

# MAKING THE ROUNDS

NOVEMBER 2017

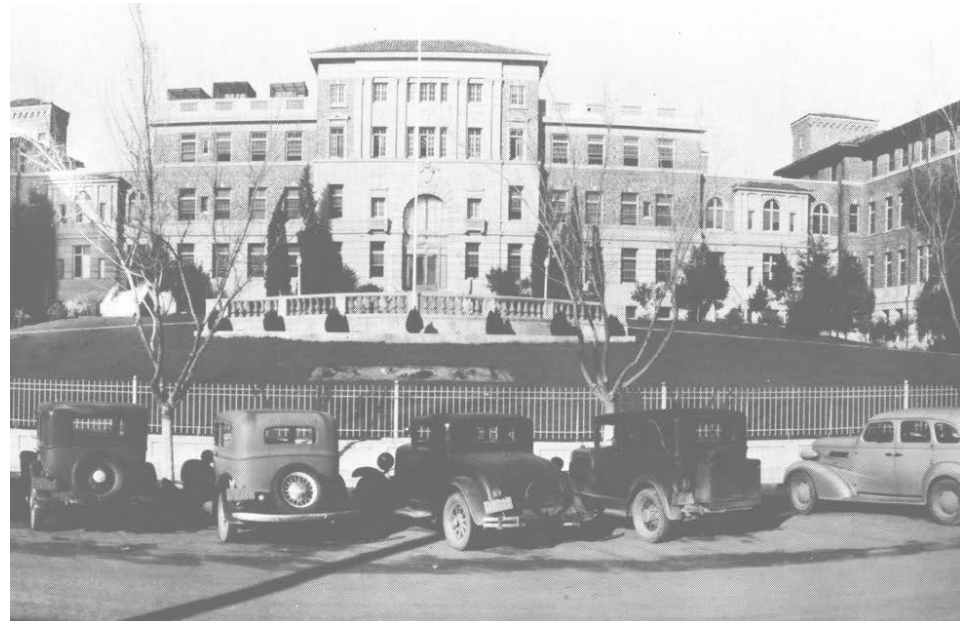
## WELCOME TO THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



By Dr. Amir Berjis

Welcome to the inaugural Kern Medical Alumni Society electronic newsletter. Kern Medical is celebrating its 150th anniversary. The hospital started as a one-room adobe hut in 1867 and over the last century and half has transformed itself into the premier academic teaching hospital in Kern County. We recently celebrated the 60th class of graduating residents and fellows in June of this year at the Bakersfield Music Hall of Fame. We inducted new members into the Alumni Association Society and added one more to our own Hall of Fame. Dr. Richard Busch who had been with Kern Medical for over 30 years retired, joining the likes of Smale, Einstein, Mosser, Arbigast, Bloch, Purcell, Kercher, Amin, and Johnson. As the DIO and Director of Medical Education, I had the distinct honor of presenting the Class of 2017.

Before I review with you the great

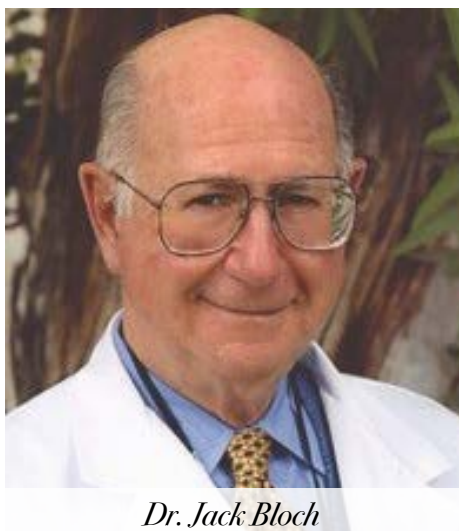


progress and advances we have made just in the last few years at Kern Medical, I want to share with you why I am here. I am part of the 2004 graduating class in general surgery. After completing my fellowship in thoracic surgery, I returned to Bakersfield and started my own private practice.

Approximately 6 years ago, Dr. Jack Bloch contacted me to assist with medical student education. Some of you may not have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Bloch. For those of you who did, he was a giant in our field. Dr. Bloch served as Chairman in the Department of Surgery for nearly 30 years, educating and training scores of residents who are now thriving in both private and academic practice.

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*Dr. Jack Bloch*

Yet, Dr. Bloch was more than a mentor to me, he became a close friend and colleague. Until his death in 2015, Dr. Bloch and I worked closely every week in preparing and delivering didactics to our students. We discussed our personal lives, namely his wonderful wife and grandchildren, and my wife and three young boys. When my father passed away in 2012, he was there and comforted me. He was a kind and gentle man with a great sense of humor. After his passing we held a wonderful memorial service at Kern Medical celebrating his life, as his wife and two sons along with several of his former graduates joined us. In recognition of his wonderful contributions to Kern Medical,

we dedicated our health sciences library in his name and now have a permanent display of his work and books for future generations to review.

So why am I here? Simple...to continue the tradition of academic excellence that Dr. Bloch and his generation instilled in me. I joined Kern Medical full-time in 2016 and have had the distinct honor and pleasure of working alongside distinguished faculty, many of whom are also Alumni. And that brings us back to this newsletter. After 150 years of existence, after 60 years of sponsoring residency programs, it is time to start our own Alumni Society. This association will serve to bring together alumni from multiple disciplines, to share our experiences and our lives. Through fundraising efforts and annual dues, we plan to hold annual CME social events and help purchase equipment and other resources for medical education. I hope you can join us in our efforts. On behalf of our partners in administration, our 100 faculty, 120 residents and fellows, and 130 medical students, let me be the first to welcome you back to Kern Medical!



*Mrs. Bloch and Sons*

## NEW FACULTY

### Anesthesiology

Vani Dasu, DO  
John Freeman, MD  
Robin Kim, MD  
Oji Oji, MD  
Senen Uyan, MD  
David Wahba, MD

### Cardiology

Aslan GhandForoush, DO  
Fowrooz Joolhar, MD  
Tiffany Win, MD

### Colon & Rectal Surgery

George Moro, MD

### Emergency Medicine

Sarah Gonzalez, MD  
Khoe Tu, MD

### Family Medicine

Shweta Agarwal, MD  
Santhi Kanuri, MD  
Shakti Srivastava, MD

### Hematology/Oncology

Everardo Cobos, Jr., MD

### Internal Medicine

David Aguirre, MD  
Ararat Avetisyan, MD  
Bahareh Ghafarizadeh, MD  
Samiollah Gholam, MD  
Mohamed Hammami, MD  
Adam Klang, MD  
Benson Lee, DO  
Katayun Saadai, MD  
Lubna Syed, MD  
Sudhagar Thangarasu, MD

### Nephrology

Sabitha Eppanapally, MD

### Neurosurgery

Joseph Chen, MD  
Brian Lee, MD  
Charles Liu, MD  
Jonathan Russin, MD



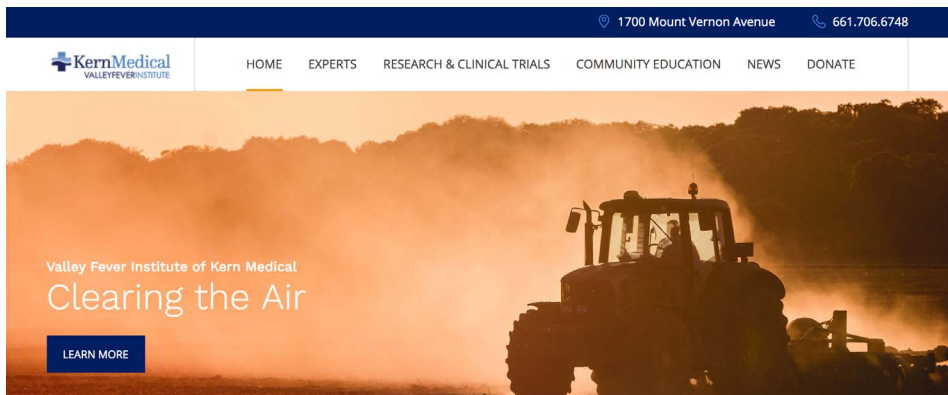
# GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Kern Medical Alumni Society hosted the 1st Annual Graduating Resident and Fellow Luncheon at the Bakersfield County Club in June. It was a great opportunity to share experiences with each other and Administration.

We welcomed 33 new residents and 3 new fellows on July 1st. Both Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine have increased the size of their programs this year.



## VALLEY FEVER INSTITUTE



Kern Medical has officially launched the Valley Fever Institute. Please visit our new website at [www.ValleyFeverInstitute.com](http://www.ValleyFeverInstitute.com) to find out more about Kern Medical and the Valley's only dedicated Cocci Clinic. The website features research that was recently presented at Stanford University regarding chitinase and the effects of valley fever.



## NEW FACULTY

### Obstetrics & Gynecology

Orestes Alvarez-Jacinto, MD  
Anjali Gupta, MD  
Petre Motiu, MD  
Yasser Mrad, MD

### Orthopedic Surgery

Tom Chao, MD  
John Tidwell, MD

### Pediatrics

Lulua Mandviwala, MD

### Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Bradford Anderson, MD

### Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery

Abdul Shararah, MD

### Psychiatry

Sara Abidijadid, DO  
Amr Beltagui, MD  
Mehr Karamat, MD  
Jasbir Singh, MD  
Julie Wilcox, MD

### Interventional Radiology

Arman Froush, DO

### Radiology

Phillip Eaton, DO  
Daniel Hoss, MD  
Sireesha Iruvuri, MD  
Anthony Minasaghanian, MD  
Christopher Toensing, MD

### Urogynecology

Drew Cassidenti, MD

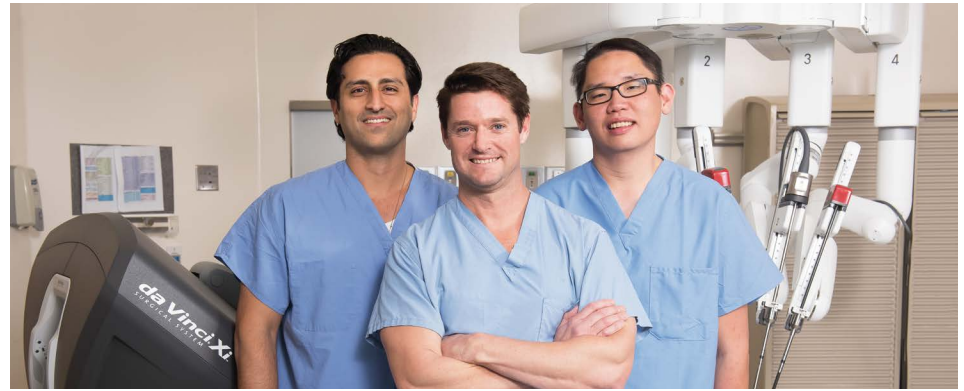
### Urology

Shahab Hillyer, MD  
Jeffrey Nalesnik, MD  
Vinh Trang, MD

# SURGICAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM AND THE ROBOT

Dr. Pakula and Dr. Skinner completed the Robotic training and performed their first cases in May 2016. They put together a resident curriculum in January 2017 and all surgery residents completed their online training and a simulator workshop that month. They request the loaned simulator from Intuitive on a bimonthly basis so that the residents have access to it and are able to develop and practice their skills.

To date we have completed 118 cases, of which residents have participated in 50. This includes bedside assist with cannula placement and docking the robot as well as the residents actually



sitting at the console and performing various parts of the procedure.

The procedures that the residents have been involved with have been inguinal hernia, ventral hernia, cholecystectomy, sleeve gastrectomy and paraesophageal hernia repairs.

The goal by completion of their residency is that they are able to complete certain procedures from start to finish and they will be given a letter of competency which they can take with them to their job/fellowship.



## PSYCHIATRY SPOTLIGHT

### Dr. Sara Abdijadid

Recently, Dr. Abdijadid spent some time with our Hospitality Volunteers to mentor them about the path to a career in the medical field.

The Hospitality Team is a new segment of our Volunteers and is comprised mainly of local high school and college students interested in becoming physicians. In addition, to helping in the Emergency Department, Surgery and Patient Care areas they can meet with physicians and learn more about healthcare at events throughout the year.

Dr. Abdijadid is an Alumni and the Associate Program Director of the Psychiatry Residency Program and Medical Student Clerkship Director.

The renovation of our Inpatient Psychiatry Unit (3B) will begin soon and will include new flooring, paint and feature a serenity room.



# PICTURING A HEALTHIER FUTURE

## ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGY BETTER PREPARES PHYSICIANS IN TRAINING TO DETECT ABNORMALITIES

Kern Medical is embracing new technology in the training of its OB-GYN resident physicians in the use of ultrasound.

The SonoSim Ultrasound Training Solution allows students to connect via computer and access thousands of ultrasound images from the SonoSim database. These images give students a look at normal and pathological sonographic conditions that would be difficult to replicate in the real world.

Dr. Randolph Fok, Chief of the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, said the SonoSim technology is a valuable tool in teaching physicians about normal and abnormal conditions both of the fetus and the mother-to-be. Students use the transducer to perform ultrasound testing on various parts of the body and the database returns an image, just as it would in real life.



Before SonoSim, Dr. Fok explained, training was limited by the pool of pregnant women being cared for. That meant rare conditions were rarely seen by the residents, limiting their educational development. Through SonoSim, residents will be exposed to a wider range of situations as they learn to distinguish abnormal from normal.

A study published by the University of California found SonoSim yielded a 121 percent improvement in basic scanning procedures and a 545 percent improvement in diagnostic interpretation.

The SonoSim package also includes an online training course that helps prepare the physicians to pass national licensing exams.

Kern Medical has 12 OB-GYN residents at a time in its four-year OB-GYN program. All will become proficient in ultrasound through interacting with SonoSim. But they aren't the only ones using the simulation software. Dr. Fok said all the physicians in the department would be taking part in SonoSim training to expand their proficiency.



# BECOME A KERN MEDICAL ALUMNI MEMBER

## Who can Join?

- All Kern Medical Alumni
- Current or Past Kern Medical Faculty

## Benefits of Membership

- All funds raised will support Medical Student & Resident Education at Kern Medical
- Learning opportunities that include CME credit lectures & events
- Invitations to Alumni Society social events
- Stay up to date on Kern Medical news
- Membership fee is 100% tax deductible

# **KERN MEDICAL** ALUMNI

Membership Donation is \$250.00

**CLICK HERE TO JOIN**

**All Graduating Residents & Fellows will receive the first year of membership FREE!**

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**If you would like to join by mail please fill out the form below.**

☐ Yes! I want to join the Kern Medical Alumni Society and help support Medical Student & Resident Education at Kern Medical.

Name (How you want to be listed on the Alumni Roster)

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Specialty

Phone Number

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Email Address

---

Home Address

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*\$250 annual membership fee is 100% tax deductible. Please make check payable to **Kern Medical Foundation**.*

**Please mail form and check to:**

Kern Medical Foundation  
3511 Union Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Questions – please contact Erica Easton at (661) 489-5253 or [erica.easton@kernmedical.com](mailto:erica.easton@kernmedical.com)