Match Day always a family affair to remember

Graduating medical student David Thayer is joined at the podium with his wife and four children as his residency match is announced. After endless hours of intense studying and clinical rotations, soon-to-gradient UC Irvine medical students saw their dreams come into focus on Friday, March 15, when they found out where they’ll start their careers as doctors. Annual Match Day activities take place simultaneously at all U.S. medical schools, involving about 16,000 graduating students. Once again, UC Irvine medical school’s graduating class secured residencies in some of the country’s most competitive programs.

Discover
UC Irvine-led MRSA study shows effective new approaches to stem hospital-borne staph infections

Teach
UC Irvine hosts AAMC conference to highlight advances in technology to improve medical education

Heal
More than 100 UC Irvine Health physicians are among the 2013-14 “Best Doctors in America”
MRSA study slashes deadly infections in sickest hospital patients

A study on antibiotic-resistant bacteria in hospitals led by Dr. Susan Huang (pictured), associate professor of medicine and medical director of epidemiology and infection prevention at UC Irvine Health, shows that using germ-killing soap and ointment on all intensive care unit patients can reduce bloodstream infections by up to 44 percent and significantly reduce the presence of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). Patients who have MRSA present on their bodies are at increased risk of developing a MRSA infection and can spread the germ to other patients. In a study designed to test three MRSA prevention strategies, the researchers found that treating all ICU patients with germ-killing soap and ointment was more effective than strategies that rely on screening patients for MRSA first and then applying prevention strategies only to those who carry the germ. This approach was also effective for preventing infections caused by germs other than MRSA. The study appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine. More: www.ucirvinehealth.org

Sea anemone venom may play a role in preventing obesity

Research led by Dr. George Chandy, professor of physiology & biophysics, has shown that a synthetic sea-anemone venom compound is effective in anti-obesity tests. Treatments in obese mice eating a high-fat, high-sugar diet reduced weight gain, white fat deposits, fatty liver, blood cholesterol and blood sugar. The ShK-186 compound, which was created at UC Irvine, blocks the activities of a protein that promotes inflammation. The study presents the first evidence that the drug candidate – which in March showed positive results in a Phase 1 safety clinical trial – may also work in an anti-obesity capacity. “This is a new twist in a sustained journey of discovery made over the 30 years that charts the course for expeditious translation to humans who suffer from potentially lethal consequences of metabolic syndrome and autoimmune diseases,” Chandy said. More: www.physiology.uci.edu

UC Irvine Health study finds depression alters brain circadian rhythms

UC Irvine Health researchers have helped discover that genes controlling circadian clock rhythms are profoundly altered in the brains of people with severe depression. These clock genes regulate 24-hour circadian rhythms affecting hormonal, body temperature, sleep and behavioral patterns. Depression is a serious disorder with a high risk for suicide affecting approximately one in 10 Americans, according to the Centers for Disease Control, and is ranked as fourth of all diseases by the World Health Organization in terms of lifetime disability. Study findings provide the first evidence of altered circadian gene rhythms in brain tissue of people with depression and suggest a physical basis for many of the symptoms that depressed patients report. The study – which appeared in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences – was led by Dr. William Bunney (pictured), the study’s senior author, and Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry & Human Behavior at UC Irvine. More: www.psychiatry.uci.edu
Second-year medical student Jacob Blickenstaff (pictured) won the Doctors for Global Health video contest for his entry, “Think Global, Act Local.” As the winner, he will be granted the opportunity to travel to a DGH site accompanied by a board member and participate in a video project of the group’s work in the field. The video was shot in three parts. The first part was filmed at a student-run free medical clinic in Valle Redondo, Mexico. The second part was filmed on campus. The third part was filmed on site in Ayacucho, Peru, where Blickenstaff and four of his classmates went last summer on a medical mission. The mission is called the Ayacucho Mission and was organized by the Peruvian American Medical Society. “My inspiration came largely just from the experiences I have been fortunate enough to participate in since beginning medical school at UC Irvine,” Blickenstaff said. “I also have incredible friends and classmates who support my wild inclinations, and they have been along with me in Mexico and Peru and encouraged me to pursue making a video that documents our experiences, so I owe a large part of this video, and the ideas it presents, to my friends.” To see the video, go to: http://bit.ly/UW1eaN

On June 1, 99 UC Irvine medical students participated in commencement ceremony in Aldrich Park, completing their journeys which began with the White Coat Ceremony when they first matriculated. All of these newly minted doctors will start their residency programs this July. The students found out where they will be serving their residencies at a fun-filled Match Day ceremony in March. Once again, UC Irvine medical school graduates joined elite residency programs around the nation, ranging from those at Yale and Johns Hopkins to UCSF and our own at UC Irvine Health. A commencement ceremony highlight was the address by Dr. Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, a Johns Hopkins neurosurgeon, whose story of coming from humble beginnings in Mexicali, Mexico, to becoming one of the nation’s top neurosurgeons inspired all. More: www.meded.uci.edu/commencement/2013

UC Irvine hosts AAMC Western regional conference

More than 400 representatives from Western U.S. medical schools came to UC Irvine for an American Association of Medical Colleges regional conference May 4-7 addressing the latest technologies for medical education. Directors from the School of Medicine’s innovative iMedEd Initiative – which employs iPad-based coursework, medical simulation and portable ultrasound training – shared how this program is revolutionizing the way medicine is being taught. Conference co-chair Dr. Gerald Maguire (pictured) said the conference provided the perfect venue to discuss how medical schools can employ new technological approaches to prepare tomorrow’s physicians today. Additionally, UC Irvine medical school faculty made presentations on the PRIME-LC program and the ongoing collaboration with the University of New England in Australia. More: www.meded.uci.edu

2013 commencement ceremony honors newly minted UC Irvine MDs

‘Think Global, Act Local’ video wins Doctors for Global Health contest

Teach
UC Irvine Health boasts 100-plus ‘Best Doctors in America’

More than 100 UC Irvine Health physicians are among the 2013-14 “Best Doctors in America,” a prestigious list compiled every other year by Best Doctors, Inc. UC Irvine has more physicians and specialties represented than any other medical provider in Orange County. Only five percent of doctors nationally earn this honor. “Our goal is to provide the region with access to the best physicians in the widest range of specialties,” said Terry A. Belmont, CEO of UC Irvine Medical Center. “This list reflects our commitment to high-quality healthcare.” The new list boasts 110 UC Irvine Health physicians in 29 specialties; some individuals are recognized as “Best Doctors” in more than one category. “Each year, the number of ‘Best Doctors’ who are members of UC Irvine Health has increased. This is a tribute to the quality of our departments and our facilities, which continue to attract some of the country’s very best doctors,” said Dr. Ralph V. Clayman, dean of the UC Irvine Health School of Medicine. More: www.ucirvinehealth.org

Goodwin elected president of Society of Interventional Radiology

Interventional radiologist Dr. Scott Goodwin (pictured), the Hasso Brothers Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiological Sciences, assumed office as the 2013–14 president of the Society of Interventional Radiology during the SIR’s 38th Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans. SIR is a national organization of nearly 5,000 doctors, scientists and allied health professionals dedicated to improving health care through minimally invasive treatments. Goodwin, a pioneer of uterine fibroid embolization, a minimally invasive treatment used to help tens of thousands of women avoid hysterectomies, noted that another important priority during his term will include supporting the ongoing development of the dual primary certificate in interventional radiology and diagnostic radiology. This primary certificate confirms the unique interventional radiology skill set, which consists of competency in diagnostic imaging, image-guided procedures and longitudinal patient care, he said. More: www.radiology.uci.edu

UC Irvine burn center, foundation team up to aid acid attack victim

UC Irvine Health and Circle of Care Burn Foundation have worked together to heal the victim of an acid attack who suffered third degree burns over 40 percent of her body. The patient is known as Jane Doe, and she was the victim of domestic violence in Mexico. Dr. Victor Joe, director of UC Irvine Regional Burn Center, is overseeing her treatment, which includes multiple skin grafts and other surgeries to address complications of the major burns. “Jane’s wounds cover her chest and much of her back but she seems pretty resilient,” Joe said. Treatment in the hospital took approximately one month, and is being followed by regular outpatient visits and therapy lasting up to a year. Medical expenses will be covered thanks to a special relationship between Circle of Care Burn Foundation and UC Irvine Medical Center. She is the first patient to benefit from an arrangement that both organizations hope will heal many others. UC Irvine Health Regional Burn Center is Orange County’s only American Burn Association and American College of Surgeons-verified burn center. It has been a national leader in providing burn care since 1967. More: www.ucirvinehealth.org
Dean Ralph V. Clayman and honorees Bill and Nancy Thompson (pictured) were among the more than 530 people gathered at the 2013 UC Irvine Health School of Medicine Gala, “Creativity & Magic: Discovering Tomorrow’s Medicine Today,” to celebrate the work of community and philanthropic leaders, faculty and students who are shaping the future of healthcare. The gala, which was held April 6, raised more than $1.2 million to benefit innovative education programs and groundbreaking medical research at UC Irvine Health School of Medicine.

Visionary philanthropists Bill and Nancy Thompson were honored for their leadership role in a multidisciplinary collaboration that promises to change how autism is diagnosed and treated. The Thompsons’ unique public-private partnership with the Orange County Children and Families Commission established The Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders of Southern California at UC Irvine.

The gala was co-chaired by Jim and Kelly Mazzo and Tom and Elizabeth Tierney. The evening concluded with dancing to the music of JT & California Dreamin’ – the band formed by its drummer, John Tu, co-founder of Kingston Technology and a UC Irvine benefactor.
This spring, we are proudly rolling out our new brand for UC Irvine Health, which will be instrumental in forging an extraordinary future for both our medical school and medical center.

From my view, branding is how the world perceives us on an emotional level – it is, if you will, our personality that arises from our fundamental character and charter. As such, our mission is, and always will be: Discover. Teach. Heal. That is what we do every day, that is what we have always done, and that is what we will always be doing at UC Irvine Health, the only academic health center in Orange County. Our vision to become among the best academic health centers similarly remains intact. Simply stated, at UC Irvine Health we are making world-class care accessible – that is our brand. That’s what we do. It’s the implicit promise we make to all who seek our expertise.

As I am fond of saying and truly believe, at UC Irvine Health we don’t have patients, we don’t have customers. Instead, we have family, and for family we always go the extra mile. From scheduling an appointment to finding the right physician’s office, from being served a healthy meal to being part of a revolutionary clinical trial, we care deeply about every person who comes into contact with us – to support them in every way, at every step of their journey with us.

We also provide access to groundbreaking innovations. We offer the latest advances from our brilliant researchers and skilled clinician scientists and apply them to real-world practice that makes a difference in the daily lives of our patients.

With that, the three attributes that best define making world-class care accessible are: caring, proactive and devoted.

Caring means we’re genuine and empathetic. We are approachable and easy to talk to in all situations – we seek to understand each person’s needs, fears and hopes. We care deeply and without reservation, and in doing so, world-class care becomes the foundation of everything we do.

Being proactive means we are able to anticipate needs and thereby use our vast knowledge to best serve all with whom we work and for whom we care. We help people understand what they need early on so they can make the smartest decisions.

Lastly, we’re devoted. Our work goes beyond being a job, rather it is a calling. The privilege of caring for another human being, of being empowered with the ability to relieve suffering, anxiety or life-threatening illness, is uplifting and inspirational. We are each aware that the person we are aiding today could be one of us or one of our loved ones tomorrow ... and so we care deeply and we are passionately devoted.

These attributes – caring, proactive and devoted – help guide all of us who represent UC Irvine Health. Together, they should always guide our behavior. That way, every interaction between our community and UC Irvine Health will be consistent and will develop a stronger connection between our ability to make world-class care accessible to the people of Orange County and beyond.

At UC Irvine Health, we drive innovation and fuel cutting-edge research – and most importantly, we make that science relevant and impactful by translating it into state-of-the-art clinical care.

As such, while our focus is on the care of our local community, our impact is oftentimes global. And we all play a role in creating that impact. Each one of us is part of an organization that through proactive, devoted caring is truly changing lives every day. And the stronger our brand of making world-class care accessible, the more lives we will have the opportunity to change, here and around the globe.

With gratitude,

Ralph V. Clayman, MD
Dean, School of Medicine
Professor of Urology
Philanthropic support helps attract best and brightest

During their lifetimes, UC Irvine Health’s medical students will access clinical curriculum on iPads and diagnose musculoskeletal diseases using hand-held ultrasound instruments. They will practice in remote or underserved areas, while collaborating with the best minds through telemedicine. They will restore patient health through minimally invasive surgery. And, if stem cells deliver on their promise, they may even repair spinal cord injuries and administer restorative treatment for Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s or Huntington’s disease. In the course of their careers, they will have unprecedented opportunity to extend and improve the quality of human life.

Each year, UC Irvine Health School of Medicine admits just over 100 students. Our goal is to attract the best students, train them to care for our diverse communities and trust them to care for our own families. The talent we attract is the talent we keep. Our home state leads the country in UC Irvine medical school graduate student retention.

As the cost of medical education continues to rise, the competition among medical schools for highly qualified students is intense, and availability of financial aid is often the determining factor in a student’s choice. Scholarships are essential to attracting the best and brightest students to UC Irvine Health School of Medicine.

Support

There are many ways to support the School of Medicine and its medical students. Contact Teri Hauser, executive director of development, at 949-824-7910 or thauser@uci.edu. More: www.uadv.uci.edu/SchoolofMedicine

Did you know you can reduce your 2013 taxes by making a gift from your IRA to the UC Irvine School of Medicine?

The fiscal cliff law permits individuals who are 70½ to roll over up to $100,000 from their IRA to charity free from federal income tax. Better yet, an IRA rollover gift qualifies for your 2013 required minimum distribution, permitting you to lower your income and taxes for this year while helping our cause.

If you have been considering making a gift to the School of Medicine or wanted to join our 1895 Society, you can redirect unneeded IRA income to the University, helping to further our mission and enjoying valuable tax savings this year.

Call today to learn how you can reduce your 2013 taxes and support the next generation of doctors. Roland Ho, at 949.824.6454
Karen Noblett honored with UC Irvine Lauds and Laurels award

Dr. Karen Noblett was honored as the UC Irvine Health School of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus at the 43rd Annual Lauds and Laurels Awards ceremony, held May 16 in the UC Irvine Student Center.

Dr. Noblett has been an integral member of the UC Irvine Health School of Medicine family since she began medical school here in 1987. Dr. Noblett received her medical degree from UC Irvine School of Medicine in 1991, then continued her education at UC Irvine as an obstetrics and gynecology resident. Following residency, Dr. Noblett completed a urogynecology and pelvic reconstructive surgery fellowship, also at UC Irvine.

Deeply committed to serving and supporting her alma mater, Dr. Noblett currently serves as a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UC Irvine and as division director for urogynecology. She is also the director of UC Irvine’s fellowship in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Noblett is actively involved at UC Irvine Health Douglas Hospital, where she currently serves as medical staff president. Prior medical staff leadership posts include credentials committee chair, secretary/treasurer and vice president of the medical staff.

Dr. Noblett is well respected throughout the medical community. She has been a member of the American Urogynecologic Society since 1995 and currently serves on the board of directors. She is also a past president of the Orange County OB/GYN Society.

Dr. Noblett’s dedication to teaching has earned her multiple awards from medical students and residents including the UC Irvine Health School of Medicine Excellence in Teaching Award in 2010. Dr. Noblett’s numerous professional appointments, awards, leadership roles, community service and teaching accolades greatly inspire students, faculty and her fellow alumni.

Dr. Noblett’s commitment to the mission of her alma mater and the important clinical and research work happening here is demonstrated by her philanthropic support and active involvement in fundraising for vital programs. She truly is a distinguished alumnus, one who has devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy to making UC Irvine Health School of Medicine a first-rate institution.

Panel shares secrets to balancing career, personal life

On May 21, the School of Medicine Alumni Chapter and the Office of Medical Education co-sponsored “Women In Medicine: The Agony and the Ecstasy.” The second annual event featured a panel of outstanding female physicians who spoke to our medical students about the personal and professional challenges that may await them as they transition into their medical careers. The panel engaged in a candid and lively discussion, sharing their own experiences balancing a personal and professional life. The students also had an opportunity to discuss these issues one on one with the physicians during the reception.

UC Irvine School of Medicine Alumni Chapter is proud to support events that help develop the next generation of physicians. If you’d like to make a difference to aspiring, eager medical students and are interested in participating in future events, please contact Carley Fox at 949-824-9157.