

**UC DAVIS
HEALTH**

**SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE**



2021

Year in Review





BEST GRAD SCHOOLS
U.S. News & World Report
MEDICAL
MOST DIVERSE MEDICAL SCHOOLS
2022

BEST GRAD SCHOOLS
U.S. News & World Report
MEDICAL
FAMILY MEDICINE
2022

BEST GRAD SCHOOLS
U.S. News & World Report
MEDICAL
PRIMARY CARE
2022

BEST GRAD SCHOOLS
U.S. News & World Report
MEDICAL
RESEARCH
2022

BEST GRAD SCHOOLS
U.S. News & World Report
MEDICAL
MOST GRADUATES IN PRIMARY CARE
2022

UC Davis School of Medicine at a glance

UC Davis School of Medicine is the nation's **4th** most diverse medical school
2022 U.S. News & World Report

External research funding: **Record-high of \$368 million** in 2021

U.S. News & World Report 2022 rankings:

Our student body and faculty: **508** students

Top 10 in family medicine

848 full-time residents/fellows

#11 in primary care training

917 full-time faculty

Top 50 medical school for research

A year in review

2021



Feb. 21
As U.S. deaths top 500,000, UC Davis Health delivers more than 50,000 COVID-19 vaccines to combat the virus.

Mar. 24

A multidisciplinary team led by UC Davis School of Medicine orthopaedic surgery researchers receives funding to test a new class of anti-inflammatory, antiviral compound as a COVID-19 treatment.

Apr. 7

UC Davis Conte Center announces a National Institute of Mental Health \$15.7 million grant renewal to study effects of maternal infections on offspring.



The Class of 2025 Induction welcomes 132 students in one of the largest and most diverse School of Medicine classes ever.

Jan. 12

UC Davis Health launches first COVID-19 vaccinations for patients in Northern California

Jan. 13

UC Davis School of Medicine is the the only academic medical school on the West Coast to participate in the clinical trial included in a *New England Journal of Medicine* study that confirms data previously released for emergency use authorization of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

Jan. 28

UC Davis School of Medicine announces it is actively recruiting for more than a dozen clinical trials in the search for new COVID-19 treatments, in focus areas including stromal cells, natural killer cells, cardiosphere-derived cells, monoclonal antibodies, antiviral protease inhibitor, remdesivir, molnupiravir, AT-527, and adaptive platform trials.

Mar. 1

UC Davis School of Medicine announces launch of the world's first, FDA-approved human clinical trial using stem cells before birth to treat spina bifida, led by Drs. Diana Farmer and Aijun Wang.

Apr. 8

UC Davis School of Medicine launches a clinical trial to answer major questions regarding COVID-19 immunization topics such as booster shots, vaccine combinations, and anti-variant modifications.



May 3

UC Davis School of Medicine launches its leading-edge I-EXPLORE curriculum.

May 22

104 graduating doctors are celebrated virtually during the School of Medicine's 50th Commencement.



June 17

The NIH awards a \$33 million, 5-year grant renewal for the UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC).

July 31

The Class of 2025 Induction welcomes 132 students in one of the largest and most diverse School of Medicine classes ever.

Early Aug.

UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Research Center marks 30 years of continuous funding from the NIH with its new five-year, \$16 million grant from the National Institute on Aging.

Sept. 24

UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center announces National Cancer Institute renewal of its prestigious comprehensive cancer center designation with a 5-year, \$17.5 million grant.

Jan. 28

To help reduce the pandemic's impacts on California's 800,000 farmworkers, UC Davis launches the COVID-19 Statewide Agriculture and Farmworker Education training and safety program. It includes investigators from the School of Medicine, School of Veterinary Medicine and other units.



Notable quotes

“Having a diverse student body in medical education sends a message to students that they belong there, that they are wanted, that who they are is exactly what is needed in medicine. It also sends a message to the community that they are seen and that having a representative, diverse workforce to serve them is a priority, not an afterthought.”

Maria Guadalupe Garnica Albor, School of Medicine graduate. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the School of Medicine No. 4 for diversity among its student body this year.

“UC Davis is in the upper echelon of translational mental health research. The establishment of a UC Davis Conte Center in 2016 was an incredible accomplishment, and to renew it in 2021 is an even bigger accomplishment.”

Conte Center co-principal investigator **Cameron Carter**. The center was awarded a \$15.7 million NIMH grant this spring to study how infections during pregnancy can lead to psychiatric illness and developmental disorders later in life.

“The rapid pace of discovery and improved cancer treatments at NCI-designated cancer centers such as ours are increasing cancer survivorship and improving the quality of life for patients in our region. Equally important is the outreach we are doing to underserved communities as we seek to reduce the cancer burden in the region.”

Primo “Lucky” Lara Jr., UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center director. This fall the NIH awarded the center \$17.5 million over five years and renewed its prestigious “comprehensive” designation.

“What’s become clear is that there are modifiable risk factors. It’s never been as timely as it is now to build trust in diverse communities so that more people participate in research, and knowledge gained about brain health can be applied to everyone.”

Rachel Whitmer, professor in the UC Davis Department of Public Health Sciences, chief of the Division of Epidemiology and associate director of the UC Davis Alzheimer’s Disease Center.

Philanthropy impact

- Thanks to the support of our generous donors, we raised a record high of more than **\$70 million** in fiscal year 2020–21
- We awarded more than **\$1.5 million** in scholarships to our talented medical students in 2020 — a **50% increase** from 2016
- Raised nearly **\$337,000** with 992 donations to address emergency needs across UC Davis Health due to the pandemic

Creating pathways for the next generation of physician leaders

New pathway for addressing Native American health needs

The School of Medicine is developing a new academic pathway to train students interested in caring for the Native American and Alaskan Native communities, thanks to a boost in state funding.

The \$1.7 million allocation, included in the state budget signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in July, comes after years of advocacy by the University of California (UC), which has sought to secure money for ongoing and new medical education programs across several campuses.



The programs are part of a UC-wide initiative known as PRIME (Programs in Medical Education), which intend to fill shortages of doctors in medically underserved areas and reduce health disparities.

In addition to the funding to create the new Native American PRIME, UC Davis will receive another \$1.7 million to bolster its Rural PRIME pathway, which trains students to address health issues in rural communities.

“This is a huge, huge win for us,” said Mark Servis, UC Davis professor of clinical psychiatry and vice dean for medical education at the School of Medicine. “It’s an incredible development, which positions us as a national leader in addressing the needs of tribal communities. We also have had to subsidize our PRIME programs, so this adds the financial resources needed to support these critical workforce development programs.”

New I-EXPLORE curriculum launched

In May the School of Medicine launched the innovative new I-EXPLORE curriculum, which emphasizes cross-disciplinary collaboration and focuses on the pillars of biomedical, clinical and health system science. I-EXPLORE will be a keystone to preparing our students to practice medicine in a collaborative and rapidly changing health care landscape.

Incoming Class of 2025 at a glance:

- **132** students — the largest class ever
- Among the most diverse ever, with **74%** of students identifying themselves from groups underrepresented in medicine
- More than **two-thirds** of the class is female

Match Day 2021 highlights

- **104** graduating medical students
- California-bound community physicians: **85%** of students will train in California, with **22%** at UC Davis
- **60%** of students will specialize in primary care
- **21%** will train for internal medicine

UC Davis School of Medicine ranks No. 4 nationally in diversity

The School of Medicine, according to the latest rankings published in March 2021 by *U.S. News & World Report*, is ranked No. 4 for diversity among its student body.

UC Davis, in fact, was the top-ranked medical school for diversity outside of the East Coast.

The impressive ranking is based on enrollment of underrepresented minority (URM) groups, defined as Hispanic/Latinx, Black/African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native or Asian Pacific Islander, and its comparison to the state’s demographics. The School of Medicine reported a total URM enrollment of 37.3% in 2020, the period considered for the ranking.

This is the first time *U.S. News & World Report* compiled a diversity score for any medical school. The annual release of rankings also placed the School of Medicine at No. 9 for its family medicine program and No. 11 for primary care.

While the recognition is not news for the faculty and staff who have implemented numerous workforce development programs over the past decade to include more students from groups underrepresented in medicine, the ranking is a high-profile affirmation of the School of Medicine’s role as a national leader in training a diverse physician workforce.

Multiple approaches

Beginning in 2009, the School of Medicine has implemented several nationally lauded methods to boost

URM enrollment, particularly among students who want to work in medically underserved regions. Among these targeted curricula or tracks are:

- **The Accelerated Competency-based Education in Primary Care (ACE-PC)**, a three-year M.D. program designed with Kaiser Permanente to connect students with underserved communities.
- **TEACH-MS**, Transforming Education and Community Health for Medical Students, geared for students who want to work in urban underserved areas.
- **REACH**, or Reimagining Education to Advance Central California Health, for students aspiring to work in the Central Valley.
- **COMPADRE** or California Oregon Medical Partnership to Address Disparities in Rural Education, a bold cross-state partnership to address workforce shortages in Oregon and Northern California by connecting students from underserved tribal, rural and urban communities to rewarding medical school and residency experiences throughout the region.



In addition to the Rural Program in Medical Education (PRIME) track, a new PRIME track is being planned for students committed to serving Native American patients and indigenous communities (see facing page).

“The solution to health disparities is the development of a more diverse physician workforce — one that is more reflective of the various communities in our state and country,” said Mark Henderson, the School of Medicine’s associate dean for admissions and outreach. “When someone is deeply connected to a community — or from a community — and trains in that community, they are more likely to return to serve that community.”

Hard data

The new diversity ranking is not surprising to Henderson, one of the leaders who has helped implement programs including holistic admissions.

“Being ranked No. 4 in the U.S. is validation of a decades-long effort to build diverse programs and a team of people committed to improving the health of California, including our Center for a Diverse Healthcare Workforce,” Henderson said. “The nice thing about the ranking is that it’s based entirely on outcome data, on how diverse our student body is, as opposed to reputation scores or opinion polls.”

The demographic makeup of the first-year medical school class at the time of the March 2020 ranking announcement was: 34% Hispanic/Latinx, 25% Asian, 21% White, 12% Black/African American, and 2% American Indian/Alaskan. Just 15 years ago, only 10% of students belonged to a URM group.

Meanwhile the Class of 2025 is among the most diverse ever, with



nearly 74% of students identifying themselves from a URM group. Slightly more than two-thirds of the class is female.

Henderson noted that transforming the makeup of a medical school requires a long-term investment from a variety of constituents. “It not only has to do with admissions, but also making your medical school curriculum and learning environment more inclusive, creating programs that are attractive to students who normally wouldn’t have the opportunity to go to medical school.”

As good as the new ranking is, School of Medicine administrators acknowledge that there is a long road ahead at continuing to become more inclusive, one that goes well beyond student enrollment.

“Diversity is one of our core values, and I think these rankings reflect that we continue to honor this value,” said Jorge Garcia, associate dean for diverse and inclusive learning communities who has been affiliated with UC Davis for more than 25 years.

“However, they also remind us that we all still have a lot of work to do,” he said. “While diversity is great, it’s really only the first step, and it necessarily precedes a far greater goal — institutional excellence.”



School of Medicine leads effort to vaccinate vulnerable people who lack access to care

Mark Henderson and his fellow physicians were alarmed when they noticed that nearly 90% of COVID-19 patients they treated this summer at UC Davis Medical Center were unvaccinated.

Many of those patients, they observed, spoke either Spanish or Russian, which seemed to suggest that immigrants from Latin America and Ukraine lacked accurate information about the vaccine or had refused receiving it all together.

Henderson and his colleagues from the UC Davis School of Medicine pored over California Department of Public Health vaccination data, which confirmed some of their suspicions. Then, they

shifted their concern into action: They quickly connected with community partners and launched a vaccine effort that operates pop-up clinics. They visit grocery stores, festivals, churches, schools, a farmers market and apartment complexes — often in neighborhoods with dismal vaccination rates.

The all-volunteer initiative is headed by the School of Medicine, which has long made it a priority to reach out to underserved communities. The mobile clinics are staffed by UC Davis Health doctors, employees and dozens of students from the School of Medicine and the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis.

Everyone involved is eager to advance health equity during the pandemic.

“The populations we are reaching out to are vulnerable,” said Henderson, a professor of internal medicine and an associate dean with the School of Medicine. The zip code data provided by the state, he said, shows that people with the highest risk of infection and death live in lower-income communities and are the least likely to be vaccinated. Those in higher-income communities, he noted, have the easiest access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

“This is a classic example of a disparity in health care,” Henderson said, “so we’re trying to turn that around.”

A history of reaching the underserved

This isn’t UC Davis Health’s first effort to vaccinate the local community.

Ambulatory Care Operations at UC Davis Health and several community partners administered tens of thousands of vaccines when the COVID-19 shot became widely available earlier this year. As interest in the vaccine declined, however, the community vaccination efforts ceased.

But when the summer surge sent unvaccinated patients to the hospital, faculty members worked closely with the School of Medicine dean’s office to develop a targeted approach to educate and vaccinate residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods.

This volunteer effort is built on contributions in time, expertise and supplies from units across UC Davis Health including the Ambulatory Care Division and Pharmacy. Several current and retired faculty members attend the clinics to answer questions from the public, provide medical oversight and teach students how to administer the injections. Vaccine doses are graciously provided by a team led by UC Davis Health Assistant Chief of Pharmacy Tim Cutler.

More than 120 students from the medical and nursing schools responded to the initial call for volunteers, said A. Elise Bryant, office manager for the School of Medicine dean’s office who helps coordinate the clinics.

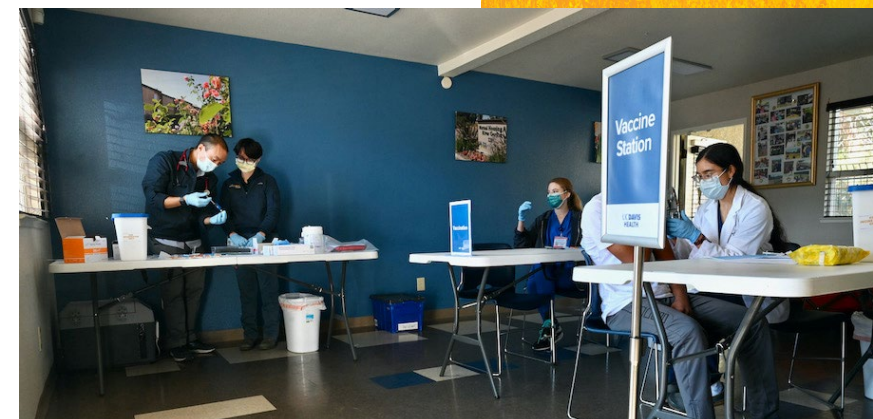
Meeting people where they are

People receiving the shots are grateful to get vaccinated near where they live, work or shop — and they appreciate that volunteers are often bilingual.

Since the effort began in mid-August, UC Davis has provided several hundred vaccines, mostly in Sacramento County.

The success of the clinics is due in large part to solid partnerships with established organizations such as the Health Education Council, which is well connected to many community groups. Other partners include La Familia Counseling Center, Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association and local elected officials, who have been critical to the success of this effort.

First-year medical student Skyler Pearson is in a unique position to provide the vaccine. Prior to medical school, Pearson was a senior clinical research coordinator who helped lead many of the COVID-19-related clinical trials within the School of Medicine, including the clinical trial for Pfizer’s



COVID-19 vaccine. The trial, under the guidance of Professor Timothy Albertson and others in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, allowed participants at UC Davis Health to receive the COVID-19 vaccine about six months before the general public.

“I appreciate the opportunity to volunteer with my fellow classmates at these important UC Davis outreach events,” Pearson said. “It is satisfying to play a part in the pandemic response by offering the community an FDA-approved vaccine that was developed in part by our team here at UC Davis.”

The volunteers said they are determined to make a difference.

“What motivates me,” Henderson said, “is that even one shot in one arm makes a difference, in that you reduce the risk of that person acquiring COVID and spreading it to someone who is vulnerable.”

“What motivates me is that even one shot in one arm makes a difference, in that you reduce the risk of that person acquiring COVID and spreading it to someone who is vulnerable.”

Mark Henderson
Associate Dean for Admissions and Outreach

National leadership and innovation

UC Davis: Nearly \$1 billion in research awards School of Medicine drives record growth

UC Davis has set a new record for external research funding by receiving \$968 million in awards in the fiscal year 2020-21, up \$27 million from the previous record set last year. A major reason for this year's growth was increased funding related to medicine and public health.

The School of Medicine received the largest increase in funding, up \$92 million from the previous year, for a total of \$368 million. The School of Medicine's COVID-19 research represented more than two-thirds of all UC Davis' COVID research, with nearly \$28.5 million. Studies in this area are providing critical insight into testing, vaccines, treatments and social impacts.

The School of Medicine's clinical trials grew by 63% in the last year to \$98 million.

CTSC awarded \$33 million 5-year NIH grant renewal

The UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) has received its third National Institutes of Health (NIH) award renewal, a vote of confidence in the center's ability to advance outstanding research in human health.

The 5-year award, almost \$33 million, comes from NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS). It provides critical funding to CTSC to continue its essential services for the UC Davis research community.

In 2006, UC Davis received one of the nation's first 12 NIH Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) to establish a center for clinical and

translational science. The center supported the full spectrum of translational research — from bench to bedside to dissemination and implementation — and served as a hub for researchers promoting human health.

In 2011 and 2016, under the leadership of Lars Berglund, the CTSC was successfully renewed. Now, directed by Ted Wun and associate director Nicholas Kenyon, the center is one of a handful of U.S. institutions to initiate its 4th consecutive award.

Lawsuit leads to cross-disciplinary research for women's health

School of Medicine researchers received a \$24 million award for research aimed at improving cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's disease care for women.

The School of Medicine was selected as one of six California institutions to receive funds from a California-based class-action lawsuit against Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, which alleged Wyeth misrepresented benefits and risks of its hormone replacement therapy medications for women. In cases where money remains after eligible class members receive their claim payments, courts can distribute those funds to charitable causes in what's referred to as a cy pres award.

Priority went to projects focused on women of color and in underserved communities, who traditionally are underrepresented in research and have unique disease risks.

The UC Davis funding will go to a collaborative "Women's Health Initiative" program. The application was designed by Angela Haczku and Ted Wun, associate deans of research at the School of Medicine, encompassing these projects led by:

- Luis Carvajal-Carmona, professor of biochemistry and molecular medicine, for a project to make breast cancer precision medicine more accessible to marginalized communities.
- Diana Miglioretti, professor of public health sciences, to develop precision breast cancer screening techniques for marginalized populations.
- Amparo Villablanca, professor of cardiovascular medicine and director of the Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program, for a new center focused on identifying the risks of dementia and heart disease in women.
- Rachel Whitmer, professor of public health sciences and associate director of the Alzheimer's Disease Center, for an Alzheimer's disease prevention program in Sacramento's Oak Park community.

\$15 million grant to renew center studying effects of maternal infections on offspring

Discovering how infections during pregnancy, such as COVID-19 and influenza, can lead to psychiatric illness and developmental disorders in offspring years later — and how to detect, prevent or treat these disorders — is the subject of a \$15.7 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to the UC Davis Conte Center.



The Conte Center, organized through the Center for Neuroscience, was originally established with an NIH grant in 2016. The latest grant renews the center's funding for another five years.

"UC Davis is in the upper echelon of translational mental health research," said co-principal investigator Cameron Carter, C. Bryan Cameron Presidential Chair in the Center for Neuroscience and distinguished professor of psychiatry and psychology in the School of Medicine. "The establishment of a UC Davis Conte Center in 2016 was an incredible accomplishment, and to renew it in 2021 is an even bigger accomplishment."

Building on promising findings from the initial grant, the renewed funding will allow investigators to discover biomarkers for at-risk pregnancies and new treatments to prevent the detrimental effects of maternal infection on brain development in offspring.

Psychiatric illnesses and neurodevelopmental disorders, including schizophrenia, affect 15–20% of people worldwide, yet current treatments are at best only partially effective.

"The rates of schizophrenia and autism have dramatically increased following pandemics in the past, and we are deeply concerned about a similar impending wave of psychiatric illness following the current COVID-19 pandemic," said co-principal investigator Kimberley McAllister, director of the Center for Neuroscience and a professor in the Department of Neurology, School of Medicine; and Department of Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior, College of Biological Sciences. "Newly funded projects in our center will reveal

approaches to mitigate disease in offspring and even to prevent it in future pregnancies."

First stem cell clinical trial for spina bifida treatment

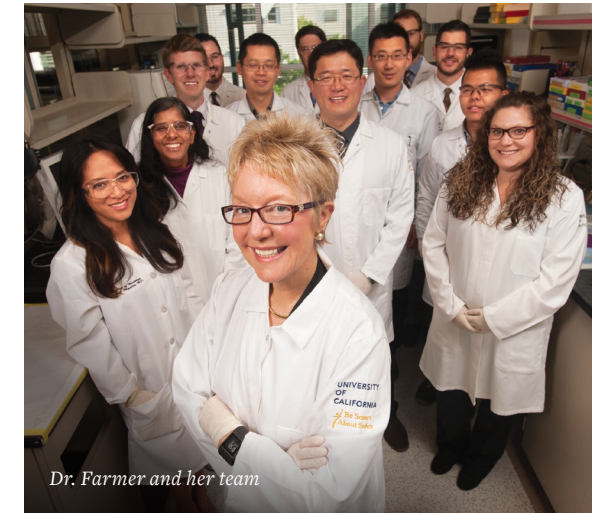
A School of Medicine team has launched the world's first in-human, FDA-approved, \$9M CIRM-funded clinical trial using stem cells before birth to treat the most serious form of spina bifida.

The one-of-a-kind treatment is delivered while the baby is still in the mother's womb, and entails the standard surgical procedure combined with the use of a unique stem cell "patch" to repair the defect before birth.

The team anticipates seeing improvements for those born with the most severe form of spina bifida known as myelomeningocele (MMC).

"Currently, the standard of care for our patients is fetal surgery, which, while promising, still leaves more than half of children with spina bifida unable to walk independently," said Diana Farmer, professor and chair of surgery at UC Davis Health and principal investigator on the study. "There is an extraordinary need for a treatment that prevents or lessens the severity of this condition. Having made the discovery that placental mesenchymal stem cells (PMSCs) can rescue neurological function and prevent paralysis in animals (experimental) models, the team has spent more than a decade developing this as a promising therapy for humans."

Farmer, and stem cell bioengineer Aijun Wang, who discovered and developed this novel stem cell treatment, and the clinical fetal treatment team led by Shinjiro Hirose plan to



treat six patients during the trial's initial phase. During their procedure, the fetal surgeon will place the stem cell "patch" that is manufactured in our own CIRM-funded GMP facility directly over the exposed spinal cord, to allow the spinal cord to regenerate and be protected from further injury in utero.

The clinical trial, known formally as the "CuRe Trial: Cellular Therapy for In Utero Repair of Myelomeningocele," is funded by CIRM, the state's stem cell agency.

NCI renews cancer center's comprehensive designation

The National Cancer Institute once again recognized UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center as one of the nation's most elite cancer centers, awarding the center \$17.5 million over five years and renewing the center's "comprehensive" designation. The designation is in recognition of the cancer center's breadth and depth in cancer research, clinical care, cancer control and population sciences.

"The renewed NCI grant will support the cancer center's innovative research, world-class care for patients, education, and community outreach and engagement programs," said UC Davis Chancellor Gary May. "Treatment at NCI-designated cancer centers is associated with improved

Continued on next page



Leaders in neuroscience research and care

outcomes for many people with cancer and we are honored to receive this important vote of confidence from the NCI.”

The UC Davis center is one of only 51 receiving comprehensive designation nationally. The peer-review process of NCI designation is among the most rigorous in the nation, requiring evidence for collaboration and leadership as well as demonstration of high-quality programs in research, clinical care, education, and community outreach.

Outside of San Francisco, UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center is the only NCI-designated center from the Bay Area north to Portland and east to Salt Lake City, with more than 100,000 patients visiting annually.

The large region includes a highly diverse population with a considerable cancer burden in Northern California and the Central Valley, and some funding will be directed to programs designed to address cancer disparities.

A new series of education, training, and career development initiatives will also expand the diversity of scientists at UC Davis pursuing a career in cancer research and clinical care.

“The rapid pace of discovery and improved cancer treatments at NCI-designated cancer centers such as ours are increasing cancer survivorship and improving the quality of life for patients in our region,” said Primo “Lucky” Lara Jr., UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center director, who also serves as principal investigator of the grant. “Equally

important is the outreach we are doing to underserved communities as we seek to reduce the cancer burden in the region.”

The cancer center conducts more than 200 active clinical trials at any one time, including the region’s only Phase 1 trials. There are hundreds of scientists and staff engaged in this leading-edge research. Many trials are testing innovative new anti-cancer therapies or approaches developed by UC Davis laboratories and are only available at the UC Davis center.

\$16 million NIH award marks 30 years of Alzheimer’s disease research and care

This summer the School of Medicine was awarded a five-year, \$16 million grant from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) for the continued funding of its Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRC).

The grant marks thirty years of continuous funding for the ADRC, a congressionally designated NIH Center of Excellence that supports the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease research goals to develop effective treatment and prevention strategies.

The mission of the ADRC is to advance the science of healthy brain aging among diverse populations while caring for those affected by the disease. It is one of 33 Alzheimer’s Disease Research Centers funded by the NIA, which have been critical to the progress in Alzheimer’s and dementia-related research in the United States.

The UC Davis ADRC has focused on two unique aspects of cognitive aging and dementia risk — the significance of vascular factors and diversity. The center is the leader in diverse population research of Alzheimer’s disease.

“To improve the prevention and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease, it is critical to study the anatomic and pathologic basis and their link to clinical, genetic and demographic factors,” said neurology professor Charles DeCarli, the principal investigator for the award and the UC Davis ADRC’s director since 2000. He is the nation’s foremost expert on the role of subcortical cerebrovascular disease in cognitive decline.

UC Davis Health launches Healthy Aging Initiative

Every day in the U.S., 10,000 people turn 65. The number of older adults will more than double over the next several decades, and represent greater than 20% of the population by 2050.

Rather than wait for this increase, UC Davis Health is taking proactive steps, including opening a new clinic for older adults.

In mid-January, the new Healthy Aging Clinic in midtown Sacramento began accepting referrals and seeing patients. This interdisciplinary clinic is part of the Healthy Aging Initiative, a UC Davis Health systemwide approach to create the healthiest and highest-functioning older adult population in Northern California due to the care, research and innovation at UC Davis Health. The goal is to provide an integrated age-friendly approach to older adults across their lifespan in all care settings.

In the future, the Healthy Aging Clinic will also be a hub for learners in the health professions, including precepting with nurse practitioner and physician assistant students at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing and medical students and residents at the UC Davis School of Medicine.

Notable news

Surgery chair to lead prestigious organization



The School of Medicine’s **Diana Farmer**, chair of the Department of Surgery, is the president-elect of the American Surgical Association for the 2021–22 year. She assumes the presidency in 2022–23. Farmer is the first surgical leader from

the School of Medicine and the first woman from UC Health named to the position, and only the third woman elected to this position in the association’s 141-year history.

UC Davis psychology chair named to key federal committee on autism



In July, UC Davis Department of Psychology Professor and Chair **Susan Rivera** was named to the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC). Rivera is also a faculty member of the MIND

Institute and the Center for Mind and Brain. She was appointed, along with 21 others, by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra to a three-year term. The IACC is a key advisory committee that provides guidance and recommendations to the Secretary on autism research, services and policy.

Thoracic surgery chief named to Cancer Health’s 25: Black Lives Matter list



David Tom Cooke, the chief of general thoracic surgery at UC Davis Health, was named by *Cancer Health* magazine as one

of the top 25 individuals breaking down racial barriers to better cancer care.

The list recognizes 25 individuals who, along with many others, are fighting to break down barriers to the best cancer care for all Americans. In 2013, Cooke, a national expert on lung and esophageal disease, co-founded the popular bimonthly #LCSM (lung cancer social media) chat on Twitter and in 2019 was named chair of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons’ Workforce on Diversity and Inclusion.

UC President Michael V. Drake helps induct internationally renowned Eye Center chairholder

Paul A. Sieving, an internationally renowned physician, longtime director of the federal eye research agency, vision scientist and thought leader in eye care, was inducted Sept. 17 as the inaugural holder of the UC Davis School of Medicine Neil and MJ Kelly Presidential Chair in Vitreoretinal Science. The medical specialty focuses on diseases of the retina and fluid that supports the function of the eye. Fellow ophthalmologist and University of California President Michael V. Drake and UC Davis Chancellor Gary May helped induct Sieving.



UC Davis Chancellor Gary May and chairholder Paul A. Sieving



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