joined UCSF Radiation Oncology in 2017 as a resident and subsequently graduated in 2021. Prior to that, he received his undergraduate degree from UC Davis in Genetics, and completed his MD degree at Duke University School of Medicine. During medical school, he elected to pursue a Master's in Global Health at UCSF, which he completed in 2015. Since graduating from UCSF as a resident, Dr. Susko has worked in Monterey, California as a radiation oncologist and medical director for radiation oncology at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. Dr. Susko had a passion for teaching and learning and is excited to return to UCSF as part of the CNS and palliative care teams. In his free time, he has a love for the outdoors, cooking, and spending time with family.

Physics Faculty:



Dr. Evan Porter, PhD, will join our department Physics faculty on September 2nd, 2024, as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medical Physics. Dr. Porter will be located at the new UCSF Berkeley Outpatient Center. Dr. Porter received his PhD in Medical Physics at Wayne State University

and Beaumont, in Royal Oak, Michigan in 2022. After graduating in 2022, Dr. Porter completed his clinical training in the UCSF medical physics residency. His research focuses on clinical scripting for patient safety and large cohort brain metastases analysis.

Medical Residents:



Dr. Brooke Braman, MD, received her Bachelor of Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Spanish Studies and her MD at University of Minnesota Medical School. Brooke completed her first year of postdoctoral training at Saint Joseph Hospital in Colorado. Brooke carried out

research on topics including characterizing the biophysical properties of treatment resistant tumor cell lines and initiating the development of a murine model of glioma to implement a standard of care therapy equivalent. Brooke has volunteered since 2019 for the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon in Minnesota, where she provided medical care to participants of the marathon at the finish line medical tent. Brooke has also worked as a team member for peer study support and tutoring during her time at the University of Minnesota Medical School, where she developed study materials along with providing academic coaching and tutoring to first-year medical students.



Dr. Michael Gribble, MD, completed medical school with academic distinction at Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California and completed his transitional year at Riverside Community Hospital. His research focus during his time in medical school

was on developing a novel artificial intelligence tool to optimize areas targeted by brachytherapy for treatment of gynecological cancers and to grade meningiomas based exclusively on imaging. Michael has experience in teaching as both a substitute teacher and tutor in Burbank, California, where he worked with elementary, middle, and high school students. Michael also worked as a head and neck anatomy teaching assistant at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, where he designed new and interactive 3D model-centered curriculum for remote learning for dental students. He worked as a volunteer in Tecate, Mexico, where he assisted in building homes for families displaced by a government project and aided in constructing six homes over a three-year period.

Medical Residents:



Dr. Anthony Menghini, MD, attended the University of Wyoming, where he earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Chemical Engineering. Anthony went on to earn his MD at the University of Washington School of Medicine and completed an internship in General

Surgery there as well. Anthony has research experience which includes an analyses on survival statistics, genotypic and phenotypic characteristics, and surgical outcomes for patients with peripheral vascular, aortic, and cardiac manifestations of LDS; a literature review and manuscript for “solid tumor” component of a review article on palliative radiotherapy for pediatric cancers; and the designing, characterization, and employment of surface-enhanced Raman scattering (SERS) based diagnostic immunoassay for economically relevant pathogen. Anthony has an interest in entomology which started at a young age, and he now has a personal collection of hundreds of preserved and properly identified insects. He also has a coin collection that includes United States currency dating back to the 18th century. Anthony is a well-versed piano player, which he started learning in middle school and has continued to pursue to this day.

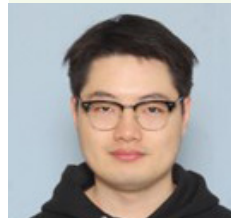


Medical Physics Residents:



Dr. Jorge Naoki Dominguez Kondo, PhD, has a PhD from the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP), Puebla México. Naoki has been working as a post-doc at UCSF since 2022 under Drs. Bruce Faddegon and José Ramos-Mendez, with research focusing on elucidating

the chemical mechanisms underlying DNA damage following water radiolysis through the utilization of Monte Carlo simulations. Naoki has been a senior member of the Radiation Research Society (RADRES) since 2022. While at UCSF, Naoki has been an active participant in Physics journal clubs and a valuable member of the IMRTQA team. He is adept in scientific programming in different languages and has extensive knowledge of multithreading and GPU programming with OOP architecture.



Dr. Jiayi Du, PhD, completed his PhD at UCLA under the supervision of Dr. Ke Sheng. Jiayi's thesis work focuses on modeling large-scale heterogeneous tumor growth to bridge cell biology and radiomics. His research interests encompass agent-based modeling, a continuum model for

tumor growth, hemodynamics and oxygenation of vasculature systems, and high-performance computing. Jiayi has been involved with several 3D printing clinical projects. Jiayi's research experience includes developing a fully GPU-based simulation platform Gell for large-scale hybrid agent-based modeling, along with developing a continuum tumor growth model with discrete vasculature coupling. He currently has a publication on GPU-powered 3D hybrid simulators for large-scale multicellular systems.

Staff:

Emily Atkins joined our department in December 2023 as a Medical Assistant at Mission Bay.

Sheila Brennan joined our department in January 2024 as a Clinical Nurse 2 at Mission Bay.

Olga (Karinna) Chavez joined our department in January 2023 as a Medical Assistant at Parnassus.

Allison Donnici joined our department in September 2023 as a Clinical Nurse 2 at Mount Zion.

Judith Luna joined our department in May 2024 as a Clinical Nurse 2 at Mission Bay.

Kelly McClean joined our department in March 2024 as a Radiation Therapist at Mission Bay.

Marissa Sun joined our department in January 2024 as a Clinical Nurse 2 at Parnassus.

Sole Zaragoza-Garcia joined our department in December 2023 as a Medical Assistant at Mount Zion.



Special Announcements



Dr. Mack Roach, MD, FASTRO, to be Presented ASTRO Gold Medal Award

The UCSF Department of Radiation Oncology is pleased to announce that our own Dr. Mack Roach, MD, FASTRO, has been named a winner of the ASTRO Gold Medal Award. In the official award announcement, ASTRO noted that the Gold Medal is the organization's "highest honor and is bestowed on revered members who have made outstanding contributions to the field of radiation oncology." We are incredibly proud of Dr. Roach for receiving this esteemed award which reflects his many contributions to research, clinical care, teaching, and service. Dr. Roach will be honored alongside the other 2024 Gold Medal Award recipients during the Awards Ceremony on October 1st, 2024, at ASTRO's 66th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. More about the ASTRO Gold Medal Award recipients can be found [here](#). Please join us in congratulating Dr. Roach on this well-deserved honor!

Nina Pitts Awarded 2024 Chancellor's Award for Exceptional University Management

We would like to extend special congratulations to Nina Pitts, Operations Director, on being recognized with a 2024 Chancellor's Award for Exceptional University Management. Nina's work, dedication, expertise and her commitment to the department and its members have been absolutely exceptional. The official announcement from the Chancellor noted that during, "her remarkable career spanning more than 20 years at UCSF, Nina has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to timely, honest and empathetic communication. Her ability to understand diverse perspectives positions her as a valuable advocate for critical projects to prioritize patient and staff safety." This award is a wonderful recognition of Nina and what she brings to our department and UCSF. Please join us in congratulating Nina on this great honor! Learn more about Nina and her UCSF journey at tiny.ucsf.edu/FoundersDay2024.



Above: Nina Pitts receives the 2024 Chancellor's Award for Exceptional University Management at the 2024 Founder's Day Awards ceremony. Back row from left to right: Laurel Bray-Hanin, Sherman Lim, Nina Pitts, Mary Mok, Karishma Raghuvanshi, and Hailey Randolph. Front row from left to right: Dr. Cathy Park, Gail Eierweiss (Nina's mother), and Mark Pitts (Nina's husband)

Special Announcements (continued)



Above: Drs. Chris Diederich, Ke Sheng, Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff, and I-Chow "Joe" Hsu attend an event celebrating Dr. Diederich's retirement and his many contributions to our department

Retirement of Dr. Chris Diederich, PhD, from UCSF Radiation Oncology

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Dr. Chris Diederich, PhD, Professor of Medical Physics, as of July 1, 2024. Chris has been a faculty member at UCSF since 1990. Over the past 34 years, he has made numerous remarkable contributions. As a renowned hyperthermia physicist, Chris has authored approximately 120 peer-reviewed papers, 21 patents, and 6 book chapters. His publications and inventions have been cited 11,779 times. Throughout his career, Chris has received numerous awards, including the prestigious 2010 J. Eugene Robinson Award, the 2019 George M. Hahn Award, and the 2022 ESHO-Pyrexar Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of hyperthermia.

In addition, Chris was recently presented the William C. Dewey Award in recognition of his mentorship and training of new investigators in the field of hyperthermia and thermal medicine, at the Society for Thermal Medicine Annual Meeting which took place May 13th-15th, 2024, in Houston, Texas. His award presentation, entitled "Some Highlights of Mentoring and Ultrasound," covered early clinical investigations at UCSF using ultrasound hyperthermia with Doxil and ThermoDox, the development and clinical implementation of catheter-based ultrasound technologies for hyperthermia and ablation, and low intensity focused ultrasound for treating pain, while emphasizing the contributions of the trainees.

Please join us in celebrating Chris' remarkable career, his arc of academic achievements and utmost professionalism—most remarkable and admirable in every way. We wish him and his family the very best!



Lindsay Williams Appointed Assistant Director for Staff in the HDFCCC Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

We are pleased to announce that Lindsay Williams, Administrative Director at our Parnassus site, has been appointed to serve as the Assistant Director for Staff in the HDFCCC Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA). In the official announcement, Dr. Alan Ashworth, PhD, FRS, noted that "in her new role, Lindsay will work with Cancer Center leadership, staff, and colleagues to build a supportive, inclusive, and engaging community, and inform processes and plans for recruitment and retention of diverse staff, trainees and faculty in the Cancer Center." Congratulations to Lindsay on her appointment! Lindsay will continue on as the Administrative Director at Parnassus in addition to her new role. More information about Lindsay, her new appointment, and her many contributions to our department and UCSF can be found at tiny.ucsf.edu/OfficeDEIA.

Accolades



Dr. Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff, PhD, will deliver the 61st Failla lecture at Radiation Research in Tucson in September: <https://www.radres.org/page/AwardsFailla>

Dr. Paola Betancur, PhD, received a Breast Cancer Research Foundation—AACR Career Development Award to Promote Diversity and Inclusion for her project “Mechanisms of Super-enhancer activation driven by deletion variant in breast cancer.”

Jie Jane Chen, MD was named a winner of the UCSF Health Exceptional Physician Award. Dr. Chen is a chief resident in the UCSF Radiation Oncology department and is known for her exceptional leadership and inspiring advocacy for her patients, colleagues, and teams. Her research addressing disparities in palliative radiotherapy for patients with cancer parallels her clinical and educational mission to foster equity and inclusivity. Within her department, Dr. Chen leads the resident education committee and has developed innovative curricula for breast cancer.

Dr. William C. Chen, MD, Chen has been awarded a 2024 ASCO Career Development Award. This award is a three-year, \$200,000 award, to continue work related to biomarker implementation and clinical trials for meningioma patients.



Dr. Will S. Chen, MD, (PGY-4, Holman Pathway) was awarded a 2024 ASCO Conquer Cancer Young Investigator Award (\$50,000). Under the mentorship of Dr. Felix Feng, he will be investigating the influence of hormone therapy on prostate cancer tumor evolution.

Dr. Jean-Philippe Coppé, PhD, had one R01 grant renewed (“Kinome-guided targeting of cooperative dependencies in BRAF-mutated metastatic colorectal cancer” with Chloe Atreya, MD PhD at UCSF) in addition to be awarded two new R01 grants (Coppé: PI; title: “Collagen signaling in pancreatic cancer” with Howard Crawford, PhD and Rafael Fridman, PhD at Henry Ford Health and Michigan State University and Coppé: co-I; title: “Kinase signaling in epidermal homeostasis and early neoplasia”; with Carolyn Lee, MD PhD at Stanford).

Dr. Felix Feng, MD, received a 2024 [ASTRO Mentorship Award](#) which recognizes extraordinary mentors in radiation oncology who demonstrate outstanding commitment to the professional development of their mentees as clinicians, educators, and researchers. Dr. Feng will be recognized during the Awards Ceremony on October 1st, 2024, during the ASTRO Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Dr. Felix Feng, MD, was awarded the 2024 Urology Care Foundation Richard D. Williams, MD Prostate Cancer Research Excellence Award during the annual American Urological Association meeting in May. The Williams Award is presented annually to recognize outstanding and impactful research in the field of prostate cancer over the previous 10 years.

We Want To Showcase You!

If you or your team is doing something newsworthy, we want to know. To share your story ideas or successes in this newsletter, please contact Eric.Breedon@ucsf.edu

Accolades (continued)

Dr. Felix Feng, MD, is the principal investigator, with Eric Small, MD, from the UCSF Department of Medicine, on a \$10M Prostate Cancer SPORE (Specialized Program of Research Excellence) P50 grant application that was selected for funding, starting in September 2024. The grant involved over 20 faculty members from UCSF and will provide scientific support and infrastructure for a number of prostate cancer projects at UCSF over the next five years.

Dr. Rachel Sabol, MD, PhD, has been selected as a FAST-CaR Fellow (Fellows Advancement Skills Training in Clinical Research) at UCSF for AY2024-2025.

Drs. Jessica Scholey, PhD, and Wensha Yang, PhD, were awarded a Varian grant entitled “MRI-informed CBCT for liver stereotactic body radiation therapy.”

Dr. Harish Vasudevan, MD, PhD, and his laboratory were awarded the Department of Defense New Investigator Award, the Developmental and Hyperactive Ras Therapeutics SPORE Career Enhancement Program Award, and the UCSF Cancer Center Neuro-Oncology Research Award to fund their efforts studying oncogenic growth factor signaling in nervous system tumors.

Dr. Ke Sheng, PhD, FASTRO, will give the 2024 AAPM Presidential Symposium talk in Los Angeles on July 22nd, 2024.

Dr. Katelyn Hasse, PhD, graduated from the UCSF Teaching Scholars Program. A ceremony will be held on 9/10/2024.

Dr. Qihui Lyu, PhD, received the 2024 Mount Zion Health Fund RAP award for her proposed brachytherapy CT work.

Dr. Manju Sharma, PhD, was selected as a mentor for AAPM's International Council Associate Mentorship Program.

Coffee Talk



With
Dr. Katelyn Hasse, PhD
*Assistant Professor, Division of Physics
Department of Radiation Oncology*



What drew you to the field of Radiation Oncology?

I originally learned about Radiation Oncology when I went with my mom to her radiation treatments while I was getting my degree in Nuclear Engineering. I met her Radiation Oncologist, and he told me my background might be a good fit for Medical Physics. I was instantly drawn to the possibility of applying physics to helping patients!



What is the most interesting part of your job?

The most interesting part of my job is getting to work as part of a diverse team in a diverse environment—I really enjoy working collaboratively to troubleshoot day-to-day problems and brainstorm strategies to tackle complex cases. I learn something new every day!



What's the best spot for lunch on campus?

B on the Go near Mount Zion! Great sandwiches (and baked goods).



What do you do to unwind?

On the weekends, I like to get outside and go hiking with my husband or get lost in a new book or two.