Strength in Numbers

The UCSD Student-Run Free Clinic Project is made up almost in its entirety by volunteers—students, health professionals, admin, and community members—who commit their time and efforts to bringing the highest quality care to our patients. We are so lucky to have had almost 1000 volunteers with us this year:
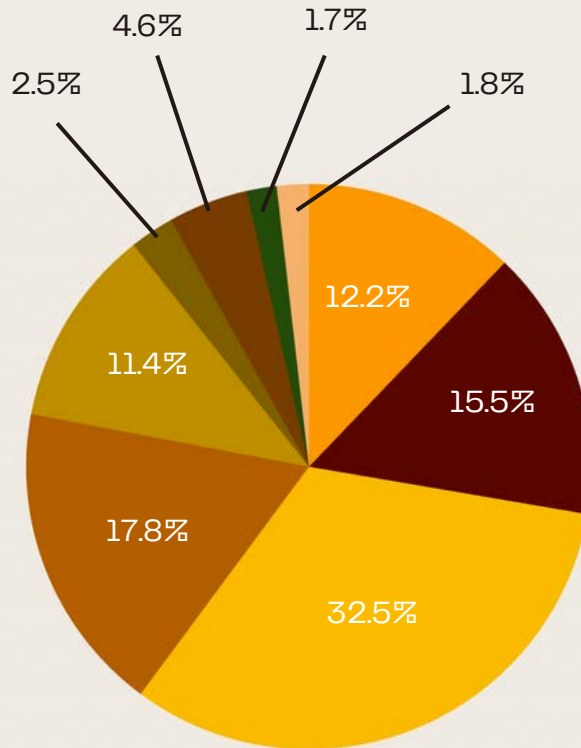
Pre-Medical Volunteers: 120

Pre-Dental Students: 153

Medical Students: 320

Pharmacy Students: 176

Physicians: 112

Mental Health Providers: 25

Dentists: 45

Pharmacists: 17

Staff Members: 18

Pie chart values: 12.2%, 15.5%, 32.5%, 17.8%, 11.4%, 2.5%, 4.6%, 1.7%, 1.8%

We greatly miss our volunteers who have moved on to the next phases of their lives and are so proud of the many who began their journeys in medical, dental, and pharmacy school;

Fall is also a particularly exciting time for us as we grow the Free Clinic family…

Welcome to our newest Medical and Pharmacy Students!

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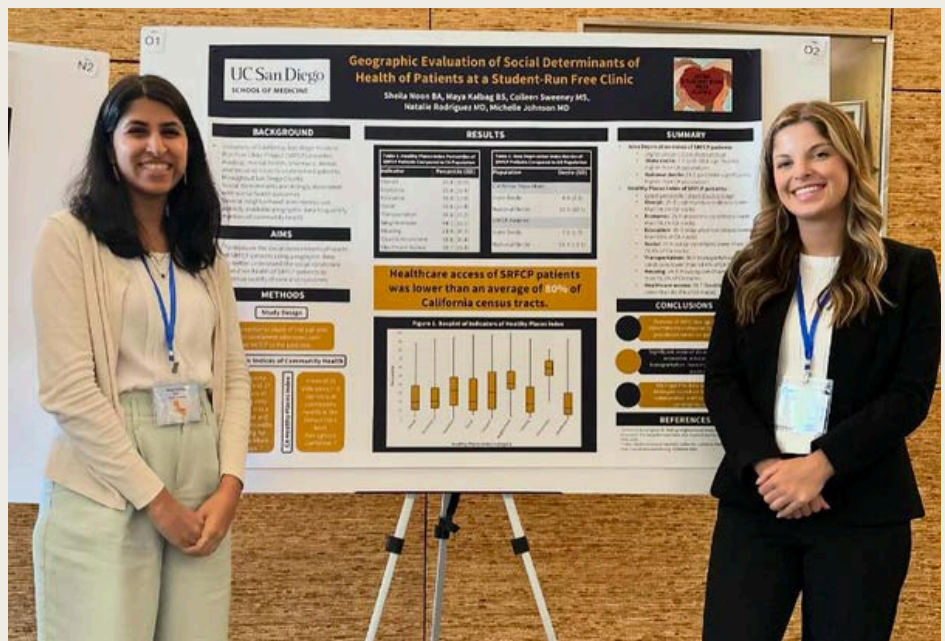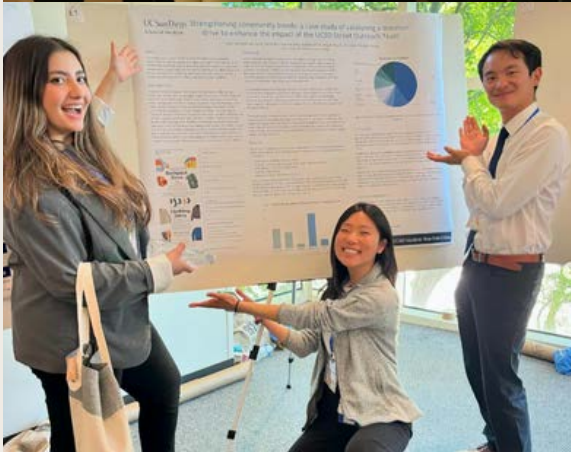- Students in the Community
- A Year in Photos

UC Davis Community Health Conference

Hosted by UC Davis, a group of our medical students attended the University of California Community Health Conference, a dynamic event aimed at enhancing community health initiatives through collaboration and discussion. "Throughout the conference, our students presented their groundbreaking projects in both poster and oral presentations, networked with peers, and gained invaluable insights to further their community health efforts," said Spencer Chau (MS2). "Their work only further highlighted the importance of community health programs such as the UCSD Free Clinic."

UC San Diego Public Health Research Day

Several of our students presented at UC San Diego's Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science Public Health Research Day. Sheila Noon (MS3), Maya Kalbag (MS3), and Colleen Sweeney (MS3) were awarded "Outstanding Poster" for their incredible work doing a geographic evaluation of various social determinants of health that our patients at Free Clinic experience.

National Meeting of the Society of Student-Run Free Clinics

The 14th Annual Conference of the Society of Student Run Free Clinics was held on October 18-20, 2024 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, bringing together hundreds of students, faculty, and advisors involved with free clinics across the country. Varsha Prakash (MS4) presented her poster Evaluating the Impact of an Introductory Course on Medical Students Participating in the UCSD Student Run Free Clinic Project at this event--and was awarded the Student Impact Award. Congratulations, Varsha!

Spencer Chau (MS2) and Sami Jin, (MS2) presented their project "Strengthening community bonds: A case study of catalyzing a donation drive to enhance the impact of the UCSD Street Outreach Team," rooted in their work as the Student Coordinators of our Free Clinic Street Outreach Team. Spencer reflected this experience sharing, "It was so exciting to meet other students from across the nation who share a passion for free clinic initiatives and to learn about the meaningful work that's making a real difference in the lives of those they serve."

Nutrition Kitchen Project Community Class

"Every month, we work to schedule a nutrition class with patients that we see in Free Clinic. The general structure of the class involves a selective nutrition topic based on the needs of the patients, which the student presents at a community recreational center. The lecture format allows for a discussion to unfold, allowing patients to openly ask questions along the way. I really enjoy seeing the patient get excited to learn! My favorite part is working through a recipe that complements the lecture topic. We do our best to find a recipe that uses most of the ingredients donated. When serving people, they are always so appreciative of our efforts."

– Aileen Szczepanski (MS2)

Photos by Erik Jepsen/University Communications

Our work would not be possible without your steadfast support from near and far. You play a foundational role in empowering us to be more compassionate, conscientious, and committed to our community. We deeply appreciate you–– thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Interested in learning more or donating to UCSD's Student-Run Free Clinic Project? Please email us at ucsdsrfc@health.ucsd.edu or connect with us on Instagram @ucsdfc