Program Instructors A - Z for 2021

UCSD Extension has combined leading academic thought leaders and industry practitioners to navigate the current innovation landscape, emerging technologies and the evolving Digital Health industry.

Kevin A. Clauson, Pharm.D.
Associate Professor, Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Health Blockchain Instructor

Bio: Kevin A. Clauson, Pharm.D., is an Associate Professor at the Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences in Nashville, TN. He began investigating the potential for blockchain technology as follow-up to his previous work as founding director of a World Health Organization Collaborating Center. Dr. Clauson has also explored blockchain for clinical trial data sharing at the White House, CryptoKitties and CryptoZombies as hands-on assignments with students, and as an implementation with a charity pharmacy. He currently serves on the editorial board of Blockchain in Healthcare Today and Frontiers in Blockchain, the Advisory Board for ConsenSys Health, and as a subject matter expert for HIMSS and IEEE. Dr. Clauson recently received the Blockchain for Education Collaboration Award, and, alongside fellow program instructor Dr. Mackey, won the Blockchain in Healthcare Today Editor’s Choice Award. Dr. Clauson’s work has generated coverage by the New York Times, Forbes.com, Wall Street Journal, and BBC Radio. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Tennessee – Memphis and completed a Research Fellowship at the University of Missouri – Kansas City.

Basker Gummadi, MS, PMP
Director of Innovation, BMS
Digital Innovation in Translational and Clinical Research Course Instructor

Bio: Basker Gummadi is a professional with over 22 years of experience and has a strong background in project, program management, technical architecture and business process modelling. He led several merger and acquisition efforts across global R&D organizations and delivered innovative, award winning global projects to realize strategic enterprise business goals. He is very passionate about innovation and is an innovation coach. He mentored teams in Design Thinking and Systematic Inventive Thinking methodologies to foster innovation. Basker has a great understanding of technology enablers like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Blockchain and Big Data. He is researching, collaborating, and exploring the right leverage of such technologies to execute Digital transformations. His current focus is on optimizing Clinical Trial with Block Chain, and providing Real World Evidence based solutions using Big Data.
Bio: Dr. Haders has 20 years of experience in Healthcare as a scientist, entrepreneur, advisor & investor. Dr. Haders is currently the Managing Director, Healthcare at Nex Cubed a Frontier Technology Venture Studio and Seed Investor, where he oversees an early stage portfolio of 23 Digital Healthcare companies that have raised over $29M in capital. In late 2018, Dr. Haders launched Nex Cubed’s Digital Health Accelerator, which was recently named one of the Top Ten Global Digital Health Accelerators and is one of the most active investors in the industry, deploying $3M across 16 investments in 2019. He is also an Operating Partner at Sway Ventures, a US-based venture capital firm and the Executive Chairman of Repurpose.ai, which leverages an AI enabled Digital Chemistry Platform to discover new use cases for old drugs, creating proprietary Phase II/III ready drug candidates in days instead of decades, saving billions of dollars in pharma development costs.

Bio: Hobson Lane, is a Data Scientist and has 20 years of experience building autonomous systems that contribute to the common good. Hobson is the holder of six patents, and earned his M.S. degree in Dynamics and Controls from Georgia Institute of Technology, and his B.S. in Physics and English from Vanderbilt University. He is the author of technical papers and is a prolific lecturer in autonomous systems and machine learning. Hobson is also the lead author of Natural Language Processing in Action, and he will show you how to apply NLP to bioinformatics. His course, Data Science for Digital Health, is the second course in the Digital Health certificate program where you will learn how to apply statistical modeling to clinical data science, population health, assistive technology, and ethics.
Bio: Dr. Merchant is a Behavioral Scientist specializing in digital health product design, development, research, and strategy. She is an innovator and leader with experience in startup environments and market-leading medical device companies, and she is adept at bringing the scientific method to the business arena. Dr. Merchant is an expert on deriving actionable insights from real-world data across behavioral domains including physical activity, sleep, and therapy adherence. Her work spans small data, tightly controlled experiments to unstructured big data, and large clinical trials. Dr. Merchant leverages novel study designs to address population health problems as well as to personalize the experience to the individual. She has extensive experience applying cutting-edge methods to design for multiple behavior change and to define effective user engagement while working in close collaboration with data science and engineering. Dr. Merchant challenges the industry to deliver transparent and truthful marketing claims about health tech. She is also an advocate for increasing the presence, participation, and equitable representation of women and BIPOC in STEM and industry-facing roles.

Bio: Tim Ken Mackey is the Director of GHPi, an Associate Professor at UC San Diego and Director of Healthcare Research and Policy at UC San Diego - Extension. He is also the co-Founder and CEO of the healthcare big data startup S-3 Research. He holds a BA in Political Science-International Relations and a Masters Degree in Health Policy & Law from UC San Diego and also earned his PhD in Global Public Health from the joint doctoral program at UC San Diego - San Diego State University. His work focuses on a broad array of multidisciplinary topics in domestic and global public health. This includes cross-cutting research in disciplines of public health, medicine, data science, international relations, public policy, law, innovation, substance abuse, eHealth, crime, and global governance. He has extensive professional experience including consulting for the World Health Organization, the US Department of State and others.

Tim K. Mackey, MAS, PhD
Director & Associate Professor
UCSD Digital Health Certificate

Gina Merchant, PhD
Health Tech Consultant
Guest Instructor and Advisory Board
Bio: Dr Ramin Rafiei is a senior digital healthcare executive, with a proven track record in leading global clinical, technical, and commercial teams towards design, development, commercialization and validation of novel digital medicine and virtual care solutions. Ramin is a digital health architect who pioneered the field of connected therapeutics and is shaping the biopharmaceutical market towards its adoption. Ramin’s multidisciplinary approach to digital healthcare leadership originates from a dynamic technical and commercial global career across nuclear, photonics, autonomous-technology, medical devices, and health services industries. Dr Rafiei is passionately dedicated to promoting digital healthcare through industry-wide stakeholder engagement, educational outreach, policy development, research, and higher degree research student supervision. Ramin is an active healthcare investor, and faculty member and program advisor for UC San Diego Extension’s Department of Healthcare Research and Policy. Dr Rafiei holds a PhD in experimental nuclear physics from The Australian National University (Canberra, Australia).

Bio: John Sjölund is a multi-national entrepreneur who leads and develops companies to make products that customers love. John was co-founder and former CEO of Patients Pending LTD – a company that has helped hundreds of thousands of people with diabetes live simpler, safer and more balanced lives with its smart cap for insulin pens, Timesulin. Patients Pending was acquired by Bigfoot Biomedical in June 2017 as part of its entrance into the connected insulin pen arena. Diagnosed with T1D just before his fourth birthday, John is an international speaker on the topic of living with diabetes and was recognized as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the Year 2012 in Sweden and a finalist for Novo Nordisk & Lyfebulb Patient Entrepreneur award in 2017. John is on a mission to make life with chronic disease a little simpler, a little safer and to promote enhanced life balance through smart design.
Bio: Dawn is a seasoned UX leader, with 20 years in the healthcare and wellness product development space. She graduated from UCSD with a degree in Computing Arts, an interdisciplinary program combining Visual Arts and Computer Science and Psychology. As a leader in User Experience, Dawn acts as a coach to designers and researchers, as well as a diplomat and a champion for the team and users. She advocates for user-centered design practice and close collaboration with multidisciplinary teams to design products that solve for real user needs. In the past few years, Dawn has been focused on employing Design Thinking approaches for Innovation. At ResMed, she sets the vision and strategy for the Digital Health Technology UX chapter, responsible for designing the user experience of web and mobile products for patients and providers. In her spare time, Dawn serves as a board member of the SD Experience Design group, is a member of the Design Leadership Forum, and a regular volunteer for the Design Forward Alliance.

Bio: Chelsea Williams serves as the Manager of Digital Medicine Solutions at SHL Medical, focusing on digital healthcare innovation and healthcare service delivery. Her passion for promoting public health initiatives through interactive research, educational outreach and policy development helps guide the digital health strategy for SHL Medical. She brings nearly a decade of experience in healthcare technology services, from both health IT and government contracting industries. Ms Williams gained a Master's degree in global health program design, monitoring and evaluation from The George Washington University (US).