

Updates in Therapeutics Faculty Bios

Jacinda Abdul-Mutakabbir (JAM)

Dr. Jacinda Abdul-Mutakabbir is currently an Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of California San Diego in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Division of the Black Diaspora and African American Studies. Dr. Abdul-Mutakabbir's research utilizes a two-fold approach to explore the intersection of antibiotic resistance, and health/vaccine equity; with a specific focus on racial differences observed across racially and ethnically minoritized groups. Her research in mitigating antimicrobial resistance has led her to be recognized by the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases as one of their 30 under 30 outstanding young scientists, for their ECCMID 2021 31st annual meeting.

Rabia Atayee

Rabia Atayee, Pharm.D., BCPS, APh, FAAHPM is a Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Associate Dean for Admissions and Recruitment at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Her research and clinical work focus on pain management and palliative care, and she is a Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. A longtime leader in her field, Dr. Atayee has received numerous national honors for both her teaching and her contributions to hospice and palliative pharmacy practice.

Brookie Best

Brookie Best, PharmD, M.A.S. is Dean and Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Pediatrics at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Rady Children's Hospital San Diego. Her research specializes in pediatric and obstetric pharmacokinetics, with a focus on anti-HIV drug therapy in infants, children, pregnant women, and postpartum populations. She has received UC San Diego's Campus-Wide Distinguished Teaching Award and has been recognized as a valedictorian of the National Center for Leadership in Academic Medicine.

Harpreet S. Bhatia

Harpreet S. Bhatia, MD, MAS, FACC is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at UC San Diego School of Medicine and Associate Program Director for the Cardiovascular Diseases Fellowship. His clinical expertise spans preventive cardiology, lipid disorders, lipoprotein(a), and advanced echocardiography. His research focuses on cardiovascular disease prevention, coronary artery calcium scoring, and the role of lipoprotein(a) in atherosclerotic risk, with funding from the National Institutes of Health and publications in leading journals including Circulation, JACC, and JAMA Cardiology.

Victor Chen

Victor Chen, PharmD is an Infectious Diseases Pharmacist Specialist at UC San Diego Health, where his clinical focus is on antimicrobial stewardship and the management of complex infectious diseases. He completed his PharmD at Touro College and trained through a PGY-2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency at the University of Chicago Medicine, bringing expertise in optimizing anti-infective therapy and inpatient ID consult services.

Loriann DeMartini

Loriann DeMartini, PharmD, MPH, BCGP is the Chief Executive Officer of the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP). During her 24-year tenure with the California Department of Public Health, she created the state's first Medication Error Reduction Program for over 400 hospitals, recognized by the Institute for Safe Medication Practice as a national model. She has held leadership roles with CMS and the Institute of Medicine and holds faculty appointments at three California pharmacy schools.

Katrina Derry

Katrina (Katie) Derry, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP is the Director for Acute Care Clinical Pharmacy Programs at University of California Health. Her primary responsibilities include medication use oversight and tracking among the University of California medical centers. Her primary research interests are anticoagulation reversal, pharmacotherapy of liver disease, and sedation and analgesia management in the ICU. She is the Immediate Past President and current Treasurer of the Society of Critical Care Medicine Southern California chapter.

Robert El-Kareh

Robert El-Kareh, MD, MPH is a Professor of Medicine at UC San Diego with a joint appointment in Biomedical Informatics and Hospital Medicine, where he also serves as Associate Program Director for the Clinical Informatics Fellowship. A board-certified internist and hospitalist at UC San Diego Health, his research focuses on the use of health information technology to reduce diagnostic errors, improve medication reconciliation, and optimize clinical decision support. He has over 1,200 citations across 75 publications and is a Course Director for the UCSD Department of Biomedical Informatics NLM Masters Program.

Ashley Feist

Ashley Feist, Pharm.D. is a Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Her research focuses on the clinical application of immunosuppressants and antifungal medications in solid organ transplant recipients, including pharmacokinetics, drug interactions, and adverse effects. She was the founding Chair of the UC-wide Solid Organ Transplant Pharmacist Collaborative Committee and served as director of UC San Diego Health's PGY2 Solid Organ Transplantation Program for nine years.

Maribel Gomez

Maribel Gomez, MA is the Director of the LGBT Resource Center at UC San Diego, where she leads campus-wide efforts to support and advocate for LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff. Her work centers on creating inclusive and affirming environments through education, programming, and community building across the university.

Steven Gray

Steven William Gray, PharmD, J.D. is a faculty member at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, where he teaches pharmacy law and ethics. With over 40 years of pharmacy education and practice experience in California, he is a Past President of both the American Society for Pharmacy Law and the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and served as President of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy. He retired in 2018 as National Pharmacy Professional Affairs Leader for Kaiser Permanente and has been recognized as CSHP Pharmacist of the Year (2015) and a CSHP Lifetime Honorary Member (2018).

Andrew C. Hean

Andrew Hean, PharmD, BCPP, BCPS, APh is a board-certified psychiatric pharmacist and Advanced Practice Pharmacist whose clinical research is conducted in collaboration with UC San Diego Health. His work focuses on psychiatric pharmacotherapy and medication optimization, including research on injectable antipsychotic utilization that was selected as a finalist for the Original Research Award at the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists Annual Meeting (AAPP 2025). He is a recipient of the 2025 ACCP Annual Meeting Travel Award from ACCP's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee.

Nicholas Hogan

Nicholas Hogan, MD is an Assistant Adjunct Professor of Medicine at UC San Diego School of Medicine. His research spans pulmonary and critical care medicine, with published work on eosinophil biology, the effects of e-cigarette vapor on respiratory immune responses, and the management of complex critical illness including ARDS and ECMO-related complications.

Keri Hurley

Keri Hurley-Kim, PharmD, MPH, BCACP is a Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Pharmacy Practice at UC Irvine's School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She practices as an ambulatory care pharmacist at a Federally Qualified Health Center, with clinical and research expertise in immunizations, chronic disease management, HIV, and health equity. She is a Designated Fellow of the California Pharmacists Association and a 2025 Newkirk Faculty Fellow at UC Irvine.

Lisa Kroon

Lisa Kroon, PharmD is a Professor and Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy at the UCSF School of Pharmacy, where she has been a faculty member since 1996. She also serves as Assistant Chief Pharmacy Officer for Clinical Innovation, Education, and Research at UCSF Health, overseeing ambulatory pharmacy practice. A Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist and tobacco cessation expert, she was named CSHP Pharmacist of the Year in 2019 and is a Fellow of the American Pharmacists Association.

Jennifer Le

Jennifer Le, PharmD, MAS, FIDSA, FCCP, FCSHP is a Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Director of the Center on International Pharmacy Education and Research (CIPER). Her research focuses on the safe and effective use of antibiotics and antifungal agents in pediatric patients, with expertise in pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic modeling. She is a fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, and the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and served on the FDA's Antimicrobial Drugs Advisory Committee from 2018 to 2022.

Kelly C. Lee

Kelly C. Lee, Pharm.D., M.A.S., BCPP is a Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Associate Dean for Assessment and Accreditation at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. A Board-Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist, she established the first pharmacist-run outpatient psychiatric clinic at UC San Diego and directs the PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency. Her research spans psychotropic medication utilization, innovative psychiatric practice models, and burnout and suicide prevention among healthcare trainees and professionals.

Michelle Lew

Michelle Lew, PharmD, BCPS, BCCP is a Cardiology Clinical Pharmacy Specialist and Cardiology PGY2 Residency Program Director at Scripps Memorial Hospital-La Jolla. As a UC San Diego PharmD graduate, she has nearly a decade of clinical experience in cardiology pharmacy and is board certified in both pharmacotherapy and cardiology by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

Janine Martino

Janine Martino, PharmD, BCOP, APh is a Pharmacist Specialist in Blood and Marrow Transplant and Immune-effector Cell therapy at UC San Diego Health. Her research focuses on optimizing oncology care delivery, including a notable study evaluating over 1,200 inpatient chemotherapy admissions that identified more than \$7 million in potentially avoidable hospital

costs due to transportation and housing barriers — findings that led to pharmacist-led utilization reviews and a donor-sponsored housing initiative at UCSD.

Christina L. Mnatzaganian

Christina Mnatzaganian, PharmD, BCACP, APh is a Health Sciences Clinical Professor and Associate Dean for Experiential Education at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, where she also practices at the UC San Diego Health Diabetes Management and Education Clinic. Her research focuses on pharmacy education, student wellness, and diabetes care. A multiple-time Faculty of the Year recipient, she earned the UC San Diego Barbara and Paul Saltman Campus Distinguished Teaching Award and the AACP Teacher of the Year Recognition in 2023.

Kyle Molina

Kyle Molina, PharmD is an Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacist at Scripps Health in San Diego, specializing in the management and optimization of anti-infective therapy across complex infectious disease cases. His research and consulting work spans antimicrobial pharmacotherapy, with active grant support and advisory roles with Cormedix Therapeutics, Merck, and Innoviva Specialty Therapeutics.

Nimish Patel

Nimish Patel, Pharm.D., Ph.D., AAHIVP is a Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. His research focuses on the real-world safety and effectiveness of antimicrobial agents, drug-drug interaction outcomes in HIV and hepatitis C patients, and pharmaco-economic strategies for emerging anti-infective therapies. His clinical expertise spans infectious diseases, antimicrobial stewardship, HIV, and hepatitis C management.

Heather Patton

Heather Patton, MD is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at UC San Diego School of Medicine, specializing in hepatology with a focus on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, cirrhosis, and liver transplantation. She is an active contributor to American Gastroenterological Association clinical practice guidelines and AASLD Practice Guidance, with over 50 peer-reviewed publications widely cited across the field of liver disease.

Ila M. Saunders

Ila M. Saunders, Pharm.D., BCOP, DipACLM, FHOPA is a Health Sciences Clinical Professor at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and a board-certified oncology pharmacist at the Blood and Marrow Transplant clinics at Moores Cancer Center. Her research examines real-world outcomes of anti-cancer therapies and supportive

care for patients with blood cancers, as well as survivorship after stem cell transplantation. She is a Fellow of the Hematology Oncology Pharmacy Association and a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Pharmacy SIG.

Gabriel Wardi

Gabriel Wardi, MD, MPH, FACEP is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Medicine at UC San Diego School of Medicine and founding Chief of the Division of Emergency Critical Care. As Medical Director of Hospital Sepsis at UC San Diego since 2018, he has helped drive a 40% reduction in sepsis mortality. His NIH and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation-funded research focuses on machine learning approaches to early identification and personalized management of sepsis and septic shock.

Jonathan Watanabe

Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD is a Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, with expertise in geriatric pharmacotherapy, polypharmacy, and medication safety in older and underserved populations. His research has informed clinical guidelines and health policy on safe prescribing practices across diverse patient populations.

Andrew Willeford

Andrew Willeford, PharmD, PhD, BCCP is a Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. His research focuses on improving medication implementation for cardiomyopathies, including heart failure with reduced ejection fraction and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. He has been instrumental in establishing a pharmacist-led virtual titration clinic for heart failure patients and developing best-practice models for the use of cardiac myosin inhibitors.

Tyler Woodell

Tyler Woodell, MD is a Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension at UC San Diego School of Medicine, where he also serves as Associate Program Director for both the Nephrology Fellowship and the Internal Medicine Residency. His clinical expertise and research focus on chronic kidney disease, glomerular disease, and kidney disease risk estimation across diverse patient populations.

Sheryl Wu

Sheryl Wu, PharmD is a Pharmacist at UC San Diego Health. As a UCSF pharmacy graduate, she completed her PGY1 Acute Care Residency at UC San Diego and has been a member of the UCSD Health pharmacy team since 2006.

Geneen T. Gin

Geneen T. Gin, DO is a Board-Certified Family Medicine Physician at UC San Diego Health, where she provides comprehensive primary care across multiple UCSD Health locations. Her clinical expertise includes prenatal and newborn care, women's health, and the management of chronic conditions including diabetes and hypertension.

Niamh Higgins

Niamh Higgins, PharmD, MSc, AAHIVP is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Her research focuses on the impact of opioid exposure on quality of life at end of life, compassion-based training interventions, and the use of wearable technology to assess mindfulness-based outcomes. She is a member of the Last Gift research team, a tissue donation initiative that partners with individuals living with HIV facing life-shortening illnesses.

Douglas Humber

Doug Humber, Pharm.D. is a Health Sciences Clinical Professor at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and a faculty preceptor at UC San Diego's Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center. His research interests include novel antiplatelet therapies, management of acute coronary syndromes, antithrombotic agents, and the prevention and treatment of venous thromboembolism. He has over 20 years of clinical experience with a focus in cardiology, anticoagulation, and critical care.

Nathan Painter

Nathan Painter, Pharm.D., CDCES, FADCES, FCCP is a Health Sciences Clinical Professor at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist. His research examines the impact of pharmacist interventions in managing diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and prescription drug misuse. He co-directs clinical pharmacy services at UCSD Family Medicine Clinics and is a Fellow of both the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists.

Aryana Sepassi

Aryana Sepassi, PharmD, MAS is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. As a health economist and outcomes scientist, her research focuses on identifying socioeconomic and policy-driven

barriers to healthcare access for immigrants and other disadvantaged populations in the United States. She is a 2024 National Cancer Institute Loan Repayment Program awardee for her work on access to oral anticancer medications among racial and ethnic minority populations.

Lesley Wilkinson

Lesley Wilkinson, MD is a Family Medicine Physician at UC San Diego Health with clinical expertise in comprehensive primary care and women's health, including female pelvic conditions. She has co-authored published research on polycystic ovary syndrome, abnormal uterine bleeding, and genitourinary syndrome of menopause.

Brittany A. Wright

Brittany Wright, PharmD, BCACP is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Her clinical and research focus centers on cystic fibrosis, asthma, rare lung disease, and medication access within pulmonology care. She has developed pharmacist-led clinical services across pediatric and adult pulmonology settings and is actively involved in the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's education, access, and research initiatives.