A Tribute to Dr. Larry Friedman

“What about Larry?” Heather Hofflich and I were discussing potential mentors within the division last October.

I’d actually considered asking Larry Friedman to meet periodically for advice, though I’d hesitated. He’s busy as it is, or, I don’t really know him, I’d think to myself. My main memory of our initial meeting soon after he’d become Interim Chief, was him saying, “I have high standards.” But “you never know” prevailed, so I e-mailed. At 5:55 the next morning, he replied, “I’d be very happy to provide my thoughts; thanks for asking.”

From the first meeting, he was warm, engaging, took the time to listen, as well as ask questions that were both seemingly simple, yet profound and thought-provoking. “What do you want in your career, long-term?” Those were the queries that all too often, we don’t pause to really think about, amid the packed days in clinic, or teaching, or conducting research. He spoke openly about how he appreciated the sometimes unexpected, but always serendipitous twists his career took, such as meeting a mentor who led him to consider, and pursue, medicine.

Larry also provided pragmatic wisdom: “I avoid checking e-mail after 8 PM”, and personally reimbursed a fellow committee member for an expense that the division could not. He encouraged our ideas and collaboration during our monthly AEC meetings.

Larry once mused, “I wonder if we could look back at our medical school application personal statements, and see what’s changed, or stayed the same. It’d be interesting; we could even write up what we find.” Lost in the shuffle of everything else, we never pursued this further. What better way to honor Larry than to? If you’d like to take part, please contact me.

Thanks so much, Larry.

Dr. Edward Chao (ecchao@health.ucsd.edu)
Publications, Projects, and Updates

• Please join us for our brown bag research and scholarly activities interest group meetings. Meetings are typically held the second Wednesday of the month from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM on Zoom. Join members of the Research Committee for an informal chat about ideas for projects and collaborations. Whether you are just getting your feet wet or are passionate about research, all are welcome!


• Dr. Bernice Ruo and colleagues made an oral presentation, “A Method to Improve Fairness of Clerkship Small Group Evaluations with Apparent Systemic Rater Errors,” at the Symposium for Innovations in Medical Education at UCSD in September 2021.

• Dr. Eduardo Grunvald cofounded and is the president-elect of the San Diego Obesity Medicine Society. He also was selected as principal investigator by Eli Lily for a phase 2 study on the GLP-1 non-peptide agonist LY3502970. Dr. Grunvald co-authored the poster, “Obesity Hypoventilation Syndrome and Post-Surgical Outcomes in a Bariatric Surgery Cohort,” with colleagues from pulmonary medicine for the American Thoracic Society 2021 International Conference. He worked with colleagues from the Division of Minimally Invasive Surgery to co-author the poster at the 2021 Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons meeting, “Bariatrics During the Coronavirus Pandemic: Effects on Weight Loss in the Preoperative and Postoperative Bariatric Populations.” He also co-authored, “Predictors of Obesity in Patients Enrolled in a Lifestyle Medicine Program with Virtual Shared Medical Appointments and the Role of Adverse Childhood Experience” and “The Supervised Lifestyle Integrative Medicine (SLIM) Program: Implementing an Innovative Service for Patients with Obesity,” at the 2021 Integrated Center for Medical Group Visits Conference.

• Dr. Nilesh Shah was selected as lead investigator for the VA Cooperative randomized control trial, “VA-IMPACT: Investigation of Metformin in Pre-Diabetes on Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Outcomes.”

• Dr. Tuyet Lather and Dr. Chih-Wen Shi were awarded a VHA Innovation investment to establish and develop a Peer Support Program at the San Diego VA to promote a culture of wellness.

• Dr. Simone Kanter and Dr. Jennie Wei were awarded a VHA Innovation investment to scale the Listen Sort Empower intervention to multiple VAs nationally. They are collaborating with researchers at...
the HSR&D Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation & Policy to examine the impact of the intervention on burnout, drivers of engagement, job satisfaction, and patient safety culture.

• **Dr. Leslie Martin** and colleagues published an article, “Management of Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms Attributed to Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia: AUA Guideline Part 1, Initial Work-up and Medical Management” in the *Journal of Urology* in October 2021.

• **Dr. Carl Stepnowsky** has been selected as an innovator/investee in the FY 2022 Spark-Seed-Spread Innovation Investment and Accelerator Program of the Veterans Health Administration. This is a one-year program that will use human centered design and design process thinking to guide the innovations, which will be overseen by Aspen Labs. The full title of Carl's innovation project is “Does My Sleep Device Accurately Measure My Sleep: The SleepCompare Solution.”

• **Dr. Edward Chao** and colleagues finished in the top 5 out of an initial 72 entries in the Diabetes Center Berne's first Open Innovation Challenge, for Nimble, their non-invasive, wearable sensor that concurrently measures glucose and blood pressure. Their team also received a grant in November 2021 from the UCSD Academy of Clinician Scholars for a non-invasive sensor that measures glucose from sweat in an individual’s fingertip. Dr. Chao and colleagues also published an article, “Extended Noninvasive Glucose Monitoring in the Interstitial Fluid Using an Epidermal Biosensing Patch” in Analytic Chemistry in September 2021.

### Making Connections

• Calling all actors! UCSD Health Risk Management has sponsored an effort to create webinars, curriculum, and other content related to CANDOR (communication and optimal resolution). This includes materials on adverse event reporting, investigation, care for the caregiver, and avoiding malpractice suits. If you are interested in acting in role plays of clinical vignettes or otherwise getting involved with CANDOR, please contact **Dr. Ian Jenkins** from the UCSD Division of Hospital Medicine ([ihjenkins@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:ihjenkins@health.ucsd.edu)).

• **Dr. Megha Shankar** is interested in pursuing research around women’s health and social justice. She is interested in mixed methods with a focus on qualitative research and experience with community based participatory research. She has led projects around HPV
vaccination in East African families, anti-racism in medical education, cultural humility in reproductive counseling, and transitioning to primary care after pregnancy. She’s looking forward to meeting collaborators in these spaces!

- Feel free to contact any of the Research Committee members at the email address(es) below if you would like to chat about research or scholarly activities. We are here to help! If you have updates on your scholarly activities that you would like to share, please email Dr. Melinda Chen.

**UCSD Division of General Internal Medicine Research Committee:**

Edward Chao, DO (co-chair): ecchao@health.ucsd.edu
Bernice Ruo, MD (co-chair): bruo@health.ucsd.edu
Melinda Chen, MD, MS: mec060@health.ucsd.edu
Beatrice Golomb, MD: bgolomb@health.ucsd.edu
Eduardo Grunvald, MD: egrunvald@health.ucsd.edu
Kelley Hagerich, MD: kelley.hagerich@va.gov
Megha Shankar, MD: meshankar@health.ucsd.edu
Carl Stepnowsky, PhD: cstepnowsky@health.ucsd.edu