

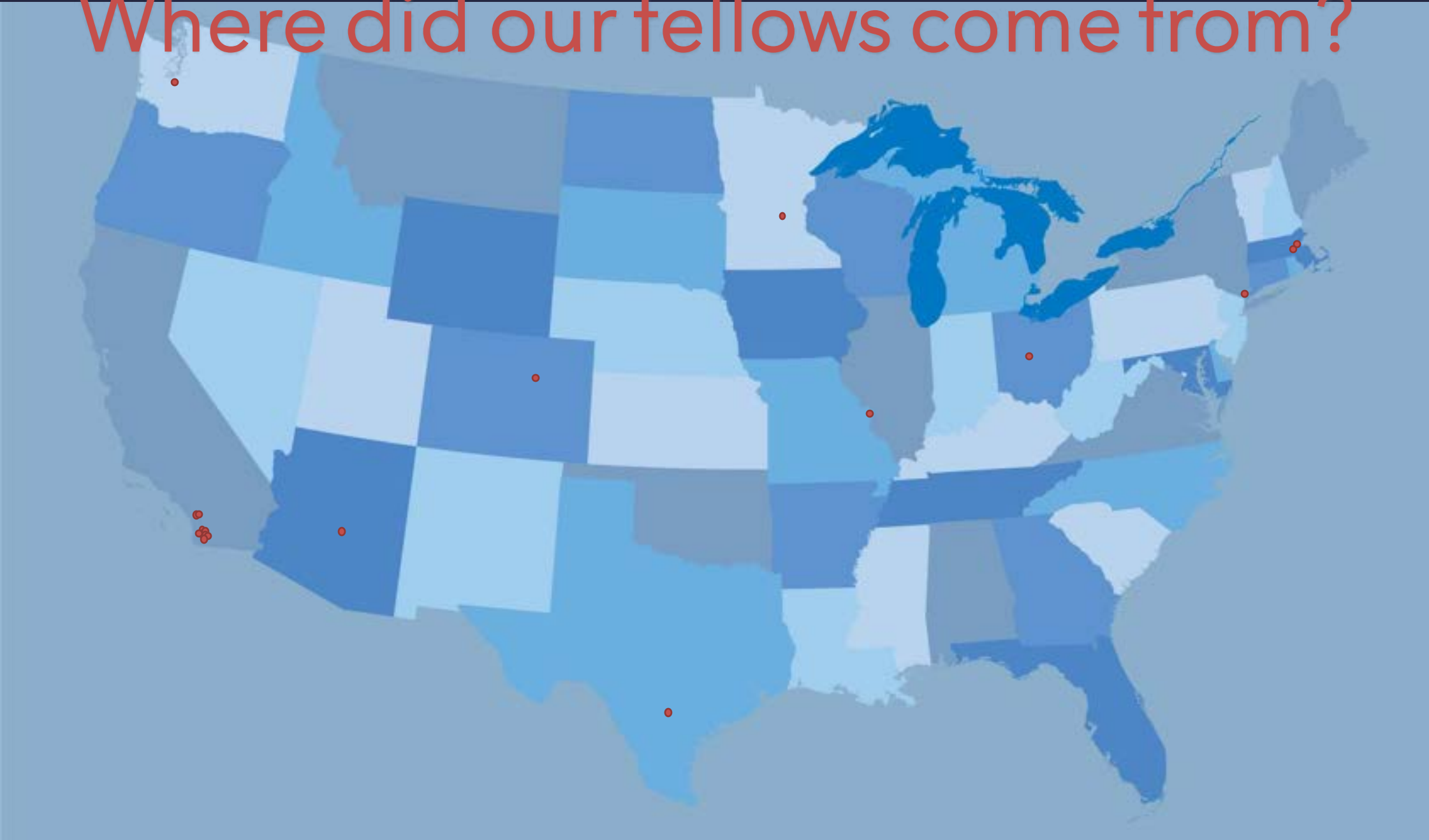


UC San Diego

Meet Our Fellows

Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep

Where did our fellows come from?



3rd Years Class of 2022



Jacob Bailey

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Residency: University of Southern California

(Med-Peds)

I had 12 different jobs before becoming a doctor. I have two daughters so my free time is theirs!

"I came to UCSD for the excellent clinical experience and medical education opportunities"



Interests: diversity in medical education, health disparities particularly in the Latinx community, transitions of care



Laura Barnes

Hometown: Amersham, UK /
Shorewood, Minnesota

Residency: UC San Diego

**"I stayed at UCSD
for the people!"**

I enjoy the outdoors and go hiking whenever I can in my free time. I also love traveling (when I could pre-COVID).

Dan Bond

Hometown: St Louis, Missouri

Residency: Wright State University (Air Force)

Enjoy hiking, running, rock climbing and CrossFit

“On my interview day, I found both the faculty and the fellows seemed to strike the perfect balance of having fun while also learning and working together in highly diverse clinical experiences.”





Sean DeWolf

Hometown: Oakland, CA

Residency: UC San Diego

Hobbies: golf, basketball

In my free time, I love doing construction projects on my house, walking my dog, playing guitar, and watching my daughter grow

"UCSD has the best combination of clinical training and research opportunities. The faculty create a supportive and enjoyable working environment that make me feel relaxed and at home within the program."

Cameron McGuire

Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland

Residency: University of Colorado

Robust research. Faculty are approachable, accommodating, and willing to help develop research projects with you. Commitment to medical education from the Chair of the Division to the most junior faculty members.

"The program places a primacy on our clinical training. From triple digit bronchoscopies to intubations to primary ECMO management during 1st year, the clinical training I've received is unparalleled. I feel confident that after fellowship I can manage any problem that comes into the ICU."



Enjoys travel, cooking, jazz, history, classic movies, dabbling in cocktails, and his human-named doggos



Alex Pearce

Hometown: Denver, Colorado

Residency: UC San Diego

Hobbies: hiking, skiing, yoga, and succulents

"San Diego is an awesome place to live and work. Faculty here are amazing. Great clinical training. Wonderful research opportunities."

Michelle Zhang

Hometown: Naperville, Illinois

Residency: Boston Medical Center

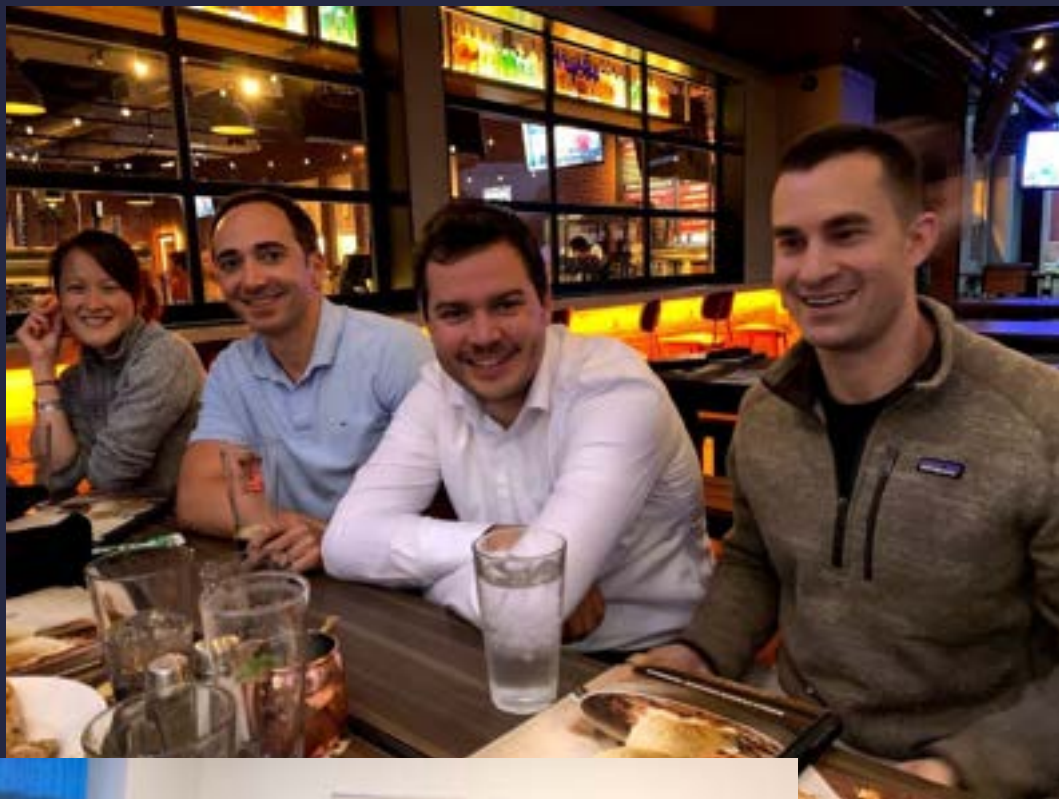
I try to spend every free moment that I have climbing up rocks outdoors 😊

I also love music festivals, star gazing, and philosophy.

"I came to UCSD because I wanted to be a rockstar intensivist and knew this was the place to train!"







Chief Fellow Handoffs 2020 and 2021



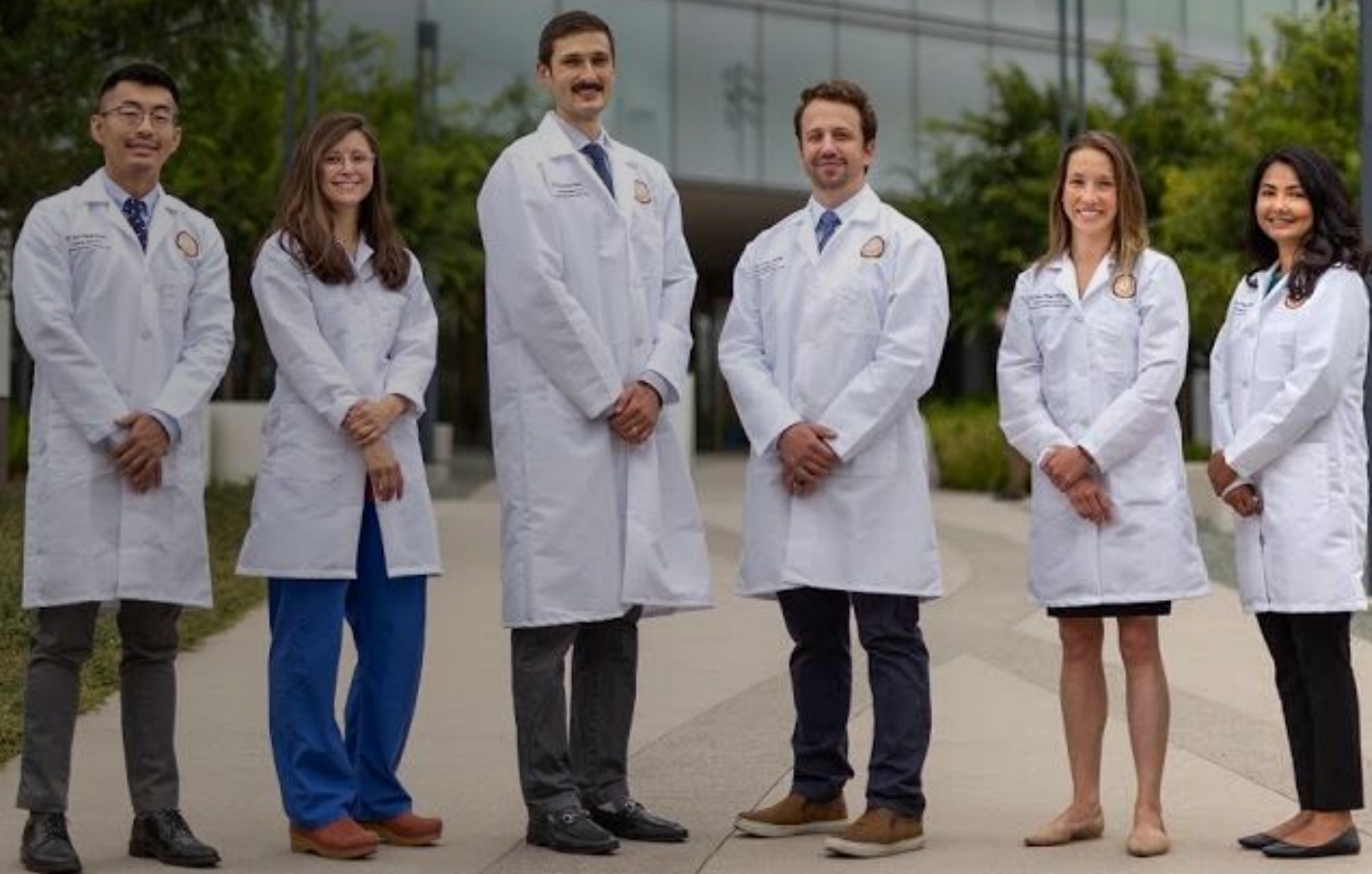
We're on a boat!!! - Yacht Cruise in the San Diego Harbor 2021







2nd Years Class of 2023



Brinda Desai

Hometown: Queens, NY / Jersey City, NJ

Residency: University of Minnesota (Med-Peds)

If there is music, I'm usually trying to bust a move - I had the opportunity to be part of a dance troupe in residency and perform in a large arts festival.

"I was looking for a place that offered a rigorous clinical training while still emphasizing teaching and I felt UCSD would offer that. The variety of pathology is remarkable. Most of all, the thing that struck me the most was Dr. Crouch's commitment to the fellowship and fellows. I think having a supportive leadership is key in success as a trainee."



Allen Jiang

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Residency: UC San Diego

"I stayed at UCSD for fellowship because the PCCM program here has some of the most brilliant attendings and fellows who were at the same time incredibly approachable and down to earth. The training here is excellent with high clinical volume and supportive program leadership, so no matter what I want to do with my career, I know I'll have all the support I need."



In my free time, I play pickup basketball. I also spend a lot of time watching Chicago sports and yelling at the TV.



Kelsey Luoma

Hometown: Gilroy, California

Residency: New York University

- Obsessed with running, especially on trails
- Love to do anything outdoors - especially hike, camp and ski
- Proud parent to a dog and cat (both rescues). Animal fanatic and recently inaugurated San Diego Zoo member

"I was drawn to UCSD for the balance of strong clinical/procedural training, academic opportunity and endless sunshine"

Eric Mlodzinski

Hometown: Holbrook, New York

Residency: Beth Israel Deaconess Med Center



"My wife and I have 2 adopted cats Brody and Oliver. I love to hike, play volleyball (pre-COVID) and eat."

"Amazing clinical exposure and research opportunities, amazing fellows and faculty, and happens to be located in one of the best places in the world to live!"

Grant Senyei

Hometown: La Jolla, CA

Residency: UC San Diego

I LOVE cooking. My specialty is a grilled flank steak taco with homemade tortillas and guacamole

“During residency, I found the PCCSM faculty and fellows were regularly the most passionate about providing excellent patient care and teaching physiology. I knew I wanted to train among the top clinical and research minds in the world and discovered after interviewing around the country that UCSD was the perfect combination of both.”



Lauren Sullivan

Hometown: Marietta, Georgia

Residency: UCLA

My free time is spent with my fluffy fur-children

"I came to UCSD because it has it all – diversity of clinical sites and experiences. We get tons of procedural training and have ample research opportunities across the division with mentors who are supportive and approachable. The fellows are well-trained, happy and supportive of one another, and I am super proud to be a UCSD PCCM fellow!"



Love to travel (recent spots are Morocco, Japan and Philippines), read fiction and run





PCCSM Divisional Happy Hour - Alesmith Brewing Miramar



Stone Brewing –
Liberty Gardens

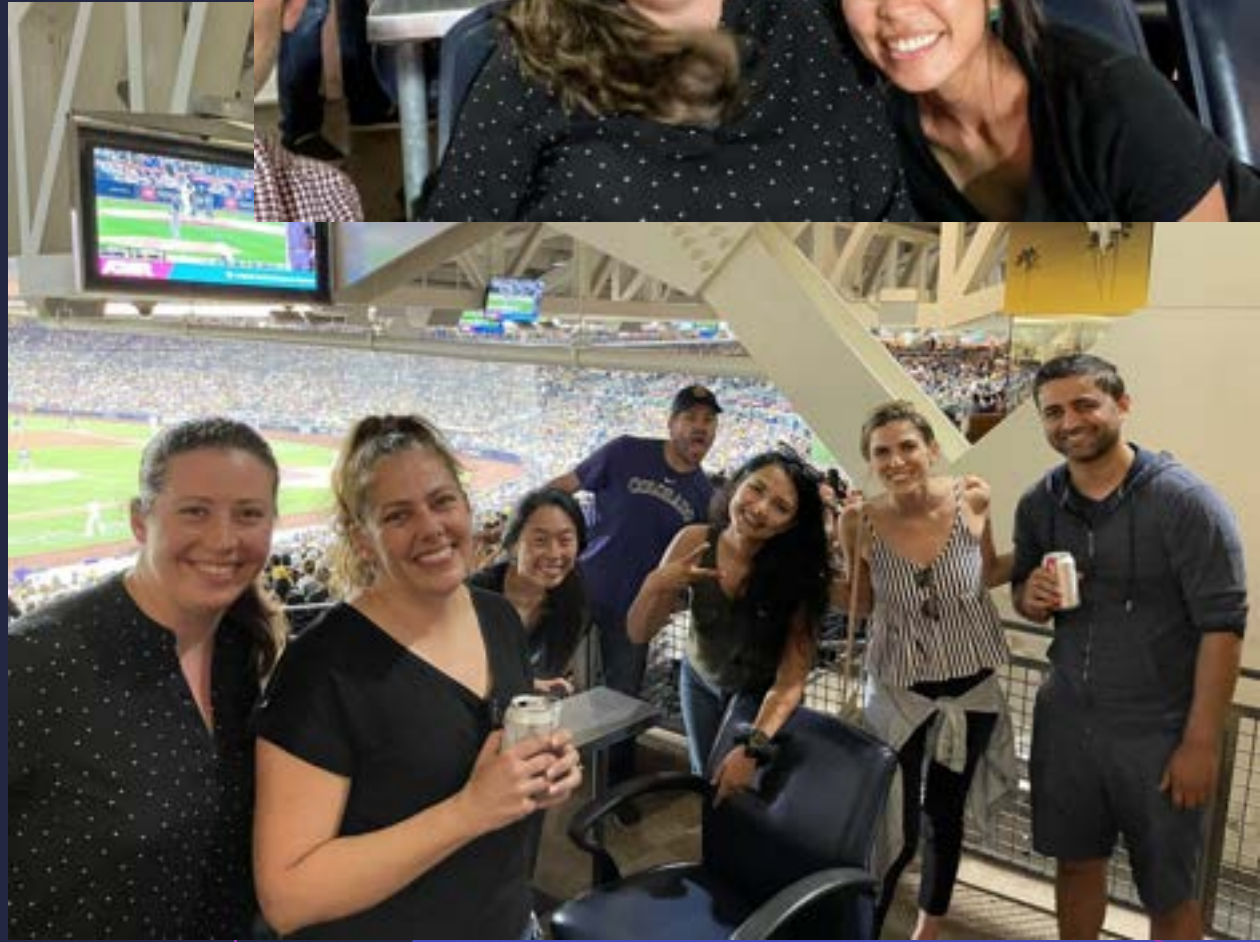


Serpentine Cidery –
North Park



Ballast Point
Brewing –
Little Italy

Padres Game for Fellows





1st Years
Class of 2024

Anna Astashchanka

- Hometown: Northglenn, CO
- Residency: UC San Diego

These past few months I've had the amazing pleasure of working with some of the most intelligent, hardworking, inspirational doctors and scientists (both as mentors and as colleagues) with a diverse population of patients in one of the most beautiful places in the U.S. Why choose to be anywhere else?

Loves hiking, kayaking, taking local trips, creative writing, digital art, video games, and harassing my 20-lb monster of a cat, Dmitri

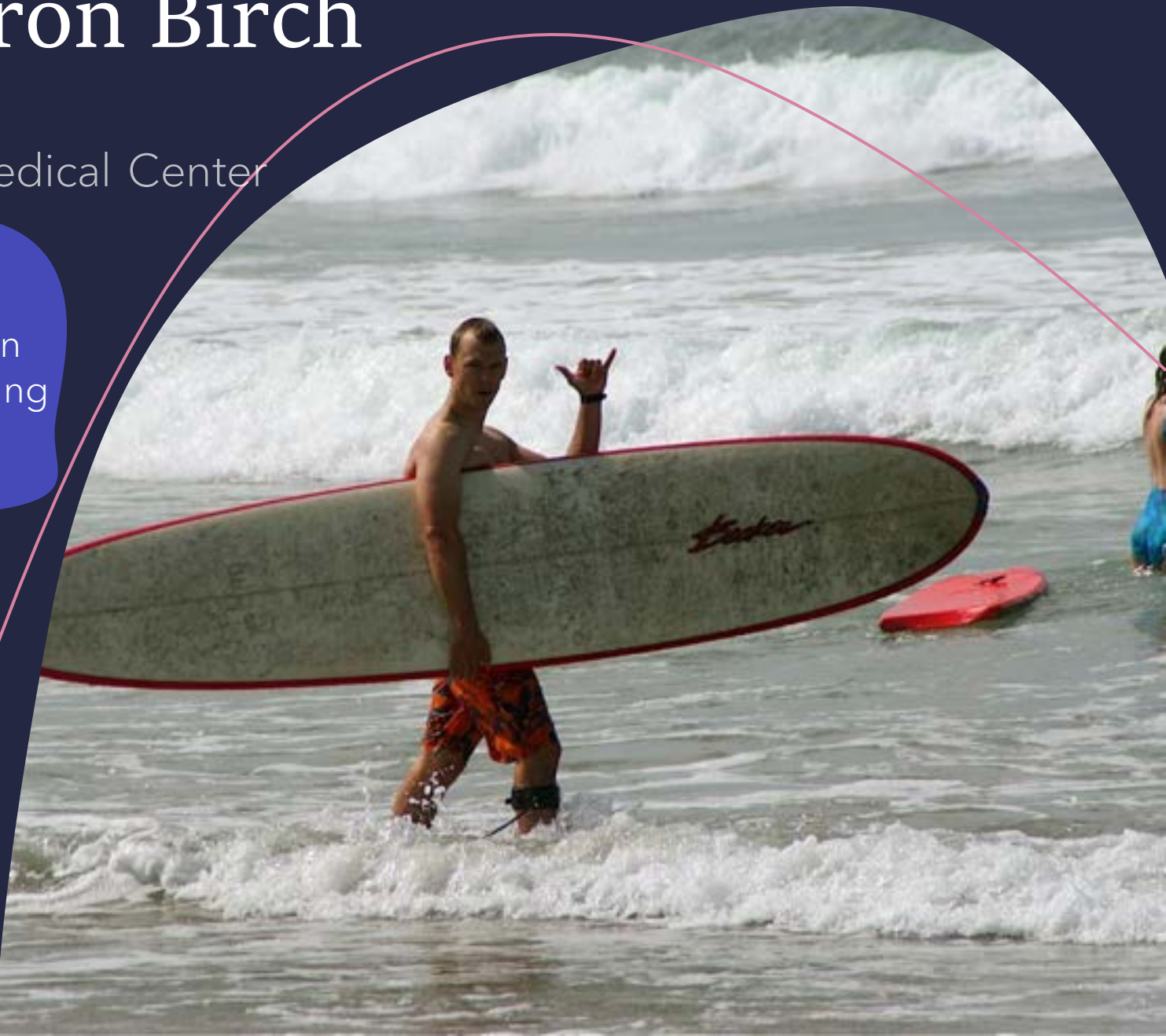


Aaron Birch

- Hometown: Hemet, CA
- Residency: Madigan Army Medical Center

Loves surfing, rock climbing, running, mountain biking, cycling, mountaineering, SCUBA, sky diving

Southern California is home. The faculty and staff are so welcoming and kind, well beyond anywhere I have ever worked previously so making the choice for UCSD was simple. This is a great fellowship to accommodate a wonderful work-life balance, plenty of opportunities for adventure and relaxation on days off, and the weather and surf can't be beat.



Alex Cypro

- Hometown: Prague, Czech Republic and Spokane, WA
- Residency: UC San Diego

Loves cycling, traveling, cooking, camping, live performances, and is a self-described news junkie

Bike. Breakfast burrito. Intubate. Collaborative rounds. World-renown and down-to-earth attendings. Coffee & snacks are so good in the attending lounge! Bronch. Beach. Tacos & Ceviche. Repeat. UCSD Fellowship.

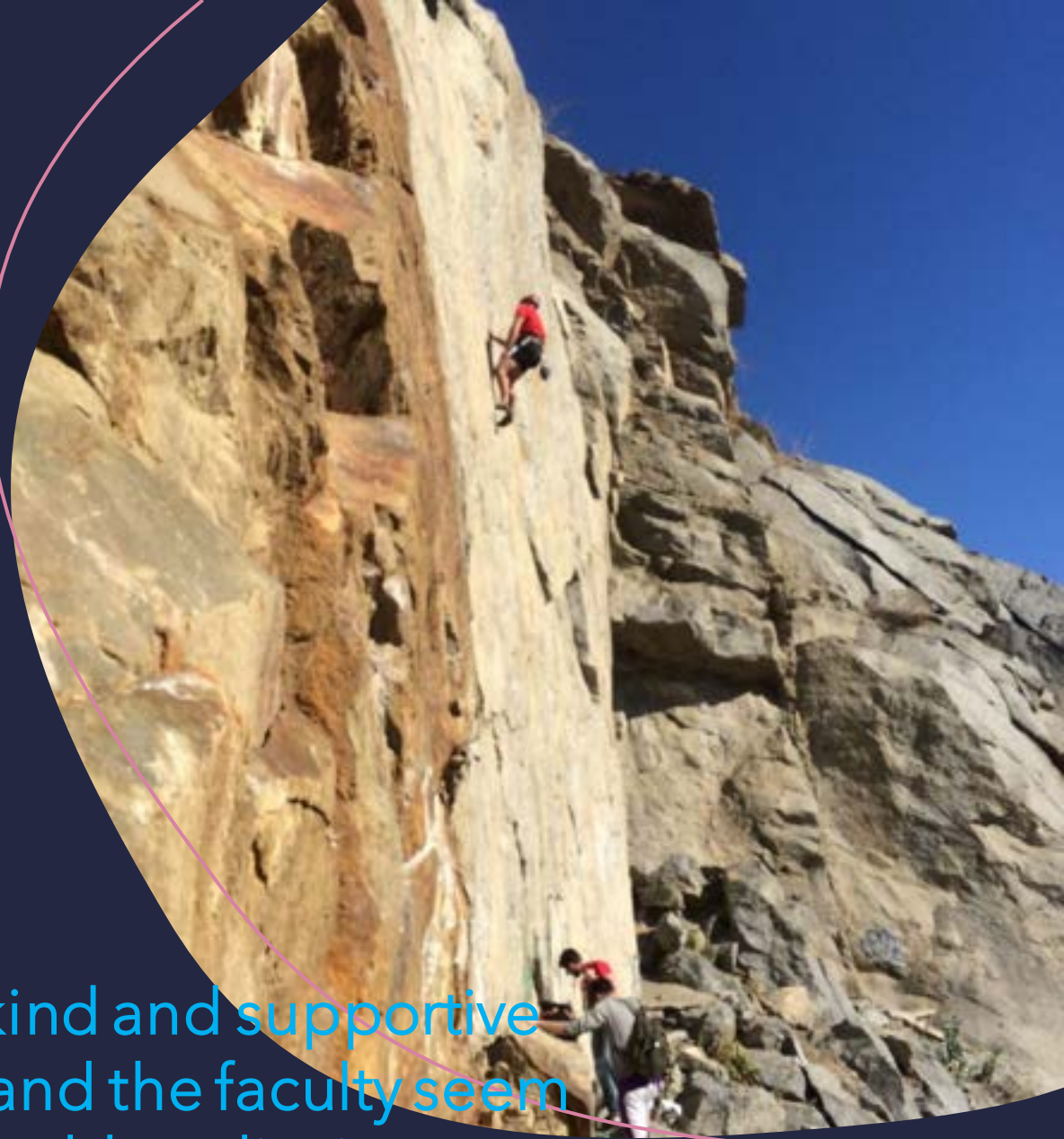


Rocky Fox

- Hometown: San Diego, CA
- Residency: San Antonio Military Medical Center

Hobbies include playing music (guitar and piano), distance running, and rock climbing.

The great thing about our program is how kind and supportive the staff are. Fellowship is a high stress job and the faculty seem really committed to making you feel comfortable, relieving as much stress as they can.



Nick Hogan

Hometown: Northborough, MA

Residency: UC San Diego

I love to run, and San Diego has a never-ending array of trails and paths to explore. I'm also always up for comparing and enjoying beaches both East Coast and West, and cheering on my Boston sports teams (only occasionally coming into conflict with his co-fellow Allen).

"The incredibly welcoming and supportive culture here, the mentoring, and the astounding breadth of excellence throughout all aspects of Pulmonary and Critical Care combine to make UCSD a truly ideal place to train and grow."



Alisha Kabadi

- Hometown: Portland, OR
- Residency: UC San Diego

Loves traveling locally and internationally, road trips, camping, cooking various cuisines, cake decorating, and most recently planting (plant mom to 20 different plants!!)

I chose to stay at UCSD because of the exceptional clinical training experiences with 3 unique patient populations, ample opportunities to pursue research in any domain and, most importantly, the outstanding and enthusiastic faculty and fellows that make this program incredibly supportive and promotes a fun and friendly learning environment.





Nick Leverone

- Hometown: Fairfax, VA
- Residency: UC San Diego

I enjoy going for runs along the beach, tending to my succulents in my backyard, and trying out different artisan coffee shops.

The fellowship training here at UCSD is a clinically intense experience, led by brilliant faculty *invested* in your career development, that churns out well-rounded graduates who can handle anything any ICU can throw at them.

Dream Vacation: Sapporo, Japan!

Alyssa Self

- Hometown: Denver, CO
- Residency: Wash U St. Louis

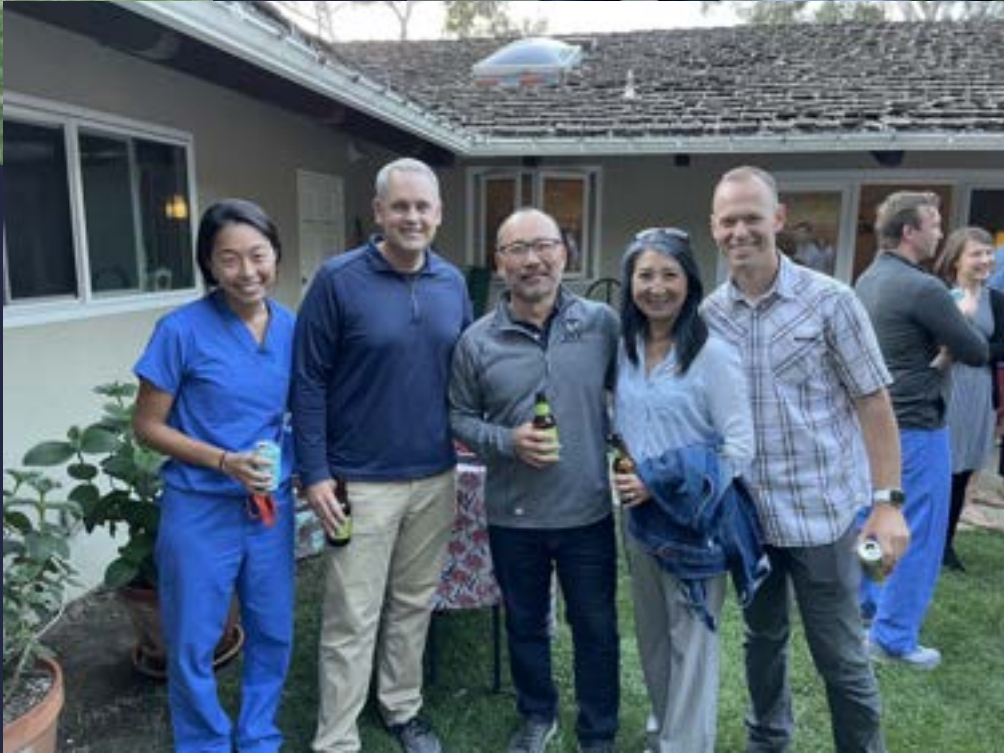
Loves spending time outdoors hiking, camping, or skiing. I'm a proud cat mom to my two rescue cats

I was drawn to the UCSD program because of the balance of strong clinical/procedural training and research opportunities





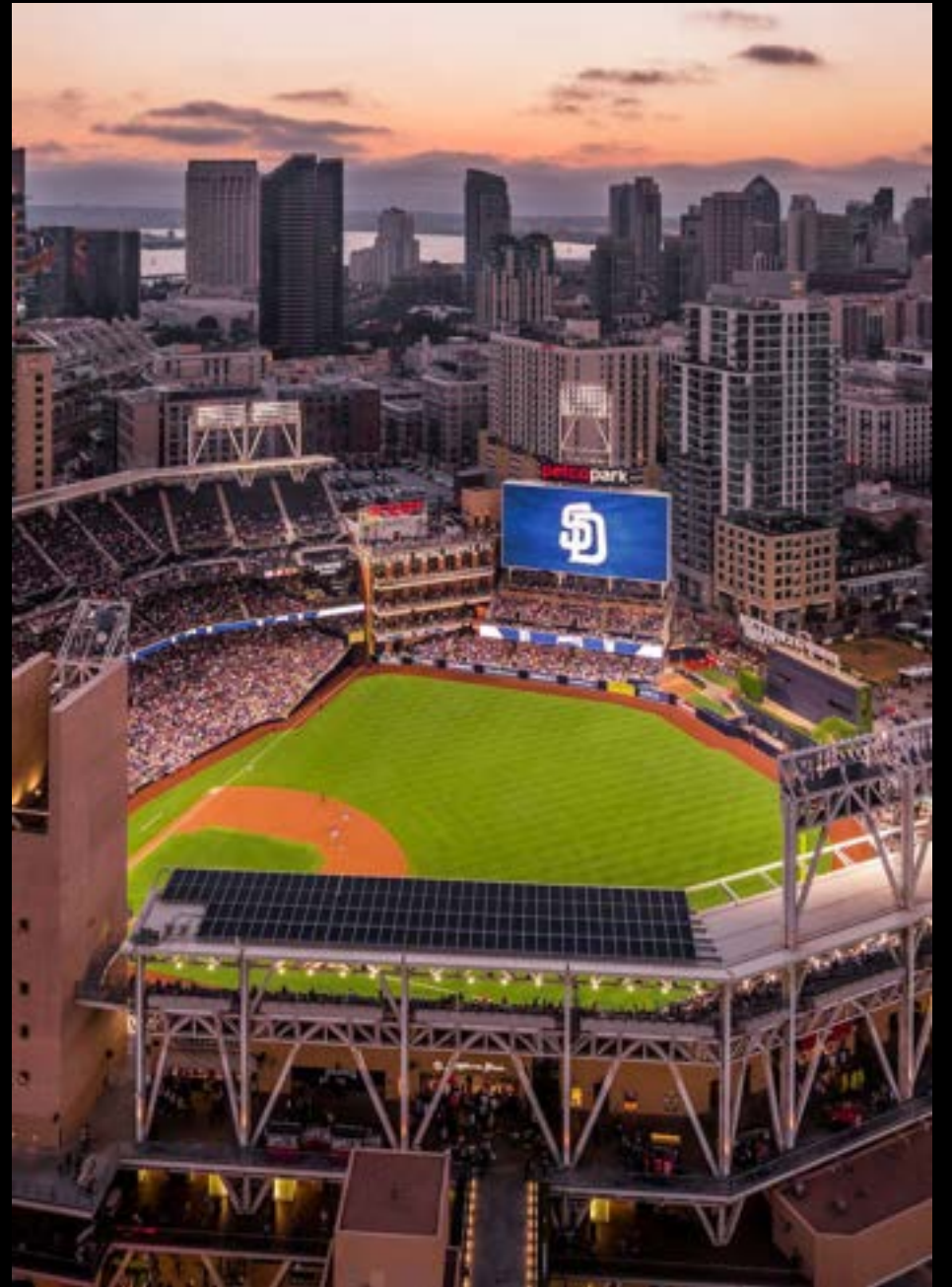
New Fellow Welcome Party 2021 - Dr. Crotty-Alexander's House











We have fun at work too!







So much fun that many of us can't leave...



Applying
for F-32

T-32

F-32

T-32 and
applying
for F-32



UCSD/VA Faculty!!!

T-32 and applying
for a CDA at the VA



Prior T-32



UCSD/VA Faculty!!!



UCSD/VA Faculty!!!

The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. On the left side, there are several circular elements: a large scale with tick marks and numbers from 140 to 260, and several smaller circles with dashed lines and arrows indicating rotation or movement.

MEET OUR FACULTY

UCSD PCCSM RECRUITMENT 2021



JENNY YANG

Fellowship: UCSD

Areas of Interest: PAH, BPA, and iCPET

Hobbies: hiking, trying to grow some plants/not kill them, making cocktails (hopefully with the plants I don't kill), puzzles/board games

I've only just joined the UCSD faculty, but the main reason I stayed here was because I get to work with the best people. The fellows and faculty here are the perfect mix of laidback and hardworking, and there are no better people to work in the ICU with all day and then go grab a drink!



PRAVEEN AKUTHOTA

Fellowship: Harvard Combined

Areas of Interest: Basic Science Research
Eosinophil Biology, Eosinophilic Lung
Diseases, Asthma

Hobbies: Living his life one quarter
mile at a time... Also, grilling meats
on his Big Green Egg, history
podcasts, Ohio sports, making pizza

Why UCSD? I get to work with world
class researchers on eosinophil biology
and still teach residents and fellows in
the HC ICU!

TIM FERNANDES

Fellowship: UCSD and MPH at SDSU

Areas of Interest: Clinical Research, PAH, PE, and iCPET

Hobbies: golf, hiking, exploring California, coaching kids' sports, Padres baseball

What do you love about UCSD?

I like collaborating with colleagues both in the division and outside. People are very approachable here.



JESS MANDEL

Fellowship: Harvard Combined

Areas of Interest: PVOD/HHT and Medical Education

Hobbies: walking on the beach after work and taking in a few sunsets/month, preferably with a picnic dinner. Cycling!!!

One of my favorite things about being a faculty member at UCSD is the fantastic diversity of patients that we serve, and the opportunity to help them while working shoulder to shoulder with some of the greatest colleagues in world.



ERICA LIN

Fellowship: UCSD

Areas of Interest: ILD and Medical Education

Hobbies: Playing board games, listening to podcasts, cooking new dishes, adding to my succulent garden, traveling to national parks

I'm fortunate to be at UCSD where I'm surrounded by amazing individuals everywhere I look! It truly is all about the people. The community and camaraderie established here is unparalleled.



Areas of Interest: Sleep Medicine,
Pulmonary Physiology, ARDS, All
kinds of Research

Hobbies: All things sports, but
especially Steelers football, Red Sox
baseball, and Bruins hockey

Why UCSD? I think when you train in
pulmonary and critical care at UCSD you
don't have to choose between being great
clinically and good at research. Our clinical
training is robust, so fellows emerge bullet
proof at the end able to handle any patient
regardless of how sick or how complicated.
For research we have over 20 NIH funded
faculty within our division and a strong track
record of helping junior folks get funded.

ATUL MALHOTRA

Fellowship: Harvard Combined





GABE WARDI

Fellowship: UCSD

Areas of Interest: Sepsis, Post-Arrest Care, Machine Learning and Analytics, Medical Education

Hobbies: cooking, reading, gardening, running, international travel (obviously when COVID is better), cooking, and chasing after 2 young daughters

Why UCSD? The fellows, faculty, and staff in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine are hands down amazing and set the stage for success of our trainees- whether it be in clinical excellence, medical education, or research - anything is possible with this group.

LAURA CROTTY-ALEXANDER

Fellowship: Harvard Combined

Areas of Interest: Basic Science Research, MRSA Pneumonia, Neutrophil Biology, EVALI, Medical Education

Hobbies: baking, reading, chillaxing

Why UCSD? I love working and socializing with my colleagues. They make our Division awesome and fun to be a part of!



MARK FUSTER

Fellowship: UCSD

Areas of Interest: Basic Science Research, Cell-cell signaling through glycans and heparans, Lung cancer

Hobbies: traveling, hiking, biking, surfing, eating

Why UCSD? Between the VA (my main practice, research, and teaching venue) and UCSD, I couldn't be around a more fun bunch of colleagues and friends. The depth and breadth of resources on the combined VA and UCSD campus is awesome.



AMY BELLINGHAUSEN-STEWART

Fellowship: UCSD

Areas of Interest: Post-Intensive Care Syndrome, PICS Clinic, Multi-Disciplinary and Interprofessional Education and Rounding

Hobbies: Knitting/Crocheting, travel, reading

Why UCSD? Working with and learning from the fantastic multidisciplinary team in the ICU.





OMAR MESARWI

Fellowship: Johns Hopkins

Areas of Interest: Basic Science Research, Intermittent Hypoxia and Cardiometabolic Risk, Sleep Medicine, Critical Appraisal of the Literature

Hobbies: Travel, photography, collecting first editions of children's books that my daughter likes.

Why UCSD? It's an outstanding division, clinically the best group I've ever worked with. And on top of that, so many of our faculty are pushing themselves and each other toward huge advances in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine too. The research our division is doing is outstanding and absolutely getting better every year.

ALEX ROSE

Fellowship: UCSD

Areas of Interest: Medical Education, Procedural Competency, ICU Leadership

Hobbies: photography, travel, hiking, drinking good wine and coffee, spending time with family (toddler and newborn keep me very busy!)

Why UCSD? I get to learn something new at work every day while working with some of the most amazing people!



BOB OWENS

Fellowship: Harvard
Combined

Areas of Interest: ECMO,
ARDS, Post-Intensive
Care Syndrome, Sleep
Medicine

Hobbies: surfing,
numismatics, history



What I love about being
UCSD Faculty: Helping
fellows get to where they
want to go

JUDD LANDSBERG

Fellowship: UCSD

Areas of Interest: Medical Education, Lasix/Haldol/Oxygen, Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Home Oxygen

Hobbies: writing, working on my book, drawing, listening to my son play saxophone

Why UCSD? The VA (my primary clinical site) and UCSD bring together eager learners in an atmosphere of inquisitiveness. It's an honor and pleasure to be able to teach in this environment.



KIM KERR

Fellowship: UCSF

Research Fellowship: UCSD

Areas of Interest: PE, CTEPH,
Leadership, Women in Medicine

Kim's Hobbies: cooking, travel,
vacations at the Jersey Shore and skiing
with my family

Barney's Hobbies: counter surfing,
eating flowers/mulch/rocks, chewing
furniture, naps

"I am surrounded by intelligent,
compassionate, and dedicated fellows
and faculty. I learn something new and
have fun every day with this incredible
group at UCSD!"



VENKTESH RAMNATH

Fellowship: Harvard Combined

Areas of Interest: COPD,
Telemedicine, Medical Writing

Hobbies: Classical violin study, tennis
(Gabe Wardi and I play regularly as 4.0-
4.5 level), Spanish language study, salsa
dancing

Why UCSD? Having been part of many
other healthcare systems, It is rare to
have a training program that combines
the depth of clinical and research
prowess, skilled leaders whom trainees
and junior faculty can access easily for
personal and professional growth, and
preparation for careers from a holistic
standpoint, all within a stone's throw of
the beach.



JISHA JOSHUA

Fellowship: UCSD

Areas of Interest: Interstitial Lung Disease, Scleroderma PAH

Hobbies: We love to travel and explore new places. I also love to read, play with my sons and dance



Why UCSD? The best part of being at UCSD and specifically the PCCSM division is being surrounded by people who are very helpful and compassionate and inspire others to be the same. This is the reason I decided to stay after completing my pulmonary fellowship at UCSD.

DAN CROUCH

Fellowship: UCSD

Areas of Interest: Medical Education,
Procedural Competency and Training,
Pulmonary Physiology and Gas Exchange

Hobbies: Coaching youth sports (soccer,
baseball/softball), Padres baseball, and
spending time with my family.



Why UCSD? The people! It is a true privilege to work among such an incredibly talented group of individuals all committed and striving to better the health and lives of every member of our society, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, race, or socioeconomic status, through high quality medical care, education, and advancing the front lines of science.



ANDY RIES

Fellowship: UCSD

Areas of Interest: Obstructive Lung Disease, Pulmonary Physiology, CPET, Medical Education,

Hobbies: Padres, Audiobooks, Walking, Bridge

Why UCSD? UCSD is a remarkable success story in American higher education emerging as a top research institution within just 50 years based on superb, entrepreneurial, collaborative faculty and, of course, its location in America's Finest City.

BERNIE SUNWOO

Fellowship: University of Pennsylvania

Areas of Interest: ILD, Hypercarbic Respiratory Failure, Sleep Medicine, Medical Education, Leadership

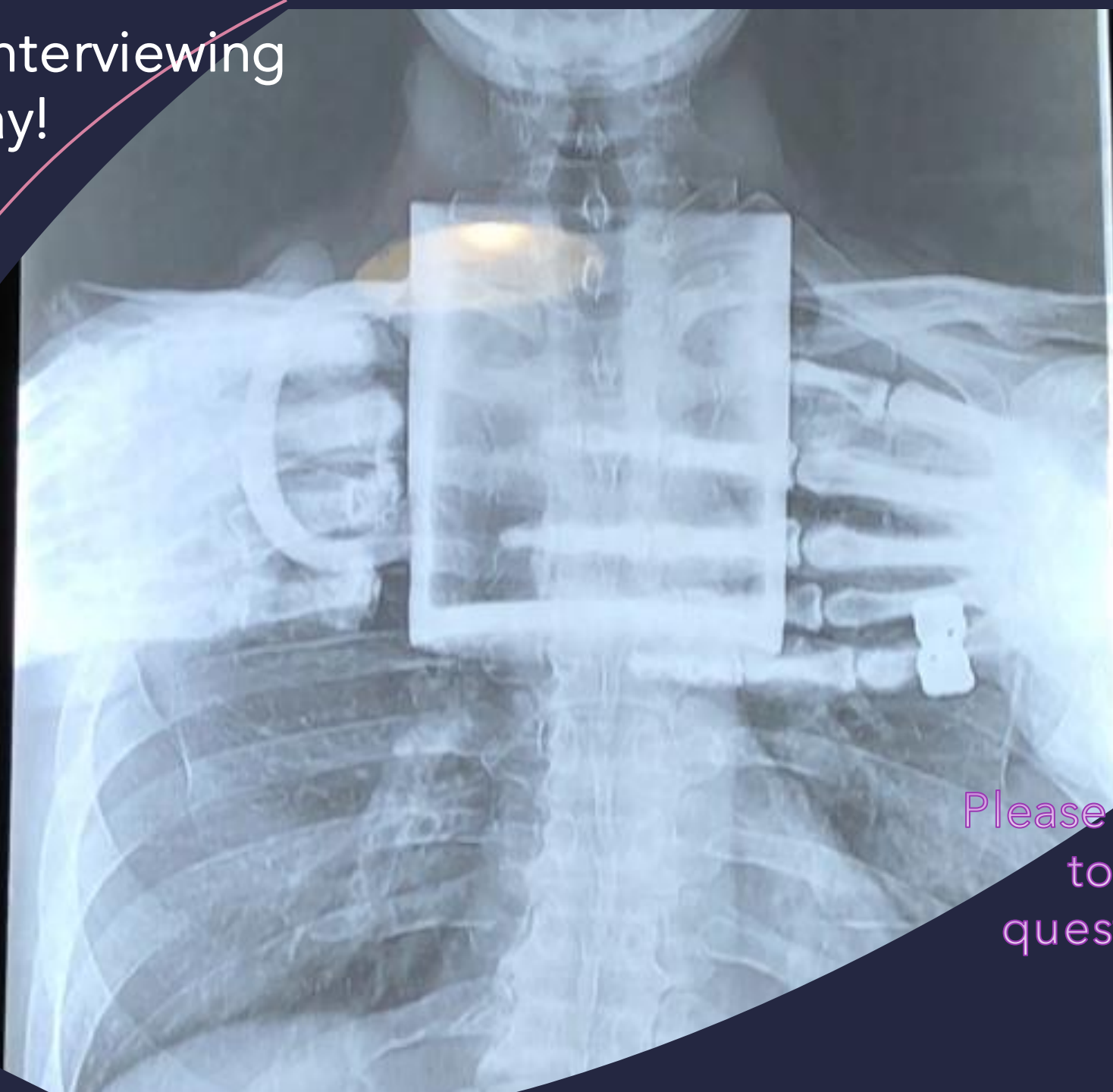
Hobbies: chilling with family and friends, hiking (if I approve of the trees), and I was heading towards a career as a pianist before medicine...I still tickle the ivories

Why being faculty at UCSD is great – because George Cheng can call me Barney! Seriously the peeps, including fabulous fellows 😊

Fun fact: I'm named after a city...Bern, Switzerland



Thanks for interviewing
with us today!



Please feel free to reach out
to any of us if you have
questions or want to learn
more about UCSD!



UC San Diego