Honored Among America’s Best Hospitals

UC Irvine Medical Center listed for 11th consecutive year

U.S. News & World Report has recognized UC Irvine in four specialty areas. Among the top 50 hospitals, we are listed 28th for gynecology, 30th for urology and 50th for both cancer and nephrology. Pictured from left, Dr. Jaime Landman (Urology), Dr. Manuel Porto (Obstetrics & Gynecology), Dr. Madeleine Pahl (Nephrology) and Dr. Frank Meyskens (Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center). This achievement is a direct reflection of our faculty and staff’s commitment to high quality patient care and to our Discover. Teach. Heal. mission. See article inside. More: www.ucihealth.com

Discover

Groundbreaking Athena study enrolls UC Irvine patients as part of one of nation’s largest breast cancer screening efforts

Teach

Innovative iMedEd Initiative kicks off second year with expanded programming and increased support

Heal

UC Irvine Health will expand to create four-year bedside ultrasound training program
Groundbreaking Athena study begins enrolling UC Irvine patients

Women who get their annual mammograms at UC Irvine Medical Center or its affiliates can participate in one of the largest breast cancer screening projects ever conducted in the U.S. Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center physicians and researchers have joined with colleagues at the four other University of California medical centers to improve breast cancer prevention, detection, treatment and survivors’ quality of life. Participants are enrolled in the Athena Breast Health Network, a groundbreaking project that initially will involve 150,000 California women who will be screened and followed for decades. Those diagnosed with breast cancer will join a survivorship cohort to be studied for care differences, recurrence rates and other outcome measures. “Athena is unique in its scope, which covers all stages of breast health,” said Hoda Anton-Culver, Ph.D., (pictured), professor and chair of epidemiology and lead investigator of the UC Irvine Athena Breast Health Network. “The data and knowledge we derive from this will shape breast cancer care for the future.”

More: www.athenacarenetwork.org

UC Irvine neuroscientists ID master switch for adult epilepsy

UC Irvine neurologist and neuroscientist Dr. Tallie Z. Baram (pictured) and colleagues have identified a central switch responsible for the transformation of healthy brain cells into epileptic ones, opening the way to both treat and prevent temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE), which is the most common form of the disorder in adults. The researchers found that TLE manifests after a major reorganization of the molecules governing the behavior of neurons, the cells that communicate within the brain. These alterations often stem from prolonged febrile seizures, brain infections or trauma. “This discovery marks a dramatic change in our understanding of how TLE comes about,” said Baram, the Danette Shepard Chair in Neurological Studies.

More: www.neurology.uci.edu

UC Irvine study finds food fats trigger gluttonous behavior

Potato chips and French fries rank among the worst contributors to weight gain – and with good reason. A UC Irvine study reveals that it’s not just the carbohydrates at fault. UC Irvine researchers Daniele Piomelli, Nicholas DiPatrizio and colleagues found that fats in these foods make them nearly irresistible and trigger a surprising biological mechanism that likely drives our gluttonous behavior. The apparent culprits are natural chemicals in the body called endocannabinoids, which are similar to those produced by marijuana use. News of the study, which was published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, appeared worldwide, including in The New York Times.

More: www.pharmacology.uci.edu
Revolutionary iMedEd Initiative kicks off year two

The UC Irvine School of Medicine’s ambitious iMedEd Initiative kicked off its second year at the Aug. 5 White Coat Ceremony, at which the incoming class of 2015 received iPads. It’s the second year the School of Medicine has given new students a tablet computer containing the digital course outlines, notes and essential textbooks needed for the coming academic year – a core component of the iMedEd Initiative, which has grown into the most comprehensive, digitally based medical education program in the U.S. Grants and gifts totaling more than $1 million assure funding for years to come, predominantly due to the vision of John Tu of Kingston Technology. “We are committed to using evolving technology to benefit the education of our medical students,” said Dr. Ralph V. Clayman, dean of the UC Irvine School of Medicine. “The integration of these technologies into healthcare is the wave of the future, and UC Irvine seeks to be a leader in preparing our students for this future.”

More: www.imeded.uci.edu

Anatomy teacher extraordinaire retires

After more than 40 years of teaching – the last 10 with the UC Irvine School of Medicine – Robert Leonard, Ph.D., (pictured with a surprise cake during his last lecture) has chosen to retire from the anatomy theater. During this time, Leonard transformed our anatomy course into one of the finest in the country. He wrote the textbook, Human Gross Anatomy: An Outlined Text, which is known as the “anatomy bible,” and in 2009, he received the National Golden Apple for Teaching Excellence by the American Medical Student Association, the nation’s largest independent group for physicians-in-training. In recognition of his years of service, we are seeking to establish the Endowed Leonard Lectureship. It will enable superior teachers to come to UC Irvine while also providing funds to enhance the teaching of anatomy. To make the Endowed Leonard Lectureship a reality, please consider a gift in his honor at www.uadv.uci.edu/LeonardLectureship.

More: www.som.uci.edu/summerpremed

Summer Premed Program expands to two sessions

Future doctors are finding UC Irvine the hot place to be each summer. The School of Medicine hosts an extensive two-week summer premed program for high school students interested in pursuing medical careers. In its second year, the program has expanded to offer two sessions, allowing 80 students to learn healthcare basics. In addition, UC Irvine faculty physicians address a variety of diverse topics ranging from medical ethics and compassionate patient care to surgical knot tying and simulation training. “We want to expose students to the entire spectrum of the medical school experience, from classroom work to frank discussions about moral and ethical issues,” said program leader Dr. Benoosh Afghani (pictured). More than 40 UC Irvine faculty, staff and medical students participated in the program. “I wished the UC Irvine Summer Premed Program would never end,” said participant Erika Garcia of Valley High School.

More: www.som.uci.edu/summerpremed
UC Irvine Medical Center on 'America's Best Hospitals' list once again

For the 11th consecutive year, UC Irvine Medical Center has been ranked among the nation's best hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*. It's listed 28th for gynecology, 30th for urology, 50th for cancer and 50th for nephrology. UC Irvine is the only Orange County medical center on the list this year and the only Orange County hospital honored for a straight decade. Since 2001, *U.S. News* has recognized UC Irvine's urology, gynecology, geriatrics, cancer, digestive disorders, kidney disease, and ear, nose & throat programs. “These ratings are more proof of the top-notch care and the quality of our medical faculty at UC Irvine,” said Dr. Ralph V. Clayman, dean of the School of Medicine. “We have more physicians rated nationally as Best Doctors in America than any other Orange County facility; they are providing medical care in Orange County’s most technologically sophisticated facility, the UC Irvine Douglas Hospital.”

More: www.healthcare.uci.edu

UC Irvine neurosurgeon to receive first Cinat Heroes with Heart award

The UC Irvine Health family mourns the sudden and unexpected passing in June of Dr. Marianne Cinat (pictured), the director of the UC Irvine Regional Burn Center. Her dedication, selflessness, and expertise were and continue to be an inspiration to her colleagues, trainees and patients. In her honor, the Trauma Intervention Program of Orange County renamed its Heroes with Heart award in her name. UC Irvine neurosurgeon Dr. Mark Linskey will receive the first Marianne Cinat, M.D., Heroes with Heart award at an Oct. 21 ceremony. It is bestowed annually on Orange County healthcare and public safety personnel who demonstrate compassion for victims of trauma and their families above and beyond the call of duty. Please join our many physicians and grateful patients in contributing to the Marianne Cinat Memorial Fund for Burn Survivors at www.surgery.uci.edu/MCinat_Memorial_Fund.asp.

UC Irvine Health to expand use, training of bedside ultrasound

The UniHealth Foundation awarded Dr. John Christian Fox (pictured), director of instructional ultrasound, a three-year, $700,000 grant to create a four-year handheld ultrasound training program. His colleague, critical care specialist Dr. Elizabeth Turner, also received a $50,000 California Center for Health Quality & Innovation grant to implement the bedside use of handheld ultrasound. Fox has been working with diagnostic ultrasound maker SonoSite Inc. He has fully integrated the technology into all four years of the medical school curriculum, making UC Irvine the first medical school on the West Coast (2nd in nation) with an ultrasound curriculum for its students. He also received the 2011 Society of Academic Emergency Medicine’s Academy of Emergency Ultrasound Educator of the Year Award.

More: www.ultrasound.uci.edu
Celebrating mom’s achievement

Ethan Riley Grant may be young, but he was there for his mother, Emily Grant, M.D. ’11, when she received the 2011 Department of Pediatrics Award at graduation.

As a UC Irvine medical student, Grant engaged in everything from coordinating the anatomy tutorial program, to serving on the School of Medicine Committee on Curriculum and Educational Policy, to participating in clinical studies that led to poster presentations and published research abstracts. Although many people would have stopped there, Grant chose to add something more to her busy life, giving birth to Ethan last September.

Through it all, Grant maintained an outstanding academic record. As a junior, she was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. And she finished medical school with honors in all six core clinical clerkships as well as her pediatric sub-internship. Her passion and performance earned her both the 2011 Dean’s Award for

Chapter.

Today, this medical school alumna is in her first year of the newly combined UC Irvine/CHOC Children’s residency program, which welcomed its first class in late June. Already, her commitment to excellence has earned her recognition as Anteater Intern of the Month for July.

If you’d like to be a part of helping more outstanding medical students achieve their goals, please contact UC Irvine Health Advancement at 949.824.0166. Please visit www.uadv.uci.edu/SchoolOfMedicine for e-giving opportunities and designations to your favorite fund. Naming opportunities are also available.

Make a Gift From Your IRA

For our supporters who are 70 ½ or older and required to take disbursements from their IRA, there is now a limited-time tax provision allowing transfer of $100,000 to charity without affecting one’s current income tax level. For more information, contact Roland Ho at 949.824.6454 or roland.ho@uci.edu.
There are many defining moments in a medical student’s career. From the first footfall on campus, to the first day of rotations, to the more formal rites of passage – the White Coat Ceremony, Match Day, and graduation – these are all moments that engender joy, tears of accomplishment, and grace.

This June, I had the pleasure of congratulating 104 students who met the educational requirements and completed the arduous training requisite for the Doctor of Medicine degree. The ceremony, held in Aldrich Park, was attended by 1,600 family, friends and UC Irvine faculty and staff. Our featured speaker was Eric J. Topol, M.D., director of the Scripps Translational Science Institute, chief academic officer of Scripps Health and professor of translational genomics at The Scripps Research Institute. As I looked into the crowd, I was awed by the many family members, friends, UC Irvine faculty and School of Medicine supporters who have facilitated the realization of this moment of achievement for our students.

In unison, the members of the class of 2011 arose and recited the Oath for Doctors of Medicine, written by the UC Irvine Class of 1977, and used nationwide at many medical school graduation ceremonies:

> I solemnly promise, as a physician, to practice my profession to the best of my ability. I will use my knowledge and skill to aid in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of medical diseases. I will try to help my patients to understand disease, treatment and prognosis. I will encourage my patients to participate in decisions relating to their lives. I will endeavor to alleviate their fears, and recognize that occasionally the most meaningful treatment may be to listen with kindness and understanding. I will treat my patients with dignity and will give the respect and privacy which I would hope to receive if I were ill. I will keep their trust and preserve confidentiality. I will understand that a patient’s sense of self-esteem is essential to good health. I will value life as I strive to understand the process of dying. I will respect the wisdom of my teachers and will share my knowledge with others. I will strive to further my education and develop habits that promote further intellectual growth. I will be proud to practice medicine to the best of my ability and humble enough to call for assistance when necessary. I will encourage and cooperate with all others involved in the care of my patients so that others may perform their duties effectively and with consideration. I will live and practice medicine for people rather than for things. I desire that my empathy will never be subservient to skill and knowledge. I see my ability to be a good physician as a gift to be shared with humanity.

I am always speechless when I listen to these words, as they signify a rite of passage so important and life changing for these future physicians and scientists. The path to their next and final oath, one of “entry” into the medical profession, will be one of intense education, heart-rending social interaction, and introspective maturation that will indeed test their mettle while in turn refining their abilities. To complete the journey will require the nurture of friends and families, the dedication of faculty, and the ongoing kindness of our many generous supporters throughout the Orange County community. To stand among the faculty, students and family on that Friday evening sent shivers up and down my spine as the room was filled with all that is truly good on this Earth – integrity, determination, altruism and unabiding love. Moments like these make my job so rewarding, and I am truly humbled to serve as dean.

With gratitude,

Ralph V. Clayman, M.D.
Dean, School of Medicine
Professor of Urology