

Special New Residents Edition, July 2016

Welcome 2016-2017 Residents! Pharmacy Practice Residents



William Alegria (Rosalind Franklin University)

I was born and raised in the beautiful city of Miami, Florida. I completed my undergraduate requirements for pharmacy school at Miami Dade College and Nova Southeastern University. I

then moved to Chicago, Illinois where I attended pharmacy school at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, hiking, running, and exploring local restaurants. I am currently in the process of registering for the San Francisco Marathon and could not be more excited to explore this beautiful city! Professionally, my interests include Critical Care, Infectious Diseases, Cardiology, and academic pharmacy. I look forward to the challenging year ahead with confidence that it will make me a stronger clinician and a better advocate for my patients. I am also excited to have the opportunity to lecture at the School of Pharmacy throughout this year. Lastly, I look to the coming year as a great opportunity to build strong professional ties with my co-residents, faculty, preceptors, and staff.



Matias Campos (Northeastern University)

Hello! I am originally all the way from Rutherford, NJ – a small suburb 20 minutes from New York City. I left the suburbs for the city of Boston, where I completed both my undergraduate and pharmacy degrees at

Northeastern University. While at Northeastern, research with a focus in infectious diseases (ID) and extensive involvement in academia nurtured an interest in both of these areas. I leave behind many fond memories of exploring Boston and the Northeast. Nonetheless, my residency search took me westward. Encouraged to seek progressive pharmacy practice and surviving the snowiest winter season in Massachusetts's history, California was a natural choice and I am very excited to begin at UCSF as a PGY1 pharmacy practice resident.

Outside of pharmacy, you can catch me reading the latest bestseller mystery novel, practicing my French and Spanish, watching a handful of TV series, or taste-testing a new wine paired with savory dish. In the coming year, I plan to take advantage of everything that UCSF and the Bay Area has to offer. From rotations in ID and teaching to the wine-growing Napa region to building relationships with my new colleagues, I am ready for the move to the west coast!



Kerjun Chang (USC)

Though I was born in Taiwan and raised in Hawaii, I have called California my home for the past 10 years. After attending high school in Honolulu, Hawaii, I moved to Los Angeles where I attended the University of Southern

California for college and stayed for another four years for my pharmacy education. Sometime after graduation, I had the unique opportunity to be the director of pharmacy at a rural community hospital, a rewarding experience which deepened my interest in pharmacy practice and inspired me to continue my personal and professional growth through a PGY1 residency at UCSF.

A few of the many non-pharmacy things I enjoy doing include playing the cello, photography, running, ping-pong, and drawing/painting – despite not being particularly skilled at any of them. It may just be that I love learning new things to a flaw, but there are just so many things to see, do, learn, and experience – yet life is so short and time so precious, which is why this upcoming year, I hope to learn and grow as much as I can. I look forward to meeting new friends and working with and learning from everyone at UCSF!



David Hughes (Albany College of Pharmacy)

I was born in Amsterdam, NY, a small city in upstate New York. I have spent my whole life growing up in this small community city. Close to my home, I attended pharmacy school at Albany College

of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to complete my PharmD training. Through personal and professional opportunities I have developed interests in Critical Care, Infectious Disease, and Oncology. After exploring the world of pharmacy in New York, I am excited to see the different opportunities that California offers. Last year I got certified as a personal trainer and have been working at Orangetheory Fitness. Exercise has been one of my sole passions as well as playing golf and softball with my friends. My combination of interpersonal skills and practical experiences on clinical rotations have given me a foundation which I hope to enhance at UCSF. I am eager to meet many new faces from all over the country and work with a new group of colleagues.



Amy Kang (Loma Linda University)

Hi everyone! My name is Amy Kang and I was originally born and raised in South Korea. After graduating from high school, I moved to the United States with my family and obtained my Bachelor of Science in

Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics at the University of California Los Angeles. I completed my Pharm.D. at the Loma Linda University, where I was able to meet lifelong mentors who nurtured me throughout my years in pharmacy school. My professional interests include infectious diseases, critical care, drug Information, administration, clinical research, and teaching. In my free time, I enjoy working out and taking different classes at the gym, trying new restaurants, training my dog, and learning new things outside of pharmacy such as finance, accounting, investments, music, etc. I look forward to meeting all of the preceptors and co-residents, maximize all the opportunities that UCSF offers, and eventually grow both personally and professionally. I am excited for this upcoming residency year!



Kristine Keller (University of Maryland)

I was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio where I also completed my undergrad degree at the University of Toledo. I got the itch to travel early on which took me to Africa, Australia, Central America, and Europe (even living in England for a year!), while I

was trying to figure out what career path to pursue. I started building a career in drug abuse research at the National Institutes of Health that guided me towards the path of pharmacy. All that organic chemistry I loved could be translated into a career! I went back to school and received my pharmacy education at the University of Maryland where I learned an extensive amount about crab cakes, the Orioles, and the importance of a yearly trip to Ocean City. I had an amazing time fostering my newfound love of public health and state/national politics I now plan to incorporate into my career. After spending almost a decade on the East coast, I'm now excited to move to the West coast to start residency. I look forward to running all the San Francisco hills, traveling in and around California, attempting to eat in every neighborhood in town, and getting involved with California state health practitioners network!



Jennifer Kwon (University of Colorado) Hi everyone! I was born in Houston, Texas but moved to sunny Southern California and grew up most of my life there. I moved up to Northern California to attend the University of California, Berkeley for my undergraduate degree in

Integrative Biology. After graduating from UC Berkeley, I moved out to a sunny yet colder, snowier Colorado to earn my PharmD at University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

My personal interests and hobbies include exploring new places and traveling. I was recently in Seoul, Korea for my last rotation! I enjoy watching movies and trying new places to eat as well! My professional interests include Infectious Disease, Critical Care, Ambulatory Care, Emergency Medicine, and teaching.

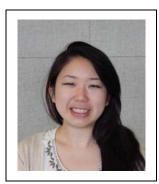
I am so excited to move back to California and live in the Bay Area again! I look forward to start my residency year with all of my co-residents and learn from all of the great preceptors at UCSF! I know it will be a challenging year but I look forward to overcoming all of the challenges that I may face and becoming a stronger more knowledgeable pharmacist by the end of the residency year. It is awesome that I get to start my career off at such a great institution and develop my teaching skills working with students at a top tier pharmacy school. It is a privilege to have matched to UCSF and I look forward to all of the opportunities that this residency will bring.



Ngan (Catherine) Lai (University of Wisconsin)

My family emigrated from Hong Kong to the U.S. when I was four years old. We eventually settled in Fresno, CA before I left for UC Berkeley to obtain a Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Biology and Public Health. Following

graduation, I wanted to expand my horizons beyond California and ended up at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy where I developed a passion for Critical Care. In my free time, I love to try new things, especially if they involve food, travel, and photography. I am extremely excited to return to the bay area and look forward to refining my clinical knowledge and critical thinking skills at UCSF to ensure the best care for my patients.



Sunny Lu (UCSF)

I was born and raised in Campbell, a small city in the south bay area peninsula of California. After high school, I moved to San Diego and received my Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology at UCSD, then stayed another year to complete a Master of

Science in Biology. I returned to the Bay Area and received my Doctorate of Pharmacy from UCSF. During pharmacy school, I developed a passion for patient-centered care and ambulatory care. I look forward this upcoming year to explore the unique opportunities of the Safeway/UCSF residency, as well as to develop close relationships with my ambulatory care patients. Outside of pharmacy, I enjoy playing ultimate frisbee in Golden Gate Park, hiking along the coast, and attending Giants baseball games.



Kathie Nowicki (University of Washington)

I was born and raised in the beautiful city of Seattle, Washington. I completed my Bachelor of Science in Neurobiology at the University of Washington. I took a year off after graduation and then

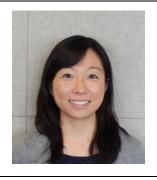
decided to stay in the area and continue at the UW for my PharmD. My professional interests include critical care and psychiatry. In my free time I enjoy trying new restaurants, playing volleyball, and spending time with family. I am very excited for this upcoming year of residency! I am looking forward to expanding my clinical knowledge and further developing my teaching skills. I am also looking forward to exploring San Francisco and all it has to offer.



Allyson (Ally) Thrall (University of Houston)

I was born and raised in Scottsdale, Arizona. When it came time to apply to colleges, I knew that I wanted to go to a small university in an area with a warm climate and it was my dream to be a collegiate soccer player. My dream

came true and I was able to attend Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas as well as be a member of the varsity women's soccer team. After graduating with a B.S. in Biochemistry, I moved to Houston, Texas to attend pharmacy school at the University of Houston, right in the heart of the world's largest medical center! During my time in pharmacy school, my professional interests developed around infectious diseases and academia. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, eating, moviegoing, Spotify-ing, and running around the local parks with my dog Oliver. During residency, I look forward to a world full of new opportunities; moving to a new city, building new friendships with my co-residents, and gaining new experiences to build off of from well-recognized clinicians!



Dorothy (Dorie) Wang (UCSF)

I am originally from the city of Redlands in Southern California and attended the University of Southern California in Los Angeles for my undergraduate studies, where I majored in biology and economics. Afterwards, I moved up to

the Bay Area and am now a proud graduate of the UCSF School of Pharmacy. In my free time, I enjoy kayaking, going to museums, seeing the SF Ballet, and watching episodes from the Golden Age of The Simpsons. This upcoming year, I am happy to be staying at UCSF, where I can continue serving the diverse patient population with incredible interdisciplinary teams, develop my operational and research skills, and strengthen my clinical knowledge, especially in the fields of oncology and infectious diseases. After being inspired by past pharmacy residents during my four years as a student here, I am also excited to now be in that position and hope to pay it forward by teaching and serving as a role model for pharmacy students. Looking forward to a great year with my fellow co-residents!



Jessica Zook (West Virginia University)

Originally, I am from Lancaster, Pennsylvania; the land of delicious food and Amish buggies. I have also spent the last six years in West Virginia, attending West Virginia University School of Pharmacy. While in school, I became very

involved with the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation, and my professional interests developed around global health, infectious disease, and HIV. My first time in California was this past February, and I fell in love when I stepped off the plane! I am really looking forward to exploring San Francisco and the surrounding areas. In my free time I enjoy being outside (preferably playing volleyball or Ultimate Frisbee), playing guitar, listening to live music, drinking bubble tea, and travelling. In this upcoming year, I look forward to practicing in such a diverse patient care setting and learning from my preceptors and co-residents. I am thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to train at UCSF!

Pharmacy Specialty Residents



Fred Chang (PGY2 Informatics)

Greetings! I was born in New Jersey and grew up in Southern California. For undergraduate studies, I graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a Bachelor of Science in Computer

Engineering. After a brief stint as an engineer, I learned about the positive impact pharmacists can have on the lives of their patients and decided to shift gears and pursue a career in Pharmacy. I attended the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy where I earned my Doctor of Pharmacy. This past year, I was fortunate to be able to come back to California to complete a PGY1 residency at the Veterans Affairs San Diego. Over the next year, I am looking forward to the opportunity to integrate my clinical skills with my engineering background to leverage cutting edge technology to enhance and optimize the delivery of healthcare to our patients. During my free time I enjoy traveling, spending time with friends and family, golfing, and cooking. I am anticipating an exciting year filled with new learning experiences and working with the exceptional faculty, staff, and co-residents at UCSF!



Katie Dacey (PGY2 Oncology)

I'm back! I am so excited and grateful to be staying at UCSF for a second year as a PGY2 oncology resident. I was born and raised in Marin County, California, and even got to spend my PGY1 year living with my parents across the bridge in

my childhood home (hopefully by the time you are reading this I will have moved out). I went to the University of Notre Dame in Indiana for my undergraduate degree (GO IRISH) and UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences for my pharmacy degree. I am a big fan of all things sports, and enjoy being outside with my boxer dog Rudy and husband Kevin. I plan on using all of my free time this year (ha!) continuing to learn how to golf, as well as eating good food and drinking good wine.

I am so grateful for the PGY1 year I had at UCSF. This is an amazing place to learn and train, and I can't wait to continue growing as a person and as a pharmacist this year. I am especially excited to meet all my new co-residents and to make even more lifelong memories!



Joshua Garcia (PGY2 Infectious Disease)

I was born and raised in Williamsport, a small town in central Pennsylvania. After high school, I traveled to Philadelphia, PA where I attended the University of the Sciences (formerly Philadelphia College of Pharmacy) to complete the

PharmD program. There, I developed an interest in both infectious diseases and ambulatory care. I then traveled across the country to complete my PGY-1 residency at UCSF, where I further developed my interest in infectious diseases. I came to love both ID and UCSF and am excited to continue at UCSF as the PGY-2 in Infectious Diseases.

Outside of pharmacy, I love playing tennis and staying active in any way that I can. I am also an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan, and plan to root for the men in black and yellow from 2000 miles away! In the next year, I hope to hone my skills as an ID clinician and educator at the dynamic and challenging environment provided by UCSF. I am also equally excited to meet, bond, and share memories with my new co-residents.



Katherine Gruenberg (PGY2 Infectious Disease and Academia)

I'm a Central Florida native, born and raised in Winter Park, Florida. I received my B.S. in Science-Business from the University of Notre Dame and my Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from The University of California, San

Francisco. I completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, where I also served as Chief Pharmacy Resident. I'm very excited to return to the Bay Area for many reasons, one of which is my love for running and hiking! As a PGY2 Pharmacy Resident in Infectious Diseases and Academia, I look forward to learning from some of the best clinical pharmacy educators in the U.S!



Sarah Kim (PGY2 Oncology)

Hello all! I am a So-Cal native from the beautiful city of San Diego. I received my Bachelor of Science in Psychobiology from UC Los Angeles and my Doctorate of Pharmacy from Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, CA. During this past year as a

PGY1 resident at UCSF, I spent my free time enjoying all that San Francisco has to offer, shopping til I drop, and binging on Netflix and Hulu. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to call San Francisco home for another year! For the upcoming year as a PGY2 resident, I look forward to training and developing my clinical skills under the guidance of extraordinary preceptors within my area of interest – hematology/oncology. Cheers to another year full of new opportunities, creating memories, and building lasting friendships!



Sue Lee (PGY2 Critical Care)

I was born and raised in beautiful Oakland, CA and earned my B.A. in Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley. I ventured across the country to attend the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, and after four amazing years

exploring the East Coast, I decided to return to the Bay Area to complete my PGY-1 residency at San Francisco General Hospital. I am excited for further training in critical care at UCSF where I will strengthen the skills necessary to be an adept clinical pharmacist, and continue to pursue research and teaching. I enjoy exploring new coffee shops and restaurants, hiking, and yoga. I look forward to a fun and challenging year!



Sylvia Okrezsik (PGY2 Pediatrics)

My name is Sylvia and I am originally from New Jersey. I attended Philadelphia University where I obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Pre-Medical Studies. I decided to make my way down the coast and go to Notre Dame of Maryland

University for Pharmacy School. While in pharmacy school I developed an interest in pediatrics, infectious diseases, and cardiology. To further explore my interests, I pursued a PGY-1 residency at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. Through my rotations and residency project I developed my passion for pediatrics and ultimately chose to specialize in this field. My professional interests include general pediatrics, infectious diseases, cardiology, and medication safety.

For this upcoming year, I am excited to not only pursue an area that I am truly passionate about but I have the opportunity to explore the west coast. Outside of my professional life I enjoy running, trying new coffee shops, reading, and exploring new areas.



Roshni Patel (PGY2 Pediatrics)

I was born and raised in Moore, Oklahoma, a town just outside of Oklahoma City. I spent my undergraduate years at the University of California, Davis where I first became interested in pharmacology. I graduated from UC Davis with a Bachelor of Science

degree in Biological Sciences before moving back to Oklahoma for pharmacy school. I practiced as a staff pharmacist for a year before starting a PGY1 at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I enjoyed learning about pediatrics all through pharmacy school and through my elective rotations during my PGY1. Within pediatrics, I am interested in emergency medicine, critical care, and oncology. I am so excited to be delving deeper into this specialty this year. Aside from the clinical experiences, I am very interested in academia and getting involved in the teaching opportunities that are available.

When I'm not working, I enjoy travelling and exploring everything from new foods to new places. I like to listen to different podcasts and I 'try' to cook whenever I can. I also enjoy going for walks, hikes and casual bike rides. I can't wait to meet so many new people in this upcoming year!

Photos: Scott Myers