UCSF Graduate Division

Faculty Newsletter
Fall 2019

First Gen Mentors Wanted

UCSF's first generation college students are smart, self-motivated, courageous, out-of-the-box thinkers, but many still need a little extra encouragement to feel they truly belong here. First Generation Support Services is seeking faculty — especially, but not exclusively, other "first gens" — to get involved in its mentoring program. The time commitment is small, but the personal rewards are huge. Sign up today!

Tetrad student Victoria Cheung proudly represents first gen graduate students in the poster above, part of a new campaign to build awareness.

Gender Equity Taskforce Works to Address Harassment

A "Gender Equity Town Hall" at UCSF in the spring revealed that a disheartening 83% of participants had witnessed gender harassment over the course of their scientific careers. Sparked by the Town Hall and ensuing discussions, a group of 13 graduate students and one postdoc formed the Gender Equity Trainee Taskforce to improve gender equity and eliminate sexual harassment at UCSF.

An article written by two of the students in the Taskforce, Emma Powell (Biochemistry program) and Camille Simoneau (BMS program), for *Synapse* outlined the group's recommendations to address culture and climate, improve transparency and accountability, and diffuse the hierarchical and dependent relationship between trainees and faculty.

The Graduate Division applauds these efforts and would like to encourage faculty members to review the Taskforce recommendations and work proactively to implement them.

If you have feedback or questions for the Taskforce, please email nasemresponse@gmail.com.

F-Awards Guidance Advisory

In order to bring greater clarity to the administration of institutional allowances associated with NIH F-Awards (F30, F31, and F32), the Graduate Division has produced new guidelines, now posted on the Graduate Division Faculty and Staff website. Please familiarize yourself and relevant staff with these new guidelines.

Graduate Division Staff Updates

Please join us in welcoming new **Assistant Dean for Postdocs** Gabriela Monsalve, PhD. She replaces Dr. Christine Des Jarlais, who retired this summer. Dr.

Have Fun? Me?

Yes, *you*. Put down that beaker or grant you're working on for a couple of hours, and come out for our Fall Celebration (Sept 5) and Postdoc Slam (Sept 19).

BTW, Postdoc Slam is part of **National Postdoc Appreciation Week** at UCSF. There are lots of small appreciation events lined up for postdocs, but a word of thanks from you, their mentors, would mean more than free ice cream.

Monsalve previously led the MIND and GSICE career exploration programs in the Office of Career and Professional Development at UCSF. Gabi is also a UCSF postdoc alumna.

Isaac Strong, PhD, has just joined the Graduate Division in the newly created position of **director of graduate faculty development**. Dr. Strong will be working to create, deliver, and evaluate professional development opportunities and resources for our faculty who mentor and supervise PhD students. Some of you may remember Isaac, as he finished his PhD in the UCSF Tetrad program only four years ago.

D'Anne Duncan, PhD, has just been promoted from director of diversity and learner success to **assistant dean** of same. In a little over two years, Dr. Duncan has transformed her original position, which had a limited scope of outreach and programming, into a role with far-reaching impact and influence among students, postdocs, staff and faculty. Now, her title more accurately reflects the importance and high caliber of the work she is doing.

You'll be hearing lots more about the efforts of D'Anne, Gabi, and Isaac as the new academic year unfolds.

Graduate Division and Postdoc Office Fall Events

As ever, the Graduate Division cordially invites all graduate program faculty to attend its annual Fall Celebration, welcoming new and returning graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to campus. This event represents a great opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to mix in an informal atmosphere. If that doesn't convince you to come, perhaps the promise of BBQ and ice cream will? See you on September 5, 4 to 6 p.m., on the Koret Quad at Mission Bay.

Postdoc Slam is back! Join us for engaging bite-sized (3-minute) research talks by ten UCSF postdocs. We'll be live at Mission Bay and livestreaming to Parnassus, with a catered reception at both locations. If you're at Parnassus, come meet our new assistant dean for postdocs, Dr. Gabriela Monsalve (mentioned above), who will be hosting the crowd there. If you're at the Mission Bay live event, you can rub elbows with the

judges, including Francesa Vega, UCSF's new vice chancellor for community and government relations, and Dr. Moira Gunn, host of [Tech Nation](#) and BioTech Nation on National Public Radio. Dean Watkins will be your emcee. Arrive a little early to get a good seat! September 19, 4 to 6 p.m., Byers Auditorium, Genentech Hall at Mission Bay; and N217 at Parnassus.

UCSF Postdoc Receives Regeneron Prize

Kara McKinley, PhD, a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, is one of two recipients of the 7th annual Regeneron Prize for Creative Innovation. McKinley received the prestigious award – which includes a $50,000 cash prize – at a ceremony on July 17.

McKinley received her PhD from MIT, after which she joined Ron Vale's lab at UCSF. "The Vale Lab is an extraordinary and inspiring place to do science and to grow as a scientist. Ron and the Vale lab members are incredible role models, and I am very lucky to work with them and learn from them," she said. "The collaborative spirit of UCSF has been instrumental to my postdoc. I collaborate closely with Ophir Klein's lab, which is a second home for me. On top of that, I have other wonderful mentors here, including Holly Ingraham, Dyche Mullins, and Jeff Bush, who have supported me, challenged me, and pushed my thinking in new directions. Nothing feels out of reach at UCSF." [Read the full story on the Postdoc Office website](#).

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