LPPHC's Benson honored by peers for work in music therapy

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By Nicholas Roznovsky [1]

Tom Benson

Longtime UC San Francisco music and rehabilitation therapist Tom Benson, MT-BC, has been chosen by the Western Region chapter of the American Music Therapy Association (WRAMTA) as the recipient of its 2018 Betty Isern Howery Award in recognition of his work and impact on his patients. He formally received the honor during the chapter's annual meeting last week in Ontario, Calif.

Bestowed annually since 1991, the award is WRAMTA’s highest honor and is given to those embodying the qualities and values demonstrated by pioneering music therapist and namesake Betty Howery. Honorees are recognized for the quality of their relationships with patients and colleagues, their professional commitment, their vision for the field and practice of music therapy, and their ability to take risks in service of the greater good.
Benson, who also directs the **UCSF Music Therapy Clinical Training Program** [4], is celebrating his 25th year of service at Langley Porter Psychiatric Hospital and Clinics.

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**About UCSF Psychiatry**

The **UCSF Department of Psychiatry** [5] and the Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute are among the nation's foremost resources in the fields of child, adolescent, adult, and geriatric mental health. Together they constitute one of the largest departments in the UCSF School of Medicine and the UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences, with a mission focused on research (basic, translational, clinical), teaching, patient care and public service.

UCSF Psychiatry conducts its clinical, educational and research efforts at a variety of locations in Northern California, including UCSF campuses at Parnassus Heights, Mission Bay and Laurel Heights, UCSF Medical Center, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, the San Francisco VA Health Care System and UCSF Fresno.

**About the UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences**

The **UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences** [6], established by the extraordinary generosity of Joan and Sanford I. "Sandy" Weill, brings together world-class researchers with top-ranked physicians to solve some of the most complex challenges in the human brain.

The UCSF Weill Institute leverages UCSF's unrivaled bench-to-bedside excellence in the neurosciences. It unites three UCSF departments: Neurology, Psychiatry, and Neurological Surgery that are highly esteemed for both patient care and research, as well as the Neuroscience Graduate Program, a cross-disciplinary alliance of nearly 100 UCSF faculty members from 15 basic-science departments, as well as the UCSF Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases, a multidisciplinary research center focused on finding effective treatments for Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal dementia, Parkinson's disease, and other neurodegenerative disorders.

**About UCSF**

**UC San Francisco (UCSF)** [7] is a leading university dedicated to promoting health worldwide through advanced biomedical research, graduate-level education in the life sciences and health professions, and excellence in patient care. It includes top-ranked graduate schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy; a graduate division with nationally renowned programs in basic, biomedical, translational and population sciences; and a preeminent biomedical research enterprise. It also includes UCSF Health, which comprises top-ranked hospitals: **UCSF Medical Center** [8] and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals in San Francisco [9] and Oakland [10]; and other partner and affiliated hospitals and healthcare providers throughout the Bay Area.

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