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RESEARCH and
TEACHING awards

PERMANENTE MEDICINE®
The Permanente Medical Group

Morris F. Collen, MD

“To be a good physician, you have to keep up with what is new, which means you have to be involved in research and training. Patient care is our first obligation, and to maintain a high quality of care, we must also research and teach. And we do.”



The TPMG Research and Teaching Awards were established in 2003 to acknowledge the extraordinary accomplishments of practicing clinicians who also excel in research and teaching.

In 1948, Morris F. Collen, MD, became one of the seven founding physicians of The Permanente Medical Group. As a clinician, researcher and teacher, Dr. Collen made significant contributions to TPMG colleagues and Kaiser Permanente members. Today, he is recognized internationally for his pioneering work in applying computer technology to medicine.

From 1953 to 1961, Dr. Collen served as physician-in-chief at KP San Francisco. He became director of Medical Methods Research (now the KP Division of Research) in 1961, ending his tenure in 1979 when he became director of the Division of Technology Assessment.

Dr. Collen's work in medical computing attracted national attention. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science in 1981 and served as chair of the Library of Medicine's Board of Scientific Counselors from 1985 to 1987. As a scholar-in-residence from 1987 to 1993, he wrote a definitive history of medical applications of the computer. From 1983 onward, Dr. Collen served as a consultant with the KP Division of Research, where he remained an enthusiastic supporter of research and teaching in TPMG.

Dr. Collen passed away in 2014 at age 100.

Robert W. Chang, MD

Vascular Surgery

Kaiser Permanente South San Francisco

“This study reflects the commitment of Kaiser Permanente and TPMG to bridge the gap between cutting-edge research and clinical care. There is vast opportunity to answer critical questions that will impact patients on a daily basis.”



“The optimal management of patients with carotid disease has been quite controversial,” says Robert W. Chang, MD, assistant chair of Vascular Surgery for KP Northern California. “The Society of Vascular Surgery identified it as the number one research priority in our specialty.”

Carotid disease is narrowing (atherosclerosis) of neck arteries, which has been labeled a primary risk factor for stroke.

The decision to intervene surgically has been based on three clinical trials conducted in the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Chang explains. But nonsurgical management of carotid disease improved dramatically in intervening decades, calling into question whether surgery was necessary.

Many vascular surgeons believed that the actual stroke risk is now much lower than it was when the trials were conducted, Dr. Chang says. “A lot of these patients are elderly with multiple medical problems, and perhaps they may not benefit from intervention. The modern question is, do these trials still apply to our patients?”

Using Kaiser Permanente’s extensive electronic medical records, Dr. Chang identified almost 100,000 patients with carotid disease in KP Northern California

and categorized their disease level and outcomes for an average of 4 years. Published in *JAMA*, his study found that stroke risk in patients with severe, asymptomatic carotid stenosis was only about 1%.

“Dr. Chang’s research shows that there are benefits to medical management of hypertension and cholesterol, and getting people to stop smoking and prevent heart attacks and strokes,” says John Skerry, MD, physician-in-chief at KP South San Francisco. “You can avoid the need for intervening, because while our intentions are good, intervention carries its own risks.”

Dr. Chang’s research was supported by a TPMG Physician Researcher Program grant at the KP Northern California Division of Research.

“He is interested in understanding which patients really benefit from surgery, so that we do not hurt but rather help them,” says Betty J. Suh-Burgmann, MD, chair of the Central Research Committee. “Dr. Chang showed that we have to be much more selective about which patients we offer surgery to for severe carotid stenosis.”

Minggui Pan, MD, PhD

Oncology & Hematology
Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara
(2002-2023)

“When I first saw the survival curves, I thought I made a mistake inputting the data. Then I got really excited. We expected gain-of-function mutations to be associated with worse survival, but that wasn’t the case with right-sided colorectal cancers.”



When Minggui Pan, MD, PhD, decided to study a common genetic mutation in cancer patients, he was “quite surprised to find some really interesting results.”

Dr. Pan’s study identified 1,043 KP Northern California patients with metastatic colorectal cancer who had the p53 mutation, which is found in about half of cancer patients and two-thirds of colorectal cancer patients.

Colorectal cancer develops on either the right or left side of the colon. Patients with the p53 “non-gain-of-function” mutation with right-sided cancer survived an average of 13 months, compared with 33 months for those with left-sided cancers; but there were no differences among right- or left-sided patients with p53 “gain-of-function” mutations.

“The reason that right-sided cancer is worse than left-sided cancer is still not clear, but our study showed that p53 mutations play a major role in this phenomenon,” says Dr. Pan, who was chief of Oncology and Hematology at KP Santa Clara prior to his retirement in early 2023.

Published in the prestigious *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, Dr. Pan’s findings could play a role in clinical trials for new cancer therapies and be used to stratify colorectal cancer patients.

“The partnership between our frontline clinicians doing the work and noticing trends, and the Division of Research, led to a study like this that can impact hundreds of thousands of lives,” says Rakesh Chaudhary, MD, physician-in-chief at KP Santa Clara.

A clinical associate professor at Stanford Medicine, Dr. Pan has published more than 50 papers and numerous abstracts and presented at many cancer and immunology conferences.

“Dr. Pan is one of those people who seems to have unlimited energy,” says Betty J. Suh-Burgmann, MD, chair of the Central Research Committee. “He spends a full day as a clinical oncologist and then spends his quote-unquote ‘free time’ doing research, reading papers, and trying to understand and add to our collective understanding of cancer.”

Teaching Award for Excellence in
Continuing Medical Education

Jennifer Grando Ting, MD, FACC

Cardiology

Kaiser Permanente San Francisco

“My work in Continuing Medical Education (CME) is compelled by pushing patient care forward. If we’re all reading and reviewing and trying to update what we know, the patient will benefit from better diagnostics and state-of-the-art care.”



As Director of Echocardiography at KP San Francisco, Jennifer Grando Ting, MD, FACC, developed a CME series that has grown to include sonographers, medical residents, cardiology fellows, and cardiologists from across KP Northern California.

“When I joined TPMG in 2015, there was a lot of robust echocardiographic work being done around the region, but we needed to talk to each other about best practices and the best ways to image patients,” says Dr. Ting, one of four cardiologists specializing in adult congenital heart disease in KP Northern California.

Dr. Ting’s well-attended monthly echocardiology conferences often include lectures, case discussions, imaging review, guest speakers, online polls, and even games like Jeopardy.

As a result of her teaching in echocardiography, KP Northern California has seen improved standardization of cardiac image acquisition, better accuracy in assessments of measurements, and increased recognition of rare heart conditions.

“Dr. Ting has had a profound effect on the quality of education to our cardiologists, students, and echo techs,” says Monica Kendrick, MD, KP San Francisco physician-in-chief. “The greatest compliment to a

teacher is that somebody wants to be just like you. Many of her students want to download her brain, her ability to teach, diagnose, and practice.”

In addition to echocardiology, Dr. Ting’s teaching includes adult congenital heart disease, cardiac MRI, high-risk pregnancy cardiac disease, and general cardiology. Her educational strategies range from one-on-one bedside teaching with imaging technology to national CME lectures for the American College of Cardiology.

“Dr. Ting is an incredibly busy, full-time clinician, and in spite of that she’s taken on these roles in CME,” says Ted O’Connell, MD, FAAFP, director of Undergraduate, Graduate, and Continuing Medical Education for KP Northern California. “That speaks to her passion, dedication to craft, and desire to improve the quality of patient care. She takes the time and puts in the effort to educate her colleagues and drive quality clinical outcomes.”

“I am always learning, and the preparation for teaching never stops. There are journals all over my house,” Dr. Ting says. “Learning never ends, and that’s how it should be.”

Teaching Award for Excellence in
Undergraduate and Graduate Medical Education

Christy M. King, DPM

Foot and Ankle Surgery
Kaiser Permanente East Bay

“My love for teaching comes from the ability to see these residents succeed. Working with all of these young professionals keeps me wanting to understand the current research and different thoughts on foot and ankle topics.”



Christy M. King, DPM, director of the KP San Francisco Bay Area Foot and Ankle Residency Program, says her success as an educator and leader stems from years of playing sports, especially as catcher for her college softball team.

“The best managers were often catchers, because you can see the entire field and your role is to bring different people and personalities together to achieve one goal,” Dr. King says. “I’ve adapted that sports personality into my teaching and working style.”

“She really hits a home run,” says KP East Bay Physician-in-Chief John W. Morehouse, MD, FACEP. “That’s all four bases — clinical excellence, research, amazing teaching ability, and program creation.”

Dr. King receives the highest accolades for her innovative and engaging approach to educating, which includes an annual “Surgical Olympics.” “She is a role model, teacher, friend, and mentor,” says Yaseer Parupia, DPM, podiatric surgeon at KP Sacramento. “She is a pioneer in our field.”

Dr. King graduated from the California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University and completed a 3-year residency in the program she now leads.

Since joining TPMG in 2012, she has established herself as a clinical expert and master teacher in foot and ankle surgery with a focus on sports medicine, ankle tendon reconstruction, and trauma.

“She’s transformed our podiatric training program into one of the most sought after in the country and elevated its status nationally,” says Ted O’Connell, MD, FAAFP, director of Undergraduate, Graduate, and Continuing Medical Education for KP Northern California.

Deeply committed to research, Dr. King has co-authored 16 publications in peer-reviewed journals and presented at over 20 regional and national conferences, while her podiatric residents have published over 70 articles. With her as chair, the KP Northern California Foot and Ankle Residency Research Summit has grown into a world-class scholarly symposium.

“She has unbridled enthusiasm and optimism that inspires all of those around her to want to be better,” says KP East Bay Physician-in-Chief Rita Ng, MD, FACC. “Dr. Christy King is simply a powerhouse in everything that she does. In her quiet, humble, brilliant way, she changes the world.”

Morris F. Collen Research Award

2022

Kern Guppy, MD, PhD, Neurosurgery, KP Sacramento

Keane Lee, MD, Cardiology, KP Santa Clara

Tran Nguyen, MD, Pediatric Hospital-Based Medicine, KP Roseville

2021

Ronald Melles, MD, Ophthalmology, KP Redwood City

Bethan Powell, MD, Gynecologic Oncology, KP San Francisco

Thomas Urbania, MD, Radiology, KP Oakland

2020

Dan Li, MD, Gastroenterology, KP Santa Clara

Nareg Roubinian, MD, Pulmonary Medicine, KP Oakland

2019

David Baer, MD, FACP, Oncology, KP Oakland

Douglas Corley, MD, PhD, Gastroenterology, KP San Francisco

Theodore Levin, MD, Gastroenterology, KP Walnut Creek

Andrea Wickremasinghe, MD, Neonatology, KP Santa Clara

2018

Dustin Ballard, MD, MBE, Emergency Medicine, KP San Rafael

Uli Chettipally, MD, MPH, Emergency Medicine, KP South San Francisco

Tara Greenhow, MD, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, KP San Francisco

Mamata Kene, MD, Emergency Medicine, KP Fremont

Dustin Mark, MD, Emergency Medicine, KP Oakland

Dana Sax, MD, MPH, Emergency Medicine, KP Oakland

David Vinson, MD, Emergency Medicine, KP Sacramento

Teaching Award for Excellence in Continuing Medical Education

2022 Sumanth Rajagopal, MD, Infectious Diseases, KP Oakland

2021 Ingrid Lim, MD, Emergency Medicine, KP San Francisco

2020 Diane Chan, MD, Pediatrics, KP North Valley

2019 Neelesh Kenia, MD, Pediatrics & Sports Medicine, KP San Francisco

2018 Victor Silvestre, MD, Internal Medicine, KP Oakland

Teaching Award for Excellence in Undergraduate & Graduate Medical Education

- 2022** Kian Mostafavi, MD, Vascular Surgery, KP San Leandro
- 2021** Amanda Williams, MD, MPH, FACOG, Obstetrics and Gynecology, KP Oakland
- 2020** Cheryl McBride, DO, Emergency Medicine, KP Santa Rosa
- 2019** Mary Patton, MD, FACP, Internal Medicine, KP Oakland
- 2018** Gabriel Flaxman, MD, Family Medicine, KP Vallejo

Visit tpmgawards.kp.org for complete list.

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