

UC San Francisco  
Graduate Division

# 2023 Commencement



UC San Francisco  
**Graduate Division**

## Commencement Ceremony

**May 19, 2023**  
Herbst Theatre  
San Francisco

*Music by the  
San Francisco Brass Quintet*

*Special thanks to Kennedy Events*

# Program

## Academic Procession

Led by Bjoern Schwer, MD, PhD,  
Commencement Marshal and Chair, Graduate Council

## Welcome

Nicquet Blake, PhD, Dean, Graduate Division  
and Vice Provost, Student Academic Affairs

## Presentation of 2023 Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award to Assistant Adjunct Professor Mike Taigman, MA

Given by the Associated Students of the Graduate Division

## Address to the Candidates

### *Wow! What's Next?*

Charles S. Craik, PhD, Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry,  
Co-Director of the Molecular Oncology Program and Associate  
Director of Lab Translational Research in the Helen Diller Family  
Comprehensive Cancer Center

## Conferral of Degrees

Sam Hawgood, MBBS, Chancellor  
Catherine R. Lucey, MD, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost  
Nicquet Blake, PhD, Dean, Graduate Division  
and Vice Provost, Student Academic Affairs  
Michael Reddy, DMD, DMSc, Dean, School of Dentistry  
Talmadge E. King, Jr., MD, Dean, School of Medicine  
Kathy Giacomini, PhD, Dean, School of Pharmacy  
Carla Washington, PhD, President, Graduate Division Alumni Association  
D'Anne Duncan, PhD, Assistant Dean, Diversity and Learner Success  
Christopher Carpenter, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Pediatrics  
Todd Nystul, PhD, Associate Professor, Anatomy  
Program representatives and dissertation advisers

## Recession

# Master's Degree Candidates

## Master of Advanced Study, Clinical Research

Clarus Leung  
J. Soka Moses

## Master of Science, Biomedical Imaging

Shixian Du  
Ashley Caitlin Fong  
Te-Yu Lin  
Ngoc Nguyen

Hyunseok Park  
Paramjot Singh  
Katelyn Vu  
Ningjing Zhang

## Master of Science, Chemistry and Chemical Biology

Arka Rao

## Master of Science, Genetic Counseling

Laura Michelle Cardoso  
Merissa Chen  
Caitlin Cullen  
Brittany-Ann V. Delacruz  
Eva Lucie Marie Ferino  
Justin Peng

Stanze Quezada  
Lynsey Rodriguez  
Allison Wheeler  
Samantha Wheeler  
Taylor Ann Yamane

## Master of Science, Global Health Sciences

Vivian T. Chang  
Jasmine Nicole Hanna  
Anagha Jadhav

Atnasia Dessalegn Mekonnen  
Sima Naderi  
David Nguyen

## **Master of Science, Healthcare Administration and Interprofessional Leadership**

Alexandra Braginsky

Angel N. Do

Antonina Amelia Fillari

Jeremy Franklin

Mary Goldhoff

Gina Goodrich

Kenneth “KenKen” Lee Alexander Hill

Faye M. Hoang

Saima Ismail

Chonlawan Khaothiemsang

Hyerin Kim Regidor

Janet Soyeun Kim

Kiela Jewells Ligsay Amaya

Sayoni Mukhopadhyay

Munkhtsetseg Myagmarsuren

Maria Sage

Christian J. Sanchez

Khushbu Shah

Jennifer Sheldon

Danielle Shoaf

Christin Thankachan

Rosa Weed

## **Master of Science, Neuroscience**

Adriana M. Padilla Roger ▶ Discovery Fellow

## **Master of Science, Oral and Craniofacial Sciences**

Morooj Aljishi

Abrar Khalid Bakhsh

## **Master of Science, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacogenomics**

Sigal Eini

## **Master of Translational Medicine**

Emad Abid  
Nithila Arasu  
Olasina Isaiah Awe  
Punit Bhatia  
Devon Chen  
Suvd Davaadorj  
Jay Deo  
Inès Froidefond  
Yi-Ting Hsieh  
Mihikaa Jain  
Aissah Kaba  
Sarita Kumari  
Agathe Legendre  
Katherine Jia Lowe

Ionica Subia Macadangdang  
Rosheni Narayanan  
Anthony Ortega  
Chloi Papadaki  
Varun Paresch Patel  
Jonathan Pelusi  
Raeek Rahman  
Niloufar Saeed Tehrani  
Satyam Talele  
Ding Tang  
Hannah Tong  
Christian John Ventura  
Christian River Vian



**Candidates**  
Doctor of Philosophy

## Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

**Roberto Efraín Díaz**

*Structural and Enzymatic Characterization of pH-dependent Chitinase Activity, and Contributions to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice*

**Veronica Escalante**

*Simvastatin Induces Human Gut Bacterial Cell Surface Genes*

**Evelyn Hernandez** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Understanding Dual G Protein Coupling Selectivity to Activated GPCRs*

**Jocelyne Lopez** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Investigating Novel Roles and Regulation of SPRED Proteins in MAPK Signaling*

**Eliza S. Nieweglowska**

*Structure, Function, and Assembly of the Jumbo Bacteriophage Nucleus*

**Chari Noddings**

*Cryo-EM Structures Reveal How Hsp90 and Cochaperones Regulate the Glucocorticoid Receptor*

## Bioengineering

**Gauree Shriram Chendke** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Modulating the Local Microenvironment Around Type 1 Diabetes Implants*

**Olivia Annette Creasey** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*High Resolution Quantification of Tissue Structure and Its Variability in the Pancreatic Islet*



**Kenneth Gao**

*Computer Vision for Morphological Evaluation of Musculoskeletal Disorders in Magnetic Resonance Imaging*

**Jasmine Hu**

*Development and Application of Analysis Methods for Hyperpolarized Carbon-13 Imaging for Quantitative Metabolic Characterization*

**Emaad Khwaja**

*Leveraging Text-to-Image Models for Protein Localization Prediction*

**Jasmine King**

*Modeling the Impact of the Autonomic Nervous System on the Development of Human iPSC-Sinoatrial Nodal Cells*

**Jessie Rachel Liu**

*Cortical Dynamics of Speech Motor Sequencing and Production*

**Nadia Mohammed Elmassalami Ayad** ▶ Discovery Fellow  
*Force Dependent Control of Mesoderm Germ Layer Formation During Gastrulation*

**Fei Tan** ▶ Discovery Fellow  
*Structural and Functional Ultra-Short Echo Time (UTE) Proton Lung MRI: Techniques and Clinical Applications*

**Aniket A. Tolpadi**  
*Automatic Reconstruction, Synthesis, and Processing of Musculoskeletal Magnetic Resonance Images Using Deep Learning*

## **Biological and Medical Informatics**

**George Christopher Hartoularos**

*Increasing the Throughput of Single-cell Technologies*

**Wesley Marin**

*Development of Bioinformatics Methods to Interrogate Complex Immune Related Genomic Regions From Next Generation Sequencing Data*

**Calla Martyn**

*Virus-Host Relationships*

**Arjun Scott Nanda**

*Low-Input Library Preparation Methods for Single Molecule Sequencing*

**Maureen Elizabeth Pittman**

*Computational Approaches Identify Novel Risk Loci and Interactions in Heart Defects*

**Nishith Reddy**

*Engineering Synthetic Suppressor T Cells Capable of Locally Targeted Immune Suppression*

## **Biomedical Sciences**

**Irene Chen**

*Deciphering Host Immune Responses to SARS-CoV-2 Infection*

**Vikas Daggubati**

*The Role of Hedgehog Signaling in Lipid Metabolism and Cancer*

**Jeanmarie Rose Gonzalez**

*Filaggrin Deficiency in Mice Alters the Early Life CD4+ Response to Skin Commensal Bacteria*

**Kimberly Kam Hoi**

*Ciliary Signaling in Oligodendroglial Development and White Matter Injury Repair*

**Alyssa Indart**

*Utilizing Orthogonal IL2R/IL2 Systems to Selectively Enhance Regulatory T Cell Persistence and Restore Immune Tolerance in Type 1 Diabetes*

**Maxine R. Nelson**

*The APOE-R136S Mutation Protects Against APOE4-Driven Tau Pathology, Neurodegeneration, and Neuroinflammation*

**Catherine Tan**

*Intracellular Diffusion Scales With Cell Size*

**Adam K. Wade-Vallance**

*B Cell Receptor Ligation Eliminates IgE Plasma Cells*

**Biophysics****Stephanie A. Wankowicz** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Exploring the Relationship Between Conformational Heterogeneity and Ligand Binding*

## Cell Biology

**Natasha Mukherjee Puri**

*Investigating Consequences of Compartmentalized Dopaminergic Signaling*

**Manuela Richter**

*Building the Machine of Life: Kinetochore-Fiber Lengths Are Maintained Locally but Coordinated Globally by Poles in the Mammalian Spindle*

## Chemistry and Chemical Biology

**Sergei Pourmal**

*Observing Conformational Changes in Membrane Proteins Using CryoEM*

**Taiasean Wu** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Protein-Adaptive Differential Scanning Fluorimetry (paDSF): A Flexible In Vitro Technology to Observe Protein Stability, Dynamics and Ligand Binding*

## Developmental and Stem Cell Biology

**Beatriz Alvarado**

*Decoding Doublecortin Function in Key Organizational Pathways of the Cortex*

**Nicole Koutsodendris** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Mechanisms of APOE4-Driven Alzheimer's Disease Pathogenesis and Related Therapeutic Approaches*

**Arpana Arjun McKinney**

*Investigating Roles of Store-Operated Calcium Entry  
in the Developing Cerebral Cortex*

**Nathaniel Paul Meyer**

*Arp2/3 Complex Activity Enables Nuclear YAP for Naïve  
Pluripotency of Human Embryonic Stem Cells*

**Lila Neahring** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Opposing Forces and Torques Provide Robustness  
in the Human Mitotic Spindle*

**Karishma Pratt**

*Investigating the Role of the Dynamic Chromatin Landscape  
in Hippocampal-dependent Cognitive Function*

**Antara Thirumale Rao**

*Studying ApoE Isoform-Dependent Roles of Microglia in  
Alzheimer's Disease Using a Chimeric Mouse Model*

**Ryan Matthew Samuel**

*Modeling Developmental Origins of Heterogeneity in  
Melanocytes and Implications for Melanoma*

**Epidemiology and Translational Science****Kristina Van Dang**

*Role of Air Pollution and Socioeconomic Position On  
Cognitive Function and Decline in Older Adults in  
the United States*

**Safyer McKenzie-Sampson**

*Inequities in Adverse Perinatal Outcomes Among Black  
Women Through the Lens of Maternal Nativity*

**Erika Meza-Luman**

*Intergenerational Education, Cognitive Function  
and Risk of Dementia for Latinos in the U.S.*

**Eduardo Santiago-Rodriguez**

*The Social Environment and Colorectal Cancer  
in the United States*

## **Genetics**

**Benjamin Whitman Herken**

*Environmental Challenge Rewires Functional Connections  
Among Human Genes*

## **Global Health Sciences**

**Lucía Abascal Miguel**

*VACÚNATE: Vaccine Access Through Communication,  
Understanding, and Tailored Interventions*

**Canice Elizabeth Christian**

*Application of Individual-Level and Health System-Level  
Implementation Science Approaches to HIV and TB  
Prevention in Uganda*

**Jane Kees Fieldhouse**

*One Health Timeliness Metrics: A Cross-Cutting Tool to  
Advance Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention*

**Sarah M. Gallalee**

*Identifying Risk Factors and Effective Interventions for  
Malaria High-Risk Populations Across Settings*

## History of Health Sciences

Hsin-Yi Hsieh

*Children, Monkeys, and Female Technicians in Postwar Taiwan: A Postcolonial History of the Global Health Campaign Against Trachoma*

## Medical Anthropology

Fabián Luis C. Fernández

*Searching for Safety: Workplace Violence and Policing in U.S. Emergency Departments*

## Neuroscience

Michelle Kimberly Cahill

*Dissecting Cortical Astrocyte Network Dynamics Using All-Optical Approaches*

Frances Cho ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Thalamic Circuit Modulation by Astrocytes*

Angela Cao Matcham

*Cadherin-13 Maintains Dendritic Spine Anatomy in the Superior Colliculus*

Victoria Sayo Turner

*Neural Responses to Self Generated and Externally Generated Stress*

## Oral and Craniofacial Sciences

**Ramin Farhad** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Functional Characterization of Large-Scale Chromosomal Deletions in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma*

**An Nguyen** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Signaling Interactions that Control Bone Formation in the Lower Jaw*

## Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacogenomics

**Vincent Chang**

*Developing Tools for Late-Stage Regimen Development for Tuberculosis*

**Emily Connelly** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Elucidating Cellular Impacts of Hsp-Independent Chip Ubiquitination on Proteostasis*

**Jacqueline Paige Ernest**

*Translating Nonclinical Findings to Prioritize Sterilizing Multi-Drug Regimens for the Treatment of Tuberculosis*

**Janice Goh Jia Ni**

*Pharmacology in the Context of Pathogenic and Non Pathogenic Bacteria*

**Ki Hyun Kim**

*Programming Cell-Cell Interaction Using Synthetic Adhesion Molecules to Enhance CAR-T Cell Therapy*



**Michelle Wang**

*Developing Novel Computational Approaches to Characterize and Predict Therapeutic Performances Using Real-World Data*

**Chase Marques Webb** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Traversing Chemical Space to Elucidate Opiate Function*

**Sociology**

**Nicole M. Foti**

*Commoning Pharmaceutical Knowledge: A Sociological Analysis of Collective Action to “Open” Pharma*

**Jessica M. Harrison**

*Surveillance Medicine in Perinatal Care: Negotiating Constraints, Constructing Risk, and the Elusive Goal of Mental Health Integration*

## Discovery Fellows Program

You may have noticed the words “Discovery Fellow” next to the names of some of our graduates. These students were chosen as ambassadors for basic sciences graduate education on the basis of their leadership potential, excellence in research, community-mindedness, and strong communication skills. See the names of all the students chosen for the honor of being Discovery Fellows and follow the accomplishments of our Discovery Fellow alumni at **[graduate.ucsf.edu/discovery](https://graduate.ucsf.edu/discovery)**.

The Discovery Fellows Program was made possible by a landmark commitment by Sir Michael Moritz and his wife, Harriet Heyman, to ensure the future of PhD education programs in the basic sciences. Inspired by the couple’s generosity, over 1,200 donors have contributed to the effort since its inception in 2013. Now totaling over \$100 million, the Discovery Fellows Program provides support for all PhD students in the basic sciences at UCSF, and is the largest endowed program for basic science PhD students in the history of the 10-campus University of California system.

## Congratulations, Graduates!

As a doctoral or master's alumnus, you are now part of both the Graduate Division Alumni Association and the Alumni Association of UCSF. We invite you to stay involved with the campus by attending an alumni event, interacting through the online alumni community, or volunteering as an alumni leader or student mentor.

Visit [alumni.ucsf.edu](http://alumni.ucsf.edu) to learn more. While you're there, be sure to check out your alumni benefits – including special library access, alumni-only discounts, and more.

We look forward to connecting with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla Washington', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carla Washington, PhD '95  
President  
Graduate Division Alumni Association

UCSF Graduate  
Division

