



Imelda Tenggara: Leading the Charge Behind the Scenes of UCSF Urology Research

In this Q&A, meet Imelda Tenggara, the powerhouse behind the scenes of UCSF Urology research. From navigating complex regulations to mentoring teammates, Imelda brings energy and heart to everything she does.

What is your favorite part of your job?

One of my favorite parts of the job is being able to support principal investigators in bringing their research ideas to life. It's incredibly rewarding to play a small role in helping move science forward. I also really enjoy mentoring my teammates—being able to share what I've learned and help others grow is something I genuinely value. I'm always learning from them too.

What are some of the key duties of your position?

I drive strategic planning, project execution, and financial stewardship to advance ethical, compliant human research. As a trusted mentor, and leader, I work closely with urology Principal Investigators guiding through complex regulatory landscapes, ensuring the highest standards of integrity and compliance. Though much of my work is behind the scenes, I am honored to have the opportunity to be a catalyst, mentoring others, aligning people and systems, and creating the conditions for responsible, high impact UCSF urology research to thrive.

If someone shadowed you for a day, what would surprise them about what you do?

They might be surprised by how quickly I move between tasks and projects—often shifting gears multiple times in a very short span. I read and absorb information fast, which helps me make quick, laser-focused decisions. I also have a strong memory, which comes in handy for

connecting details across different initiatives and keeping everything on track. It's a fast-paced rhythm, but it works well for me!

What do you like to do outside of work?

Outside of work, I like to do things that are totally different from a day job. I volunteer at my friend's flower shop, putting together floral arrangements for their online orders- which I find really fun and relaxing. I also spend a lot of time in my garden, especially with flowers that attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. I'm trying to grow Thai chili plants from seed. Lately I learned to play the bongo drum. It's a mix of nature and a little bit of rhythm! I also begun exploring stained glass art; I love how sunlight reflects through the colored glass. These hobbies help me stay balanced.