



California University of
Science and Medicine
School of Medicine

Faculty Affairs Newsletter

Volume 10
June 2026



News from the Office of Faculty Affairs

Greetings CUSM Faculty,

The end of the academic year is always a busy and rewarding time in the Office of Faculty Affairs. We were delighted to celebrate alongside so many faculty members at our third annual Spring Celebration Lunch, during which we recognized faculty award recipients, committee chairs, and promotions. We also had strong participation in the Spring Faculty Assembly meeting and follow-up poll, resulting in the approval of our updated Bylaws and new committee membership slate. In addition, we were proud to partner with People and Culture to celebrate CUSM's recent LCME full accreditation at our annual employee event. Finally, it was a pleasure to connect with faculty colleagues at the graduation ceremonies for the MD and MBS Classes of 2026.

Thank you to the many faculty members who volunteered for open Faculty Assembly Committee positions. The new committee year begins on July 20 with the start of the M1 and M2 academic year, and we look forward to welcoming members at our Faculty Committee Kick-Off hybrid event on July 22 at noon. We are redesigning this event to provide meaningful value for both new and experienced committee members. Watch your email for additional details.

Interested in learning more about promotion? Faculty are invited to attend our annual Promotion Information Session on Monday, August 3, at 4:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. An invitation will be

sent soon.

While this newsletter highlights many of our recent group events and accomplishments, we would love to feature individual faculty achievements in our October edition. If you have presented at a conference, published scholarly work, launched a new program, or have other news that may be of interest to your colleagues, please email us at facultyaffairs@cusm.edu.

Best wishes,
The Faculty Affairs Team

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University News

CUSM Celebrates Match Day and Graduations

CUSM proudly celebrated a 100% residency match rate for its 2026 MD graduating class. All 124 graduates secured residency placements, with 80% remaining in California and 31% staying in the Inland Empire, reinforcing CUSM's commitment to training physicians who will serve local communities.

CUSM graduates matched into competitive residency programs across the state and nation, including highly sought-after specialties such as anesthesiology, ophthalmology, surgical disciplines, and obstetrics. Many students will continue their training at CUSM partner hospitals, with top specialty placements including internal medicine, emergency medicine, psychiatry, and family medicine.

CUSM also celebrated the graduation of the Master of Biomedical Sciences (MBS) Class of 2026 in May, the 8th class to graduate from this 10-month program. Since inception of the MBS program, many graduates have been accepted into the CUSM MD program as well as other medical schools. MBS graduates have also gone on to other healthcare programs as well as employment in research.



M4 students celebrate Match Day with ARMC leadership and faculty, including (from left to right) Dr John Brill, ARMC CMO; Dr Ha Lee, ARMC Chief of Radiology; Andrew Goldfrach, ARMC CEO; and Drs Carol Lee and Samuel Schwartz.



CUSM faculty and board members, along with the MD graduating class of 2026, at the Riverside Convention Center.



CUSM faculty joined the MBS graduating Class of 2026 at the Riverside Convention Center.

CUSM Celebrates Full LCME Accreditation Achievement

During the annual Employee Celebration on Thursday, May 28, faculty and staff celebrated the achievement of full LCME accreditation. Special recognition was given to Associate Dean of Accreditation and Continuous Quality Improvement, Dr Tsugio Seki, and team members Catherine Eisenbrey, Christian Heun, and Charity Thomann for their leadership and management in helping CUSM achieve this important milestone.

The recognition was presented by Dr Maegen Dupper, Associate Dean of Clinical Curriculum, and Dr Aaron Jacobs, Associate Dean of Pre-Clinical Curriculum, alongside the Office of Faculty Affairs.

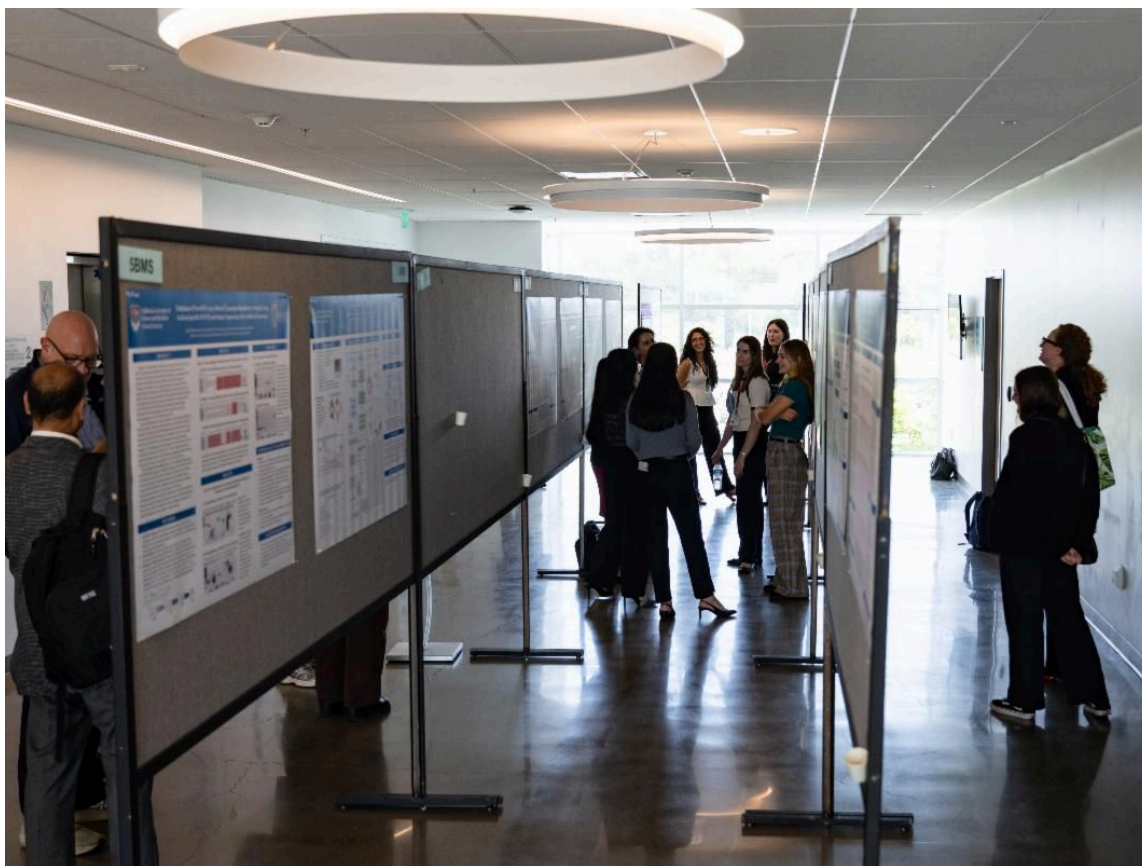


Research Symposium

On Friday May 15th 2026, CUSM hosted the Research and Scholarly Activities Conference in partnership with Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC). This event was the 8th Annual Research Symposium for CUSM and the 20th Annual Research Day for ARMC.

The program included two invited presentations from Dr Karen Szumlinski, Professor, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at University of California, Santa Barbara and Dr Phillip White, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Nutrition from Duke University. Faculty, residents and students who had submitted abstracts shared their work through podium presentations and a poster session.





Attendees listening to the presentation from Dr Szumlinski and engaging with poster presenters.

First CUSM Surgical Skills Competition

The CUSM Surgery Interest Group (SIG), along with faculty member Dr Davinder Sandhu, ran a Surgical Skills Competition on February 12, 2026. The concept was received with much enthusiasm and interest. Nine five-minute skill stations were created by SIG, consisting of simple to complex skills such as suturing and knot tying, identifying instruments, laparoscopic suturing, and placing bands. A highly innovative station involved using ultrasound to locate and puncture balloons embedded in jelly.

Sixty students attended the practice session, with 18 students entering the competition. All received a certificate of participation, while the top five students received commendations, with the winner, Bilal Shakoor, being awarded \$50. SIG members created the grading sheets, ran the timing and point calibration stations, and assisted with judging. Dean Lyons graciously handed out the certificates. Support and resources for the event were generously provided by Dr Mishriki, Dr Javidi and Clinical Skills, Dr Scali, and Dr S. Schwartz.

If you are a faculty member who would like to contribute time/expertise to next year's surgical skills competition, please contact the SIG at surgeryig@cusm.edu.



Faculty Recognition

Spring Faculty Celebration Event



On Tuesday, May 12, the Faculty Affairs Office hosted its annual Spring Faculty Celebration Luncheon, bringing together faculty and leadership to recognize outstanding achievements across the CUSM community.

Faculty awards were presented to recipients nominated by the CUSM Faculty for the 2025–2026 academic year, along with teaching award recipients selected by the MD Classes of 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029. The Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, nominated by the MBS Class of 2026, was also presented. The luncheon also honored 11 Faculty Committee Chairs for their leadership and service during the academic year and recognized five faculty members for their academic promotions.

The celebration highlighted the dedication, excellence, and continued contributions of CUSM faculty in advancing the institution's academic mission.

Student Nominated Awards

The Robert and Leslie Lewinter-Suskind Award for Excellence in Preclinical Medical Education
Ou “Ozzie” Zhang, PhD

The Robert and Leslie Lewinter-Suskind Award for Excellence in Clinical Medical Education
Farbod Farmand, DO

Faculty Nominated Awards

Excellence in Pre-Clerkship and Graduate Teaching Award
Brian Spivack, MD

Excellence in Clerkship Teaching Award
Gunjeet Ahluwalia, MD

***Excellence in Clinical Skills
Teaching Award***

Emad Mishriki, MD

Research Mentor Award

Vance Johnson, MD

***Excellence in Graduate Teaching
Award***

Raj Ettarh, MD

Excellence in Service Award

Rakesh Gorantla, PhD

***Excellence in Research or
Scholarship Award***

Edith Wakida, PhD

***Advancing the CUSM
Mission Award***

Devadas Moses, MD



Dr Zohray Talib, Executive Vice Dean for Education with award winners Drs Raj Ettarh, Rakesh Gorantla, Ou Zhang, Brian Spivack, Emad Mishriki, Farbod Farmand and Vance Johnson.



Dr Lisa Schwartz, Department Chair for Medical Education with award winner Dr Devadas Moses.

Faculty Promotions

We were proud to recognize the promotion of five faculty members during our Spring Faculty Celebration Luncheon, including four promotions to Associate Professor and one promotion to Professor (see listing and photo below). These promotions reflect each faculty member's continued excellence in teaching, scholarship, service, and commitment to the CUSM mission.

Promotion applications are submitted to the Chair of the Department of Medical Education in early December and reviewed by the Rank and Promotion Committee in the Spring.

Faculty interested in pursuing promotion are encouraged to review the available resources on the Faculty Affairs website: <https://cusm.edu/faculty/promotion-1.php>.

Associate Professor

Joél Arvizo-Zavala, PhD
Equity, Inclusion, Diversity & Partnership, Social Mission & Accountability

Joseph Elsissy, MD
Orthopedics, Orthopedic Surgery, ARMC

Mufadda Hasan, MD
Internal Medicine, Critical Care, Pulmonary Medicine, ARMC

Efstathios Karamanos, MD
Surgery, Plastic Surgery, ARMC

Professor

Maegen Dupper, MD
Clinical Curriculum, Family Medicine



Dr Lisa Schwartz, Department Chair for Medical Education with Drs Mufadda Hasan, Joél Arvizo-Zavala and Maegen Dupper.

Faculty News

Teaching and Learning Academy

The 2025–2026 CUSM Teaching & Learning Academy (TLA) concluded in April with seven faculty members completing an eight-month, cohort-based faculty development experience focused on evidence-based teaching and learning. Throughout the program, participants explored learning and motivation theory, instructional design, assessment, learner engagement, and emerging topics such as artificial intelligence in education.

Participants consistently identified foundational educational theories as among the most impactful elements of the Academy. One participant noted that the program strengthened their ability to design curriculum in a “more systematic, theory-driven, and pedagogically sound manner,” while another highlighted the value of learning “specific teaching theories and how to apply them to our work.” Topics such as backward design, cognitive load theory, Bloom’s Revised Taxonomy, and Vygotsky’s theory of learning were frequently cited as particularly valuable.

The Academy culminated in applied projects designed to improve teaching and learning across the institution. Projects included development of a Medical Spanish clinical skills course and OSCE, creation of a Surgical Skills Competition Program, instruction focused on managing emotional trauma, integration of medical coding into clinical skills education, and revision of a fourth-year teaching elective for residency preparation.

Participants were recognized for their accomplishments at the Faculty Awards Luncheon in April.

Applications for the 2026–2027 Teaching & Learning Academy will open this summer. Additional information about the program and application process will be distributed to faculty in July and August.



Drs Vy Han, Debbie Wright, Jonathan Townsend, Emad Mishriki, Alexandra Lopez-Vera, and Davinder Sandhu (not pictured are Drs Aniradh Gupta and Toufiqul Hoque).

Midcareer Faculty Development Program Completion

During the 2025/26 academic year, the Offices and Faculty Affairs and Faculty and Professional Development partnered in hosting our first Midcareer Faculty Development series. Faculty members who had recently been promoted to Associate Professor were invited to participate in the 6 sessions which ran from October through April.

Drs Linda Connelly and Jonathan Townsend presented the sessions which covered development in areas including teaching, service and research. Faculty who attended all sessions and completed a career planning document received certificates of participation.



Dr Townsend with faculty participants Drs Vy Han, Emad Mishriki, Ou Zhang, Shazia Sheikh, Hina Mohsin, Shawn Koh and Madhu Varma. Photographed separately below – Drs Naghmana Shafi and Vanessa Orozco.



Naghmana Shafi, MD



Vanessa Orozco, PhD

Faculty Assembly

Faculty Assembly Updates for Academic Year 2026–2027

The Faculty Assembly has completed its election process for the 2026–2027 academic year, and the newly elected standing committee slate will officially take effect on July 20, 2026, marking the start of a new year of faculty shared governance at CUSM.

The Faculty Executive Council (FEC), which serves as the administrative arm of the Faculty Assembly, has also established its leadership for the upcoming year. Dr David Seigler, Associate Professor and Chair of Behavioral Health at ARMC, will serve as Chair of the Faculty Executive Council and Faculty Assembly. Dr Daryoush Javidi, Director of Clinical Skills & Simulation, will serve as Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. MSC and MBS elections for student committee representatives will begin after the start of the academic year, following the first M1 Foundations course.

To view the current committee organogram for Academic Year 2026–2027, please contact the Office of Faculty Affairs at facultyaffairsoffice@cusm.edu.

2025-2026 Faculty Committee Chairs

**Faculty Executive Council/
Faculty Assembly Chair**
Ou “Ozzie” Zhang, MD, PhD

Admissions
Webster Wong, MD

Assessment and Evaluation
Jonathan Townsend, EdD

Bylaws
Alexander Marmureanu, MD

Clerkship Curriculum
Elizabeth Morrison-Banks, MD

**Graduate Admissions &
Research**
Shazia Sheikh, MD

Graduate Curriculum
Maiyon Park, MD

Diversity and Inclusion
Deborah Wright, EdD

Curriculum
Vanessa Orozco, PhD

**Pre-Clerkship Curriculum &
Rank and Promotion**
Fauzia Nausheen, MD

**Student Academic Standards and
Promotions**
Davinder Sandhu, MD



Dr Zohray Talib, Executive Vice Dean for Education with the 25/26 Chairs – Drs Ou Zhang, Webster Wong, Debbie Wright, Fauzia Nausheen, Davinder Sandhu, Alexander Marmureanu, Vanessa Orozco, Elizabeth Morrison-Banks and Maiyon Park.

Faculty Committee Training

This year, the Office of Faculty Affairs has reimagined its traditional committee training into a more collaborative experience: an inaugural Faculty Committee Kickoff event.

The Faculty Committee Kickoff will take place on Wednesday, July 22, at 12:00 PM in Classroom #255, bringing together faculty and staff serving on committees to learn more about committee roles, responsibilities, and the chance to win exciting prizes and giveaways!

Additional event details will be shared by the Office of Faculty Affairs in the coming days.



Office of Faculty Affairs

GFA Conference and Brown Bag Series

Dr Linda Connelly, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, participated in the AAMC Group on Business Affairs, Group on Institutional Planning and Group on Faculty Affairs Joint Spring

Meeting, St Louis, MO, in April. She gave a podium presentation titled “Development of a Faculty Data System: A Custom Solution for a Community Medical School” and partnered with Tracey Scholtemeyer, Associate Dean for People and Culture in a team presentation on “Strategic Utilization of Faculty and Staff Engagement Surveys: Showcasing Multiple Institutions”.

Dr Jonathan Townsend, Director of Faculty and Professional Development presented a poster on “A Video-Based Approach to Strengthen Onboarding and Evaluation in Clerkship Teaching”. Co-authors were Luke Ridout, Maegen Dupper, Clarissa Barra and Nia Akins-Penaloza.

Dr Connelly also presented in the AAMC GFA Brown Bag Series webinar on Appointments, Promotion and Tenure on Monday May 11th.



Drs Linda Connelly and Jonathan Townsend with Assoc Dean Tracey Scholtemeyer.

Upcoming Events

Faculty Committee Kickoff

Wednesday, July 22nd

12:00 PM-1:00 PM | MBS Classroom #255

An invitation from the Office of Faculty Affairs will be shared soon.

Faculty Promotion Process (Online)
Monday, August 3rd
4:00 PM-5:00 PM | Online via MS Teams

An invitation from the Office of Faculty Affairs will be shared soon.

The Office of Faculty Affairs



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