

# UC SAN DIEGO HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS

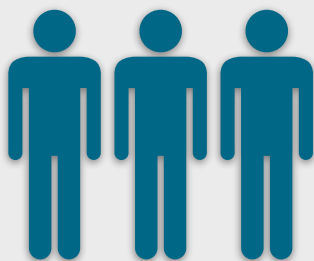
## A Gift to QCCL



### New Awards



### New Hires



## Highlights of 2022... so far.

"Welcome to spring and our return to in-class learning. It is nice to see everyone back. We are on the short road to summer, enjoy this beautiful time of the year."

Lucila Ohno-Machado

### Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award



Amy M Sitapati was awarded the 2022 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation for her compassionate and humanistic care of patients and their families. Amy is the Chief Medical Information Officer (CMIO) for Population Health at UCSD and a clinical professor of Medicine. You can learn more about Dr. Sitapati's work and award [here](#).

## UCSD Academic Integrity Award

Niema Moshiri was recognized for his substantial contributions to academic, research and professional integrity for computer science and engineering.



Niema is an assistant teaching professor of computer science and was awarded by the Research Ethics Program and the Academic Integrity Office for 2022. Read more about Niema's award [here](#).

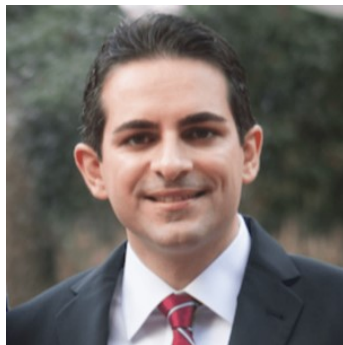
## \$100,000 Gift!



Dr. Kit Curtius received a recent donation of \$100,000 to support research by her group, the [Quantitative Cancer Control Laboratory](#). The ultimate goal of the charitable

foundation is to eliminate inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)-related cancer. After a comprehensive search among IBD cancer researchers across the US and further abroad, the foundation selected Kit as the top candidate to fund. The research will focus on developing novel, translational genomic biomarkers in IBD to improve survival of the IBD population and revolutionize IBD surveillance practices.

## National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute Award



Shamim Nemati and Atul Malhotra were awarded an R01 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI; HL157985) focused on Real-Time Multimodal Data Integration for Prediction of Respiratory Failure in Patients with COVID-19 (VentNet). The project is unique as it brings together researchers across the departments of Emergency Medicine, Medicine, Surgery, Radiology, Biomedical Informatics, as well as, multi-modal data (e.g., radiology imaging, clinical labs, and nursing assessments) to improve the accuracy and action ability of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based predictive risk models and to systematically study barriers to implementation, workflow integration, and adoption of such technologies. Read more [here](#).

### \$iM Grant!

Christopher Longhurst helped UCSD obtain a \$1 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. The award will aid in expanding digital health tools and solutions for UCSD Health patients, especially those who cannot physically attend appointments. In [the article from UCSD News](#), some examples of these tools include home monitoring kits that include bluetooth-connected thermometers, pulse oximeters, blood pressure cuffs, and more. Chris is the chief medical officer and chief digital officer of UCSD Health.



### National Library of Medicine Award

Dr. Lucila Ohno-Machado was awarded an RoI from the National Library of Medicine (RoILM013712) focused on protecting patient privacy that will permit learning across institutions, using data from multiple modalities (e.g., imaging, genomes, laboratory tests), and will enhance privacy-protecting record linkage. Read more [here](#).



## New Faces at DBMI

Please welcome the following new hires to DBMI! Get to know more about each of our new teammates.



Ed Bean



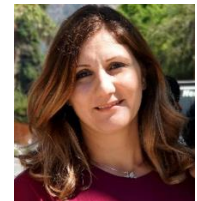
Jesse King



Natalie Gonzalez



Edwin Mejia Uribe



Faten Taha



Dahren Ibarra Munoz



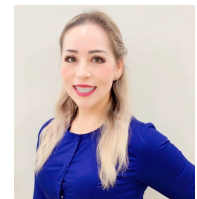
Andrew Hodges



Mathi Ganapathi



Frine Avila Bosworth



Sharon Vizcarra Ham



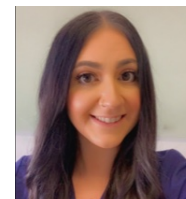
Jamie Le



Lienwil Padillo



Diana Ferguson



Elizabeth Pecoraro



Kevin Delaney



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Please join us in welcoming the following individuals to the DBMI team!



**Ed Bean** is an Application Programmer. Ed holds a master's degree in Health Informatics from the UC Davis School of Medicine with baccalaureate work in English Literature at UCSB. An experienced development manager and software architect, Ed comes to us most recently from Sutter Health, where for seven years he led development of Sutter's public-facing web and smart speaker properties. Prior to Sutter, Ed served more than 13 years with UC Davis Health as a senior member of the UC Davis Pathology Informatics Team. Based in Sacramento, CA, Ed has a passion for music and plays classical guitar in the Brazilian Bossa Nova style. Ed will be supporting the California Integrated Vital Records System (Cal-IVRS), a system designed, managed, and hosted for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

**Jesse King** is a Geographic Information Systems Programmer. Jesse brings with him more than eight years of GIS and Data Analysis experience from a variety of fields. Prior to joining DBMI, Jesse worked at UC Davis on Spatial Epidemiology projects, as well as leading a small pilot team within the Apple Maps department. Oddly enough, it was at Apple that he got his first taste of QGIS, and has loved the Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) GIS since. Jesse has also gotten into sourdough baking and has made quite a few tasty loaves of sourdough bread (if he does say so himself). Jesse also enjoys spending time in the outdoors, be it hiking, camping, bicycle riding, or SUPing. Jesse will be supporting the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS-- also known as "MediCAL") in Sacramento, CA.



**Natalie Gonzalez** has joined the DBMI team as a Research Coordinator for the iAgree, Strong Heart and CAST projects. Natalie was born and raised in San Diego, earning her B.A. in Women's Studies (Minor in Public Health) at SDSU. Natalie has dedicated her career to public health and has ranged her work in everything from community engagement for local clinics to marketing for Medi-Cal insurance groups. Most recently she worked for San Diego Youth Services where she taught Comprehensive Sexual Health Education for teens in east county. She has a passion for public health issues in general and has focused most of her career on health care improvement and prevention in underserved communities. Outside of work, Natalie loves trying new restaurants, going to coffee shops, going to the beach and concerts.

**Edwin Mejia Uribe**, our newest Phlebotomist on the All of Us Research Project, has his Associates Degree in Biological Anthropology. He has been working at UCDS in research since 2018. In his last position he was a Laboratory Lead which has helped him to manage his workload with prioritizing deadlines. Since the first day he started working in research he's loved it and he wants to continue to grow in this field. On his days off, you can catch him outside watching his son's soccer games or looking for a new places to eat in San Diego.



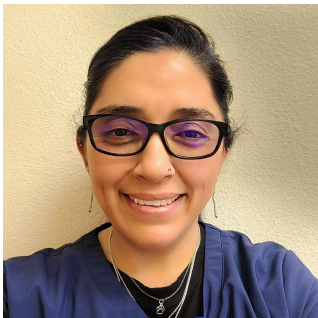
**Faten Taha** has joined the team as an applications Programmer. Faten received her B.Sc. in computer science from Baghdad University and has more recently completed an advanced certificate in Web and Mobile Application Development at San Diego State University. Faten's previous employment pedigree includes Excimer Laser Repair Corporation, ETON Biosciences, and the UCSD Department of Radiology. In her free time Faten and her family enjoy exploring the natural beauty of San Diego County by bicycle.

**Dahen Ibarra Munoz**, a CRC on the All of Us Research Project, earned his Medical Doctor degree from Universidad Autonoma de Baja California in 2017. Before joining the *All of Us* Research Program he was a COVID-19 case investigator and Preschool/Childcare COVID Outbreak manager with the County of San Diego HHS. With his role as CRC, Dahen enjoys establishing rapport with patients/participants, and educating them for informed decision making to improve health outcomes. Some of his hobbies include playing tennis, hiking, and watching horror movies.



**Andrew Hodges** is a Technical Project Manager with BA in Biology-Chemistry (premed) & Mathematics (Manchester College) and MS & PhD in Bioinformatics (University of Michigan Medical School). Andrew worked at Sanford Burnham Prebys in multiple roles inc. Bioinf. Scientist|Project Manager prior to joining Roswell Biotechnologies (Bioinf. Eng.), where he led bioinformatics development and applications for their single-molecule platform. This included crispr-Cas12a detection of SARS-Cov-2, sequencing and binding assays, and DNA data storage. He is an avid runner, vr/gaming/3d-printing guru, ukulele learner (originally a mallet percussionist), STEM & LGBTQIA+ proponent, and a cat person (dogs also generally ok).

**Mathi Ganapathi** has joined the DBMI team as a Research Coordinator for the All of Us Research program. She earned her B.Sc. in Biotechnology from Bharathidasan University. Before joining the DBMI team, she was a Marketing Coordinator. She has a passion for research and medicine. She would like to grow her career in Health Data Management and wanted to help accelerate new medical research that improves the health and well-being of individuals. Mathi enjoys spending time with family and friends, hiking and playing racquetball.



**Frine Avila Bosworth**, our newest Phlebotomist on the All of Us Research Project, has her Associate of Science/Nursing and holds a certification as an EKG Tech. She has been working at UCSD in research since 2019. In her last position she was a Phlebotomist and a Laboratory Assistant. Since the first day she started working in research she's really enjoyed it and wants to continue to grow in this field. In her spare time, she loves to go to Doggy beach and going to concerts.

**Sharon Vizcarra Ham**, a CRC on the All of Us Research Project, earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Universidad Autonoma de Baja California in 2012. She has always focused on the health field, and for that reason, she decided to get her license as a phlebotomist in 2015 from Universal Schools & Colleges of Health & Human Services in San Diego, to combine her knowledge and be able to work in the health field. Before joining the All of Us Research program, she worked for more than seven years in the plasma industry in different roles. In her last position, she was operations supervisor, which has helped her manage her workload by prioritizing deadlines and managing staff. In her role as CRC, Sharon enjoys establishing rapport with patients and participants and educating them on informed decision-making to improve health outcomes. Since the first day she started working in research, she's loved it, and she wants to continue to grow in this field. Some of her hobbies include playing the kalimba, yoga, and hiking.

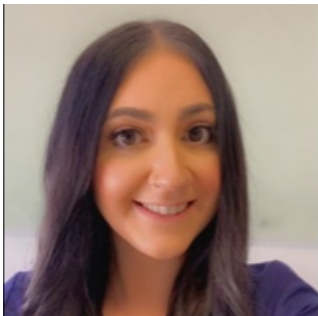


**Jamie Le** joined DBMI as the Interim Consortium Communications Manager at the All of Us Research Program. She holds a B.A. in Journalism from San Diego State University, where she also studied sociology and French. Before joining All of Us, Jamie was with the RedFlash Group, a strategic consulting firm specializing in public safety, where she worked with clients like Allina Health, a large Minneapolis-based health care system, to develop strategic communications plans to grow their national reputation and institutionalize communications with stakeholders. She is also a freelance photographer who shoots film in her free time.



**Lienwil Padillo**, a CRC on the All of Us Research Project, is a recent '21 graduate from UCSD with a B.S. in Human Developmental Sciences and a B.A. in Sociology - Social Inequality. Lienwil was a former student worker who has transitioned into a full-time Clinical Research Coordinator with the *All of Us* research program. Currently she is in the process of completing her externship to obtain her Phlebotomy License which will further help the program and the team. In her spare time she likes to read and play video games.

**Daina Ferguson** is a CRC and phlebotomist at the All of Us Research Project. Before joining the All of Us Research Program, they worked as a quality assurance specialist at the San Diego Immunization Registry and HHS COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout San Diego County. A native of San Diego, Daina has a passion for the arts and enjoys creating sculpture, off-roading, and learning new skills. They believe in the goal of health research and enjoy building trust with participants/patients in order to provide excellent participant visits.



**Elizabeth Pecoraro**, a new Clinical Research Coordinator on All of Us Research. She has been a Certified Phlebotomy Technician since 2012. She has been with UCSD Since 2014 starting off at Thornton inpatient lab and Perlman outpatient lab. She assisted in opening the Rapid Response Lab located in Jacobs Medical Center in 2016 Drawing and Processing inpatient and outpatient as well as worked alongside Koman Family Outpatient Pavillion (KOP), Moores Cancer Center (MCC), Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center CVC, Shiley Eye Institute, and some of the local UCSD Urgent Cares. On her spare time her passion is cooking and baking, whatever mood she's in you'll know you're going to get a delicious meal and dessert out of it! Growing up with a big Sicilian family in the heart of Downtown, Little Italy she has her parents to thank for her love for food.

**Kevin Delaney** is filling the role of our new database administrator and he brings all the experience of his past roles in the US Navy, at Qualcomm and at Roswell Biotechnologies, to name a few. He comes to DBMI highly recommended and has so far impressed our team team with his knowledge, his enthusiasm and his delightful personality.

