Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month

What motivates you as an AANHPI leader?

Giving flowers to our AANHPI community at UCSF for their unsung dedication, passion, energy and time to improve the climate and belonging for everyone.
My motivation stems from a deep-rooted connection to the past, acknowledging the shoulders upon which I stand. I find inspiration in the knowledge that who I am as a leader honors the legacy of my ancestors and elders. I feel a profound responsibility to carry forward their wisdom and values for future generations that I hope to inspire.”

Maria S. Jaochico, Ed.D.
Director, Restorative Justice Practices
(she/her)
• Asian Pacific American Systemwide Alliance (APASA)
• United Filipinx Association (UFA)
• Chancellor’s Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion (4CI)
What motivates you as an AANHPI leader?

“As a San Francisco native, the city and its communities have provided my family with the opportunity to be truly happy and healthy. When I see my patients, I think about how I'm giving back and healing our communities, person by person. Through advocacy and solidarity, I hope to continue uplifting the health of San Francisco's many people, cultures, and communities.”

Maxwell Ho
Medical Student (he/him)

- Asian Pacific American Medical Students Association (APAMSA)
- Asian American, Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Coalition
What motivates you as an AANHPI leader?

“Being a leader means having the ability to see what is possible and strive to make it a reality. Never accepting status quo, never be complacent. Inspiring and encouraging others to find their voice to impact change.”

Lourdes Moldre, MSN, BSN, RN ACNP
Patient Care Director, Interim Patient Care Director
(She/her/hers)
• Women of UCSF Health
• Philippine Nurses Association of Northern California
• Filipino Young Leaders Program
What motivates you as an AANHPI leader?

"Reminding myself that this is a long road that does not end, that there are ebbs and flows, and that I can’t always control the outcome, only my effort and how I go about doing my work."

Tung Nguyen, MD
Professor of Medicine and Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (He/him/his)

- Asian American Research Center on Health
- Chancellor’s Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion (4CI)
What motivates me every day is my commitment to wellness and my drive to make a positive impact in our communities. I am passionate about helping people lead healthier lives and empowering them to use their voices. I see myself as a connector, connecting individuals with resources, information, and opportunities to build a stronger community. Challenges, to me, are not roadblocks but rather, stepping stones toward bold and meaningful change. I believe in being audacious and focusing on incremental gains, whether it's within our UCSF community, our local neighborhood, or society at large!

Michelle Teng, MPH
Senior Program Manager, UCSF Leadership Institute
(she/her)
- Co-Chair, Asian Pacific American Systemwide Alliance (APASA)
- Events Committee
- Women in Technology (WIT)
What motivates you as an AANHPI leader?

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My work is anchored in collective care and liberation, activism, and ancestral joy. In my experience, impactful leaders are community identified rather than self-appointed; they serve as facilitators for coalition building and collaboration. These values guide my efforts to empower and uplift my community as we confront and abolish systems of oppression to create a more just world for all.”

Tanjeda Rumpa Yeasin
Manager, Cope Program
(she/her)
• Co-Chair, APASA
• Asian American, Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Coalition
• Chancellor’s Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion (4CI)
What motivates you as an AANHPI leader?

"Being a leader means having the ability to see what is possible and strive to make it a reality. Never accepting status quo, never be complacent. Inspiring and encouraging others to find their voice to impact change."

Henry Ocampo, MPH
Benioff Children’s Hospital, DEI/AR Program Manager
(He/him/his)
• Co-Chair AANHPI Coalition
• United Filipinx Association, Steering Committee Member
• UCSF LGBTQ Committee Member
• Chancellor’s Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion (4CI)
What motivates you as an AANHPI leader?

"The strength of our collaboration and shared voice energizes me in this work. I am also motivated because I want to create a more just and compassionate world for future generations including for my children."

Jane Jih, MD, MD, MAS  
Associate Director of Medicine  
(She/Her)  
- Asian American Research Center on Health  
- UC Consortium of AAPI Policy & Community Priorities
What motivates you as an AANHPI leader?

"I'm excited about the opportunity to make a difference in the AANHPI community and health. I find such joy in getting to know members of the community, discussing how to improve their health, and finding better ways to meet the community's needs. It's a privilege to collaborate with other AANHPI leaders, and I'm driven to find new ways to serve the community and improve the health of those in the AANHPI community."

Kaitlyn Hsu
Community Engagement and Advocacy Chair
(she/her)
• Asian Pacific American Medical Students Association (APAMSA)
• Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Coalition
What motivates you as an AANHPI leader?

I think our voices matter a lot, and that culturally, this is something that does not come naturally to many of us in the AAPI community. I think about what my parents wanted bringing us to this country, and I am confident that the notion of being treated equally is the bare minimum considering what they had to do to integrate into this society. This work is hard but I believe we can create a better future, and that every ounce of effort we spend creates collective change.”

Ingrid Chen, PhD, MS
Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
(she/her)
• AANHPI Coalition
• Institute for Global Health Sciences Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Antiracism committee
What motivates me at UCSF in leadership is mentoring. I love mentoring fellows and early career faculty in NIH grant writing and to careers in research. I keep myself motivated through this love of mentoring and training the next generation of investigators.”

Monica Gandhi, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine, UCSF; Medical Director, Ward 86 HIV Clinic; Director, UCSF Center for AIDS Research
(She/Her))
• Ward 86 HIV Clinic
As a second-generation Asian American, I'm driven by the resilience, sacrifices and triumphs of my ancestors. Their stories inspire me to help create a sense of belonging for communities where diversity, equity, and inclusion are embraced to ensure that others don't face the same challenges. I am grateful for their pioneering efforts in advancing AANHPI causes and strive to continue their legacy by amplifying our community’s voice, dismantle barriers, and passing on knowledge to future generations.”

Belle La, JD
Senior Financial Analyst, SOM’s Dean’s Office
(She/Her)
- DEI Champion
- Anti-Oppression Curriculum Initiative – Action Group
- Wellness Champion
- Asian Pacific American Systemwide Alliance (APASA)
As a SF native who grew up in poverty in SF Chinatown, I saw first-hand the struggles of non-English speaking people in obtaining fair work, good health care, and a place in society. Experiencing the Civil Rights Movement in my formative years showed me how working together can bring about improvements in society. These experiences motivate me to push for improvements in providing equitable health care for non-English speaking patients and all patients of color in this great institution.

Don Ng, MD
Professor Emeritus, Division of General Internal Medicine, UCSF
(He/Him)
• Co-chair AANHPI Coalition
I am proud to have the opportunity to serve my community. I have had the privilege of contributing to a powerful team of superheroes, which I consider Nakama. When I look back at all that has been accomplished, it is proof that anything is possible. What we talked about yesterday, has become a reality today. When I look at the faces in the photos taken today, I see our future leaders of UCSF and beyond.”

Peter Weber
Product Manager, UCSF School of Nursing Dean’s Office
(He/Him)
- Asian Pacific American Systemwide Alliance (APASA), Steering Committee
- Administrative Management Professionals (AMP), Steering Committee
- The Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program Alumni Association of Northern California (JETAANC), Board of Directors