

2014 Irene Perstein Award

Irene Holmes Perstein, who lived in Orinda and died in 1995, left a bequest to establish the Irene Holmes Perstein endowment fund to provide annual awards to outstanding full-time, junior women faculty members of the School of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco. Since 2007, the School of Medicine has recognized outstanding junior women clinician scientists with the Irene Perstein Award.

The 2014 recipient of the Irene Perstein award is
Sharon Chung, MD Department of Medicine



Dr. Chung is Assistant Professor of Medicine and is based at the VA. Her scientific area of expertise is systemic vasculitis and genetics research. She created the UCSF Vasculitis Clinic in 2010 and serves as its director.

Systemic vasculitis is an understudied medical condition, and Dr. Chung fulfills a unique clinical niche at UCSF with her clinical and research expertise. Dr. Chung's research focuses on the study of genomic variation and the effect of such variation on the development, manifestations, and treatment response of autoimmune diseases. Dr. Chung's goal is to investigate multiple forms of genomic variation (genetic, epigenetic, transcriptional, proteomic); this analytic approach is a departure from previous genomic studies. Dr. Chung will characterize patients using multiple genomic techniques and assess how different forms of genomic variation interact to cause disease; these studies can lead to a deeper understanding of the molecular underpinnings of human disease.