

UCSF Fresno celebrates 40 years

By BoNhia
Lee

UCSF Fresno pediatric faculty member Dr. Christian Faulkenberry-Miranda on the residency program at the Deran Koligian Ambulatory Care Center. Video by John Walker THEFRESNOBEE

- UCSF Fresno timeline

1975: UCSF School of Medicine inaugurates the Central San Joaquin Valley Medical Education program in Fresno. Dr. David Werdegard is associate dean (1975-1981).

1979: Groundbreaking at Veterans Affairs Medical Center for UCSF Fresno. Opens in 1981.

1980: Affiliates with partners — Selma Community Health Center, Fresno Community Hospital and Medical Center, Sierra Hospital, St. Agnes Medical Center, Valley Children's Hospital, Hanford Community Hospital, Sacred Heart Hospital, Kaweah Delta District Hospital and Kings View Center.

1981: Dr. Howard Corbus is associate dean (1981-89).

1986: Creates Summer Biomedical Internship Program for high school students.

1989: Alzheimer's Center opens. Dr. David F. Altman is associate dean (1989-92).

1992: Dr. H. John Blossom is associate dean (1992-99).

1993: Bruce Bronzan is associate dean, administration and development (1993-97).

1999: Dr. Deborah C. Stewart is associate dean (1999-2002). UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research establishes the Sunnyside High School Doctors Academy.

2001: UC Board of Regents approves construction of \$26 million state-of-the-art center for UCSF Fresno in downtown Fresno. Pharmacy education program starts.

2002: Construction begins on UCSF Fresno Center for Medical Education & Research. Dr. Joan L. Voris is associate dean (2002-15). Dr. Michael W. Peterson is the first endowed chair of medicine. UCSF Fresno named as the only California medical education program in a nationwide model study by the American Association of Medical Colleges

2003: Peterson becomes the first faculty member inducted into the Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators of the UCSF School of Medicine. Sunnyside High School Doctors Academy celebrates first graduating class.

2005: UCSF Fresno Center for Medical Education & Research opens at 155 N. Fresno St., consolidating faculty and staff under one roof for the first time. The Surgeon General of the United States, Richard Carmona, attends the grand opening. Dr. Mouatou Mouanoutoua becomes first Hmong physician to join the faculty.

2007: Two internal medicine fellowships in cardiology and pulmonary medicine are introduced. Doctors Academy programs begin at Caruthers and Selma high schools.

2008: UCSF Fresno hosts National Library of Medicine's "Changing the Face of Medicine" traveling exhibition,

which features two Fresno faculty members. New fellowships introduced in infectious disease and wilderness medicine.

2009: Dr. Steven Parks, longtime chief of surgery and program director of the surgery residency, is recognized with an endowed chair named in his honor. Fellowship in gastroenterology begins.

2010: Longitudinal Integrated Fresno Experience (LIFE) program begins. Fellowships in acute-care surgery and psychosomatic medicine and residency in orthopaedic surgery begin. Dermatology added to internal medicine department. Deran Koligian Ambulatory Care Center opens. UCSF mourns the loss of Parks, longtime chief of surgery.

2011: UCSF Fresno, UC Merced and UC Davis School of Medicine begin training the first class of students in the UC Merced San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education.

2012: Dr. James W. Davis appointed the Steven N. Parks Endowed Chair. Fresno-Madera Medical Society honors Dr. Joan L. Voris.

2013: UCSF Fresno Clinical Research Center opens. New fellowships announced in maternal child health and medical education. First Hmong psychiatrist, Dr. Michael Thao, graduates. First class of students in San Joaquin Valley PRIME begin clinical training.

2014: Fellowships begin in sleep medicine and community pediatrics. UCSF Fresno hosts the first Reaching Out to Aspiring Doctors for the San Joaquin Valley premedical conference for Fresno State, UC Merced and Fresno Pacific University students. UC President Janet Napolitano and other UC leaders visit. UCSF Fresno Alzheimer's & Memory Center celebrates 25th anniversary. The only female cardiologist between Modesto and Bakersfield, Teresa Daniele, joins UCSF Fresno as an assistant clinical professor.

2015: Dr. Joan L. Voris retires. Dr. Michael Peterson, chief of medicine, named interim associate dean. First students in the San Joaquin Valley PRIME participate in Match Day, where graduating medical students learn where they will be spending the next three to five years conducting residency training. UCSF Fresno celebrates 40th anniversary

- *UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program trains doctor residents by placing them in clinics and hospitals where they work with patients and learn from UCSF faculty members.*
- *The program has trained 3,000 doctors in 40 years and a third choose to remain and practice in the San Joaquin Valley.*
- *Currently, 250 residents train in eight different specialties such as emergency medicine, family and community medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics. Fifty fellows, or doctors who choose to extend their training, are in 17 subspecialties.*

When the San Joaquin Valley was hurting for doctors four decades ago, a unique medical education campus was created in Fresno to bridge the gap.

Now, one-third of the physicians trained through the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program remain in the Valley after graduation, helping to ease the region's long battle with a doctor shortage and the need to increase training for existing physicians.

"In my residency class, over half of us stayed here," said Fresno pediatrician Christian Faulkenberry-Miranda a Fresno native who graduated from the program in 2007. "We have a higher physician shortage than any other area, and without the (UCSF) program here that would be higher. People don't realize how important that has been for the

medical care of people here.”

UCSF Fresno — a regional campus of the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine — is celebrating 40 years of training doctors. A gala and fundraiser, “Valley Visions,” was held Saturday night at the Fresno Convention Center in downtown Fresno to commemorate the milestone.

The medical program was created in 1975 in response to a need for more doctors and training in the Valley. A medical school was desired, but it was decided that a medical training program, overseen by the University of California, should be tested first, said Dr. Joan Voris, who retired as associate dean this year.

“At the time, UC Davis was a young campus and wasn’t established enough to take on a distanced program,” Voris said. “UCSF was the next closest program, so it was assigned by the office of the president to be part of UCSF.”

Across the United States, a number of regional campuses have been created to diversify training for students, Voris said, but in California the UCSF program is unique.

In Riverside and Berkeley, regional campuses provide first- and second-year medical students with training, then students finish up their studies at UCLA or UCSF, Voris said. In Fresno, the program provides clinical training to third- and fourth-year students and residents.

UCSF Fresno has trained 3,000 doctors since 1975. That’s now 600 a year, taught by a core faculty that has grown from one to 230, officials say.

Currently, there are 250 residents training in eight different specialties such as emergency medicine, family and community medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics, said Dr. Michael Peterson, interim associate dean.

Fifty fellows, or doctors who choose to extend their training, are in 17 subspecialties such as cardiology, gastroenterology and infectious diseases, he said. The doctors train in three major local hospitals: Community Regional Medical Center, the Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center Fresno and Valley Children’s Hospital.

Among the program’s accomplishments is establishing the first emergency medicine residency program in 1979, Peterson said. “We currently have the busiest level one trauma center in California staffed entirely by our faculty with residents and fellows,” he said.

Expanding health care specialties, such as the neurological services, also has helped the community, he said. Previously, people had to leave Fresno if they developed brain tumors.

“We now have those facilities so people don’t have to leave,” Peterson said.

Pediatrician and faculty member Serena Yang said teaching techniques also have changed over the years. Residents are not just trained in clinics and hospitals but also are partnering with community organizations and school districts to do things like keep kids healthy or find out why they are not, she said.

“By the time they start seeing patients, they learn about how the heart works, how the lung works and how the kidney works, but how do we teach them about how people behave and how they think,” Yang said. “It’s more than just giving a prescription.”

Voris, the retired associate dean, hopes the program will work to strengthen research and advocacy opportunities in the future. She said the program’s top two accomplishments are attracting and keeping doctors and providing clinical care for underserved patients in Fresno.

Faulkenberry-Miranda, the pediatrician, works and teaches in downtown Fresno. She joined the UCSF faculty after graduation.

“I want to take care of the patient population we have in the downtown area,” Faulkenberry-Miranda said. “They are

very thankful for the care they receive and appreciative. It makes going to work a lot of fun and it allows me to teach the residents.”

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