

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 5, 2016

UC San Francisco

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## UCSF Fresno Selects High School Students to Research Valley Health Issues This Summer

FRESNO – Eleven students from the central San Joaquin Valley out of 92 applicants were recently selected to take part in the 29<sup>th</sup> UCSF Fresno Summer Biomedical Internship Program (UCSF Fresno SBI). UCSF Fresno SBI pairs selected students who are entering their senior year of high school with faculty members at UCSF Fresno to work on research projects for two months over the summer. The program is aimed at providing students with hands-on biomedical research experience while introducing them to careers in health and medicine.

Some of the research projects students will be working on involve cancer, gender bias in medical education, genetic medicine, inflammatory bowel disease, pulmonary hypertension and surgery. The students will conduct research at California State University, Fresno, Community Regional Medical Center and the UCSF Fresno Center for Medical Education and Research.

**The students will present their research findings Wednesday, Aug. 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the auditorium at the UCSF Fresno Center, located at 155 N. Fresno St. in Fresno.**

Students selected for the 2016 UCSF Fresno Summer Biomedical Internship Program include:

- Mizna Akbar from Clovis North High School in Fresno
- Faith Bundros from Clovis High School in Clovis
- Simon Cao from Clovis North High School
- Alexander Ewing from Buchanan High School in Clovis
- Allison Heyne from Clovis West High School in Fresno
- Mandeep Kaur from Central West High School in Fresno
- Isabelle Plumb from Edison High School in Fresno
- Manjit Ruprem from Buchanan High School
- Kenan Sagouspe from San Joaquin Memorial High School in Fresno
- Hena Sihota from Kingsburg High School in Kingsburg
- Maya Srikanth from Clovis North High School

“After high school, I plan to attend a four-year university to pursue a biology degree with an emphasis in pre-medicine,” said Sihota from Kingsburg. “Then I plan to attend medical school to pursue a career as a neurosurgeon. I have a passion for helping people and I want to make a difference. For me, there is no greater individual victory than knowing I’ve helped another person.”

“I hope to become a biomedical scientist specializing in either advancing current medical technology or drug discovery,” said Cao from Clovis North High School. “I love finding creative solutions to difficult problems. I hope to create treatments and technologies that are more effective while making treatments easier to administer.”

“For the past three years, I’ve spent my weekends volunteering at Community Regional Medical Center,” said Kaur from Central West High School. “I’ve watched medical professionals work hand-in-hand to save a code-blue patient’s life. I’ve had the privilege of discharging thankful patients and hearing their amazing recovery stories. So while some people think hospitals are scary, I love every aspect of them and am captivated by the medical field every time I volunteer. My ultimate aspiration is to become a surgeon.”

Since it was established in 1988, more than 200 high-achieving students have graduated from the Summer Biomedical Research Internship Program. Many of the SBI graduates are now health professionals. A number of them have returned to the San Joaquin Valley and are working as doctors, pharmacists and nurses.

Students from Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced and Tulare counties are eligible to apply. Students are selected based on academic merit, questionnaire responses, interviews, and letters of recommendation from their teachers.

UCSF Fresno SBI is supported by donations from corporations and individuals within the community. For more information, please visit <http://www.fresno.ucsf.edu/sbi/> or email [sbi@fresno.ucsf.edu](mailto:sbi@fresno.ucsf.edu) or call (559) 499-6423.

**About UCSF Fresno:** UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program, established in 1975, plays a substantial role in providing health care to residents of California’s San Joaquin Valley and training medical professionals in the region. UCSF Fresno is the San Joaquin Valley’s largest physician training program. Annually, UCSF Fresno currently trains approximately 250 medical residents (medical school graduates who are training under senior faculty physicians prior to practicing on their own) in eight specialties, 10 oral and maxillofacial surgery dental residents, 50 medical fellows (physicians who are completing training beyond residency) in 17 subspecialties and about 300 medical students (students in the process of earning medical degrees) on a rotating basis. One-third of the physicians trained by UCSF Fresno stay in the region to provide UCSF care in the Valley. Thanks to the expertise of faculty physicians at UCSF Fresno, in many cases, travel outside of the region is no longer necessary for patients seeking specialty medical care. UCSF Fresno faculty and medical residents engage in a broad spectrum of research addressing health issues

pertinent to the Valley. UCSF Fresno faculty and residents also care for the overwhelming majority of the region's underserved populations. In addition, UCSF Fresno helps prepare middle, high school and college students for careers in health and medicine through a variety of pipeline programs. Please visit [www.fresno.ucsf.edu](http://www.fresno.ucsf.edu)

**About UCSF:** UCSF is a leading university dedicated to transforming health worldwide through advanced biomedical research, graduate-level education in the life sciences and health professions, and excellence in patient care. Founded in 1864 as a medical college, UCSF now includes top-ranked graduate schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy; a graduate division with world-renowned programs in the biological sciences, a preeminent biomedical research enterprise and top-tier hospitals, UCSF Medical Center and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals. Please visit [www.ucsf.edu/news](http://www.ucsf.edu/news).

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