Training and Mentoring

Under the direction of Dr. Kristine Yaffe, the lab trains and supports faculty, pre- and post-doctoral fellows, PhD students, medical students, residents, and research associates in their research and career development.

Postdoctoral positions are available for highly motivated individuals interested in studying cognitive decline, dementia, and neuropsychological disorders affecting aging populations.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter including a brief description of potential projects of interest in the lab, a CV, and names of three references to: alice.roberts@ucsf.edu

Selected Training Opportunities

Training Opportunities for Post-docs

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) at UCSF helps advance the careers of clinical and translational researchers by providing career advice, research mentoring, and support. For more information about career development opportunities see http://ctsi.ucsf.edu/about-us/programs/career-development.

Training opportunities are also supported by the National Institute of Health (T32) institutional training grants designed to train future leaders in research. Opportunities within the Kristine Yaffe Lab are available for fellows interested in mentorship, education, and training in research related to neurodegenerative diseases and neuropsychological outcomes among older adults.

The Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Centers (MIRECC) fellowship program trains MDs, psychologists and other allied health professionals to become leading clinical researchers in high priority areas of mental health. Over the course of the two-year program, fellows are trained in academic and health systems research, advanced clinical care service delivery, and program administration in an interdisciplinary setting. The fellowship
combines individual mentored research and clinical training with state-of-the-art educational experiences. Fellows devote 75% time to research and educational activities and 25% time to clinical training. Applications are accepted annually. For more information see http://www.mirecc.va.gov/mirecc_fellowship.asp [3].

Training Opportunities for Junior Faculty

UCSF offers an opportunity for career development for women's health research through the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH) program. The BIRCWH program provides financial support, targeted mentorship, and educational programs for investigators interested in advancing our understanding of issues related to women's health. For more information see http://sfbaybircwh.org [4]

The Paul Beeson Career Development Awards in Aging Research Program aims to sustain and promote the research careers of clinically trained individuals who are pursuing research careers in aging. The program provides three to five years of mentored career development support to enable investigators to gain skills and experience in aging research, and to establish an independent program of research in this field. For more information see http://www.afar.org/research/funding/beeson#How [5] to Apply [6]

Former Trainees

Deborah Barnes, PhD, [7] 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.

Amy Byers, PhD [8], 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.

Alexandra Fiocco, PhD [9], is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Ryerson University. Dr. Fiocco’s research examines biological, psychological, and social predictors of cognitive function and well-being in late life as well as prevention strategies to improve cognitive outcomes.

Alison Huang, MD [10], is an Assistant Professor at the UCSF School of Medicine. Dr. Huang’s research focuses on advancing scientific understanding and improving clinical management of menopause- and aging-related health conditions in women.

Manjula Kurella-Tamura, MD [11], is Associate Professor of Medicine (Nephrology) at the Stanford School of Medicine and the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Health Care System. With the goal of improving quality of care among older adults with end-stage renal disease (ESRD), Dr. Kurella-Tamura’s research focuses on outcomes associated with ESRD as well as outcomes associated with different ESRD treatment and management strategies.
Elizabeth Rose Mayeda, PhD [12], is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California San Francisco. Dr. Mayeda's research focuses on life course determinants of cognitive aging, dementia, and cerebrovascular disease, with an emphasis on health disparities and methods to overcome methodologic challenges in longitudinal studies of aging, such as selective survival.

Kala Mehta, PhD [13], is a research consultant at the Stanford Geriatric Education Center at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Mehta’s research focuses on identifying risk factors for cognitive decline in older adults, with a particular focus on demographic characteristics associated with cognitive outcomes among older adults.

Andrea Metti, PhD [14] is President and Founder of Metti Consulting Company, an epidemiology consulting company specializing in scientific preparation and editing of grants, manuscripts and other scientific documents, statistical analyses, and interpretation of results. Dr. Metti specializes in the epidemiology of aging, dementia, mild cognitive impairment, and biological markers.

Laura Middleton, PhD [15], is an Assistant Professor at the University of Waterloo School of Public Health and Health Systems. Dr. Middleton’s research seeks to identify ways to optimize cognition across the life course and to prevent dementia in older adults.

Kaycee Michelle Sink, MD, MAS [16], is an Associate Professor in Geriatrics and Gerontology and Medical Director of the Kulynych Memory Assessment Clinic, Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Dr. Sink specializes in research related to physical and mental health in aging, with a particular focus on cognitive function in old age.

Adam Spira, PhD [17], is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mental Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Spira’s research focuses on understanding associations between late-life sleep disturbances and psychopathology and cognitive function among older adults.

Rebecca Sudore, MD [18], is an Associate Professor in the Division of Geriatrics at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine in the Division of Geriatrics. Dr. Sudore’s work aims to improve advance care planning and medical decision making for vulnerable older adults with limited health literacy.

Sophia Wang, MD [19], is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Duke University School of Medicine. Dr. Wang focuses on evaluating predictors of cognitive aging, with a particular focus on lifestyle factors.

Rachel Whitmer, PhD [20], is a Research Scientist at the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of Research. Dr. Whitmer investigates predictors of cognitive decline and dementia, particularly on the role of metabolic, cardiovascular, and inflammatory predictors of cognitive aging and dementia.

Adina Zeki Al Hazzouri, PhD [21] is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Miami. Dr. Zeki Al Hazzouri's research focuses on understanding the effects of cardiovascular health and related disorders on cognitive aging and impairment.