



# UCSD Faculty Outreach Opportunities

## UHSI: COPC Science Enrichment

The UCSD Health Science Institute (UHSI): Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) is designed to develop students' understanding of and ability to do scientific inquiry. The program applies the National Science Education Standards to the teaching curriculum, improves academic achievement, enhances scientific literacy, and prepares seventh- through twelfth-grade students from disadvantaged backgrounds for a career in a science- or health-related field.

COPC has a 100% graduation rate from high school with the majority of its students going directly into 4-year institutions majoring in the sciences or health related fields. All students are either



low income, first in their families to go to college, and/or from underrepresented backgrounds.

COPC is part of UHSI which is administered by Dr. Sandra Daley, Assistant Dean of Diversity and

Community Partnerships at the School of Medicine. The institute combines programs at various levels of the academic pipeline with a focus on academic advancement, empowerment, relationship building, and social responsibility in addressing health disparities.

A core value of the program is relationship building. We are currently looking for university faculty to interact with our students in numerous capacities.



**COPC Director:**

**Carmela Arstill, M.Ed.**

Carmela@ucsd.edu

(760) 815-1432

## How to Participate

UHSI: COPC takes place at National City Middle School (NCMS) and Sweetwater High School (SUHI). There are a variety of outreach opportunities for faculty members at both sites. Please contact Jose Cruz (contact info. on back) or Carmela Arstill (see above) for more detailed information.

### NCMS

The middle school students

develop science fair projects which are then submitted to local, county, and state level science fairs. UCSD faculty can lecture a group of students once a year on how to apply the scientific method to their projects. Faculty could also serve as judges at the district science fair.

### SUHI

High school students do higher level (college level)

science fair projects and have seminars on Tuesdays about different careers in the sciences and other health-related fields. The program needs faculty speakers for the Tuesday lectures and science fair mentors for the high school students.

Some faculty members are already serving as mentors to our students! (see back)



## THE UCSD HEALTH SCIENCE INSTITUTE

**Jose A. Cruz, Ed.M.**, UHSI Coordinator  
UCSD School of Medicine  
Division of Community Pediatrics  
9500 Gilman Dr. #0927  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0927  
Phone: 619-243-1360  
Fax: 619-681-0666  
Email: j3cruz@ucsd.edu

**Carmela Arstill, M.Ed.** COPC Director  
Phone: 760-815-1432  
Email: carmela@ucsd.edu

*Building Relationships for a Healthier Tomorrow...*

**COPC is on the web!**

<http://meded.ucsd.edu/diversity/copc/>

*The UCSD Health Science Institute (UHSI) prepares students at the middle school, high school, and undergraduate levels to work together to create solutions for the present and future health concerns of their communities. UHSI builds strong relationships among students at different academic levels, the community, the private sector and UCSD. By cultivating institutional partnerships and personal relationships, UHSI teaches students from disadvantaged backgrounds the concepts of social justice and social responsibility and provides tools that students can use to address health disparities and ensure personal and academic success. Students can participate in UHSI through any of the following academic enrichment programs affiliated with the institute: The Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) at the middle and high school level, The UniversityLink Medical Science Program (ULMSP) at the community college level, and the Research Methodology Training Lab (RMTL) at the undergraduate level.*

*Please join us in charting brighter and healthier futures for our students and the communities they serve!*

## Star Mentors: COPC and the UCSD Moores Cancer Center

For the last two years, two influential researchers from the UCSD Moores Cancer Center, Drs. Judith Varner and Dwayne Stupack, have served as mentors for COPC students from Sweetwater High School.

Ninth graders, Christopher Cabading and Roxanne Sumanga were extremely fortunate to work with these faculty members on award-winning high-level science fair projects.

Chris worked in Dr. Dwayne Stupack's lab on a project entitled "Effects of Caspase 8 on Neuroblastoma Cells", while Roxanne continued her research in her second year with Dr. Judith Varner on "The Role of Integrin  $\alpha 4 \beta 1$  in Blood Vessel Growth in Mouse



*Dwayne Stupack, Ph.D.*



*Judith Varner, Ph.D.*

Embryos".

Both students have been a part of COPC's program since their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. Each student had a very personal reason for wanting to work at the Moores Cancer Center. Roxanne had recently lost her father to cancer, and wanted to help explain the roots of cancer and the process of chemotherapy. Christopher had a baby sister whom, during his course of research with Dr. Stupack, passed away

due to complications with Down Syndrome.

During their work in the labs, Roxanne and Chris became enthralled with science and the intricacies of working in a lab, performing tests that people twice their age don't get the opportunity to do; their work cemented their goals to pursue a career in science and health. They received 1<sup>st</sup> place awards at the District Science Fair, with Christopher winning the overall Junior Sweepstakes award for best project. Roxanne won the Junior Sweepstakes the year before. At the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair, competing against hundreds of other students, they both earned 2<sup>nd</sup> places for their projects in the categories of Medicine and Health, and Biochemistry. Roxanne and Chris are not strangers to the county-wide science fair, having competed two previous times.

**Thank you Drs. Varner and Stupack!!!**