Inspiring Leaders

Health Sciences Education at UCSF
“Some of UCSF’s most inventive work has come from students. They ask ‘crazy’ questions that change the way we do research in my laboratory, the techniques we use, the ideas we pursue. The students are our spark, our innovative light.”

– Jeffrey Bluestone, PhD
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
Inspiration

I can still feel the pride of opening my internal medicine residency acceptance letter from UCSF. Now at the helm of the institution that set the bar for my aspirations, I remain just as inspired as on my first day on campus.

I credit the students I see rushing in and out of labs, clinics and classrooms for that inspiration. You’ll see a few of them in the profiles that follow. Their fresh ideas and perspectives challenge and propel us in new directions, continually driving us toward our goal: to be the world’s preeminent health sciences innovator.

UCSF students will undoubtedly lead the innovations of the future. Our four schools – dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy – and our graduate programs consistently rank among the top in the nation, attracting the finest minds. In turn, these students will become the leading clinicians, researchers, policymakers and educators of tomorrow.

As a public institution, UCSF is committed to access and affordability. We must continue to attract the best, brightest and most diverse students, regardless of their financial circumstances. It’s vital that they avoid large debt burdens so, when they graduate, they have every opportunity in the world – whether working in a community hospital, a research lab, a biotech start-up or an African village. We need private support to help us achieve this critical public mission.

UCSF students have remarkable abilities and aspirations. With your generosity, their potential is limitless.

Susan Desmond-Hellmann, MD, MPH
Chancellor
Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Distinguished Professor

LEADERSHIP

While many of our graduates become health care leaders around the world, hundreds return to work at UCSF – like Chancellor Susan Desmond-Hellmann, Nobel Prize winner Stanley Prusiner, pioneering AIDS researcher Paul Volberding and renowned neurosurgeon Mitch Berger – helping to continue the tradition of excellence and innovation under which they trained.
The Graduate Division

“Graduate students are integral to the collaborative research enterprise at UCSF; the work they are doing today will lead to the technological innovations and clinical breakthroughs of tomorrow.” – Dean Elizabeth Watkins, PhD

INNOVATION
Mozziyar Etemadi was named as one of Forbes Magazine’s “30 under 30” for his work on a life-saving device to detect preterm labor in high-risk pregnancies and alert physicians via a cloud database. “I came to UCSF because people here focus on the right metrics of success – treating illness and curing disease. They lay down their arms and say, ‘Let’s just solve the problem and we will all get the credit for it.’ Because of the collaborative nature of this place, our device went from napkin drawing to human trials in just six months.”

VITALS
- Awarded more NIH funds than any other public university
- 1,600 students in 17 PhD and eight MS programs
- 1,100 post-doctoral scholars

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT
The Herbert W. Boyer Program in Biological Sciences (PIBS) has pioneered a new interdisciplinary model of graduate curricula. Each of the eight PhD programs in PIBS has its own degree requirements, but students can attend courses and carry out their research in any of the 150 affiliated labs.

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE
MacArthur Fellow Victoria Hale founded One World Health, the first nonprofit pharmaceutical company in the U.S. Under her leadership, the company developed a new cure for the tropical disease visceral leishmaniasis and developed a technology to reduce the cost of malaria drugs by more than 10-fold. Her new venture, Medicines360, is a hybrid nonprofit/for-profit company focused on women’s reproductive health. “UCSF, as a public institution with creative entrepreneurs, great scientists and a global health perspective, combines all that I have valued in my education, my training and my career.”

Mozziyar Etemadi, MD/PhD candidate

Victoria Hale, PhD ’90
School of Dentistry

“The UCSF School of Dentistry is advancing oral, craniofacial and public health through excellence in education, discovery and patient-centered care.”

– Dean John D.B. Featherstone, MSc, PhD

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE

Jacqueline Kotula runs Dental Project Peru, a nonprofit providing emergency and basic dental care to the most impoverished people of the Peruvian Andes. Since 2003, Kotula and her teams of volunteer dentists have treated tens of thousands of patients, many of whom walked barefoot for days to receive care. “As president of my class while at UCSF, I had the opportunity to work with our visionary dean and faculty. They helped hone the leadership skills that have been critical to doing the work I was meant for, in Peru.”

VITALS

• Founded in 1881
• Ranked first in NIH funding since 1992
• 350 students

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The School of Dentistry Externship Program is built into students’ final years. The program immerses them in one of 14 active externship clinics scattered among California’s most struggling counties. Receiving real-time clinical instruction and providing hands-on care, the students deliver more than $2 million in uncompensated dentistry in over 20,000 patient visits, annually.

Simiade Fabiyi, DDS student, Dean's Scholarship for Opportunity

DRIVE

Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Simiade Fabiyi developed an interest in dentistry after her mother was hospitalized for an oral infection. Her family found a way to send her to school in the U.S. and Fabiyi’s tenacity led her to UCSF. “This school embodies all that matters to me – multiculturalism, access, research, intellect. Sometimes I don’t think there are enough hours in a day to learn all UCSF has to offer. When I graduate, I will work with the National Health Service Corps to provide dental care to the underserved. There are so many in need and I can’t wait to help.”

Jacqueline Kotula, DDS ’09
School of Medicine

“UCSF is equipping the next generation of physicians with the tools they need to become leaders in the field of medicine and advance health worldwide.”

– Dean Sam Hawgood, MBBS

VITALS

- Founded in 1864
- Only school ranked in top five in both research and primary care by US News & World Report
- Ranked first among public medical schools in NIH support
- 650 students

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE

Richard Carmona was born into a poor Hispanic family in New York City, and experienced homelessness, hunger and health disparities in his youth. He went on to graduate first in his class at UCSF, receiving the “Gold-Headed Cane Award,” and to hold leadership positions in the public and private sectors before being nominated the 17th Surgeon General of the United States. During his tenure, Carmona released many landmark reports, one being on the dangers of second-hand smoke that led to indoor smoking bans. “I’m grateful to UCSF for the scholarship support I received and for preparing me for the future. My UCSF education has allowed me to work toward my lifelong goal of being a physician leader nationally and globally.”

SERVICE

Mikah Owen is part of UCSF’s Program in Medical Education for the Urban Underserved (PRIME-US), a five-year program that brings together diverse medical students committed to improving the health of the urban underserved. “I was in college in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit, so I saw first-hand how socioeconomic status could greatly impact one’s life chances and health outcomes. This led me to seek a school where I would receive a great clinical education and learn more about public health and the social determinants of health. PRIME-US has been the perfect program to help me meet this goal.”

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The Pathways to Discovery program allows students to develop in-depth knowledge and gain hands-on training in one of five tracks: Clinical and Translational Research, Global Health, Health and Society, Health Professions Education and Molecular Medicine. By following a pathway, students develop the specialization and contacts necessary to become leaders in bioscience and social science research, advocacy, policy and education theory.
School of Nursing

“UCSF attracts the brightest, most dedicated and compassionate nursing students who are educated to define and shape the future of nursing and health care.”

– Dean David Vlahov, RN, PhD

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE

Jennie Chin Hansen is the past president of AARP, the nation’s largest membership organization, and former CEO of San Francisco’s On Lok, the first integrated acute and long-term care system in the nation. During her nearly 25-year tenure, On Lok culminated in a 1997 legislated Medicare program now available to all 50 states. “I arrived at UCSF during the Vietnam era. My nursing program was as unstructured as the times. I developed the necessary critical thinking skills to manage, negotiate and craft my own curriculum and to find a way to contribute to bettering society. These are skills I have used every day of my career.”

VITALS

• Founded in 1907
• Ranked consistently in the top five by US News & World Report
• Ranked first or second for NIH support for several decades
• 500 students

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Glide Health Services, directed and administered by UCSF nurses, provides free primary and complementary health care services to the homeless and indigent of San Francisco’s Tenderloin District. The program’s educational mission is to teach nurses how to deliver culturally competent care to the diverse and high-risk populations often missed in traditional care settings.

COMPASSION

Breanne Cisneros, part of the Master’s Entry Program in Nursing, was told by a high school counselor that people like you don’t go to top-tier schools. Cisneros put herself through college and applied to UCSF where she is studying to be a critical care and trauma clinical nurse specialist. “After my father sustained a traumatic brain injury, I experienced the impact of the phenomenal nurses who were involved with his care. I knew that I wanted to spend my life doing for others what they did for him and my family. I want to spend my life working toward leveling the health disparities in trauma care.”
School of Pharmacy

“UCSF pharmacy students are passionate about how they can use their knowledge creatively to improve the health of patients everywhere. They see no limits, only possibilities.” – Dean Mary Anne Koda-Kimble, PharmD ‘69

VITALS

- Founded in 1872
- Ranked first in NIH research funding every year since 1989
- Ranked first in US News & World Report
- 500 students

MENTOR

Raymond J. Townsend revolutionized his field by inventing the discipline of pharmacoconomics. He coined the phrase, coauthored the first book on the topic, and started the first scientific-based pharmacoeconomic outcomes research group in the industry. “UCSF has always chosen people from broad-based backgrounds and given them the breadth of knowledge and confidence to go out and do things differently. When I joined the pharmaceutical industry, I was only one of 12 PharmDs. By taking a chance on me, UCSF gave me the self-assurance to spread my wings and create my own path.”

SCHOLARSHIP

Caroline Lindsay decided she wanted to get a PharmD after working in a molecular biology lab. A degree from UCSF will allow her to combine her passions – research and teaching. “Seeing so many amazing role models at UCSF has made it easier for me to picture what my own academic career could look like. The support I have received along the way has enabled me to lead professional organizations and interprofessional groups that will push me and the field of pharmacy forward.”

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

UCSF pioneered the role of the clinical pharmacist, a professional who works alongside doctors and nurses to provide direct care to patients. Likewise, the school was among the first to expand the breadth of drug information it provided to patients, changing the role of pharmacist from drug dispenser to clinical drug expert.

Caroline Lindsay, PharmD student, Pharmacy Alumni Scholarship

Raymond J. Townsend, PharmD ‘77
Interprofessional Education

“UCSF students are not educated in silos – their studies weave across programs and training environments, enabling them to develop skills that are critical to team-based patient care and research.”

– Chancellor Susan Desmond-Hellmann, MD, MPH

The UCSF Teaching and Learning Center is a 220,000-square-foot educational center that features multi-media and adaptable teaching environments to facilitate small group, multi-disciplinary learning. The Kanbar Center for Simulation and Clinical Skills Education provides students with mock hospital rooms where they can practice clinical skills on sophisticated simulators and trained actors without risking harm to patients.

The UCSF Science and Health Education Partnership has more than a quarter-century history of enhancing science education in the San Francisco Unified School District. UCSF students and faculty help K-12 teachers build their scientific knowledge and understanding so that they may teach the subject more dynamically.

COLLABORATION

With four professional schools and more than two dozen graduate programs, UCSF is uniquely positioned to offer health sciences students a rich and varied interprofessional education. Taught alongside one another, the next generation of doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and researchers learn in experiential and problem-focused settings, and through service activities, building skills to work in teams and collaborate across professions.
Education Priorities

Scholarships and Awards...
ensure that the highest quality health science education remains accessible to the next generation of students regardless of financial means.

Fellowships...
support the educational expenses of our doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows and trainees, and ensure robust graduate programs.

Faculty Support...
helps UCSF attract the best clinicians, researchers and teachers to guarantee our students have the best possible educators.

Interprofessional Education...
helps provide the curricula and team-building opportunities that bring together all four schools and our graduate programs, fostering collaborative research, learning and clinical care.

Teaching Infrastructure...
builds and sustains a technology-rich environment that promotes curricular innovation and creates teaching and learning experiences that prepare students to meet the challenges of the 21st century.
Hwalin Lee, PhD ’66, generously donated $1 million to establish the first Chancellor’s Endowed Fellowship in the Graduate Division. “When I came to UCSF it was the best school in the world – and still is. And I was supported all the way through with a fellowship. I made this gift to thank UCSF for giving me the opportunity to study here and for giving me financial support.”

Husband-and-wife alumni Kevin Rodondi, PharmD ’85, and Lisa Rodondi, PharmD ’84, matched Chancellor Desmond-Hellmann’s challenge gift to create the first $500,000 Chancellor’s Endowed Scholarship Fund in the School of Pharmacy. “I think it’s very important that we as pharmacists and alumni step up our level of giving to support the future practitioners and leaders,” says Kevin. “We just hope it catches on.”