

Message from Tahseen Mozaffar, MD Interim Chair, Neurology



Dear Colleagues,

The new year brings welcome change with the arrival of the new vice chancellor of Health Affairs, Dr. Steve Goldstein. Most recently from the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University Chicago, where he was dean, chief diversity officer, and professor of pediatrics and cell & molecular physiology, Dr. Goldstein was also previously provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Brandeis University, and held academic and clinical positions at University of Chicago, Yale and Harvard.

Also transitioning, Dr. Steven Small will take up the reins at University of Texas, Dallas, as Dean of Behavior and Brain Science, before the end of the fiscal year. His wife, Dr. Ana Solodkin will join him as Professor of Neurobiology. We wish them much success. Our department is actively recruiting and I look forward to announcing new Neurology faculty soon.

Also newsworthy, the ALS Center of Excellence designation was renewed by the ALS Association, and a new Huntington's Disease Center of Excellence awarded by the HD Society of America. Neuroscience research is an important part of our team's contribution to the community and we continue to publish widely, as well as hold lectures locally and nationally. Some of this research and education is funded by private donors, many of whom are patient families. Their generous gifts, along with private grants, support vital research, education and clinical work. Thank you to all.

Tahseen Mozaffar, MD

Highlights

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Starr Lecture: Art, Science and the Space Between

The 8th Annual Arnold Starr Lecture & Exhibition on December 10, marked the first collaboration between UCI Neurology and Illuminations, The Chancellor's Arts and Cultural Initiative. The lively program featured a special introduction by UCI stroke neurologist, Dr. Steven C. Cramer, on

the "Neurology of Creativity," and Dr. Starr on the inspiration behind his neural-imaging inspired watercolor paintings, Neuralscapes. Sandra Dijkstra, literary agent, then introduced the guest speaker, James Hubbell, by describing his life-long creative vision and educational mission that spans the world.



The 8th Annual Arnold Starr Lecture speakers (above, from left to right) Dr. Steven Cramer, Dr. Arnold Starr, James Hubbell, Dr. Tahseen Mozaffar, and Nancy Young on stage at the Crystal Cove Auditorium on December 10, 2018.

A trailer of his upcoming PBS special preceded a conversation between Dr. Starr and Mr. Hubbell, and facilitated by Dr. Cramer, which highlighted the thin divide between scientific discovery and artistic exploration. Mr. Hubbell implored people to trust the universe and their own instincts, and to be open to inspiration, in whatever form it may come.

To see the Starr Lecture video:
<https://youtu.be/Vc5mxVP6USM>

Neurology Clinical and Research Faculty

Alzheimer's & Memory Disorders:

Carl Cotman, PhD
Maria Corrada-Bravo, ScD
Claudia H. Kawas, MD
Ahmad Sajjadi, MD, PhD
Chuang-Kuo Wu, MD, PhD

ALS & Neuromuscular Disorders

Namita A. Goyal, MD
Luis Chui, MD
Ali Habib, MD
Manisha Kak, MD
Tahseen Mozaffar, MD
Annabel Wang, MD

Brain & Spine Repair

An H. Do, MD
Lisa A. Flanagan, PhD

Cognitive Neurology

Steven Small, PhD, MD

Epilepsy

Jack Lin, MD
Xiaoying Lu, MD,
Lilit Mnatsakanyan, MD
Mona Sazgar, MD
Indranil Sen-Gupta, MD

Multiple Sclerosis

Alexander Brandt, MD
Ardith M. Courtney, DO
Michael Demetriou, MD, PhD
Michael Y. Sy, MD, PhD
Gaby T. Thai, MD

Neurocritical Care

Yama Akbari, MD, PhD
Cyrus K. Dastur, MD
Leonid I. Groysman, MD
Sara Stern-Nezer, MD

Featuring: The Carmell Family



Roneet and Gary Carmell

Roneet Carmell Memorial Endowment Fund

North Tustin residents Gary and Roneet Carmell were fortunate to find Jack Lin, MD, Director of the UCI Health Comprehensive Epilepsy Program, when their 25-year-old son Jacob, needed help with his seizure medication. Jacob had survived a stroke when he was two years old and began to experience symptoms of epilepsy when he was eight. Dr. Lin recently helped control the side-effects of his seizure medication, which eventually allowed Jacob to drive a car. The family was delighted.

But the happiness was not to last. At the end of the year, an unfortunate case of cardiac arrest involving Roneet brought Gary back to UCI to seek out Yama Akbari, MD, PhD, a neurocritical care specialist, for a second opinion on her condition. Tragically, Roneet was not able to survive the traumatic event. Gary attributes Dr. Akbari's

moral support and expertise in cardiac arrest in helping bring closure for him and his family when she passed away.

Gary's gratitude and respect for the research of both physicians led to his decision to support Dr. Akbari's lab with a significant endowment, as well as provide support for two research fellows to train with Dr. Lin. Recognizing the extreme shortage of epileptologists, the funds for Dr. Lin's fellows will encourage young doctors to specialize and enter this important field of medicine.

"Doing this helps me honor Roneet by providing support to two brilliant and cutting-edge researchers, who have not only touched our lives, but also have the passion, energy, intellect, and commitment to bring about humanity-improving breakthroughs in neuroscience," said Gary, Partner-President of CWS Capital Partners LLC, based in Newport Beach. He is also an author and public speaker, who focuses on investing and wealth creation.

A total of \$165,169 to date has been given and raised by Gary, his family, friends and colleagues. We thank everyone involved for their incredible philanthropy. A public memorial lecture in honor of Roneet will be hosted on May 23, at UCI to bring awareness to cardiac arrest and epilepsy, highlighting the innovative research behind the medicine.

To make an appointment for epilepsy services call: [888-574-3238](tel:888-574-3238)

Donor Highlight

Terri M. Fraser Endowed Fund for Glioblastoma Research

In 2017, UCI staff member Rhonda Halverson brought her sister, Terri Fraser, to UCI Health to be treated for glioblastoma.

"I was so grateful for all that Dr. Daniela Bota, Dr. Xiao-Tang Kong and Dr. Frank Hsu did to help Terri, that I decided to create a significant endowed fund to help in the fight against glioblastoma," said Rhonda. "The gift was made to thank the doctors, and honor my sister by naming the endowed fund in perpetuity."

Many friends and family who want to honor Terri have also contributed. Staff gifts are appreciated as they show support from within UCI. All philanthropic gifts provide unrestricted funds to progress vital research.

To make an appointment for neuro-oncology call: [888-544-8235](tel:888-544-8235)



Terri M. Fraser

Neurology Faculty News & Views

Accomplishments

Neal Hermanowicz, MD, (right) director of the UCI Health Movement Disorders Program, was recognized with the recent selection of the clinic by the Huntington's Disease Society of America as an HDSA Center of Excellence. The clinic joins a list of only 47 across the country. HDSA Centers of Excellence provide an elite multi-disciplinary approach to Huntington's disease care and research.



Dr. Neal Hermanowicz

HD patients benefit from the expertise of Dr. Neal Hermanowicz, based at Gottschalk Medical Plaza on the UCI campus, and Dr.

Leslie Thompson, preeminent Huntington's disease researcher and professor of psychiatry and human behavior. The team includes Terry Randall (left), who coordinates in-house and community psychiatrists, therapists, counselors and other professionals



Terry Randall

experienced in working with families affected by HD.

For an appointment with the Huntington's disease clinic call: [949-824-0190](tel:949-824-0190)

An Do, MD, was named Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Faculty Mentor of the Month.

Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center Community Lectures Series

Upcoming:

- Lisa Flanagan, PhD, and Leonid Groysman, MD, Stem Cell Therapies for Stroke, March 26, 2019

To register: www.stemcell.uci.edu/rsvp
For information call: [949-824-2911](tel:949-824-2911)

SAVE THE DATE

- Roneet Carmell Memorial Lecture, May 23
- 9th Annual Neuromuscular Colloquium, June 7
- 9th Annual Stanley van den Noort Lecture, June 20
- Neurology Research Day and Graduation, June 21
- 2019 Neurosciences Symposium, Sept. 21
- ANA Meeting in St. Louis, Oct. 13-15

For information email: Friends-of-Neuro@uci.edu

UCI Finds a New Cause of Brain Bleeds

UCI neurologist Mark J. Fisher, MD, and project scientist Rachita Sumbria, PhD, have provided, for the first time, evidence that blood deposits in the brain may not require a blood vessel tear. They found that brain endothelial cells, the cells that line blood vessels of the brain, have the capacity for engulfing red blood cells and depositing them outside the blood vessels and into the substance of the brain, without requiring a disruption of the vasculature.

"It has long been believed that a tear or rupture of a brain blood vessel is the cause of cerebral microbleeds," said Dr. Fisher, a cerebrovascular disease specialist, who is Board-certified in Psychiatry and Neurology, former Chair of Neurology (1998-2006), and founder of the first UCI Stroke Center.

The study, titled, "Brain Endothelial Erythrophagocytosis and Hemoglobin

Transmigration Across brain Endothelium: Implications for Pathogenesis of Cerebral Microbleeds," was published in *Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience*.

Much of the new research, which was conducted in collaboration with the Keck Graduate Institute, was based in large part on previous work done by Dr. Fisher related to cerebral bleeds and how they are often an undetected cause of dementia, and how they may develop after concussions.

To read the full article, go to: www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fncel.2018.00279/full

To make an appointment for stroke services call: [866-787-6533](tel:866-787-6533)



Dr. Mark J. Fisher

Neurology Clinical and Research Faculty

Neuro-oncology

Daniela A. Bota, MD, PhD
Xiao-Tang Kong, MD, PhD
Pawan K. Singh, MD

Neurodegeneration Research

Howard Federoff, MD, PhD
John H. Weiss, MD, PhD

Neuropsychology

Mark Mapstone, PhD
Timothy O'Brien, PhD
Hayley Kristinsson, PsyD
Katherine Denny, PhD

General Neurology (Newport)

Dale V. Di Stefano, MD
David A. Gehret, MD
Beth Lo, MD
Mark A. Montano, MD

Parkinson's & Movement Disorders

Mitchell F. Brin, MD
Neal Hermanowicz, MD
Anna E. Morenkova, MD
Nicolas M. Phielipp, MD

Stroke & Cerebrovascular Disorders

Hermelinda Abcede, MD
Steven C. Cramer, MD
Mark J. Fisher, MD
Mohammad Shafie, MD, PhD
Jay Shah, MD
Wengui Yu, MD, PhD

Veterans Affairs Hospital

Steven S. Schreiber, MD
Annabel Wang, MD

For an appointment call:
[\(714\) 456-7002](tel:714-456-7002)

UCI Health

Friends of Neurology
UCI Health Advancement
333 City Blvd., W., Ste. 605
Orange, CA 92868



Orange Coast magazine photo with several of the 150 UCI doctors named 2019 "Physician of Excellence," seen here in front of UCI Douglas Hospital in Orange.

Dear Friends,

Last year was a banner year for UCI Health Neurology, in terms of the number of donors and the volume of these donations. Private philanthropy provides vital resources to enable our faculty to pursue research, expand clinical capacity, and reach our community through education. We are ever grateful for this expanding community, which expresses gratitude for the care provided by their neurologist, often through support for his or her innovative research or specific clinical programs.

One undeniable factor contributing to this wealth of support is the quality of care our community receives. In 2019, the

Orange County Medical Association has recognized nearly 150 UCI Health doctors as "Physicians of Excellence," including ten neurologists:

Yama Akbari, MD, PhD
Cyrus K. Dastur, MD
Namita A. Goyal, MD
Lilit Mnatsakanyan, MD
Mona Sazgar, MD

Daniela A. Bota, MD, PhD
Mark J. Fisher, MD
Neal Hermanowicz, MD
Tahseen Mozaffar, MD
Steven L. Small, PhD, MD

If you would like to make a contribution to honor one of these doctors, or any other, please contact me for a confidential conversation about a gift. I can also provide information about special gifts, naming opportunities, endowments, and planned gifts or bequests. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Nancy

Nancy M. Young, MA, MIA
Senior Director of Development
Neurology & Neurosciences
UCI Health Advancement
T: (714) 509-2109
E: nancy.young@uci.edu

Give online at:
connect.uci.edu/neurology

