

# Akash Desai, MD, FACEP, FPD AEMUS

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## SUMMARY OF EXPERTISE

Board-certified emergency medicine physician in active clinical practice at the University of California, San Diego. Assistant Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine and Program Director of the Emergency Ultrasound Advanced Emergency Ultrasonography Fellowship. Holds a Focused Practice Designation in Advanced Emergency Ultrasonography (FPD-AEMUS) from the American Board of Emergency Medicine, a subspecialty credential recognizing advanced clinical and academic expertise in point-of-care ultrasound. Credentialed in resuscitative transesophageal echocardiography (rTEE) and extracorporeal CPR (eCPR) cannulation. Trained at Mount Sinai Hospital (New York City) and completed fellowship in Advanced Clinical Bedside Ultrasound at Highland Hospital (Oakland, CA), a Level 1 Trauma Center. Active researcher and principal investigator. Published author on point-of-care ultrasound, COVID-19, and medicolegal topics including healthcare power of attorney. Involved in several hospital wide committees including the Medical Ethics Committee, Clinical Competence Committee, and Department of Emergency Medicine Education Committee. Extensive national teaching experience at ACEP, SAEM, and CORD; faculty instructor for ultrasound-guided nerve block and cardiac resuscitation curricula. Former Chair and Vice Chair of the Emergency Medicine Residents' Association (EMRA) Ultrasound and International Committees. Has served as a medical expert reviewer in civil litigation matters.



## CERTIFICATIONS & CREDENTIALS

<b>Focused Practice Designation (FPD), Advanced EM Ultrasonography</b> <i>American Board of Emergency Medicine</i>	<b>April 2024</b>
<b>Board Certification, Emergency Medicine</b> <i>American Board of Emergency Medicine</i>	<b>July 2023</b>
<b>Resuscitative Transesophageal Echocardiography (rTEE)</b> <i>UC San Diego Health — Credentialed Provider</i>	<b>September 2025</b>
<b>Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation / eCPR Cannulation</b> <i>UC San Diego Health — Credentialed and Certified Provider</i>	<b>August 2025 – Present</b>

## EDUCATION

<b>Fellow in Advanced Clinical Bedside Ultrasound</b> <i>Highland Hospital – Alameda Health System, Oakland, CA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Level 1 Trauma Center, Public Hospital</li></ul>	<b>August 2022 – July 2023</b>
<b>Emergency Medicine Resident Physician</b> <i>Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York City, NY</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Mount Sinai Hospital — Quaternary care center</li><li>Elmhurst Hospital — Level 1 Trauma Center, Public Hospital</li><li>Beth Israel Hospital — Urban community hospital</li></ul>	<b>July 2018 – June 2022</b>
<b>Doctor of Medicine</b> <i>Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA</i>	<b>August 2014 – May 2018</b>
<b>Bachelor of Science, Psychobiology</b> <i>University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA</i>	<b>September 2008 – June 2012</b>

## ACADEMIC & CLINICAL APPOINTMENTS

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**Assistant Clinical Professor, Emergency Medicine** **June 2025 – Present**  
*University of California, San Diego – School of Medicine*

**Program Director, Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship** **June 2025 – Present**  
*UC San Diego, Department of Emergency Medicine*

- Responsible for fellow recruitment, curriculum design, mentorship, and program administration
- Developed a 43-topic QA/journal club curriculum modeled on the Ma & Mateer 4th edition and ABEM FPD examination blueprint

**Director of Emergency Ultrasound, East Campus** **January 2024 – Present**  
*UC San Diego Health*

- Oversight of POCUS quality assurance, faculty feedback, and program administration at East Campus
- Established a nerve block order set and bedside block cart, creating clinical infrastructure for ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia in the ED

**Emergency Medicine Physician** **June 2025 – Present**  
*UC San Diego Health — Hillcrest, Jacobs Medical Center, East Campus*

**Emergency Medicine Physician, Per Diem** **August 2023 – March 2025**  
*Southern California Permanente Medical Group, San Diego, CA*

- KP San Diego Zion, SDMC, and San Marcos campuses

**Emergency Medicine Physician, Per Diem** **October 2022 – June 2025**  
*Kaiser Permanente East Bay, Oakland & Richmond, CA*

- Flagship medical center for Kaiser Permanente Northern California

## GRANTS & FUNDING

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**Principal Investigator — UPATCH-MAP Study** **2025 – Present**  
*Academy of Clinician Scholars, UC San Diego | Amount: \$10,000*

- Prospective pilot study (n=15) validating a wearable ultrasound patch sensor vs. arterial line for continuous MAP monitoring in hypotensive ED patients; collaboration with UCSD Nanoengineering (Sheng Xu Lab)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Berrin LL, Howell K, Foote A, Mullings J, Desai A, et al. Spontaneous Coronary Sinus Thrombosis Detected by Point-of-care Transthoracic Echo: A Case Report. *Clin Pract Cases Emerg Med.* 2023;7(3):193–196. PMID: 37595305.
2. Giwa A, Desai A, Duca A. Novel 2019 Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19): An Updated Overview for Emergency Clinicians. *Emergency Medicine Practice.* 22(5). PMID: 32207910. 2020.
3. Giwa A, Desai A. Novel Coronavirus COVID-19: An Overview for Emergency Clinicians. *Emergency Medicine Practice.* 22(2 Suppl 2). PMID: 32105049. 2020.
4. Desai A. Power of Attorney. *StatPearls.* June 2019. NCBI Bookshelf NBK542309.
5. Guha A, Wang L, Esmaceli-Firidouni P, Wendelken LA, Busovaca E, Desai A, ...Valcour V. Intrinsic network connectivity abnormalities in HIV-infected individuals over age 60. *J Neurovirol.* 2015;22(1):80–87.
6. Jahanshad N, Couture M, Prasitsuebsai W, Nir TM, Aurpibul L, Thompson PM, Desai A, ...Valcour VG. Brain Imaging and Neurodevelopment in HIV-uninfected Thai Children Born to HIV-infected Mothers. *Pediatr Infect Dis J.* 34(9). 2015.
7. Sailasuta N, Ananworanich J, Lerdlum S, Desai A, ...Valcour V. Neuronal-glia markers by Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy in HIV Before and After cART. *JAIDS.* 2015.

### Invited Articles and Commentaries

8. Nagdev A, Howell K, Desai A, Martin D, Mantuani D. How to Build an Ultrasound-Guided Nerve Block Program. *ACEP Now.* January 6, 2023.
9. Howell K, Desai A, Martin D, Nagdev A. How to Safely Incorporate Ultrasound into Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation. *ACEP Now.* September 7, 2023.
10. Biavati M, Hubbard D, Freudenberg J, Desai A, Montrieff T. Can Transcranial Doppler be Useful in the ED? A Review of the Literature. *EMRA.* September 30, 2020.
11. Van Natta K, Lieu E, Desai A, Southgate S, Freudenberg J, Liu R. Lung Ultrasound in Covid-19. *EMRA.* October 9, 2020.

12. Van Natta K, Freudenberger J, Desai A. POCUS for the Win: Popliteal Artery Occlusion. EMRA. December 1, 2020.

#### Online Case Series — UCSD Emergency Ultrasound (Selected)

- Galvez A, Ngo T, Desai A (senior author). Case 68: Erector Spinae Plane Block for Rib Fracture Pain. UCSD Emergency Ultrasound Case Series. April 27, 2026.
- Sweeney C, Desai A (senior author). Case 65: Knee Pain – Lipohemarthrosis on POCUS. April 16, 2026.
- Thomas TJ, Desai A. Case 64: Macula-On Retinal Detachment Seen on POCUS. March 31, 2026.
- Controy C, Desai A. Case 57: Positional Vertigo with Incidental Interatrial Shunt on Bubble Study. November 19, 2025.

#### Publications with Collaborator Acknowledgement

- Valcour VG, Spudich SS, Sailasuta N, ...Ananworanich J [Desai A, contributing member, SEARCH 010/RV 254 Study Group]. Neurological Response to cART vs. cART plus Integrase Inhibitor and CCR5 Antagonist Initiated during Acute HIV. PLOS ONE. 10(11). 2015.
- Kore I, Ananworanich J, Valcour V, ...Spudich S [Desai A, contributing member, RV254/SEARCH 010 Study Group]. Neuropsychological Impairment in Acute HIV and the Effect of Immediate Antiretroviral Therapy. JAIDS. 70(4):393–399. 2015.

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

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### National

- Desai A, et al. Global Impact of a Multiblock Ultrasound-Guided Nerve Block Training Program on Emergency Medicine Learner Self-Efficacy. Oral presentation: Society of Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting, May 2026, Atlanta, GA.

### Regional

- Desai A, et al. Ultrasound-Guided Fascia Iliaca Block Training Using a Novel Ballistic Gel Phantom: Impact on Trainee Confidence. Oral presentation: Western Regional SAEM, February 2026, San Diego, CA.
- Desai AR, Mallett S, Montero S, DeNunzio S, Sanchez C, Wei E. The Impact of Rapid Patient Registration on Emergency Department Flow. Oral presentation: Western Regional SAEM, April 8, 2017, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA.

### Other Oral Presentations

- Giwa A, Desai A. Novel Coronavirus COVID-19: An Overview for Emergency Clinicians. EMplify Podcast, Episode 37. February 20, 2020.

## NATIONAL ACADEMIC & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**UCSD Faculty Day Away – Resuscitative TEE Workshop** **February 2026**

*Faculty Instructor, UCSD Department of Emergency Medicine, San Diego, CA*

- Led hands-on faculty workshop on resuscitative transesophageal echocardiography

**Sound & Surf + Blockheads 2025** **August 2025**

*Faculty Instructor, The Block Course, San Diego, CA*

- Faculty instructor for hands-on regional analgesia course

**Sound & Surf 2024** **November 2024**

*Faculty Instructor, San Diego, CA*

- Faculty instructor for cardiac, ocular, lung, and plane block ultrasound applications over 2-day hands-on session

**Society of Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting 2023** **May 2023**

*Faculty Instructor: Ultrasound-Guided Nerve Block Workshop, Austin, TX*

- Instructor for hands-on lower extremity nerve block session

**American College of Emergency Physicians Conference 2022** **October 2022**

*Faculty Instructor: 10 Ultrasound Applications for Your Community ED Gig, San Francisco, CA*

- Instructor for three 2-hour ultrasound sessions teaching 10 common bedside applications to community ED physicians

**Council of Residency Directors in Emergency Medicine 2021** **March 2021**

*Panel Moderator and EMRA International Committee Vice Chair, Virtual*

- Chaired and moderated EMRA Ultrasound Committee panel on careers in academic emergency ultrasound

- American Board of Emergency Medicine EM Model, Ultrasound Section** **February 2021**  
*Editor*
- As EMRA's representative to ABEM, participated in discussion and proposed edits to the Ultrasound Section of the 2022 ABEM EM Model — the official standard of training for emergency medicine residencies nationwide
- Rapid Fire Ultrasound at ACEP2020 Unconventional** **October 2020**  
*Panel Moderator and EMRA Ultrasound Committee Chair, Virtual*
- Facilitated live EM ultrasound rapid-fire didactic with >150 participants
- Council of Residency Directors in Emergency Medicine 2020** **March 2020**  
*Panel Moderator and EMRA Ultrasound Committee Chair, New York, NY*
- Chaired EMRA Ultrasound Committee panel on careers in academic emergency ultrasound
- Ultrasound, Pediatrics, and Simulation Interactive Workshop, ACEP 2019** **October 2019**  
*Workshop Instructor and EMRA Ultrasound Committee Chair-Elect, Denver, CO*
- Planned and executed interactive EM ultrasound educational workshop using live models and simulation-based didactics
- Council of Residency Directors in Emergency Medicine 2019** **March 2019**  
*Moderator: Handheld Ultrasound: The Future is in Our Hands, Seattle, WA*
- Organized live comparative demonstration of novel portable handheld ultrasound technology

### Selected Institutional & Departmental Teaching

UCSD Emergency Medicine Residency and School of Medicine (2025–2026 academic year): Resuscitative TEE faculty workshop; Procedure Day (pericardiocentesis, transvaginal US, DVT POCUS); Residency Transition Course ultrasound simulation; cardiac tamponade simulation; supraclavicular nerve block for fracture reduction; eFAST for MSK Sports Medicine faculty; nerve block journal club and simulation lab; MS1/MS2 hands-on POCUS sessions (eFAST, cardiac echo, aorta/IVC, GI/renal, HEENT); intern ultrasound bootcamp; OSCE examiner.

Highland Hospital Emergency Medicine Residency (2022–2023): Faculty instructor for ultrasound-guided paracentesis, nerve blocks, arthrocentesis, pelvic ultrasound, eFAST, and echocardiography.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (2019–2022): Morning report and M&M conference presentations on topics including acute aortic dissection, pulmonary embolism, venous sinus thrombosis, and peri-intubation complications.

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- Principal Investigator, UPATCH-MAP Study** **2025 – Present**  
*UC San Diego Department of Emergency Medicine / Nanoengineering (Sheng Xu Lab)*
- ACS-funded (\$10,000) prospective pilot study validating a wearable ultrasound patch sensor vs. arterial line for continuous MAP monitoring in hypotensive ED patients
- Site Principal Investigator, NURVE Block Registry** **2026 – Present**  
*University of California San Diego, Department of Emergency Medicine*
- Obtained IRB approval to add UCSD as a participating site in the multi-center NURVE nerve block outcomes registry; enrollment ongoing
- Co-Principal Investigator, "I See You" Echogenic Needle Visualization Study** **2025 – Present**  
*University of California San Diego, Department of Emergency Medicine*
- Active IRB approval; primary operational lead; transitioning to sole PI role
- Quality Improvement Researcher** **February 2015 – March 2017**  
*Los Angeles County Hospital Emergency Department | Mentor: Dr. Eric Wei, MD, MBA*
- Analyzed QI metrics measuring the impact of LEAN process improvement tools on patient wait times in a high-volume urban safety-net setting
- Staff Research Coordinator** **October 2012 – June 2014**  
*Memory and Aging Center, UC San Francisco | Mentor: Victor Valcour, MD, PhD*
- Full-time coordinator and manuscript contributor for international multi-center studies on cognitive impact of HIV in pediatric and adult populations

## LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

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<b>Program Evaluation Committee (PEC), Chair</b> <i>UCSD Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship, Department of Emergency Medicine</i>	<b>July 2025 – Present</b>
<b>Fellow Clinical Competence Committee (CCC), Chair</b> <i>UCSD Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship, Department of Emergency Medicine</i>	<b>July 2025 – Present</b>
<b>Leading the Way to Wellness — Faculty Leadership Program</b> <i>UC San Diego Health Sciences</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3-month structured faculty leadership and wellness development program for emerging academic leaders</li></ul>	<b>April 2026 – June 2026</b>
<b>International Committee, Vice Chair</b> <i>Emergency Medicine Residents Association</i>	<b>March 2021 – March 2022</b>
<b>Emergency Ultrasound Committee, Chair/Chair-Elect</b> <i>Emergency Medicine Residents Association</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Led a national committee of over 400 residents, faculty, fellows, and academic leadership; produced EM ultrasound content and executed assembly meetings at COD and ACEP annual conferences</li></ul>	<b>March 2019 – March 2021</b>
<b>POCUS for the Win, Co-Creator and Lead Editor</b> <i>EM Resident Journal / EMRA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Co-creator, lead editor, and writer for a publicly-sourced online case series on the impact of bedside ultrasound on patient care; <a href="http://www.emra.org/emresident">www.emra.org/emresident</a></li></ul>	<b>December 2020</b>
<b>Medical Student Provider</b> <i>Healing Hearts Across Borders, Tijuana, Mexico</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quarterly acute and long-term primary care to underserved homeless communities alongside faculty from medical, dental, and pharmacy schools across Southern California</li></ul>	<b>Fall 2015 – Spring 2018</b>
<b>Triage Medic</b> <i>Los Angeles Marathon</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Triaged and treated LA Marathon runners alongside LAC+USC Emergency Medicine Department</li></ul>	<b>March 2015, March 2017</b>

## AWARDS & HONORS

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<b>Academy of Clinician Scholars Grant Recipient</b> <i>UC San Diego</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Competitive internal grant (\$10,000) to fund pilot study as PI in collaboration with UCSD Nanoengineering, validating a wearable ultrasound patch sensor for continuous MAP monitoring</li></ul>	<b>October 2025</b>
<b>Dhablania and Kim Family Global Medicine Fellowship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 of 15 recipients; funded Panama Service Learning Project</li></ul>	<b>April 2015</b>

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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<b>American Board of Emergency Medicine</b>	2022 – Present
<b>American College of Emergency Physicians (FACEP)</b>	2018 – Present
<b>Society of Academic Emergency Medicine</b>	2022 – Present
<b>Society of Clinical Ultrasound Fellowship</b>	2022 – Present
<b>American Medical Association</b>	2014 – 2018, 2020 – Present
<b>Emergency Medicine Residents Association</b>	2018 – 2022