

UCSF Fresno - 2026 Reaching Out to Aspiring Doctors Conference

Student Day

Dentistry

Claudia Garcia, DMD, Associate Dentist at Prewitt Dental Group



Dr. Claudia Garcia is an associate dentist at Prewitt Dental Group in Sanger, California. Born in Chicago and raised in the Central Valley, she comes from a family that migrated to California in search of agricultural work. Dr. Garcia earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology from Fresno State and completed a post-baccalaureate program at Georgetown University in preparation for a career in healthcare. She went on to graduate from Rutgers School of Dental Medicine in New Jersey and returned home to complete a one-year residency in Fresno. Reflecting on her journey, she shares, "I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of the community that I grew up in and also hope to inspire the next generation of students to do the same."

Pediatrics

Elizabeth Black, MD



Elizabeth Black, MD, MAS, is a Fresno-native pediatric nephrologist and Assistant Professor at UCSF Fresno. She specializes in caring for children with kidney disease and has additional training in obesity management. She is passionate about nurturing future Central Valley physicians and currently serves as the Medical Student Site Director for Pediatrics at UCSF Fresno and as the Director of Baccalaureate Mentoring for the UC Merced Department of Medical Education.

Orthopaedics

Fernando Cruz, MD



(Fernando) Kamalei Cruz, MD, is an orthopaedic surgeon specializing in shoulder & elbow reconstruction, sports medicine, and upper extremity trauma. Dr. Cruz is a Central Valley native. Following his graduation from Bullard High School, he attended UC Merced and earned his bachelor's degree in bioengineering. He then completed his medical degree at the UC Davis School of Medicine. Upon graduation, he returned to the Central Valley for orthopaedic surgery residency at UCSF-Fresno, followed by a fellowship in shoulder and elbow reconstructive surgery at Cedars-Sinai / KJOC. Eager to serve his hometown community, he returned as faculty with UCSF-Fresno. Apart from his impressive medical and professional interests, he also enjoys the peace and serenity of farm living.

Infectious Diseases

Geetha Sivasubramanian, MD, FIDSA



Dr. Geetha Sivasubramanian is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Division Chief of Infectious Diseases at UCSF Fresno. She is a fellowship-trained infectious diseases physician with a primary research focus on coccidioidomycosis, fungal infections, and health disparities in California's Central Valley. She leads multiple clinical, research, and implementation science initiatives aimed at improving early diagnosis and care for Valley Fever in underserved populations. Dr. Sivasubramanian is deeply committed to medical education, faculty development, and mentorship, and has received multiple teaching awards for excellence in clinical education.

Nursing

Johanna Velazquez DNP, FNP-C, PHN, DSD, RN



Johanna Liliana Velazquez, DNP, FNP-C, PHN, RN, is a nurse practitioner, educator, and community leader dedicated to improving healthcare access in California's Central Valley — especially in rural and underserved communities.

With over a decade of experience in healthcare, Dr. Velazquez has worked in a variety of clinical settings including medical-surgical care, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedics, family practice, and pediatrics. Throughout her career, she has mentored nursing students and future nurse practitioners, helping guide the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Internal Medicine

Marina Roytman MD, FACP, FAASLD



Dr. Roytman trained at Oregon Health Science University and at Mount Sinai hospital in NYC. She has been a UCSF Clinical Professor and Liver Program Director at UCSF Fresno since 2017 where she teaches hepatology to Gastroenterology fellows, Internal Medicine residents, medical students and advanced practice providers. She currently serves as the UCSF Fresno interim Division Chief GI and Hepatology as well as the UCSF Fresno Liver Program Director. Her academic interests include non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, drug-induced liver injury, viral hepatitis and alcohol-related liver disease as documented by her publications and her role as principal investigator in multiple clinical trials.

Pharmacy

Samantha Valle-Oseguera, PharmD, APh, BCACP



Samantha Valle-Oseguera is an Associate Clinical Professor and Experiential Program Director in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy at UCSF School of Pharmacy. Her clinical practice site is at Kaweah Health Medical Center in Visalia, California, where she serves as an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist at the primary care rural clinics. She serves as a preceptor for Kaweah Health's PGY2 Ambulatory Care residents, PGY1 residents on an ambulatory care rotation, and APPE pharmacy students from UCSF rotating through the Fresno area. She graduated from the University of the Pacific in 2012 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed a PGY1 and a PGY2 in Ambulatory Care at the Boise VA Medical Center.

Emergency Medicine

Scott Reichelderfer, MD, MPH



Scott Reichelderfer, MD, is board certified in Emergency Medicine. Dr. Reichelderfer earned his medical degree at University of California, San Francisco. He then went on to complete his residency at the University of California, San Francisco, Fresno where he served as a chief resident. After residency, Dr. Reichelderfer went on to complete a Fellowship in Medical Education and Simulation at University of California, Davis. Dr. Reichelderfer is the Director of Emergency Medicine Simulation at UCSF Fresno.

Emergency Medicine

Sukhjit Dhillon, MD



Sukhjit Dhillon, MD, is board certified in Emergency Medicine. Dr. Dhillon earned her medical degree at Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University. She completed her residency at University of California, San Francisco, Fresno. Dr. Dhillon is the Assistant Director for the UCSF Fresno COVID Equity Project and UCSF Fresno Mobile Heal.

Endocrinology

Varsha Babu, MD



Varsha Babu, MD, is board certified in endocrinology and internal medicine. She completed an internal medicine residency through Yale University at Bridgeport Hospital and subsequently finished her fellowship in endocrinology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center through UCLA. Dr. Babu's area of expertise is endocrinology, with a special interest in thyroid cancer, pituitary and adrenal disorders, PCOS and women's health, and insulin pump management. She is currently faculty at the UCSF School of Medicine and teaching trainees through UCSF Fresno. Dr. Babu was previously a clinical assistant professor of medicine at the University of North Dakota, and faculty at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, North Dakota. Dr. Babu has earned many awards including the Perter Bartelloni Award and ER 'Best Resident' award at Bridgeport Hospital, and the first prize in poster competitions at 23rd Annual Science Symposium in Bridgeport Connecticut. Her hobbies include music and Indian classical dance. She is fluent in English and Malayalam

Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria, District 27



Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria serves communities in the counties of Fresno, Madera, and Merced in her capacity Assemblymember for California Assembly District 27.

She has served as Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee since her appointment in 2023. A first-generation American and daughter of farm workers, Assemblywoman Soria knows firsthand about hard work and sacrifice, having worked alongside her parents in the Central Valley's agricultural fields throughout her childhood.

Prior to her work in the Assembly, Soria served as an educator, community advocate, and Fresno City Councilmember. As Councilmember, she led efforts to increase public safety and community development, create thousands of good-paying jobs, build affordable and accessible housing, tackle homelessness, and expand access to parks and greenspace.

During her service in the Assembly, Soria worked quickly to address serious issues facing the Central Valley. In 2023, Assemblywoman Soria authored AB 112, securing \$300 million dollars for the Distressed Hospital Loan Program, which helped disperse those funds to hospitals throughout the state at risk of closing or closed, and seeking to reopen. Over \$50 million of that money would go to saving the Madera Community Hospital, a critically needed hospital in the Central Valley that had announced it was closing in 2022.

The Assemblywoman also fought to deliver millions of dollars in funding to the Central Valley for public safety, student housing, parks and community centers, and agriculture.

She resides in Fresno with her husband Terance, their 5 children, and her dog Buddy.

Audrey Garcia-Lahrs MS, MPH



Audrey T. Garcia-Lahrs (she/her) is a third-year medical student in the UCSF San Joaquin Valley PRIME program, completing her clinical training at UCSF Fresno. Raised in Porterville in an immigrant Filipino family, she is dedicated to advancing health equity in rural and underserved communities. She earned dual MS and MPH degrees from Boston University and integrates clinical medicine, environmental health, and culturally responsive care in her work.

Connie Calderón-Jensen, MA



Connie Calderón-Jensen is an education professional with over 30 years' experience on educational issues affecting students of color, English-language learners, and immigrant families. Her work experience includes supporting college access for first-generation students, including over five years with the UCSF School of Medicine, Post Baccalaureate Program.

Connie has worked with the UCSF Latinx Center of Excellence (LCOE) since 2019 and is charged with leading the center's HRSA programs, outreach efforts, and managing the Center's administration. She collaborates with many UCSF offices and community groups, undergraduate programs and professional organizations seeking to increase the number of Latinx physicians.

Angel-Max Guerrero, MA



Ángel-Max Guerrero, MA, was appointed as the University of California, San Francisco's first Pathway Programs Manager, November 2020. He serves as a campus expert on strengthening engagement with internal and external stakeholders to increase impact for UCSF's pipeline, outreach, and pathway programs. He is a native of San Francisco's Mission District and received his bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley, followed by his master's from the University of San Francisco. As a strong advocate of higher education for low-income and first-generation communities, Ángel-Max's 35 years of professional experience have focused on student access, equity, and preparation programs.

Michele DiTomas, MD, MS



Michele DiTomas, MD, MS has worked for California Correctional Healthcare Services since 2007. She earned her MD from UCSF and is currently the Assistant Deputy Medical Executive over Palliative Care. Her team strives to provide high quality care to older adults and those with serious, life-limiting illness. She works with the hospice team at the California Medical Facility to create an environment where patients can live their final days with dignity and respect despite their incarceration. The team supports patients and their families in achieving compassionate release and, when this is not possible, provides a setting where they are able to have meaningful visits and find peace and closure at the end of life.
