

# Christian M. Felix, M.D.

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## EDUCATION

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**UCLA-Olive View Medical Center**, Sylmar, CA 06/2021-Current  
Internal Medicine Residency Program | Point-of-Care Ultrasound Track

**Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science**, Los Angeles, CA 07/2017-06/2021  
**David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles**, Los Angeles, CA  
M.D., Urban Underserved College Track | Thesis: Racial/ethnic disparities in diabetic retinopathy treatment among California Medicare beneficiaries.

**University of California, Berkeley**, Berkeley, CA 06/2011-05/2015  
B.A., Psychology, Dance and Performance Studies

## LICENCES AND CERTIFICATIONS

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State of California Physician & Surgeon's License 10/2023-Current  
DHS Drug Enforcement Administration License 10/2023-Current  
BLS & ACLS License 04/2023-Current

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**University of California San Francisco, Department of Medicine** 09/2015-06/2017

- Investigated the molecular and cellular mechanisms of neuroinflammation, axon demyelination, and retinal ganglion cell loss in Neuromyelitis optica (NMO) optic neuritis while evaluating rodent models of optic nerve inflammation caused by autoimmunity to Aquaporin-4.
- Developed first in class small-molecule Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator (CFTR) chloride channel activators as topical dry eye therapeutics in models of dry eye disease.

## CLINICAL PRACTICE

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- Provide high quality care to ethnic, language and socioeconomically diverse patient populations throughout the safety net county hospital (Olive View-UCLA) and university health systems (Reagan-UCLA, Santa Monica-UCLA and the West Los Angeles VA).
- Unique experience providing compassionate care to a predominant Spanish-speaking population whom are underserved and underinsured in a resource limited setting.
- Extensive inpatient medicine experience working in high volume settings between medicine and oncology wards.
- Adept with high acuity from managing critically ill patients in both the medical intensive care and cardiac care units, in addition to responding as code leader to rapid responses and code blues.
- Orchestrate interdisciplinary rounds with Social work and Utilization management to discuss patient care and coordinate discharge planning.
- Exceeded in a longitudinal curriculum focused on Point-of-Care Ultrasonography designed to integrate ultrasound into physical examination and medical decision-making.
- Achieved procedural competency in paracentesis, thoracentesis, lumbar puncture, ultrasound guided peripheral IV insertion, central line insertion, arterial line insertion, arthrocentesis, skin biopsy and incision and drainage.
- Developed a Quality Improvement project to optimize Olive Views' discharge planning for patients with alcohol use disorder through implementation of a pharmacy-based protocol.
- Completed training under the POWER (Providers at Olive-View Working to End Racism) Initiative.

## TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

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- Supervised and mentored medical students, sub-interns and interns on inpatient medicine wards, medical ICU, cardiac ICU and night coverage through honing their physical exam skills, development of their clinical reasoning, providing empathetic medical care, effective counseling and leading them through delivering difficult news.
- Led hour long case discussions and prepared presentations on the following topics: Acute Pancreatitis & Insufficiency (02/2023) and Transverse Myelitis (09/2023).
- Interviewed and evaluated internal medicine categorical and preliminary residency candidates for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 cycles, and provided written recommendations to the admissions committee.
- Lead informational panels on Olive View's equity, diversity and inclusion, medical education curricula/initiatives/opportunities and research/fellowship during recruitment seasons.

## SCHOLARSHIP

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### ACP Leadership Day Representative

- Met with national elected leaders in Washington D.C. to advocate for access to health care, public health, mental health, fair prescription drug pricing and telemedicine expansion for our patients, coordinated through the American College of Physicians' (ACP) Leadership Day in May 2022.

### Non Peer-Reviewed Publication:

**Felix CM**, Volkov S. Visceral infarction as the initial manifestation of systemic lupus erythematosus overlap syndrome complicated by antiphospholipid syndrome. Proceedings of UCLA Health, Clinical Vignette, Solomon Scholars, 2023.

### Peer-Reviewed Publications:

Asanad S, **Felix CM**, Fantini M, Harrington MG, Sadun AA, Karanjia R. Retinal Ganglion Cell Dysfunction in Preclinical Alzheimer's Disease: An Electrophysiologic Biomarker Signature. Sci Rep. 2021 March 18; 11, 6344. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-85010-1>

Tsui E, Wells MB, Mohamed M, **Felix CM**, Giaconi JA. Virtual Ophthalmology Rotations—A Real Possibility during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond. J Acad Ophthalmol. 2020 Oct 15; 12(02): e195-e199. Doi: 10.1055/s-0040-1716714

Asanad S, Fantini M, Sultan W, Nassisi M, **Felix CM**, Wu J, Karanjia R, Ross-Cisneros FN, Sagare AP, Zlokovic BV, Chui HC, Pogoda JM, Arakaki X, Fonteh AN, Sadun AA, Harrington MG. Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Thickness Predicts CSF amyloid/tau Before Cognitive Decline. Plos One. 2020 May 29; 15(5): e0232785. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0232785

Asanad S, Tian JJ, Frousiakis S, Jiang JP, Kogachi K, **Felix CM**, Darvizeh F, Irvine AG, Ter-Zakarian A, Falavarjani KG, Barboni P, Karanjia R, Sadun AA. Optical Coherence Tomography of the Retinal Ganglion Cell Complex in Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy and Dominant Optic Atrophy. Curr Eye Res. 2019 June;44(6):638-644. doi: 10.1080/02713683.2019.1567792.

Tradtrantip L, **Felix CM**, Spirig R, Morelli AB and Verkman AS. Recombinant IgG1 Fc Hexamers Block Cytotoxicity and Pathological Changes in Experimental in Vitro and Rat Models of Neuromyelitis Optica. Neuropharmacology. 2018 Feb 8;133:345-353. doi: 10.1016/j.neuropharm.2018.02.002.

**Felix CM**, Lee S, Levin MH and Verkman AS. Pro-Secretory Activity and Pharmacology in Rabbits of an Aminophenyl-1,3,5-Triazine CFTR Activator for Dry Eye Disorders. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2017 Sep 1;58(11):4506-4513. doi: 10.1167/iovs.17-22525.

Lee S, Phuan PW, **Felix CM**, Tan JA, Levin MH and Verkman AS. Nanomolar-Potency Aminophenyl-1,3,5-triazine Activators of the Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator (CFTR) Chloride Channel for Prosecretory Therapy of Dry Eye Diseases. *J Med Chem*. 2017 Feb 9;60(3):1210-1218. doi: 10.1021/acs.jmedchem.6b01792.

**Felix CM**, Levin MH and Verkman AS. Complement-independent Retinal Pathology Produced by Intravitreal Injection of Neuromyelitis Optica Immunoglobulin G. *J Neuroinflammation*. 2016 Oct 20;13(1):275. doi: 10.1186/s12974-016-0746-9.

Flores AM, Casey SD, **Felix CM**, Phuan PW, Verkman AS and Levin MH. Small-molecule CFTR Activators Increase Tear Secretion and Prevent Experimental Dry Eye Disease. *FASEB J*. 2016 May; 30(5):1789-97. doi: 10.1096/fj.201500180.

Oral Presentations:

**Felix CM**, Abiri P, Jeong D, Aziz C, Ahmed Z, Nguyen H. Improvement in Inpatient Discharge Planning for Patients with Severe Alcohol Use Disorder at OV-UCLA. Quality Improvement Presentation. Jan 27, 2023.

**Felix CM**, Yu F, Hosseini H, Coleman AL. CDU Medical Student Research Thesis Program (MSRTP): Racial/ethnic disparities in diabetic retinopathy treatment among California Medicare beneficiaries. Medical Student Research Colloquium in Health Disparities in Los Angeles, California, Feb 26, 2021.

**Felix CM**, Asanad S, Karanjia R, Sadun AA, Harrington MG. Electroretinography in Pre-clinical Alzheimer's Disease: An Electrophysiologic Assessment of the Retina as an Early Detection Ocular Biomarker In Vivo. Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) in Los Angeles, California, July 14-18th, 2019.

**Felix CM**, Asanad S, Karanjia R, Sadun AA, Harrington MG. In Vivo Assessment of Retinal Ganglion Cells in Human Preclinical Alzheimer's disease using Electroretinography. Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in Vancouver, Canada, April 28-May 2, 2019.

**Felix CM**, Levin MH and Verkman AS. Complement-independent retinal pathology produced by intravitreal injection of neuromyelitis optica immunoglobulin G. The Guthy-Jackson Charitable Foundation's 9th Annual International Conference on NMO, "The Power of Rare," in Los Angeles, California, March 13-14, 2017.

Poster Presentations:

**Felix CM**, Jensen Schwab K. Pulmonary actinomycosis presenting as a chest wall mass. CHEST Annual Meeting, in Honolulu, HI. October 10-12, 2023.

**Felix CM**, Volkov S. Visceral infarction as the initial manifestation of systemic lupus erythematosus overlap syndrome complicated by antiphospholipid syndrome. Solomon Scholars Research Day at UCLA. May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Ko MY, **Felix CM**, Coleman AL. Demographic Factors Associated with Treatment Modalities in California Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetic Retinopathy. Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in Denver, Colorado. May 1-5, 2022.

Asanad S, Fantini M, Nassisi M, **Felix CM**, Wu J, Karanjia R, Harrington MG, Sadun AA. Retinal Vascular Pathology in Preclinical Alzheimer's Disease: Early Oculovascular Biomarkers using SS-OCTA In Vivo. American Academy of Ophthalmology in Chicago, Illinois, October 12-15, 2019.

Asanad S, Fantini M, Sultan WC, Pogoda JM, Nassisi M, **Felix CM**, Wu J, Karanjia R, Ross-Cisneros FN, Sadun AA, Harrington MG. Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Thinning in Pre-Clinical Alzheimer’s Disease Predicts CSF Amyloid/Tau Classification. Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (AAIC) in Los Angeles, California, July 14-18th, 2019.

Asanad S, Fantini M, Sultan WC, Marco N, **Felix CM**, Wu J, Karanjia R, Ross-Cisneros FN, Harrington MG, Sadun AA. The Retina in Preclinical Alzheimer’s Disease: Degeneration of the Eye Before the Brain. Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in Vancouver, Canada, April 28-May 2, 2019.

**Felix CM**, Asanad S Karanjia R, Harrington MG, Sadun AA. Ophthalmic Biomarkers of Preclinical Alzheimer’s disease: An In Vivo Assessment of Retinal Ganglion Cells using Electrophysiology. Josiah Brown Poster Fair at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, July 20th, 2018.

**Felix CM**, Asanad S, Darvizeh F, Ross-Cisneros FN, Barboni P, Sadun AA. Choroidal Thinning in Leber’s Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON) using In Vivo Optical Coherence Tomography. Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in Honolulu, HI, April 29-May 3, 2018.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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Bloomberg Philanthropies Scholarship	06/2021
Pre-ARVO Doheny Eye Institute Scholarship	05/2019
ARVO Knights Templar Eye Foundation Travel Grant	04/2019
Rising Star in Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD)	03/2017
4.5 years of Service Award to Sutter Hospice	08/2016
Biology Scholars Program, UC Berkeley	08/2011- 05/2015

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

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American College of Physicians (ACP)	05/2022-Current
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### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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Spanish (Proficient)

### **INTERESTS**

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Dancing | Vinyasa yoga | Hiking & Outdoors | Traveling | Snorkeling