UC Pulse

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

There's one thing you can always count on at the University of California. No matter where you look, there are dedicated students, staff and faculty embracing novelty, diving into the unknown and making new discoveries that could change everything. This innovative spirit is one of my favorite things about working at UC.

Throughout the University, we're embracing change in all elements of our work. Chemical engineers at UC Riverside just found a way to change forestry and agricultural biomass waste into a profitable pulp that can be used in consumer fiber and textile products. Nano engineers at UC San Diego are pioneering 3D printed, patient specific bio livers to avoid liver failure through a project funded by the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). Across the UC system, AI experts are navigating a brave new world and its impact on the economy and workforce.

Everywhere you look, UC researchers, scientists and students are embracing new ways of thinking that are revolutionizing our lives, keeping us healthier and safer. As we embrace the change of a new year, new technology and new discoveries, our commitment to UC's education, research, health care and public service mission remains steadfast as ever.

Wishing you a good to start to the New Year.

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

What We're Watching

1.

How CRISPR cured sickle cell disease
Victoria Gray lived with devastatingly painful sickle cell disease her whole life. The mom of four felt she couldn't give her kids the lives they deserved because of her illness. When an opportunity arose to become the first person in the world to be treated for sickle cell disease using CRISPR, discovered in a **UC Berkeley** lab, she jumped at the opportunity. Not only did the CRISPR therapy cure her, it changed her life. CRISPR research like this is supported by federal funding, largely through the **National Science**

Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH).

2.

A tiny molecule with a big impact
As part of a new **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)** program, bioengineers at **UC San Diego** are manipulating bacterial cells to produce valuable chemicals and combat drug-resistant bacteria. Using virtual microbes, they're significantly cutting down on the time and the cost associated with this new discovery.

3.

Solving a chemistry problem
A **UC Santa Barbara** professor, as part of a **NSF**-funded project, is trying to account for one of chemistry's enduring challenges. Positively charged ions are highly mobile, making them volatile and difficult to observe. By designing better catalysts, researchers can make chemistry cleaner and more efficient.

4.

Earthquake risk
Never far from the minds of Californians is the potential for an earthquake. By tracking swarms of small earthquakes, seismologists can better track the San Andreas fault. The research at **UC Davis**, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey and funded by the **NSF**, seeks to better understand the tectonic process in order to more accurately predict hazards.

5.

Diagnosing deadly diseases
With funding from the **NIH**, researchers at **UCSF** are using generative AI analysis of medical records to better identify and diagnose deadly lung infections like pneumonia. In an observational study, the method led to a correct diagnosis 96% of the time and cut inappropriate antibiotic use by more than 80%.

Did You Know?

UC enrolled a **record-breaking 301,093 students** in fall 2025, and we're looking forward to watching as they continue to thrive this year.

UC's **enrollment has grown 5.9%** in the past five years.

67% of UC students graduate without student debt.

Want to learn even more about how the University is expanding enrollment and opportunity for students? Check out UC's 2025 Accountability Report.

From Coast to Capital

UC Washington Center: Upcoming Events
Washington, D.C.

Upcoming events at UCDC can be explored online here, including an alumni networking night on Feb. 18.

The UC Washington Center (UCDC) serves as a live-learn facility for the University in the nation's capital, offering a dynamic environment for education, research and engagement.

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