

Every November, the University of California joins the nation in a day of gratitude to our military veterans. UC's unwavering commitment to military-connected students goes far deeper than Veteran's Day, because our veterans deserve year-round support. At UC, that means [resource centers and coordinators](#) at all ten campuses to help veterans and their families thrive with priority registration for classes, veteran housing services, veteran-specific campus orientations, student veteran organizations and more.

Our commitment doesn't end there. UC also supports veterans and their families through scientific and medical research designed to keep our soldiers safe, healthy and ensure America's competitive advantage. UC Irvine professor Saurabh Chatterjee is unraveling the biological mysteries of Gulf War syndrome, a chronic, multi-symptom condition that has affected thousands of U.S. service members since the 1990-91 conflict. This fall, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs acknowledged his contributions with a five-year, [nearly \\$1 million Research Career Scientist Award](#).

We are grateful for the powerful support of [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins](#), who visited UC San Diego this fall to meet with some of our military-connected students. We highlighted a few of these [remarkable UC community members](#) in a Veteran's Day story honoring their service.

Now that the government shutdown is over, we're looking forward to working with all of you in the coming weeks as Congress finalizes the FY 2026 budget. [Our priorities](#) remain the same:

- Stable funding for the national science agencies that do so much to drive our economy and protect America's global competitiveness
- Support for Pell Grants and other educational programs that help low-income Americans reap the benefits of a college education
- A strong partnership with the federal government on our shared efforts in agriculture, health care and national defense

- **Chris Harrington**, UC Associate Vice President, Federal Governmental Relations

1.

'Every time I relapsed, there would be a new course of therapy'

When Lee May was diagnosed with an aggressive blood cancer, UCSF doctors gave him two to four years to live. That was 14 years ago. [He credits his survival to breakthroughs made possible by federal science funding](#) and the cutting-edge care he receives at UCSF.

2.

Quantum computing

Through public-private partnerships and renewed funding from the Department of Energy, researchers for the Quantum Systems Accelerator at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory are [using quantum computing and information science to make breakthroughs in energy, physics, biology and chemistry](#) that will keep the U.S. at the forefront of these transformative new technologies.

3.

Scientists produce powerhouse pigment behind octopus camouflage

UC San Diego scientists have discovered a new way to produce large amounts of xanthommatin, [a natural pigment used in animal camouflage](#). Research funding was provided by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Office of Naval Research, and the Department of Defense is interested in how this could be used to further our national security.

4.

UC alums started more companies than alums of any other university

But don't just take our word for it. UC's been ranked #1 for patents by the National Academy of Investors every year since 2013. 13 of TIME Magazine's best inventions of 2025 came from UC faculty or alums. And according to Pitchbook, [our alums are starting the most new companies](#). They're beating out Stanford, Harvard and MIT. Meet three alums whose UC educations helped them start game-changing companies.

5.

Scientists move closer to better pancreatic cancer treatments

Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest forms of cancer. Now, researchers at UC Riverside have developed a novel

strategy to [degrade a protein](#) that is overexpressed in many tumors, including pancreatic cancer. Funded by the NIH's National Cancer Institute, their goal is to develop a new class of therapeutics to increase survival times.

Did You Know?

UC Health handled [10.8M outpatient](#) visits last year.

There are currently over [4,600 clinical trials](#) ongoing throughout UC Health for more than [2,400 conditions](#).

An estimated [69% of UC medical school graduates](#) practice in California.

From Coast To Capital

[California State Society: 2025 Holiday Reception](#)

Washington, D.C. | Dec. 11, 2025

Join the California State Society for their annual holiday reception at the Royal Sands Social Club.



Federal Governmental Relations
1608 Rhode Island Ave. NW
2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 974-6300