

Department Newsletter

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Family Medicine opens at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital



On July 23, the Department of Family Medicine opened its newest clinical location at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital (USC-VHH). In this location, the family medicine team combines leading-edge techniques with high-touch holistic primary care, working in close collaboration with specialists throughout Keck Medicine of USC to provide seamless, coordinated treatment to patients.

Jennifer Boozer, DO, sees patients at the USC-VHH location and it is her philosophy of care to partner with her patients to work toward optimal wellness. She understands how small daily choices can have a big impact on overall health.

As an osteopathic physician, Boozer is trained to take a whole person approach to care. She does not just focus on the disease, but also looks at how a patient's physiology and lifestyle contribute to their overall health. She listens to her patients and gets to know each one as an individual. By combining this approach with the latest medical advancements, she provides exceptional patient care.

Boozer earned a Bachelor of Science degree from USC, where she studied gerontology and bioethics. She then completed her doctor of medicine osteopathy at Touro University. This background, combined with an internship in obstetrics and gynecology and a residency in family practice, has given her a well-rounded foundation to care for the whole patient.

REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT

<https://www.keckmedicine.org/request-an-appointment/>
(800) USC-CARE

Message from the Chair:

It is with great excitement and joy that I want to share a bit about the department's growth in the past year. We have added a new site at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital with incredible providers: Jennifer Boozer, DO and Rose Taroyan, MD. We have brought on Brett Feldman, MPAS, PA-C as director of our new Street Medicine Program and most recently, we received a gift to begin the development of a new family medicine residency.

It is an exciting time to be part of the Trojan family and I know that we can all share great pride in seeing these momentous successes achieved.

None of this would be possible without the dedication, hard work and joy that each of you contribute to this journey. Thank you for your continued commitment to our growth so that we can better serve our patients, students and communities.



Jehni Robinson, MD

Interim Chair of the
Department of Family Medicine

Inside This Issue:

- Researcher sets the ground work to improve discussions around advanced care planning
- Department receives funding to start new residency program

Meet the faculty: Researcher working to improve patient-provider discussions around advanced care planning



Alexis Coulourides Kogan, PhD, is improving the patient-provider relationship and providing culturally responsible education for advanced care planning. An assistant professor of family medicine and geriatrics, and gerontology, Kogan is a health-

system researcher focused on person-centered models of care and education for older adults and those with serious illness. By talking to clinicians, patients and caregivers, she is opening discussions about advanced care plans that focus on the patient's values, needs, preferences and culture.

"I like to be able to increase the patient experience in the clinic in a meaningful way," says Kogan. "It is not just about making the patient happy, it is about facilitating a more productive encounter with their provider."

In working with patients in the community, she lays the groundwork for them to think about their care wishes in a culturally sensitive and thoughtful way. This ensures that when a clinician brings it up, patients don't feel blindsided and can engage in a meaningful and productive conversation about their end-of-life plan.

"Family medicine isn't always glamorous, but as a clinician if you are able to provide care in a way that is in alignment with a patient's preferences and values, a sense of reward and satisfaction can be derived," Kogan says.

Kogan earned a bachelor's degree from Tulane University in exercise and sports sciences, and a master's degree and doctorate in gerontology from the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. She is the recipient of a K99/R00 award from the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health.

Department of Family Medicine receives funding to start new residency

The goal of establishing a new generation of family medicine residents is being strengthened at the Keck School of Medicine of USC thanks to a generous donation to begin the development of a family medicine residency program.

This \$100,000 gift supports the department's commitment to establishing an innovative and transformative family medicine residency program. The residency will teach physicians to be discerning consumers of technology and truly integrate digital health to lead the way in personalized medicine. Sandra Gonzalez, PhD, has been hired to begin the collaborative process and study required to build such a program.

Gonzalez is a leading expert in building residency programs and has spent her career facilitating mentoring, teaching and coaching in medical education. Most recently, she led the development of two residency training programs focused on the underserved urban communities in South Los Angeles for Charles R. Drew University. She is dedicated

to implementing programs in under-resourced communities with missions rooted in diversity, service and advocacy.

The gift helps set the foundation necessary to teach family medicine residents that continuity of relationships can be maintained with traditional face-to-face clinic visits, as well as in-person or technology-assisted home visits, on the streets, and in nursing homes. Additionally, the residency will continue to build on existing interprofessional programs already developed at USC, where they will participate in team-based training alongside other health professional programs, including physician assistant, occupational and physical therapy, pharmacy and social work.

"This gift allows us to build a future-focused residency to train a new generation of family medicine physicians," Interim Chair of the Department of Family Medicine Jehni Robinson, MD said. "We are excited for the opportunity to bring together high touch and high tech."

Primary Care Program welcomes students back with service day at LA Kitchen

On August 25, the Primary Care Program hosted their first annual Welcome Retreat. There were 44 medical students who participated in the retreat by volunteering at LA Kitchen. LA Kitchen is a nonprofit organization with the mission of reclaiming healthy, local food that would otherwise go to waste, which they distribute to organizations that feed food-insecure people throughout Los Angeles. LA Kitchen also provides culinary job training to unemployed individuals.

During the retreat, the first- and second-year medical students toured the facility, learning about the history of the organization. After the tour and meeting with LA Kitchen's founder Roger Egger, they prepared healthy sandwiches and salads to donate to an organization that feeds older adults.

Learn more about LA Kitchen at www.lakitchen.org



Photo by Kristie Gordon

Family Medicine Interest Group awarded for excellence by American Academy of Family Physicians



The Keck School of Medicine of USC was recently recognized by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) as one of 18 medical school Family Medicine Interest Groups (FMIGs) to win the 2018 Program of Excellence Award for their exemplary efforts to grow and support interest in family medicine.

Award winners were announced Aug. 3 at the AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students in Kansas City, Missouri.

FMIGs are student-run organizations that provide opportunities for students to learn about and experience family medicine outside of their medical

school curricula. FMIGs host events, workshops, leadership development opportunities and community and clinical experiences. These groups are breaking new ground with important initiatives such as starting pipeline programs for students who are underrepresented in medicine and working with their school administration to change the curriculum to be more supportive of primary care.

“The FMIGs we honor this year have gone above and beyond by activating students to put the knowledge they’ve acquired in the classroom into practice,” said Clif Knight, MD, senior vice president for education at the AAFP. “These programs help students develop leadership skills that will serve them in their future practices and communities and provide opportunities to better understand the vital role that family medicine plays in our health care system.”

The winners’ applications are published online to facilitate the sharing of best practices and programming ideas among FMIGs nationwide. There is also a programming resource for all FMIGs to use that highlights the most successful and innovative ideas from these exemplary schools.

Want to make a difference in medicine, education and health care?

<http://keck.usc.edu/family-medicine/support-family-medicine/>

Your contribution to the Department of Family Medicine expands education, research and health. Your generosity makes a difference and we thank you for your support.



New Street Medicine Program comes to the Keck School of Medicine of USC

In Los Angeles County, more than 52,000 people can experience homelessness a night, according to the 2018 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. For those that face the struggle of the decision of whether to buy food, pay rent or how to prioritize other basic needs can mean health care takes a back seat.

On April 1, 2018, the Department of Family Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC brought on Brett Feldman, MPAS, PA-C as the director of the new Street Medicine Program. Feldman and his wife Corinne have dedicated their careers to the creation of a support network that can bring health care to the street. Providing services where the patients live can help overcome logistical issues and emotional barriers.

“Street medicine is based on the idea that everybody matters,” Feldman says. “If you are worried about

where you are going to sleep tonight, where your next meal is coming from and if you are going to be safe doing those things than you cannot possibly begin to think about things like your health care and making it to your doctor’s visit.”

By working with other dedicated community partners in Los Angeles, they are developing a new way to tackle this growing problem.

“We had to build a whole new health care delivery system designed specifically for the homeless with their needs in mind,” Feldman adds. “We do this in a very radical way, where we have recreated a model of health care delivery that can go on to the streets not just for the visits, but to dispense medications, draw labs – everything done outside because that is the only way we are going to make sure that they get what they need to get.”

Keck School of Medicine of USC

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