



**California University of  
Science and Medicine**  
*School of Medicine*

## *Faculty Affairs Newsletter*

Volume 06  
February 2025



## **News from the Office of Faculty Affairs**

Greetings CUSM Faculty,

Spring is a busy (and exciting!) time for the Office of Faculty Affairs. We are already working on plans for our second Spring Faculty Celebration Lunch. This will be at noon on Wed May 7th, so we hope you can “save the date” and join us at the CUSM building. In preparation for recognition at our lunch, we are opening the nomination process for the annual Faculty Awards. The link to put forward a colleague for the faculty-nominated awards is further down this newsletter. Our office will also conduct separate polling for nominees from our students.

Nominations are also now open for slots on our Faculty Assembly standing committees. This is a great way to make a broader contribution to our school and connect with colleagues. Committees meet in hybrid or fully online format and schedules are selected to accommodate member’s availability. There is also a variety of levels of commitment with some committees meeting once or twice a semester through to monthly and sometimes weekly. Please reach out to us if you would like us to help you identify a service opportunity that fits your schedule. The final nominee slate will be presented at our Spring Faculty Assembly meeting on April 15th at noon with a follow up poll by email.

As always, our newsletter is also the place to share faculty announcements and we have many from the past few months, including introducing our new Chair of Neurology, Dr Elizabeth Morrison-Banks. Please reach out to let us know of your news and events ([facultyaffairsoffice@cusm.edu](mailto:facultyaffairsoffice@cusm.edu)). Our next newsletter will be emailed in June.

Best wishes,

[Visit our website](#)

[Send us an email](#)

## Faculty News

### Dr Elizabeth Morrison-Banks joins CUSM as Neurology Chair



We are pleased to introduce Dr Elizabeth Morrison-Banks, who joined CUSM this past Fall, as Professor and Chair for the Department of Neurology. According to “The State of Women in Academic Medicine 2023-2024” report from the American Association of Medical Colleges, only 25% of Medical School Department Chairs are women. Neurology Departments are below this national average having 18% with a woman Chair.

Dr Morrison-Banks received her MD from Brown University and completed her Neurology residency at the University of Southern California. She is board certified in Family Medicine and Psychiatry and Neurology. Before joining CUSM, Dr Morrison-Banks was a

Professor of Clinical Neurology at UC Riverside where she was the founding Program Director for the Neurology Residency Program and Director for the UCR Multiple Sclerosis Program. Prior to this Dr Morrison-Banks was a faculty member at UC Irvine and held several leadership roles. As Associate Dean for Clinical Science Education at UCI, she obtained \$1.5 million in federal training grants to support new initiatives. Dr Morrison-Banks has been recognized by medical students and residents for excellence in teaching at UC Irvine and UC Riverside.

Dr Morrison-Banks is nationally recognized for her work on Multiple Sclerosis. She is author of many peer-reviewed publications and, in 2023, was the recipient of the Robert M. Hendon Award from the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers for best article published in the International Journal of MS Care. Dr Morrison-Banks has served as PI on multiple foundation grants as well as received federal awards from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

We extend our warmest welcome to Dr Morrison-Banks and look forward to reporting on her future achievements as a CUSM faculty member and administrator.

### Vituity Physicians at ARMC Award Scholarship to CUSM MD Student

The Vituity Health Physicians at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, led by Dr Rodney Borger, Professor and Chair of Emergency Medicine; Dr David Seigler, Associate Professor and Chair of Psychiatry; and Dr Carol Lee, Professor and Designated Institutional Official, recently awarded the inaugural Wes Curry, MD Vituity Health Scholarship to a first-year CUSM medical student.

Criteria for this scholarship for 1-year of tuition included demonstrated leadership potential, financial need and preferably from the Inland Empire or Southern California. The awardee

selected is Mohammad Zohab Khan, M1 student, graduate of the CUSM MBS Class of 2023 and Inland Empire resident.



Pictured: Mohammad Zohab Khan with Drs Jose Aguilar, Theo Koury, Rodney Borger, David Seigler, and Carol Lee.

## First Teaching and Learning Academy is in Progress!

The Office of Faculty and Professional Development, under the leadership of Dr Jonathan Townsend, are midway through their first offering of the Teaching and Learning Academy (TLA) for CUSM faculty. This first cohort began the program in September and so far have covered topics including how learning works; learning environment design; assessing and evaluating teaching and learning; equity, accommodation practice, universal design for learning, and safety; and educational technology. The program will conclude in April with each faculty participant giving a presentation on their final applied project related to the creation or updating of teaching practice and materials at CUSM.

If you are interested in participating in the TLA for next cycle, look out for the call for applications in your email later this Summer. In the meantime, If you have any questions, please reach out to Jonathan Townsend ([jonathan.townsend@cusm.edu](mailto:jonathan.townsend@cusm.edu)) or the Office of Faculty & Professional Development ([facultydevelopment@cusm.edu](mailto:facultydevelopment@cusm.edu)).





## Clerkship All-Faculty Virtual Meeting Updates

The first Clerkship All-Faculty Virtual Meeting was held on February 5th and provided overviews/updates on the professional development semester, clerkship curriculum, student performance evaluations, accreditation, and Faculty Affairs. We'd like to thank the faculty who were able to join us for this session. If you were unable to attend, you can review a copy of the presentation here: [CUSM Clerkship All-Faculty Meeting](#)

It is anticipated that the next Clerkship All-Faculty virtual meeting will be held in August. For questions related to Clerkship teaching, please contact Dr Maegen Dupper, Associate Dean of Clinical Curriculum at [maegen.dupper@cusm.edu](mailto:maegen.dupper@cusm.edu).

## Faculty Spotlights



**Khushro Unwalla, MD**  
*Associate Professor of Psychiatry*

### 30 Years of APA Membership

Congratulations to Dr Unwalla on reaching an impressive milestone of 30 years of membership with the American Psychiatric Association (APA). As a result, Dr Unwalla has been elevated to the distinguished status of Life Fellow, effective January 1, 2025.

This honor recognizes Dr Unwalla as part of an elite group of psychiatrists who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their profession and will be celebrated at the Convocation of Distinguished Fellows in May.

### Community Partnership Award



**Joél Arvizo-Zavala, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor of Medical Education*

Dr Joel Arvizo-Zavala, Assistant Professor and Director for CUSM's CHANGE Program, recently accepted the Community Partnership of the Year Award from Inland Counties Legal Services (ICLS) on behalf of CUSM. The award recognises the collaboration between the CHANGE Program, and Deliesha Brown, Esq., ICLS Public Benefits Practice Group Director.

This partnership enables medical students to assist ICLS in building stronger cases for disability hearings. Efforts have led to faster approvals, helping prevent homelessness and hunger among community members with disabilities.



**Alexandra Lopez Vera, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor of Medical Education*

### **Integrating Gender-Affirming Care in a Medical Spanish Endocrine System Curriculum**

Dr Alexandra Lopez Vera recently published a new article, Integrating Gender-Affirming Care in a Medical Spanish Endocrine System Curriculum, co-authored with four medical students, in MedEdPORTAL. This work offers an innovative approach to incorporating gender-affirming care within the medical Spanish curriculum, specifically in the context of the endocrine system.

For more information, access the full article on MedEdPORTAL [HERE](#).



**Jonathan Townsend, Ed.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Medical Education*

### **Teaching Self-Regulated Learning Through Reflective Writing**

A new study from California University of Science and Medicine, "Teaching Self-Regulated Learning Through Reflective Writing: Experiences of First-Year Medical Students With the Master Adaptive Learner Model," was published by Dr Shawn Koh and Dr Jonathan Townsend from the Department of Medical Education. The study explores the impact of teaching self-regulated learning (SRL) using the Master Adaptive Learner (MAL) model.

**Shawn Koh, MD**

*Associate Professor of Medical Education*

[Click for Article](#)



**Edith Wakida, PhD**

*Assistant Professor of Medical Education*

## **Community-Based Dementia Care in Rural/Low-Resource Settings**

Dr Edith Wakida published a manuscript titled “Internal Facilitation by Health Assistants for the “WHO Lay Health Worker Dementia Care” in Rural Uganda: A Formative Evaluation” in the Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare. Dr Wakida’s work is supported by a Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health R21 award to promote community-based dementia care in rural/low-resource settings. Co-authors on this study include Dr Zohary Talib, Professor and Executive Vice Dean for Education at CUSM.

[Click for Manuscript](#)

## **Announcements and Updates**

### **2024 Annual Report: From the Offices of Faculty Affairs and Faculty and Professional Development**

We are excited to present our second Annual Report on Faculty Affairs and Faculty and Professional Development. If you have any questions or suggestions for future initiatives, please feel free to contact us at [facultyaffairs@cusm.edu](mailto:facultyaffairs@cusm.edu) or [facultydevelopment@cusm.edu](mailto:facultydevelopment@cusm.edu).

To access the 2024 Annual Report, click below:

[2024 Annual Report](#)





## CUSM Faculty Assembly

### Faculty Assembly Updates

The Spring Faculty Assembly meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday, April 15th. We will be sending an email calendar invite in March. You can attend in person (with lunch provided) or online through MS Teams. Agenda items will include review of the 25/26 academic year faculty committee slate, presentation of Faculty Bylaws edits and an update on MD Admissions from our new Senior Associate Dean of Admissions, Dr Mohsin Yakub.

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### Nominations for Open Committee Slots

Please nominate yourself or your colleagues to join our Faculty Assembly Standing Committees.

Joining a committee is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the school's operations and enhance your faculty service record. Most committees meet online or in a hybrid format, with meeting frequency ranging from weekly to monthly, depending on the committee's responsibilities. Terms are three years and will begin in July 2025. The nomination form will remain open until Friday, March 14th.

You can learn more about the Committees in our Bylaws: [CLICK HERE](#)

A list of Committees with open slots/existing membership is here: [CLICK HERE](#)

To access the Committee Nomination Form,  
click below:

[Committee Nomination Form](#)

Faculty Details Grid							
Name		Title		Department		Campus	
2023-24 Faculty Directory							
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## Nominations for Teaching Excellence Awards

We encourage you to nominate yourself or a colleague for this year’s annual faculty awards. Submit your nominations promptly, as the poll will close on Tuesday, March 25th.

To access the faculty award nomination form, click below:

[Award Nomination Form](#)



## New Appointments and Roles



### Mohsin Yakub New Senior Associate Dean for Admissions

Following a successful term as Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Dr Mohsin Yakub has been promoted to Senior Associate Dean for Admissions.

In this new role, Dr Yakub will oversee all administrative aspects of the vital process of shaping our incoming classes.

**Mohsin Yakub, MD**  
*Professor of Medical Education*

### Vy Han Named Assistant Dean for Transition to Residency

Dr Vy Han has been appointed Assistant Dean for Transition to Residency, a key





**Vy Han, MD**

*Assistant Professor of Medical Education*

role dedicated to supporting medical students as they prepare for the next phase of their medical education.

In this capacity, Dr Han will oversee initiatives that facilitate a smooth transition into residency programs, ensuring students are well-prepared for their professional journey ahead.



**Christina Rangel, MBA**

*Assistant Dean of Student Affairs*

### **Christina Rangel New Assistant Dean for Student Affairs**

Christina Rangel has been appointed as the new Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. In her previous role, she led the PACE program, which supports medical student success throughout their training. She brings extensive experience from her progressive roles in various student affairs responsibilities.

With this appointment, Christina will oversee Student Life (formerly Student Affairs), the PACE program, and Records & Registration.



**Anna Cosio, MBA**

### **Anna Cosio New Appointment to AAMC/WGSA Regional Representative Position**

This year, Anna Cosio was appointed as the AAMC/WGSA regional representative to the GSA Committee on Student Financial Assistance (COSFA) for the next three years.

In this role, Anna will contribute to discussions on student financial aid policies and advocate for improved financial support for medical students.

## Upcoming Events

### Faculty Assembly Meeting

*Tuesday, April 15th, 2025*

You are invited to attend the upcoming Faculty Assembly Meeting on Tuesday, April 15th, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. This will be a hybrid session, held in the MBS Classroom #255 on the CUSM campus or online via Microsoft Teams. Lunch will be provided for in-person attendees.

Please find the link below.

[Microsoft Teams Link](#)

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### Research Seminar: Eat Sleep Dream Repeat

*Tuesday, March 4th, 2025*



California University of  
Science and Medicine  
School of Medicine  
*Research Department*



## RESEARCH SEMINAR INVITATION

TUESDAY | MARCH 4, 2025 | 12:00 PM

CUSM Classroom 255

### *Talk Title*

## ***Eat Sleep Dream Repeat***



#### **Invited Speaker:**

Madhu Varma MD MS MPH MBA M Ed  
Assistant Professor of Medical Education  
Director Sleep Scholars Program  
CUSM



**Seminar Overview:** Sleep disorders are a common medical problem. It is estimated that almost 50-70 million Americans have some form of sleep related problem and most often go untreated. Sleep problems can predispose individuals to many medical conditions, and, conversely, medical disorders can lead to sleep disturbance. Diabetes risk increases three-fold in patients with insomnia, and hypertension risk increases five-fold. Lack of sleep is responsible for an estimated 100,000 annual deaths in US hospitals due to medical errors, and the annual cost of sleep conditions in the US healthcare system is estimated to be about \$150 billion. We spend one-third of our lives asleep, and the other two-thirds depend heavily on healthy function during this one-third sleep time. Sleep, although to an individual appears to be continuous, actually occurs as repeated ninety-minute cyclical episodes going through phases of light, deep and rapid eye movement also known as REM Sleep. Each phase has significance in restorative physiology and disruption effects both long term and short-term outcomes in memory and control of chronic diseases. I have been examining this sleep architecture in health and disease in brain EEG in overnight polysomnograms. In this presentation I will be sharing normal sleep architecture and what changes in sleep architecture have we observed with changes in age, gender, and in different diseases such as in patients suffering from different diseases such as COPD, Diabetes, Hypertension. I hope to improve awareness of importance of sleep, decrease individual sleep debt and reduce chronic debilitating medical conditions through improved sleep.

### **Spring Faculty Celebration Event**

*Wednesday, May 7, 2025*

SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date and plan to join us as we celebrate our faculty's year-round dedication and contributions. During this event we will present faculty awards, recognize leadership on faculty assembly committees, and celebrate spring promotions. More information to follow.



California University of Science and Medicine

# SPRING FACULTY CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY

07

MAY

Lecture Hall #125

Presentation: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

1501 VIOLET ST, COLTON, CA 92324

## The Office of Faculty Affairs



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Please contact us for any faculty news items or spotlight submissions.

Contact Us





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