



**2008 White Coat Ceremony**  
**By Binh Tran, Pharm.D.**



The 2008 White Coat Ceremony took place in the lower level auditorium at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) on September 26 at 5:00 PM. It is always a pleasure for me to attend the annual event that has so much meaning for the students, their families and friends. The class size at the school was increased to 60 a couple of years ago, bringing a mix of bright baccalaureate graduates from California University systems and other states.

Addressing all was Dean Palmer Taylor with his usual kind and witty spirit. The keynote speaker was Teresa Ann Miller, Pharm.D., Senior Consulting Pharmacist, Pharmacy Policy Branch of the California Department of Health Care Services, on the topic “Just Who Will You Be?” Until recently, pharmacy went through many stages from the dissemination of knowledge, practice of clinical pharmacy, utilization of drug control, to pharmaceutical care and Medicare Part D collaborative care with other medical

providers, with the goal to benefit patients. Dr. Miller stressed the search for excellence while using the knowledge gained at school to help the people in need. If a person is not part of the solution, he or she is part of the problem. “Seize the day”, she reinforced.



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Next, Anthony Manoguerra, Pharm.D., Associate Dean for Student Affairs, presented each of the 60 first year students, who then received the white coats from Dean Taylor. All together, the class said the *Oath of a Pharmacist*. Student pharmacist Chetan Sharma's message to the in-coming class was very powerful. The class president provided an overview of activities at SSPPS, and urged all to



participate in as many student chapters of national organizations as possible.

Professor Taylor presented the faculty members to the audience. In closing, the dean spoke of the tremendous



opportunities at SSPPS as a hub for biotechnology and industry research, health care practice, all contributing to a substrate for excellence, and waiting to be utilized optimally. Before joining the reception in the hall, the students went on-stage for a group photo. It was a lovely picture, with all the radiant faces, full of enthusiasm and vigor as they embark on their four years of studies. I came closer to have a better view, since I will likely recognize many students at the upcoming outreach activities of the Asian Pacific Health Center.

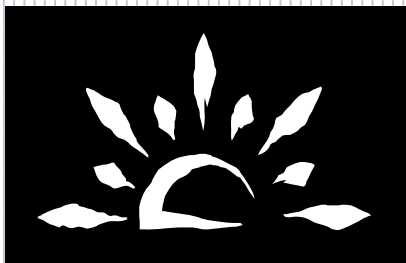
I met two students with their families: Christine Luu from

Westminster, and Tina Nguyen from San Diego. The students had outstanding backgrounds and achievements in their undergraduate years. Christine's father, a member of the Vietnamese Pharmacy Forum, was a former student of Dr Dong To; and Tina's parents are close friends in the San Diego health professionals' community.



Lastly, Gail Gipson played the piano beautifully, lending a festive mood to the reception.





## APhA Kicks off the Summer with A Multitude of Successful Community Health Screening Events

By: Jeannette Truong, P-2 and Angie Le, P-3

While many people were sipping an icy cold lemonade underneath a Walmart polka dotted umbrella at their nearest beach, UCSD's APhA Chapter student pharmacists were keeping themselves busy at various health fair screenings. To start the summer off, APhA members were found along the streets of Logan Heights at the City of Refuge International Church Block Party event on Saturday June 28, 2008. There, we were joined by live Hispanic music, folklore music and dancers, and many free, multi-colored jalapeño peppers as we provided diabetes, hypertension, heartburn screenings, and asthma awareness education. Though the weather was scorching hot, we were fortunately able to screen and educate over 100 patients, many of whom have very little access to health care. Student pharmacists and preceptors alike felt that they had made a difference in these patients' lives by providing them with much needed health screenings and education.



On the following day, APhA members were gathered at the Vietnamese Federation Health Fair in Linda Vista. Due to the success of last year's health fair and its effective promotion to the community this year, patients were lined up at the doors at least an hour before the event even began. This event was a collaboration between students from the UCSD School of Pharmacy and students from the School of Medicine, and allowed for the interchange of knowledge among the two disciplines while having one goal in mind: to provide high quality care to help patients be more informed in order to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. At this successful health screening, we were able to screen over 250 patients!



Finally on July 9th, 2008, APhA student pharmacists participated in a Meet the Pharmacist Brown Bag event held in Oceanside, CA. At this event, seniors from the area brought in their medications for pharmacists to provide consultations and advice on how to manage their medications. Student pharmacists contributed by providing blood pressure and heartburn assessments and consultations to these seniors. Approximately 16 patients were screened and educated at this event by our student pharmacists. Not only did these seniors have the much appreciated company of our student pharmacists but also gained valuable health information from them.

All in all, student pharmacists from the UCSD chapter of APhA had a busy but definitely fulfilling summer. Their efforts at these events provided the community with much needed health education. We look forward to a new school year with many more exciting events to come!

We would like to thank the following student pharmacists who graciously volunteered their time on Saturday June 28th: Jayson Napolitano, Megan Chynoweth, Karen Yi, Tim Bassell, Spondee Shen, Sohil Rai, Ed Su, Samar Yalda, Chih Hsu, Eric Cooper, Therasa Kim, Anna Yang, Vafa Mahboubi, Angel Lam, Kim Tsai, Stanton Chu, Robert Lo, Wendy Dinh, Maria Oh, Ken Nguyen, Vy Tran and Jennifer Lai. We'd also like to thank the pastor, Cassandra, for inviting us, Delores Washington and Janelle for setting up. On Sunday June 29th, we'd like to thank: Rachel Sperling, Jennifer Lai, Will Wong, Megan Chynoweth, Lina

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Meng, Vy Tran, and Son Nguyen. On Wednesday July 9th, we'd like to thank: Chih Hsu, Kevin Mee, Karen Yi, and Anna Yang. And last but certainly not least, these following preceptors were absolutely wonderful at guiding and providing assistance to the students at these events: Dr. Alex Dominguez, Dr. Andrea Dominguez, Dr. Renu Singh, Dr. Paul Toledo, Dr. David Bao, Dr. Jag Rai, Dr. Binh Tran, and Dr. Sally Smith.

**USNS Naval Hospital Ship Mercy  
Humanitarian Mission in Southeast Asia  
During Summer 2008**

**Amie Phuc Nguyen, P3**

During summer 2008, Julie Nguyen and I had a chance to volunteer on the USNS Naval hospital ship Mercy on a Humanitarian Mission to Southeast Asia. We provided health care services to 90,693 patients in 5 countries, specifically 11,576 patients in Vietnam, and 9846 patients in Timor Leste where we helped with the mission. The trips gave us the opportunity not only to reach out and help the underserved in under developed countries, but also to meet, interact and create friendships with other professionals from all over the world and across the nation. Not only did we have a chance to practice our pharmacy knowledge and skills, we also explored different cultures and got to do and see so many exciting things. We got to consult with the patients on how to use the drugs and answered all kinds of questions related to medication use.

In Vietnam, we also worked as translators in the pre-operating and operating rooms onboard the ship in addition to working as pharmacy interns at the local clinics we set up ashore. Our

job was to help the doctors and nurses communicate efficiently with the patients and the local doctors so that the operations would go more smoothly, safely and easily. It was a great feeling that we were able to help the people who could not afford or have access to medical healthcare. We worked very hard, from 5am to 6pm daily. We served on



average 500 patients and about 800 prescriptions each day. However, we enjoyed each and every day of the six weeks we spent on the ship. We also got to interact with a lot of patients, from the elderly to children. We got to listen to their life stories, share their nervous tears and then their happy laughter after the successful operations. We saw their lives change, and it touched us deeply. It was also very inspirational to work side by side with the Navy and Civilian professionals, who were so dedicated and giving, who touched and changed the lives of thousands of people half way across the world from where we are. Just a spark in



the eyes of the children, or a big smile on their faces, or just a simple "thank you" made the trip worth it all for all of us.

I believe that we made a difference. We touched their lives, and they touched ours. We changed their lives in a certain way, and they changed our lives into more meaningful ones. And for that, we are thankful.

**UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences' Successes at CSHP Seminar 2008!**

**Candis M. Morello, Pharm.D., CDE and David Adler, Pharm.D.**

Once again, UCSD SSPPS was well represented at the California Society of Health System Pharmacists (CSHP) Annual Seminar Meeting, held in Anaheim on October 9-12. Faculty liaison for the SSPPS SDSHP student chapter, Candis Morello and other faculty attended this clinically focused and spirited meeting with the following summary and outcomes of UCSD SSPPS's accomplishments:

**UCSD SSPPS placed FIRST in the CSHP Pharmacy Quiz Bowl**

In a collegiate athletic-like spirited event at CSHP Seminar 2008 UCSD SSPPS students successfully competed in the CSHP Quiz Bowl and for the 2nd consecutive year took top honors as the leading school of the current seven California pharmacy schools.

The South Ballroom at the Disneyland Hotel, on Saturday, October 11, from 3-5p, was packed with more than 500 cheering students, faculty, preceptors and some alumni as the seven California schools of pharmacy participated in a 2 - hour Jeopardy-style quiz focused on the pharmacology and therapeutics of categories including Oncology, OTC, Diabetes, Hypertension, Psychiatry, Immunizations, Potpourri, and others.

As an observer, it was a rather amazing event to see. Several of our students participated including: Julia Harder, Anna Rivas, Jim Connor, Roy Lee, An Thu Ha, Lina Meng, Jennifer Tran, Elysia Au, Pat Chung, Lannie Duong, Vafa Mahboubi, Jessica Lee, and Vy Tran.

This accomplishment, while fun and exciting for the students, is quite significant. We have only had 4<sup>th</sup> year students with sufficient clinical knowledge to adequately compete in the quiz bowl for the last four years. And in those four years, we've taken 1<sup>st</sup> place 50% of the time. Way to go SSPPS! Be sure to stop by the Dean's Office to see the trophy.



**Patrick Chung, P4 was recognized as the CSHP UCSD Student of the Year**

Patrick was recognized at the CSHP Opening Session and received an award for his leadership in the student chapter of SDSHP.

**Jennifer Lai and Lina Meng (P4s) represented UCSD in the CSHP Clinical Skills Competition**

Jennifer and Lisa successfully competed in the state clinical skills competition, finishing second only to sister school UCSF peers, and received recognition at the CSHP Seminar Opening Session. Comments from non-UC faculty colleagues were very complimentary regarding Jennifer and Lina's presentation. Currently, they are preparing for the National Clinical Skills Competition at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Orlando FL in December.

**Vafa Mahboubi (P4) and Julie Nguyen (P3) were UCSD SSPPS Delegates to the CSHP House of Delegates**

Vafa and Julie represented the UCSD SSPPS Student Chapter during the two House of Delegate sessions.

**Eleven Student Pharmacists participated in CAPSLEAD 2008 and presented their Poster at Seminar**

Led by team leader, Courtney Shakowski, a team of student pharmacists including Sarah Bajorek, Heather Cox, Tim Bassell, Irina Olshanskaya, Roya Jamsheed, Becky Lau, Krishma Dhillon, Angel Lam and Ken Nguyen, presented their leadership poster entitled "Democrats and Republicans: Healthcare for All or Some?" This timely poster comparing the historical and contemporary major party differences in healthcare initiatives was well done and informative.

**UCSD SSPPS Alumni Reception**

Kim Ciero, David Adler, and James Colbert hosted an excellent and very well attended Alumni Reception that included alumni, students (P1 through P4s) residents, preceptors, alumni from Classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008, UCSD Department of Pharmacy leadership, colleagues and others interested in UCSD SSPPS.

**CE Presentations**

Several faculty and preceptors provided CE lecture presentations. They included James Colbert, Jason Lam and Candis Morello.

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**Residency Showcase-**

In addition, significant numbers of students attended this meeting taking advantage of the Residency Showcase where they were able to learn about the postgraduate education programs and to meet residency program directors and preceptors.

**CSHP Seminar 2009 in San Diego-**

We are all looking forward to another productive and exciting meeting next year when CSHP Seminar 2009 will be in our own backyard! James Colbert, Chair of the Seminar Management Team, is looking for volunteers for all committees, so please contact him ([jcolbert@ucsd.edu](mailto:jcolbert@ucsd.edu)) if you are interested in being a part of making Seminar 2009 “Back to the Beach” a hugely successful meeting!

**Congratulations to Lisa Avery**

Lisa Avery, Experiential Education Coordinator for SSPPS has just celebrated her 20th year at UCSD.

Lisa began her career at the university in 1988 and worked at the Medical Center, Facilities Planning and Management, Organ and Tissue Acquisition and Pathology before coming to Skaggs School of Pharmacy in 2006.

Congratulations Lisa, we are proud to have you on our team!



**The Opening Day of the City of San Diego's Emergency Winter Shelter**

**By Sarah Lorentz, Pharm.D.**

November 24, 2008 was the opening day of the City of San Diego’s Emergency Winter Shelter. The Winter Shelter provides a place for homeless people to live from November to April each year. Annually, upon opening the shelter, approximately 225 incoming residents are provided with health screenings as well as on-site medical care. The health care efforts at the Winter Shelter were provided by the staff of the St. Vincent de Paul Mobile Health Clinic as well as physicians, pharmacists and nurses and trainees from UCSD as well as Pt Loma Nazarene School of Nursing. This is the third year that UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy has been involved with this vital community outreach project. It was a great opportunity for community healthcare collaboration. (The Mobile Health Clinic will be on-site at the Winter Shelter every Wednesday morning for on-going health care needs.)

Thank you to everyone who helped with the opening of the San Diego Winter Shelter! Without your efforts things would not have run so efficiently and smoothly for all of those checking in to the shelter .We had pharmacy faculty, residents and fourth year students from both UCSF and UCSD Schools of Pharmacy participating. They included: Drs. David Adler, Jerry Hammond, Janice Sudaria, Jag Rai, Sally Rafie, Morgan Yancy and Trang Tran, as well as student pharmacists Shirley Ebrahimi, Patrick Chung, Eileen Brigid, Neil Patel, Kay Nguyen, Vy Trang, Shawna Kobayshi and Lannie Doung.

The morning started with the health care screening of over 200 people. Referrals were made for medical care at the Mobile Health Clinic. Flu shots were administered and 24 patients received a total of 48 prescriptions and counseling from our pharmacy team that morning. We greatly appreciate those of you who were able to come on such short notice. Thank you to the pharmacist preceptors and supervisors who were able to support participation in this community event. Thank you as well to those of you who sent your regrets and offered to help in the future.

## Operation Diabetes Teaches Children about Diabetes and Prevention

By Spondee (Ancong) Shen, P-2 and Candis M. Morello, Pharm.D., CDE, FCSHP

The Operation Diabetes (OD) campaign to spread awareness and knowledge of diabetes, its complications, and preventative measures to the public is still going strong. Our most recent milestone was the exciting and very successful 1-hour interactive session with elementary students (4<sup>th</sup> graders) on developing good nutrition and exercise habits. Held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Integral Elementary School in La Jolla, CA, this marked the first time that OD held an exclusive event for children.

Since obesity in children and adolescence is increasing at an alarming rate, the OD team feels that targeting this impressionable population is an essential outreach effort. By teaching children proper eating habits and how to make healthy lifestyle choices, OD hopes to provide these kids with the tools and education to shape the quality of their future.

Given that this youth outreach event was our first, we identified a unique set of challenges. First, we had to put together the script. Because our audience members were very young with varying attention spans, we incorporated many visual demonstrations and activities to better depict the concepts we aimed to teach them. One of the more visual activities was having the students list a food from all the colors of the rainbow and then using that list to make up their own personalized meal. We passed out crayons and handouts with empty plates on them and walked around the room, helping the children design a nutritious, balanced, and tasty meal. To explain how energy from different sources of sugar varies and why we recommend avoiding sugary beverages and candy, we provided another visual demonstration. We used a glass of water (to represent the stomach) and an apple to explain the concept of complex or fibrous sugars (e.g. those found in fruits) versus simple sugars (e.g. soda, juice, table sugar) and how whole fruits and vegetables provide a longer source of energy (as well as fiber) than sugary drinks and candy. Students saw the table sugar vanish quickly in the water, which helped them remember that candy, or sugary sodas do not provide a very good source of sustained energy. In addition, the students really understood our explanation of the benefits of lighter, smaller portion-sized meals when we reminded them of how sluggish they all feel after a large meal such as the annual Thanksgiving dinner.



Moreover, we integrated a simplified lesson on diabetes, glucose, and insulin into our session. This part of our presentation served to educate the children that insulin acts like a key that allow them to take up glucose for energy. In people who do not make insulin or are resistant to it, they develop diabetes. The students were very smart and understood this idea immediately. A lot of them knew a parent or a relative with diabetes, which illustrates how prevalent this disease has become.

We went on to list some of the symptoms of diabetes as well as explained some of the consequences associated with uncontrolled diabetes such as blindness and cardiovascular problems. Everyone in the room learned the "Hand Jive" for determining proper portion sizes. We then practiced and demonstrated this cool mnemonic with each other.

To conclude the educational session, the students listed their favorite physical activity and proceeded to act them out. We gave them a few strategies on how to be active such as asking parents to park further away from the grocery store or if possible, trying to walk the entire way, or going on a bike ride so they are able to exercise and get fresh air at the same time. We finished the lesson with three take-home messages that the students learned from our time together. Once again, the children were very smart and had no problem grasping the concepts. The event was a smashing success as everyone involved in this experience had fun teaching and learning these new ideas on how to live a healthier life. Hopefully, these children will continue to practice making healthy choices and teaching the concepts to others.

As with most of our outreach efforts, the learning goes both ways. We are always appreciative to have the chance to expand our organizational, communication and presentation skills. Special thanks to Carla Swan Gerstein and Shelley Glaze of Integral Elementary School for affording us the opportunity to educate their students on such an important topic.



## Voluntary Faculty Appreciation and Networking Reception

By Binh Nhung Tran, Pharm.D.

I attended the Voluntary Faculty Appreciation and Networking Reception at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UCSD. This was the first time such a wonderful event took place on the campus, and is destined to be an annual event in the future.



The program began with Dean Palmer Taylor giving a very thoughtful speech, drawing from the events on hand. The site of the reception was the lower level of the main building, commonly referred to as the “underground”, the place where numerous projects have taken off. The Dean also unveiled a table full of copies of the inspirational book: *An Improbable*



*Venture: A History of the University of California, San Diego* by Nancy Scott Anderson. This book about the transformation of a marine base into a school is remarkable in numerous ways, and is an excellent book to read on board during plane flights.

Dr. Charles Daniels, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs spoke on the selection criteria for the voluntary faculty. A main comment heard was: “How does the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences find such great people to work for free?”. Working with the energetic students provides the catalyst for a continuous contribution which is

immensely rewarding. Making a difference in the development of one individual is enough to keep the volunteers working.



Assistant Dean for Experiential Education Dr. James Colbert illustrated the circumstances leading to the saying: " Never was so much owed by so many to so few. " Dr Colbert related the beginning of the School of Pharmacy in 2002 with 25 students, to the class of 60 now. A wide range of activities and interests denotes the background of the faculty members.

Lastly, Dr. Linda Dean, Student-recognized Volunteer Faculty Member of the Year, cited her life-long love of the school experience as one of the reasons leading her to volunteer in various teaching roles at SSPPS.



The reception provided an excellent occasion for networking, amid an enjoyable setting with fine music played by UCSD pianist Gail Gipson.

Among the numerous attendees were Dr. David Adler and Dr. Ashley Dalton, who recently came back from her trip on the Mercy Ship.

## Challenge or Opportunity? Think Positive

By Joseph D. Ma, Pharm.D.

As a relatively recent graduate, I can empathize with students regarding the day-to-day demands and stressors of pharmacy school. The stress of finding enough time to study, the stress of a work-life balance, the stress of external and internal pressure to succeed in school, and the stress related from poor sleep and eating habits. For most of you, this will be the most difficult time of your lives. At the moment of peak stress, one can feel overwhelmed and as if the weight of the world is being carried on their shoulders. At that moment of peak stress (and hopefully this is not a daily event), remember to breathe, step back, provide perspective, and examine the ‘big picture.’ The reality is that pharmacy school is nothing more than a small piece of your career and lifespan. What lies ahead after pharmacy school will be countless challenges and opportunities. Right now, while in school, is when you have a decision. The decision is how you approach challenging and/or potentially stressful situations.

There are endless quotes you can recall from famous people. Or in my case, overzealous high school coaches who repeat their quotes so many times that you are forced to remember the quote. As my coach would say ‘Think Positive.’ When I first heard this quote, I would become frustrated with the vagueness of it. I honestly can’t say that there was a singular event that changed me from a pessimist to a believer of this quote. I believe that my experiences from past employers and the demands of a junior faculty position have led me to believe in this quote so as to minimize stress and feel overwhelmed. Additionally, there will always be people (my coach called them ‘attitude killers’) who will view their lives and their work situations with a firm willingness to be stressed, overwhelmed, and to let you know it. This can indirectly affect you and your work; you can feel caught up in that world and thus feel that level of stress. But to me, I go back and think about this quote and I realize that life can always be so much worse. Unexpected challenges and stressors will occur, but I give kudos to those who see the potential stressors as challenges and opportunities to learn and adapt to the situation. It is very easy to be that ‘attitude killer’, but difficult to instead ‘think positive.’ Let us hope that for the betterment of your sake that you recall this quote and that you approach such situations with a perspective to ‘think positive.’

## UC San Diego to Lead Nationwide Program in Pharmacogenomics

By Debra Kain

The Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of California, San Diego, will collaborate with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), The American Pharmacists Association, and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists to promote *PharmGenEd*, in an educational campaign to more than 100,000 pharmacy practitioners and students across the country.

The “*Pharmacogenomics Education Program: Bridging the Gap between Science and Practice*” (*PharmGenEd*) is designed to educate pharmacists, students and other healthcare professionals in pharmacogenomics, the study of genome-wide analysis of the genetic determinant of drug efficacy and toxicity.

The project has been funded for just over \$1 million for three years by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.) The program team will work closely with the CDC to develop educational curriculum that focuses on basic pharmacogenomics concepts as well as their clinical applications, incorporating live and online methods including web-based virtual communities.

It is becoming increasingly clear that individuals respond differently to different medications, depending upon their genetic makeup, which impacts drug effectiveness and safety, as well as potential side effects. A key component of the program will “train the trainer” in methods to teach the next generation of pharmacists in this fast-moving field.

The field of genomics and its scientific discoveries are developing at a dazzling pace. Pharmacogenomics has a promising potential to increase the response rate of drug therapy and decrease the events of adverse drug reactions.

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It may help us focus on safe and effective drug management to provide personalized medicine by choosing the most appropriate therapy for a particular patient.

Currently, however, pharmacogenomics education materials are not readily available to healthcare professionals, and there appears to be a gap between healthcare providers' knowledge and the expectations of patients regarding pharmacogenomics testing.

"ACCP recognizes that evidence-based and practice-relevant teaching resources for genomics and related areas are essential to assure that today's students and tomorrow's pharmacy practitioners can manage this aspect of their patients' therapeutic plans," said Lucinda Maine, Ph.D., Executive Vice President and CEO of ACCP.

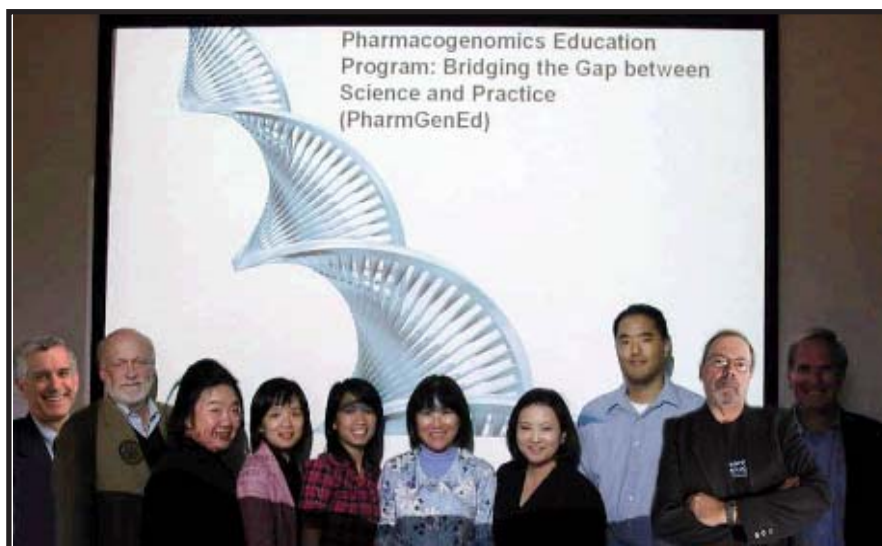
care," said Carol Abel, Director of Education for the American Pharmacists Association.

This project will also acquaint practitioners of pharmacy and medicine with sequence differences in the genome and how they may influence therapeutic outcomes.

"The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists is pleased to support this important educational initiative," said Henri R. Manasse, Jr., Ph.D., Sc.D., the organization's CEO and executive vice president.

"Pharmacists practicing in hospitals and health systems need to take a lead role in educating patients about what pharmacogenomics means for their individual therapy."

"Pharmacogenomics is all about tailoring drug therapy to genetic information," said Palmer Taylor, Ph.D., Dean of the Skaggs School and professor of pharmacology. "Recent research advances not only link genotypes to



From left to right: Theodore Ganiats, MD; Palmer Taylor, PhD; Lilian Wong, PharmD; WeiWei Qin, PhD Candidate; Trina Huynh; Grace M. Kuo, PharmD, MPH; Kelly C. Lee, PharmD, BCPP; Joseph D. Ma, PharmD; Philip E. Bourne, PhD; and James R. Halpert, PhD.

A major aim of the program is to increase awareness of the use of pharmacogenomic testing and its potential implications. Typing major genes affecting drug action has become cost effective and various genetic tests have been developed. We will explore how these testing tools can be used to improve pharmacotherapy and prevent adverse drug outcomes in real practice, based on scientific evidence.

"*PharmGenEd* can be a key to engaging pharmacists in understanding the appropriate use of genetic testing and the value that pharmacogenomics can have on patient

differences in drug metabolism and disposition in the body, but also to differences in responsiveness of the sites at which drugs act."

Additional program core members are UC San Diego Skaggs School faculty members Kelly C. Lee, Pharm.,D, Joseph D. Ma, Pharm.D, James R. Halpert, Ph.D, Philip E. Bourne, Ph.D, and Theodore Ganiats, M.D., of the School of Medicine. Consultants include Karen S. Hudmon, Dr.PH., MS, R.Ph.,Purdue University, and Magnus Ingelman-Sundberg, Ph.D., Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

## Highlights from the Fall 2008 Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Forum

By Jan Hirsch, RPh, Ph.D.

The fifth Applied Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Forum was held October 6<sup>th</sup> at the University of California San Diego Faculty Club. The event was hosted by the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and supported by grants from Allergan and Biogen Idec.

The topic for the Forum was “*Real World Data for Decision Making: Moving Beyond Clinical Trials*”.

Our first speaker, **Andreas Pleil, PhD** from Pfizer Global Pharmaceuticals served on the International Society of Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) Task Force on Real World Data. His remarks focused on reviewing and providing insight into the Task Force deliberations and findings regarding the role for real world data vs. clinical trial data for pharmaceutical decision making. Two speakers followed with examples of using real world data, instead of clinical trial data, within their own organizations; **Jeff White, Pharm.D., M.S.** from WellPoint NextRx and **Mark Bounthavong, Pharm.D.** from the VA San Diego Healthcare System shared data and their thoughts with Forum participants.

Forum participants included representatives from managed care, government, pharmaceutical and biotech companies, medical centers and academia. Each was invited because of mutual interest in expanding the practical application of pharmacoeconomic and outcomes research to enhance decision-making.



Speaker slides are posted at <http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/AppliedPEForumFA08.shtml>

Prior to the meeting, participants were asked to respond to two questions related to their preference for types of evidence [Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) vs. Real World Data] and data sources. When considering decisions among pharmaceuticals, Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) or Meta Analyses of RCTs were the most frequently chosen preferred evidence types as opposed to more real world types of evidence (e.g. observations studies). For formulary decisions most respondents indicated their preferred data source would be “large simple trials”.



### Current Steering Committee Members:

Charles Daniels, RPh, Ph.D  
UCSD Healthcare Department of Pharmacy

Ted Ganiats, M.D.  
UCSD School of Medicine

Mirta Millares, Pharm.D., FCSHP, FASHP  
Kaiser Permanente

Robert Schoenhaus, Pharm.D.  
Sharp Healthcare

Darlene Fujimoto, Pharm.D.  
Biogen Idec

Jan Hirsch, RPh, Ph.D.  
UCSD, Skaggs School of Pharmacy

Anthony P. Morreale, Pharm.D., MBA, BCPS  
VA San Diego Healthcare System

## Thank You SSPPS Volunteers For All You Do

**This is a current list of active volunteers with voluntary or non-salaried appointments with the Skaggs School of Pharmacy**

Julie Abraham	James Copeland	John Gama	Sarah Lorentz	Robert Pachorek	Mark Smith
Sheila Alignay-Rivera	Merissa Corey	Muoi Gi	Grant Lum	Craig Park	Sally Smith
Michael Amantea	Ashley Dalton	Richard Gordon	Phong Ly	Helen Park	Kimberly Standley
Philip Anderson	Minh Dang	Robert Graul	Farah Madhat	Pratima Patel	Craig Steinberg
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Kevin Box	Rene Endow-Eyer	Joe Kern	Providence Morris	Kenneth Schell	Tanya Tran
Theodore Briski	Williams Ettouati	Ashkan Khabazian	Jennifer Namba	Robert Schoenhaus	Meghana Trivedi
Frank Cantrell	Marian Eusebio	Jason Kim	Edna Ng-Chen	Kerry Schwarz	Ed Tsu
Edmund Capparelli	Michael Falcon	Michael Kruse	Ken Nguyen	Stephen Segal	Gloria Tsu
Christina Chan	Ashley Feist	Jonathan Lacro	Ty Nguyen	Victoria Serrano	Michael Vancheri
Timothy Chen	Jessica Fiedelak	Nancy Lam	Khanh Nguyen	Nilofar Shah	Danny Vu
James Chow	Ron Floyd	Jason Lam	Thi Nguyen	Todd Shinohara	Sherry Watanabe
Michele Chow	Emerald Foster	James Lane	Annette Nguyen	Harminder Sikand	Scott Weber
Michael Cipriano	Anthony Fox	Thuan Le	Thanh Nguyen	Raffi Simonian	Christopher Woo
Therese Clark	Beverley Freedman	Tung Le	Stacey Nguyen	Armen Simonian	Sheryl Wu
Brad Colwell	Darlene Fujimoto	Susan Leckband	Edward Norton	Julie Sklenicka	Larry Zelman
Thomas Cookson	Wendy Fung	Jeremy Lee	Maricela Ochoa	Jilian Skog	

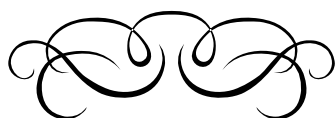
**Glycemic Control Grant**

Jennifer Namba Pharm D, Kelli Stadalman Pharm.D., Kevin Box Pharm.D., and School of Medicine Faculty Gregory Maynard M.D. are recipients of an ASHP Foundation Hospital Pharmacist Hospitalist Collaborations grant. The grant supports a prospective study investigating the impact of a “best practice” transition protocol on glycemic control, hypoglycemia, and process measures at UCSD Medical Center. The protocol will be implemented by a multidisciplinary team with adult intensive care patients on an insulin infusion for greater than 24 hours. Patients will be enrolled in the study over the course of 3 months.

**Dr. Pieter Dorrestein Receives Two New Grants**



Dr. Pieter Dorrestein received an R01 grant from NIH on which he is the lead PI. The grant is on De novo sequencing of complex peptides. The second is from the V-foundation and it is on “therapeutics from the ocean”.



**Founding Faculty Receive Promotions**



**Candis Morello**



**Renu Singh**

Candis Morello, Pharm.D., CDE, FCSHP, has been promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy. Renu Singh, Pharm.D. has been promoted to Associate Clinical Professor at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS). Both Drs. Morello and Singh were founding clinical faculty at SSPPS and are the first full-time faculty to be promoted at the school.



**2008 ASHP Best Practices Award In Health-System Pharmacy Winners**

**Implementing a Comprehensive Emergency Department Pharmacist Program;** Victoria E. Aldridge, Pharm.D., Helen Park, Pharm.D., Anthony Morreale, Pharm.D., M.B.A., BCPS; and Mark Bounthavong, Pharm.D.; VA San Diego Healthcare System, San Diego, California

## A Second Tzu-Chi Outreach in Tecate, Mexico

By Binh Tran, Pharm.D.

The Tzu-Chi outreach to Mexico on September 28, 2008 was another great experience for the large number of members and volunteers coming from as far as San Dimas, California, headquarters of the Foundation. The group was joined by the San Diego contingent, and drove to Tecate across the border to the Villa de Las Palmas School. This site was chosen due to its great need for healthcare services for residents in one of the poorest areas in the country. Last year's trip occurred on October 21, 2007, when we witnessed the start of the firestorm that ravaged many areas in San Diego.

This year, the two-hour long drive was smooth. At destination, the workstations were already assigned with room numbers at the door. The physicians, mostly internal medicine specialists, occupied several classrooms. In the pharmacy, we unpacked the boxes of medications, trying to find the generic names under the Mexican brand names. Dentists and dental students were in the adjoining rooms, providing tooth examinations and extractions in the dental van. This time, there was a large group of local workers in most disciplines, and all services between stations were facilitated by numerous messengers and translators. Nurses and acupuncturists worked in other rooms. Patients were waiting at the other end of the school, before being admitted to the examination area.

The results at the outreach are as follows, communicated by Margaret Yeh from TzuChi San Diego.

- Number of volunteers: 57
- Professional workers: 132
- Time of service: 5 hours
- Number of patients: 200
- Number of patient encounters: 400

The outreach was beneficial in many aspects. Coming to Mexico for the first time were Tuan Mai and Jennifer Lai, UCSD 4th year medical and pharmacy school students respectively. In addition to realizing the healthcare needs of the poor population in the area, with instances of severe diabetes problems, a valuable experience was gained in the setting-up of free health services, complete with individual chart recording. To optimize outcomes, Dr. Eugene Taw, Director, plans to follow-up the patients at the regular Tzuchi free clinics in the US if they can come in between the outreaches in Mexico.



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