Chief residents are an important cornerstone in the education and leadership of the many residents in the UCSF Department of Medicine. Selected for their exceptional clinical and leadership skills, chief residents have multiple roles.

Each chief resident serves concomitantly as a leader, administrator, educator, mentor and counselor. They help manage up and down. Empathically they support and orient new interns and ongoing residents, manage work hours and schedules, promote safe transitions of care with handoffs, teach evidence-based medicine, organize conferences (morning report, teaching sessions, M & M and Grand Rounds), mentor residents in their career choices and help program directors make the internal medicine residency one of the most rewarding and learning experiences for newly minted medical graduates. Importantly, they look out for the well being of residents. Chief residents serve as attending physicians during their year of tenure and also help with recruitment of next year’s cohort of residents.

In this issue, we recognize the talent and diversity that present, recent, and past chief residents have brought to the DOM at ZSFG over six decades with Chiefs of Medicine Norman Sweet, MD; Henry Brainerd, MD; Hibbard Williams, MD; Merle Sande, MD; Talmadge King, MD; and Neil Powe, MD. Many remain at UCSF and others are making important contributions to patient care and American Medicine elsewhere. We asked past chief residents about their most meaningful experiences while in the position and advice they would bestow upon current residents starting their medical careers.

INSPIRING CHIEF RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

ZSFG Department of Medicine Chief Residents through the years. Picture Left: 1963 - 1964 Chief Residents Rogers Mathews Vogelzang, MD, and Vincent Sing Yuen, MD, standing in front of gathering on ZSFG steps. Picture Right: Chief of Medicine Neil R. Powe, MD, with 2021 - 2022 Chief Residents Adali Martinez, MD; Raphaela Lipinsky Degette, MD; and Andreas Mitchell, MD, in a photo taken in June 2021.
Rachel Greenblatt, MD
Internal Medicine

Carly Benner Zapata, MD
Assistant Professor, Palliative Medicine, UCSF
Palliative Medicine Fellowship Director
"I enjoyed being in a role that was focused on promoting and supporting others in their goals during training and feel fortunate to have found a similarly meaningful and inspiring position as faculty. I wish I had known when I was resident that there can be so much flexibility after training. Residency is a challenging time, and it will end and feel worth it when you can craft a job that you really enjoy and feel sustainable."

Rachel Stern, MD
Chief Medical Quality Officer of Ambulatory Care, Ventura County Healthcare Agency

"Be kind to your family, and gentle with yourself."

Rachel Stern, MD
Residency, since it’s so clinically-focused, doesn’t provide much exposure to management and clinical operations. But these can be incredibly rewarding career paths, with potential to positively impact the lives of thousands of patients.”

Archana Sridhar, MD
Primary Care Physician, Highland Hospital
"The joy of teaching and connecting with residents during this year helped clarify my career goals--to remain connected with learners in my work. I was previously interested in pursuing a subspecialty fellowship, but my chief year made me realize how much I enjoy general internal medicine. andl decided not to sub-specialize as a result."

2012 - 2013
Gabrielle Berger, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Washington

Jennie Wei, MD
Physician, Internal Medicine, Gallup Indian Medical Center

2010 - 2011
Soraya Azari, MD
Associate Professor, General Internal Medicine, UCSF

Jennifer Siegel, MD
Medical Director, Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery; Assistant Professor, Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine

"Seek out mentors who do work in operations to learn more about their careers and responsibilities. It could open doors for you that you would not have otherwise considered."

- Blake Gregory, MD

2009 - 2010
Damon Francis, MD
Medical Director, Homeless Health Center, Alameda Health System

Prasanna Jagannathan, MD
Assistant Professor, Infectious Diseases and of Microbiology and Immunology, Stanford University

2008 - 2009
Reena Gupta, MD
Associate Professor, General Internal Medicine, UCSF

Elizabeth Davis, MD
Assistant Professor, Rush University Medical Center

2007- 2008
Stephanie Cohen, MD
Medical Director, SF City Clinic; STI Controller, San Francisco
"Learning from the incredible and inspirational leadership team at SFGH made me a better teacher, mentor and doctor. I’m so grateful that I’ve been able to continue my career at SFDPH. There are so many different career paths in medicine. As you go through residency, think about what you enjoy, appreciate and recognize your unique skills."

- Stephanie Cohen, MD

Gabe Ortiz, MD
Associate Professor, Hospital Medicine, Medical Director of Medical/Surgical Areas, ZSFG

"Seek out mentors, and do what makes you happy!""n

- Stephanie Cohen, MD
For any news or ideas, please contact Laurae Pearson
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2006 - 2007
Jennifer Babik, MD
Associate Professor,
Infectious Diseases, UCSF
It was meaningful to form relationships with so many of the faculty and staff at ZSFH, and in particular with my co-chief. I realized through all of my experiences as a chief that I really loved teaching as well as educational administration, which informed my decision to pursue a career in ID and medical education.

Choose a career path where you will spend most of your time doing things that are both exciting and fun. This will keep you intellectually engaged and personally satisfied throughout your career.

2005 - 2006
Antonio Gomez, MD
Associate Professor,
Pulmonary and Critical Care, ZSFH
"It was a tremendously important experience. Improving my teaching methods and incorporating new techniques into my teaching style had direct application to my current positions in the PCCM fellowship leadership. It also led to the creation of the MICU intern bootcamp lectures which are used today by every intern who rotates on the service. My position placed me to reach out to the UC Berkeley BSP students to create a pipeline program allowing those students access to the Pulmonary Consult service. Treat everything you do as a learning opportunity, ask questions of your colleagues, and ask questions of your attendings."

Nicholas Walter, MD
Associate Professor,
Pulmonary Science & Critical Care
University of Colorado School of Medicine

2004 - 2005
Leila Alpers, MD
Managing Partner,
Private Medical

Elizabeth Turner, MD
Internal Medicine
Kaiser Permanente
Santa Clara

2003 - 2004
Alexander Walley, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine,
Boston University; Medical Director for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Opioid Overdose Prevention

Amy Dechet, MD
Portland Providence
Medical Center & OHSU

2002 - 2003
Janet Diaz, MD
Team Lead, Clinical Management, Infectious Hazard Management, World Health Emergency, World Health Organization

2001 - 2002
Elizabeth Harleman, MD
Vice Chief of Medicine, ZSFH
Professor, Hospital Medicine, ZSFH
"Having the opportunity to work closely with the incredible faculty at SFGH, to teach our outstanding medical students and residents, care for our wonderful patients, and grow and develop with the expert guidance of faculty like Dr. Rick Haber and Dr. Meg Newman showed me that a career as academic clinician educator in the safety net was both possible and completely right for me."

2000 - 2001
Ramiro Garcia, MD
Co-Medical Director Hospital Internal Medicine Hospitalist Service, St. Rose Hospital

Mary Beth Humphrey, MD
Associate Dean of Research,
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

"Learning is more than just reading and staying up on the literature. Learning is also about testing what you know and what you think you know by working through it with colleagues and in the process learning and teaching."

-Antonio Gomez, MD

For any news or ideas, please contact Laurae Pearson
laurae.pearson@ucsf.edu
Katherine Julian, MD  
Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, UCSF; Professor of Medicine, UCSF  
"I look on my chief year with great fondness! It was during this year that I worked closely with so many faculty that I still see today. I absolutely created professional connections that have advanced my career such as working closely with the Chief of Medicine (Dr. Talmadge King) who is now Dean!"

Peter Solberg, MD  
Chief Health Information Officer, Dartmouth-Hitchcock University

"Enjoy learning the breadth of medicine that you see - particularly at ZSFG. Take advantage of spending time with patients (rather than the electronic health record!)"

- Katherine Julian MD

Mary Pickett, MD  
Associate Professor Department of Medicine, Oregon Health and Science University

Lisa Winston, MD  
Chief of Staff and Hospital Epidemiologist, ZSFG  
Professor, Hospital Medicine & HIV, Infectious Diseases, & Global Medicine, ZSFG

Alicia Fernández, MD  
Founding Director, UCSF Latinx Center of Excellence; Associate Dean, Population Health & Health Equity, UCSF; Professor, General Internal Medicine, ZSFG

Karen Hauer, MD  
Associate Dean for Assessment, Professor, General Internal Medicine, UCSF  
"I found the opportunities to meet with residents individually and help them work through challenges with their teams, their patients, and their personal lives to be very rewarding. Prepping for morning report, teaching with Alicia Fernandez, and debriefing our teaching to share feedback with each other was valuable preparation for a career as a clinician educator. Enjoy residency! It’s hard and the hours are crazy, but the opportunity to work closely with your teams of Interns and students is amazing."

"The patients will teach you so much as long as you listen to their stories and spend time understanding their perspectives."

- Karen Hauer, MD

Margot Kushel, MD  
Chief, ZSFG Center for Vulnerable Populations. Professor of Medicine, UCSF

Dean Schillinger, MD  
Director, NIDDK Center for Diabetes Translational Research Professor, General Internal Medicine, ZSFG

For any news or ideas, please contact Laurae Pearson  
laurae.pearson@ucsf.edu
Steve Pantilat, MD
Chief, Division of Palliative Medicine, Professor, UCSF
"Cindy and I met weekly with the nurse managers from all the medicine units- 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D- and we learned so much from them. We partnered on shared goals, provided support to each other, and worked together to make care better. Working as an interdisciplinary team is a core aspect of palliative care and that experience of collaborating closely with nurses was a great education in demonstrating the power of interprofessional teams."

"Residency is a powerful, intense, and brief part of life - enjoy the camaraderie and learning as much as you can and take care of yourself."

- Steve Pantilat, MD
1988 - 1989

David Heyer, MD
Oncologist,
Inova Medical Group

Peter Small, MD
Professor, Department of Global Health
University of Washington

1987 - 1988

Steven Chuck, MD

Stephen Hahn, MD
Chief Medical Officer, Flagship Pioneering’s Preemptive Medicine & Health Security Initiative

“Leadership is important. That year, we led a transition in terms of house staff on call schedules and workload. There was some resistance to change which required horizontal alignment and focus on our north star – providing the highest level of care to our patients. Being on the frontlines of treatment of AIDS patients and addressing the medical and emotional needs of patients was an important learning experience that is relevant with COVID-19.”

Charles "Chuck" Daley, MD
Chief of the Division of Mycobacterial and Respiratory Infections,
National Jewish Health

“Those were many meaningful experiences during my CR year. Most centered around the ability to work so closely with our outstanding house staff and faculty while caring for our amazing patients.”

1985 - 1986

Julie Gerberding, MD
Chief Patient Officer for Merck

“Transitioning from a focus on developing knowledge and clinical expertise to the teaching role of Chief Resident was easier said than done, but I am so fortunate to have had the chance to do so. The experience formed the foundation for some of the most joyful moments of my career – supporting the success of others on my teams, mentoring colleagues, and sponsoring wonderfully talented people who have gone out to be tremendous contributors to our profession.”

Catherine Reins Lucey, MD
Executive Vice Dean; Vice Dean for Education,
UCSF; Professor, Hospital Medicine, ZSFG

“The ability to design and implement educational and support programs for residents directly impacted my goal of incorporating education into my career. The tremendous need for better care for vulnerable populations and the importance of educating physicians with cultural humility and the ability to advocate for a society that supports better health for all has influenced how I have led the design of educational experiences. Don’t rely on personal heroism as the strategy to provide patient care - cultivate teams of people from all health professions and feel comfortable relying on colleagues to keep the care plan going while you sleep, eat, and care for yourself.”

1984 - 1985

David Chernoff, MD
Chief Medical Officer
SetPoint Medical

1983 - 1984

R. Tyler Miller, MD
Professor in Calcium Research,
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Vice-Chair, Internal Medicine, Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System

J. Marcus Wharton, MD
Endowed Chair, Tourville for Cardiology
Professor of Cardiology
Medical University of South Carolina

1982 - 1983

Christopher Forsmark, MD
Chief, Gastroenterology,
Hepatology, and Nutrition, University of Florida

“Find an inspirational mentor and take each day as an opportunity to grow.”

“Look for ways to identify and collaborate to improve systems that don’t work to support you and the highest quality patient care.”

- Catherine Lucey, MD

- Julie Gerbiding, MD

“Stay in 'log phase'...keep questioning, keep learning, and keep caring. And if you find yourself moving into 'stationary phase,' find a new really hard challenge, learn something new and exciting, or get a new job.”

- Julie Gerbiding, MD
"Be confident in your decisions, humble in your mistakes."

- Henry "Chip" Chambers, MD

Howard Fullman, MD
Senior Operating Advisor, Atlantic Street Capital
"Helping to lead the ZSFGH and UCSF efforts to treat patients with AIDS during my Chief Residency from 1982-1983 had a profound impact. Leading effectively through challenging times, maintaining solidarity of purpose, and in particular compassionately focusing on the needs of patients were all things I learned while Chief Resident."

Dennis Lynn Morris, MD
Chief, Interventional Cardiology
Medical Director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories, East Carolina University

Thomas Padgett, MD
Emergency Medicine

Henry "Chip" Chambers, MD
Professor of Medicine, Emeritus, UCSF
"Meeting Merle Sande who arrived on the scene as the new Chief of Medicine to find Molly Cooke and me ensconced as his Chief Residents. He launched my research career in staphylococcal research by requiring that his Chief Residents take on a research project. Mine was to describe clinical presentation of left- and right-sided S. aureus endocarditis. I have been pursuing research in staphylococcal disease ever since."

Molly Cooke, MD
Director of Education for Global Health Sciences, Professor Emerita, UCSF

The 1970 - 1980 Years

1979 - 1980
Jim Leech, MD
Dr. Leech, formerly UCSF Chief of Malaria Laboratory. Deceased May 27, 1994.

Gary Slutkin, MD
Founder, Cure Violence, Former Chief, Intervention Development for the World Health Organization (WHO)

"Listen to the patient. Don't just look at results of lab test, radiographs etc. Their chief complaint may not be what they were admitted for, but it may be a clue to what is really wrong."

- Christine Fukui (Uehara), MD

1978 - 1979
Mark Liebling, MD
New England Heart Institute, St. Joseph Hospital

Kenneth Peters, MD

1977 - 1978
Christine Fukui (Uehara), MD
Sleep Physician (retired from Pulmonary and Critical Care), Honolulu, HI

"Emergency medicine was not a specialty then. As chief residents at SFGH we made rounds twice daily in the ER helping to decide who was admitted. It was a lot of responsibility. I loved the county hospital and only wanted to be a chief resident there. Having that responsibility and being successful gave me the confidence to be successful in my subsequent career."

Duane Stephens, MD
Cardiologist Berkeley Cardiovascular Medical Group

1976 - 1977
James Sheller, MD
Professor of Medicine Emeritus, Pulmonary Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Richard Williams, MD
General Internal Medicine

For any news or ideas, please contact Laurae Pearson laurae.pearson@ucsf.edu
1975 - 1976

James L. Naughton, MD
Nephrologist

Sharon I. Rounds, MD
Professor of Medicine, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Brown University

"I was inspired by the dedication to outstanding clinical care, new knowledge, and new science that Holly Smith, Marv Sleisinger, and Hibbard Williams embodied. They were giants."

"Don't be shy about your ambitions. Go for it!"

- Sharon Rounds, MD

1974 - 1975

Richard Jay Haber, MD
Former Chief, General Internal Medicine, ZSFG

Dr. Haber was the founder of ZSFG’s Division of General Internal Medicine and its primary care residency track. He was dedicated to teaching and was a longtime resource for residents and faculty. UCSF Medical Education created the annual Siu Award in honor of Dr. Haber to honor a member of outstanding service and contributions. Deceased 6/11/2007.

William Lane Verlendon, MD
General Surgery and Vascular Surgery
Montage Health

1972 - 1973

Faith T. Fitzgerald, MD
Professor, General Internal Medicine
UC Davis Health

Larry Hill, MD
Philanthropist
Formerly Eureka, CA’s first board-certified internist. In 1999, Dr. Hill, with several donors, established the Holly Smith Distinguished Professorship in Science and Medicine.

1970 - 1971

In 1970, the Medicine Service at ZSFG became fully integrated with UCSF when Hibbard Williams, MD, was named Chief of Medicine.

Phillip C. Hopewell, MD
Professor Emeritus, Pulmonary & Critical Care, ZSFG

Morrie Shambelan, MD
Professor Emeritus of Medicine on recall Endocrinology, ZSFG

"Although I subsequently went on to a career focused on translational research, I valued the opportunity to serve (with Phil Hopewell) as Hibbard Williams’ first Chief Residents. Hibbard was an superb clinician and educator who brought excitement to rounds and who inspired me to a career in academic medicine."

1973 - 1974

John Irvine, MD
General Internal Medicine

Kenneth Frye, MD
Dr. Frye was a beloved teacher with the Division of Rheumatology, UCSF.
The 1963 - 1970 Years


1969 - 1970

James Lindauer, MD
Biotech Industry

Curt Ries, MD
Professor Emeritus
Hematology and Oncology
UCSF

Anthony M. Perry, MD
Long time solo general internal medicine practitioner with large focus on diabetes treatment. Retired 2017 at age 77.

“My best clinical experience during chief residency was service with Dr. Kehoe who was a gastroenterologist retired from the military and Walter Reed Hospital. We had a great many patients with alcoholism, cirrhosis and GI bleeding, and was in at the beginning of flexible endoscopy. Tubes had only side viewing lens so couldn't see as they were introduced and no ports for suction or other devices. I never did anything specific with this experience, but it taught me I wanted to be a hands on doc. Other than clinical the chief residency had administrative aspects which taught me essons about leadership and human nature. Another aspect which pushed me into private practice. I wanted to be independent and make my own decisions. It was my personal inclination which proved to be a good one. No one was my boss other than the patients.”

1966 - 1967

Clarence H. Mielke, Jr., MD

1965 - 1966

Martin J. Peterson, MD

1963 - 1964

Rogers Mathews Vogelzang, MD
Former Chief of Staff, Chief of Medicine, and Chairman of the Board, McHenry Medical Group. Deceased 10/31/2017.

Vincent Sing Yuen, MD
Internal Medicine

We thank these incredible physicians including the Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, Generation Xers, and Millennials for their dedication, inspiration, and leadership.

Brooks Bigart; Editors: Neil Powe, Laurae Pearson