The 7th White Coat Ceremony at SSPPS  
By Binh Tran, PharmD

The White Coat Ceremony at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) on September 25th held special meaning as the University of California - San Diego celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year.

SSPPS faculty, alumni, student pharmacists, the incoming class of 2014, their families and their friends listened to Dean Palmer Taylor’s welcoming address in the spacious Health Sciences auditorium modeled with panels made of eucalyptus wood. Dr Rita Shane, Director of Pharmacy Services at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Assistant Dean of Clinical Pharmacy at the UCSF School of Pharmacy delivered an energizing speech on *The Power of Differentiation: Will you be a Brand or Generic?* Attributes mentioned were competency, responsibility and accountability, intellectual curiosity, being able to seize opportunities, and establishing credibility.

Dr. Anthony Manoguerra, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, reported that the class of 2014’s grade point average of 3.71 broke the record set by the previous class which averaged 3.70. The White Coat hooding by Dean Taylor was a moving ceremony with Justine Abella being last due to a recent foot injury. The class recited the Pharmacist’s Oath, which brought back memories of our own experiences.

The Student Welcome by second-year student, Ammar Zanial, was heartfelt and reminiscent of his comments during pharmacy conference class. Little did I know at the time that the student pharmacist who volunteered at many outreaches in the community and helped backstage during Cultural Fusion Night was the President of his class.

In closing, Dean Taylor commented on the ingenuity of the class when he observed them tacitly move their seats in order to step closer to the stage. They will surely pass the National Board exam with flying colors four years from now and bring the practice of pharmacy to ever heightened levels.

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UCSD Team Excels in ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge
By Sarah McBane, PharmD, CDE, BCPS and Kelly Lee, PharmD, BCPP

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) hosted the first Clinical Pharmacy Challenge for student members this year at the Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas. The Clinical Pharmacy Challenge consists of three rounds. The first round—Trivia/Lightning—requires the participants to answer 15 questions as quickly as possible. The second round involves evaluation of a complex clinical case. The third round is based on the popular game show “Jeopardy” with 15 questions of varying difficulty in five different categories.

The Clinical Pharmacy Challenge is a team-based competition with each school’s team having three members and three alternates. The team representing University of California, San Diego (UCSD) consisted of Angel Lam (team leader), Shaddy Javadinejad, Tim Bassell, Cathy Chang (alternate), and Robin Kinnear (alternate). Ninety-four teams competed in the initial online competition. Forty-eight teams were selected based on their scores to compete in the second online round two days later. Only four semi-finalists were invited to compete at the annual meeting. This year, the four semi-finalists were UCSD, Nova-Southeastern University (Puerto Rico campus), Purdue University, and University of Minnesota.

Our UCSD team made it to the final round for a very close competition with University of Minnesota. We are very proud of our team as runners-up for the initial ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge. They were awarded a team plaque, (which will be displayed in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Building at UCSD), and each team member received $250. The winning team received a trophy for display at their school, a plaque for each team member, and an award of $500 per team member.

Congratulations to Angel, Shaddy and Tim for a terrific performance!! If you are interested in competing next year or want more information about ACCP, please contact Dr. Sarah McBane or Dr. Kelly Lee.

Congratulations!
By Kelly Lee, PharmD

We are thrilled to announce that our student team composed of 4th year students, Angel Lam (Team Leader), Tim Bassell and Shaddy Javadinejad, competed in the Finals of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Clinical Skills Challenge at the Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, October 16-17th, 2010.

Among 94 schools that competed in the competition in the virtual rounds, they competed head-to-head against Nova Southeastern-Puerto Rico campus on Saturday during the semi-final rounds. In the end, they defeated their opponent and qualified for the Final Round to compete against University of Minnesota.

It was a close race but ultimately University of Minnesota won the final competition. Regardless, our students clearly demonstrated their knowledge and speed in front of a packed crowd and they took home the 2nd place prize.

Please help us congratulate these students for their excellent clinical skills and professionalism during the competition! It was a true demonstration of the remarkable training and educational program here at SSPPS.
Philip E. Bourne, a computational biologist and professor with the University of California, San Diego, is this year’s recipient of Microsoft’s Jim Gray eScience Award for his contributions to data-intensive computing.

Bourne is a professor with the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UC San Diego, as well as a distinguished scientist with the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) and an academic participant in the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2), both part of UC San Diego. Bourne received the award at Microsoft’s eScience Workshop held in Berkeley, California, this week.

Bourne is also co-founder of SciVee, the Web 2.0 resource dedicated to the dissemination of scientific research and science-specific research networking. Launched in late 2007 as a collaboration between the National Science Foundation and SDSC, SciVee has been used by hundreds of thousands of students and professional scientists as a means of learning and sharing research through online science videos that supplement peer-reviewed journal articles, stimulate discussion, and promote collaboration.

“Phil’s contributions to open access in bioinformatics and computational biology are legion, and are exactly the sort of groundbreaking accomplishments in data-intensive science that we celebrate with the Jim Gray Award,” said Tony Hey, corporate vice president of the External Research Division of Microsoft Research, in a corporate blog this week following the announcement. “In particular, Phil’s role as the founding editor-in-chief of the open-access journal *PLoS Computational Biology* has significantly advanced open access in mathematical and computational biology.”

The Jim Gray eScience award was established in 2008 as a tribute to Jim Gray, a Technical Fellow for Microsoft Research who disappeared at sea in 2007. Gray was intrigued by the explosive growth of data in modern science, and viewed the accumulation, organization, and utilization of this data deluge as the next step in the evolution of scientific exploration. He was dedicated to the idea that data-intensive computing would help solve some of society’s greatest challenges.

“Jim defined data-intensive computing as a *Fourth Paradigm* in the evolution of scientific thinking. I am honored and humbled that our small efforts have been recognized in this way,” said Bourne

Bourne is also the Associate Director of the RCSB Protein Data Bank (PDB), the single worldwide, open-access repository for three-dimensional structures of large molecules and nucleic acids. The PDB has more than 170,000 unique users per month, with more than 68,000 molecule structures archived to date. The RCSB PDB is jointly managed by Rutgers University, under director Helen M. Berman, and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UC San Diego, with SDSC serving as the primary web and FTP site for users.

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Bourne’s research focus is on relevant biological and educational outcomes derived from computational science and scholarly communication, employing algorithms, text mining, machine learning, meta-languages, biological databases, and visualization to advance discovery in drug effects, evolution, cell signaling, apoptosis, and systems biology.

Bourne received his doctorate in 1980 from the Flinders University, South Australia. His other recent awards include 2009 Benjamin Franklin Award in recognition of his efforts as a leading advocate for the free and open dissemination of science and scientific data, the Flinders University Convocation Medal for Outstanding Achievement (2004), and the Sun Microsystems Convergence Award (2002).

About SDSC
As an Organized Research Unit of UC San Diego, SDSC is a national leader in creating and providing cyberinfrastructure for data-intensive research, and is celebrating its 25th anniversary this fall as one of the National Science Foundation’s first supercomputer centers. Cyberinfrastructure refers to an accessible and integrated network of computer-based resources and expertise, focused on accelerating scientific inquiry and discovery. SDSC is a founding member of TeraGrid, the nation’s largest open-access scientific discovery infrastructure.

Fall Community Health Fair
By Binh Tran, PharmD

The semi-annual Asian Pacific Health Foundation Fall Community Health Fair organized on October 17, 2010 at the Vietnamese Federation of San Diego drew a record number of 220 attendees.

This was only possible because of the outstanding collaboration of:

- The UCSD student pharmacists who performed an array of screenings for hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, heartburn assessment and immunization guidelines.
- The medical students who screened for glaucoma under the supervision of Dr. Michelson and other specialists in the UCSD School of Medicine Student Sight Savers Program.
- The SDSU volunteers recruited by Nhat and Anh Pham.
- The Asian Pacific Health Foundation long-time staff.
- All the Volunteers in the community.

The Vietnamese Federation expressed interest in participating in the free health services provided at
Student Pharmacist at UC San Diego wins Statewide Award for Leadership

San Diego, CA, October 14, 2010 – A UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) student has been named the recipient of a 2010 Student Leadership Award by the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP).

Yolanda Dickey is a fourth year student pharmacist at SSPPS. Dickey was elected CSHP – UCSD Chapter President, served on the Student Section Executive Committee, was a co-chair of the Poison Prevention Judging Committee, and was the UCSD Culture Fusion Co-Coordinator, a fundraiser with proceeds funding various outreaches in San Diego. Dickey has devoted the last three years of her professional education to leading student pharmacists in innovative community outreach projects including poison education in elementary schools, asthma awareness, and fundraising projects for the Free Medical clinics. “Her enthusiasm, ethics, communication skills and strong leadership skills will make her a leader in our profession long after she has graduated,” said Candis Morello, Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at SSPPS and the student chapter’s faculty student liaison.

Dickey continues to participate in the student chapter, as well as the local regional chapter, the San Diego Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Dickey currently works at a CVS Pharmacy in San Diego.

The Student Leadership Award was presented at CSHP’s annual meeting, Seminar, held October 21-24th in San Francisco, California. One student from each California School of Pharmacy who has contributed to CSHP and the pharmacy profession was recognized.
The seventh Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Forum was held September 27th at the University of California San Diego, Price Center. The event was hosted by the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and supported by a grant from Partnership for Health Analytic Research.

The topic for the Forum was “Pharmacoeconomics and Pricing: Now and After Health Care reform”.

Speakers:

**Pricing Basics and What to Expect from Health Care Reform**

Jack M. Mycka  
Global President & CEO  
Medical Marketing Economics LLC

What could this mean? Perspectives of two key stakeholder groups.

**Issues for Medical Centers**

*John H. Grubbs, MS, MBA, RPh*  
Director of Pharmacy  
UC Davis Medical Center

**Issues for Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs)**

Bill Barre  
VP, Business Development  
Rich Lieblich  
VP, Industry Relations  
MedImpact Healthcare Systems

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Panel Member Q&A Session

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John H. Grubbs, Director of Pharmacy  
UC Davis Medical Center

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A summary of the Forum Highlights and speaker slides are posted at http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/research.shtml.

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. Represented companies included:

- Aetna
- Aequitas
- Allergan
- Amgen
- Amylin
- Astra Zeneca
- Bristol Meyers Squibb
- E.B.D. Group
- Health Economic Associates
- Kaiser Permanente
- MedImpact Healthcare Systems
- Medi-Cal Dept Healthcare Services
- Miller Pharma Consulting
- Milliman
- Novartis
- Ortho-McNeil Janssen
- Pfizer
- Partnership for Health Analytic Research
- Prescription Solutions
- PRO –Spectus
- ReimbursementIQ
- Sharp Healthcare
- Sharp Rees-Stealy
- Touro University
- UC Davis Medical Center
- UCSD Medical Center
- UCSD School of Medicine
- UCSD SSPPS
- USC School of Pharmacy
- UCSF School of Pharmacy
- VA – San Diego
- Veritas
- Western University Health Sciences

Many thanks to our sponsor: Partnership for Health Analytic Research, LLC

Outreach with the Tai-Chi Practice Group
By Binh Tran, PharmD

Saturday, September 25th marked a second outreach event between the Asian Pacific Health Foundation and the Tai Chi Practice group at the Linda Vista Recreation Center in San Diego. Thanks to the coordination of Mrs. Hien Ngo the first outreach in October of 2008 occurred in a series of three events that extended to the City Heights and Mira Mesa Recreation Centers.

The program began with a briefing of the Asian Pacific Health Foundation’s activities which brings programs of raising awareness and dissemination of information for prominent health conditions to the Asian communities in San Diego. Unfortunately, Dr. Hiep Nguyen, Internal Medicine specialist, who was scheduled to speak on Skin Cancer: How to prevent it, was unable to make it, so I presented for her. The topic was helpful since one needs to protect the skin from the sun’s harmful rays at all ages and under various conditions. Questions on how often to apply sunscreen are commonly asked. One patient asked about an intermittent mass on the back and was referred to Dr. Hiep for more followup.

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The second topic was on *Immunizations*, presented interactively by Lyn Nguyen and Tino Tran, 2nd year student pharmacists at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UCSD. The flu season is approaching, so information on the flu vaccine is important to know, as is the case with the Hepatitis B and other disease immunizations. As the school celebrated the White Coat Ceremony the evening before, four first-year students, Nicholas Vu, Nikki Pham, Jennifer Cao and Chausa Nguyen, participated at the outreach, earning Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) credit for their attendance, per Dr. James Colbert, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education.

Tina Nguyen, 3rd year student, joined the group at SSPPS, making a strong representation of the School of Pharmacy in community outreach. One attendee inquired about availability of medical students for potential outreach in Alabama. This reinforces the need for existing and more extensive collaborative work between the pharmacy and medical students at UCSD.

Nhan Pham, a recent UCSD graduate, is considering entering medical school. For the moment, he volunteers at the APHF, providing great help with the audio-visual equipment for this event.

About 15 adult students of the Tai Chi class were present at the outreach, joined by parents of the badminton class next door. Lunch of vegetarian fare was provided to all.

**SSPPS Volunteers: Our Unsung Heroes**

By James Colbert, PharmD, Assistant Dean, Experiential Education

The great political activist and civil rights leader, Mohandas Gandhi once said: “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” This is clearly a charge that our SSPPS volunteers have taken to heart, for they are an important reason why our school has become so successful in such a short period of time. Our volunteers are an integral component in every aspect of our educational program. They volunteer as lecturers and course coordinators on campus, participate as preceptors in Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE), work with our students on research projects, work with our students in the Student-Run UCSD Free Clinics, serve as advisors to a number of student organizations, participate as members of advisory boards, collaborate with our faculty on important projects, and serve as role models for our students involved in Community Outreach events. These are just a few of the many ways in which our volunteers enrich our program here at SSPPS. They are dedicated, inspiring, and selfless. The success of SSPPS is a reflection of their great talent, skills, and commitment. We owe them a great debt of gratitude, and offer them our sincerest thanks!

- Julie Abraham
- Victoria Adams
- Leonna Aldrich
- Sheila Alignay-Rivera
- Rachael Allwine
- Michael Amantea
- Philip Anderson
- Anisa Arjmand
- Doris Auth
- Nahed Bahlawan
- Brandon Bailey
- Craig Ballard
- Nyra Balquiedra
- David Bartlett
- Jennigrace Bautista
- Amy Benner
- Shanna Block
- Joel Boerth
- Daniel Boggie
- Daniel Boggie
- Shiva Bojak
- Mark Boumthavong
- Catherine Bousman
- Kevin Box
- Theodore Briski
- Sherry Brown
- Maggie Brownell
- Quynhloan Bui
- Frank Cantrell
- Linda Cao
- Edmund Capparelli
- Christina Chambers
- Betty Chan
- Elena Chan
- Timothy Chen
- Helen Chen
- Joann Cheung

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