



academic
researchers
united



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UCSF Academic Researchers (ARs) Rally at Genentech Hall as Bargaining Continues

ARs push for gender equity, clear paths to promotion, and better job security in bargaining their first-ever contract

San Francisco, CA - Last Friday, UC Academic Researchers rallied outside Genentech Hall at UCSF to deliver the message that improving the quality of UC research requires improving the quality of life for those who do the research. As they bargain their first union contract, Academic Researchers are pushing to create better research outcomes by making the academy more inclusive and equitable, establishing clear paths for advancement, and providing better job security for international researchers and all ARs.

A representative from State Senator Scott Wiener's office, whose district includes UCSF, attended the rally to show support for Academic Researchers reaching a fair contract with UC Administration.

Academic Researchers — Project Scientists, Specialists, Researchers, and Coordinators of Public Programs — play a crucial role in advancing the University of California's research mission, driving innovation and discoveries in areas such as medicine, computer science, agriculture, and green energy. ARs are responsible for conducting experiments, writing grants, mentoring students and colleagues, and much more. A supermajority of UC's nearly 5,000 Academic Researchers petitioned to form their union, Academic Researchers United / UAW 5810, in September 2018 and won recognition in April 2019.

“Academic Researchers are essential to UC research. Yet the current system isn't sustainable. It pushes good researchers out and substantially undervalues our contributions,” said Maike

Roth, a UCSF Assistant Specialist and ARU / UAW 5810 Bargaining Team member. “Many women and underrepresented groups experience harassment and discrimination, and are routinely pushed out of careers in STEM. Researchers are forced to string together appointments and funding in a way that makes every day precarious. We love what we do, and we’re here asking UC to work with us to create sustainable career paths and policies which promote equity and inclusion so that we can contribute fully and do better research.”

This was the latest in a series of actions by Academic Researchers to draw attention to the contributions ARs make to UC’s research mission and how a fair contract should reflect that value. On Tuesday, Academic Researchers met with UCSF Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Dan Lowenstein to discuss their overarching goals for a fair contract, and on July 11, they marched to the UCSD Chancellor’s Office and met with Chancellor Pradeep Khosla.

Bargaining resumes July 22-23 at UC Irvine. Learn more about Academic Researchers United / UAW 5810 on their [website](#) and find more information on bargaining sessions that have already taken place [here](#).

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