The Department of Surgery at UCSF

UCSF University of California, San Francisco

Photography by Elisabeth Fall

Letter from the Chair:

Welcome to the UC San Francisco (UCSF) Department of Surgery! From our exceptional trauma surgeons who treat the most critically injured patients, to our internationally recognized surgeons specializing in everything from organ transplantation to cancer and fetal interventions, our faculty includes leaders in every area of surgery. We care for patients at UCSF Medical Center at Parnassus and at Mount Zion, San Francisco General Hospital, the San Francisco VA Medical Center, and Alameda County Medical Center in Oakland.

Our Department includes seven divisions: Adult Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Transplant Surgery, and Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. Our residents rotate through UCSF Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, and California Pacific Medical Center.

Our faculty members are brilliant surgeons and experts in the full range of procedures to treat and cure disease. In addition to offering extraordinary care to patients before, during and after surgery, they also conduct pioneering research to discover the secrets of diseases such as cancer and diabetes. What truly sets them apart is their passion for discovery and their commitment to placing patients at the center of care.

I hope you will enjoy learning more about the depth and breadth of our Department, and some of the initiatives led by our incredible faculty. Thank you for your interest in the UCSF Department of Surgery.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Ascher, MD, PhD
Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery
Isis Distinguished Professor in Transplantation
Leon Goldman, MD, Distinguished Professor in Surgery

The UCSF Department of Surgery is internationally recognized for its world-class surgeons who provide outstanding, compassionate care to patients. In addition to their excellence in the operating room and the clinic, most of our 83 clinical faculty also conduct groundbreaking research on how to better treat, cure and prevent diseases such as cancer, diabetes and stroke. We also have 19 faculty who are dedicated to full-time research in the laboratory and clinic. All of our faculty are passionate about training the next generation of leaders in surgery, and we offer one of the nation's premier educational programs.

This integration of education, research and clinical care has allowed us to make many pioneering discoveries. Our surgeon-scientists bring their experience from the operating room into the laboratory to develop new treatments, and lead many clinical trials to make these discoveries available to patients — often transforming the standard of care both nationally and internationally. Our surgical residents and fellows are among the country's best and brightest, and bring insightful questions and fresh perspectives to our work. Our Department also draws on the talents of colleagues across UCSF, allowing us to collaborate with world experts on everything from stem cells to bioinformatics.

Some of the highlights of the UCSF Department of Surgery include:

- The *Division of Adult Cardiothoracic Surgery* includes expert surgical teams in several areas:
  - The *Cardiac Surgery Section* performs coronary artery bypass surgery as well as surgery of the aorta, heart valves and many other procedures.
  - The *Heart and Lung Transplant Program* provides a long-term, team approach to patient care, has excellent outcomes, and is a leader in offering dual-organ transplants. The program also offers access to the latest ventricular assist devices (VADs), miniaturized heart pumps which can greatly improve both quality and length of life for patients with advanced heart failure.
  - The *General Thoracic Surgery Section* works closely with medical and radiation oncologists to aggressively treat patients

The UCSF Department of Surgery has pioneered many innovations that have set the standard of care worldwide.

Scot H. Merrick, MD, chief of the Division of Adult Cardiothoracic Surgery

with advanced lung cancer, achieving favorable outcomes even in patients deemed inoperable at other institutions. The team also treats patients with esophageal cancer and mesothelioma, and has a world-renowned research program investigating the genetic basis of thoracic cancers.

- The *Division of General Surgery* encompasses a broad range of surgical specialties and subspecialties, including bariatric, breast care, colorectal, endocrine and gastrointestinal surgery. Faculty have pioneered the development of minimally invasive procedures.
  - Surgeons provide comprehensive care for patients with malignant and benign endocrine tumors (including the thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal glands) and gastrointestinal tumors (including the esophagus, liver, spleen, pancreas, gall bladder and stomach). They also offer bariatric surgery for patients with a medical need for weight loss.
  - The nationally recognized *Carol Franc Buck Breast Care Center* provides state-of-the-art health care services, clinical trials and extensive psychological support to patients with breast cancer or other breast problems.
  - The *Colorectal Surgery Section* provides surgical and nonsurgical care for problems of the colon, rectum and anus, including cancer, colitis, Crohn's disease, constipation and incontinence.

- The *Surgical Hospitalist Program* ensures that a board-certified general surgeon is on call 24 hours a day to evaluate patients.
- The *Trauma Surgery Service* at San Francisco General Hospital — the city's only Level I trauma center — excels in treating patients with injuries, burns, complex wounds, surgical infections and patients requiring surgical critical care.

- The *Division of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery* performs intricate, demanding procedures such as repair of complex heart defects in newborns, infants, children and adolescents. Our faculty includes a world expert in pediatric heart and lung transplantation.
- The *Division of Pediatric Surgery* provides expert care for fetuses, infants, children and adolescents with congenital and acquired conditions. It is a leader in developing minimally invasive approaches to replace more invasive open procedures. The division includes the *Fetal Treatment Center*, the birthplace of fetal surgery, providing state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment of fetal problems that are most effectively addressed before birth.
- The *Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* provides multidisciplinary treatment of complex wounds and craniofacial anomalies such as cleft palate, and performs highly specialized procedures such as toe-to-thumb transfer. By applying cosmetic surgery techniques to produce aesthetically pleasing results, surgeons enhance functionality as well as patients' social well-being. Faculty research includes investigating how future stem cell therapies could prevent deformities and re-stimulate normal development of bone, muscle and skin.

Make an Impact Now. *Plan Ahead.*

Support the UCSF Department of Surgery's innovative research, education and patient care through an outright gift, endowed fund or bequest. Please contact Sarah Krumholz, Director of Development, at (415) 502-1899 or skrumholz@support.ucsf.edu.

To learn more, please visit:
surgery.ucsf.edu
support.ucsf.edu/giving-areas/surgery
makeagift.ucsf.edu/surgery
support.ucsf.edu/trustsandbequests

- The *Division of Transplant Surgery* has performed more than 12,000 kidney, liver, pancreas, islet cell and small bowel transplants since 1964, and has performed more kidney transplants than any other center in the world. Faculty have developed innovative techniques for abdominal organ transplantation, and care for some of the most complex patients while producing superior outcomes. The division also conducts advanced research in areas ranging from reducing risk of graft rejection to developing a cure for diabetes through islet cell transplantation.
- The *Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery* cares for patients with complex cardiovascular problems such as aortic aneurysms, and conducts novel research to improve prevention and treatment of peripheral artery disease and other vascular diseases.

Our faculty relentlessly pursue research questions as they seek to improve patient care — which may lead them to develop better therapeutics, invent new devices or create more effective ways to prevent or treat disease.

Did You Know…

In addition to providing state-of-the-art care to patients, the UCSF Department of Surgery is an incubator of innovation. From pioneering the world's first fetal surgeries, to delving into the intricate puzzle of how cancer develops, to stopping the cycle of violence that re-injures many gunshot victims, our visionary faculty members passionately pursue better ways to help their patients. For example:

- Fetal Treatment Center: Most congenital diseases can now be identified and diagnosed before birth. In some cases, surgical intervention is the only way to allow survival of the fetus. In 1981, a team led by Michael R. Harrison, MD, was the first in the world to perform an open fetal surgery. The Fetal Treatment Center at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital now has more experience with fetal surgery than any other institution in the world.

The center treats a wide range of conditions, including twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome, in which identical twins sharing a placenta develop an imbalance in blood circulation, and congenital cystic adenomatoid malformation, in which abnormal lung tissue replaces one lobe of the lung. Recently, UCSF led a multicenter trial demonstrating that prenatal surgery for spina bifida can provide better outcomes compared to delaying treatment until after birth. The Fetal Treatment Center has also pioneered the use of minimally invasive techniques in fetal surgery, which reduces the risk of preterm labor.

The center, now under the direction of Hanmin Lee, the Michael R. Harrison, MD, Endowed Chair in Fetal Surgery, combines the talents of specialists in pediatric surgery, genetics, obstetrics/perinatology, radiology, nursing, and neonatal medicine. The multidisciplinary team coordinates all aspects of care, from diagnosis to postoperative recovery and long-term follow-up. For more information, visit *fetus.ucsfmedicalcenter.org*.

Hanmin Lee, MD, director of the Fetal Treatment Center

- Carol Franc Buck Breast Care Center: This center, part of the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at Mount Zion, is led by Laura J. Esserman, MD, MBA. It provides innovative treatment, support and prevention services for patients with breast cancer, other breast diseases and general concerns about breast health. Our outstanding team includes breast surgeons, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, gynecologists, pathologists, psychologists, nurses, genetic counselors and nutritionists who work together to provide respectful care to each patient. This interdisciplinary center offers comprehensive care in one location, and allows clinicians and researchers to collaborate in rapidly translating ideas from the laboratory to clinical trials. The center's goal is to improve outcomes for every patient, and to find ways to make treatments less toxic. For more information, visit *ucsfbreastcarecenter.org*.

William Y. Hoffman, MD, (left), chief of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, with colleagues

- D'Vice Squad: Also known as the Pediatric Device Consortium, this multidisciplinary group brings together physicians, engineers, scientists and other specialists to design better medical devices for children. Michael R. Harrison, MD, director emeritus of the Fetal Treatment Center at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, had to invent many of the tools and devices used in fetal surgery himself.

  In 2009, he and UCSF bioengineer Shuvo Roy, PhD, launched the D'Vice Squad, bringing together diverse innovators from around the Bay Area to speed the development of ideas into prototypes and devices. For example, the group engineered the Magnetic Mini-Mover, a device currently in U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clinical trials that uses magnets to correct sunken chest, one of the most common chest wall deformities in children. The team is also working to develop a gel-like adhesive that can be used in fetal surgery to prevent the spread of amniotic fluid between the muscle of the uterine wall and the membrane, drawing on the chemistry that ocean mollusks have developed to adhere to rocks.

  The D'Vice Squad recently received a $1 million grant from the FDA to expand its work. For more information, visit *pediatricdeviceconsortium.org*.

- Thoracic Oncology Program: Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death worldwide. The UCSF Thoracic Oncology Program is dedicated to providing state-of-the-art treatment for patients with lung cancer, mesothelioma, esophageal cancer, sarcoma, and cancer

that has metastasized to the chest, and to finding cures for these deadly diseases. Led by thoracic surgeon David M. Jablons, MD, the Ada Distinguished Professor in Thoracic Oncology and the Nan Tucker McEvoy Distinguished Professor in Thoracic Surgical Oncology, the program's multidisciplinary team works together to care for even the most complex patients whose tumors may have been deemed inoperable at other centers. Through a combination of radiation, chemotherapy and surgery, the team can often remove tumors, resulting in a cure.

Our surgeons draw upon the vast expertise of UCSF to build multidisciplinary teams designed to provide innovative, highly coordinated care to patients.

Photography by San Francisco Chronicle/Mark Costantini

David M. Jablons, MD, program leader of the Thoracic Oncology Program

The Thoracic Oncology Program also has a robust research laboratory with seven principal investigators who are making groundbreaking discoveries about the underlying genetics and biology of lung cancer, mesothelioma and other thoracic malignancies. The lab has developed a tissue bank with tumor and normal tissue from more than 1,000 patients, and is rigorously analyzing the DNA from these samples. By identifying the genetic patterns of disease that are emerging from this huge collection of information, the lab is learning what causes thoracic cancers to develop and proliferate, and where these cancers might be vulnerable. The Thoracic Oncology Program is developing drugs to target these vulnerabilities, and is tailoring these new therapeutics to specific groups of patients whose tumor DNA is most likely to respond to these drugs. The program recently developed a genetic test that accurately predicts which early-stage lung cancer patients are likely to have an aggressive form of the disease, and the team is now studying whether offering chemotherapy to such patients will improve their outcomes.

In addition to partnering with leading researchers across the country, the Thoracic Oncology Program also launched the China Clinical

Peter G. Stock, MD, PhD, surgical director of the Pancreas Transplant Program and the Pediatric Renal Transplant Program, and co-director of the Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplant Program

Trials Consortium, which offers thousands of cancer patients at leading medical centers in China access to the latest therapies, and is advancing the standard of care for patients worldwide. For more information, visit *top.surgery.ucsf.edu*.

- Connie Frank Transplant Center: The UCSF Kidney Transplant Program was established in 1964, and is the most experienced program of its kind in the country, producing outstanding results and innovations in the field of transplantation. The program has performed more than 9,500 kidney transplants since its founding, and is led by John Paul Roberts, MD, chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery and chief of the UCSF Medical Center Transplant Service, and Stephen J. Tomlanovich, MD, medical director of the Kidney Transplant Service.

  In 2010, a generous philanthropic gift enabled the creation of the Connie Frank Transplant Center, which provides pre- and post-transplant care for kidney and pancreas transplant patients and their families. This beautiful, light-filled space features stunning views of the Marin Headlands, the Golden Gate Bridge and downtown San Francisco. Every detail has been chosen to enhance the comfort and care of patients. For the first time, the

entire transplant team of surgeons, kidney specialists, nurses, social workers, financial counselors, nutritionists and other staff are housed in the same location, facilitating communication and collaboration. Patients are able to receive all their care in one place, and the design welcomes patients and encourages family involvement in the healing process through ample visitor space. The center is a model for transplant care, and hosts visitors from transplant programs across the country and internationally who come to observe and learn. For more information, visit *ucsfhealth.org/clinics/kidney_transplant.*

John Paul Roberts, MD, chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery and chief of the UCSF Medical Center Transplant Service

- Ex Vivo Lung Perfusion: Currently, eight out of every 10 donor lungs are declined because they do not meet transplantation criteria. Transplant surgeons in other countries have successfully pioneered the use of ex vivo lung perfusion, which allows them to rehabilitate donor lungs that would have otherwise been discarded. Jasleen Kukreja, MD, MPH, surgical director of the UCSF Lung Transplant Program, is leading efforts to bring this "lung in a box" technology to UCSF.

  With ex vivo lung perfusion, donor lungs are connected to equipment that functions like a heart-lung machine — supplying the lungs with oxygen, removing carbon dioxide, and ventilating the lungs. The transplant team can then administer antibiotics, steroids and other medications to reduce pneumonia, inflammation and swelling in the lungs. The team can also examine the airways of the lung using a bronchoscope, and conduct other tests. After four to six hours of rehabilitative treatments and careful monitoring, transplant surgeons can determine whether the lungs are suitable for transplantation. UCSF is one of the first centers in the country to use ex vivo lung perfusion to discover more about lung biology, and soon plans to use this technology to double the supply of donor lungs at UCSF.

Our faculty members are brilliant surgeons and experts in the full range of procedures to treat and cure disease. Yet what truly sets them apart is their passion for discovery and their commitment to placing patients at the center of care.

- UCSF Center for Bioengineering and Tissue Regeneration: Founded in 2010, this center is a hub of exciting investigations that draw upon the complementary expertise of cell biologists, bioengineers, clinicians, computer scientists and mathematicians — a rapidly evolving field sometimes described as quantitative translational biology. Under the direction of Valerie M. Weaver, PhD, the center has already made promising discoveries about how physical attributes — such as mechanical force or the relative stiffness or elasticity of tissue — can significantly influence everything from the development of cancer to how stem cells differentiate into specific cell types.

  In collaboration with UCSF clinicians and national and international partners, the center is translating these novel findings into clinical applications that could help patients, especially those with cancers of the breast, pancreas and brain. The center's discoveries about the ways that physical tension and force influence stem cell development could make significant contributions to the field of regenerative medicine, with applications as varied as growing new heart tissue to replace heart muscle damaged in a heart attack, or learning how to reverse neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. For more information, visit *weaverlab.surgery.ucsf.edu.*

- Bariatric Surgery Center: UCSF is a leader in caring for patients who may benefit from surgical treatments for obesity. In combination with healthier eating and exercise habits, bariatric surgery can provide significant

Ask Me About Our Research

The UCSF Department of Surgery excels in a broad range of laboratory and clinical research. Interested in learning more? Ask your physician! He or she would be happy to elaborate on the exciting investigations taking place.

The UCSF Center for Bioengineering and Tissue Regeneration is making exciting discoveries about how physical attributes like mechanical force and stiffness can influence the development of cancer and stem cells. Researchers are also starting to translate these findings into clinical applications that could help patients.

benefits for patients, including decreasing or eliminating the need for diabetes or hypertension medications, decreasing the need for a breathing machine to treat sleep apnea, improving arthritis by decreasing the amount of weight on a patient's joints, and improving or resolving other medical conditions. Recent research has shown that bariatric surgery for severe obesity is associated with reduced long-term mortality.

The center is led by Stanley J. Rogers, MD, surgical director of the Bariatric Surgery Program, chief of Minimally Invasive Surgery in the Division of General Surgery, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Rama IX Distinguished Professor of Global Surgery and the Ruth M. Dunn Endowed Chair in Minimally Invasive Surgery. The center offers a full range of procedures, including gastric banding and gastric bypass. UCSF performs these using a "laparoscopic" — or minimally invasive — approach, using small abdominal incisions. The center is also pioneering an incision-free option called transoral gastroplasty, also known as the TOGA procedure. This involves inserting flexible stapling devices through the mouth and down to the stomach, and applying titanium staples to create a more restrictive stomach pouch. The procedure can give patients a feeling of fullness after a small meal, and restricts how quickly food can enter the stomach. For more information, visit *bariatric.surgery.ucsf.edu.*

- Residency Program: The UCSF General Surgery Residency Program is one of the leading educational programs in the country, and trains outstanding young doctors to become excellent practitioners as well

General surgeons Jonathan Carter, MD, (left) and Lawrence Way, MD

as investigators. It is led by Linda M. Reilly, MD, program director, and Ryutaro Hirose, MD, and Lygia Stewart, MD, associate program directors. The residency program cultivates leaders who will have the tools to ask and answer important questions that will shape the future of surgery, medicine and health care. More than 80 percent of residency graduates continue on in fellowship programs, and almost half pursue careers in academic surgery, choosing to become educators in the field themselves.

Residents rotate through six hospitals, giving them a broader exposure to clinical surgery than any program in the country. These include our flagship hospital on the Parnassus campus, Moffitt/Long, a major university research hospital that cares for many patients with complex and rare diseases; San Francisco General Hospital, the city's only Level 1 trauma center; San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center, a referral center for many other regional VA hospitals; UCSF/Mount Zion Hospital, a regional cancer center; San Francisco Kaiser Permanente Hospital, a large HMO; and California Pacific Medical Center, a private practice clinical setting.

Residents also engage in research. They may work in the laboratories of UCSF's exceptional basic science researchers, or can pursue clinical or

translational research. They may also choose to earn an MPH or MBA, or develop expertise in areas such as device development, bioinformatics or global health. The program helps residents pursue their passions, providing the mentorship and tools to become both highly competent surgeons and leaders of innovation. For more information, visit *surgery.ucsf.edu/education--training.*

- Laboratory for Accelerated Vascular Research (LAVR) Vascular diseases, including aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease (PAD), and stroke remain a leading cause of death and disability with increasing global prevalence.

The UCSF Department of Surgery has one of the country's premier residency programs, training some of the most promising young doctors to become the next generation of leaders and innovators.

From left, pediatric surgeons Shinjiro Hirose, MD, and Tippi MacKenzie, MD, with transplant surgeon Ryutaro Hirose, MD

Michael S. Conte, MD, chief of the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

At UCSF, surgeon-scientists and laboratory scientists have established a unique, collaborative research program to accelerate the translation of discoveries to improve the prevention and treatment of vascular diseases. Under the co-direction of Michael S. Conte, MD, the Edwin J. Wylie, MD, Chair in Vascular Surgery, and Rong Wang, PhD, the Mildred V. Strouss Endowed Chair in Vascular Surgery, LAVR scientists have made notable advances with significant potential to improve vascular health.

Wang's team has elucidated critical molecular signals that control the growth and development of blood vessels, fundamental to diseases such as arteriovenous malformations (AVMs), PAD, and others. Conte's group has recently discovered that naturally occurring compounds derived from omega-3 fatty acids (e.g., fish oils) have potent effects to reduce vascular scarring, a common cause of failure after treatments like angioplasty. They also identified the first genetic marker for vein bypass surgery success, and are leading a large multicenter study to identify genomic and other molecular predictors of vascular healing. Other LAVR investigators are studying mechanisms of atherosclerosis plaque progression/regression, conducting first-in-man studies to reduce vascular inflammation following angioplasty or stenting, testing the effects of dietary fish oil supplementation

in PAD, and characterizing the efficacy of minimally invasive treatments for complex aneurysms.

- Wraparound Project: Many patients who are shot, stabbed or assaulted return again to the emergency room with similar injuries. Founded in 2006 by trauma surgeon Rochelle Dicker, MD, the San Francisco General Hospital Wraparound Project is one of the nation's first hospital-based youth violence prevention programs. It seeks to close the revolving door of violent injury by seizing the "teachable moment" that many patients experience in the hospital, when they are ready to make positive changes in their lives.

  Dicker and a team of three culturally competent case managers establish trusting relationships with patients at the bedside and throughout hospitalization. After discharge, the team helps clients connect with the resources they need to stabilize their lives and avoid re-injury. They assist with court advocacy, make home visits, help patients find employment and transfer to safer schools, and access mental health services. They can even arrange for clients to have gang-related tattoos removed, free of charge. The project recently launched the Empowerment Center, a leadership academy designed to help selected Wraparound Project graduates build skills and become agents of positive change in their communities. By helping patients access community risk-reduction resources, the Wraparound Project has reduced re-injury rates from 16 percent to 4 percent. For more information, visit *violenceprevention.surgery.ucsf.edu.*

Rochelle Dicker, MD, founder of the Wraparound Project, with the program's team of case managers

Patient Profile: Dana Corvin and Harris Weinberg
Giving Back to Support New Discoveries

In 2004, Dana Corvin was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer — news that would change her life. While evaluating their options, Corvin and her husband, Harris Weinberg, received a recommendation from a close friend and nurse. At that point, they knew that UCSF would provide the best possible treatment for Corvin's aggressive disease.

Dana Corvin and her husband, Harris Weinberg, both received outstanding care at UCSF. They have become generous supporters of UCSF's research.

Corvin received excellent care from Dr. Robert S. Warren, a leading gastrointestinal cancer surgeon, and Dr. Alan P. Venook, a superb gastrointestinal oncologist, both nationally renowned clinicians who also lead the Gastrointestinal Oncology Research Program at UCSF. Together, they were able to bring Corvin's cancer into remission. Her husband says, "Dana's battle was a long one, and I can't imagine an institution more attentive, more genuine and more competent than UCSF."

Corvin and Weinberg were relieved that their lives were returning to normal. Yet soon after, Weinberg's doctor told him that he had a large mass in his chest. Weinberg was diagnosed with lung cancer — the same disease that had taken his father many years before.

The couple had no question about where they would have the best chance of defeating Weinberg's cancer — it would be at UCSF, under the direction of Dr. David M. Jablons, an outstanding thoracic surgeon and the Nan Tucker McEvoy Distinguished Professor in Thoracic

Surgical Oncology and the Ada Distinguished Professor in Thoracic Oncology, and Dr. Thierry Marie Jahan, a top-notch thoracic oncologist and the Bonnie J. and Anthony Addario Endowed Chair in Thoracic Oncology. They are the founders of the Thoracic Oncology Program, dedicated to patient care and laboratory and clinical research in lung and esophageal cancer, mesothelioma and other thoracic malignancies.

Today, Corvin and Weinberg are in good health, and are profoundly grateful to UCSF. "For both of us, everyone at UCSF worked at developing a personal relationship with us — including the doctors, nurses, receptionists and technicians," says Corvin. "During the most stressful moments, we sensed that they were truly concerned about us, and we received the most incredible care."

Corvin and Weinberg also got to know UCSF at a deep level. They learned not just about UCSF's personalized approach to patients, but also about the innovative research led by some of the same faculty who saw them in clinic or performed their surgeries. This knowledge, combined with their personal experiences, inspired them to make a financial commitment to support research at UCSF.

"I'm so impressed to see the extent to which these incredibly talented clinicians are involved in groundbreaking science," says Corvin. "That's why I'm really enthusiastic in supporting their efforts."

"Dana and Harris have been tremendously generous," says Dr. Warren. "Philanthropic support provides critical seed money for our pioneering investigations, and their gift is bringing us closer to developing a cure for cancer."

Corvin and Weinberg have also committed to UCSF in their estate plans. "The people at UCSF were amazing to both of us," says Corvin. "We were in dire situations, which we hope no one else will ever face — but if they do, UCSF is equipped to help them. For me, there's no question I would not be alive if I hadn't come to UCSF. We can't help but give back. We are so happy to support research that will help patients like us, both now and in the future."

Department Chair

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Lygia Stewart, MD
Clinical Professor of Surgery
Division of General Surgery
Chief of General Surgery, San Francisco VA Medical Center
Associate Director, General Surgery Residency Program

Photos on opposite page: top (from left): General surgeons Tammy T. Chang, MD, PhD, and Madhulika Varma, MD, chief of the Section of Colorectal Surgery; bottom left: Sandy Feng, MD, PhD, director of the Abdominal Transplant Fellowship Program; bottom right: Jasleen Kukreja, MD, MPH, surgical director of the UCSF Lung Transplant Program

Who Will Benefit

The Department of Surgery embodies UCSF's threefold mission of patient care, research and education.

The UCSF Department of Surgery is recognized throughout the world as a leader in the field, and is known for delivering compassionate and innovative care to patients. With the resources of an academic medical center, UCSF provides special services that are often not available elsewhere in the community. Our physicians not only have access to the latest technologies, but are often the ones who develop them.

If you are interested in participating or learning more about any of our research studies, please do not hesitate to contact any of the physicians in the UCSF Department of Surgery.

If you would like to support the UCSF Department of Surgery through an outright gift, endowment or planned gift, please contact Sarah Krumholz, Director of Development, at (415) 502-1899 or skrumholz@support.ucsf.edu to discuss the many options available.

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Cover photo: Nancy L. Ascher, MD, PhD, Chair, UCSF Department of Surgery