



California University of  
Science and Medicine  
School of Medicine

## *Faculty Affairs Newsletter*

Volume 07  
June 2025



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

Greetings CUSM Faculty,

It was wonderful to see many of you at our second annual Spring Faculty Celebration Lunch on May 7th. We hope you enjoyed this event celebrating your achievements as much as we did. If you missed this year's lunch, catch up on our faculty recognitions in this newsletter and plan to join us next year.

In March, the fourth graduating class from our MD program had a successful match day with many students gaining residency spots at our partner hospitals. On May 19th, we celebrated the graduation of this MD Class of 2025 as well as graduation of our seventh class from the Master of Biomedical Sciences Program.

A few reminders of faculty activities coming up through the Summer. Our Faculty Assembly standing committees will reconvene for the new academic year later in July. If you were elected to serve on a committee, you should receive invites to attend in late July or August. The Faculty Assembly/Faculty Executive Council Chair this upcoming year is Dr Ou "Ozzie" Zhang, Associate Professor. She will be assisted by Dr David Seigler, Associate Professor and Chair of Behavioral Health who was recently elected as Vice Chair/Chair elect.

Now is a great time to find out more if you are interested in working towards a promotion application. We have added new support resources on promotion to our website: <https://www.cusm.edu/faculty/promotion-1.php>. Watch the 8-minute video overviewing the promotion process to get started.

This newsletter shares achievements of our school and faculty including opening of the new CUSM Health - Neurology clinic in Riverside and a CalMed Force award for our ARMC faculty. Please reach out to us ([facultyaffairsoffice@cusm.edu](mailto:facultyaffairsoffice@cusm.edu)) to share your news and events in future newsletters.

Best wishes,  
The Faculty Affairs Team

[Visit our website](#)

[Send us an email](#)

## University News

### CUSM Health Opens First Clinic



Dr Elizabeth Morrison-Banks – Professor and Chair of Neurology, Dr Andres Gonzalez – Professor and Chief Medical Officer and Dr David Song – Professor and Residency Program Director, at the opening ceremony for the new clinic in Riverside. The clinic offers general neurology to specialized services like MS infusion therapy and Parkinson's disease care.

### ARMC Awarded Grant to Support Resident Physicians

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) was awarded \$680,000 from Physicians for a Healthy California through the CalMedForce program to support five resident physicians.

Dr Carol Lee, Professor of Emergency Medicine and ARMC DIO and Dr Kristy Roloff, Assistant Professor of OB/GYN, accepted the award from a representative of Physicians for a Healthy California during the San Bernardino County Medical Society's annual High Desert Meeting held in Victorville on February 27, 2025.

Learn more about the CalMedForce program here: [CalMedForce](#)





Dr Carol Lee, Dr Kristy Roloff, and CalMedForce Program Director Victoria Catanio.

## Surgical Anatomy Elective (SURG 8411)

This May marked the third and most advanced offering of SURG 8411, an immersive surgical anatomy elective where CUSM students served as primary surgeons, performing real procedures on fresh, unembalmed human donors.

Designed for students in their Professional Development Semester, the course pairs students with faculty from cardiothoracic, vascular, general, neurologic, orthopedic, neurosurgical, and forensic pathology specialties. With anatomists present throughout, students performed cricothyrotomy, chest tube placement, vascular dissection, neurosurgical approaches, orthopedic exposures, and coronary artery bypass grafting using real surgical instruments on real human anatomy.

A dedicated forensic pathology component followed the Minnesota Protocol, the international standard for investigating suspicious deaths, including those involving detainees and prisoners of war.

SURG 8411 sets a new benchmark for surgical anatomy education, built on direct procedural experience and meaningful collaboration between surgeons, anatomists, and forensic experts.

### Course Director

- Dr Frank Scali

### Contributing Faculty

- Dr Vy Han – Cricothyrotomy, Chest Tube, Intubation
- Dr Daryoush Javidi – Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Dr Joseph Elsissey & Orthopedic Surgery Residents – Orthopedic Surgery
- Dr Samuel Schwartz & Vascular Surgery Residents – Vascular Surgery
- Dr Emad Mishriki – General Surgery (Appendectomy, Herniorrhaphy)
- Dr Evan Matshes – Autopsy Sessions

### Additional Contributors

- Dr Mohammad Arshad & Neurosurgery Residents – Neurosurgery
- Alex Bello, Anatomy Lab Manager



## CUSM Celebrates Match Day and Graduation for the MD Class of 2025

CUSM proudly celebrated the Match Day and graduation of the MD Class of 2025. This year, 26 graduates will continue their medical training at CUSM partner institutions, including Riverside Community Hospital, Riverside University Health System, Eisenhower Medical Center, and Arrowhead Regional Medical Center—CUSM's primary teaching partner.

These clinical partners play a vital role in supporting medical education by offering core clerkship experiences, electives and research opportunities throughout. Many of their physicians also serve as faculty, directly contributing to the academic and professional growth of CUSM students.

If you are interested in participating in mentoring and advising as our next cohort prepares to submit residency applications, please contact Dr Maegen Dupper ([Maegen.Dupper@cusm.edu](mailto:Maegen.Dupper@cusm.edu)) and Dr Vy Han ([Vy.Han@cusm.edu](mailto:Vy.Han@cusm.edu)).





CUSM faculty and board members, along with the graduating class of 2025, at the Riverside Convention Center.



CUSM faculty and M4 students at Match Day, joined by Mr. Andrew Goldfrach, Chief Executive Officer at ARMC.

## Office of Accreditation and Continuous Quality Improvement Updates

As CUSM advances toward full accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the Office of Accreditation and Continuous Quality Improvement (OACQI) is pleased to share our most recent progress update.

### Submission of the Survey Package Completed

OACQI is proud to announce that CUSM has successfully submitted the survey package, including the Data Collection Instrument (DCI), DCI Appendix, Institutional Self-Study Summary Report, and the Independent Student Analysis (ISA) to the LCME on Friday, June 6, 2025. This major milestone represents the culmination of extensive institutional self-study, collaboration, and dedication from our faculty, staff, students, and leadership. We extend our sincere thanks to

everyone who contributed their time, expertise, and insight throughout this rigorous process.

### Next Steps in the Accreditation Process

With the submission behind us, we now shift our focus to final preparations for the Mock Visit, scheduled for August 18–20, 2025. This internal preparation will allow us to test our readiness and make final refinements ahead of the official LCME Full Survey Visit on September 15–17, 2025.

### Looking Ahead

The self-study process has already reinforced the strength of our programs, clarified our policies, and enhanced our operational effectiveness. As we move forward, we are confident it will further enrich the CUSM learning environment. Our commitment to upholding LCME standards remains unwavering, as does our shared dedication to providing an exceptional medical education.

On February 10-12, 2026, the LCME will hold a meeting to review CUSM's accreditation submission package.

### Thank You

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing engagement from the CUSM community. Your continued support is essential as we enter the final phase of our accreditation journey.

If you have any questions or would like to become more involved, please contact us at [accreditation@cusm.edu](mailto:accreditation@cusm.edu).



## Faculty Recognition

### Spring Faculty Celebration Event



On Wednesday, May 7, the Faculty Affairs Office held its second annual Spring Faculty Celebration Event. The luncheon featured the presentation of the 2025 Teaching Excellence Awards, selected by the MBS graduating class of 2025, the MD Student Assembly, and CUSM



faculty members to honor outstanding contributions to education.

In addition, the event recognized faculty promotions, honored recipients of the Committee Chair Awards, and celebrated individuals who participated in the Teaching and Learning Academy, making it a meaningful and memorable occasion for the entire faculty community.

### **Student Nominated Awards**

***The Robert and Leslie Lewinter-Suskind Award for Excellence in Preclinical Medical Education***  
Joseph Dhahbi, MD, PhD

***The Robert and Leslie Lewinter-Suskind Award for Excellence in Clinical Medical Education***  
Joseph Elsisy, MD

***Excellence in Clinical Skills Teaching Award***  
Amelia Murray, MD

***Research Mentor Award***  
Jun Ling, PhD

***Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award***  
Frank Scali, MD

### **Faculty Nominated Awards**

***Excellence in Pre-Clerkship and Graduate Teaching Award***  
Hina Mohsin, MD

***Excellence in Clerkship Teaching Award***  
Keith Glover, MD

***Excellence in Service Award***  
Webster Wong, MD

***Excellence in Research or Scholarship Award***  
Madhu Varma, MD

***Advancing the CUSM Mission Award***  
Rodney Borger, MD



Webster Wong, Hina Mohsin, Keith Glover, Madhu Varma, Paul Lyons (Dean, School of Medicine), Frank Scali, Amelia Murray, and Jun Ling.



Paul Lyons (Dean, School of Medicine), Joseph Elsisy and Joseph Dhahbi.



Paul Lyons and Rodney Borger.

## Faculty Promotions

We were proud to recognize the promotion of eight faculty members from Assistant to Associate Professor during our May 7th faculty luncheon (see listing and photo below).

Promotion applications are submitted to the Chair of the Department of Medical Education in early December and reviewed by the Rank and Promotion Committee in the Spring.

Faculty interested in pursuing promotion should view the resources on our website <https://www.cusm.edu/faculty/promotion-1.php>.

### Assistant to Associate Professor



**Samy Allam**

**Vy Han**

**Emad Mishriki**

**Lisa Schwartz**

**Shazia Sheikh**

**Nicole Stern**

**Jonathan Townsend**

**Madhu Varma**





Madhu Varma, Paul Lyons, Emad Mishriki, Jonathan Townsend, Lisa Schwartz, Vy Han, and Shazia Sheikh.

## Faculty News

### Courtyard Coffee and Cookies

On April 22, faculty came together for a casual morning of coffee, cookies, and conversation at our Courtyard Coffee and Cookies event. Hosted behind the CUSM building, the gathering provided a warm and welcoming space for informal connections, with a special focus on building community among our female faculty.

Thank you to all who joined us and helped make the event a meaningful and collegial experience.



Vanessa Orozco, Maiyon Park, Christina Rangel, Deborah Wright, Louise Borda, Alexandra Lopez Vera, Ou Zhang, and Linda Connelly.

## Teaching and Learning Academy

Six people completed CUSM's Teaching & Learning Academy Cohort 1 in April run by the Office of Faculty and Professional Development. The program studied the craft, principles, and best practices of teaching across six domains related to teaching and learning. Participants completed applied projects and presented them to the faculty in May. Projects included revisions to PD semester cases, general course materials, and clerkship bootcamp, as well as the design and innovation of an orientation training program for new clinical skills instructional faculty.

Those completing the program include Dr Shawn Koh, Dr Shazia Sheikh, Dr Rubiel Urbina-Lopez, Jasmine Sanchez, Dr Timothy Hantz, and Dr Amelia Murray. Applications for the 2025-2026 TLA will be sent out in June and in the July Event Calendar. All interested CUSM faculty are encouraged to apply.





Jonathan Townsend (Director of Faculty & Professional Development), Rubiel Urbina-Lopez, Shazia Sheikh, Jasmine Sanchez, Amelia Murray, Shawn Koh, and Luke Ridout (Professional Development Coordinator).

## Faculty Assembly


The Faculty Assembly has completed its election process for the 2025–2026 academic year, and the newly elected members of the Standing Committees will officially begin their terms on Monday, July 21, 2025, in alignment with the start of the new MD academic year. Training for all committee members will take place on August 5th at noon, with both in-person and virtual participation options available. More details, including a calendar invitation, will be shared via email as the date approaches.

The Faculty Executive Council (FEC), which serves as the administrative arm of the Faculty Assembly, has also elected new leadership for the upcoming year. Dr Ou Zhang, Associate Professor of Medical Education, will serve as Chair, and Dr David Seigler, Associate Professor and Chair of Behavioral Health, will serve as Vice Chair/Chair-Elect.

Faculty members—especially those new to CUSM—who are interested in learning more about the Faculty Assembly or opportunities to participate in its committees are encouraged to contact Dr Linda Connelly at [Linda.Connelly@cusm.edu](mailto:Linda.Connelly@cusm.edu).

To view the full list of committee memberships, please refer to the organogram linked here:

[\[Organogram Link\]](#)

Faculty Executive Council											
Chair		Ou Zhang (PC-2)									
Vice Chair-Chair-elect		David Seigler (C-2)									
MEMBERS		ALTERNATES				EX OFFICIO					
Vy Han (PC-2), Carol Lee (C-2), Deborah Jacob (PC-1), Rodney Borger (C-2), Hwa-Mei (PC-2)		Ho Le (C-1), Ernest Makin (PC-1), David Seigler (PC-2), Louise Nussbaum (PC-2)				Linda Connelly, Stephanie Dai					
<div> <b>California University</b> of Science and Medicine</div>											
<b>2025-2026 Faculty Standing Committees</b> Updated May 2025   (PC – Pre-Clinical/ChS Skills faculty, C – Clerkship faculty, (A) Years Remaining) <i>Committee starts effective July 1, 2025</i>											
Admissions	Assessment & Evaluation	Bylaws	Curriculum	Pre-Clinical Subcommittee	Clerkship Subcommittee	Diversity & Inclusion	Graduate Admissions	Graduate Curriculum	Rank & Promotion	Research	SASAP
Chair: Michelle Wang (C-2)	Chair: Alexander Manuvelian (C-2)	Chair: Vanessa Orsini (PC-2)	Chair: Vanessa Orsini (PC-2)	Chair: Faith Nussbaum (C-2)	Chair: Faith Nussbaum (C-2)	Chair: Deborah Borger (C-2)	Chair: Deborah Borger (C-2)	Chair: Deborah Borger (C-2)	Chair: Faith Nussbaum (C-2)	Chair: Faith Nussbaum (C-2)	Chair: Faith Nussbaum (C-2)
<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>
Michael Smith (C-2)	Hwa-Mei (PC-2)	Walter Wang (C-2)	Greg Fend (C-2)	Shawn Koh (C-2)	Greg Fend (C-2)	Joseph Chabot (C-2)	Vy Han (C-2)	Linda Connelly (C-2)	Joseph Chabot (C-2)	Linda Connelly (C-2)	Vy Han (C-2)
Julie Rasmussen (C-2)	Shazia Sheikh (C-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Michael Smith (C-2)	Frank Scott (C-2)	Shawn Koh (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	Ou Zhang (C-2)	Ou Zhang (C-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Shazia Sheikh (C-2)	Shazia Sheikh (C-2)
Nancy Stern (PC-2)	Madhu Varma (PC-2)	Sunny Nussbaum (PC-2)	Mohammed Tawfik (C-2)	Ou Zhang (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	Madhu Varma (PC-2)	Madhu Varma (PC-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)
Madhu Varma (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Hwa-Mei (PC-2)	Shazia Sheikh (C-2)	Joseph Chabot (C-2)	Kath Glover (C-2)	Vanessa Orsini (PC-2)	Linda Connelly (C-2)	Joseph Chabot (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)
Hwa-Mei (PC-2)	Anna Sauer (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)
Carl Lee (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)
Robert Connelly (PC-2)	Robert Connelly (PC-2)	Robert Connelly (PC-2)	Robert Connelly (PC-2)	Robert Connelly (PC-2)	Robert Connelly (PC-2)	Robert Connelly (PC-2)	Robert Connelly (PC-2)	Robert Connelly (PC-2)	Robert Connelly (PC-2)	Robert Connelly (PC-2)	Robert Connelly (PC-2)
<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>
David Seigler (C-2)	Ou Zhang (C-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Base Sprack (PC-2)	Shawn Koh (C-2)	Shawn Koh (C-2)	Shawn Koh (C-2)	Shawn Koh (C-2)	Shawn Koh (C-2)	Shawn Koh (C-2)	Shawn Koh (C-2)	Shawn Koh (C-2)
Hwa-Mei (PC-2)	Linda Connelly (C-2)	Lynne Olson (C-2)	Sunny Nussbaum (PC-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)
Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)	Ernest Makin (PC-2)
Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)	Alvin Lopez (PC-2)
David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)	David Seigler (C-2)
Vy Han (PC-2)	Vy Han (PC-2)	Vy Han (PC-2)	Vy Han (PC-2)	Vy Han (PC-2)	Vy Han (PC-2)	Vy Han (PC-2)	Vy Han (PC-2)	Vy Han (PC-2)	Vy Han (PC-2)	Vy Han (PC-2)	Vy Han (PC-2)

## 2024-2025 Faculty Committee Chairs

**Faculty Executive Council**  
Rodney Borger, MD

**Clerkship Subcommittee**  
Elizabeth Morrison-Banks, MD

**Admissions**  
*Alma Salazar, MD*

**Assessment and Evaluation**  
*Davinder Sandhu, MD*

**Bylaws**  
*Webster Wong, MD*

**Curriculum**  
*Daryoush Javidi, MD*

**Pre-Clerkship Subcommittee**  
*Elvin Hernandez, DrPH*

**Diversity and Inclusion**  
*Andres Gonzalez, MD*

**Graduate Admissions**  
*Shazia Sheikh, MD*

**Graduate Curriculum**  
*Jun Ling, PhD*

**Rank and Promotion & Research**  
*Joseph Dhahbi, MD*

**Student Academic Standards and Promotions**  
*Samy Allam, MD*



Paul Lyons, Webster Wong, Jun Ling, Daryoush Javidi, Elizabeth Morrison-Banks, Joseph Dhahbi, Zohray Talib, Elvin Hernandez, Shazia Sheikh, Davinder Sandhu, and Rodney Borger.

## Faculty Spotlights



### Hablamos Vida: Medical Spanish for Student Doctors

We're pleased to announce the release of *Hablamos Vida: Medical Spanish for Student Doctors*, a new textbook authored by Dr Alexandra Lopez Vera to support medical students in strengthening their Spanish language skills and cultural awareness in clinical contexts.

Blending language instruction with real-world medical applications, this resource is designed to improve communication in healthcare settings and help reduce disparities. This deeply rewarding project marks an exciting step toward better preparing future physicians to serve



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

diverse patient populations.

For more information, click [HERE](#).



**Vanessa Orozco, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Medical Education

### Master's in Public Health (MPH)

Congratulations to Dr Vanessa Orozco on earning her Master of Public Health degree from California State University San Marcos!



**Frank Scali, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medical Education

### Master's in Health Professional Education (MHPE)

Congratulations to Dr Frank Scali on earning his Master of Health Professions Education from the University of Saskatchewan!



## Upcoming Events

### Faculty Committee Member Training

**Tuesday, August 5th**  
**12:00 PM-1:00 PM**

This annual orientation, available both online and in person, is designed to prepare faculty for committee service by reviewing expectations, norms, and responsibilities. Participants will gain practical tools and best practices to maximize the value of their committee work in the upcoming year. All faculty serving on committees—regardless of prior experience—are strongly encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided.

An invitation from the Office of Faculty and Professional Development will be shared soon.



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**Stephanie Diaz, MBA**

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

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