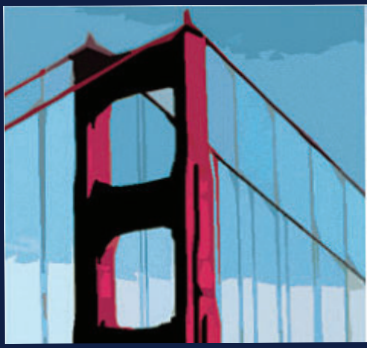




UCSF PATHOLOGY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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Department Updates

EPIC BEAKER medical record system (Beaker Go-Live)

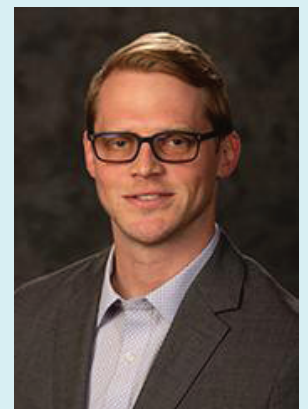
Our department has now essentially completed the Epic Beaker transition from CoPath as of May 31, 2025. The amount of effort from all faculty and staff to make this transition was incredible, and continuing refinement is still being made in the system.

At this time, we would like to recognize **Nicholas Ladwig, MD, Associate Professor of Pathology**, for his outstanding leadership as Faculty IT Director and AP Beaker Implementation Faculty Provider Champion. In this role, Dr. Ladwig worked at the multidisciplinary level, attending all implementation meetings to test interdepartmental workflows while serving as lead pathologist for numerous multidisciplinary and intradepartmental committees and workgroups, including the Lab Advisory Council, the Executive Steering Committee, the Specimen Collection Workgroups, and the Beaker Testing Leadership Workgroup.

Dr. Ladwig also partnered closely with other faculty and staff Beaker leads and with each intradepartmental workgroup (Specimen Collection and Beaker Testing). Each subspecialty service required extensive engagement by him and the Beaker leadership team to facilitate on-site workflows and to obtain “end-user buy-in” and readiness for the formal Beaker training and implementation. He further chaired the multidisciplinary Governance Committee tasked with creating a unified Specimen Type and Source list and led efforts to gather experience from other institutions with prior Epic implementations both across departments and within Pathology.

Notably, his efforts were described by Epic’s lead analyst and primary trainer as the most complete they had encountered at any previous institution. This transition from CoPath has been an active goal since at least July 2024, and the work required was intense. Congratulations and many thanks to Dr. Ladwig, as well as to our faculty and staff Beaker-leads, as well as all our faculty and staff, for making this such a successful transition!

Elham Khanafshar, MD, MS
Professor of Pathology
Vice Chair of Clinical Operations
UCSF Department of Pathology



Nicholas Ladwig, MD

Awards

Trainee Award for Research

Nov 2024: Late announcement for USCAP 2024 research award

We are pleased to inform you that **Dr. Kara Tanaka** (GU fellow and AP Chief Resident, 2024-25) has been named the 2024 Liliane Striker Young Investigator by the **Renal Pathology Society (RPS)** for her 2024 USCAP Abstract entitled: "Phlebitis, Edema, and Interstitial Hemorrhage in Renal Allograft Rejection". The senior author and mentor was Anatoly Urisman, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology.

The RPS Young Investigator Award was established decades ago, and in 2006 was named after Liliane Striker in recognition of her many contributions to renal research. The award was created to encourage excellence in renal pathology research by young investigators.

Teaching Awards



Beth S. Ruben, MD



Ron Balassanian, MD



J. P. Grenert, MD, PhD



Jeff North, MD

May 22, 2025

It is a great pleasure to share the wonderful news (please see below) that the American Society of Dermatopathology selected our colleague, **Beth S Ruben, MD**, Professor of Dermatology and Pathology as the recipient of the **Walter R. Nickel Award**. Given to one dermatopathologist each year, this national award recognizes excellence in the teaching of dermatopathology. Dr. Ruben's enjoyment of dermatopathology shines through in her teaching of residents and fellows at UCSF and via visiting professorships, at national and international conferences, and through her consultation reports on difficult cases sent by colleagues from all over the world. The award will be presented at the **Annual Society Dinner during the ASDP 62nd Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD on Friday, November 7, 2025**.

Sept 16, 2025

We are delighted to announce that three members of our community have recently received **2025 Excellence in Teaching Awards** from the UCSF Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators in recognition of their outstanding contributions to medical education. These peer-nominated awards are intended to highlight outstanding frontline teachers of learners at all UCSF teaching sites.

Dr. Ron Balassanian was nominated for his dedication, compassion, and exceptional teaching abilities as a clinical preceptor in the Clinical Microsystems Clerkship (CMC) program. His nominators note that during the CMC Core Clinical Preceptorships for first-year medical students, "Ron provides students with invaluable hands-on experiences in performing histories, physical exams, and oral presentations. His ability to create a supportive and educational environment allows students to thrive and develop their clinical skills with confidence. His commitment to excellence is reflected in the high standards he sets for himself and his students. Dr. Balassanian has made significant contributions to the training and development of future healthcare professionals."

Dr. J. P. Grenert was nominated for his enthusiastic teaching of fellows, residents, and medical students in both the classroom setting and the workplace setting, in topics ranging from general surgical pathology to liver and GI subspecialty pathology to molecular pathology. He models commitment to teaching, with consistently outstanding medical student teaching since the inception of the Bridges curriculum in 2016. His students note, "I appreciated how Dr. Grenert allowed us to personalize the structure of our small group and how he encouraged us to participate to get the most out of our time together. I liked that he shared his own experiences as a pathologist. Dr. Grenert was very encouraging. I felt comfortable asking questions because he was so warm and willing to answer them. He was a phenomenal instructor and we were so lucky to have him."

Dr. Jeff North is a dermatopathologist and clinical dermatologist nominated for "his direct and clear teaching, supportive encouragement, constructive feedback, and creation of safe learning environments. He finds teachable moments in every interaction, and his lessons range from clinical pearls to the art of medicine and work-life integration." His CPC Conference for the pediatric dermatology division is particularly appreciated, as he offers accessible pathology explanations and helps the pediatric dermatology fellows to think through challenging clinical cases. His patience, kindness, and collegiality bring "the best out of learners by offering enough support for them to feel brave, think critically, and stretch the limits of their knowledge to achieve the next level."

Congratulations to Ron, J. P., and Jeff for being heroes in medical education! They will receive their awards at the Academy Celebration of New Members and Award Ceremony was on September 17, 2025.

Announcement made by:

Marta Margeta, MD, PhD, Vice Chair of Education, Pathology

Ragashree Ramachandra, MD, PhD, Director of Medical Education, Pathology

Jayanta Debnath, MD, PhD, Chair, Pathology

Announcements



USCAP 2026 Abstract Submission [Now Open](#)

Close on October 7th @ 11am PST

It will be taking place in San Antonio, TX

March 21, 2026 to March 26, 2026

[Hotel Reservations are Open too](#)