

## OECM Summer 2025 Newsletter

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### Welcome to our new residents

Dr. Rosemarie Dizon is from Great Mills, Maryland, and received her undergraduate degree in Public Health from Rutgers University - New Brunswick in New Jersey. She attended medical school at Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina. She completed her Family Medicine Internship at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton in 2018 before completing Naval Aeromedical Officer Training in Pensacola, Florida.

She served as a Flight Surgeon at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina from 2019 to 2021 before returning to complete her Family Residency at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton in California. Since graduating from Family Medicine residency, she served a second tour as a Flight Surgeon at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and deployed with Patrol Squadron 47 before starting OEM residency at UCSF in July 2025. She is a fan of Bay Area sports teams including Bay FC, the 49ers, and the Giants. Her areas of interests include reproductive consequences of occupational hazards in aviation on female veterans as well as noise pollution and its effects on developing children.



**Rosemarie Dizon, DO**

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Dr. Sophie Jin from Baltimore, Maryland and earned their undergraduate degree in Environmental Science from University of Maryland, College Park and attended medical school at University of Maryland in Baltimore.



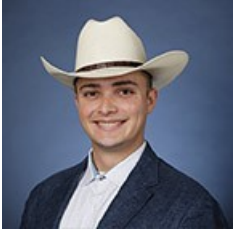
**Sophie Jin, MD**

Prior to medical school, they studied socio-environmental impacts of mosquito-borne diseases and worked in HIV outreach. Dr. Jin completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at York Hospital during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and returned to work in Baltimore City. Dr. Jin is interested in understanding and mitigating environmental impacts on health among vulnerable populations, especially in the context of climate change.

Dr. Vibhuti Krishna is graduated from Columbia University, double major in Studio Art and Medicine, Health & Society, Vanderbilt University) completed PGY1-2 at New York Presbyterian Hospital Columbia-Cornell before transitioning to the West Coast to study Occupational, Environmental, and Climate Medicine at UCSF. Dr. Vibhuti Krishna has a background in Public Health consulting during the pandemic, and clinical experience in preventive, primary, urgent, and emergent care as well as low-resource settings.

She is an avid reader, writer, runner, artist, and yoga instructor with a strong penchant for baked goods. Dr. Krishna is ultimately seeking a career involving clinical, policy, and public health / field work focused on temperature-related illnesses and marginalized populations. She is excited to take on the trails in the Bay Area and search for her top chocolate chip cookie!





**Hector Rivera Marrero, MD**

Dr. Hector S. Rivera Marrero is originally from Humacao, Puerto Rico, and also calls Brownsville, Texas, home. He earned his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Before attending medical school, Dr. Rivera gained experience in the oil and gas industry, operations, and later served as an Environmental Health System Coordinator.

He went on to receive his medical degree from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine and completed a preliminary year in general surgery at the University of California, Davis. His professional interests lie at the intersection of clinical and corporate occupational medicine. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family and cooking for them.

## Announcements

Congratulations to Monica Tilly in her new role as the Associate Medical Director for Occupational Health Services at ZSFG!

After completing her premedical requirements at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Tilly earned her medical degree at Brown University, and her Masters degree in Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology from U.C. Berkeley. She went on to become triple board certified at Kaiser and UCSF in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine. Dr Tilly has since practiced clinical medicine in urgent care and occupational health settings.

She enjoys teaching and collaborating with residents, and has published with a current focus on COVID and previously environmental reproductive toxins. She also volunteers on the Board of Directors of a medical foundation that supports research and patient who have suffered aneurysms and AVMs. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, singing opera, skiing and traveling. She speaks fluent French having lived in France and Italy for several years.



**Monica Tilly, MD, MPH**

Welcome to Anu Ramachandran who will be joining the Department of Emergency Medicine for her primary (clinical) role and will also hold a secondary role with OECM to continue her research!

In her research, Dr. Ramachandran leverages large clinical and geospatial datasets to understand how wildfires, heatwaves, and other disasters drive health outcomes for vulnerable populations, and how to use emerging technologies to improve emergency preparedness and access to care.

Anu is a Bay Area native who completed her MD from Johns Hopkins University and a public health degree at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as a Marshall scholar before returning to the west coast as a resident in Emergency Medicine at UCSF-ZSFG. Since graduating, she has been completing a Medical Informatics fellowship at Stanford University and the Palo Alto Veteran's Administration and continues to work clinically at San Francisco General.

Dr. Ramachandran is interested in the intersection between technology, health system resiliency, and vulnerable patient populations. She is thrilled to be returning to UCSF !



**Anu Ramachandran, MD**

## NIOSH cuts and the future of OEM



The majority of the NIOSH workforce (over 90%) was abruptly placed on leave on April 2nd. Most of these NIOSH jobs will be eliminated in June, ending 50 years of infrastructure and programs that protected workers and helped reduce workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths. Only limited programs still remain, including the World Trade Center Health Program and the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. Unfortunately, all of the extramural programs that funded state and university efforts on occupational health are no longer staffed. This includes the NIOSH Education and Research Centers that supported the Center for Occupational Safety and Health (COEH) and the UCSF OEM residency. The Northern California (UC Berkeley-UCSF-UC Davis) and Southern California (UCLA-UC Irvine) Education and Research Centers provided training for nurses, physicians, industrial hygienists, and safety professionals who understand occupational hazards and are equipped to prevent disabling and deadly injuries and illnesses. Due to planned cuts at federal agencies including NIOSH, the UCSF OEM program will be losing an estimated \$600,000 of annual funding.

Since NIOSH was established in 1970, the number of annual workplace deaths has dropped from about 14,000 to 5,486 in 2022, and the injury rate has fallen from 10.9 to 2.4 per 100 workers. This demonstrates the effectiveness of occupational health and safety in making workplaces safer (BLS, 2023). Due to organized efforts to educate members of Congress and the administration about the value of NIOSH, planned layoffs in programs on Black Lung Disease and respirator certification were recently rescinded, as were layoffs in part of the Health Hazard Evaluation program. "While we celebrate with those who received a rescission letter, I am mindful that others did not. I am hopeful that we can continue to make the case for reinstating everyone at NIOSH," the agency's now-reinstated director, Dr. John Howard, wrote in a recent email.

We too hope all staff are reinstated so they can continue their important work to help keep workers across the US safe and healthy.

## Research spotlight: Sheiphal Gandhi, MD, MPH



Dr. Sheiphal Gandhi is a faculty member in both OEM and in Pulmonary, Critical Care, Allergy, and Sleep Medicine. She is leading influential research on silicosis from engineered stone fabrication and occupational and environmental risk factors for interstitial lung diseases (ILDs), particularly pulmonary fibrosis (PF).

Dr. Gandhi's research centers on the intersection of occupational and environmental exposures and ILDs. PF, a chronic condition marked by lung scarring, is a significant contributor to global morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs. Despite this, many cases are still labeled as idiopathic, and the role of preventable exposures—especially in marginalized communities—remains under-studied. Her work addresses this gap by investigating how inhalational exposures to vapors, gases, dust, and fumes contribute to fibrosis and inflammation.

She is currently leading an innovative research program that uses advanced epidemiologic methods, including a pulmonary fibrosis-specific job-exposure matrix (PF-JEM), residential geocoding, and geospatial exposure assessment. Through a case-control analysis of the California Electronic Death Registration System (Cal-EDRS) and a prospective analysis of the UCSF ILD Cohort Study, her work assesses how occupational and environmental exposures interact to influence both the risk and progression of fibrotic ILDs.

In addition, Dr. Gandhi is launching a longitudinal registry of workers with silicosis linked to engineered stone dust exposure, funded by the Nina Ireland Program for Lung Health. This registry supports long-term follow-up and exposure assessment for workers affected by a preventable occupational lung disease. Her findings from earlier work, including a publication in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, have already led to occupational policy changes and have been featured in national media outlets such as NPR, Univision, and the *Los Angeles Times*—helping elevate awareness of this emerging epidemic and catalyze regulatory attention.

Her research is supported by several prestigious awards, including the UCSF Irene Perstein Award, the UC Hellman Fellowship, the Parker B. Francis Fellowship Award, and the UCSF Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) KL2 Scholarship, all of which recognize her high potential as an early-career investigator. By linking cutting-edge exposure assessment tools with large datasets and clinical outcomes, Dr. Gandhi is pioneering a framework for understanding how workplace and environmental factors drive disparities in respiratory health. Her ultimate goal is to improve workplace safety standards, shape environmental policy, and promote health equity for underserved and high-risk communities affected by ILD and PF.

## OECM Faculty Retreat



On May 27th, 2025, faculty members gathered for an in-person retreat filled with engaging team-building activities, productive discussions, and strategic planning for the future of OEM.

## UCSF at AOHC



UCSF had a presence at AOHC in Austin, Texas this year. We enjoyed seeing so many of our Alumni at the reception on Sunday evening. More people came than are pictured here! It was great to see the following Alumni of our program: Effiem Abbah, James Seward, Jeffrey Lee Gao, Julia Elena Klees, Latifat Apatira, Lisa M. Key, Mani Berenji, Max Blumberg, Michal Fischman, Rahmat Balogun, Pearlene Lee, Rajiv Das, Richard Lewis, Robert Clapp, Robert Harrison, Rupali Das, Stefano Leitner, Krystal Yi Lin, TJ Tran, and Jeffrey Meade !

We also had a table at the Residency Fair on Tuesday. Multiple faculty and Alumni stopped by for the UCSF OEM-branded pens, pads of paper, and the new program brochure. We also had numerous medical students and residents who came by to inquire about our program.

Unfortunately, the most common question among prospective applicants was: "Will you be accepting trainees next year?" This sign of the difficult times was evident in conversations throughout the meeting. In fact, in a survey, only three of the current 20 civilian OEM residencies responded that they are confident that they will be able to survive in the new funding environment. Our strong showing at the AOHC meeting is evidence of our confidence in our program. We are determined to keep OEM alive at UCSF !

## Fundraising

**Please donate to the UCSF OEM Residency !**

## Alumni Corner

Calling all UCSF OEM Alumni ! If you have any updates, news, or achievements you would like to share about yourself, please send it to [Jason.Nghe@ucsf.edu](mailto:Jason.Nghe@ucsf.edu). We will feature the news/updates in the next newsletter.

## UCSF OEM collaboration with University of Hawaii: Red Hill Spill Consulting Project







Drs. Gina Solomon and Matt Gribble from UCSF OECM are working with the University of Hawaii to develop a Registry of people potentially exposed to jet fuel during a drinking water contamination incident at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in 2021-22. The UCSF team has been providing technical advice and support on collecting and analyzing exposure and outcome data. The Red Hill Team is pictured here at their May meeting at the University of Hawaii

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