

TV CORE

MARCH 2025

Monthly Newsletter



ANADELA NAVARRETE GOMEZ

“Research has always been more than just experiments to me—it’s a bridge between the communities I come from and the knowledge that can transform them. Born in Oaxaca and raised in Tijuana, I come from a Mixtec (Indigenous) background, where healthcare and representation in science were often lacking. These early experiences shaped my commitment to making research accessible to underserved communities.

After graduating from UCLA with a Biology degree and a minor in Chicanx Studies, I worked in biotech but soon realized I wanted to directly connect science to people’s lives. This led to an internship at Harvard and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, where I researched SARS-CoV-2 and gained a deeper understanding of infectious diseases and their public health impact.

For over a year, I’ve worked as a Staff Research Associate 1 in the TV Core, where my passion for science has grown, especially as I’ve come to see HIV not just as a virus, but as a disease tied to social justice issues like discrimination and inequality. This perspective drives my decision to pursue a Master’s in Public Health at UC San Diego, focusing on Epidemiology.

I remain hopeful and committed to using research as a tool for advocacy and equity. Outside of work, I enjoy long runs by the beach, sharing meals with my family, volunteering as a Spanish Interpreter at the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinic, and mentoring first-generation college students.”

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

The article “**A Refusal to Abandon HIV Science**” by Abigail M. Hatcher and colleagues is a powerful call to action against the rising wave of political and ideological attacks threatening the progress of HIV science and public health. The authors highlight how the dismantling of agencies like USAID and the censorship of HIV-related research are not just bureaucratic setbacks, as they have immediate and devastating human consequences, including an estimated 159,000 adult deaths and 90,000 infant HIV infections this year alone. Clinics are closing, research is being halted, and scientists are facing targeted harassment. These actions are eroding decades of hard-won progress in HIV prevention and care, especially for marginalized populations.

In response, the authors lay out **five guiding principles** to help the HIV research community navigate and resist this moment. **First**, they urge scientists to remember that HIV science was born from social movements, led by queer, trans, Black, brown, and Indigenous activists. It is imperative to stay rooted in these origins and work in solidarity with these impacted communities. **Second**, they warn against the temptation to over-comply with censorship and political pressure. Compliance should never come at the cost of scientific integrity or justice. **Third**, they emphasize the need to retain precise and accurate language, as erasing terms like “transgender” undermines both scientific truth and the visibility of the communities this field serves.

The **fourth** principle calls on researchers, especially those in positions of privilege or safety, to harness their collective power, through advocacy, protest, and institutional influence, to protect vulnerable colleagues. In the final **fifth** principle, they stress that all these attacks on funding, language, people, and science are deeply interconnected. The oppression faced by marginalized individuals is tied to the defunding and silencing of public health efforts, and only through solidarity and collective resistance can the HIV field endure.

Ultimately, the authors argue that HIV science and human flourishing are inseparable. To protect one, we must protect the other. They call for a renewed commitment to activism, integrity, and community care, refusing to abandon the people and principles that have always been at the heart of HIV research.

LOOKING FORWARD TO APRIL

April 15 is Tax Day.

April 22 is Earth Day.

April 30 is the Department of Medicine Research Day! Attendees will “explore the transformative role of genomics, precision medicine, and artificial intelligence in shaping the future of healthcare. Through expert presentations and interactive discussions, participants will gain insights into cutting-edge advancements that are improving patient outcomes and addressing key challenges in modern medicine. Special emphasis will be placed on health disparities and how innovative technologies can enhance equitable healthcare delivery. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of how these rapidly evolving fields are revolutionizing clinical practice and medical decision-making.”

SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO BE TAKEN TO THE “STAND UP FOR SCIENCE” ADVOCACY SHEET



SHOUTOUT!

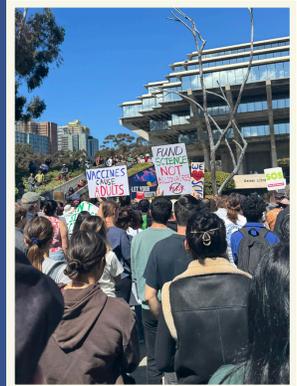
We would like to wish a very happy birthday to Sarah L (3/7), David L (3/8), and Victor (3/27)!

The following link ([LINK](#)) will take you to an article in the UC San Diego TODAY paper highlighting Alec Guerra, our intern from Mesa College through the CADRE program and his experience in our lab.

Take a read!



MARCH 7- STAND UP FOR SCIENCE RALLY



The above photos are from the Stand up for Science rally outside of UC San Diego's Geisel Library.

Thousands gathered to stand up for the necessity of research funding after it was announced UCSD stood to lose hundreds of millions of dollars of federal funding.