

Get to know your track director and instructors at UCSF Health Sciences



Sudarshan Srirangapatnam, BA, MD Class of 2024 – Track Director
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I am Sudarshan and I recently graduated from UC Berkeley where I studied biology. I am also interested in technology, computer science and statistics. Over the past year I have been working in both research and clinical settings at UCSF where I have applied my background and continue to do so. I will soon be joining MD class of 2024!

I enjoy teaching for a couple reasons: the first and foremost being the sharing aspect of teaching where I am sharing the knowledge I have gained especially with future generations who will guide us not too far from now. Another reason I love teaching is the interactions I have with students which brings out their fresh and new perspectives at the same level as them when it comes to learning.

Health sciences classes will focus on understanding the human body and the field of precision and preventative medicine. In the former classes the students will learn the foundation of health sciences, the human, and the latter part of the classes I will focus on two aspects of medicine that have gained more traction in recent years and how it relates to availability of data.

My classes in **data sciences** directly address the statistics involved in data science and the application of tools to analyze data. I will be focusing on using COVID-19 datasets for analysis and the students will be coding their analysis for easy reproduction. This way they learn another important tool in data analysis of 21st century programming.



Marshall Stoller, MD, University of California San Francisco (Cancer and Surgery) (marshall.stoller@ucsf.edu)

I am an urologist at UCSF. Fundamentally, I work on kidneys and the urinary bladder. I work on other organs as well at times.

It is important to observe, ask questions and continue to learn; every experience is a teaching moment. Learning is frequently self-directed with an inquisitive mind but is equally stimulating when interacting with others, many coming from different perspectives and backgrounds. Watching as a seed germinates for example, and further growing into a mature plant is a good example. The more you look the more interesting things become. In medicine I am privileged to watch and learn from my patients and colleagues. Understanding the interactions between our emotional and physical sides continues to fascinate me. My job rewards me to ask questions based on simple observations. Pattern recognition in radiographs, pathologic slides and abdominal organs, for example, allows me to identify things that are not quite right. This is where a lot of learning takes place. Appreciating patterns is important to help our patients. Teaching by example and discussions with fellows, surgical residents, medical students, undergrads, high school students and those in middle and elementary school are different and, in many ways, the same. Many times, we ask similar

questions, yet different backgrounds and experience frequently reveal different or nuanced answers. Learning for me remains a two-way street. I frequently learn more than I teach when I really listen. We are all blessed to be able to observe and learn throughout life.



Daniel Bikle, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Dermatology at the University of California San Francisco and Staff Endocrinologist at the San Francisco VA Health Care System.

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I like combining my research interests with their application in treating patients. Knowledge of the difference between association studies and controlled studies is critical for all folks to understand in evaluating cause and effect in all claims, but in medicine and science in particular.



Alison Riley, BS, DDS Candidate, UCSF
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I'm a fourth-year dental student at UCSF. I have a B.S. in Bioengineering from Penn State University and worked as an engineer in the medical device industry before starting dental school. I am passionate about educating our next generation of thinkers and leaders, and I'm excited to have the opportunity to teach the Dentistry portion of the Health Sciences FIT program.

What fascinates me about dentistry is how little we as patients actually know about what is going on in our mouths when we go to the dentist. I enjoy showing videos and pictures to the Scouts to educate them about what dentists and dental specialists actually do when our mouths are open! I also think that dentistry is often forgotten about as a career option, so I am honored to have the opportunity to educate the Scouts about all of the career paths that exist within the dental profession.

The mouth is the entryway to the rest of the body's cells and systems. Consequently, oral health is very closely related to overall health. A big component of the Dentistry section is educating the Scouts about how dentistry connects to what we eat (Nutrition) and how we care for the rest of our bodies (Medicine). Additionally, dentistry has close ties with the field of Public Health, through initiatives such as public water fluoridation, oral health education, and community health centers. I hope that the Health Sciences program helps the Scouts put these pieces together and shows them the interconnectedness of each of these fields.