



**UC Irvine Health**  
School of Medicine

# Dean's Report

Volume 3 | Issue 3 | Fall 2013

## Physicians named presidents in their professions



*Four UC Irvine Health physicians and surgeons have been chosen to lead their professional organizations. Pictured from left – Dr. Michael J. Stamos, John E. Connolly endowed Chair of Surgery, serves as president of the American Board of Colon & Rectal Surgery; Dr. Gregory Evans, chief of the Aesthetic and Plastic Surgery Institute, serves as president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons; Dr. Scott Goodwin, the Hasso Brothers Professor and Chair of radiological sciences, assumed office as the 2013–14 president of the Society of Interventional Radiology; and Dr. Ninh Nguyen, chief of gastrointestinal surgery, is the president of the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.*

### Discover

Numerous multimillion dollar grants highlight UC Irvine School of Medicine's research achievements in 2013

### Teach

iMedEd Initiative reaches new milestone with all four years of curriculum available by tablet computing

### Heal

Renowned oncologist Dr. Richard Van Etten joins UC Irvine Health as director of Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

[www.som.uci.edu](http://www.som.uci.edu)

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# Discover

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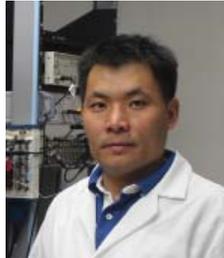
## Medical school again rated among nation's finest for research

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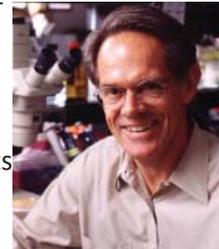
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By discovering the role of key neurons that mediate an important part of vision development, UC Irvine neurobiologists have revealed a new approach to correcting visual disorders in children who suffer from early cataracts or amblyopia, also known as lazy eye. Such youngsters can have permanent defects in vision, even after surgery to remove cataracts or correct lazy eye. These flaws are often a result of improper brain development due to visual deprivation during childhood. In contrast, when cataracts in adults are surgically corrected, normal vision is usually restored. Xiangmin Xu (pictured), assistant professor of anatomy & neurobiology at UC Irvine, found that this phenomenon is caused by a specific class of inhibitory neurons that control the time window, or "critical period," in early vision development, generally before age 7. The results of their study appeared online Aug. 25 in *Nature*. More: [www.anatomy.uci.edu](http://www.anatomy.uci.edu)



## Alan Barbour's breath analysis finding can determine infection severity

Breath analysis may prove to be an accurate, noninvasive way to quickly determine the severity of bacterial and other infections, according to a study led by Dr. Alan Barbour, professor of microbiology & molecular genetics and medicine. Employing a chemical analysis method developed for air pollution testing, UC Irvine microbiologists and chemists were able to correlate inflammation levels in laboratory mice to the amount of naturally produced carbon monoxide and other gases in breath samples. The findings point to human applications of this technology in emergency rooms and intensive care units, potentially augmenting or replacing blood tests. "Breath analysis has been showing promise as a diagnostic tool in a number of chronic diseases," said Barbour (pictured). "This study provides the first evidence ... that it can be used for rapid clinical assessment of infections, which can lead to prompt institution of effective treatments." The study appeared online in the open-access journal *PLOS ONE*. More: [www.microbiology.uci.edu](http://www.microbiology.uci.edu)



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## PRIME-LC student Brenda Campos-Spitze receives prestigious scholarship

Fourth-year medical student Brenda Campos-Spitze has been selected to receive a 2013 Pisacano Scholarship, which is valued up to \$28,000 and is awarded to students attending U.S. medical schools who demonstrate a strong commitment to the specialty of family medicine. She is one of six students in the country to receive this scholarship. A member of PRIME-LC, Campos-Spitze (pictured) is dedicated to providing healthcare assistance to the underserved. Since starting medical school, she worked as a medical student volunteer on several trips to Valle Redondo, Mexico, and also for two months at a clinic in a rural village of Kenya. She is the co-chair of the referrals committee for the UC Irvine Outreach Clinic, the medical school student-run free clinic. Last year, Campos-Spitze completed her master's degree in public health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she received the Reed-Frost Scholarship, a full-tuition, merit-based scholarship given in recognition of her outstanding work and future potential in public health. More: [www.pisacano.org](http://www.pisacano.org)



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## UC Irvine Medical Center among America's Best Hospitals for 13th year

For the 13th consecutive year, UC Irvine Medical Center has been listed among "America's Best Hospitals" by *U.S. News & World Report*. It is Orange County's only listed hospital and is ranked in the top 50 nationally in three specialties: 30th for geriatrics, 47th for kidney disorders and 48th for urology. "UC Irvine Health is committed to providing Orange County with the highest quality healthcare," said Terry A. Belmont, CEO of UC Irvine Medical Center. "There is no question that in our region, we are the hospital of choice for the treatment of serious and complex cases." The medical center is the only Orange County hospital consistently rated among America's best by *U.S. News* and is ranked No. 9 in California and No. 4 in the Los Angeles area. Since 2001, the magazine has listed its programs in urology, gynecology, geriatrics, cancer, digestive disorders, kidney disorders, and ear, nose & throat among the top 50 nationwide. In addition, UC Irvine Health is home to more than 100 "Best Doctors in America," more than any other hospital in Orange County. More: [www.ucirvinehealth.org](http://www.ucirvinehealth.org)



## Renowned oncologist Richard Van Etten named cancer center director

Dr. Richard Van Etten has been appointed the director of the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Van Etten (pictured) comes to UC Irvine Health from Tufts Medical Center, where he served as chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology and director of Tufts Cancer Center. He is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking research focusing on chronic myeloid leukemia and other hematological malignancies. During his tenure at Tufts Medical Center, he also directed a highly successful research laboratory, funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, at the Molecular Oncology Research Institute. As the cancer center's new director, Van Etten will serve as the principal investigator of the NCI cancer center Support Grant and will integrate the cancer center's research and clinical endeavors. He will seek to partner with our faculty to bridge basic, clinical and translational cancer research throughout the UC Irvine research community. More: [www.cancer.uci.edu](http://www.cancer.uci.edu)



## Gavin Herbert Eye Institute offers cutting-edge care for ophthalmology patients

When the new Gavin Herbert Eye Institute building opened on Sept. 17 to serve its first patients, the community gained access to a cutting-edge center for preservation of sight, with services ranging from eye glass fittings to refractive surgeries to clinical trials of new therapies, and more. The comprehensive eye health institute includes 34 patient exam rooms with the latest in optical equipment, the first campus outpatient surgery center, an optical shop, faculty offices and conference space. A dedicated pediatric space includes play areas, video entertainment screens and other features to make the experience more comfortable for the youngest patients, many with special needs. "The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute is strategically located within walking distance of two major biomedical research centers and at the epicenter of the largest concentration of eye technology companies in the world, and is well positioned to pursue its ambitious research goal of ending blindness by 2020," said Dr. Roger Steinert, institute director. More: [www.eye.uci.edu](http://www.eye.uci.edu)





## Calendar of Events

### Friday, Oct. 18

UC Irvine Outreach Clinic's Annual Benefit and Wine Auction  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Orange County Medical Association,  
17322 Murphy Ave., Irvine.  
Fundraising event for the student-run clinic. To buy tickets, go to:  
[www.ucioutreachclinics.org](http://www.ucioutreachclinics.org)

### Tuesday, Oct. 22

Allen and Lee-Hwa Chao Lectureship in Cancer Research  
5 p.m. Reception; 6 p.m. Presentation  
Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center of the National Academies of Sciences &

### Engineering

Topic: Future Prospects of Curing Cancer  
Speaker: Ronald Evans, PhD, Salk Institute

### Thursday, Oct. 24

The 3rd Annual Arnold Starr Lecture  
4:30 p.m. Lecture; 5:30 p.m. Reception  
Herklotz Conference Center, Building 506 (Irvine campus)  
Speaker: Michael P. Kilgard, PhD  
Topic: Directing Cortical Plasticity to Understand and Treat Auditory Processing Disorders



### Tuesday, Jan. 21

Dean's Quarterly Lecture Series  
5 p.m.  
Medical Education Building  
Topic: Calming the Tempest in the Teapot; Bench Discoveries Leading to Better Therapies in Epilepsy  
Speakers: Mary Zupanc, MD and Tallie Z. Baram, MD, PhD



### Saturday, Jan. 25

UC Irvine Homecoming  
4 p.m.  
Events: Street festival and basketball game  
Mesa Road/Bren Events Center

## Medical students bat their way to victory on the field

*The championship trophy now rests in the hands of the fourth-year medical students, after they batted their way to victory at the UC Irvine School of Medicine alumni vs. student softball game. On Sept. 21, Anteaters of all ages united at the Anteater Recreation Center field for an afternoon of softball, food and fun. The game was a wonderful event for students, families and alumni, as well as a great opportunity for alumni to reconnect with UC Irvine and to meet our current medical students. Thank you to all our alumni and students for participating in this event. As we continue the tradition next fall, we hope you will join us on the field and help bring home an alumni victory!*



*The Dean's Report is published by the UC Irvine Health School of Medicine – Dean Ralph V. Clayman, MD; Assistant Vice Chancellor, UC Irvine Health Advancement Sue Totten; Executive Director of Development for the School of Medicine Teri Hauser; Alumni Relations Associate Director Carley Fox; editors Tom Vasich and Jenny Tom.*

# From the Dean

The beginning of a new academic year is a particularly exciting time. This year is no exception, and there are many new things happening at UC Irvine Health as we continue to fulfill our mission: Discover. Teach. Heal.



extensive nationwide search, we secured Dr. Rick Van Etten to become the new director of the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Van Etten is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking research in chronic myeloid

leukemia. Under his guidance, I am sure the excellent reputation of our Chao Comprehensive Cancer Center will grow as we continue as Orange County's only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center and one of only 41 so-designated cancer centers in the country.

UC Irvine Medical Center CEO Terry Belmont and I are proud to announce the opening of the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute (GHEI) building. The 70,000-square-foot facility, located on the UC Irvine campus, includes 34 patient exam rooms with the latest in optical equipment, an outpatient surgery center, faculty offices and conference space. It is the only free-standing ophthalmology institute in the county. For the community, the opening of the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute is a reflection of the dedication and support of the Orange County community. The nearly \$40 million dollar facility is among the first on the UC Irvine campus to be funded entirely through local corporate, foundation and individual philanthropic gifts. The opening of the GHEI is the realization of a dream that began in 1975, when the Department of Ophthalmology was created. Huge thanks go to Gavin Herbert, who initiated this vision nearly 40 years ago, and to Jim Mazzo, who was determined to

In the area of "Discover," UC Irvine School of Medicine continued to rise in the rankings; this year we are listed 42nd nationally for research by *U.S. News & World Report*. Given our relatively small size, we performed particularly well in funding per full-time research faculty; indeed, this parameter placed us among the top 15 medical schools nationwide!

In the area of "Teach," we welcomed a new class of 104 medical students at our August white coat ceremony. This year's students come from more than 47 different colleges and bring to our school a diverse array of backgrounds and experiences; the group's MCAT scores place them among the top 25-30 freshman classes in the country. Dr. Warren Wiechmann (see alumni profile), associate dean of instructional technologies, has returned full-time to empower our efforts to perfect our unique completely tablet-based four-year curriculum. Once again, our incoming medical students all received an iPad, complete with their digital curriculum and eBooks as part of our award-winning iMedEd Initiative, now in its fourth year. Thanks to funds raised at our biannual School of Medicine gala, we were able, for the first time, to provide three merit-based scholarships to our incoming freshman class.

In the area of "Heal," after an

make it a reality; every step along the way was facilitated by the hard work and dedication of Dr. Roger Steinert, chair of ophthalmology, and his dynamic faculty.

We are also pleased to share news of an unprecedented affiliation between UC Irvine Health and MemorialCare Health System, a nationally prominent integrated delivery system comprising six top hospitals and more than 200 care sites in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Building on our long-standing academic relationship, UC Irvine Health and MemorialCare will partner to expand access to high quality, cost-effective healthcare throughout the county, creating the most comprehensive countywide healthcare network for payers, employers and consumers. This affiliation, a major project of CEO Belmont and Chief Strategy Officer Teresa Conk, positions our organization to be at the vanguard of healthcare's transformation from episodic care to population health management.

I appreciate all the continued support from our colleagues, alumni and community members who share in our goals to enable UC Irvine Health and our School of Medicine to thrive as we continue onward to achieve our vision of becoming one of the top 20 academic health centers in the country. Discover.Teach.Heal.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph V. Clayman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ralph V. Clayman, MD  
Dean, School of Medicine  
Professor of Urology

# Support

## Attracting the best and brightest with your help

UC Irvine medical student Andrew Berg spent a summer vacation in Leon, Nicaragua, that changed his life. Berg traveled to Universidad de Leon to teach medical students and physicians how to use a portable ultrasound device for medical diagnosis. He brought along another tool, an Apple iPad, to help him explain clinical concepts to peers and patients alike. When he wasn't sharing his knowledge, Berg and fellow UC Irvine Health medical students were doing ultrasound scans on sugar cane field workers, attempting to understand why so many were developing

kidney disease and dying at a young age.

"The experience reinforced my desire to help those who need it most," he said. "I also learned that I really like to teach." In fact, upon his return to the United States, Berg began developing a Web series in microbiology for medical students.

This summer, thanks to the support of a generous philanthropist, the Joint Opportunities in New Universal Health Technologies program helped more UC Irvine medical students participate in similar high-tech, high-touch experiences. The new scholarship program helped to fund life-altering adventures for many of the 40 medical students who traveled to underserved areas in China, Panama, India,

Vietnam, Nicaragua, Romania and Australia.

These trips give medical students an emotional connection to the rewards of helping others live healthier lives. With your support, many more medical students can have the opportunity to participate in programs and travel experiences like these. Your gift to the 1896 Society, the UC Irvine School of Medicine's annual fund, will provide much-needed support for medical student programs, academic and travel scholarships, sophisticated new training tools and technologies, and other offerings that will help us attract the nation's most promising medical students. For more information call UC Irvine Health Advancement at 949-824-9157.

## What's in Your Future?

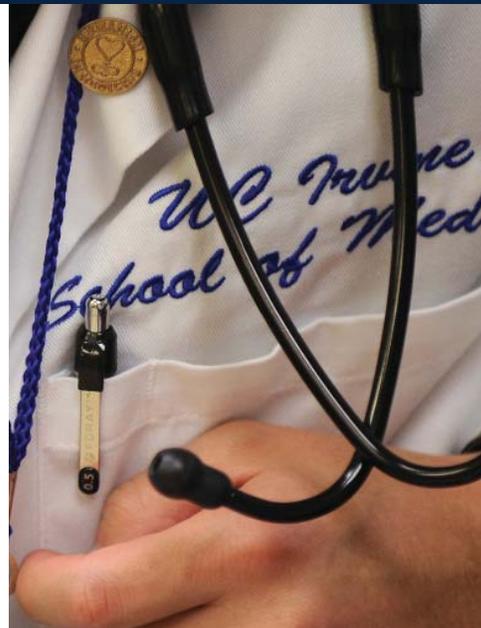
In business, you plan for every contingency.

In life, you plan for every major event.

You don't leave your future to chance, so why chance it with your legacy?

Call the UC Irvine School of Medicine to find out how your philanthropy can build a legacy for your friends, family or your community while protecting your financial future.

**Call 949.824.7910 or send an email to [thauser@uci.edu](mailto:thauser@uci.edu) today.**



[www.som.uci.edu](http://www.som.uci.edu)

# Alumni News

## Dr. Warren Wiechmann: Leading the iMedEd Initiative

Dr. Warren Wiechmann is passionate about the potential for technology to improve teaching and learning. He spearheads the School of Medicine's iMedEd Initiative, a comprehensive digital overhaul of the curriculum, which uses the iPad as its centerpiece for curricular innovation. For this, he was honored as an Apple Distinguished Educator in 2013.



A tried and true Anteater, Wiechmann spent 10 years and completed six academic programs at UC Irvine. He obtained his undergraduate degree in biological science and a minor in digital media arts ('00), then his medical degree and master's in business administration ('06). He was a UC Irvine emergency medicine resident ('09) and an

emergency medicine ultrasound fellow ('10).

With roots in graphic design and Web applications, Wiechmann has used his skills to enhance different facets of the medical student and resident experience, from creation of the medical school's first student intranet and online scheduling website to a comprehensive patient tracking and management system for the Department of Emergency Medicine.

Under Wiechmann's leadership, the medical school became the first in the nation to integrate tablet technology into medical education. This provides students with immediate access to information resources that support learning. It also fosters a rich educational environment that accommodates all modes of learning, especially small group sessions.

"Our students' enthusiasm and willingness to discover new learning modalities is unparalleled, and the students are key to the success of iMedEd," said Wiechmann.

Wiechmann has become a nationally recognized innovator and advocate for tablet-based instruction. He chairs a mobile working group of education representatives from the more than two dozen U.S. medical schools that have incorporated iPads into their curriculum. He regularly speaks about the use of tablet technology in medical education, and recently led a national discussion on the issue at the Association of American Medical Colleges conference in Austin, Texas. He served as keynote speaker for the inaugural Mobile Computing in Medical Education Conference in Indiana last May and spoke at the 2013 TEDxUCIrvine conference.

Wiechmann serves as associate dean of instructional technologies and is an assistant clinical professor of emergency medicine at UC Irvine. Wiechmann has helped revolutionize the medical school experience. He continues to be a staunch advocate, counselor and dedicated alumnus of the School of Medicine.

## SOM alumni class agents wanted, contact us today

We are seeking members from each class to become class agents who connect with medical school peers and help them stay connected through activities that support the School of Medicine. As we gear up for the School of Medicine's 50th anniversary at UC Irvine in 2017, class agents will be the key liai-

sons between their class and the School of Medicine, promoting events and inspiring the advocacy, loyalty and involvement of UC Irvine alumni.

The role of a class agent is easy and doesn't take much time. We ask you to help the school maintain ongoing communication with your classmates regarding alumni

events and programs, alumni news, reunion plans, and more. You will be supported in this effort to stay in touch through letters, emails, phone calls, personal notes and Facebook messages. If you are interested, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at 949-824-9157 or [medschoolalumni@uci.edu](mailto:medschoolalumni@uci.edu).

# Discover

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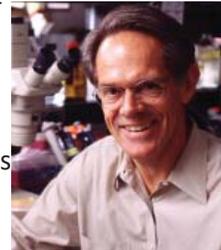
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UC Irvine Outreach Clinic's Annual Benefit and Wine Auction  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Orange County Medical Association, 17322 Murphy Ave., Irvine.  
Fundraising event for the student-run clinic. To buy tickets, go to: [www.ucioutreachclinics.org](http://www.ucioutreachclinics.org)

### Tuesday, Oct. 22

Allen and Lee-Hwa Chao Lectureship in Cancer Research  
5 p.m. Reception; 6 p.m. Presentation  
Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center of the National Academies of Sciences &

### Engineering

Topic: Future Prospects of Curing Cancer  
Speaker: Ronald Evans, PhD, Salk Institute



### Thursday, Oct. 24

The 3rd Annual Arnold Starr Lecture  
4:30 p.m. Lecture; 5:30 p.m. Reception  
Herklotz Conference Center, Building 506 (Irvine campus)  
Speaker: Michael P. Kilgard, PhD  
Topic: Directing Cortical Plasticity to Understand and Treat Auditory Processing Disorders

### Tuesday, Jan. 21

Dean's Quarterly Lecture Series  
5 p.m.  
Medical Education Building  
Topic: Calming the Tempest in the Teapot; Bench Discoveries Leading to Better Therapies in Epilepsy  
Speakers: Mary Zupanc, MD and Tallie Z. Baram, MD, PhD



### Saturday, Jan. 25

UC Irvine Homecoming  
4 p.m.  
Events: Street festival and basketball game  
Mesa Road/Bren Events Center

## Medical students bat their way to victory on the field

*The championship trophy now rests in the hands of the fourth-year medical students, after they batted their way to victory at the UC Irvine School of Medicine alumni vs. student softball game. On Sept. 21, Anteaters of all ages united at the Anteater Recreation Center field for an afternoon of softball, food and fun. The game was a wonderful event for students, families and alumni, as well as a great opportunity for alumni to reconnect with UC Irvine and to meet our current medical students. Thank you to all our alumni and students for participating in this event. As we continue the tradition next fall, we hope you will join us on the field and help bring home an alumni victory!*



*The Dean's Report is published by the UC Irvine Health School of Medicine – Dean Ralph V. Clayman, MD; Assistant Vice Chancellor, UC Irvine Health Advancement Sue Totten; Executive Director of Development for the School of Medicine Teri Hauser; Alumni Relations Associate Director Carley Fox; editors Tom Vasich and Jenny Tom.*

# From the Dean

The beginning of a new academic year is a particularly exciting time. This year is no exception, and there are many new things happening at UC Irvine Health as we continue to fulfill our mission: Discover. Teach. Heal.



In the area of “Discover,” UC Irvine School of Medicine continued to rise in the rankings; this year we are listed 42nd nationally for research by *U.S. News & World Report*. Given our relatively small size, we performed particularly well in funding per full-time research faculty; indeed, this parameter placed us among the top 15 medical schools nationwide!

In the area of “Teach,” we welcomed a new class of 104 medical students at our August white coat ceremony. This year’s students come from more than 47 different colleges and bring to our school a diverse array of backgrounds and experiences; the group’s MCAT scores place them among the top 25-30 freshman classes in the country. Dr. Warren Wiechmann (see alumni profile), associate dean of instructional technologies, has returned full-time to empower our efforts to perfect our unique completely tablet-based four-year curriculum. Once again, our incoming medical students all received an iPad, complete with their digital curriculum and eBooks as part of our award-winning iMedEd Initiative, now in its fourth year. Thanks to funds raised at our biannual School of Medicine gala, we were able, for the first time, to provide three merit-based scholarships to our incoming freshman class.

In the area of “Heal,” after an

extensive nationwide search, we secured Dr. Rick Van Etten to become the new director of the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Van Etten is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking research in chronic myeloid leukemia. Under his guidance, I am sure the excellent reputation of our Chao Comprehensive Cancer Center will grow as we continue as Orange County’s only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center and one of only 41 so-designated cancer centers in the country.

UC Irvine Medical Center CEO Terry Belmont and I are proud to announce the opening of the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute (GHEI) building. The 70,000-square-foot facility, located on the UC Irvine campus, includes 34 patient exam rooms with the latest in optical equipment, an outpatient surgery center, faculty offices and conference space. It is the only free-standing ophthalmology institute in the county. For the community, the opening of the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute is a reflection of the dedication and support of the Orange County community. The nearly \$40 million dollar facility is among the first on the UC Irvine campus to be funded entirely through local corporate, foundation and individual philanthropic gifts. The opening of the GHEI is the realization of a dream that began in 1975, when the Department of Ophthalmology was created. Huge thanks go to Gavin Herbert, who initiated this vision nearly 40 years ago, and to Jim Mazzo, who was determined to

make it a reality; every step along the way was facilitated by the hard work and dedication of Dr. Roger Steinert, chair of ophthalmology, and his dynamic faculty.

We are also pleased to share news of an unprecedented affiliation between UC Irvine Health and MemorialCare Health System, a nationally prominent integrated delivery system comprising six top hospitals and more than 200 care sites in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Building on our long-standing academic relationship, UC Irvine Health and MemorialCare will partner to expand access to high quality, cost-effective healthcare throughout the county, creating the most comprehensive countywide healthcare network for payers, employers and consumers. This affiliation, a major project of CEO Belmont and Chief Strategy Officer Teresa Conk, positions our organization to be at the vanguard of healthcare’s transformation from episodic care to population health management.

I appreciate all the continued support from our colleagues, alumni and community members who share in our goals to enable UC Irvine Health and our School of Medicine to thrive as we continue onward to achieve our vision of becoming one of the top 20 academic health centers in the country. Discover.Teach.Heal.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph V. Clayman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ralph V. Clayman, MD  
Dean, School of Medicine  
Professor of Urology

# Support

## Attracting the best and brightest with your help

UC Irvine medical student Andrew Berg spent a summer vacation in Leon, Nicaragua, that changed his life. Berg traveled to Universidad de Leon to teach medical students and physicians how to use a portable ultrasound device for medical diagnosis. He brought along another tool, an Apple iPad, to help him explain clinical concepts to peers and patients alike. When he wasn't sharing his knowledge, Berg and fellow UC Irvine Health medical students were doing ultrasound scans on sugar cane field workers, attempting to understand why so many were developing

kidney disease and dying at a young age.

"The experience reinforced my desire to help those who need it most," he said. "I also learned that I really like to teach." In fact, upon his return to the United States, Berg began developing a Web series in microbiology for medical students.

This summer, thanks to the support of a generous philanthropist, the Joint Opportunities in New Universal Health Technologies program helped more UC Irvine medical students participate in similar high-tech, high-touch experiences. The new scholarship program helped to fund life-altering adventures for many of the 40 medical students who traveled to underserved areas in China, Panama, India,

Vietnam, Nicaragua, Romania and Australia.

These trips give medical students an emotional connection to the rewards of helping others live healthier lives. With your support, many more medical students can have the opportunity to participate in programs and travel experiences like these. Your gift to the 1896 Society, the UC Irvine School of Medicine's annual fund, will provide much-needed support for medical student programs, academic and travel scholarships, sophisticated new training tools and technologies, and other offerings that will help us attract the nation's most promising medical students. For more information call UC Irvine Health Advancement at 949-824-9157.

## What's in Your Future?

In business, you plan for every contingency.

In life, you plan for every major event.

You don't leave your future to chance, so why chance it with your legacy?

Call the UC Irvine School of Medicine to find out how your philanthropy can build a legacy for your friends, family or your community while protecting your financial future.

**Call 949.824.7910 or send an email to [thouser@uci.edu](mailto:thouser@uci.edu) today.**



[www.som.uci.edu](http://www.som.uci.edu)

# Alumni News

## Dr. Warren Wiechmann: Leading the iMedEd Initiative

Dr. Warren Wiechmann is passionate about the potential for technology to improve teaching and learning. He spearheads the School of Medicine's iMedEd Initiative, a comprehensive digital overhaul of the curriculum, which uses the iPad as its centerpiece for curricular innovation. For this, he was honored as an Apple Distinguished Educator in 2013.



A tried and true Anteater, Wiechmann spent 10 years and completed six academic programs at UC Irvine. He obtained his undergraduate degree in biological science and a minor in digital media arts ('00), then his medical degree and master's in business administration ('06). He was a UC Irvine emergency medicine resident ('09) and an

emergency medicine ultrasound fellow ('10).

With roots in graphic design and Web applications, Wiechmann has used his skills to enhance different facets of the medical student and resident experience, from creation of the medical school's first student intranet and online scheduling website to a comprehensive patient tracking and management system for the Department of Emergency Medicine.

Under Wiechmann's leadership, the medical school became the first in the nation to integrate tablet technology into medical education. This provides students with immediate access to information resources that support learning. It also fosters a rich educational environment that accommodates all modes of learning, especially small group sessions.

"Our students' enthusiasm and willingness to discover new learning modalities is unparalleled, and the students are key to the success of iMedEd," said Wiechmann.

Wiechmann has become a nationally recognized innovator and advocate for tablet-based instruction. He chairs a mobile working group of education representatives from the more than two dozen U.S. medical schools that have incorporated iPads into their curriculum. He regularly speaks about the use of tablet technology in medical education, and recently led a national discussion on the issue at the Association of American Medical Colleges conference in Austin, Texas. He served as keynote speaker for the inaugural Mobile Computing in Medical Education Conference in Indiana last May and spoke at the 2013 TEDxUCIrvine conference.

Wiechmann serves as associate dean of instructional technologies and is an assistant clinical professor of emergency medicine at UC Irvine. Wiechmann has helped revolutionize the medical school experience. He continues to be a staunch advocate, counselor and dedicated alumnus of the School of Medicine.

## SOM alumni class agents wanted, contact us today

We are seeking members from each class to become class agents who connect with medical school peers and help them stay connected through activities that support the School of Medicine. As we gear up for the School of Medicine's 50th anniversary at UC Irvine in 2017, class agents will be the key liai-

sons between their class and the School of Medicine, promoting events and inspiring the advocacy, loyalty and involvement of UC Irvine alumni.

The role of a class agent is easy and doesn't take much time. We ask you to help the school maintain ongoing communication with your classmates regarding alumni

events and programs, alumni news, reunion plans, and more. You will be supported in this effort to stay in touch through letters, emails, phone calls, personal notes and Facebook messages. If you are interested, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at 949-824-9157 or [medicalschoalumni@uci.edu](mailto:medicalschoalumni@uci.edu).