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The HIV Institute

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO



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Help The HIV Institute support UC San Diego programs at the forefront of ending the HIV epidemic! UC San Diego is launching u.give, its first annual giving day. This exciting event begins May 16, 2019 at 6 a.m. and continues for 1,960 minutes (or 32 hours) in honor of our founding year.

Why give?

No matter the size, your gift matters! The [HIV Institute Discovery Fund](#) provides vital funding to researchers and clinicians who are saving and improving lives with cutting-edge research and treatments. Your gift will support a variety of needs across the Institute that help us unleash discovery and improve access to HIV care.

The HIV Institute Leadership Challenge

Our leadership is so committed to making u.give a success, they have a challenge - 30 gifts to the [HIV Institute Discovery Fund](#) will unlock a \$3,000 gift!

We hope we can count on you as the entire UC San Diego community unites. Make your gift to the [HIV Institute Discovery Fund](#) and help us unlock our challenge gift!

Investigator Spotlight

The HIV Institute greatly appreciates UC San Diego's hardworking, dedicated research scientists accelerating the field. The Investigator Spotlight gives us an opportunity to acknowledge our leading investigators and to share with the community how they are pursuing life-changing discoveries.

Maile Young Karris, MD

Associate Clinical Professor, Medicine
Clinical Investigation Core Associate Director, San Diego Center for AIDS Research
Research Director, Owen Clinic

Tell us a little about yourself.

I am a HIV provider and clinical and translational HIV researcher at UCSD with a specific focus on clinical issues that impact older adults living with HIV. I consider myself a "bedside to bench" researcher in that I pursue research questions that arise from my day to day interactions with people living with HIV. As the Associate Director of the CFAR CI Core and Owen Clinic Research Director, I enjoy partnering with



work they are doing . Other roles include lucky wife, exhausted mom, amateur chef and plant lady.

What attracted you to this field?

I was very fortunate to grow up in Hawaii, where I was taught the concept of "ohana" or family where everyone, no matter who you were and regardless of relation was always welcome in our home. Thus, as a child, I remember thinking it was so strange that my family often kept my actual Uncle Glenn at an arms length. Uncle Glenn lived in New York and would visit periodically and then one day just stopped visiting. It wasn't until I was in college that I learned that my Uncle Glenn was gay and had died of AIDS in the early 90s. I always felt it was so unfair that I was not able to extend "ohana" to my OWN family because of the stigma that existed at the time. This experience translated into me eventually pursuing Medicine, Infectious Diseases and ultimately HIV care and research. In my current role I strive to advocate and provide "ohana" to my Uncle Glenn's extended family of persons living with HIV.

How did you land in San Diego and/or start working at UC San Diego?

I came to UCSD for my Infectious Diseases fellowship and found myself in Drs. Doug Richman and Celsa Spina's laboratory learning and applying immunologic techniques toward HIV cure. I realized that although I didn't really love pipetting ... I loved generating and interpreting data and troubleshooting and coming up with new questions to ask.

What are the major issues facing HIV researchers today?

Because people aren't dying anymore, there appears to be less enthusiasm and interest in HIV research.

However, so many unanswered questions still remain that significantly impact the lives of people at risk for and living with HIV. Issues such as loneliness, isolation, depression, and chronic pain are common in people living with HIV and negatively impact health. Also, HIV stigma persists despite positive messaging such as U = U. Research and clinical care funding for questions

What are some of your research interests and/or what are you working on right now?

My main interest lies in pursuing answers for the concerns that people aging with HIV have about their health and future. Currently projects include a pilot study evaluating acceptance and commitment therapy for the management of chronic pain in older adults living with HIV. Another exciting new project is our 2nd AC+: Leveraging technology to care for older adults living with HIV. This project partners the AntiViral Research Center with the San Diego LGBT Center to develop and evaluate the implementation of the Village Movement in Central San Diego to help older adults living with HIV age-in-place. I'm also excited to be assisting other amazing investigators in evaluating the impact of violence on HIV acquisition risk (PI- Jamila Stockman) and evaluating the mechanisms of obstructive sleep apnea in people living with HIV (PI- Bob Owens).

What are some of your favorite or most important projects?

My current favorite project is 2nd AC+. The Village movement encourages persons within the local community to share their talents to meet each other needs. These include basic needs (such as assistance with grocery shopping), medical needs (transportation to doctors office), social needs (chat over coffee) and others. Historically this has required Village members to pay an annual membership fee to a village administrator to coordinate connecting people and services. To mitigate the need for annual fees, the LGBT Center will serve as the site of central coordination. To facilitate having needs met in real-time we will be piloting the use of a hyper-local social app to identify people and their needs and their geographic location. This project also includes the performance of needs assessments and focus groups of not only older adults living with HIV but of all interested persons (of all ages, regardless of gender, sexual preference etc) living in central San Diego. Our ultimate goal is to make San Diego friendly again.

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I think THE most important lesson I've learned is how valuable the community voice is in developing questions to research - providing ideas on how to answer those questions and helping with implementation and interpretation of data. The 2nd AG+ project arose from many conversations with community members and would not have been possible without their past and ongoing contribution. We now have a study steering committee (different from a community advisory board in that we encourage active participation from members at all stages in the performance of research) focused on research around aging with HIV. It's called Platinum because members are "silver" and valuable!

UC San Diego Health



Transgender/Nonbinary Community Advisory Board

As more progress continues to be made in HIV prevention and treatment efforts across the nation, centering transgender and nonbinary people in conversations about HIV is of great importance. Transgender and nonbinary people have historically been excluded from or overlooked in HIV research and HIV awareness in general, even though transgender women – and more specifically, transgender women of color – continue to be the population most vulnerable to HIV. To help begin to remedy these disparities and lead the charge on trans inclusion, the [San Diego Center for AIDS Research Transgender/Nonbinary Community Advisory Board \(TCAB\)](#) was formed.

Its mission is “to improve and sustain the health and well-being of the transgender and nonbinary community. TCAB helps to build bridges between the transgender and nonbinary community and key health initiatives that benefit the community through fostering inclusion in health research, conducting community events, and

clinicians, healthcare administrative staff, and members of the San Diego trans community to make impactful change in the landscape of HIV awareness, prevention, and treatment, and is one of the first organizations of its kind to prioritize the trans and nonbinary community.

Stay tuned for more exciting announcements and upcoming events from TCAB!



UC San Diego Campaign Promotes Sexual Health and Has a Quick Test to Prove It

In a follow-up to its successful, 7-year "Lead the Way" campaign, a novel HIV awareness and testing campaign aimed at both high- and low-risk individuals, the AntiViral Research Center (AVRC) at UC San Diego School of Medicine has launched "[Good to Go](#)," a new awareness effort that incorporates four tests for six conditions: HIV, syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, Hepatitis B and C. The HIV Rapid Test provides results in 60 seconds.



"Good to Go encourages a younger, sexually active target population to get regular sexual health checkups for STDs and HIV, particularly gay and bisexual Latinx populations whose transmission rates have been rising," said [Susan Little, MD](#), professor of medicine and an infectious disease specialist at UC San Diego Health. "This new campaign is a further effort to reduce the stigma associated with HIV and testing, and to address changing public perceptions."

Read the full [press release here](#).

Intersections of Intimate Partner Violence and HIV Infection



The [Center on Gender Equity and Health](#) at the UC San Diego School of Medicine and the UC San Diego [Mother Child Adolescent HIV Program](#) (MCAP) have developed a new partnership. The MCAP team provides multidisciplinary, comprehensive HIV medical care, social services, and access to clinical research to women, children, and youth living with HIV in San Diego. In 2018, they received supplemental funding to expand the capacity of MCAP providers to effectively assess and address intimate partner violence (IPV) among their patients living with HIV. MCAP's Intimate Partner Violence Initiative aims to educate team members about the complex relationship between violence and HIV infection, equip them with skills to address IPV and to revise program policies/procedures to ensure provision of universal standardized IPV education, screening, referral and intervention. Read more [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Seminar Series



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Bhupesh Prusty, PhD, in seminar on Wednesday, May 22, at 4:00 p.m. in [Room 223 of the Medical Education & Telemedicine Building](#). This seminar will replace the regularly scheduled Work-in-Progress of the Retrovirus Seminar Series. Please [RSVP via Eventbrite](#). Light refreshments will be served.



Stay up to date with our latest seminars by visiting our [webpage](#).

Profoundly changing the study, treatment and prevention of HIV throughout the world.

Since the 1980s, HIV/AIDS research at UC San Diego has been at the forefront of discoveries that shape care and treatment standards on a global scale. We are internationally recognized as a place that combines the art of healing with the science of medicine and serves not only San Diego, but communities around the world.

For 23 years [The HIV Institute](#) has served as an umbrella organization to UC San Diego's many HIV-related activities. We work within and across departments, in multidisciplinary programs and with many other collaborators to translate new discoveries from our laboratories to patient care.

u.give

"Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference."

Kathy Calvin

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