People

UCSF Faculty

Lab Director

Kristine Yaffe, MD [1]

Dr. Yaffe attended Yale University for her undergraduate degree, received her medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania, and completed residencies in Neurology and Psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco. She is the Scola Endowed Chair and Vice Chair, Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology and Epidemiology, and Co-Director of the Clinical and Translational Sciences Training Program at UCSF. She is also the Chief of NeuroPsychiatry and Director of the Memory Evaluation Clinic at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical
Center.

Her research, clinical work, and mentoring focuses on geriatric neuropsychiatry. Her specific training and expertise is in the epidemiology of neuropsychiatric disorders among older adults, and she is especially interested in identifying novel risk factors that may lead to preventive strategies with a particular emphasis on psychosocial and medical co-morbidities. A great deal of her clinical work and research aims to improve the mental health of older adults, especially older veterans. Dr. Yaffe has published over 440 peer-reviewed articles (H-index:115) and has received several awards for her accomplishments, including the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry Distinguished Scientist Award, the John Mackey Award for Excellence in Dementia Care, and the American College of Psychiatrists Award for Research in Geriatric Psychiatry. She was named one of the world’s most influential scientific minds by Thomson Reuters in 2014, and she was recently awarded the prestigious Potamkin Prize by the American Academy of Neurology.

Investigators

Deborah Barnes, PhD [2]

Dr. Barnes is an Associate Professor at UCSF in the Department of Psychiatry and a Mental Health Research Investigator at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Her research focuses on developing and evaluating strategies to maintain cognitive function and prevent or delay dementia onset in late life. Dr. Barnes also works on developing dementia risk prediction models that can be used to estimate the impact of risk factor reduction and to target prevention strategies toward those who are at greatest risk.
Amy Byers, PhD

Dr. Byers is an Associate Professor at UCSF in the Department of Psychiatry and a Mental Health Research Investigator at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Her research focuses on cognitive and health outcomes associated with psychological disorders among older adults, including late-life depression among older adults and the effects of late-life PTSD among U.S. veterans.
Eric Vittinghoff, PhD

Dr. Vittinghoff is a Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the UCSF School of Medicine. Dr. Vittinghoff provides statistical support and mentoring to clinical researchers and fellows.

Jennifer Yokoyama, PhD

Dr. Yokoyama is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology at the UCSF School of Medicine. Dr. Yokoyama works on studies evaluating the relationship between genes, brain structure, and cognition in healthy aging and neurodegenerative diseases.

Allison Kaup, PhD

Allison Kaup, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the UCSF Department of Psychiatry and a Clinical Research Psychologist and Clinical Neuropsychologist at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. Her research focuses on cognitive reserve and other factors that protect against cognitive decline, particularly in high-risk older adult populations. She is also investigating mobile cognitive training as a potential means to enhance cognitive reserve. Dr. Kaup has been selected to participate in the 2017-2018 Emerging Leaders in Aging Program, which focuses on augmenting existing leadership skills relevant to clinical care, research, and education.
Raquel Gardner, MD received her MD from Harvard University. She completed her internship in internal medicine and residency in neurology at UCSF and was a Behavioral Neurology Fellow at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center in 2012. Her research focuses on the cognitive and behavioral effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI) among older adults.

Postdoctoral Researchers

Yue Leng, PhD received her PhD and MPhil in epidemiology from the Department of Public Health and Primary Care at the University of Cambridge. Her research focuses on the epidemiology of sleep, particularly the relationship between sleep, cognition and other health outcomes.
**Claire Mcevoy, PhD** received her PhD at Queen’s University Belfast for a thesis on fruit, vegetable and dietary patterns in relation to vascular and eye health. Her research aims to increase our knowledge on how diet may contribute to cognitive health and to inform effective future strategies to prevent and treat cognitive disorders in older adults.

**Staff**

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**Paulina Amaya, BA**, Research Assistant  
**Tina Hoang, MPH**, Research Associate  
**Kim Kelley, BA**, Research Associate  
**Amy Lai, BA**, Research Assistant  
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