



UCLA Radiation Oncology Buzz

Colleagues and Friends of the UCLA Department of Radiation Oncology:



This edition of the UCLA Radiation Oncology Buzz welcomes our new residents and fellows as well as notes the success of our graduating residents and fellow in finding their academic and community practice careers opportunities. But, of particular note, in this edition of the "Buzz" are three very significant awards conferred to members of our faculty.

First, please join me in congratulating Dr. Minsong Cao, Associate Professor and Medical Physics Residency Program Director who was the 2017 recipient of the Association of Residents in Radiation Oncology (AARO) Educator the Year Award.

Congratulations also to Dr. Susan McCloskey, Chief of the Breast Service for UCLA Radiation Oncology and Medical Director of our Santa Monica site, who was selected as the 2017 UCLA Exceptional Physician Award at Santa Monica Medical Center.

Finally, the 2017 ASTRO Gold Medal is being presented at the ASTRO National Meeting to me. I am grateful to receive this recognition from my peers. For me, this award celebrates the incredible advances we have achieved in radiation oncology and cancer treatment, but also underscores the continued need to combine clinical research with effective health policy to best provide our patients with state-of-the-art care.

Please enjoy perusing this latest edition of the UCLA Radiation Oncology Buzz.

Michael Steinberg, MD Professor and Chair



Albert Chang, MD, PhD Associate Professor Vice Chair of Surgical Services Chief of Brachytherapy Services

Dr. Chang received his Ph.D. in Molecular Medicine and M.D. degrees from the Boston University School of Medicine. He completed his

residency at the Washington University School of Medicine, and then joined the faculty at the University of California, San Francisco as an Assistant Professor.

His clinical focus is on malignancies of the genitourinary and gynecological systems and specialized in high dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy. HDR brachytherapy is a highly effective modality for the delivery of high, ablative doses of radiation directly into tumors with the greatest conformality. This treatment modality requires skill and experience. Dr. Chang has performed over 1500 brachytherapy procedures.

Dr. Chang is known internationally and has been invited to speak at scientific meetings globally. He has published numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters and also serves on the Radiation Oncology Genitourinary Examination Committee of the American Board of Radiology. Dr. Chang's research explores the use of novel systemic treatment combinations with radiation therapy and the use of novel imaging technologies to improve the delivery of radiation.

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Michael L. Steinberg, MD, FASTRO ASTRO Gold Medalist 2017



Excerpt written by the ASTRO Awards Committee on Dr. Steinberg as Gold Medalist for 2017:

Michael L. Steinberg, MD, FASTRO, is driven by his professional commitment to provide excellence in patient care through his expertise in health policy, and he has worked tirelessly in service to the specialty of radiation oncology as an advocate and leader.

Following his graduation from the University of Southern California School of Medicine, Dr. Steinberg completed a post-graduate year in surgery at LAC + USC Medical Center, before entering the radiation oncology residency and fellowship program at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

"Early in my medical training I found that I was most comfortable taking care of patients with the most significant and severe health problems," Dr. Steinberg said of his decision to specialize in radiation oncology. "I quickly learned that cancer patients are among the most heroic patients one can see in the practice of medicine."

In the early years of his private medical practice, Dr. Steinberg developed an expertise in health care economics and health policy through teaching and working in health services research at UCLA and the Rand Corporation. Dr. Steinberg was tapped to serve as a representative to the Relative Value Update Committee (RUC) for ASTRO from 1997-2002 and as the radiation oncology representative to the CPT Editorial Committee from 2002-2010. As one of his nominating letters put it, "There is a debt owed to Dr. Steinberg by all radiation oncologists for the many tireless years of work he put in to the CPT Panel, due to his deep understanding of complex health care and reimbursement issues."

Dr. Steinberg understood and foresaw the increasing demands of managing health care economic issues for the specialty of radiation oncology. "This is not just about billing, this is also about access to radiation oncology care and the quality of that care," Dr. Steinberg would say. In 2002, the Health Policy Council was formed as part of the reorganization of ASTRO governance. Dr. Steinberg was subsequently elected to the ASTRO Board of Directors as the inaugural Chair of the Health Policy Council, from 2003-2007.

In 2008, Dr. Steinberg's career took a turn when he left community practice to become Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology for the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, a post he still holds. "Although it is unusual for someone to go from private practice to a leadership position in one of the great research universities, Dr. Steinberg has all of the qualities needed and it rapidly became clear that he was made for the position," wrote one of his nominators.

Under Dr. Steinberg's leadership, the department has become a leader in radiation oncology research and education. "The residency program expanded and all divisions of the department have seen a significant increase in extramural research funding," added another of his nominators. "The department is now clearly a marquee program within a marquee institution."

In 2010, Dr. Steinberg was elected to the presidential track of ASTRO. In addition to his advocacy for the specialty of radiation oncology on Capitol Hill and with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Dr. Steinberg introduced the notion of the Value Proposition in health care for radiation oncology. He also led ASTRO Board initiatives such as "Choosing Wisely" and the RO-ILS: Radiation Oncology Incident Learning System®.

Dr. Steinberg is considered a national expert in the value in cancer care and he has been invited to speak at the Institute of Medicine and numerous academic cancer centers about the topic. He currently serves on national technology assessment forums, bringing valuable representation for the specialty to the process. Dr. Steinberg has also been appointed to a number of leadership posts, including Director of Clinical Affairs for UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and, after election by his peers, to the Chair of Clinical Chairs for the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He also sits on the executive governing group for UCLA Health.

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Clinical Team Excellence Updates



UCLA Rad Onc Clinical Staff Receive \$10,000 for Achieving Highest Level FPG **Ambulatory Resource Team Rounds Score**

Congratulations to the Westwood Radiation Oncology Front Office, Clinical Nursing, and Radiation Therapist teams for reaching Tier 4 of the Faculty Practice Group Ambulatory Resource Team Rounds. It took over 1 year of consistently high rounding scores on patient experience items such as waiting room cleanliness, staff introductions, courtesy & CICARE to achieve this award.

The group was recognized at the FPG FOCUS meeting, and received a glass award for display in our department and \$10,000 to be used towards patient experience improvements. Improvements are in process to add charging stations to the patient waiting areas, "We noticed that patients were always looking for a place to plug in and we worry that they'll hurt themselves trying to reach outlets." Stated one of the clinical team members. Another potential improvement is to upgrade the existing tv monitors to be able to use them for informational and educational programming for patients and family members in waiting areas.

We look forward to seeing these improvements in the next year!



UCLA Radiation Oncology Department Receives high scores in Patient Experience Survey

The UCLA Faculty Practice Group (FPG) Patient Experience Survey is a patient care improvement activity that measures patient reported experiences when receiving care at UCLA. Patients are contacted to complete surveys over the telephone approximately 10-14 days after their visit. The survey organizes the various aspects of a patient's experience of care into five categories. Four of the categories are "composite measures" made up of two or more underlying questions each. These categories are Quality of Patient-Doctor Interaction, Access to Care, Care Coordination, and Courteous and Helpful Office Staff. The fifth category includes two global rating questions, which ask the patient to Rate the Doctor on a scale of o to 10, and if the patient would Recommend the Doctor to his or her family and friends.

	Number of Valid	Number of Valld	Would you recommend this doctor to your family and friends?			
	Surveys	Surveys	score		V5.	
Reporting Unit	Current Period	Baseline Period	current period	baseline period	UCLA Mean	own baseline
UCLA	34,391	35,071	93.2	93,4		•
UCLA Doctors 90th Percentile	-	-	98.3	98.3		•
UCLA Locations 90th Percentile			96.6	96.3		•
RADIATION ONCOLOGY	438	483	96.2	94.2	1	0
SURGERY	2220	2428	95.5	95.2	↑	•
PEDIATRICS	47	62	94.0	97.4	•	•
MEDICINE	14642	14053	93.7	93.5	↑	•
OBGYN	1484	1394	93.7	92.6	•	•
FAMILY HEALTH	490	720	93.5	92.9	•	•
OPHTHALMOLOGY	2417	2319	93.5	93.4	•	•
NEUROSURGERY	617	406	93.4	93.5	•	•
CPN	1648	1663	93.2	93.3	•	•
UROLOGY	1062	1096	92.6	93.1	•	•
SMBP	2338	2481	92.4	93.7	•	•
HEAD AND NECK SURGERY	887	880	92.0	95.2	•	•
ORTHOPAEDICS	1359	1417	91.6	91.1	•	•
NEUROLOGY	1277	1671	91.2	92.0	•	•
ANESTHESIA	374	349	89.2	86.8	•	•

	Number of Valid	Number of Valid	Quality of Patient- Doctor Interaction			
	Surveys	Surveys	score		VS.	
Reporting Unit	Current Period	Baseline Period	current period	baseline period	UCLA Mean	own baseline
ICLA	34,391	35,071	93.4	93.2		•
JCLA Doctors 90th Percentile JCLA Locations	-	-	97.8	97.6		•
0th Percentile			96.6	96.2		•
RADIATION ONCOLOGY	438	483	95.3	94.2	1	0
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JROLOGY	1062	1096	91.6	91.6	+	•
ORTHOPAEDICS	1359	1417	90.8	90.1	+	•
WESTHESIA	374	349		86.0	•	1



Welcome to our New Physician Faculty



Amar Kishan, MD, MPH Assistant Professor-in-Residence

Dr. Kishan graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Molecular and Cell Biology and Public Health. He earned his

medical degree from Harvard Medical School, where he graduated magna cum laude from the joint Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology Program. He completed his residency training in radiation oncology at UCLA.

During residency he published over 30 peer-reviewed manuscripts. Notable among these is a multi-institutional study on the outcomes high-risk prostate cancer, which was published in the premier urologic oncology journal, European Urology. Dr. Kishan has continued to lead this study, which now includes over 1800 patients treated across 13 institutions.

He specializes in the utilization of radiation to treat genitourinary malignancies (particularly cancers of the prostate and bladder), as well as malignancies of the head and neck and central nervous system.



Regiane de Andrade, MD Staff Radiation Oncologist

Dr. Regiane De Andrade received her medical degree in Brazil. She studied at Federal University of Sao Paulo-Escola Paulista de Medicina and completed her training in

radiation oncology in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She is board certified in radiation oncology by the Brazilian College of Radiology and worked as faculty at the Federal University of Sao Paulo. Dr. De Andrade then joined the University of Pittsburgh in a research capacity. She was involved in several research projects for integration of newer technologies such as IMRT, PET-CT, IGRT, and 4D-PET-CT for the Radiation Oncology Department. She continued to complete a Radiation Oncology Residency at the University of Pittsburgh and is board certified by the American Board of Radiology in Radiation Oncology. Dr. De Andrade's publications were pioneer for integration of these technologies into routine clinical practice, especially in use of PET-CT and IMRT for head and neck cancers.

Faculty News and Accomplishments

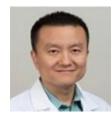
Congratulations to our new Physics and Biology in Medicine PhD Program Faculty Members!

Joanne Weidhaas, MD, PhD, Professor Track: Division of Molecular and Cellular Oncology

Youming Yang, PhD, Assistant Professor

Track: Therapeutic Medical Physics

Faculty News and Accomplishments



Minsong Cao, PhD 2017 ARRO Educator of the Year The UCLA Radiation Oncology Residents are happy to announce this year's recipient of the Association of Residents in Radiation Oncology

(ARRO) Educator of the Year Award to be Dr. Cao.

Dr. Cao is an outstanding educator who exudes a genuine enthusiasm for teaching. This is apparent not only from his excellent didactic lectures, but also from the fact that he takes every occasion to teach both the clinical and the physics residents "off the cuff." He is well regarded by all his peers, both within and outside of the UCLA Department of Radiation Oncology, and is readily approachable at any time with questions or concerns. The residents consider it a privilege to be able to learn from educators like Dr. Cao, and it is with great happiness that we nominated him for this award.



Susan McCloskey, MD 2017 UCLA Exceptional Physician

Congratulations to Dr. Susan McCloskey for being selected for the 2017 UCLA Exceptional Physician Award.

Dr. McCloskey is 1 of 8 physicians chosen from 69 outstanding nominations. She was honored at the Nursing Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 18th the Harman Garden, Santa Monica Medical Center.

Excerpt from comments made during nominations:

Susie McCloskey inspires the best in everyone around her. When working with Dr. McCloskey, one immediately notices a genuine commitment to both education and to providing exceptional patient care

Her passion for placing the patient first is unparalleled and evidenced during every interaction with both patients and other providers.



Original Article

Treatment trends for patients with brain metastases: Does practice reflect the data?

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cncr.30607/full

Findings from "Treatment trends for patients with brain metastases: Does practice reflect the data?" was featured in a recent ASCO news bulletin. Published in the journal, Cancer, and features findings from UCLA Radiation Oncology. Congratulations to our authors!

Kiri A. Sandler MD, Narek Shaverdian MD, Ryan R. Cook MSPH, Amar U. Kishan MD, Christopher R. King PhD, MD, Isaac Yang MD, Michael L. Steinberg MD, and Percy Lee MD

Community Network News



Call 213.977.2121



UCLA Radiation Oncology Signs Professional Services Agreement on June 5, 2017

Our physicians assumed the professional services for Good Samaritan Hospital's Radiation Oncology Center on June 5, 2017. The facility is going through a rebuild and we look forward to being a part of the new Radiation Oncology center slated to open in early 2018. Thank you for welcoming our physicians to the community!



David Khan, MD Director, Community Network

Dr. David Khan has bee appointed as the Director of the UCLA Radiation Oncology Community Network. In

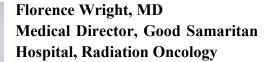
this new role, Dr. Khan will serve as the liaison for our community site medical directors and work closely with our own leadership and the site administration. He will also oversee the Quality Improvement activities of our external sites.



Afshin Safa, MD Human Kindness Award

Congratulations to Dr. Afshin Safa, for being selected by Dignity Health Northridge Hospital and Medical Center staff for the "Acts of Human Kindness Award".

Dr. Safa has practiced at Northridge Hospital Medical Center for over 14 years where he serves as the Chair of the Cancer Committee and the Medical Director of the Harold and Carole Pump Radiation Oncology Department.



Dr. Florence Wright has been appointed as the Medical Director at Good Samaritan Hospital's Radiation Oncology department effective October 2017. Dr. Wright has been a staff radiation oncologist with UCLA March 2016 and became an Assistant Professor on June 1, 2017. She earned her medical degree at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. She subsequently completed specialty training in radiation oncology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where she also served as chief resident. Her areas of clinical expertise include palliative radiation, Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), Image-Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT), and Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT), the treatment of breast, prostate, lung, central nervous system, gastrointestinal, gynecologic, and head and neck cancers. Dr. Wright is particularly interested in quality of life following cancer treatment, with focus on female sexual health after pelvic radiation, and the psychological impacts of cancer. She excels in patient communication and takes pride in helping each of her patients reach a clear understanding of their illness, their options, and their emotions.

Recent Grant Awards

Kei Iwamoto, PhD NIH RO1 Award



Dr. Kei Iwamoto has received an NIH RO1 Grant for his project titled "Exploiting Multidrug Resistance Mechanisms to Counter Radiation Toxicity". This five-year \$1.25M study will mechanistically link radiation-induced cell

death to the interplay of a ubiquitous cellular antioxidant with molecules responsible for causing drug resistance and thereby identify potential new pharmaceutical therapies for radiation sickness and/or for enhancing radiotherapy of tumors.

Anusha Kalbasi, MD **Tower Cancer Research Career Development and** RSNA Research Scholar Grant



Dr. Anusha Kalbasi was awarded the Tower Cancer Research Career Development Award. The project, which is titled "Developing a Neoadjuvant Platform to Study Macrophage-Driven Resistance to Immunotherapy in Sarcoma." The grant provides \$100,000 in support for over one year.

In addition, Dr. Kalbasi was also awarded \$152,000 for the RSNA Research Scholar Grant. His research titled "Uncoupling the Tumor Promoting and Wound Healing Properties of Macrophages in the Irradiated Microenvironment" was among the top-ranked and approved for funding.

Ye Yuan, MD **RSNA** Resident Research Grant and **ASTRO Resident Research Seed Grant**



Dr. Ye Yuan was awarded the Radiological Society of North American Resident Research Grant for his research titled "The Role of Microrna-34 in the DNA Damage Response and Cancer Cell Immune Evasion Via Regulation of PD-

L1 After Ionizing Radiation." Dr. Yuan will be awarded \$30,000 for his research.

Dr. Yuan also has received an ASTRO Resident Research Seed Grant for his interests in how tumors evade the immune system. He will be awarded \$25, 000 in support of his research.

Erina Vlashi, PhD ASTRO Jr. Faculty Career Research Award



Dr. Erina Vlashi has been selected as the ASTRO 2017 JFA recipient. This is a two-year, \$200,000 grant awarded to early career physicians and researches. Dr. Vlashi is interested in how ionizing radiation

induces the reprogramming of breast cancer cells into breast cancer initiating or stem cells that can lead to increase tumor growth and treatment resistance.

Nicholas Nickols, MD, PhD STOP Cancer Research Career Development Award and PCF Young Investigator Award



Dr. Nicholas Nickols received the STOP Cancer Research Career Development Award. This three year award totaling \$150,000 in support. Nickols is leading and developing clinical-translational studies in local and metastatic prostate cancer. He is

interested in understanding the biology of high dose per fraction radiotherapy and its impact on tumor and normal tissue, and the immune response. He is also interested in developing methods to increase sensitivity of prostate cancers to current therapies and combining new imaging and treatment strategies to improve care for patients with incurable prostate cancer.

Dr. Nickols has also been awarded the 2017 Dr. Carlo Greco / Ion Care - PCF Young Investigator Award for his proposal titled "Molecular Drivers of Metastasis of Lethal Prostate Cancer: Correlative Analyses from a Prospective Phase II Trial in Oligometastatic Patients in Veterans Affairs". three-year award total \$75,000 in support.

Educational Programs

State of the Art Radiation Oncology Conference June 9 - 10, 2017















The department hosted its first State of the Art Workshop on June 9—10, 2017. It was a wonderful showcase of our department's expertise in the field of radiation oncology. We hosted over 120 attendees with participants coming from across the country and around the world, including Australia and Germany! The conference focused on topics ranged rom cutting edge technology to novel cellular and immune research, the depth and breadth of our activities span not only patient care but also translational discoveries and novel approaches to everything we pursue.

Dr. Brian Kavanagh, President of ASTRO and Chair at University of Colorado honored us as our Keynote Speaker. He discussed the current and future vision for our specialty in order to thrive in the environment of value-based and evidence-based care model.

Congratulations to Dr. Percy Lee and Dr. Minsong Cao our Course Chairs, and the Educational Programs team, Angelina Bargeron and Kathy Rose, for an outstanding workshop. A special thanks to the UCLA Continuing Medical Education Office and staff for their help in coordinating the day. We look forward to future endeavors that showcase our department's amazing achievements.

GU Cancer Symposium and 2017 Conquer Cancer Foundation's ASCO Merit Award Recipients

Congratulations to our residents, Dr. Amar Kishan and Dr. Narek Shaverdian, who's posters were selected to be featured in the 2017 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium. In addition, both Dr. Kishan and Dr. Shaverdian were awarded the 2017 Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO Merit Awards in Genitourinary Cancers.

Dr. Kishan's poster was also selected to be highlighted in a interview series.

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Amar Kishan, MD, University of California, Los Angeles: Radiotherapy versus radical prostatectomy for Gleason score 9-10 prostate adenocarcinoma: A multi-institutional comparative analysis of 1001 patients treated in the modern era. (Abstract 7)

Narek Shaverdian, MD, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA: Impact of the primary information source used for decision making and implications for treatment regret in prostate cancer. (Abstract 17)

Educational Programs - Cont'd

Graduating Trainees Move On to Top Notch Positions

Amar Kishan, MDAmar will be staying on as an Assistant Professor at the UCLA David

Physician Resident 2013-2017 Geffen School of Medicine.

J. Daniel Pennington, MD, PhD Dan will be joining Radiation Oncology Associates group in Rich-

Physician Resident 2013-2017 mond, Virginia as an attending radiation oncologist.

Dongsu Du, PhDDongsu will join the Henry Ford Health System RadOnc team as a

Physics Resident 2015-2017 bioscientific staff physicist in Detroit, MI.

Jagdeep Raince, MD Deepy is joining the Kaiser Permanente group of Santa Clara.

Brachy Fellow 2016-2017

Welcome to our new Residents and Fellows!



Rebecca Levin- Hometown: Oakland, CA
Epstein, MD BS: Tufts University

MD: University of California, Los Angeles

Physician Resident Internship: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Favorite Things about UCLA: "The amazing residents and faculty in the program, exciting technologies, multidisciplinary approach to oncology, and the fact that when-

ever I step outside it's always beautiful!"

Neil Parikh, MD MBA Hometown: Arlington, TX

BS: Rice University, Houston, TX

Physician Resident MD: Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

Internship: Beth Israel Deaconess, Boston, MA

Favorite Things about UCLA: "The warm family-like environment within the department; university-wide collaboration across various disciplines, obsession over

basketball."



Ritchell van Dams,

MD

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

BS: Harvard MD: Yale

Physician Resident Internship: Norwalk Hospital

Favorite Things about UCLA: "Supportive colleagues, access to leading edge re-

search, and the opportunity to take care of a diverse patient population."

Victoria Yu, PhD

Hometown: Taipei, Taiwan

Physics Resident BS: Physics and Statistics, Rutgers University

PhD: Biomedical Physics, UCLA

Favorite Things about UCLA: "Friendly people and wonderful educators. Diverse and cutting-edge technologies that provide opportunities for delivering advanced

clinical care and research."



Puja Venkat, MD

Hometown: Detroit, MI

Brachytherapy Fellow BA: Stanford University

MD: University of Toledo College of Medicine

Favorite Things about UCLA: "Friendliness, sunshine and proximity to the beach!"

Past Events

KICKIN' OFF THE NEW YEAR PARTY January 2017

The UCLA RadOncers gathered together at Bowlero in Mar Vista for our annual new year kick off event. Many bowling braggarts showed off their skills and the rest of us just had a good time.

Thank you Kathy for putting on a great event!





EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ALL TRAINEE RETREAT Saturday, May 2017

Our Educational Programs team organized an all trainee Career Development and Wellness Retreat at the Calimigos Ranch and Resort in Malibu. This year's event included discussions on both academic and private practice career development topics with Dr. Lynn Gordon, Senior Associate Dean of Diversity Affairs for UCLA, and Dr. Kevin Lin of Hoag Memorial, Radiation Oncologist and UCLA alumni. Our own Liz Morrasso, Radiation Oncology Social Worker, and another UCLA Alumni, Dr. Mamta Singhvi discussed wellness topics and strategies for enhancing personal wellness goals and building a personal mission statement.

Thank you Educational Programs and our guest faculty for this amazing day!



Past Events

2017 Graduation and Staff Service Awards June 21, 2017 Luskin Conference Center

The department held our graduation and staff service awards at UCLA's new Luskin Conference Center. This new venue elevated an already stellar evening of recognition. Congratulations to all of our residency and fellowship graduates, faculty awardees and to our outstanding and loyal staff members for their service to UCLA and the Department of Radiation oncology.











2017 Staff Service Awardees

10 Years of Service

Evelyn Orellana Hussen Abdelhayi Ursula Soberanis

15 Years of Service

Steve Tenn, PhD

35 Years of Service Anna Hyde

Thank you to this year's recipients for all that you do in service to our patients and the department!

Upcoming Events



We look forward to seeing you at our Annual ASTRO Alumni and Friends Reception in San Diego during the ASTRO Annual Meeting. Please join us at this special celebration for Dr. Steinberg's ASTRO Gold Medal.

Monday, September 25, 2017 6:00-8:00 PM The Whiskey House

420 Third Avenue, San Diego CA 92101

Didn't get an invite?

Come anyway!! Then email Kathy Rose at krose@mednet.ucla.edu and we'll be sure to add your email to our special friends list!!