



Graduate Division Alumni Association
University of California San Francisco
745 Parnassus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94143-0970

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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UCSF/SFSU Graduate Program in Physical Therapy Update

The UCSF/SFSU joint physical therapy program is proud to announce their new Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. This post-professional DPT degree is the first DPT degree to be offered in public universities in California. For more information or for ways alumni can support the DPT program, please contact Linda Wanek, Director of Physical Therapy at SFSU, 338-1939 or lwane@sfu.edu.

UCSF Career Center

Changing careers? Looking for a new job? The services of the UCSF Career Center are available to you! We offer career counseling, help with resume construction, interview and negotiation coaching, and we are building an extensive library of career-related books that are particularly relevant to UCSF populations.

Career Center library books may be borrowed by visiting the Career Center, located in the Medical Sciences Building Lobby, Room S-140. Alternatively, we can mail you any title (you are responsible for return postage). Contact Bill Lindstaedt in the Career Center at bill@saa.ucsf.edu, 415-502-2422.

The Career Center library now contains nearly 400 titles, and topics include resume and cover letter writing, advice for academic career success, "alternative" career options for scientists and health professionals, career decision making advice, grant writing skills, and scientific presentation skills.

Our new focus is on work/life/ family balance. Here are a few of the new titles in this area.

- **Lifebalance: How to Simplify and Bring Harmony to Your Everyday Life**, by Linda and Richard Eyre
- **He Works She Works: Successful Strategies for Working Couples**, by Jaine Carter, PhD and James D. Carter, PhD
- **Balancing Work and Family: the Role of the Workplace**, by Jacqueline Wallen
- **Getting it Right: How Working Mothers Successfully Take Up the Challenge of Life, Family and Career**, by Laraine T. Zappert, PhD
- **Balancing Pregnancy and Work: How to Make the Most of the Next 9 Months on the Job**, by Nancy W. Hall

Many of the Career Center library's titles are available on the Career Center's website www.ucsf.edu/career. The website will be updated with the remainder of the titles by the end of December.

The Innovation Accelerator

Late last night in the lab, you had an epiphany. An idea came to you for a breakthrough life science technology that you're sure will cure some awful disease – and you're pretty sure you can make it work. In fact, you're so excited about it that you might just be willing to quit your day job and work on your new technology full-time. On the heels of your excitement, though, follows confusion. You're a PhD, not an MBA. Is your idea original enough? Can you patent it? How? Will it make money? Do you have to do more experiments? How should you get started? What makes the difference between a hot new idea and a real biotech company? *What do you do next?*

If you're at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), you go to the next meeting of the Innovation Accelerator (IA), founded in 2001 by students and post-docs from the Idea to IPO class and the Vice Chancellor of Research Chris Scott, now directed by Corey Adams and Rebecca Seal. The mission of IA is three-fold:

1. Provide resources for UCSF entrepreneurs to turn ideas into commercial ventures.
2. Create a forum for communication between members of the UCSF community and bio-entrepreneurs throughout the Bay Area.
3. Help scientists develop the skills required to pursue careers in bio-business.

In keeping with this mission, IA participation is split equally among students and post-docs, faculty, and Bay Area biotech business professionals.

IA activities consist of three main components: a discussion group (IADG), a seminar series, and site visits. IADG provides an informal, non-threatening environment where ultra-early-stage entrepreneurs can pitch their ideas and get useful feedback from both the scientific community and industry professionals. Seminar series topics include managing intellectual property, finding seed-money for a biotech startup, the mysteries of license negotiation, and the success stories of local luminaries such as David Goeddel (founder and CEO of Tularik, acquired last month by Amgen). Site visits to Bay Area companies are enormously popular among IA participants. At Chiron this past spring, IA spoke with Bryan Walser (VP, Strategy and Corporate Affairs) and Jeanette Fritzky (VP, Global Marketing) in addition to traditional bench scientists. Unlike other site visits for researchers, IA focuses equally on the science and business aspects of a company, giving participants valuable insight into careers and an industry beyond the bench.

In 2005, IA will host a world-wide life sciences executive summary competition. Fundraising for this showcase event has already begun. The competition will provide an opportunity to bench scientists and clinicians at UCSF, and in the broader life science community, to hone their entrepreneurial skills. Potential investors will see high quality opportunities from across the globe focused exclusively within the life sciences domain. The extremely successful first IA competition held two years ago produced several companies and entrepreneurs that eventually earned millions of dollars in funding and are now poised to positively impact clinical treatment. Integral to the success of that first event was the mentoring offered to each UCSF team.

If you have brought your ideas to life and if you are engaged in this process, we strongly encourage you to get involved with IA. We enthusiastically welcome the support and participation of UCSF alumni in all our activities. Please email Corey Adams jcadams@cgl.ucsf.edu or Rebecca Seal sealr@itsa.ucsf.edu and visit the IA website at <http://www.ucsf.edu/iaucsf/>.

MentorNet

UCSF has joined MentorNet, a nonprofit e-monitoring network that addresses the retention and success of women in science, mathematics and engineering. Founded in 1997, MentorNet provides highly motivated proteges from many of the world's top universities with positive, one-on-one, email-based mentoring relationships with mentors from industry and academia. This program is free to UCSF students, postdocs, and junior faculty. For more detailed information, or to sign up as a mentor, go to the following website: www.mentornet.net.



Preparing Future Faculty: A new program puts the spotlight on Teaching and Academic Careers

This summer saw the launch of the new UCSF Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) program. Founded by a group of graduate students and post-doctoral scholars, PFF is building awareness of the diversity of careers in academia. It also helps graduate students and postdoctoral scholars develop their teaching skills, and equip them with the tools to compete in the academic job search. PFF was launched as a pilot program this summer, offering 12 weekly seminars and workshops. The first six focused on how young adults learn and how to teach them, and the second six focused on how to obtain an academic job.

UCSF's PFF program is modeled on the national PFF initiative <http://www.preparing-faculty.org/> which was founded by the Council of Graduate Schools and the Association of American Colleges and Universities in 1993 to improve the way students are trained for careers as faculty members. The goal is to train aspiring faculty members in teaching and service as well as research, and to show the variety of these roles at different academic institutions. Cynthia Fuhrmann, a Biochemistry graduate student in the Tetrad Program, became interested in starting a program at UCSF when she learned about the national PFF initiative at a conference. Convinced that others at UCSF would also be interested in such a program, she established a committee of students and post-doctoral scholars to explore and organize a pilot program. In partnership with the Career Center, Student Activity Center, and Science and Health Education Partnership, PFF was a prominent feature at UCSF this summer.

UCSF PFF generated considerable financial support and significant attendance throughout the summer. Prominent speakers participated in the program. National Academy of Sciences President and UCSF Professor Bruce Alberts delivered the opening lecture, which was standing-room only in Genentech Hall's

Main Auditorium. Another lecture in the series featured John Bransford, professor at the University of Washington, member of the National Academy of Education, and lead author of *How People Learn: Brain, Mind, Experience and School*.

PFF has strong support from the Chancellor's Office and Graduate Division, as well as UCSF faculty and graduate programs. In his introduction of keynote speaker Bruce Alberts at the PFF Kickoff Event, UCSF Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Washington emphasized the importance of the PFF program to the administration and faculty of UCSF: "Teaching, and teaching people how others learn,... is, to us, an essential part of developing [students and postdocs] for a career, whether that's in academic medicine or... in private industry."

A highlight of the summer program was the Symposium of the Professoriate, a series of all-day panels and workshops featuring faculty from various academic institutions and representing a wide spectrum of teaching opportunities, from teaching-only positions to those that require a balance of teaching and research. Faculty panelists included UCSF alumni Robert Beatty, Shoumita Dasgupta, Tania Gonzalez, Jim McKerrow, Julie Strong and John Sullivan. More than 150 students, post-docs, and alumni attended the symposium. Workshops led by visiting faculty addressed issues that are rarely discussed in graduate school, including how to teach your first class, innovative teaching approaches, how to pursue research at a primarily undergraduate institution, the tenure process, and how to mentor students. Participants had opportunities throughout the day to network and discuss their career futures with faculty and peers. Many students commented that meeting with faculty (half of whom were UCSF alumni) from different types of academic institutions was the most unique and useful aspect of the program.

The UCSF PFF Planning Committee is making the program a permanent resource at UCSF for students and post-doctoral scholars preparing for academic jobs. It will maintain a strong focus on teaching and academic career awareness, while adding training in laboratory management and academic service. There is also great interest in programs for students and fellows in the clinical and social sciences. **Alumni participation in the PFF program is highly valued by current students and post-docs at UCSF, and key to the success of the PFF mission.**

If you are interested in returning to UCSF to talk about your own experiences searching for an academic job or about your current academic position, please contact us! We plan to set up a mentoring network between current students and post-docs and UCSF alumni. We will soon launch a PFF e-mail discussion forum (called the “PFF discuss” listserv), where participants can post questions to UCSF alumni about academic careers. This will give students and post-doctoral scholars an opportunity to find mentors among UCSF alumni who match their career interests.

Get involved in PFF by joining the UCSF Academic Career Network, hosted by the Career Center. Visit the PFF website. Click the Alumni link (or go directly

to www.ucsf.edu/pff/alumni_pff.htm. The easy on-line form asks for your contact information and a description of your current academic appointment; you can also indicate the ways in which you’d like to be involved in PFF. The Career Center and PFF program will use information from this database to recruit speakers and panelists for future sessions, and to build our mentoring networks.

If you have other ideas for how alumni can get involved, or have ideas for the PFF program in general, please contact the PFF Planning Committee www.ucsf.edu/pff/contact_pff.htm. For more information on the UCSF PFF program and a complete schedule of events, visit www.ucsf.edu/pff/.

MIS Memories

Those were heady days in 1979 when I commenced my journey to a master's degree in the Program on Medical Information Science (MIS) in UCSF's Graduate Division. I am forever grateful to my brilliant, colorful, unforgettable professors -- Ron Henley, Scott Blois, Tony Wasserman, Don Simborg, David Stimson, Azad Bolour, Hyo Kim and more -- people with fire in the gut and fervor to change the world.

In those days, the electronic medical record (EMR) was the Holy Grail, the topic of several classes and of my master's project. Amazingly, it remains a distant goal even today. We are only beginning to implement the EMR in the majority of the medical institutions of this country.

Of course, in the intervening twenty-five years technology has made great strides. Who of us MIS-ers will forget the day of the arrival of the mighty VAX? The Department's pride and joy, it was the size of two refrigerators, demanded special air conditioning. It ran a DEC operating system that we promptly scrapped in favor of upstart Unix, a software movement as political as it was technological. Today, Linux, SunOS, and other Unix descendants are mainstream dull, but back then we were hell-raising nerds combating corporate hegemony. Today, I write these words on my palmtop with more compute power than that roomful of VAX. But less heat.

So why do most hospitals and clinics still use paper charts? I volunteer at several San Francisco hospitals where the sheer volume of paperwork (and the resources it consumes) is mind-numbing. Obstacles to the EMR are no longer technological; today as twenty-five years ago they are primarily economic. The EMR is infrastructure and largely invisible to patients. What insurance company would choose to incur its added cost? Though its contributions to quality of care are substantial and proven, the expense cannot be justified as could, say, a new MRI machine that provides a billable diagnostic or therapeutic service. Yet progress is happening, spearheaded by Kaiser and its EMR vendor Epic. UCSF's hospitals, too, have a huge EMR initiative underway. How these changes are welcome!

When I started school at UCSF, my vision was a career that would wed medicine and computing. The possibilities remain immense. Especially in imaging, evidence-based medicine, and other applications of information technology, great leaps in quality of care have happened and many more are on the way.

Alas MIS, the program that nurtured my techno-medical zeal, no longer exists. It drowned in a mire of politics, personalities, and above all economics. Especially in today's climate of tight State budgets, it's nearly impossible to retain professorial talent when private sector paychecks are so much fatter. However, the larger institution -- the Graduate Division of UCSF -- continues to provide a rich, nourishing environment in which programs like MIS -- and people like me! -- thrive and prepare to change the world. Our teachers' fire burns on.