

# Making Primary Care Safer



Urmimala Sarkar  
Associate Professor, Medicine

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### Applying practical research to patient care

Diagnostic errors account for about 40% of medical malpractice errors with many of the errors being attributed to communication failures. Perhaps most shocking about these statistics are that they are fixable problems. As a provider, Dr. Urmimala Sarkar, of the University of California, San Francisco, was personally affected by not receiving a patient's important test results. That experience motivated her to devote much of her career towards researching ways to improve quality of care. By balancing the roles of primary care physician and research scientist Dr. Sarkar is able to serve her patients with compassionate and effective care. Her research interests concentrate on identifying and addressing high risk health states before harm occurs, evaluating health information technology to see if it is usable and useful for low-income, chronically ill populations, and testing which positive health messages are "contagious" and propagate on online social media. Dr. Sarkar hopes that through her practice and research she can improve the safety and quality of care for each of her patients, especially those that are disenfranchised.

There are very few researchers focused on patient safety mistakes in doctor's offices rather than in hospitals. Therefore, Dr. Sarkar's research offers an important addition to the literature. Furthermore, she is the only researcher in the country with a specific focus on vulnerable patient populations. Because her work aims to change the way people in healthcare work to ensure that everyone gets the safest possible care when they go to the doctor, it is a very multidisciplinary endeavor. Combining the expertise of epidemiologists, anthropologists, health services researchers, computer...

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## AFFILIATION



University Of California, San Francisco

## EDUCATION

- B.S., in Biological Sciences, 1996 , Stanford University
- M.D., 2002 . University of California, San Diego School of Medicine
- Ph.D., in Public Health, 2000 , University of California Berkeley School of Public Health
- Internship and residency, Internal Medicine, 2005 . University of California, San Francisco
- General Medicine Fellowship, 2008 . University of California, San Francisco

## AWARDS

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Scholarship, 1998
- Lipkin Finalist for Abstract, Society of General Internal Medicine, 2005
- Lipkin Finalist for Abstract, Society of General Internal Medicine, 2007
- Hamolsky finalist for Abstract, Society of General Internal Medicine, 2010

## RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Health IT, IOT, Devices, Data

## FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Urmimala Sarkar, of the University of California, San Francisco, and San Francisco General Hospital as she aims to provide the safest possible care for all patients. Donations will fund the necessary \$5M/year required for personnel, patient recruitment, software development, and other equipment. In choosing to donate, you will play a role in preventing medical mistakes to ensure the safety of patients.