

# SIMMS/MANN UCLA CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE ONCOLOGY

**ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR 2024-25**

We care for you: Mind, Body, and Spirit.



*Simms Mann*  
UCLA CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE ONCOLOGY

CELEBRATING

*30  
Years*

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The Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology has rapidly transformed in significant ways over the past year. Already a leader in holistic cancer care, the center has strategically evolved and ascended further toward the apex. The center has increased its staff and services to meet the growing needs of the patient population. The number of patients served has also risen — a testament to the success of the center’s constantly expanding outreach and social media efforts. Services have been embedded in additional areas, such as pancreatic disease and gynecologic cancers, enhancing accessibility for patients who already have enough on their minds. Even more remarkable: The Simms/Mann Center provides all of its life-changing services completely free of charge, thanks to the extraordinary vision that the Simms/Mann family created 30 years ago.

While UCLA Health researchers make steady progress toward treatments and vaccines for various types of cancer, the Simms/Mann Center allows patients to derive meaning from their experiences. It eases the mental and emotional burden of a cancer diagnosis for patients and their loved ones, empowering them to view their journey through a more hopeful lens.

The Simms/Mann family has been an incredible partner, offering wisdom, dedication and guidance in addition to financial support. We celebrate this amazing alliance, grateful for all it has born, and anticipate all that it has yet to bear.

## LEADERSHIP



**John A. Glaspy, M.D., M.P.H.**

*Chair, Founders Board*

*Simms/Mann Family Foundation Chair in Integrative Oncology*

*Professor of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA*

*Director, UCLA Health Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (UCLA Health JCCC)*

*Women's Cancer Research Program and Clinical Research Unit*

*Vice-Chair, UCLA Health JCCC Scientific Protocol Review Committee*

Dr. Glaspy is a globally recognized leader in oncology whose influence extends well beyond UCLA. In addition to his clinical and academic roles, Dr. Glaspy has held leadership positions and longstanding memberships in major professional organizations, including the American Society of Clinical Oncology, SWOG (formerly the Southwest Oncology Group), the American Federation for Clinical Research and the International Society of Interferon Research. His service to these groups has helped shape national standards for clinical trials, cancer care policy and translational research. Dr. Glaspy has built a career that bridges scientific innovation, compassionate care and strategic leadership in the quest to cure cancer. He has authored more than 270 scientific publications on subjects such as tumor immunology, breast cancer, melanoma and chemotherapy-induced anemia. His efforts as chair of the Founders Board have helped embed the center's mission in UCLA Health's broader approach to cancer treatment, driven by his belief that healing requires both scientific innovation and compassionate, whole-person support.



**Barb Jagels, R.N., M.H.A., CPHQ**

*Executive Director of Cancer Services, UCLA Health*

*Member, Founders Board*

Ms. Jagels integrates clinical operations across multiple oncology programs, including the Simms/Mann Center. Her work ensures that patients receive seamless, coordinated care that blends conventional cancer treatment with complementary services such as psychological counseling, nutrition support and palliative care.

She serves as the operational administrator for hospital-based clinics such as the UCLA Health Bowyer Oncology Center, the Pediatric Infusion Center and the Hematology Oncology Community Program. Ms. Jagels also assists with radiation oncology, nuclear medicine, cancer genetics, palliative care and analytics at all UCLA Health cancer facilities. Her leadership is instrumental in standardizing systems and processes to improve patient outcomes and expand access to integrative oncology care. By aligning clinical services with research imperatives at the UCLA Health JCCC, she promotes strategic planning and innovation throughout the institution's cancer care continuum.

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**Shannon La Cava, Psy.D.**

*Senior Director, Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology*

Dr. La Cava brings more than two decades of experience in psychosocial oncology, program development and multidisciplinary care to her work at the Simms/Mann Center. She oversees a team of more than 30 providers — including psychologists, nutritionists, chaplains, psychiatrists and mind-body practitioners — who deliver evidence-based services to individuals and families navigating cancer. Her leadership emphasizes a family systems approach, ensuring that these services extend beyond the patient to caregivers and loved ones. Prior to joining UCLA Health, Dr. La Cava served as chief clinical officer at Cancer Support Community Los Angeles (CSCLA), where she led clinical programs and research initiatives. She has also occupied national executive positions, including chair of the American Psychological Association's health equity committee, and collaborated on research with institutions such as Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente and the American Institute for Cancer Research. As senior director of the Simms/Mann Center, she champions integrative care that addresses the emotional, spiritual and psychological dimensions of healing. Dr. La Cava is currently a member of two branches of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society: the research committee and the program development and leadership special interest group. Staying active in industry circles enables Dr. La Cava to widely share the values and advances of the Simms/Mann Center.

**FROM SHANNON LA CAVA, PSY.D.**

*It's both inspiring and astonishing to see how an institution like the Simms/Mann Center, with deep roots in the community and a reputation for excellence, can keep evolving at 30 years of age. Yet evolve it does. We continue to expand our services and our reach, serving new communities and collaborating with additional UCLA Health departments to provide multidisciplinary care for cancer patients. These services have also become more accessible and tailored to specific groups, such as young adults.*

*The center is in the process of broadening services for gynecologic cancers and establishing a greater presence at the Bowyer Oncology Center, which specializes in genetics, bone marrow radiation, leukemia and other areas. The Bowyer clinic is uniquely designed to care for MediCare and Medi-Cal patients, as well as other under-resourced populations.*

*We continue to boost the breadth of educational resources we offer to non-UCLA Health patients and caregivers, medical providers, and mental health practitioners — introducing them to the groundbreaking, comprehensive cancer treatment available at UCLA Health and the Simms/Mann Center. This community outreach doubles as an invitation to choose UCLA Health for their care.*

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*Internally, our psychology and social work training program is as robust as ever. We also host psychiatry residents for annual rotations and look forward to adding a dietitian training program, as well as a spiritual care rotation in coordination with our talented inpatient chaplaincy team.*

*Externally, the Simms/Mann Center is proud to deliver lectures and observational experiences to UCLA fellows completing their training in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, the Division of Palliative Care and the Department of Family Medicine.*

*Launched in February 2024, the latest iteration of our website reinforces the center's mission, engages new audiences and strengthens our ability to serve our patients. We spread the word about the importance of holistic care through numerous presentations across the country as well.*

*The center has hired strategically in the past year to address shifting needs of our partner providers and shared patient populations. New hires now occupy positions that didn't exist a year ago, such as director of integrative services and program coordinator.*

*When I started roughly two years ago, the nutrition program was early in its redevelopment stage. Emma Veilleux, R.D.N., had recently been recruited as the center's senior registered dietitian and sole dietitian on staff. Today, the center boasts four registered dietitians and a nutrition model that is present throughout our online library, website and recipe program. We will continue to add nutrition services, including group consultation, in the coming year to satisfy patient demand.*

*The center is pleased to report that the paint, logo and branding requirements in the gift agreement have been fulfilled.*

*The center remains committed to enhancing the patient experience by thoughtfully collecting and implementing feedback; streamlining appointment scheduling, documentation and attendance records; and decreasing the amount of time spent on the waitlist. We have succeeded in shortening the average waitlist duration to five to seven days from first contact.*

*I'm deeply proud of our team and everything we've achieved together. With the talent, dedication and vision we possess, the possibilities are truly limitless.*

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## **FOUNDERS BOARD**

The Founders Board plays a vital role in the growth and impact of the Simms/Mann Center. Members of the board are ambassadors responsible for upholding the center's reputation as a national leader in integrative cancer treatment. They offer strategic guidance in areas such as program development, branding, financial planning, fundraising, recruitment and long-term goal setting. Through their insight and advocacy, the Founders Board ensures that the center continues to thrive and progress while delivering whole-person care to individuals and families facing cancer.

### **Members as of June 30, 2025**

Victoria Mann Simms, Ph.D.

Ronald Simms, J.D.

Josh Simms, M.B.A.

Johnese Spisso, M.P.A., R.N.

John A. Glaspy, M.D., M.P.H., *Chair*

Barb Jagels, R.N., M.H.A., CPHQ

## **AMBASSADOR BOARD**

In 2025, the Simms/Mann Center restructured its volunteer leadership groups by merging the Advisory Board and the Associate Board into a single entity: the Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology Ambassador Board.

Ambassador Board members will participate in a total of four meetings per year: two virtual and two in-person. In addition to attending these meetings and providing personal financial or fundraising support, members will be asked to host events and help boost participation levels by recruiting attendees and/or introducing Simms/Mann Center leaders to people in their networks.

The Ambassador Board follows UCLA Health's broader board model, designed to foster unified communication, deeper engagement and a shared sense of purpose. The updated name emphasizes the board's key role in representing and advancing the center's mission throughout the community and beyond.

As part of this transition, Teddy Seraphine-Leonard completed her term as board chair following several years of leadership. Dr. Glaspy appointed Christine Berberian Zenjiryan to succeed her. Ms. Zenjiryan has demonstrated significant board experience and a longstanding commitment to the center's work. She is honored to embrace this new opportunity.



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### Members as of June 30, 2025

Alexis Alban, M.A., M.F.T.  
Sidharth R. Anand, M.D., M.B.A., *Faculty Representative*  
Marjorie Bach Walsh  
Christine Berberian Zenjiryan, *Chair*  
Rena D. Callahan, M.D., *Faculty Representative*  
Deepika Chopra, Ph.D.  
Chaitali Gala Mehta  
Ronak Garg, M.D.  
Phillip Gonzales, M.B.A.  
Michele Kaplan  
Emily Lefkowitz, Ph.D.  
Camelia Lynne  
Victoria Mann Simms, Ph.D., *Founder*  
Richard Miller  
Richard G. Newman, M.R.E.  
Mary Saltzburg  
Teddy Seraphine-Leonard  
Kelly Silk, J.D.

## CELEBRATIONS

### Crucial Catch



On Oct. 14, 2024, about 30 breast cancer patients and survivors represented the Simms/Mann Center at The Bolt, the Los Angeles Chargers' state-of-the-art practice facility in El Segundo, Calif. Rather than engage in combat over an elliptical ball, they took their positions on pink yoga mats for a morning mindfulness and breathwork session. This is their Super Bowl: the NFL's Crucial Catch initiative, which champions early cancer detection.

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Participants were coached by Simms/Mann Center staff members Shiori Lange, LCSW, clinical social worker, and Da'Vie Guzman, M.A., program coordinator. Lange guided participants through mindful-awareness exercises, teaching them to notice the movement of their breath, surrounding sounds and physical sensations in their bodies. Guzman led gentle breathing activities aimed at reducing stress and inducing relaxation.

Sarah Harbaugh, health care advocate and wife of Chargers Head Coach Jim Harbaugh; Cameron Dicker, Chargers kicker; and Brenden Rice and D.J. Chark Jr., Chargers wide receivers, joined the women for the morning session. Mr. Rice noted that he's been practicing mindfulness since he attended college at the University of Southern California (USC), adding that the exercise has become part of his pregame routine and allows him to deliver his best performance on the field.

Ms. Jagels remarked that professional athletes were aware before health care professionals that being a star performer requires listening to the mind as well as the body. Similarly, navigating a cancer diagnosis demands equal attention to the spiritual, emotional and physical elements of the patient experience.

Simms/Mann Center patients and staff were later invited to attend a Chargers game, where they took the field for a powerful moment to ring the bell signifying victory against cancer. The Chargers also recognized Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D., for his paradigm-changing efforts to cure breast cancer. Dr. Slamon serves as the Bowyer Professor of Medical Oncology, as well as director of clinical/translational research and the Revlon/UCLA Women's Cancer Research Program at the UCLA Health JCCC.

### An Evening with the Simms



On Dec. 11, 2024, Victoria Mann Simms, Ph.D., and Ronald A. Simms generously hosted a lovely dinner at their home for board members, clinical staff and the development team. Guests had tremendous fun singing along to a live piano player before enjoying a delicious, curated meal. The evening also featured remarks from Dr. Glaspy and Deb Wong, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Head and Neck Medical Oncology



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Program at UCLA. Their reflections underscored the urgency of the center's work and sparked meaningful conversations among attendees. Gifts of appreciation included the book *Anticancer Living: Transform Your Life and Health with the Mix of Six* by Lorenzo Cohen, Ph.D., and Alison Jefferies, M.Ed.

### Mental Wellness Takes Center Court



Dr. La Cava, Dr. Wong, Dr. Ogaryan and Ms. Veilleux with Lakers legend James Worthy and the team's 1988 championship trophy.

(Photo courtesy of The Los Angeles Lakers)



Christine Berberian Zenjiryan, Simms/Mann Center Ambassador Board Chair, with Mr. Worthy and the trophy.

(Photo courtesy of The Los Angeles Lakers)

The Simms/Mann Center Ambassador Board, the Los Angeles Lakers and community partners teamed up on June 10, 2025, for an event highlighting the importance of mental well-being in whole-person cancer care. Board members were encouraged to invite friends interested in supporting the center and potentially joining the board. Fundraisers Maeve Sullivan and Melisa Moon collaborated with board members on follow-up efforts to engage these prospects.

At the event, the board presented information about the center's mental wellness programs and the crucial role of mental health care throughout the cancer journey for patients and families. Guests later toured the UCLA Health Training Center, the Lakers' training facility in El Segundo. In addition to visiting the players' lounge and workout room, participants met Lakers legend and Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famer James Worthy and tried their hand at shooting hoops on a professional court.

## ENDOWED POSITIONS

### **Simms/Mann Family Foundation Chair in Integrative Oncology**

The Simms/Mann Family Foundation Chair in Integrative Oncology provides discretionary funding that Dr. Glaspy uses to advance his projects at the Simms/Mann Center. A portion of this funding goes toward his salary, allowing him to dedicate more time and focus to the center's development and operations. The chair also helps cover the salary of his administrative assistant, Maria Ruiz, who plays a key role in coordinating his schedule and organizing meetings that further his leadership and strategic pursuits at the center.

Several former fellows who trained under Dr. Glaspy have since joined the Division of Hematology/Oncology faculty, continuing vital work that aligns closely with the mission of the Simms/Mann Center.



**Aaron Burkenroad, M.D.**, was recently appointed to the faculty and is researching financial toxicity and strategies to reduce the financial burden of cancer care for patients.



**Manan Shah, M.D.**, conducted the largest study to date comparing prognostic expectations among physicians and patients with advanced illness. The results revealed significant differences in values and preferences, particularly among cancer patients. His findings have been well-received at national conferences and submitted to a leading medical journal. Dr. Shah officially joined the division in July to proceed with this promising research.



**Nikita Baclic, M.D., M.P.H.**, remains focused on expanding access to fertility preservation for young adults undergoing cancer treatment. She is developing a clinical program tailored to their needs, all while pursuing her Ph.D.

Along with Dr. Anand, these physicians represent a new generation of oncologists shaped by the center's integrative philosophy. Their efforts demonstrate how the center is transforming not only patient care but also the future of the field through mentorship and innovation.

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**From Michael Eselun, B.C.C.**

***Dr. John Glaspy Chaplain in Oncology Care***

*My role at the Simms/Mann Center has grown in recent years beyond providing individual patient and group support. Given my long history as a speaker and facilitator, the center intends to create more opportunities for me to educate and engage with community members throughout UCLA and the greater Los Angeles area.*

*I was deeply honored and humbled to receive the Champion of Care Award from CSCLA at their annual gala in May. The Champion of Care title is given to providers nominated by CSCLA participants for going above and beyond for cancer patients. It's particularly special to be recognized by our UCLA Health patients and their families.*

*The weekly Circle of Reflection continues to thrive and provide a compassionate environment for patients. In fact, high demand has prompted a second weekly group to serve even more patients. I'm blessed to witness how the experience of community can act as an agent of profound healing and connection.*

*The Circle of Radiance was created for Simms/Mann Center staff several years ago to help us tend to our own spirits and process the grief and loss endemic to this work. We have begun to offer this ritual service to nursing teams at our facilities. Over the past year, we held sessions at clinics in Encino, Westlake Village and Westwood. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.*

Read how patients have described the restorative power of these gatherings in their own words:

***This group helps me to feel more positive and more settled. Living with cancer is something quite internal, and the group helps me get in touch with myself on this deep level. It is literally saving me in ways to be able to listen and share so deeply with everyone. Thank you.***

\*\*\*\*

***I must first say this: I just love you. I feel like you may be the diving board that will help spring me into healing, into being — not doing and producing — into self-love and compassion. Thank you for doing the work you are meant to do.***

\*\*\*\*

***Thank you from my heart, Michael, for your wisdom, kindness and care.***

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Simms/Mann Center is grateful for the opportunity to train the next generation of psycho-oncology clinicians in multiple disciplines. These trainees are assets to the center who go on to provide excellent psycho-oncology care wherever they land, often paying it forward by mentoring successive generations of clinicians.

A new cohort of three psychology practicum trainees and two social work practicum students started in August 2024. Psychology practicum trainees Danielle Berman, M.S., C.L.S., and Makenna Paule, M.A., were accepted into their first-choice internship programs. These rigorous American Psychological Association-accredited internships offer the highest caliber of training available. Graduates of these programs are highly sought after.

Valentina Ogaryan, Ph.D., clinical director of the Simms/Mann Center and Darcie Denkert Notkin, Leader of Psychosocial Oncology Care, oversees the training program.

### Psychology practicum trainees:

- Andrew Pettit, M.S., Pepperdine University
- Makenna Paule, M.A., Pepperdine University
- Danielle Berman, M.S., C.L.S., University of La Verne

### Social Work practicum students:

- Giselle Nissenbaum, M.S.W., ACSW, University of Southern California
- Russell Shirley, M.S.W., University of Southern California

The cohort completed their training in July 2025 and have shared exciting updates on their next steps:

**Ms. Paule** will intern with VA Palo Alto on the behavioral medicine track. There, she will gain experience and exposure to a variety of patient populations navigating chronic illness in addition to mental health needs. She will undergo an oncology rotation and training in palliative care. VA Palo Alto offers psychology residents and postdoctoral fellows a wide range of learning opportunities across its complex health care system. It boasts a large staff of distinguished psychologists with myriad areas of expertise.

**Ms. Berman** will stay with UCLA Health as an intern on the pediatric consultation liaison track at the Jane and Terry Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. She will work closely with child and adolescent patients in both inpatient and outpatient settings, supporting their psychological needs. She will also act as a liaison at the clinical level. Her training will include rotations in pediatric oncology.

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**Ms. Nissenbaum** is now a full-time associate clinical social worker at the Simms/Mann Center. She works in the UCLA Division of Gynecologic Oncology under Beth Karlan, M.D., holder of the Nancy Marks Endowed Chair in Women's Health Research. She will also offer her services to other Simms/Mann Center patients across the UCLA Hospital System.

**Mr. Pettit** is staying on as a second-year advanced practicum student to hone his clinical skills, further his professional development in psychosocial oncology and take on a higher-level role supporting patients in a multidisciplinary setting. Mr. Pettit will also complete required practicum training to conduct neuropsychology assessments.

**Mr. Shirley** is currently plotting his next move, which will tentatively involve the University of California, Davis. The Simms/Mann Center team looks forward to following what is certain to be an illustrious career.

In addition to the psychology and social work programs, the center now offers a core rotation for palliative care, hematology/oncology and family medicine fellows. The rotation is designed to equip rising physicians with the tools they need to support seriously ill patients experiencing psychological distress or psychiatric conditions.

### Psychiatry

Three psychiatry residents completed their yearlong rotation with the center under the instruction of Jennifer Kruse, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry; Margi Stuber, M.D., professor and UCLA Semel Institute scholar in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences; and John Horton, M.D., the center's staff psychiatrist.

- Joseph Kaizer, M.D.
- Jessica Membreno, M.D.
- Stephanie Wong, M.D.

## 2025-26 TRAINEES

The new cohort started on Sept. 3, 2025.

### Psychology practicum trainees:

- Andrew Pettit, M.S., Pepperdine University  
(staying on as an advanced second-year practicum student)
- Ava Hosseini, M.A., Loma Linda University
- Arie Pollock, M.S., University of La Verne



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**Social Work practicum students:**

- Ella Moss-Vazquez, USC
- Mika Nagamoto, UCLA

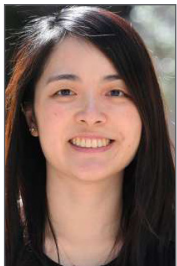
**Psychiatry**

In July 2025, the center welcomed two residents for a yearlong rotation. They see patients for half a day each week under the supervision of Dr. Horton.

- Alison Mercer-Smith, M.D., Ph.D.
- Corinne-April Conn, M.D.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

Simms/Mann Center staff exemplify dedication and compassion in every facet of their work. Below, three team members share what motivates them to keep showing up for patients in what is often a challenging field.



**Deborah Hong, M.S., R.D.N.**

*Dietitian*

*I was born and raised in Southern California and cannot imagine living anywhere else. From a young age, I adopted the role of interpreter for my immigrant family. After my dad was suddenly diagnosed with stomach cancer that required surgery, my family struggled to understand his condition. However, as a child the most I could do was define health terms and interpret food labels for them. Seeing how my family worked hard to accommodate these lifestyle changes influenced my decision to pursue a career in nutrition. Determined to expand my knowledge of the human body, I chose to major in human biology at the University of California, San Diego. Undergraduate coursework served as a foundation for more specialized nutrition education.*

*After graduating with my bachelor's degree, I volunteered at a local community hospital's food and nutrition department and worked as a licensed pharmacy technician. Both experiences proved valuable while obtaining my master's degree in nutritional science at California State University, Los Angeles. Upon obtaining my graduate degree, I began volunteering at Nutrition & Education International. As a volunteer, I compiled research articles and composed a technical manual on the health benefits and risks of soybeans. This project allowed me to work independently and decide which articles contained relevant information. Writing the manual reinforced my ability to translate difficult nutrition concepts into understandable terms. At that point, I felt accomplished in using my nutrition background outside of a classroom setting.*

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*I furthered my clinical training by completing my dietetic internship at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. As an intern, I provided nutrition assessments of children with disabilities, diagnosed malnutrition, analyzed growth data and investigated dietary practices. I also developed education modules for children and their families to promote healthy eating behaviors.*

*Throughout my professional career, I’ve worked in the community setting with families at Women, Infants & Children (WIC), where I supervised client services and directed nutrition program assistants. I’ve also worked in the inpatient setting at MemorialCare Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach, where I’ve collaborated with members of the health care team while monitoring and evaluating indicators and outcomes data directly related to nutrition diagnosis, goals and intervention strategies used to determine patient progress.*

*At the Simms/Mann Center, I can combine my clinical and community expertise. I remember the faces of various patients, including my own family, when receiving an unexpected diagnosis. That feeling can be overwhelming and paralyzing. As an oncology dietitian, I’m able to walk with families on their cancer treatment journey and provide a safe space for them to brainstorm ways to stay nourished while battling multiple side effects. In this information era, guidance found online can be confusing and disconcerting to patients. I enjoy empowering patients to sift through conflicting facts and prioritize their dietary needs.*



**John Horton, M.D.**

Psychiatrist

*My interest in medicine started in elementary school, when I would spend time after class in the local cancer center infusion room where my mom worked. I regularly finished homework or played outside while my mom, a career oncology nurse, finished her charting or helped folks wrap up a long day of care. It wasn’t the leading-edge medicines or complex biology that captured me. It was the relationships — among clinicians and patients — and the stories of collective hardship and joy that brought meaning to my mom’s work. What a lesson I carried with me through school!*

*I started medical school after deep consideration of how illness impacts a patient and their family. Years of chronic illness left my father vulnerable. When he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, I had just finished college at Duke University where I studied neuroscience. I worked in a leukemia drug discovery lab at UC San Diego and spent my free time attending radiation appointments and other doctor visits with my dad. Without the language to better articulate his experience, I struggled to voice the way his illness challenged our family and the quiet ways it affected my father’s identity. I now appreciate how depression, earlier trauma and strained coping with his illness negatively impacted his quality of life. I can see the early roots of my interest in cancer psychiatry when I reflect on this time.*

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*It was a privilege to complete my medical training at UCLA, learn from world experts in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, and deepen my curiosity and skills as a clinical fellow in hospice and palliative care. A unique intersection, the number of palliative care-trained psychiatrists in the country is fewer than 100. The Simms/Mann Center and its leadership are innovative in supporting my position and future-facing in their investment in building academic and clinical bridges between psychiatry, oncology and palliative care. I serve as a psychiatrist at the center, offering comprehensive evaluation and treatment for the psychiatric needs, mental distress and complex psychological effects that emerge from cancer and its care. I build relationships with patients and family, key members of the cancer care team, and other medical specialists while offering crucial support during moments of severe stress. Judicious use of medication, thoughtful psychotherapy interventions and other integrative practices bring calm, greater understanding and hope during uncertain and unfamiliar times. Every day my work confirms what the literature concludes: Investing in mental health improves cancer outcomes and quality of life.*

*I feel so fortunate to play my role and collaborate with the incredible clinicians who share their hard work and “heart work” in our collective mission to improve the experience of cancer treatment. Psychiatry is and often feels like an under-resourced field — the psycho-oncology specialty even more so. Despite this, there is a feeling of abundance and support at the Simms/Mann Center that emerges from the dedication of my colleagues. It resonates with my deepest aspirations as a physician and person. I also know that our work is far from over. Increased awareness of mental distress during cancer treatment, as well as rates of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after diagnosis has underscored the need for better mental health care integration. The call for psychiatrists and other mental health clinicians to join this field is stronger than ever. This upcoming year will see the expansion of Simms/Mann Center psychiatry services and, with it, the opportunity to better and faster meet the needs of patients in different stages of illness. I am eager to support our growing force while continuing this humbling and compassionate work. I believe the Simms/Mann Center stands apart in its effort to holistically care for patients, and I look forward to its bright future.*



**Kelli Sargent**

Administrative Director

*At age 12, I learned of my mom’s first cancer diagnosis: stage 4 Hodgkin lymphoma. At that time, cancer was still thought of as the C-word, with a quiet voice. When my mom was diagnosed 10 years later with her second cancer — stage 3 ovarian — the power of community, advocacy and complementary therapies captured my heart.*

*I remember my mom with smiles and gratitude. But even with the strength she showed each day, no one should have to face cancer, and no one should ever have to face it alone. I was inspired by the way*

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*she organically wanted to help others before and during cancer. That motivated me to support and advocate for others just like my mom did so beautifully.*

*With degrees in sociology and paralegal studies, advocating for others has long been in my heart. For more than 20 years, I have worked for humanitarian organizations such as the YWCA legal department for domestic violence victims, the American Heart Association, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Tower Cancer Research Foundation. My connection to this work really became a passion, personally and professionally, when I turned my master's program thesis into a reality by creating Run for Her. Run for Her was a 5 kilometer run/walk to raise awareness and money for ovarian cancer research. The national event also generated community support for people with cancer and their loved ones. Over 10 years, Run for Her raised more than \$7 million.*

*My mom was always interested in complementary practices, from exercise to acupuncture and crystals. She also valued being with friends and enjoying togetherness in the community. It was something that was innate to her. She frequently said that if she could bottle up all the love and support from friends and family, that would be the best medicine ever.*

*As the Simms/Mann Center administrative director, I manage key operational functions, provide guidance for educational programming, work collaboratively on philanthropic initiatives, and partner with our marketing and communications team to increase awareness of the empathetic services available at the center.*

*I'm extremely impressed by the level of knowledge among the center's clinicians and facilitators. Beyond the expertise, what really strikes me is the compassion that everyone shows patients and their loved ones. It warms my heart. Seeing the connection they make while caring for patients is truly remarkable, and it really helps people feel better.*

*Personally and professionally, I have experienced the invaluable impact of community, open communication and access to resources. These resources must continue to expand. The opportunity to play a role in this process at the Simms/Mann Center is a responsibility I hold close to my heart and am motivated by each day.*

*My mom used to say, "You are in my heart pocket," to let people know how much she cared and thought of them. So now I carry her always in my heart pocket. That's how I want the community to think of those with a cancer diagnosis and their loved ones.*

## NEW STAFF

The Simms/Mann Center staff grew significantly this past year. More importantly, it grew strategically. The center hired its first program coordinator, first adolescent/young adult clinical social worker and first director of integrative services. It also filled the business development analyst and administrative director positions. The business development analyst enables the team to use hard data to create services that effectively connect with patients and their families. The administrative director is the bridge that ensures smooth, cohesive collaboration among various departments.



**Leila Evangelista, M.S.W.**

*Care Coordinator*

Ms. Evangelista provides psychosocial care and support to cancer patients and their loved ones with an emphasis on resource navigation and case management. She worked for several years at Blood Cancer United (formerly the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society) before pursuing her master of social work degree with a focus on adult mental health and wellness.



**Emily Goldin, LCSW**

*Clinical Social Worker*

Ms. Goldin provides compassionate therapeutic support, helping patients navigate complex emotions and access vital resources. She aims to be a steady, reassuring presence in the health care system. Her goal is for every patient and family member to feel heard, understood and empowered.



**Da'Vie Guzman, M.A.**

*Program Coordinator*

Ms. Guzman develops on-site and virtual programming that supports the psychosocial well-being of patients and their loved ones. She also works closely with the administrative director, clinical director and other staff to ensure that programs are effective and culturally congruent.



**Deyton Jones**

*Administrative Assistant*

Mr. Jones streamlines day-to-day operations, from front-desk support to cross-departmental communications. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in business management at Xavier University and has experience in both health care and business management.



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**Eve Lahijani, R.D.N.**

*Dietitian Nutritionist*

Ms. Lahijani's goal is to empower individuals with the knowledge and confidence to make informed food choices that enhance their well-being and complement their treatment plans. She attended UCLA as an undergraduate and California State University, Los Angeles, for her master's degree in nutritional science. She later completed a three-year certification in spiritual psychology with a focus on consciousness, health and healing at University of Santa Monica.



**Makayla Lindsay, Psy.D.**

*Psychologist*

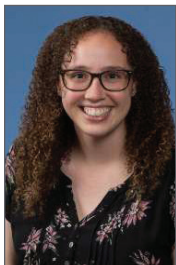
Dr. Lindsay provides psychosocial support for oncology patients and their loved ones, helping them navigate the emotional and psychological complexities of cancer. She collaborates closely with multidisciplinary teams to promote a holistic approach to patient care. Her clinical strategy is founded on evidence-based interventions with an emphasis on meaningful connection.



**Lindsay Quiring, LCSW**

*Clinical Oncology Social Worker*

Ms. Quiring primarily serves individuals in San Luis Obispo County and the new UCLA Health Atascadero Cancer Care Center. She provides compassionate, trauma-informed care that includes assessments, individual counseling and access to community resources for patients and their loved ones. She received her bachelor's and master of social work degrees from USC.



**Carly Nahin, LCSW**

*Adolescent/Young Adult Clinical Social Worker*

Ms. Nahin relies on her extensive knowledge of psychosocial stressors affecting this age group to create a safe space where patients and families feel heard and supported. She provides compassionate and trauma-informed care through individual therapy, support groups and resource referrals.

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**Giselle Nissenbaum, M.S.W., ACSW**

*Associate Clinical Social Worker*

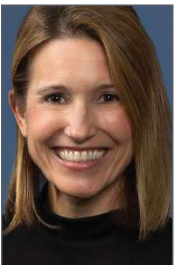
Ms. Nissenbaum joined the team full-time in June 2025 after completing an internship the previous year and attending graduate school at USC. She provides practical and emotional support for women navigating gynecologic cancers — a rapidly increasing segment of new cancer cases.



**John Pace**

*Business Development Analyst and Fund Manager*

In addition to managing the center's finances, Mr. Pace translates clinical efforts into constructive, measurable outcomes. He collaborates with interdisciplinary teams to build data infrastructure, design reporting systems and launch dashboards that clearly demonstrate the center's impact to UCLA Health staff and prospective donors.



**Kelli Sargent**

*Administrative Director*

Ms. Sargent plays a pivotal role in ensuring that cancer patients benefit from comprehensive care and advocacy. She manages key administrative functions in addition to developing and monitoring patient support programs. She also contributes to marketing and communications, strategic planning, and philanthropic initiatives.



**Sarah Washburn, M.S., R.D.N., C.S.O.**

*Dietitian Nutritionist*

Board-certified in oncology nutrition, Ms. Washburn offers personalized nutritional assessments and counseling for patients at all levels of cancer care.



**Alison Wong, Ph.D., LMFT**

*Director of Integrative Services*

Dr. Wong oversees and supports the development and implementation of the center's myriad integrative services. She fosters a collaborative, integrative and patient-centered approach that addresses each person's emotional, physical and spiritual needs.

## PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

The Simms/Mann Center understands that a cancer diagnosis can profoundly affect a person's emotional well-being. The center's growing selection of support groups provides patients and family members with opportunities to socialize, experience normality and heal. The center offers stand-alone and recurring evidence-based educational programming spanning various psycho-oncology topics.

In response to an increase in early-onset cancer diagnoses, the center established an Adolescent and Young Adult program. Ms. Nahin joined the staff in February 2025 as the center's first clinical oncology social worker who exclusively serves patients age 15 through 39. Ms. Nahin facilitates the weekly online Young Adult Support Group in addition to offering individual counseling. As a young adult herself who has experienced chronic illness, Ms. Nahin understands the unique challenges of patients in this demographic. Issues may include developing and maintaining relationships, body image, loss of identity, professional and educational disruptions, and fertility preservation.

The center has expanded its collaborative research, meeting monthly with the palliative care team and health services faculty in the Division of Hematology/Oncology. One physician fellow, Dr. Shah, has trained in palliative care. Another fellow, Gavin Hui, M.D., is working on harnessing artificial intelligence to refine patient education materials. Dr. Baclig completed and published her project on expanding access to fertility preservation for young cancer patients. The center's nutrition team has joined forces with Steven Tan, M.D., from the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition to optimize dietary advice for patients.

A multidisciplinary group comprising experts in administration, psychology, psychiatry, nutrition, social work and spiritual care is also forming to identify and address barriers to treatment.

Patient scheduling has moved to UCLA Health's internal electronic medical records system, CareConnect. The database will allow the center to more effectively monitor and manage productivity for each site and therapist.

### EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Educational offerings at the Simms/Mann Center range from fundamental services to newer programs focused on evolving needs.

#### Core services

The Simms/Mann Center offers world-class core services via telehealth and in person at all 20 hematology/oncology clinics and locations across California.

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Services include:

- Individual psychosocial support for patients and family members throughout the duration of treatment
- Assistance accessing community resources for housing, food and transportation
- Same-day appointments for distressed patients
- Psychiatry
- Integrative nutrition
- Chaplaincy
- End of Life Option Act assessment, psychosocial consultation for physicians and counseling for families
- Facilitation of end-of-life care and conversations
- Bereavement support
- Community clinician and psychiatrist referrals
- Integrative educational programs
- Support sessions for physicians navigating difficult conversations with patients
- Consultations with the practice manager on emerging clinical cases
- High-risk situation analysis
- Support group evaluations and referrals
- Integrative consultation reviews and referrals

## Support groups

[Simms Mann](#) > [The Simms Mann Center: Upcoming Events](#)

### Young Adult Support Group

**NOV 18**  
NEXT DATE:  
November 18, 2025 | 5:30 – 6:30 PM

UPCOMING DATES:  
November 25, 2025 | 5:30 – 6:30 PM  
December 2, 2025 | 5:30 – 6:30 PM  
December 9, 2025 | 5:30 – 6:30 PM



ONLINE

#### About This Group

Weekly support group designed to connect with other younger cancer patients.

This is a space for patients to come together to share resources, provide each other support, and discuss themes such as navigating treatment, career, parenthood, dating, and relationships. This group is for UCLA Health oncology patients ages 18-39 and is designed for all genders, cancer diagnoses, cancer stages, and stages of treatment, including survivorship.

#### Facilitator


Carly Nahin, LCSW, ACM-SW, Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology

[Simms Mann](#) > [The Simms Mann Center: Upcoming Events](#)

### Living Beyond Limits

**NOV 20**  
NEXT DATE:  
November 20, 2025 | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

UPCOMING DATES:  
November 27, 2025 | 11:00 – 12:30 PM  
December 4, 2025 | 11:00 – 12:30 PM  
December 11, 2025 | 11:00 – 12:30 PM



ONLINE

#### About This Group

Weekly, ongoing support group for individuals dealing with recurrent or metastatic cancer.

This group for patients with recurrent or metastatic cancer encourages the exploration and expression of emotions and thoughts, particularly those related to living with cancer. The group's purpose is to facilitate mutual support, encourage active coping, and promote effective interactions with family members and social networks. Group members also provide each other with information and guidance about navigating medical care. The group aims to enhance quality of life in its members and reduce their difficulties with pain, anxiety, and distress.

## Patient

- Living Beyond Limits
- Healing Through Art
- Young Adult

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Simms Mann > The Simms/Mann Center: Upcoming Events

## Tuesday Circle of Reflection


**NOV 20** NEXT DATE: November 20, 2025 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM

UPCOMING DATES:  
November 27, 2025 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM  
December 4, 2025 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM  
December 11, 2025 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM

**About This Group**

Cancer affects far more than the body. It can affect our sense of identity and our spirit, but what's more, our deeper sense of what's true and meaningful. We may start to question the sign posts that have led us this far or wonder why our prayers have not been answered. These are deep spiritual questions without easy answers. Please join our inter-faith Simms/Mann Chaplain, Michael Eselun, as we explore with each other in a safe, welcoming and non-judgmental space, the spiritual journey that cancer has carved out for us. Each week we will reflect on a different theme. Those with cancer and loved ones are welcome.

**Facilitator**  
Michael Eselun, Chaplain



ONLINE

Simms Mann > The Simms/Mann Center: Upcoming Events

## Monday Mindfulness Meditation

**NOV 17** NEXT DATE: November 17, 2025 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM

UPCOMING DATES:  
November 24, 2025 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM  
December 1, 2025 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM  
December 8, 2025 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM

**About This Group**

**Weekly group to enhance wellbeing in the present moment.** Mindfulness Meditation is a secular practice that actively facilitates the mind/body connection by cultivating present moment awareness, without judgment. In hospitals and clinical settings throughout the country, it has been proven to effectively enhance health and well-being with people experiencing stress, pain, anxiety, depression and/or illness, such as cancer. This group will provide a foundational experience of mindfulness, within a supportive group setting. It is designed for individuals who have or have had cancer, with the aim to reduce cancer-related stresses while enhancing the quality of one's life. Each session includes guided mindfulness meditation experiences, sharing and education.

Mindfulness is being present with your moment-to-moment experience as it is



ONLINE

## Patient and family member

- Circle of Reflection
- Mindfulness Meditation

Simms Mann > The Simms/Mann Center: Upcoming Events

## Bereavement Group (Spouses/Partners)

**NOV 20** NEXT DATE: November 20, 2025 | 4:30 – 6:00 PM

UPCOMING DATES:  
December 4, 2025 | 4:30 – 6:00 PM  
December 18, 2025 | 4:30 – 6:00 PM  
January 1, 2026 | 4:30 – 6:00 PM

**About This Group**

A bi-weekly Bereavement Support Group for anyone who has lost a spouse/partner to cancer.

This group will provide a unique opportunity for those spouses and partners who have experienced a recent loss of their loved ones to share and heal with others who truly understand. We find there is an increase in one's ability to process and heal when they are surrounded in group meetings with those who are going through similar feelings during this very challenging time. We will strive to create a very safe, compassionate, and caring group environment to maximize a very at ease and healing experience.

What You Should Expect From Groups



ONLINE

Simms Mann > The Simms/Mann Center: Upcoming Events

## Living Through Change

**NOV 18** October 1, 2024 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

UPCOMING DATES:  
November 25, 2025 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM  
December 2, 2025 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM  
December 9, 2025 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

**About This Group**

**Weekly group for family members and caregivers of patients with advanced stage and/or metastatic cancer.**

Assists family members navigating the advanced cancer care of their loved ones. The weekly support group extends understanding, compassion and companionship to its members. The group's interaction offers caregivers time for self-reflection and an opportunity to share, learn and grow. The relationships that are developed over time create space to hold one another's feelings and to affirm each member's ability to walk ahead.

What You Should Expect From Groups



ONLINE

## Family member and friends

- Bereavement (spouses/partners)
- Strengthening Caregivers for the Journey Ahead (all cancer stages and diagnoses)
- Living Through Change (advanced or metastatic disease)
- Men's Group: For Spouses and Partners of People with Cancer



## ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2024-25



Simms Mann • The Simms Mann Center Upcoming Events

### Daytime Healing Through Art

**NOW 19** NEXT DATE: November 19, 2025 | 1:30 – 3:00 PM

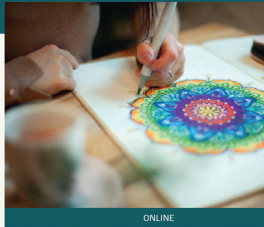
UPCOMING DATES:  
November 26, 2025 | 1:30 – 3:00 PM  
December 3, 2025 | 1:30 – 3:00 PM  
December 10, 2025 | 1:30 – 3:00 PM

#### About This Group

Weekly daytime art therapy group designed to provide opportunities for healing through self-expression.

Experiment with a variety of art techniques such as spontaneous drawing, expressive painting, collage, and multimedia to explore topics related to health and life changes. Exploring unfamiliar methods and materials can lead to the expression of personal metaphors for loss, bodily changes, new career choices, and re-evaluating relationships. Participants will be invited to discuss their artwork with the group and have the opportunity to hear about the meaning of others' artwork. This group is for individuals who have or who have had cancer.

What You Should Expect From Groups



ONLINE

Simms Mann

### Nutritional Support for Cancer Patients


#### Our Services

- Psychosocial Support & Counseling
- Psychiatry
- Nutrition
  - Recipes
  - Healthy Eating Tips
- Spiritual Care
- Financial & Logistical Support
- Support Groups
- Educational Programming

#### Specialized nutritional support throughout your cancer journey

Proper nutrition is a critical component of body/mind wellness. Dietary and nutritional needs often change throughout a cancer journey. That's why it's important to work with a registered dietitian who understands the unique needs of people with cancer. A registered dietitian can help you prepare for treatment, manage side effects and have more energy during recovery.

Our registered dietitians have specialized expertise working with people who have cancer. We offer one-on-one consultations to address specific symptoms, issues and treatment side effects that affect eating. You'll receive individualized care and a customized nutrition plan. We also offer follow-up sessions, practical nutrition tips, recipes and ongoing support.



## Additional programming

- Art Therapy Workshop, led by Paige Asawa, Ph.D., M.F.T., ATR-BC
- Cognitive Impacts After Cancer, led by Kathleen Van Dyk, Ph.D.
- Communication in the Cancer Context, led by Porter Tolkin, M.S.W.
- Following Osler's Adage: Evidence-Based Integrative Medicine in Gastrointestinal (GI) Cancers, led by Sidharth Anand, M.D., M.B.A.
- Improving Sleep: From A to Zzzz, led by Kathleen Sheridan Russell, LCSW, D.S.W.
- Monthly Advanced Care Planning, led collaboratively by Shannon La Cava, Psy.D., and providers across primary care, oncology and palliative care
- Nutrition and Cancer: What You Need to Know, led by Emma Veilleux, R.D.N.
- Navigating the Cost of Cancer
- Navigating GI Cancer: UCLA Resources and Support, led by Jenny Tran, Ph.D.
- Plant-Based Diets and Cancer: Navigating Nutrition Through Cancer, led by Ms. Veilleux
- Cancer Risk Reduction, led by Ms. Veilleux
- Redefining Intimacy: Navigating Through Sexual Health and Body Image After a Cancer Diagnosis, led by Jessica Walchonski, P.A., M.M.S.
- The Thread: Discovering the Thread That Weaves Through Life's Journey, led by Michael Eselun, B.C.C.
- Whole-Person Approach to Clinical Decision Making, led by Walter Tsang, M.D.
- Savor Every Bite: A Journey Into Conscious Eating, led by Eve Lahijani, R.D.N.
- Nutrition and Symptom Management in Breast Cancer, led by Ms. Veilleux
- Spiritual Report Card, led by Mr. Eselun
- How to Conquer the Urge to Eat When You Are Not Physically Hungry, led by Ms. Lahijani

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**EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE**

*Data from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, sourced from Zoom*

<b>Educational workshops by month — FY25</b>	<b>Number of attendees</b>
<b>2024</b>	
<b>July</b>	<b>16</b>
Nutrition and Cancer: Tips to Stay Healthy During Treatment	16
<b>October</b>	<b>55</b>
Nutrition and Cancer: What You Need to Know	55
<b>November</b>	<b>10</b>
Communication in the Cancer Context: Talking with Your Medical Team, Family and Others Who Care	10
<b>December</b>	<b>30</b>
Cancer Risk Reduction	11
Improving Sleep: From A to Zzzz	19
<b>2025</b>	
<b>January</b>	<b>39</b>
How to Conquer the Urge to Eat When You Are Not Physically Hungry	12
The Thread	27
<b>February</b>	<b>34</b>
Mindfulness for Cancer Care: Supporting Well-Being Throughout Treatment and Beyond	17
Navigating GI Cancer: UCLA Resources and Support	8
Nutrition and Cancer: Tips to Stay Healthy During Treatment	9

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<b>Educational workshops by month — FY25</b>	<b>Number of attendees</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>15</b>
Navigating GI Cancer: UCLA Resources and Support	15
<b>April</b>	<b>31</b>
Advanced Care Planning for Oncology	1
Cancer Care: Coping with Chronic Pain	12
Cancer Risk Reduction	8
Nutrient Packed Foods During Treatment	10
<b>May</b>	<b>43</b>
Whole-Person Approach to Clinical Decision Making in Cancer Care	12
Advanced Care Planning for Oncology	2
How to Conquer the Urge to Eat When You Are Not Physically Hungry	25
Navigating GI Cancer: UCLA Resources and Support	4
<b>June</b>	<b>39</b>
Cognitive Impacts After Treatment	15
Cultural Considerations in Nutrition and Cancer	20
Navigating GI Cancer: UCLA Resources and Support	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>312</b>

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**Integrative webinars and community collaborations**

The Simms/Mann Center promotes its groundbreaking model for integrative cancer care by actively participating in prestigious national conferences. Over the past fiscal year, faculty and staff showcased the center's expertise and innovation through presentations at several high-profile gatherings. In April, Dr. La Cava and Ms. Russell attended the National Institutes of Health-funded conference Technology for Cancer Supportive Care to inform novel digital programming and resource development.

**Shannon La Cava, Psy.D.**

"New Ways and Means of Communicating About Cancer"  
Invited Panelist, Nixon National Cancer Conference  
Jan. 16, 2025

"Finding Purpose Through Patient Experience"  
Invited Keynote Speaker, Annual Palliative  
Care Symposium  
April 11, 2025



"Stewarding Collaborative Relationships: From Bedside to Bench"  
Invited Speaker, Clinician Insights: Bridging Practice & Research in Psycho-Oncology, American  
Psychology Oncology Society  
May 13, 2025

"Whole-Person Care: A Review of Psychosocial and Integrative Oncology Services"  
UCLA Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Training Program  
July 11, 2025

"Introduction to the Simms/Mann Center"  
UCLA Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Training Program  
July 24, 2025

"Family Systems Approach to Supportive Care: A Lunchtime Table Talk"  
End Well Annual Symposium  
Nov. 1, 2025

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**Michael Eselun, B.C.C.**

"Spirituality and Cancer"

VA/UCLA Palliative Care Fellows Seminar

Aug. 27 and Sept. 6, 2024

"When Cancer Calls Into Question Everything You Thought You Knew"

Spiritual Surge: Providence Health System Chaplains

Oct. 23, 2024

"Facing the Holidays with Critical Illness"

UCLA Health Office of the Patient Experience In-Service Meeting

Nov. 7, 2024

"The Thread"

Tower Cancer Research Foundation

Jan. 8, 2025

"Resilience in Times of Crisis"

Tower Cancer Research Foundation

Feb. 4, 2025

"Care on Autopilot: When the Extraordinary Feels Ordinary"

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Schwartz Center Rounds

March 7, 2025

"Spirituality and Cancer"

UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing

May 29, 2025

"Spirituality and Cancer"

International Myeloma Foundation, San Fernando Valley chapter

June 18, 2025



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**Eve Lahijani, R.D.N.**

"Nutrition and Cancer Risk Reduction"  
Women's Cancer Survivors Conference  
May 3, 2025

**Shiori Lange, LCSW**

"Optimizing Mental Health Beyond Cancer"  
South Bay Survivorship Consortium  
Feb. 18, 2025

"Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Late Adulthood"  
California State University, Long Beach  
April 21, 2025

"Finding Beauty in Simplicity: Leveraging Plain Language to Improve Delivery of Psychosocial Care to Vulnerable Communities"  
Association of Oncology Social Work Annual Conference  
June 12, 2025

**Andrea Miller, LCSW**

"Rights for the Terminally Ill: Understanding the California End of Life Options Act"  
Senior Concerns Path to Positive Aging Series  
June 17, 2025

**Jenny Tran, Ph.D.**

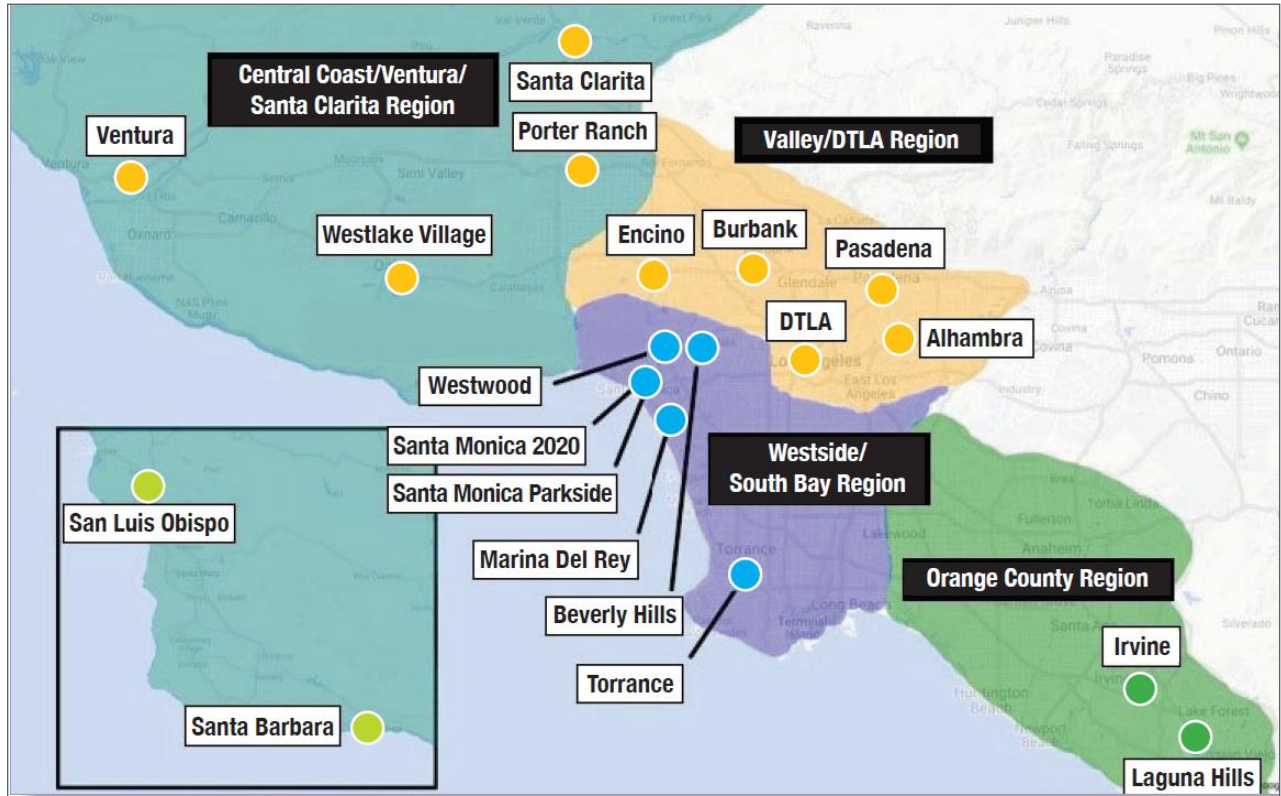
"What is Psycho-Oncology?"  
West Los Angeles Healthcare Center Psychology Training Program  
Oct. 17, 2024

"Looking Inward: Self-Compassion for the Visionaries"  
UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Grand Rounds  
June 4, 2025

**Aditi Wahi-Singh, LCSW**

Invited Panelist, USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work Career Fair  
April 22, 2025

## EXPANSION AND METRICS



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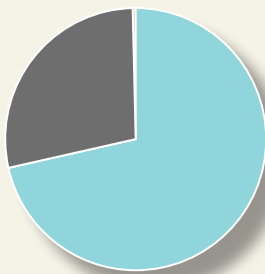
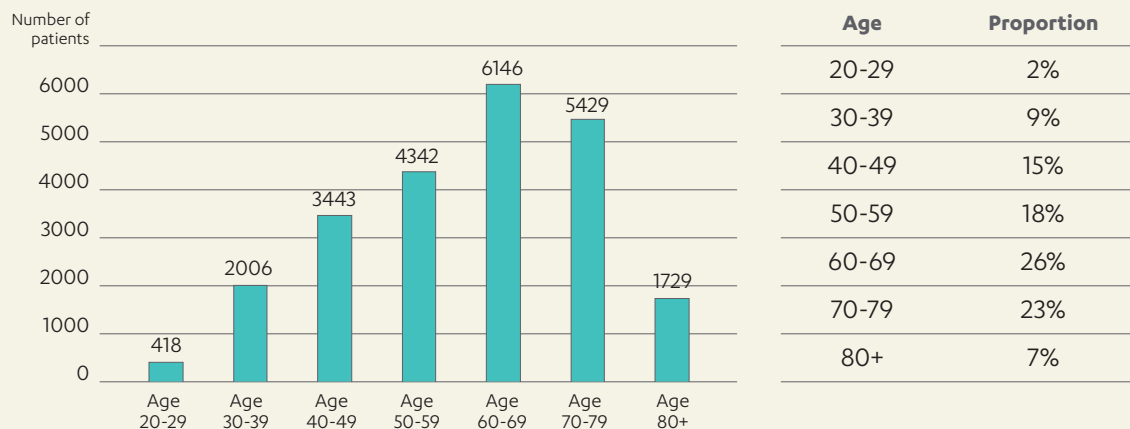
## OVERALL METRICS

Category	FY25	FY24	% Change
Overall unique patients	4,688	4,321	8%
Encounter count	23,455	18,080	30%
Group sessions	3,181	2,424	31%
Nutritional support	2,149	552	289%
Psychiatry services	418	419	-1%
Psychosocial services	15,891	12,764	24%
Spiritual services	1,816	—	—
Average contacts per patient	5	4.2	19%
Average length of encounter in minutes	52	47	11%

## PATIENT METRICS

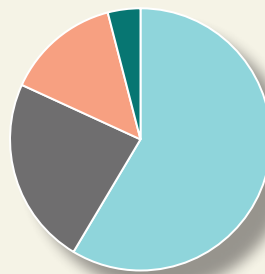
For patients with encounters between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025

### AGE HISTOGRAM



### GENDER

- Female – 71.48%
- Male – 28.15%
- Nonbinary – .37%



### PARTNER STATUS

- Married/living with partner – 58%
- Single – 23%
- Separated/divorced/widowed – 14%
- Unknown – 4%

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<b>Racial identity</b>	White	78%
	Asian	13%
	Black	6%
	Mixed	2%
	Native American	1%
<b>Latino/Hispanic origin</b>		
	Not Hispanic or Latino	74%
	Hispanic or Latino	14%
	Unknown	11%
<b>Work status</b>	Employed	47.5%
	Retired	22.63%
	Unemployed/looking for work	15.95%
	Unknown	5.74%
	On leave (family and medical/sick)	4.18%
	Part-time/volunteering	2.48%
	Student	1.53%
<b>Referral source</b>	Physician	66.2%
	Advanced practice provider (nurse practitioner, physician assistant)	28.2%
	Nurse	5.4%
	Nonclinical user	0.1%
<b>Cancer diagnosis</b>	Breast	40%
	Hematologic	17%
	Gynecologic	10%
	Colorectal	6%
	Pancreatic	6%
	Lung	5%
	Brain/nervous system	4%
	Skin	4%
	Head and neck	3%
	Prostate	3%
	Gastrointestinal	3%
	Liver	1%

## METRICS OVERVIEW (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)



4,688

Overall unique  
patients



23,455

Encounters



5

Average contacts  
per patient



52

MINUTES  
Average length of  
encounter



5-7

DAYS  
Average time to  
first contact

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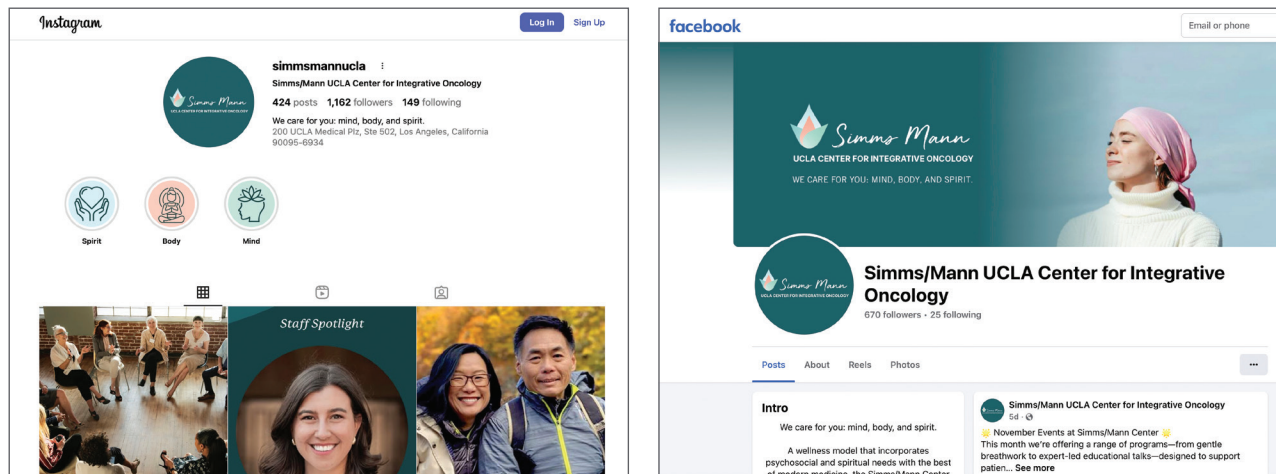
## BRANDING AND MARKETING

The Atascadero Cancer Care Center opened on July 28, 2025, becoming the 20th UCLA Health oncology facility in California. The center addresses the significant need for oncology services in north San Luis Obispo County, where patients previously had to travel to the city of San Luis Obispo, Salinas or the San Francisco Bay Area for care. The Atascadero facility can accommodate up to 200 patients per week. It offers comprehensive cancer treatment, including access to UCLA Health clinical trials and holistic Simms/Mann Center services.

Paint, logo and branding obligations have been fulfilled as required in the gift agreement. The new logo has been installed in the Pasadena, Atascadero and 2020 Santa Monica Blvd. clinics. Furniture has been ordered for the Alhambra and Atascadero clinics, and dedicated space is being remodeled at the Beverly Hills facility.

Center leaders continue to hold quarterly strategy meetings with the marketing and communications team. A strategic planning proposal has been accepted. New mission and vision statements will be developed as part of the plan.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



The marketing and communications team has made marked progress while enhancing the Simms/Mann Center's digital presence, patient engagement and content offerings. From launching a mobile-friendly calendar and robust video library to sharing powerful patient narratives and facilitating newsletter strategy workshops, the team continues to elevate the brand and cultivate support for integrative care. Looking ahead, the team is focused on investing in patient-centered experiences, expanding access through multilingual and educational resources, and promoting clinical initiatives via online messaging and in-clinic materials. The team has also identified opportunities to refine and effectively track the performance of social media content.











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The *Social Media Strategy and Style Guide* has been finalized to standardize communications and visual identity across platforms.

In the past year, several social media initiatives have been implemented. Integrated social links have been added to the website homepage and footer to improve accessibility and drive traffic. The social content calendar has been streamlined to ensure timely approval and scheduling of posts. Social media updates have also been applied to the Simms/Mann Center newsletter to boost engagement.

Julia Lanigan has joined UCLA Health as senior manager of cancer program marketing. Ms. Lanigan brings a wealth of expertise and fresh ideas to outreach and communications, aligning the mission of the center with the values of its community.

 <p><b>IMPROVING SLEEP: FROM A TO ZZZZ</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Kathleen Sheridan Russell, LCSW, DSW Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Doctorate of Social Work at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p>	<p><b>Improving Sleep: From A to Zzzz</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Kathleen Sheridan Russell, LCSW, DSW   Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Doctorate of Social Work at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p> <p>This recorded webinar explores evidence-based strategies to improve sleep quality, offering guidance for individuals with cancer and their loved ones.</p> <p><a href="#">Watch Webinar</a></p>	 <p><b>CANCER CARE: COPING WITH CHRONIC PAIN</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Jenny Tran, PhD, Psychologist at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology Makenna Paule, MA, Post-Candidate Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p>	<p><b>Cancer Care: Coping with Chronic Pain</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Jenny Tran, PhD, and Makenna Paule, MA   Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p> <p>This recorded webinar explores types and causes of chronic pain during and after cancer treatment, offering strategies to improve well-being and mental health.</p> <p><a href="#">Watch Webinar</a></p>
 <p><b>NUTRITION AND CANCER: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Emma Veilleux, RDN Senior Registered Dietitian at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p>	<p><b>Nutrition and Cancer: What You Need to Know</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Emma Veilleux, RDN   Senior Dietitian at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p> <p>This recorded webinar addresses common nutrition challenges faced by cancer patients during and after treatment. Topics include managing symptoms such as early satiety, constipation, diarrhea, and changes in taste and smell.</p> <p><a href="#">Watch Webinar</a></p>	 <p><b>MINDFULNESS FOR CANCER CARE: SUPPORTING WELL-BEING</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Shiori Lange, LCSW Clinical Oncology Social Worker at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p>	<p><b>Mindfulness for Cancer Care: Supporting Well-Being Throughout Treatment and Beyond</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Shiori Lange, LCSW   Clinical Oncology Social Worker at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p> <p>This recorded webinar discusses embracing the calming benefits of mindfulness throughout your cancer journey, from treatment to survivorship.</p> <p><a href="#">Watch Webinar</a></p>
 <p><b>NUTRITION AND CANCER: TIPS TO STAY HEALTHY DURING TREATMENT</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Deborah Hong, MS, RDN Dietitian Nutritionist at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p>	<p><b>Nutrition and Cancer: Tips to Stay Healthy During Treatment</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Deborah Hong, MS, RDN   Dietitian at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p> <p>This recorded webinar provides evidence-based strategies to manage nutrition challenges during cancer treatment, including digestion issues, taste changes, and energy maintenance.</p> <p><a href="#">Watch Webinar</a></p>	 <p><b>NUTRIENT PACKED FOODS DURING TREATMENT</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Sarah Washburn, MS, RDN, CSO Dietitian at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p>	<p><b>Nutrient-Packed Foods During Treatment</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Sarah Washburn</p> <p>This recorded webinar offers practical tips for incorporating nutrient-dense foods into your daily routine during cancer treatment.</p> <p><a href="#">Watch Webinar</a></p>
 <p><b>COMMUNICATION IN THE CONTEXT OF CANCER</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Porter Tokin, MSW Clinical Social Worker at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p>	<p><b>Communication in the Cancer Context: Talking with Your Medical Team, Family, and Others Who Care</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Porter Tokin, MSW   Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p> <p>This recorded webinar provides strategies for effective communication with healthcare providers, family members, and loved ones, helping you navigate sensitive conversations about your health.</p> <p><a href="#">Watch Webinar</a></p>	 <p><b>THE THREAD</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Michael Esekun, BCC Dr. John Glaspy Chaplain in Oncology Care at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p>	<p><b>The Thread</b></p> <p>Facilitated by: Michael Esekun, BCC   Dr. John Glaspy Chaplain in Oncology Care at Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology</p> <p>This recorded webinar reflects on the thread that weaves through life's journey, offering insight and support for cancer patients and their loved ones.</p> <p><a href="#">Watch Webinar</a></p>

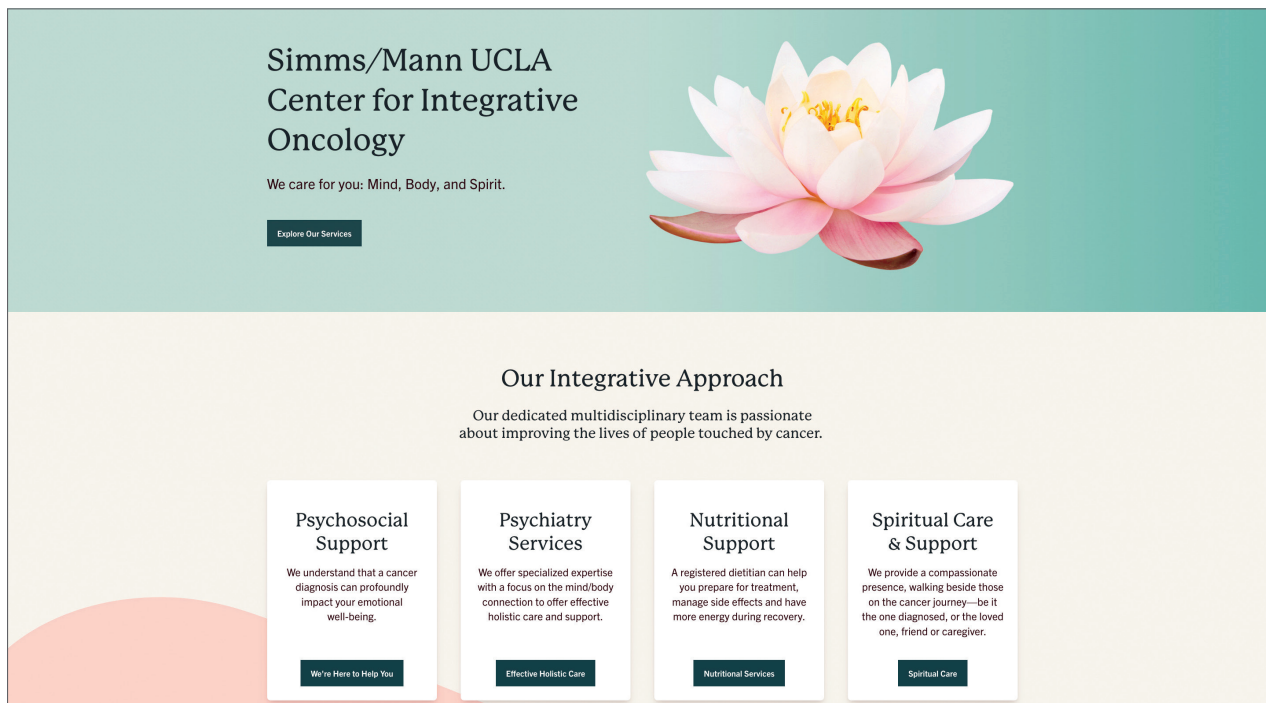
The team has started filming content primarily for social media. They have produced three video reels featuring Simms/Mann Center staff:

- “Cooking with Eve” (nutrition)
- “Mindfulness with Shiori” (integrative practices)
- “A Day in the Life with Porter” (women’s health)

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## WEBSITE



The recently revamped Simms/Mann Center website continues to adapt and connect with its audience in innovative ways.

A video library is now available on the site, featuring 11 webinars on subjects such as cancer risk reduction, long-term mindfulness and cognitive impacts of treatment. Ms. Lange's video series on meditation is particularly popular. The webinars can be found on UCLA Health's YouTube page as well.

Website data shows high engagement with practical lifestyle and wellness content, such as healthy recipes and nutritional resources. These pages serve as a vital touchpoint for patients seeking actionable guidance. By the end of fiscal year 2025, the site featured more than 80 recipes and counting.

Mindfulness, survivorship, training and mission/vision landing pages are coming soon.

New sections spotlighting patient stories — including a collection of heartfelt letters from people who have undergone chemotherapy — present authentic perspectives in a respectful, thoughtful format. "Letters from the Chemo Chair" is an ambitious multimedia project that conveys words of encouragement to new cancer patients through music and art. It was conceived during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide solace to people facing chemotherapy without visitors. Additional patient

testimonies will be shared across the site, social media and the Simms/Mann Center newsletter. The newsletter is also accessible on the site and updated on a regular basis.

The website's program calendar has been updated as well to improve accessibility and mobile compatibility, enhancing the patient experience. Simms/Mann Center events also appear on the UCLA Health JCCC calendar.

## BRANDED MATERIALS

The center has created patient-friendly, branded nutrition handouts and materials. It has also finalized a new template for the founder's packet and webinar flyers.

FINANCIAL PAGES REMOVED

## IN-KIND SUPPORT FROM UCLA HEALTH

In partnership with the Simms/Mann Family Foundation, UCLA Health is proud to provide substantial support to the Simms/Mann Center. This includes financial contributions, leadership, administrative services, fundraising efforts, facilities and other vital resources as outlined in the gift agreement and its subsequent updates. Through this collaboration, the center is empowered to further its mission to nurture the mind, body and spirit. UCLA resources dedicated to the center include:

- Leadership engagement of the senior director of cancer services at UCLA Health
- Salary and benefits for one full-time development officer to fundraise for the center
- Continued fundraising leadership and support from the:
  - Assistant vice chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences Development
  - Executive director, UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation
  - Director of development, UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation

Continued support and guidance from Team Simms/Mann, which includes (in addition to the Simms/Mann Center administrator):

- UCLA Health Marketing Department leadership and staff to assist with branding through in-clinic messaging (brochures, videos and graphics)
- UCLA Health Communications leadership and staff
- UCLA Health Sciences Development leadership and staff
  - Annual Giving and Grateful Patient and Family Engagement Program leadership to reach previously untapped sources of philanthropy
    - ▲ Includes expenses related to between four and six fundraising mailings to thousands of donors and prospects
- Online fundraising platforms, such as peer-to-peer donation pages
- Fundraising events and other engagement strategies
- Administrative and operational support, including but not limited to:
  - Finance
  - Human resources
- Use of UCLA spaces:
  - Current space in 200 Medical Plaza, Suite 502 (1,636 square feet)
  - Office and patient care space for center clinical staff in the clinic at 2020 Santa Monica Blvd. and all hematology/oncology community clinics
  - Office and patient care space for center clinical staff in the Santa Monica Parkside Cancer Care clinic
  - Other spaces that might allow for integration of patient care and center administration, as needed
  - Center office and clinical spaces (provided for free by UCLA)



## PATIENT EVALUATIONS AND TESTIMONIALS

The Simms/Mann Center implemented a new evaluation system to perfect how it assesses the impact of its integrative care programs. UCLA's ambulatory patient text survey system sends patients a survey within 15 minutes of checkout following outpatient appointments. The survey includes two star-rating questions — one about the provider and one about the overall experience — as well as space for written comments. The center has started collecting data while it continues to finalize the reporting framework.

The social work team began using the patient text survey system more than a year ago. The Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences was recently approved to use the platform to collect feedback on the center's psychiatrists.

Over the past year, the center also sharpened its focus on qualitative data, including patient testimonials and written responses. These materials complement the center's quantitative metrics, painting a more comprehensive picture of each patient's experience.

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*[My clinician] is a fantastic therapist, and the UCLA Division of Hematology/Oncology is brilliant to work with her and offer her services to patients. It is definitely helping me with my treatment, the challenges of having cancer, and the realities of surviving cancer and ongoing restoration of body and spirit.*

\*\*\*\*

*[My clinician] has really helped me with navigating my feelings and emotions regarding my pancreatic cancer diagnosis. I'm grateful for the care that she provides.*

\*\*\*\*

*My consult with [my dietitian] was great. Was given lots of helpful information and tools to provide nutrition to my body. She is patient and listens — energized, smart and professional.*

\*\*\*\*

*[My clinician] is a great listener, empathetic and disciplined. She validated my feelings of stress and overwhelmingness as I take care of my husband with glioblastoma.*

\*\*\*\*

*I find my sessions with [my clinician] particularly helpful even in instances when I'm responding well to the treatment. Having an experienced professional offer additional support during a potentially uncertain time is grounding and reassuring. Thank you! She listened to my concerns, asked for clarification when needed and provided guidance. [My clinician's] approach is engaging. Truly appreciate the time when I talk to her.*

\*\*\*\*

*The care of the living when a loved one dies of cancer is very important, and I appreciate UCLA's attention. Our licensed clinical social worker was mindful, kind and thoughtful.*

\*\*\*\*

*[My clinician] is very kind, compassionate, knowledgeable and encouraging. She listens and follows the best treatment plan and techniques appropriate for the moment. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to work with her.*



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*I know I am most fortunate to be working with [my clinician]. To me, she is a doctor of the highest caliber. She's professional, kind and one of the best therapists that I have worked with. The Simms/Mann Center has been a huge help for me post-cancer surgery and during this phase of my treatment.*

\*\*\*\*

*I have been recently diagnosed with rectal cancer. My mother died of rectal cancer. I need to be able to talk to someone who can listen to my fears. Today, I met such a person! It was exactly what I needed! Gentle, empathetic and caring.*

\*\*\*\*

*[My clinician] provided the emotional support that I didn't know I needed today. I had another wonderful experience with [my clinician]. I felt comfortable and safe openly talking about myself with her. She offered empathy, understanding and kindness. [My clinician] pointed out that my son's actions demonstrated how safe and open he feels towards me. That made me cry in a good way.*



*Simms Mann*

UCLA CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE ONCOLOGY

CELEBRATING

*30*  
*Years*