

# Helping Hands - Our Students and Residents Bring Compassion and Idealism to our Communities

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A group of PRIME students on a walk through Chinatown. Highlighted in the story below are Adali Martinez (middle), Daniela Brissett (middle right) and Walid Hamud (back row left.) Photo: Elisabeth Fall

By Karin Fleming

As we celebrate the season of giving, let's give a shout-out to our amazing students and residents who go beyond their training to help others. The following highlights are only a sample of the many initiatives that help bring care and advance health equity for patients and communities, locally and globally.

Fourth-year medical student **Daniela Brissett** is enrolled in the [Program in Medical Education for the Urban Underserved \(PRIME-US\)](#) at UCSF. She took a research gap year studying pediatric health (including the Zika virus and breastfeeding practices) in Roatán, Honduras. Engaging her long-standing passion for youth and the underserved, Daniela worked alongside her Honduran counterparts to cofound the Roatán Peer-Health Exchange to

teach island youth about reproductive health, and empower them with knowledge to reduce teenage pregnancy and HIV or other sexually transmitted infections.



She is the lead student researcher for Transdisciplinary Immersion in Global Health Research and Education (TIGRE), a multicampus global health lab for interprofessional health training and research on Roatán Island, Honduras. She was among the students selected to attend the [Clinton Global Initiative \(CGI\)](#) University meeting in October.

**Walid Hamud-Ahmed** (MD 2017) was presented with the 2017 Gold-Headed Cane in recognition of qualities that “best represent those qualities

of scholarship and devotion to the interests of patients, which characterize the true physician.”

His training focused on the study of gun violence, the communities it affects, and ways in which healthcare professionals and community members can intervene and prevent gun injury.

His recent focus has been on

raising aid for the victims of cholera and starvation in Yemen, and he is serving as the medical consultant for [Yemen Aid](#) and co-chair of the [Yemen Relief Project](#). Originally from Fresno, he returned to the region to complete his training as a resident in emergency medicine at [UCSF-Fresno](#).

**Derek Smith**, a third-year medical student, received this year’s American Medical Association (AMA) Excellence in Medicine Minority Scholars Award in recognition of his dedication and efforts in pediatrics and initiatives to help deliver more equitable care to underserved pediatric populations.





Since matriculating at UCSF in 2014, Derek has established himself as a student leader. He volunteers with and coordinated the student-run [Clínica Martín-Baró](#), which serves San Francisco's medically underserved Latino community, and taught clinical skills to first-year students in the UCSF School of Medicine's [Clinical Microsystems Clerkship](#), and served on UCSF's admission committee. He is currently conducting research with the Pediatric Device Consortium at UCSF, overseeing a clinical trial of a new pain management technique. Smith also received a 2016 Sinkler Miller Medical Association Scholarship.

Fourth-year student **Adali Martinez** is completing her final year of the [PRIME program](#), and conducted community engagement work with the organization [Mission Girls](#), an after-school program for girls in grades 3-8 in San Francisco's Mission district. "My PRIME class, PRIME faculty, and staff are extraordinarily compassionate people who devote much of their limited free time to the advancement of others," says Martinez.



"PRIME students are amazing: many have been leading national movements, protests, rallies, and legislative visits. They've been serving as mentors for at-risk youth, they've been creating partnerships with community organizations. And they've been making great strides within the UCSF medical education community to advance diversity and equity."