

Ruben Mora, MD
CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

- 09/2007–06/2011** BS, Human Biology, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA
- 09/2011–08/2012** Post-Baccalaureate Studies, UC San Diego School of Medicine, La Jolla, CA
- 09/2012–06/2016** MD, UC San Diego School of Medicine, La Jolla, CA
- 01/2019–01/2021** Computer Science Studies, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA

POSTGRADUATE TRAINING AND ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 07/2016–06/2017** Internship, Internal Medicine, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, San Jose, CA
- 01/2018–Present** Assistant Professor, Southern California University of Health Sciences, Whittier, CA
- 07/2022–06/2024** Resident, Internal Medicine, Connecticut Institute for Communities / Yale New Haven Hospital affiliate, Danbury, CT
- 07/2022–06/2024** Clinical Instructor, Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT
- 07/2024–06/2025** Chief Resident, Internal Medicine, Huntington Health / Cedars-Sinai affiliate, Pasadena, CA
- 07/2025–present** Fellow, Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging Fellowship, Lundquist Institute at Harbor-UCLA, Torrance, CA
- 07/2025–present** Hospitalist, Torrance Memorial Hospitalist Associates, Torrance, CA

BOARD CERTIFICATION

- 2024–present** American Board of Internal Medicine

RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2024–present** Research and Advanced Imaging Fellow, Budoff Lab, Lundquist Institute, Torrance, CA

- Conducting cardiac CT research across coronary artery calcium, CCTA plaque quantification, pericoronary adipose tissue, epicardial adipose tissue, and cardiovascular outcomes.
- Leading and collaborating on studies using MESA, STOP, EKSTROM, NATURE-CT, KETO-CTA, T-PLAQ, and institutional CCTA cohorts.
- Developing machine-learning workflows for automated cardiac CT quantification, including epicardial adipose tissue segmentation and CAC/plaque phenotyping.
- Collaborating on ECG-AI approaches to improve correlation with coronary artery calcium and imaging-defined coronary atherosclerosis.
- Served as instructor in Dr. Budoff's CCTA course, providing structured workstation-based training in cardiovascular CT interpretation.

2023–present Research Collaborator, Kwan Lab, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT

- Developed risk-stratification tools to evaluate cardiotoxicity in patients receiving immune checkpoint inhibitors and other cancer therapies.
- Designed Python workflows for automated extraction of cardiac MRI parameters from clinical reports to support large-scale cardio-oncology research.
- Evaluated large language models for structuring unstructured cardiac imaging data.

2014–2016 Research Collaborator, Nuvance Health, Danbury, CT

- Conducted a quality improvement project involving implementation and analysis of an order set to improve management of undertreated hypertension.

2010–2016 Prior Basic Science and Translational Research, UC San Diego and UT Southwestern

- Conducted earlier research in nerve graft preparation, spinal cord stimulator outcomes, liposome/nanoparticle manufacturing, and ultrasound-mediated microbubble targeting.

SELECTED CARDIOLOGY AND IMAGING RESEARCH FOCUS

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- **Cardiac CT and CAC:** coronary artery calcium risk stratification, diabetes-CAC risk equivalence, CAC guideline evolution, CCTA acute chest pain utility, and CCTA warranty-period analyses.
 - **Quantitative CCTA biomarkers:** plaque burden, high-risk plaque, pericoronary adipose tissue attenuation, epicardial adipose tissue, and automated segmentation.
 - **Cardio-oncology:** immune checkpoint inhibitor and tyrosine kinase inhibitor cardiotoxicity, cardiac imaging findings, and risk-prediction algorithms.

- **AI and clinical decision support:** ECG-AI integration, CT-based automated quantification, and clinical decision-support tools for preventive cardiology and cardiac imaging workflows.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS AND SYMPOSIA

International / National

1. **Mora R**, Manubolu VS, Lakshmanan S, Kinnering A, Hamal S, Roy SK, Budoff MJ. Semaglutide therapy and reduction of left ventricular mass in patients with type 2 diabetes: A STOP Trial substudy. 2025 SCCT Young Investigator Award Virtual Presentations; June 2025.
2. **Mora R**, Manubolu VS, Lakshmanan S, Kinnering A, Hamal S, Roy SK, Budoff MJ. Effects of GLP-1 receptor agonists on structural heart parameters: Post hoc analysis of the STOP Trial. Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Annual Scientific Meeting; July 2025; Montreal, QC, Canada. Poster presentation.
3. **Mora R**, Majidi G, Lakshmanan M, Kinnering A, Hamal S, Roy SK, Budoff MJ. Effects of education on cardiovascular health: Insights from the MiHeart cohort. Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Annual Scientific Meeting; July 2025; Montreal, QC, Canada. Poster presentation.
4. **Mora R**, Kwaah PA, Matute Martinez CF, Diaz Saravia S, Chitsazan M, Li S, Sawano M, et al. Transforming cardio-oncologic care: Enhancing physician knowledge through a mobile app-based pilot study. American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Session; March 2025; Atlanta, GA. Moderated poster.
5. **Mora R**, Pinkhasova PR, Gupta M, Samarasinghe L, Bond MP. Catastrophic complications of ventricular septal aneurysms. American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Session; 2024; Atlanta, GA. Poster presentation.
6. **Mora R**, Iyer D, Bozdemir E, Um H, Chichra A, Homer R, Kwan J. Cardiogenic shock and myocardial infarction in a young patient with thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura. American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Session; 2024; Atlanta, GA. Poster presentation.
7. Walgamage M, **Mora R**. QTc prolongation, a new side effect of novel agent pralsetinib. American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Session; 2024; Atlanta, GA. Poster presentation.

Selected Regional / Prior Research Presentations

1. Cross J, **Mora R**, Dijk D, Kwan J. Accelerated extraction of cardiac MRI parameters using open-source clinical large language models. AI in Medicine Symposium, Yale School of Medicine; 2024; New Haven, CT. Poster presentation.

2. **Mora R**, Molina G, Perozo MA, Stratidis J. An unusual presentation of cryptococcal meningitis in an immunocompetent individual. Connecticut American College of Physicians; 2023; Southington, CT. Poster presentation.
3. **Mora R**, Shah S. A decellularization method used for engineering a novel detergent-free acellular graft that promotes optimal nerve regeneration in a rat model. NIH Medical Research Conference, UC San Diego; 2014; La Jolla, CA. Poster presentation.
4. **Mora R**, Ding H, Gao J, Sumer BD. Utilization of mTHPP nanoparticles for the imaging and treatment of neck cancers. SURF Conference, UT Southwestern; 2010; Dallas, TX. Poster presentation.

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

2025 Young Investigator Award Finalist, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography
2023–2024 Patricia A. Tietjen, MD Teaching Academy Scholar, Nuvance Health
2013 NIH Medical Research Scholar
2010 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, UT Southwestern
2009–2011 Maximizing Access to Research Careers Scholar, UC San Diego
2009 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, UC San Diego

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2025–present Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography
2023–present American College of Cardiology
2022–present American College of Physicians
2024–present National Hispanic Medical Association

SELECTED COMMITTEES AND SERVICE

2023–2024 Member, Cardiovascular Medicine Committee, Danbury Hospital
2023–2024 Member, Point-of-Care Ultrasound Committee, Danbury Hospital
2023–2024 Member, Information Technology Committee, Danbury Hospital
2012–2016 Member, Latino Medical Student Association, UC San Diego School of Medicine
2014 Clinic Manager, UC San Diego Student-Run Free Clinic
2025 Eaton Canyon Fires Medical Response Team

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Book Chapters

1. **Mora R**, Irannejad K, Budoff M. Assessment of cardiovascular calcium: Interpretation, prognostic value, and relationship to lipids and other cardiovascular risk factors. In: Cardiac CT Imaging: Diagnosis of Cardiovascular Disease. Springer; 2025.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. **Mora R**, Irannejad K, Abbas N, Mogga P, Iskander B, Hubbard L, Roy S, Lakshmanan S, Budoff M and Krishnan S (2026) Emerging quantitative CCTA imaging biomarkers for cardiovascular risk stratification: a narrative review. *Front. Cardiovasc. Med.* 13:1850945. doi: 10.3389/fcvm.2026.18509452.
2. Irannejad K, Hubbard L, Narashim A, **Mora R**, Iskander B, Punnanithinont N, Ichikawa K, Kinnering A, Lakshmanan S, Roy S, Chang D, Budoff M, Krishnan S. Coronary CT angiography for acute chest pain in the emergency department: A systematic review of clinical utility. *Emergency Care and Medicine.* 2025.
3. Irannejad K, **Mora R**, Mogga B, Iskander B, Punnanithinont N, Kinnering A, Krishnan S, Lakshmanan S, Roy S, Budoff M. Quantitative comparison of coronary artery calcium and AI-based plaque burden: Agreement, discordance, and clinical implications. *Research Square.* 2026. doi:10.21203/rs.3.rs-8604663/v1.
4. Kwan JM, Shen M, Akhlaghi N, Hu JR, Chen NW, **Mora R**, Cross JL, Jiang M, Mankbadi M, Wang P, et al. Adverse cardiovascular events and cardiac imaging findings in patients on immune checkpoint inhibitors. *PLoS One.* 2024;19(12):e0314555. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0314555.
5. Ibsen S, **Mora R**, Shi G, Schutt C, Cui W, Benchimol M, Serra V, Esener S. Removal of ligand-bound liposomes from cell surfaces by microbubbles exposed to ultrasound. *J Biol Phys.* 2017;43(4):493-510. doi:10.1007/s10867-017-9465-4.
6. Hoelzer BC, Bendel MA, Deer TR, Eldrige JS, Walega DR, Wang Z, Costandi S, Azer G, Qu W, Falowski SM, Neuman SA, Moeschler SM, Wassef C, Kim C, Niazi T, Saifullah T, Yee B, Kim C, Oryhan CL, Rosenow JM, Warren DT, Lerman I, **Mora R**, Hayek SM, Hanes M, Simopoulos T, Sharma S, Gilligan C, Grace W, Ade T, Mekhail NA, Hunter JP, Choi D, Choi DY. Spinal Cord Stimulator Implant Infection Rates and Risk Factors: A Multicenter Retrospective Study. *Neuromodulation.* 2017 Aug;20(6):558-562. Doi:10.1111/ner.12609Epub 2017 May 11. PMID: 28493699.

7. Hoelzer BC, Bendel MA, Deer TR, Eldrige JS, Walega DR, Wang Z, Costandi S, Azer G, Qu W, Falowski SM, Neuman SA, Moeschler SM, Wassef C, Kim C, Niazi T, Saifullah T, Yee B, Kim C, Oryhan CL, Rosenow JM, Warren DT, Lerman I, **Mora R**, Hayek SM, Hanes M, Simopoulos T, Sharma S, Gilligan C, Grace W, Ade T, Mekhail NA, Hunter JP, Choi D, Choi DY. Spinal Cord Stimulator Implant Infection Rates and Risk Factors: A Multicenter Retrospective Study. *Neuromodulation*. 2017 Aug;20(6):558-562. doi: 10.1111/ner.12609. Epub 2017 May 11. PMID: 28493599.
8. Ding H, **Mora R**, Gao J, Sumer BD. Characterization and optimization of mTHPP nanoparticles for photodynamic therapy of head and neck cancer. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2011;145(4):612-617. doi:10.1177/0194599811412449.
9. Perozo MA, **Mora R**, Stratidis J, Freitas N. Cryptococcal meningitis in an apparent immunocompetent host. *Cureus*. 2023;15(8):e43121. doi:10.7759/cureus.43121.

Manuscripts Under Review / Submitted

1. **Mora R**, Irannejad K, Abbas N, Mogga P, Iskander B, Hubbard L, Roy S, Lakshmanan S, Budoff M and Krishnan S (2026) Emerging quantitative CCTA imaging biomarkers for cardiovascular risk stratification: a narrative review. *Front. Cardiovasc. Med*. 13:1850945. doi: 10.3389/fcvm.2026.1850945.
2. **Mora R**, Kwaah PA, Irannejad K, Manubolu VS, Ichikawa K, Kinninger A, Lakshmanan S, Budoff MJ. Semaglutide reduces left ventricular mass independent of metabolic changes in patients with type 2 diabetes: A STOP Trial substudy. Submitted to *Journal of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography*.
3. **Mora R**, Kwaah PA, Irannejad K, Ichikawa K, Arora K, Bancks M, Budoff M. Coronary calcium risk equivalence in type 2 diabetes: The MESA Study. Submitted to *JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging*.
4. **Mora R**, Irannejad K, Abbas N, Mogga P, Iskander B, Punnanithinont N, Swain S, Hubbard L, Roy S, Lakshmanan S, Budoff M, Krishnan S. Emerging quantitative CCTA biomarkers for cardiovascular risk stratification. Submitted to *Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine: Cardiovascular Imaging*.
5. Irannejad K, **Mora R**, Krishnan S, Lakshmanan S, Roy S, Budoff M. Coronary artery calcium in ACC/AHA prevention guidelines: Evolution from 2007 to 2026. Submitted to *JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging*.

Published Abstracts / Conference Proceedings

1. **Mora R**, et al. Prevalence of right coronary artery anomalies: A 20-year study using coronary CT angiography. Accepted abstract, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Annual Scientific Meeting; July 2026.
2. **Mora R**, et al. Pericoronary adipose tissue attenuation in individuals with ketogenic diet-associated LDL-C elevations. Accepted abstract, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Annual Scientific Meeting; July 2026.
3. **Mora R**, et al. Natural history of pericoronary adipose tissue attenuation in coronary atherosclerosis by serial CCTA. Accepted abstract, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Annual Scientific Meeting; July 2026.
4. **Mora R**, et al. Association between Social Deprivation Index and coronary artery calcium in Los Angeles County. Accepted abstract, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Annual Scientific Meeting; July 2026.
5. **Mora R**, et al. Warranty period of a normal coronary CT angiography: Estimating time to CAD progression by risk factor profile. Accepted abstract, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Annual Scientific Meeting; July 2026.
6. **Mora R**, et al. Systematic benchmarking of 21 deep learning architectures for automated pericardium segmentation on non-contrast CT. Accepted abstract, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Annual Scientific Meeting; July 2026.
7. **Mora R**, et al. Deep-learning epicardial adipose tissue assessment with computed tomography. Accepted abstract, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Annual Scientific Meeting; July 2026.
8. **Mora R**, et al. The effect of colchicine on pericoronary adipose tissue attenuation by serial coronary CT angiography: Insights from the EKSTROM Trial. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2026;87(12 Suppl):26-A-17775-ACC.
9. **Mora R**, et al. Age- and sex-specific trajectories of coronary plaque progression: A 10-year female delay by quantitative CCTA. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2026;87(12 Suppl):26-A-18801-ACC.
10. **Mora R**, et al. LDL cholesterol and cardiovascular risk across obesity and metabolic syndrome phenotypes: Insights from the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2026;87(12 Suppl):26-A-20727-ACC.
11. Kim NY, **Mora R**, Kinnering A, Budoff M. A secondary analysis of the effect of colchicine on cardiac chamber size in patients with stable coronary artery disease compared to placebo (EKSTROM). *Metabolism.* 2026;177:156533. doi:10.1016/j.metabol.2026.156533.

12. Catherine Wright, James Cross, Shawn Wahi, Krishna Daggula, Yunju Im, **Mora R**, Yi-hwa Liu, Kwan J. Predicting adverse cardiovascular events in patients receiving immune checkpoint inhibitors. *Circulation*. 2025;152(Suppl 3):Abstract 4358022.
doi:10.1161/circ.152.suppl_3.4358022.
13. Shawn Wahi, James Cross, **Mora R**, Yunju Im, Kwan J. A novel machine learning-based adverse cardiovascular events risk algorithm for cancer patients treated with tyrosine kinase inhibitors. *Circulation*. 2025;152(Suppl 3):Abstract 4364966.
doi:10.1161/circ.152.suppl_3.4364966.
14. Kwaah PA, **Mora R**, Matute Martinez CF, Diaz Saravia S, Chitsazan M, Li S, Sawano M, et al. Transforming cardio-oncologic care: Enhancing physician knowledge through a mobile app-based pilot study. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2025;85(12 Suppl).
15. **Mora R**, Pinkhasova PR, Gupta M, Samarasinghe L, Bond MP. Catastrophic complications of ventricular septal aneurysms. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2024;83(13 Suppl).
16. Walgamage T, Walgamage M, **Mora R**, Ahmed-Khan M, Jimenez D, Tickoo S, De Luna D. A twist in the treatment of NSCLC: A novel case of QTc prolongation in pralsetinib. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2024;83(13 Suppl).
17. **Mora R**, Iyer D, Bozdemir E, Um HB, Chichra A, Homer R, Kwan J. Cardiogenic shock and myocardial infarction in a young patient with thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2024;83(13 Suppl).