



Coronavirus Updates

[Stay informed](#) and stay well.



2020 Grad Slam Finalists

Naomi Beyeler, Global Health
 (Laura Schmidt & Sheri Weiser,
 mentors)

Abrar Choudhury, BMS/MSTP
 (David Raleigh, mentor)

Julia Cluceru, PSPG

Tell Sick Students to Stay Home

All faculty received an email on February 21 from Student Health leadership, recommending that you strongly encourage students who are ill to *stay home*. Obviously, this applies to your postdocs, technicians, and anyone else working with you too. Please [review the Medical Excuse Policy](#), and watch ucsf.edu/coronavirus for frequent updates on the COVID-19 as it pertains to the campus community.

Congratulations to the 2020 Grad Slam Finalists — and Their Mentors

Thank you for encouraging your students to enter [Grad Slam](#). We received a solid number of video entries this year and expect 10 outstanding talks from this year's finalists at the live March 19 event. Special thanks and congratulations are due to the finalists' mentors! Their success is your success too, and a reflection on your supportive mentorship.

Commencement Communications Commencing

Invitations to the 2020 PhD and Master's Commencement Ceremony are going out next week to students who are eligible to walk this year. If you mentor graduating student(s), please encourage them to take part in this milestone event, and plan to hood your PhD mentees in the ceremony if you can. You may receive messages about hooding from Kennedy Events, who are assisting with the event logistics and ordering regalia, if you need it. Remember that Commencement is a little earlier this year, on Friday, May 15, 11 a.m. to ~ 1 p.m. Get Commencement [details and updates on the Graduate Division website](#).

Promoting Student Mental Health

A record number of faculty signed up for this month's two events aimed at helping faculty and staff to better

(Janine Lupo, mentor)
Alana Horowitz, BMS
(Saul Villeda, mentor)
Rose Larios, Neuroscience
(Devanand Manoli, mentor)
Megan Lo, PSPG
(Natalia Jura and Ophir Klein, mentor)
Jonathan Schor, Neuroscience/MSTP
(Alexandra Nelson, mentor)
Serena Tamura, PSPG
(Nadav Ahituv, mentor)
Kaitlyn Tsai, CCB
(Danica Fujimori, mentor)
Anthony Venida, BMS
(Rushika Perera, mentor)

Recognize Student and Postdoc Mentors



[Nominate a graduate student or postdoc](#) for the Dean's Awards for Excellence in Mentoring by March 31.

support students who may be facing emotional difficulties. If you missed the session on March 3 at Parnassus, you can still [sign up for the March 10 session at Mission Bay](#). You may also want to keep a copy of the ["Act Swiftly" reference](#) at your desk in case you encounter a student in crisis.

Nominations Open!

If you know a graduate student or postdoc who provides exceptional mentorship for others, please help us to [recognize their important contribution by nominating them for a Dean's Excellence in Mentoring Award](#). The Award is part of the Graduate Division's efforts to foster a supportive mentoring culture that encourages diversity and inclusion across all disciplines.

Support for Your Mentoring Efforts

If you're interested in honing your own skills as a mentor, there's probably a workshop coming up for you. The next one, Sharpening Your Mentoring Skills, led by Sharon Milgram, PhD, director of the Office of Intramural Training and Education at the NIH, is coming up on April 10 and 13. Also on April 13, Milgram will lead a workshop on giving feedback to trainees in an effective way. See a [full list of Graduate Faculty Development Program workshops on the mentoring website](#).

Find more resources for graduate program faculty at gdfs.ucsf.edu | mentoring.ucsf.edu

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