

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - JULY 2023



## DEAR ALUMNI

We're excited to share with you the recent updates, accomplishments, and upcoming events. Stay tuned for inspiring stories from our alumni community and opportunities to reconnect with old friends. We value your continued support and look forward to celebrating your successes.

Warm regards,

Office of Medical Education (OME)

2023 Newsletter

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

COM Administration • P. 2

Events/Highlights • P. 10

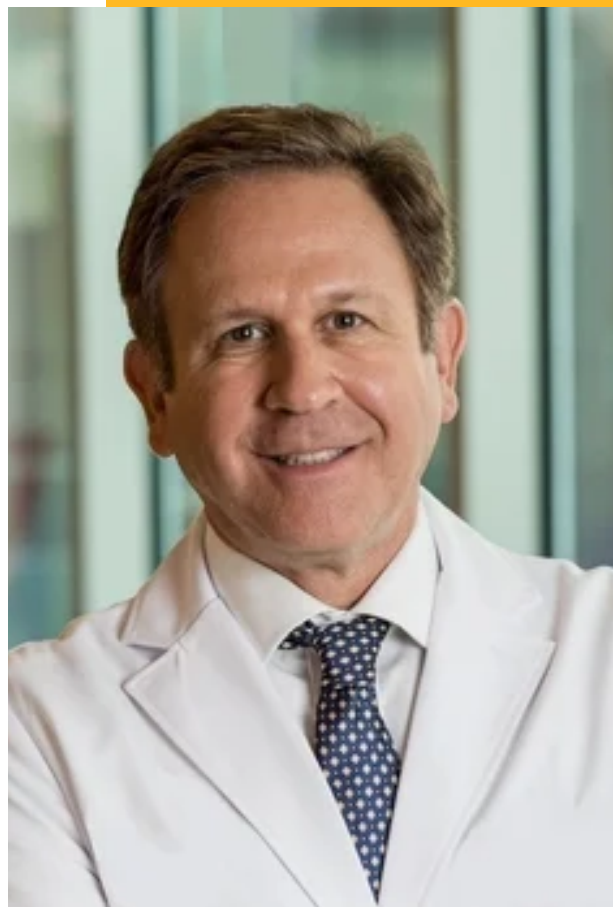
Awards • P. 4

New Employees • P. 13

# GUIDING THE WAY TOWARDS EXCELLENCE

We are thrilled to share the exciting news of Dr. Richard S. Isaacs' appointment as the Dean of the College of Medicine, Vice President of Medical Affairs, and Professor of Otolaryngology, effective June 1st, 2023.

Renowned as a trailblazer in the healthcare industry, Dr. Isaacs has consistently been recognized among the 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare by Modern Healthcare, along with being honored as one of the 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives. Leveraging his exceptional leadership experience, Dr. Isaacs will serve as the chief academic officer, driving positive transformations within the academic, cultural, and clinical realms of California Northstate University.



## TO OUR GROWING COMMUNITY

Dear Alumni, Students, Faculty and Staff,

We are delighted to introduce our July Newsletter, an avenue for strengthening bonds and celebrating your incredible achievements! As the Associate Dean, I invite you to join us on this exciting journey of staying connected, informed, and inspired. Through this quarterly publication, we aim to provide you with an insider's view of the latest happenings at California Northstate University, College of Medicine, share COMMunity success stories, and offer exclusive networking opportunities. Together, let's forge a strong community that thrives on shared experiences and continued growth. Stay tuned for our next editions and get ready to reconnect with your alma mater!

Warm regards,

Catherine Yang, Ph.D, MD (h.c)  
Associate Dean of Medical Education



# EVENTS



## Interprofessional Event (IPE)

The Spring 2023 Interprofessional Event (IPE) united students from the College of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, and College of Dental Medicine. Through a collaborative case study, they worked together to address a patient's dental emergency with systemic implications. The event fostered teamwork, interdisciplinary understanding, and evidenced-based medical care. This successful event nurtured camaraderie among students, promoting a holistic approach to patient management and ensuring the delivery of quality healthcare to the community. This year's event was a great success! The students from the College of Dental Medicine, Pharmacy and Medicine worked collegially and professionally to recognize the acuity of the patient's condition and most likely differential diagnoses.



04/05/23

## TALENT SHOW

During the annual Talent Show at CNU this Spring semester, several faculty members and students, made a memorable impact with their exceptional talents and entertaining performances. Let's highlight the participation of Dr. Essayyad, Dr. Ware, Dr. Puglisi, and Dr. Sheffield and Dr. Cusick, who brought a unique blend of humor, magic shows, and musical talent to the stage.

In the Picture: Dr. Cusick and Victoria



## CNU Spring Bash

In April, SBCs from COM, CDM, and COP organized our annual Spring Bash. Students and faculty enjoyed the beautiful weather by playing volleyball, soccer, and many other games with a wide assortment of food.

# EVENTS



## CNUCOM Clinics

College of Medicine students continued to serve our communities by volunteering with Shifa Clinic, Sacramento Street Medicine, Clinica Tepati and SEVA. We continue to be honored to assist medical practitioners in the greater Sacramento area and develop our skills in becoming fantastic physicians.

## East West Health Fair

In March, CNU held the 5th annual East West Health Fair which saw various businesses and medical practitioners provide a wide assortment of items and healthcare services. CNUCOM students took part by measuring blood pressure and glucose levels, while also conducting hearing tests and providing general medical advice. Our students also conducted basic CPR training, demos on laparoscopic techniques and fundoscopy, and more.



## Research Day

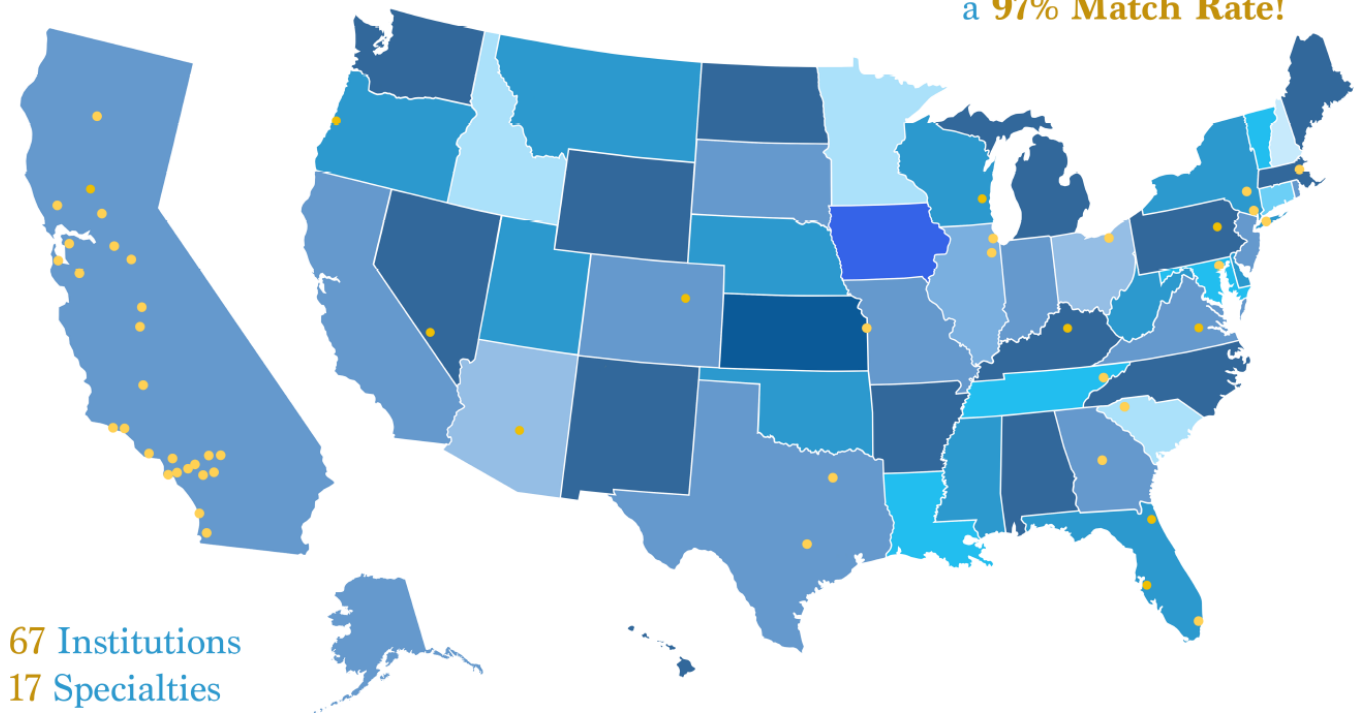
CNUCOM's annual Research Day was once again an incredible success, highlighting the ongoing work our students and faculty continue to do. We had a great turnout from our M1 students, while M2 students presented their SDSSPs and much more. CNUCOM is proud to be contributing to medical research in a profound way.

# EVENTS

**THE MATCH**  
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®

**CNU|Medicine**  
Match Day 2023

Congratulations to the  
Class of 2023 on achieving  
a **97% Match Rate!**



One of the notable events of the previous semester undoubtedly was the commemoration of our esteemed Class of 2023 and their remarkable achievements on Match Day. It is with great satisfaction and pride that we acknowledge the presence of our inaugural plastic surgery match, along with students who secured positions in fiercely competitive disciplines such as ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, radiology, anesthesiology, and various others. We eagerly anticipate witnessing the extraordinary contributions our graduates will make and the profound influence they shall exert within the medical community.

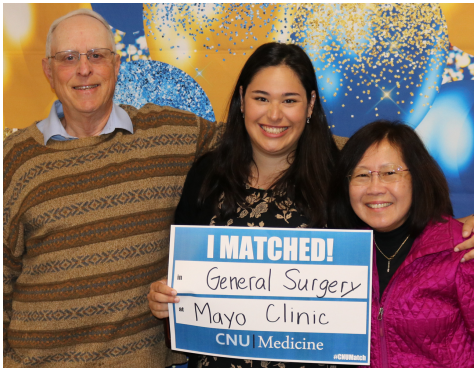


**03/17/23**

# MATCH DAY



## Mayo Clinic



## Plastic Surgery



## OSA Team



03/17/23

**THE MATCH**  
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®

# walk<sup>®</sup> with a DOC



Pictured by: Victoria Giang, M.S. MD-Candidate | Class of 2025



## STEP INTO BETTER HEALTH: WALK WITH A DOC AND DISCOVER YOUR WELLNESS JOURNEY!

Walk with a Doc is a community event promoting a healthy lifestyle. Walk alongside California Northstate University – College of Medicine healthcare professionals. In March 2023, Dr. Lui and Dr. Wigginton enjoyed the outdoors with our students, and learned valuable health tips. These events are open to all ages and fitness levels, it's an opportunity to improve your well-being while connecting with others.

Join us for Walk with a Doc! This doctor-led group is a fun and safe place to go for a walk, learn about health, and meet new friends. The event is FREE and all are welcome! Learn more at [www.walkwithadoc.org](http://www.walkwithadoc.org)

### Questions?

Victoria Giang  
[Victoria.giang6808@cnsu.edu](mailto:Victoria.giang6808@cnsu.edu)



05/23

# CLERKSHIP SYMPOSIUM

The "Clerkship Symposium" is a two-week event held at the end of the M2 year to prepare students rising into their clerkship years. The symposium is a series of interactive events, didactic lectures, skills-based procedure labs, games and fun activities based on medically related content. The Symposium is organized and led by faculty from both the pre-clerkship and clerkship years in an effort to provide the most encapsulating series giving students the tools they need to begin thoughtful and efficacious patient interactions.

Our most recent symposium took place on May 15th – May 26th. Here's a look at all the fun students had over the course of those two weeks!

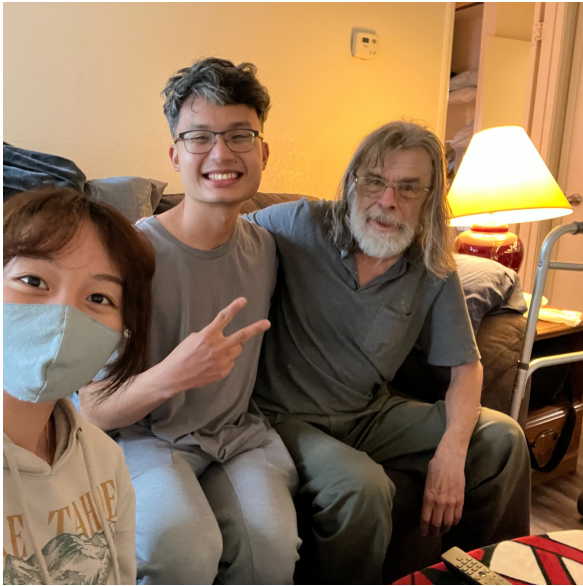




# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

CLASS OF 2023

# Highlights



## Volunteering Efforts



We would like to highlight the incredible volunteer efforts of two of our College of Medicine Class of 2026 students, Megan Hsu, An-Phuc Ta and Andrew Gouliau (not pictured), who selflessly assisted one of our elderly standardized patients, Pete, in moving to a new home earlier this summer. Their dedication to serving the community and their compassionate support for Pete exemplify the values we strive to instill in our students. We commend Megan, Andrew and An-Phuc for their outstanding commitment to making a positive impact and their willingness to go above and beyond to help others. Their actions reflect the true spirit of service and make us proud to have them as part of our College of Medicine community.

## MOU WITH BRAZILIAN UNIVERSITY

In June, an MOU was signed between Universidade de Mogi das Cruzes (UMC), Sao Paulo, Brazil, and California Northstate University (CNSU). This collaboration aims to strengthen cooperation in medicine and biomedical science, including scholar and learner exchanges. Researchers from both institutions, including Dr. Goroso, Dr. Robson (UMC), and Dr. Puglisi (CNSU), have already collaborated on publications and presentations. Their current projects focus on Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS) in long COVID patients and developing a new mathematical model for the cardiovascular system. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing medical research and education.



## THE MOBILE OR



CNU in collaboration with Hillrom Construction Solutions and the Plastic Surgery Student Interest Group (PSSIG) had the privilege of creating an immersive Mobile Operating Room (OR) Experience. This event provided current and admitted COM students, CHS students, and community students with a unique opportunity to explore the latest advancements in surgical technology.

The Mobile OR, a complete operating room suite on wheels provided by Hillrom, arrived at CNU equipped with cutting-edge technology and advanced features. It offered students an exceptional chance to experience a state-of-the-art operating room setting, fostering a deeper understanding of surgical practices and techniques. They had the opportunity to refine their skills in a more lifelike environment, preparing them for future careers in surgery.



# Highlights



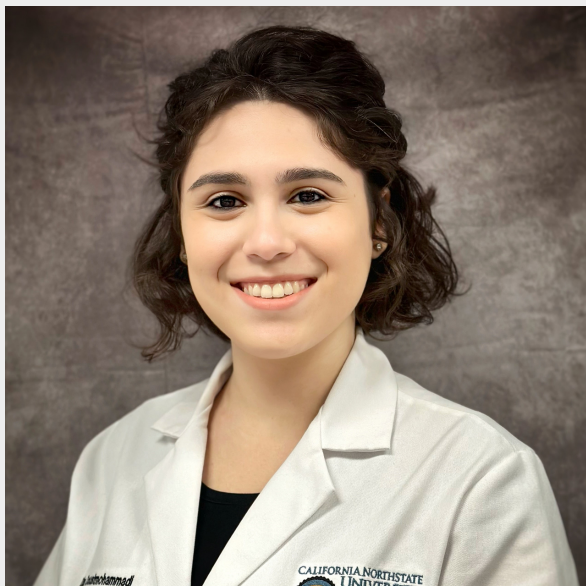
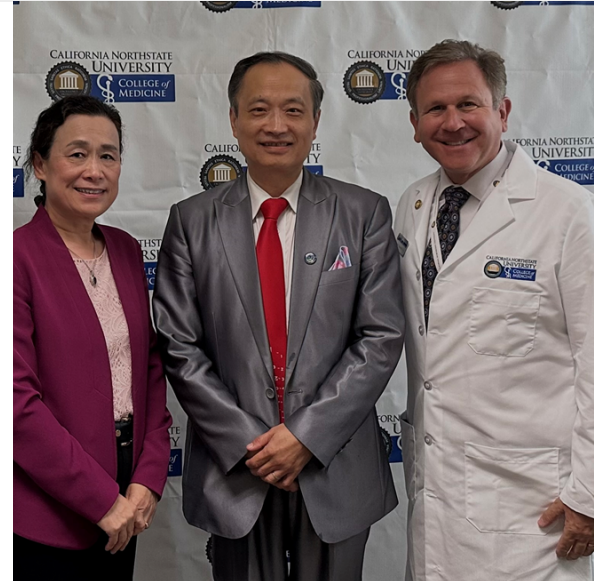
## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Tim Grennan, MD, FACP, a College Master and Professor of Medicine and Oncology in the COM, was a faculty member in the course Leading Innovations in Healthcare and Education at the Harvard Macy Institute in Boston from June 2-9, 2023. This course is designed to develop new and innovative approaches to medical education.

## MOVIE NIGHT:

### "SIGHT" BY DR. MING WANG

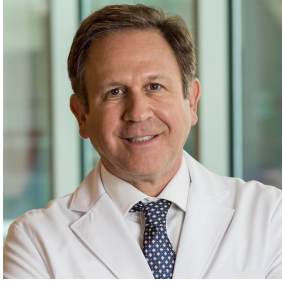
The greater Sacramento community planned a movie night for the upcoming film entitled "Sight" on the evening of July 11. Due to incredibly high demand, the movie was presented at the CNU Event Center with more than 500 attendees. Dr. Ming Wang, a world-renowned ophthalmologist and leading specialist in laser eye surgery, came to visit Northern California to promote the upcoming movie based on his true story.



## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Dina Doustmohammadi, a dedicated and ambitious rising second-year medical student, received the prestigious Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) scholarship from the renowned University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) for this summer, at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. This accolade serves as a testament to her exceptional academic prowess and passion for advancing medical knowledge.

# NEW FACULTY



**Richard Isaacs, MD**

Dean and Vice President of Medical Affairs and Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery



**Eldo Frezza, MD**

Assistant Dean of Research - Surgery Clerkship Director



**Wada Fadol, MD**

Assistant Professor of Medicine-Medical Skills



**Adedeji Okikiade, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Course Director for Hematology



**Islam Mohamed, B.Pharm, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs and Development

# NEW ADMINISTRATIVE/ STAFF



**Christine Deere, PhD**

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions



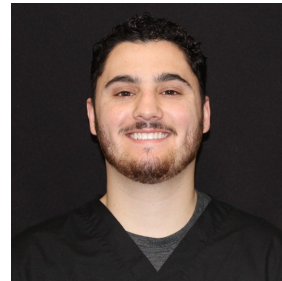
**Lien Lu, BS**

Administrative Assistant OSA



**Lee Weathers-Miguel, MS**

Student Life Advisor for Office of Student Affairs



**Logan Rodgers, BS**

Anatomy Laboratory Technician



**Kenneth Enad, BS**

Director of Assessment & Evaluation and Executive Chief Proctor



**Aisha Garnett, MBA**

Immunization Coordinator and Administrative Assistant for Clinical Science Department



**Peter Andrew Cajator, BS**

Clerkship Coordinator



**Susan Thao**

Curriculum Coordinator

## STUDENT BODY COUNCIL

**President:** Daniel Razick

**Treasurer:** Kevin Truong

**Publicist:** Cortney Connor

**Historian:** Sherrice Law

**Activities Coordinators:**

Lara Ali, Garrett Henkle

**SOLC Coordinators:**

Gubidxa Gutierrez Seymour,  
Andrew Goullian



To our esteemed alumni,

On behalf of the student body council (SBC), we are extremely proud of your accomplishments and the incredible way in which you represent our school. Because of your hard work, dedication, compassion, and meticulous attention to detail, CNUCOM is being recognized by colleagues in the medical community as an institution of excellence. This would not be possible without you and your commitment to being leaders in your respective specialties. As current students, we are working hard to follow in your footsteps and truly leave a mark on the industry. CNUCOM students have been recognized for their work in research in various fields, represented our school at conferences across the country, and their work has not gone unnoticed. Our match rate was stellar as always, but the quality of programs our recent graduates matched into is immense.

SBC is working diligently with our research faculty to increase opportunities for all CNUCOM students. We have created a pipeline system between first and second years with third and fourth year students to not only create a successful working relationship in publishing articles, but to create a more unified student body with mentorship at the forefront.

We encourage all alumni to connect with current students on any research projects they have ongoing in residency, fellowship, or beyond to keep our CNU connections as strong as ever. As this was the final year, for now, of Step 1 being scored, residency applications will be more multifaceted and dependent on other factors like research now more than ever before. We will undoubtedly rely on our alumni for guidance! To our recent graduates starting their intern years, we wish you the best of luck! We know you are going to accomplish incredible things and can not wait to join you as physicians in a few short years.

Warmest regards,

Daniel Razick Class of 2026

# AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS

We are thrilled to announce the exceptional achievements of our medical students as they receive well-deserved recognition through various awards and scholarships. Congratulations to all!

- **Office of Medical Education: Award for Academic Excellence:**

Jasminder Malhi  
Jaycob Avaylon  
Kimberly Lau  
Steven Wright  
Ara Alexanian  
Andrew Maneval

- **Excellence in service award:**

Tanya Talwar  
Emily Siegler

- **Excellence in Research and Scholarly Award:**

Tasha Nasrollahi  
Niloufar Khanna

- **Dean's Award:**

Steven Wright

- **Valedictorian Award:**

Andrew Maneval

- **2023 AAN Medical student prize of excellence in neurology:**

Melanie Chan (Class 2024)  
Nicholas Baltar (Class 2024)

- **2023 AAN Medical Student Scholarship to the Annual Meeting:**

Nancy Le (Class 2024)  
Stella Knowlton (Class 2024)


- **2023 AAN Medical Student Experience Scholarship at the Annual Meeting:**

Johann Park (Class 2025)

- **2023 Mr. Lui Ping Memorial Scholarship in Neurology**

David Looi (Class 2024)  
Jessa Alcaide (Class 2024)  
Gavin Zanella (Class 2024)  
Alan Chien (Class 2024)

These accolades reflect the remarkable abilities and dedication of our students. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments.



Made possible by the Office of  
Medical Education, students  
faculty and staff.

To submit photos or topics for  
future newsletters, please email  
us at [ome@cnsu.edu](mailto:ome@cnsu.edu).