

Physician to Physician

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New to UC Irvine Healthcare



Ani Balmanoukian, MD • Hematology-Oncology

Dr. Ani Balmanoukian is a hematologist-oncologist specializing in the treatment of esophageal, gastric and lung cancers. Board-certified in internal medicine and board-eligible in hematology-oncology, she provides patients' chemotherapy and is working to bring additional clinical trials to UC Irvine Medical Center's Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

to expand patients' treatment options.

Balmanoukian received her medical degree from New York Medical College School of Medicine. She completed a residency in internal medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and a fellowship in hematology and oncology at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.



Armen Choulakian, MD • Neurological Surgery

Dr. Armen Choulakian is a neurological surgeon and co-director of UC Irvine Healthcare's Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center, a Joint Commission-certified primary stroke center. Choulakian, who also is director of the neurosurgery cerebrovascular service, specializes in the microsurgical and endovascular treatment of cerebrovascular disorders, including cerebral aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations, Moyamoya disease, carotid stenosis, acute stroke, venous

sinus thrombosis, and spinal vascular malformations.

Choulakian earned his medical degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He completed his general surgery internship and neurosurgical residency with an emphasis in cerebrovascular microsurgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. Choulakian also completed a subspecialty fellowship in endovascular neurosurgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.



Aram Demirjian, MD • Hepatobiliary and Pancreas Surgery

Dr. Aram N. Demirjian is a surgical oncologist focused on the treatment of complex hepatobiliary and pancreatic diseases. He treats patients with conditions such as pancreatic cancer, neuroendocrine tumors, chronic pancreatitis, colorectal and liver metastases, hepatocellular cancer, cholangiocarcinoma and complex biliary strictures. He will be involved in islet cell transplants in conjunction with total pancreatectomy for

treatment of chronic pancreatitis, expected to begin at UC Irvine Medical Center in the coming months.

Demirjian received his medical degree from Boston University and completed a residency in general surgery at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, where he also completed an NIH-funded research fellowship in gastrointestinal surgery. He then completed a fellowship in surgical oncology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.



Tamera Hatfield, MD, PhD • Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Dr. Tamera Hatfield is an obstetrician-gynecologist specializing in maternal-fetal medicine. She treats high-risk pregnancy patients and has a particular interest in managing maternal conditions that complicate pregnancy. Her research interests include using MRI to evaluate brain injury as it relates to perinatal risk factors, weight gain during pregnancy among obese patients, and preeclampsia. She is involved with

teaching residents and medical students and previously served on the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Hatfield received her medical degree from UC Irvine, where she also completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology and a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine. In addition, she holds a PhD in neuroscience from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a member of the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine.



Andre Scott Jung, MD • Hematology-Oncology

Dr. Andre Scott Jung is a hematologist-oncologist specializing in the diagnosis and medical treatment of cancers of the hepatobiliary system, e.g., cancers of the liver and the bile duct. He also treats patients with indolent lymphoma, myeloma and noncancerous blood conditions. He is board certified in internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology, and his research interests include the use of small-molecule inhibitors

and targeted therapy for hepatobiliary cancers.

Jung earned his medical degree from New York College School of Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at University of California, San Diego, where he also completed his fellowship in hematology-oncology and continued his training as a post-doctoral research scholar in hematopoietic cellular signalling.



Lilit Mnatsakanyan, MD • Neurology

Dr. Lilit Mnatsakanyan is a neurologist subspecializing in epilepsy and clinical neurophysiology. She diagnoses and treats seizure disorders, including medically refractory epilepsy in patients who might qualify for various surgical options. Her services include detailed assessment of seizure type in UC Irvine Douglas Hospital's video EEG monitoring unit. She is also involved in intraoperative neuromonitoring to evaluate the integrity of neural pathways at risk during surgery

and to perform functional brain mapping and electroencephalography. Her clinical interests involve use of newer antiepileptic medications in status epilepticus.

Mnatsakanyan received her medical degree from Yerevan State Medical University in Armenia, then completed a residency in adult neurology at University of Chicago Medical Center and a fellowship in clinical neurophysiology at Cedars Sinai Medical Center with UCLA.



Brian R. Smith, MD • Gastrointestinal Surgery

Dr. Brian R. Smith specializes in laparoscopic, robotic and open surgeries of the gastrointestinal tract, as well as bariatric procedures. He treats gastrointestinal malignancies and is expert in the repair of ventral, incisional, hiatal/ diaphragmatic and inguinal hernias. His research interests include Helicobacter pylori, gastric pathology and foregut oncology, metabolic surgery, robotic foregut surgery and surgical education.

Smith received his medical degree from Autonomous University of Guadalajara and completed his residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. During his residency, he was named Chief Resident Teacher of the Year. He completed a fellowship specializing in minimally invasive and bariatric surgery at UC Irvine Medical Center. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) named him the 2012 Health Policy Scholarship Recipient.



UCIRVINE

From Epilepsy to Neuromuscular Disorders: CMEs in 2012

The new year brings many continuing medical education symposia sponsored by UC Irvine School of Medicine that will address the latest advances in epilepsy, otolaryngology, urology and more. Below are just a few. For a complete list, visit <http://www.meded.uci.edu/CME>.

Addressing Epilepsy Through the Life Cycle: Jan. 21, 2012, Hyatt Regency, Newport Beach. The seventh annual symposium examines the importance of early treatment, the unique issues of women with epilepsy, and the latest pharmacologic and surgical therapies. For more information, contact Laurie Gumser, 714.456.8223 or lgumser@uci.edu.

Otolaryngology Updates: Feb. 18-21, 2012, at LaQuinta Resort & Club, LaQuinta, CA. The event addresses the latest techniques in rhinoplasty, management of laryngeal diseases, speech disorders and other head, nose and throat conditions. Contact Ellen Takahashi at 714.456.8450 or eatakaha@uci.edu.

Fundamentals of Female Pelvic Floor Disorders: March 23-24, 2012 UC Irvine Medical Center, Orange. Presented by the Department of Urology and the International Urogynecological Association, this multidisciplinary symposium will feature

presentations by international and U.S. faculty in the fields of female urology, urogynecology, geriatrics, colorectal surgery and physiotherapy. Contact www.iuga.org or 954.933.1726 or email registration@iuga.org.

HIV/AIDS on the Front Line: April 25, 2012, UC Irvine Student Center, Doheny Room, Irvine. The 25th annual conference is for physicians and allied health providers and focuses on clinical and prevention issues. It is cosponsored by the Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center at UC Irvine School of Medicine and the Orange County Health Care Agency. Contact 714.456.7612 or www.HIVconference.org.

Second Annual Neuromuscular Colloquium: May 4, 2012, Hyatt Regency, Newport Beach. Topics include dystrophic and non-dystrophic myotonias, congenital myasthenic syndromes and current guidelines in muscular dystrophies. It is of interest to neurologists, neuromuscular specialists and clinical neurophysiologists and presented by the UC Irvine ALS and Neuromuscular Center. Contact Laurie Gumser at 714.456.8223 or lgumser@uci.edu.

News in Brief



Dr. Michael J. Stamos, chair of UC Irvine's Department of Surgery, has been installed as the 2011–12 president of the American Board of Colon & Rectal Surgery, which sets standards and maintains certification for colorectal surgeons. Formerly chair of the board's examinations committee, he has been annually listed among the Best Doctors in America for the past 14 years. Since coming to UC Irvine in 2002, Stamos has established the Division of Colon & Rectal Surgery and made important

contributions to the growth of the H.H. Chao Comprehensive Digestive Disease Center at UC Irvine Medical Center in Orange.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society has recognized UC Irvine Healthcare's **multiple sclerosis program** for superior and innovative patient care by certifying it as an official Center for MS Comprehensive Care. The program, directed by Dr. Michael Demetrious and based at Gottschalk Medical Plaza on the Irvine campus, is one of only three in California to have earned this designation. UC Irvine's MS program – one of the country's earliest – was founded by the late Dr. Stanley van den Noort, a noted neurologist and former dean of the UC Irvine School of Medicine.

The American Heart Association has honored UC Irvine Healthcare for providing the **highest levels of care for people suffering from heart failure**. "This award recognizes that heart failure patients who come to UC Irvine Medical Center are getting the proper care they need, when they need it," said **Dr. Dawn Lombardo**, director of the hospital's **heart failure program**. "UC Irvine continues to make comprehensive care for heart failure patients among the best in the country." The heart association's quality improvement initiative is aimed at reducing disability, future hospitalizations, healthcare costs and deaths. It includes care maps, discharge protocols, standing

orders and measurement tools. The medical center's compliance rate for the standards of care was 98.9 percent.

UC Irvine's **Dr. Mark E. Linskey** has garnered the Congress of Neurological Surgeons' Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the field of neurosurgery. The prestigious award – inaugurated in 1961 but not bestowed every year – was presented Oct. 4 in Washington, D.C. Linskey, the 31st recipient, joins some of the most prominent neurosurgeons in North America to be so honored. Linskey is surgical director of UC Irvine Medical Center's **Comprehensive Brain Tumor Program**. The Congress of Neurological Surgeons noted his leadership in organizational and advocacy efforts.



In November, **UC Irvine Medical Center's emergency and trauma departments** began treating patients in four new state-of-the-art trauma resuscitation rooms, doubling the medical center's capacity to treat the region's most critically injured patients. The expansion permits UC Irvine's emergency department to treat more heart attacks, strokes and other conditions that require a high-level of emergency care. The rooms feature the latest X-ray and ultrasound diagnostic technologies, including immediate access to a 256-slice CT scanner that can capture an image of a damaged heart mid-beat or a clotted artery as small as one millimeter wide. As the county's only top-level trauma center, UC Irvine cares for nearly half of the county's trauma cases each year and is a resource for community hospitals in dealing with the most critical and complicated cases.