

Upcoming Meetings

-American College of Physicians 2025 National Meeting: April 3-5, 2025, New Orleans, LA: <https://annualmeeting.acponline.org/registration/internal-medicine-meeting-2025-registration>

-Society for General Internal Medicine 2025 Annual Meeting, May 14–17, 2025, Hollywood, Florida: <https://www.sгим.org/event/2025-sгим-annual-meeting/>



Scholarly Activities Newsletter



Publications, Projects, and Updates

•Please join us for our **brown bag research and scholarly activities interest group meetings**. Meetings are 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! Please check the Zoom link sent by Nerissa Leonardo each month for the meeting invitation.

•Southwest Regional Society for General Internal Medicine Meeting - January 2025, San Francisco, CA:

-**Dr. Deanna Hill** and colleagues presented the following posters: "How did I get here? (Again?): A Unique Recurrence of Transient Global Amnesia," "Unusual Affection: When Seizures Say "I Love You."

-**Dr. Jessica Chen** and **Dr. Unna Albers** presented the poster, "Acute Progressive Weakness after RSV Vaccination."

-**Dr. Jessica Chen** and **Dr. Natalie Prussak** presented the poster, "Capturing the Broken Heart: A Case Study on Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy in Setting of Chronic Stress."

-**Dr. Jessica Chen** and colleagues presented the following posters: "ER Elopement with Unstable Angina! Who Does That?," "An Unusual Case of Recurrent Bloating and Nausea," "Acute Asymptomatic Renal Failure in a Patient with Chronic Pain and Hypertension," "Beyond the Routine Eye Exam: A Case of Iatrogenic Periorbital Cellulitis."

-**Dr. Bernice Ruo, Dr. Jessica Chen**, and colleagues presented the following posters: "Help, Doc! I Can't See Straight," "An Uncommon Cause of Dyspnea in a 61-Year-Old Man," "Spiculated Lung Nodule in a Patient with Multiple Sclerosis."

-**Dr. Jennifer DeConde, Dr. Jessica Chen**, and colleague presented the poster, "Polymyalgia Rheumatica with Hand and Feet Swelling?"

-**Dr. Pearl Yu** and **Dr. Jessica Chen** presented the following posters: "Unexpected Weight Loss in an African American Male,"

Resources for Scholarly Activities

-Poster printing resources: [UCSD campus printing](#)
[Scientific poster printing](#)
 *Some conference organizations (e.g., American Diabetes Association) may offer poster printing & delivery directly to the conference

-The CREST program provides training in clinical research.
<https://actri.ucsd.edu/centers-services/portfolio/education/crest/index.html>

-The Annals of Internal Medicine has an online open access journal for **publication of clinical cases**.
<https://www.acpjournals.org/journal/aimcc/about-us>

-UCSD provides free and discounted **software** for scholarly activities.
<https://blink.ucsd.edu/technology/computers/software-acms/available-software/index.html>

"Hypokalemia - a Journey to Diagnosis after GIST (Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor Surgery)," "Journey to Diagnosing and Treating a Rare Case of Rectal Tumor - GIST (GI Stromal Tumor)."

-**Dr. Armelia Sani, Dr. Jessica Chen, and Dr. Miriam Hakim** presented the poster, "Recurrent Oral Ulcers of Unknown Etiology."

-**Dr. Megha Shankar and Dr. Jessica Chen** presented the poster, "Ignoring Red Herrings: Diagnosing the Cause of Pica in a Vegetarian, Reproductive Aged Woman."

-**Dr. Megha Shankar, Dr. Simmerjot Jassal,** and colleagues presented the poster, "Advocating for Change: Implementing a Social Justice and Advocacy Curriculum in the UCSD Internal Medicine Residency Program," which won first place in Medical Innovations!

•**Dr. Eduardo Grunvald** and colleagues from the Department of Radiology published, "[Quantitative Liver Fat Assessment By Handheld Point-of-Care Ultrasound: A Technical Implementation and Pilot Study in Adults](#)", in the *Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology*. He also presented, "Treating Obesity in the Real World," at the UCLA Metabolism Conference. Dr. Grunvald, along with **Dr. Amy Sitapati, Dr. Crystal Cené,** and colleagues, published, "[Leveraging Diagnosis and Biometric Data from the All of Us Research Program to Uncover Disparities in Obesity Diagnosis](#)," in *Obesity Pillars*.

•**Dr. Melinda Chen** and colleagues published, "[A Mixed Methods Pilot Study of a Virtual Therapeutic Writing Intervention for Adolescent/Young Adults with Cancer](#)," in the *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology*.

•**Dr. Simone Kanter and Dr. Jennie Wei,** in an effort to help mitigate burnout and improve team morale and culture within the Primary Care department at the San Diego VA (SDVA), piloted an evidence-based model called **Listen-Sort-Empower (LSE)** in Primary Care in 2019. In 2020, as part of a VHA innovation grant, they spread this model to other SDVA departments within the SDVA. In 2021, they conduct Listen Sort Empower educational trainings and guided implementation among VA teams nationwide. Listen-Sort-Empower has now been endorsed by many departments within the VA as a model to engage staff to combat burnout, improve practice efficiency and professional fulfillment, while developing servant leadership behaviors. They presented their LSE journey at the Healthcare Burnout Symposium in February 2025. For more information on LSE, please visit the AMA Steps Forward Module: <https://edhub.ama-assn.org/steps-forward/module/2767765>

•**Dr. Megha Shankar** and colleagues published, "[Understanding Patient Experiences During Gynaecological Procedures: A Qualitative Exploratory Study](#)," in *BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health*.

Highlights from the UCSD Division of Geriatrics & Gerontology

The Division of General Internal Medicine is excited to partner with the UCSD Division of Geriatrics & Gerontology to share news about scholarly activities. Check out the Gerontology Research Collaborative website if you are interested in learning more and making connections.

<https://gerigeropal.ucsd.edu/research/grc/index.html>

•**Dr. David Bittleman** and **Dr. Timothy Drake** are working on a project, "Can a Work-Ups Protocol in CPRS for Fibromyalgia with Directed Mentorship Improve Resident Confidence in Diagnosing Fibromyalgia in VA Kearny Mesa Clinic?" Thus far, they have preliminary data which has been uploaded in the Fibromyalgia work up protocol in CPRS (can find it under Orders ->Scroll to the bottom ->Primary Care ->Work-ups ->Fibromyalgia).

Making Connections



•Please 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:

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