Susan Huang, MD MPH
Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at UCI School of Medicine, and Medical Director of Epidemiology & Infection Prevention at UCI Health
UCI School of Medicine & UCI Health

Dr. Susan Huang has worked tirelessly during the COVID-19 pandemic overseeing all infection prevention protocols and policies at UCI Health, providing Town Halls to provide information and answer questions about available evidence and guidance on safety and vaccines, caring for patients as an infectious diseases physician, and leading the Nursing Home COVID-19 Prevention Team for all of Orange County in partnership with local public health and Medicaid agencies.

Dr. Huang's career has impacted the way we monitor and intervene in the spread of bacterial infectious diseases and she has spent her career studying the spread and containment of antimicrobial resistant pathogens in healthcare and community settings.

"Out of the depths of fear and despair, the pressing needs of our patients and colleagues during this pandemic resonated with our chosen calling "to teach safety, to comfort fears, to heal disease, and to mourn loss. Through thick and thin, it required our trust in medicine, our drive for discovery, and our faith in humanity to draw together and overcome crisis." *– Susan Huang*

Mara Rosalsky
Executive Director of the Perioperative Center at UCI Health
UCI Health

During the COVID-19 shut-down and surge, Mara worked with department managers and the nurses' union to make sure we had enough staffing and came up with strategies to reduce sickness and burnout.

UCI Health also constructed a mobile field hospital just before Christmas in the parking lot, and Mara was on every call related to the field hospital and worked with hospital administration to make sure it was appropriately staffed.

In addition to the field hospital and her work in the ICU, she also managed the Operating Room which itself is a huge responsibility. During the surge as conditions and numbers changed daily, Mara managed to increase OR utilization and make sure UCI had appropriate staffing which ultimately increased patient care and safety.

"I'm honored to be nominated for this award, but it takes a village to create an environment where patients come first. During the pandemic, we constantly focused on quality, safety, inclusion, mission, and compassion. All of these qualities make UCI an organization I am proud to serve at."
– Mara Rosalsky

Neil Detweiler, MT (ASCP)
Chief Administrative Officer & Senior Director, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at UCI Health and UCI School of Medicine.
UCI School of Medicine & UCI Health

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Neil's focus provided the strategic leadership to procure and validate COVID-19 testing equipment within a record 9 days; insuring UCI Health was the first hospital in Orange County to implement COVID-19 testing for our community. Within a few short months, Neil and his team were able to procure and validate 6 molecular-based platforms for COVID-19 testing. To meet the ever-increasing needs of patients, he acquired resources from a variety of vendors, and cross-trained staff from multiple departments to maintain COVID-19 testing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

"Dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic had us focus on our Mission. Through implementing the latest laboratory technologies, introducing more reliable testing platforms, and reducing processing time, our patients were able to receive their results faster, and their medical care could be started sooner, so more lives could be saved."
– Neil A. Detweiler