As we look forward to a new year, we’re grateful for the dedication and resilience of our faculty, residents and staff, and the important lessons we learned through the pandemic. We completed the last academic year with a record-breaking 92,000 patient visits, research awards topping almost $3 million and 34 resident and fellows trainees. We recently gathered in person, outdoors and physically distanced, for our annual retreat to recover, reconnect and rejuvenate for the work ahead. We’re proud to share reflections and highlights.
Geriatric Medicine

Celebrating Caregivers

As experts in the field of Geriatric Medicine, we understand the importance of caregiving and caregivers for the health and well-being of our patients. We understand the joys and the stressors of being a caregiver. We consider caregivers as our care partners and integral to our clinical, teaching and research programs.

Sports Medicine

Sports are Back, Baby!

Fall 2021 brings us back to a relative sense of normalcy in athletics. Primary Care Sports Medicine faculty have returned to 99% in-person visits with services provided at UCI Health clinics in four different cities. Student athletes are back and our faculty continue to work closely with UCI Intercollegiate Athletics. We now also provide sideline coverage for three high school football teams in Santa Ana.
Integrative Medicine

**A Busy Summer and Fall**

As COVID-19 restrictions ease, residents have been able to take part in more interactive and experiential education in addition to their online and clinical training. Clinically, integrative medicine remains busy, with both medical students and residents participating in the integrative consult clinic at UCI Health Family Health Center.

---

**Discover**

Our faculty, residents and students are engaged in research relevant to clinical practice and beyond. Our mentored health equity research program, the HELIOS lab, boasts its largest cohort of first generation and under-represented student ambassadors with 27 members. We are also advancing the CARES/ASSIST and Digital Health Initiative projects to support socially isolated seniors through telehealth.
Medical Education

The department implemented a new mentorship program in Fall 2021 for medical students interested in Family Medicine. The Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) received a grant to design a Health Equity Series on various topics featuring renowned speakers from UCI and the community. We’re grateful for our faculty who serve as inspiring teachers and role models to introduce our students to the joys and challenges of community practice.

Medical Humanities and the Arts

Johanna Shapiro, PhD, retired after 42 years of exceptional service and has returned on recall till the new director is in place in early 2022. In the meantime, we are keeping busy.
Residency Program

This is the second year that we are conducting residency applicant interviews virtually. This was a highly successful process that we would like to repeat this year and further streamline our focus on recruiting those under-represented in medicine from disadvantaged backgrounds as well as Spanish language proficiency. The program formulated a new rubric designed for a holistic review of the applicants.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Advocacy and Salutogenesis (IDEAS)

The department has many initiatives in progress to promote Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Advocacy and Salutogenesis (IDEAS): A Health Equity Across the Lifecourse (HEALs) grand rounds seminar series; A new equity map tool; Presentation on the Legacy of Racism in Gynecology; and many more.
Family Health Centers

The UCI Health Family Health Center is the health home of more than 23,000 patients who are predominantly Latinx and two-thirds of the population are children. More than 16,000 patients have incomes below 100% of the federal poverty guideline (FPG). The patients receive high-quality, comprehensive care in a culturally and linguistically competent manner by a diverse group of care team members.

Residents, Faculty and Staff

Applauding Our Staff
We applaud Department of Family Medicine staff members who worked tirelessly through the last year despite tremendous challenges. Our staff recently completed the 2021 Staff Engagement Survey conducted by Gallup every two years. Comparing results from 2019 to 2021, staff members reported significant improvements in professional engagement and satisfaction. Staff enjoy the autonomy and flexibility of working remotely. They were as or even more productive as when they worked in the office. This is an exceptional accomplishment as our staff had to telecommute and learn to navigate through a pandemic most of the last two years.

Many of our staff were nominated for 2021 ARIISE awards including Camellia Azarakhsh for Accountability; Jessica de la Cruz and Connie Tran for Service; Daniela Santoro for Innovation; Jacklyn Schult for Excellence; and Valerie Geletko for Accountability. Valerie Geletiko was also selected as a finalist for UCI Health.

We could not Discover. Teach. Heal. or Serve without our dedicated staff members! Our staff work diligently behind the scenes providing support for the entire department to promote and further all of our core values. We are exceptionally proud of them for their continued performance and for exemplifying the values of UCI Health.

**Faculty Spotlight**

We celebrate Emily Dow, MD, who was selected as Residency Program Director of the year for her outstanding leadership through the pandemic emergency. Charles P. Vega, MD, was nominated by Dean Stamos and selected as one of Modern Healthcare’s 2021 class of Top 25 Diversity Leaders. And Drs. Larsen and Morohashi retired after nearly 80 years of combined service to UCI Family Medicine at the end of June 2021.

We’re delighted that Chloe Courchesene, MD, and Kat De Azambuja, MD, joined our department in September. Courchesene practices at the UCI Health Gottschalk Medical Plaza and de Azambuja at the Senior Health Center at the UCI Health Family Health Center in Santa Ana.
UCI Family Medicine has trained more than 400 family physicians since it was established in 1969. We are proud of our graduates and grateful for your support. If you would like to support training future family physicians and/or outreach efforts, we invite you to donate here.

UCI Department of Family Medicine
200 South Manchester, Suite 835, Orange, CA 92868
Phone: 714-456-5171 | www.familymed.uci.edu