



Karen Allen, MA

Karen Allen started her research career in 1997 as Research Specialist in UCI's Department in Psychiatry and Human Behavior. In 2000, she joined Research Administration as an IRB Administrator. Beginning in 2003, she held management positions of increasing responsibility within Research Administration, including three years as Assistant Director of Human Research Protections, four years as Director of Human Research Protections and most recently as Executive Director of Research Protections. Karen is responsible for the long term planning and management of the Research Protections unit in the Office of Research. She has an M.A. and CIP designation.



Nick Anderson, MS, PhD

Dr. Anderson's research focuses on large-scale clinical data discovery and data sharing for research, patient-provided data systems and policy, and decision support analytics. He considers the development and application of clinical research informatics to be his academic community, and he seeks to expand capabilities to use well-governed and secure clinical data to advance patient-oriented research. He is also interested in studying and teaching bioethics associated informatics areas of privacy, connection and communication that are core to the digital health economy.



Atul Butte, MD, PhD

Dr. Butte is the Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg Distinguished Professor and inaugural Director of the Bakar Computational Health Sciences Institute (bchsi.ucsf.edu) at UCSF. Dr. Butte is also the Chief Data Scientist for the entire UC Health System. Dr. Butte has authored over 200 publications, with research repeatedly featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Wired Magazine. Dr. Butte was elected into the National Academy of Medicine in 2015, and in 2013, he was recognized by the Obama Administration as a Champion of Change in Open Science for promoting science through publicly available data.



Molly Belinski, MPA

Molly Belinski is the Program Manager for the Participant Recruitment Program at the UCSF Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Ms. Belinski is managing piloting and implementation of a program to use the UCSF EHR patient portal for recruitment, working with IRB, Privacy, and IT to design a workflow that optimizes privacy, security, and efficiency. She also developed a new front-door recruitment resources website (recruit.ucsf.edu) to give researchers access to high-demand recruitment content such as recruitment planning and budgeting, using social media for recruitment, and recruiting underrepresented populations.



Nate Buscher

Nate Buscher is the Program Manager for UC BRAID, a network of the 5 University of California academic medical centers and Stanford University. With an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in Human Psychology, he manages initiatives to improve research administration across the BRAID Network, including proof-of-concept and pilot programs in the Regulatory domain. He serves as an ambassador for the SMART IRB initiative and leads its nationwide committee on single IRB fees and charging models. Mr. Buscher comes to this role with administration experience

in academia, government, and non-profit sectors. He also has a strong background in information technology, operations, and fundraising.



Melanie Cocco, PhD

Melanie Cocco, Ph.D., is an associate professor in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. Her research interests include membrane proteins and NMR spectroscopy. Professor Cocco was the first to obtain the structure of the extracellular domain of Nogo, a membrane protein known to inhibit axonal growth within the central nervous system (CNS). Currently, Professor Cocco is working to identify binding partners of the Nogo extracellular domain utilizing the structural data obtained in her lab. The identification of strong binding partners could lead to novel treatments for CNS injury.



Steve Dubinett, MD

Dr. Dubinett is the director of the UCLA CTSI, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Senior Associate Dean for Translational Science in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Building on original discoveries relevant to inflammation and immunity in lung cancer, he leads a translational research program which utilizes these laboratory-based discoveries in the translational research and clinical environment. He chaired the FDA Cellular, Tissue & Gene Therapies Advisory Committee and currently serves on the NCI Thoracic Malignancy Steering Committee as a Translational Science Representative. He is the current chair of the UC BRAID Executive Committee.



Vanessa Jacoby, MD, MAS

Dr. Vanessa Jacoby is an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences at UCSF. Her research program focuses on understanding long-term outcomes of hysterectomy and oophorectomy. She also studies uterine fibroids and conducts trials of new and emerging fibroid treatments. Dr. Jacoby is the principal investigator for the UCOP funded University of California Fibroid Network and the principal investigator of a nationwide registry for women undergoing laparoscopic radiofrequency ablation of fibroids. Dr. Jacoby is the Director of the UCSF CTSI Participant Recruitment Program and serves as Co-PI for the Community Engaged Network for All (CENA), a PCORI Patient-Powered Research Network.



Erick Jenkins

Erick Jenkins is an Intellectual Property Manager with the UC Office of the President. Erick has spent his career negotiating agreements for UC Davis and UC Davis Health including research grants and contracts, clinical trials, procurement and business agreements and numerous other agreement types with industry, government and nonprofit organizations. Erick has worked closely with BRAID since its inception and has led the BRAID contracts group several times.



Eric Mah, MPH

Mr. Mah joined the ACTRI Executive Committee in 2015. He is the Assistant Dean for Clinical and Translational Research at UC San Diego. Mah is responsible for clinical research administration across Health Sciences and has administrative oversight of the clinical research administrative core units. He is also responsible for ACTRI affiliations and strategic and operational management. Mah has extensive experience in research administration and compliance. Prior to joining UC San Diego, he served as senior director of research compliance at UC San Francisco and program director of regulatory, knowledge and support for UCSF's Clinical and Translational Science Institute.



Arash Naeim, MD, PhD

Dr. Naeim is a Professor of Medicine at the David Geffen UCLA School of Medicine, Associate Director for the Clinical Translational Science Institute and Chief Medical Officer for Clinical Research for the UCLA Campus and Health System. He is the UCLA Principal Investigator for the Athena Breast Health Network and the RO1 AHRQ grant that aims to use sensor technology and analytics to reduce risk, integrates innovative technology, and advance precision medicine. He is a board certified Clinical Informaticist and Director of Informatics for the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and serves as Co-Director for the Center for SMART Health.



Mark Pletcher, MD, MPH

As an epidemiologist and a general internal medicine physician, Dr. Pletcher's research is designed to inform clinical decision-making and policy relevant to primary care and prevention. He focuses on prevention of cardiovascular disease, with particular interests in atherosclerosis, coronary heart disease prevention, statin decision-making, and blood pressure control. Dr. Pletcher has special interests in use of emerging technology and electronic health records for research, and leads the UCSF CTSIs Learning Healthcare System Demonstration Program.



Rachael Sak, BSN, MPH

Rachael Sak is the Director of the University of California Biomedical Research Acceleration, Integration, and Development (UC BRAID) consortium. Rachael received her MPH at the University of Michigan with a focus in Health Management and Policy and researched the use of health information technology in healthcare delivery systems. She has 16 years of experience working in clinical research in the academic setting and served as Associate Director of the UC, San Francisco Pancreas Cancer Program at the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Prior to joining UC BRAID, Rachael was the Assistant Director, Strategic Initiatives of the Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI) at UCSF



Stephanie Soares, MS, CCRP

Ms. Soares is the Assistant Director of the UC Davis Biorepositories Core Resource. She has over 25 years of experience coordinating oncology-related research projects including oversight of grants management, clinical trials and human tissue biobanking. She received her B.S. from California State University, Sacramento and an M.S. in Health Informatics from the University of California, Davis. Over the years, she has designed databases for a variety of biospecimen projects and programs including the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center's Biorepository Shared Resource.



Deborah H. Spector, PhD

Dr. Spector's lab has spent over 30 years studying human cytomegalovirus (HCMV), which is the major viral cause of birth defects, a serious problem in immunocompromised individuals, and a risk factor in atherosclerosis. Her research centers on viral pathogenesis and the molecular mechanisms used by HCMV to control its gene expression and subvert the cell's signaling and regulatory pathways. Other areas of research include the role of HCMV in atherosclerosis and the effects of HCMV infection on the neural lineage specification and maturation of stem and progenitor cells.



John (Jack) D. Stobo, M.D

Dr. Stobo is executive vice president for the University of California's health system, which is comprised of UC's seventeen health professional schools and ten hospitals, including five academic medical centers, known collectively as UC Health. He has oversight responsibilities for the operation of the system and its facilities as well as for the development of systemwide initiatives designed to enable UC Health to successfully meet the challenges of the rapidly changing health care environment. Dr. Stobo also oversees the University of California's self-funded health plans, which provide affordable health care to UC employees and students.



Tam Tran, MPH

Ms. Tran is the Assistant Director in the Sponsored Projects office with responsibility for the leadership and operations management of the clinical trial industry contracting unit at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). She has 15 years of experience in contracts and grants research administration with experience in both pre and post award (non-financial) functions. Ms. Tran received both her Bachelor's degree in Biology and Master's degree in Public Health with a focus in health services administration from the University of California, Los Angeles and has attained the designation of a Certified Research Administrator.



Brian Turner, MBA

Mr. Turner is Product Director for the Research Technologies program within the Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI) at UCSF. He is the product lead for UCSF Profiles, the UCSF Clinical Trials website, Application Review and Tracking (ART) product, and UCSF Cores Search among others. Brian has worked in software most of his career and has been a product manager in medical software since 2003, with extensive experience bringing user-focused products to market. He earned his MBA from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley in 1997 and joined UCSF in 2011.



Joseph Wagner, PhD

Dr. Wagner joins the UC-DDC after over 15 years in senior leadership roles in the biotechnology industry. He was the Chief Executive Officer of two publicly traded companies: OncoCyte, a company focused on the development of blood-based cancer diagnostics, and BriaCell Therapeutics, which focused on the development of a cell-based cancer immunotherapy. He also served as President and Chief Technology Officer of Cell Targeting, a regenerative medicine company spun out of the Sanford-Burnham Institute and as Vice President of Cell Therapy at Neuronix, which focused on developing regenerative medicines. Before joining industry, Dr. Wagner was an Associate Professor at the Karolinska Institute.