

RESURG

Research Experience in SURGery



MISSION STATEMENT

Our vision is to promote, develop, and train students to become competent research professionals, while mentoring them in their professional and educational goals.

CURRENT PROJECTS

The Role of GAS6/AXL Expression in Malignant Melanoma and GI Cancers

Research Classification: Prospective Observational **Principal Investigator:** Amanda Kirane, MD & Sepideh Gholami, MD (co-PI)

Research Assistants: Kritika Sharma (Lead) **Anticipated Enrollment #:** 200

The goal of this study is to assess the expression of the protein Ax1 as a clinical correlate of prognosis and response to therapy in malignant melanoma. We also aim to evaluate another protein, Gas6, as a serum marker of disease stage and response to therapy in multiple organ tumors, including gastrointestinal tumors. This study aims to assess the expression of these two proteins as serum biomarkers that reliably predict response to immunologic therapies in patients with melanoma. We hope to use the results of this study as a basis for future therapeutics and as a potential biomarker of response to immunotherapies.

Improving Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Rates in an Open Health Care System

Research Classification: Retrospective **Principal Investigator:** Matthew Mell, MD

Research Assistants: Angela Aguirre (Lead), Naomi Cinque, Bryan Kuo **Anticipated Enrollment #:** 400

The aim of this study is increase the rate of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening through electronic medical record (EMR) query as a quality improvement program for patients at UC Davis Medical Center, an open medical system, in accordance with U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines and federal law (H.R. 827) Screen for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms Very Effectively (SAAAVE) Act to decrease AAA-related mortality.

Irrigated Radio Frequency Ablation to Terminate Non-Paroxysmal Fibrillation

Research Classification: Prospective Clinical Trial **Principal Investigator:** Bob Kiaii, MD

Research Assistants: Angela Aguirre, Andrea Sommer, Ryan Nguyen **Anticipated Enrollment #:** 12

The aim of the study is to expand the use of the Cardioblade Surgical Ablation devices to treat non-paroxysmal atrial fibrillation. Surgical ablation is a regularly used, non-experimental heart surgery technique that creates lines of scars on the atria, but the use of this specific device for this specific atrial fibrillation is experimental.

HOW IS RESURG CURRENTLY DOING?

Physicians RESURG is Currently Assisting: 16

RESURG RAs Assisting on Research Studies: 18

Research Studies RESURG is Assisting on: 24

Divisions RESURG Currently Supports: Vascular, Oncology, Pediatrics, Plastics, Trauma, Cardiothoracic, and Foregut, Metabolic and General Surgery

HAVE A STUDY YOU NEED HELP WITH?

Request Assistance [HERE](#). To learn more about our program visit our website [HERE](#).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS!



ASHLEY TRUONG

“I learned the value of research in the medical field through RESURG. I got the opportunity to receive training regarding the research process including getting IRB approval, consenting patients, and completing the data entry process. I’m able to learn from amazing doctors and staff at UCDCMC and help contribute to their research projects. Through the mentor-mentee program, my mentor was someone who I could always turn to for advice and support.”



KEVIN LY

“I have only been in RESURG since April of this year, but RESRUG has already given me more than I ever could’ve thought. I’ve been blessed to be able to work with so many amazing doctors and individuals and I will be forever grateful. RESURG has helped me grow and work on myself more than I ever have before and I can’t wait to see what I will accomplish with this program in the future. The sky’s the limit.”



AVNI SURI

“My RESURG experience has not only equipped me with the research knowledge necessary to be successful in a job with UCDCMC, but has also taught me professionalism skills, leadership expertise, and the value of teamwork. I am so grateful to work alongside my driven and intelligent peers. This whole experience has made me ready for life post-graduation!”

GOODBYE LAURA!



Laura Beth Jones, one of the establishers of RESURG, has moved on from working as a clinical research coordinator in the Dept. of Surgery and RESURG as she has taken a job with the Institutional Review Board (IRB). We are sad to say goodbye but wish Laura the best in her new direction!

*“ I can truly say that developing and implementing RESURG to date has been the best thing I have done in my research career thus far. Mentoring college students and recent graduates in research and medicine is not just an opportunity for me to pass on knowledge I have learned but also an opportunity to connect young people to other amazing professionals who have unique experiences and knowledge to share. Thank you Research Assistants for allowing me an opportunity to work with you because you have also taught me how to be a better a teacher.” - **Laura Beth Jones***

WELCOME FALL CLASS 2020



“During my first quarter with RESURG, I have learned a lot about the importance of collecting and handling data ethically through informed consent, the role the IRB plays in clinical research, how to create a protocol, and how to collect data and transfer it into a confidential database. Over the last few weeks, I have gained direct experience with data collection from patient charts and the transfer of this data into a database by working with my PI on a study known as Incidental Findings in Abdominal CTs. It has been an amazing learning experience and I cannot wait to continue to grow as a researcher!”

Amanda Aquilio, Research Assistant

“In my first quarter with RESURG, I’ve had my first research experiences and learned to cope with the diligence and thoroughness that research often requires to ensure complete and accurate data collection while complying with various rules and regulations.”

Rafael Ricon, Research Assistant



“My first quarter with RESURG has been a great learning experience and opportunity for personal growth. In addition to exploring and getting involved with clinical research, I have also learned to better manage my time and work more efficiently.”

Bryan Kuo, Data Specialist

“In my first quarter, I have learned so much about clinical research and the proper measures that are taken to ensure the safety of the participants and to ensure accurate results. With the guidance from my mentor and other RESURG members, I have also learned important organization skills and valuable communication skills when working with a team of health professionals.”

Naomi Cinque, Vascular Research Assistant



“This quarter has been a whole new world! I’m currently working to set up a new clinical trial, learning the ins and outs of how research gets started, and I’ve even gotten to start data entry and patient screening!”

Ryan Nguyen, Vascular Research Assistant