

Meet the Team

Leslie Chang Evertson, GNP
Lead Dementia Care Manager



What led you to become a nurse practitioner?

I became a nurse practitioner because I wanted to care for people. Shortly after starting as a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner I realized how complicated health care was for older adults, especially for those that could not make their own healthcare related decisions. The time and effort it took to honor my

patient's wishes, educating and supporting their families, could not be done to my satisfaction in primary care. When I learned that the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program was created, I knew it sounded like the perfect job for me.

Name one thing about yourself that most people don't know.

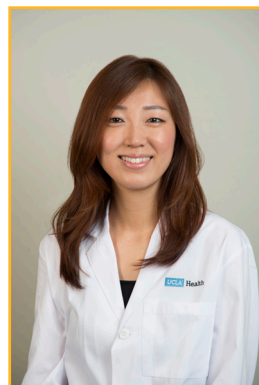
After graduating with my nursing degree I seriously considered changing my career and applied to the Culinary Institute of America in Napa. My admission was contingent on working in a kitchen for a year first. After looking at what my student loan bill was going to be, I took my nursing boards and went to work at UCLA as a RN instead.

Michelle Panlilio, NP
Dementia Care Manager



Name one thing about yourself that most people don't know.

I am the youngest of four children and also the only girl. My brothers took it upon themselves to help my parents raise me to become a proper young lady. At 5 years old, my Dad and brothers taught me calligraphy, self-defense, and marksmanship.



Mihae Kim, AGNP
Dementia Care Manager

What do you love about your job?

I am specialized in chronic disease management (dementia), for which current health care systems provide only limited services and lack comprehensive care.

I believe that our program fills the gaps in the current health care system.

Additionally, I enjoy working with patients and their families on different stages of the disease (mild to advanced stage and through to hospice patients) based on individually tailored care plans suited to addressing each patient's unique needs. We have four other amazing Nurse Practitioners who work closely together to create a very safe and supportive working environment with a great team.

What do you love about your job?

I absolutely love working with the older population – always have. My patients are so knowledgeable, funny, and have had so many life experiences. It is humbling to hear about their families, careers, accomplishments, and interests. Whether they know it or not, I learn something new from them every day.

Jeanine Moreno, AGNP
Dementia Care Manager



What are your hopes for the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program?

My hope is that our program continues to expand its services to patients and families across LA county, and that the model of care we provide eventually becomes the standard of care for all patients with dementia.

Name one thing that most people don't know about you.

I'm fluent in Spanish and I also speak conversational Italian and French. I also find "Most Interesting Man in the World" radio commercials incredibly funny!

Claudia Wong MSN, FNP-C
Dementia Care Manager



What do you love about your job?

As a Dementia Care Manager, I feel that I am very fortunate to have been allowed into the lives of families who have been affected by dementia to help guide them through all that the progressive and currently incurable condition brings.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

In my free time, I am quite a curious and adventurous person. This includes scuba diving 130 feet deep into the pristine waters of Belize to explore the collapsed caves in the seemingly bottomless ocean alongside sharks, to hiking for four days to reach the top of the mystical site of Machu Picchu in Peru at 7,970 feet elevation.

Ynez Tongson
Dementia Care Manager Assistant

What are your hopes for the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program?

I hope we can continue helping families and their loved ones, as well as improving quality of life. I also hope we can continue to assist in providing comprehensive and culturally appropriate care.



What do you love about your job?

I love being able to connect and interact with people.

Jason Nabor
Program Manager



What do you love about your job?

I think what stands out the most is the impact that the program makes, in the lives of both the patients and their caregivers. It is great to see their quality of life increase.

Tell us about your experience serving in the army.

I enlisted in the Army in 2000. I chose to join as an infantry man. I was stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia. I did a tour in Kosovo for a peace keeping mission. I enjoyed the discipline that the Army instilled in me. I made great friends and have memories that will last a life time. The money for school and benefits for life were great perks too!

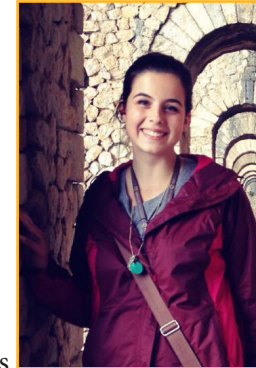
Nicole Vozar
Dementia Care Manager Assistant

What do you love about your job?

There are a lot of things that I love about my job. I love the people I work with, the entire team is incredible, and it's like being a part of a family. I also love that every day is different. But most of all, I enjoy being able to speak with so many different people and families.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I really enjoy gardening; I grew up in the Midwest where it was impossible to grow plants most of the year. So, since moving to California, I have been taking advantage of the sun and amassing a collection of succulents, cacti, and ferns.



Zaldy Tan, MD, MPH
Medical Director

What led you to become the Medical Director?

I have had a professional interest in memory disorders diagnosis, treatment and prevention for many years. When the opportunity came to be the Medical Director of this innovative program, I seized it. I have held this role since the program's inception over three years ago.

What are your hopes for the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program?

The UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care program represents a ray of hope for a brighter future for persons with memory loss. I hope that the work that we do will continue to expand and benefit an even greater number of patients and family caregivers. I also hope to educate students, trainees and other health professionals on the importance of care coordination and management in ensuring the health of persons with dementia and the people who care for them.



David Reuben, MD
Program Director



What do you love about your job?

Every aspect of my job is about helping people. As a doctor, I help older people achieve their personal health and quality of life goals. As a teacher, I help my trainees learn and achieve their professional goals. As a researcher, I work to find discoveries that will improve the health and quality of life of older persons whom I will never meet.

What are your hopes for the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program?

At UCLA, I would like to see the program endowed by a generous donor. Beyond that, I would like to see the program replicated and spread throughout the country so that all patients and caregivers could benefit from this wonderful program.