Kudos

UCLA study finds combination therapy suppresses pancreatic tumor growth in mice

News-Medical, Medical Xpress and other media outlets highlighted a new UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center study that uncovered a potential new way to target pancreatic tumors that express high intertumoral interferon signaling. The lead author was Alex Moore, a general surgery R3 resident. Senior authors were Dr. Timothy Donahue and Dr. Caius Radu of the Jonsson Cancer Center.

Salon syndicated a ProPublica article quoting Dr. Peyman Benharash, Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of the adult ECMO program at the UCLA Medical Center, on the lack of a centralized system to treat COVID-19 patients and how ECMO doctors created an informal group chat to coordinate resources.

Residency News

February 26, 2021 was Thank a Resident Day! To celebrate the surgical house staff, cookies from a local shop were delivered to the various surgical services and training sites. Many thanks to the residents who helped with the distribution.

Dr. Clifford Ko New Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery

Dr. Ko was appointed as the Section Chief of the Colon and Rectal Section. An accomplished surgeon and researcher, Dr. Ko received his medical degree from the University of Chicago, completed his residency at UCLA, and trained in Colorectal Surgery at Lahey Clinic in Boston. Dr. Ko’s research focuses on surgical quality of care, including quality measurement, process improvement and quality maintenance. The appointment transitions leadership of the Section from Dr. Kazanjian, who has served in the role since 2014. Dr. Kazanjian held the appointment since his recruitment to UCLA and continues his role as an expert surgeon and educator in the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Ko on his new role and in thanking Dr. Kazanjian for his years of outstanding leadership.
Department of Surgery: Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

**Mission Statement**

“To increase the diversity of our faculty and residency program, support programs and research initiatives aimed at eradicating disparity, and create an equitable environment where surgeons, trainees, and patients of all backgrounds are valued and welcomed.”

The Department of Surgery has established an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee to “increase faculty and resident diversity within the Department, identify opportunities for research on these issues, and steward culture change within our Department towards anti-racism and social justice”. Dr. Juan Carlos Jimenez is serving as the founding Chair of the committee, which includes more than twenty faculty, resident, and medical student representatives. Drs. Avital Harari, Jesus Ulloa, and Justin Wagner will serve as the EDI Subcommittee Chairs.

**Avital Harari - Recruitment and Retention Chair**
Subcommittee Members:
Sarah Gilyard, Reza Jarrahy, Sha’Shonda Revels, Michael Robinson, and Veronica Sullins

**Jesus Ulloa - Research Chair**
Subcommittee Members:
Rochelle Dicker, Kent Garber, Efe Ghanney, Catherine Juillard, and Joe Pantoja

**Justin Wagner - Education Chair**
Subcommittee Members:
Kevin Blair, Hattie Huston-Paterson, Amanda Labora, Michael Mederos, Nina Bowens, Jessica O’Connell, Areti Tillou, and Gabriella Odudu

**Long Term Goals**
1. Recruit faculty into the Dept of Surgery from underrepresented backgrounds
2. Modernize the culture of our department around the issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion

**Short Term Goals**
1. Establish Committee
2. Develop procedures to increase opportunities to match residents from underrepresented backgrounds
3. Support students of underrepresented backgrounds who are interested in surgery

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**Dr. Timothy Donahue and Dr. Karen Woo Receive NIH Grants**

**Dr. Donahue** has received an NIH R01 grant for the project entitled “Leveraging Vulnerabilities Induced by STING Activation in Pancreatic Cancer”. The project is being funded by the National Cancer Institute.

**Dr. Woo** has received an NIH R03 Grant for the Project Entitled “Construction of the End Stage Kidney Disease Life Plan.” The project is being funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Dr. Woo is currently completing a K08 award, also funded by the NIDDK.
What's New in the Surgery Clerkship?

- Grading in academic year 2020-2021 is “Credit/No Credit”
- 12-week curriculum is shifting to 8 weeks during academic year 2021-2022. This will consist of two 2-week rotations in core inpatient surgery and two 2-week rotations in subspecialty surgery.
- MS4 student champion for equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Surgery clerkship was appointed. Congratulations, Gabriella Odudu!
- Mentorship Program: each student is assigned a Site Director or Associate Site Director mentor at the beginning of the Surgery clerkship.

Under the leadership of Drs. Ian MacQueen and Justin Wagner, the Surgery Clerkship continues to thrive during one of the most challenging years in recent history.

The remote curriculum during the COVID shelter in place interval was a great success, thanks to our resilient residents and faculty. Special thanks to Alex Moore, Danielle Graham, Max Schumm, Michael Dacey, Frank Lu, Rivka Shenoy, Gabe Oland, and Ivy Huang for all their efforts in keeping the clerkship afloat.

Going forward, a number of Associate Site Directors will be assisting with student education and mid-clerkship evaluations.

**Ronald Reagan-UCLA:**
- Areti Tillou, Site Director;
- Peyman Benharash, Jane Yanagawa, Joseph DiNorcia, Minna Lee, Associate Site Directors

**Santa Monica-UCLA:**
- David Chen, Site Director

**Olive View-UCLA:**
- Melinda Gibbons, Site Director

**West LA VA:**
- Mark Sawicki, Site Director; Jesus Ulloa, Associate Site Director

**Harbor-UCLA:**
- Ravin Kumar, Site Director; Jack McCallum, Associate Site Director

**Cedars-Sinai:**
- Nicolas Melo, Site Director; Andrew Wang, Associate Site Director

**Kaiser Permanente:**
- David Garza and James Mykytenko, Site Co-Directors

Gabriella Odudu, MS IV

Peyman Benharash, MD Jane Yanagawa, MD Joseph DiNorcia, MD Minna Lee, MD John McCallum, MD
**Dr. Kazanjian at the Santa Clarita Clinic**

Dr. Kevork Kazanjian was instrumental in expanding UCLA Colorectal Surgery services to Santa Clarita. His clinical interests and expertise include colon and rectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, minimally invasive colorectal surgery, transanal endoscopic surgery, and anorectal disorders. He is pictured with GI colleague Dr. Raj Kaushal.

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**Meet the Incoming 2021-22 Vascular Fellow: Stephanie Talutis**

- Medical School: New York Medical College
- Residency: Boston University

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**ACGME Sponsored Virtual Faculty Development Courses: Register Now**

The ACGME is offering a free virtual faculty development course which includes a series of interactive workshops and small group activities designed to help faculty members and leaders achieve the goals of competency-based assessment in graduate medical education. The 6-week course will start Friday March 12.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.acgme.org/Meetings-and-Educational-Activities/Other-Educational-Activities/Courses-and-Workshops/Developing-Faculty-Competencies-in-Assessment__;!!F9wkZZsI-LAIWtMGFg1KRwa1QFr0oHcEHyVm0po_Q3z71QA3hNVx9vH0h9jROc7Na3vR6c6DSuj1TA_vQ$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.acgme.org/Meetings-and-Educational-Activities/Other-Educational-Activities/Courses-and-Workshops/Developing-Faculty-Competencies-in-Assessment__;!!F9wkZZsI-LAIWtMGFg1KRwa1QFr0oHcEHyVm0po_Q3z71QA3hNVx9vH0h9jROc7Na3vR6c6DSuj1TA_vQ$)
Save the Date: Molecular Biology Institute (MBI) Faculty Lunch Seminar
March 2nd 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Speaker: Eri S. Srivatsan, Ph.D.

https://ucla.zoom.us/j/95104392930?pwd=UluT0hacJRUB1NxE41bjgrUDdRdz09
Meeting ID: 951 0439 2930
Passcode: 299376

UCLA Surgical Fun Facts

Our superb UCLA congenital heart surgeons: Dr. Glen Van Arsdell, Section Chief, Dr. Reshma Biniwale, and Dr. Hillel Laks.

37 years ago, Dr. Hillel Laks performed the 1st pediatric heart transplant at UCLA, on a 15-year old with congenital heart disease. This began the UCLA Pediatric Heart Transplant program that has since done more than 475 pediatric heart transplants.

2021 Mellinkoff and Tow Awards - Call for Nominations

Nominations and self-nominations for two very important faculty awards for which faculty members in all series are eligible, are still being accepted.

- **The Sherman M. Mellinkoff Faculty Award**
  “is bestowed annually upon a faculty member whose teaching exemplifies the art of medicine and the finest in doctor-patient relationships”.

- **The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award**, presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, “is bestowed annually upon a junior faculty member who exemplifies outstanding humanism in medicine, along with scientific excellence”.

The Mellinkoff Award will be presented at the 2021 Hippocratic Oath Ceremony and the Tow Award at the 2021 White Coat Ceremony.

**Deadline: April 5, 2021**
http://surgery.ucla.edu/workfiles/Mellinkoff%20Tow%20solicitation.pdf

Search for New Chair of Orthopedic Surgery in May

Dr. Francis J. Hornicek, Chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, will be leaving UCLA and transition to a new position as the Chair of Orthopedic Surgery and Deputy Director of the Cancer Center at the University of Miami, beginning May 1, 2021. A transition plan for departmental leadership will be announced in the near future. Congratulations to Dr. Hornicek for his outstanding service to UCLA!
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Cuteness Corner

Vascular resident, Mark Ajalat and his wife, Khouri, welcomed their first child, Grayson Mark Ajalat, on February 10, 2021. Congratulations!

To be featured in future issues, email the cute photos that capture the moments in your life to Chi at cquach@mednet.ucla.edu.

Thank you to this month’s contributor: Mark Ajalat

Resident Wellness

Beginning March 18, the limited-capacity A Touch of Disney will expand the dining and shopping-only experience the entire theme park, from Buena Vista Street to Pixar Pier and Cars Land. Each ticket includes $25 dining credit, parking and unlimited PhotoPass downloads for photo ops around the park.

General Surgery Residents, Zachary Weitzner, Mark Yost, Max Schumm, and their guest, Program Director, Dr. Timothy Donahue (left to right), enjoyed a nice day at the golf course.

Olive View Medical Center UCLA Surgery House Staff
“My motto was always to keep swinging. Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing to do was keep swinging.”

Hank Aaron (1934-2021)

Counseling & Consultation
The UCLA Staff and Faculty Counseling Center provides free counseling assessment, and referral services to faculty, staff, and their immediate family members.
Contact: 310-794-0245

From the Office of Surgical Education
Department of Surgery
UCLA School of Medicine
10833 Le Conte Ave,
72-235 CHS
Los Angeles, CA 90095
310-825-6643

http://surgery.ucla.edu/general-surgery-residency

Constructed by Andrea Mclean

Announcements and Upcoming Events

2020-21 Upcoming Events (dates are subject to change)

**General Surgery**
- Fri, Mar 19: Match Day
- Wed, May 12: Mock Orals
- Wed, Jun 9: Longmire Scientific Day
- Thurs-Fri, June 10-11: ATLS
- Tue, June 22: Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure In Trauma (ASSET) Course
- Thurs-Fri, July 8-9: ATLS

**Thoracic Surgery**
- Sat, Mar 13: TSDA In-Training Exam
- Sat, Mar 20: Thoracic Surgery Residency Interviews
- Wed, May 12: Match Day

**Wednesday Conferences**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>7 am</td>
<td>Joint Emergency Medicine and Surgery Grand Rounds</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td>“Surgical Intensive Care Unit Updates”</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sara Crager, MD</td>
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<td>Emergency Medicine, Critical Care</td>
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<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>7 am</td>
<td>“Trust as a Foundational Competency for Training”</td>
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<td>Zoom</td>
<td>Rebecca M. Minter, MD</td>
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<td>Professor and Chair</td>
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<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>AOA Lectureship Joint Medicine – Surgery Grand Rounds</td>
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<td>Zoom</td>
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<td>Mar 24</td>
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<td>“Inside the Appendicitis Trials: An Editors View”</td>
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<td>Zoom</td>
<td>Edward H. Livingston, MD</td>
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<td>Professor of Surgery</td>
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<td>UCLA Dept of Surgery</td>
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<td>Deputy Editor JAMA, Journal of the American Medical Association</td>
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<td>Mar 31</td>
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Zoom Link: [https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/571420558](https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/571420558)

ACGME Resident and Faculty surveys are due by April 1, 2021.