

The Center for GEMS is proud to highlight the following women faculty at the Keck School of Medicine.

Several students nominated these faculty because of the positive impact they have had on the students' careers and lives. Please join us in honoring these impressive clinicians and scientists!



Elisabeth Ference, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology

"Dr. Ference was my mentor on a research project where we tested out a negative air pressure mask on ENT patients during various endoscopic procedures. While the research we conducted was relevant and important, the biggest impact from this experience was seeing how Dr. Ference interacted with her patients and hearing how much her patients appreciated her care. Dr. Ference is a role model to me and is a big reason as to why I want to pursue ENT after medical school."

– HARRISON MA, MS2

Rosemary She, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology

"Dr. She is an excellent patient mentor who nurtured my interest in ID/research/pathology."

– ERIN SU, MS3



Victoria K. Cortessis, PhD

Professor of Clinical Population and Public Health Sciences

"As an online graduate student in my final year of pursuing an MPH degree with a concentration in epidemiology-biostatistics, I was lucky to learn about a course titled 'systematic review and meta-analysis'; I absolutely loved this course. I was lucky to have the guidance, mentorship, and be consistently inspired by Dr. Cortessis during this arduous and demanding process. I'm so grateful."

– SAAM MALEKAHMADI

Jennifer Ramos, PA-C

Clinical Instructor of Family Medicine

"Jennifer is the most inspiring teacher I've ever had. Not only does she inspire me to be the best PA I can be, but to be the best person I can be."

– NICOLE MCCANN, PA-S #3



Cara Buchanan, MD (PGY3)

Department of Emergency Medicine

"Dr. Buchanan helped inspire my path to emergency medicine during our time together on my emergency medicine sub-internship rotation. She continuously went above and beyond to not only teach me about the field, but to show me firsthand how to provide exceptional patient care. Her dedication to caring for underserved and justice-involved populations continues to inspire me in my day-to-day work, and she is an extraordinary mentor to me both inside and outside of medicine."

– LEXIE CANTARERO, MS4



Arlene Garingo, MD, MPH

Attending Neonatologist, Associate Professor of Pediatrics

"As my first year ICM mentor, Dr. Garingo was so kind and encouraging to everyone. She led by example in how she interacted with patients, nurses and colleagues. I am now applying into pediatrics and am specifically interested in neonatology which is her subspecialty."

– ELEANOR PATTERSON

Raquel Arias, MD

Clinical Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Associate Dean of Admissions

"Dr. Arias has been my mentor from the very beginning. When I was deciding between medical schools she was the person I relied on for advice and even as the dean of admissions I felt she gave me real life advice in a nonbiased fashion. When I was interested in starting research she led me in the right direction and was more than happy to take me on as a research mentee. She has always made time to meet with me whether it be for support, advice, research information, mentoring, career conversations, etc. She always keeps it real and I know that with her I will always get the honest truth regarding what we are speaking about. She takes the time to get to know students and know what is important to them. She is one of my favorite people and a wonderful mentor and I am so happy she is in my life."

– IVONNE VERDUZCO, MS3



Sandy Zhang-Nunes, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and the Director of Oculo-Facial Plastics Services

"Dr. Zhang-Nunes was the first person who I shadowed in Ophthalmology, when I was still exploring many fields, which was an amazing experience. Since then, she has taken the time to include me in her research, answer my questions about medical school, and even give reassurances and pep-talks before my clinical rotations and board exams. She is the type of mentor who always uplifts her students. When praise and encouragement comes from a physician of her stature, it goes a long way in making us feel confident in our abilities. Through the years that I have worked with her, I can definitely say that she has played a part in making me feel more assured and confident in my ideas and decisions. I am now taking a dedicated research fellowship with her and am applying into Ophthalmology. She has undoubtedly played a huge role in influencing my career path and her love for mentorship and for the field is truly infectious."

– PREEYA MEHTA, MS4

Gitanjali Arora, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

"Dr. Arora's encouragement and vulnerability in her teaching practices and her generosity in sharing these with her Global Medicine students has inspired myself and many others on our paths to providing care. I strive to emulate the empathy, love and openness she shows to the people around her in my everyday life and future career. Thank you Dr. Arora for all you do!"

– SONALI MATTA, M.S. GLOBAL MEDICINE

