White Coat Ceremony, Class of 2015
By Binh Tran, Pharm.D.

The White Coat Ceremony for the class of 2015 took place at the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Auditorium on September 23, 2011 in the presence of a packed audience.

This is Dr. Candis Morello’s first year serving as Associate Dean for Student Affairs, replacing Associate Dean Anthony Manoguerra who retiring last year.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs David Adler welcomed the audience, and introduced the keynote speaker: pharmacist – lawyer John D. Jones, Senior Vice President, Professional Practice and Pharmacy Policy at Prescription Solutions, a United Health Group Company, who spoke on “Your New White Coat: A Key to Professional Opportunity”.

John D. Jones obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy from Idaho State University and a J.D degree from the University of San Francisco with an emphasis on medical and business law. For the last 14 years, John has served as the Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs for Prescription Solutions in Irvine, California. Pharmacy offers many areas in which to learn and train, as evidenced by the nearly ten student pharmacists from Year one who participated in the Health Fair organized by the Asian Pacific Health Foundation at the Vietnamese Federation of San Diego on October 2, 2011, wearing their white coats at their first outreach event.
Dr. Candis Morello presented the students, quite a task since a wide diversity was represented among the 60 class members. There were also a larger number of male students this year. Each member of the P1 class was hooded by Dean Adler, assisted by Kim Ciero, Director of Admissions/Student Affairs. All recited the Oath of a Pharmacist. Michelle Lew, a member of the Class of 2014, delivered an excellent speech addressed to the new Class of 2015. In closing, Dr Adler invited all to join for refreshments on the patio.
Immunization Administration Course – A Collaborative Success!
By Natalie Elder, Operation Immunization Chair, P-2

On September 30th, the entering class of pharmacy and medical students, as well as licensed pharmacists, completed the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences immunization course with vaccine administration techniques. The immunization course was chaired by Dr. Sarah Lorentz and Dr. Victoria Adams. The lecturers included faculty-Dr. Sarah McBane, Dr. Nathan Painter, volunteer pharmacists from the community, and faculty physicians from UCSD School of Medicine. The course culminated with a written exam and practice of immunization techniques presented by second year pharmacy student Natalie Elder. The students were divided into 15 groups, each having a student pharmacist and either a faculty member or volunteer pharmacist as the preceptor. Dr. Sarah McBane commented, “As a trainer, I found it extremely helpful to have second and third year pharmacy students there. I overheard lots of great advice being given to the first year student pharmacists.” Dr. Eduardo Fricovsky echoed Dr. McBane’s comments and added, “The immunization course provides students with a fundamental skill set they will use throughout their careers. It was a pleasure seeing the faculty, volunteers, and upperclassmen assist the incoming class with their technique.” The P1’s are looking forward to using their new vaccination skills in upcoming Walgreens and Free Clinic immunization clinics.

2011 CAPSLEAD Team Presents their Research to the California Pharmacy Council
By Natalie Elder, P-2 and Kellie Kocher, P-2

On September 14th, the 2011 UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences CAPSLEAD (California Pharmacy Student Leadership program) team presented their research regarding pharmacy manpower in California to a distinguished group of leaders in pharmacy called the California Pharmacy Council. This group formally represents California’s pharmacy-related academic, advocacy, regulatory, and professional organizations and includes deans from the California pharmacy schools, leaders from the California Pharmacists Association (CPhA) and the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP), representatives from the California Board of Pharmacy, and manpower researchers. The CAPSLEAD team is comprised of current second year student pharmacists Natalie Elder, Greg Estep, Rebecca Kandilian, Kellie Kocher, Michelle Lew, and Tiep Ly. The team was assembled in January and attended a leadership retreat in February along with the CAPSLEAD advisors Dr. James Colbert and Dr. Sarah McBane and student pharmacists from the other seven California schools of pharmacy. Since then, the team has been actively working on their project entitled ‘California Pharmacy Manpower: The Potential Impact of New Pharmacy Schools and Emerging Technologies.’ The team began collecting data through electronic surveys in May and followed up with a round of telephone surveys in July. Results were compiled and analyzed in August and September and then presented at the recent California Pharmacy Council meeting in San Diego. A poster on the CAPSLEAD project will be presented at CSHP Seminar and CPhA Outlook; in addition, the group is currently working to publish their findings.

Figure 1: The CAPSLEAD Team presenting at the California Pharmacy Council. Top row from left to right: Dr. Adler, Dr. Taylor, Greg Estep, Natalie Elder, Dr. Colbert. Bottom row from left to right: Michelle Lew, Kellie Kocher, Kathy Le, Tiep Ly, Rebecca Kandillian. Not pictured: Dr. McBane
On Saturday October 29th, over 50 pharmacists and student pharmacists gathered for the 2nd Annual SSPPS Pharmacy Legislative Day. The theme, “Meeting the Need: The Pharmacist’s Role in Healthcare’s New Paradigm,” provided an opportunity for pharmacy professionals to learn about advocacy in the context of the changes occurring in the national healthcare system.

The event opened with master of ceremonies Natalie Elder (P2) and Dean Palmer Taylor welcoming everybody to the Skaggs campus. Next, Dr. Steven Gray described the importance of state legislation in defining the scope of pharmacy practice. Aaron Byzak, the advocate for UC San Diego Health Sciences, explained that advocating means to teach others about what pharmacists do now and what they want to do in the future. He warned attendees that when it comes to health-related legislation, pharmacists were “either at the table or on the menu.” He also reminded attendees about the importance of smiling, hand-written thank you cards, and preparing thoroughly for meetings with elected officials (“research, research, research”). After the intermission, David Ha (P4) recalled how he became interested in advocacy and discussed the importance of student-pharmacists in advocating for the profession. The morning culminated with Dr. Edwin Webb describing his vision for the future of pharmacy as part of a multidisciplinary health team, and the work that he and others are doing in Washington DC to make that vision a reality.

Pharmacy Legislative Day was sponsored by APhA, CSHP, ASCP, Kappa Psi, AS, SDCPhA, and SDSHP; underscoring the importance of advocacy in all specialties of pharmacy practice. The planning committee would like to thank all of the attendees and hopes you will get involved with future advocacy efforts.

Picture Caption: Pharmacy Legislative Day planning committee (left to right): Sam Mendoza (P3), Rebecca Kandillian (P2), Kathy Le (P2), Thien Vu (P3), Ohannes Kandillian (P4), Natalie Elder (P2), Sophie Bordsom (P3), Andrea Bechtold (P2), David Ha (P4), Michelle Lew (P2), Lily Wong (P3). Not pictured: Joanna Cole (P4), Kellie Kocher (P2), Sarah McBane (faculty advisor).
The UDW Homecare Providers Union Health Fair on Sunday August 20, 2011 at the Salvation Army Joan Kroc Center was a big event for the East San Diego community. Held along with the San Diego County Membership Meeting, the event showcased the activities of nearly 50 healthcare organizations and institutions in San Diego. This was the first time the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences students, in conjunction with the Asian Pacific Health Foundation (APHF), participated in this event.

Early in the day, Jeff Yin, Andrea Chan and APhA-SC team members were at the site, preparing the area for the outdoor health services. Unlike previous times, we had to provide tables, chairs and tents at this event. For future events, the Government and Community Affairs Department at UCSD is purchasing those items, to be available to us if needed.

Two tents were used by the pharmacy students who performed the diabetes and hypertension screenings, and heartburn assessments. To spread out the activities of the APHF, the survey on Barriers to Hepatitis B screening was conducted at a separate booth. Sandy Chong and Duc Nguyen helped the attendees to fill out the forms, with the input of Drs. Hiep Nguyen and Robert Gish when necessary. Jonathan Hu who will work on the Hepatitis C project, was getting familiar with the administration of the Barriers survey on Hepatitis B and C.

Congress Woman Susan Davis, Assembly Member Marty Block – district 78 and Council Member Marti Emerald – district 7 visited the booths after the opening ceremony. Laura Reyes, President of the UDW invited all organization representatives to come to the stage and greet the audience.

Among groups having ties with the Asian Pacific Health Foundation and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy were: Hep-B Free San Diego, Operation Samahan, Catholic Charities with the San Diego Smoke free program, American Lung Association, Community Health Group, Kaiser Permanente, UC San Diego Health System, and others. Zumba attracted the fair attendees to the stage where they executed the lively dance steps.

We thank Edith Adams, coordinator of the event, for inviting us to participate at the Health Fair.
Among all of the activities and opportunities that UCSD SSPPS Associated Students (AS) coordinates, there is a strong emphasis on networking and teaming up to move the profession of pharmacy forward. I’m happy to announce exciting updates on the first AS Networking events of the school year!

On October 12th, 2011, UCSD SSPPS AS, Dr. Jayson Napolitano of UCSD Hospice, and Dr. Ken Schell of Rady Children’s Hospital teamed up to sponsor the 6th Annual Intern Hours Open Forum moderated by Dr. Ken Schell. Over one hundred students attended the hour-long discussion on the interpretation of state intern-hour laws. The group discussed allowing student-pharmacists to gain intern hours outside of licensed pharmacies to recognize student experiences in direct patient care and non-traditional roles of pharmacists to count toward requirements for licensure. Examples discussed include work at free clinics, ambulatory care clinics, patient-care projects, and industry activities that relate to the practice of pharmacy.

These ideas were not just discussed, but also reflected in a resolution written by Sophie Bordson and APhA Policy Committee and brought forward at the October 28th-30th APhA-ASP Midyear Region 8 Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada by UCSD SSPPS delegates: Jennifer Pham, and Christina Yang and representatives: Karen Hoang, Gloria Kim, Kellie Kocher, and Wei Tai. Upon receiving majority support, the resolution passed and will now go on to the Resolutions Committee at the January business meeting.

This year, the UCSD SSPPS AS Mentorship program has grown to 143 participants. This program matches a pharmacist to one or two students based on interest based on area of practice. The mentors are of the highest caliber and have pledged to meet at least once and respond to emails promptly. AS and UCSD SSPPS students would like to sincerely thank the 69 mentors—all pharmacists from throughout San Diego County and beyond for volunteering their time to teach eager students and be even more involved with the local pharmacy community.

The structure is meant to be loosely framed so that a mentoring relationship can blossom naturally. Each relationship will be dictated by the team of mentor and mentee and how each party feels a mentorship should be. This is an opportunity for students to gain more insight into the pharmacy profession through the eyes of experienced pharmacists and to forge early connections in the field for when students move beyond graduation.

The lively discussion and passing of the resolution on intern hours and the high participation in the mentorship program are characteristics of the unique UCSD SSPPS culture—rallying the pharmacy community to team up to continue to move each other and the pharmacy profession forward.
ACCP Elects 2011 Fellows

Thirty ACCP members have been elected Fellows of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and were recognized during a special ceremony on October 16 at the College’s 2011 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Recognition as a Fellow is awarded to ACCP members who have demonstrated a sustained level of excellence in clinical pharmacy practice and/or research. Fellows can be recognized by the initials “FCCP” as part of their title.

The 2011 ACCP Fellows are:

- **Amie Brooks**, Pharm.D.; St Charles, MO
- **Elizabeth Chester**, Pharm.D., MPH; Aurora, CO
- **Sheryl Chow**, Pharm.D.; Playa Vista, CA
- **Catherine Crill**, Pharm.D.; Memphis, TN
- **Shannon Finks**, Pharm.D.; Memphis, TN
- **Jeremy Flynn**, Pharm.D.; Lexington, KY
- **Reginald Frye**, Pharm.D., Ph.D.; Gainesville, FL
- **Steven Gabardi**, Pharm.D.; Wilmington, MA
- **Michael Gonyeau**, Pharm.D.; Boston, MA
- **B. Joseph Guglielmo**, Pharm.D.; San Francisco, CA
- **Collin Hovinga**, Pharm.D., M.S.; Austin, TX
- **Joanna Hudson**, Pharm.D.; Memphis, TN
- **Brian Irons**, Pharm.D.; Lubbock, TX
- **June F. Johnson**, Pharm.D.; Des Moines, IA
- **Donna Kraus**, Pharm.D.; Chicago, IL
- **Grace Kuo**, Pharm.D., MPH; La Jolla, CA
- **Jennifer Le**, Pharm.D.; La Jolla, CA
- **Craig Lee**, Pharm.D., Ph.D.; Chapel Hill, NC
- **Kelly Lee**, Pharm.D.; La Jolla, CA
- **Mark Malesker**, Pharm.D.; Omaha, NE
- **Lisa McDevitt-Potter**, Pharm.D.; Quincy, MA
- **Ian McNicholl**, Pharm.D.; San Francisco, CA
- **Thomas Nolin**, Pharm.D., Ph.D.; Pittsburgh, PA
- **Kari Olson**, Pharm.D.; Aurora, CO
- **Brian Overholser**, Pharm.D.; Indianapolis, IN
- **Kerry Pickworth**, Pharm.D.; Columbus, OH
- **Christin Rogers**, Pharm.D.; Boston, MA
- **Leigh Ann Ross**, Pharm.D.; Jackson, MS
- **Amy Seybert**, Pharm.D., M.S.; Pittsburgh, PA
- **Rebecca Sleeper**, Pharm.D.; Lubbock, TX

After nomination by their colleagues, Fellow candidates undergo a comprehensive and rigorous evaluation by the Credentials: Fellowship Committee of their practice and research accomplishments. Among the criteria evaluated by the committee are examples of patient care service or educational programs developed by the nominee; certifications or other credentials earned; drug therapy management responsibilities; educational presentations; consultancies; service to publications; original research presentations, projects, funding, and publications; and other professional activities and awards. Individuals nominated as Fellows also must have made a substantial contribution to ACCP through activities such as giving presentations at College-sponsored meetings; providing service as an abstract, curriculum vitae, ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge, Research Institute, or Pharmacotherapy reviewer; contributing to College publications or being an item writer for the ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge; serving as a committee member; or earning tenure as a Practice and Research Network, chapter, or other elected ACCP officer.

Alumni Update

**Robert Mancini** graduate of the 2008 class, was named ISHP (Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists) Pharmacist of the year. He will also be receiving an Innovator Award from ACCC (Association of Community Cancer Centers) for the Oral Chemotherapy Program where he works at the Mountain States Tumor Institute in Boise, ID.
APPE Rotation Fair
By Shelly Fromholtz

The Office of Experiential Education hosted its annual APPE Rotation Fair on Tuesday, October 11th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Over 60 preceptors from 28 teaching sites around the county and beyond attended to discuss APPE rotations with SSPPS’s Class of 2013.

For their fourth year, the P3s will enroll in seven 6-week APPE rotations – two Acute Care, two Ambulatory Care, and three electives. The students were eager to talk with the preceptors to help them get a better idea of what to expect at each site and with each rotation; they will use this information when selecting their rotation preferences later in the year.

Sites participating in the event were Amylin, CVS Caremark Pharmacy, Fallbrook Hospital, Health Net Pharmaceutical Services, Indian Health Services, the Institute for Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice, Kaiser Permanente, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Naval Medical Center San Diego, North County Health Services, Prescription Solutions, Rady Childrens Hospital San Diego, Ralphs Pharmacy, Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, Scripps Mercy San Diego, Sharp HealthCare, Target Pharmacy, Tri City Medical Center, UC Veterinary Medical Center, UCSD Ambulatory Care, UCSD Family Medicine, UCSD Medical Center Hillcrest, UCSD Moores Cancer Center, UCSD PHIS, UCSD Sulpizio CV Center, UCSD Thornton Hospital, VA Medical Center San Diego, and Walgreens Pharmacy.

Thank You SSPPS Volunteer Faculty!

We Appreciate All You Do!
Thank You SSPPS Volunteer Faculty!

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The RCSB Protein Data Bank at SSPPS
By Wolfgang Bluhm, Ph.D., Production Manager

Did you know that the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) houses staff members of one of the premier biological databases in the world, which is a resource critical for drug discovery?

The Protein Data Bank (PDB, www.pdb.org) contains information about experimentally determined three-dimensional structures of proteins, nucleic acids, and complex assemblies. The RCSB PDB is a member of the worldwide PDB (www.wwpdb.org), an organization that was founded to maintain a single archive of macromolecular structural data that is freely and publicly available to the global community.

Most RCSB PDB staff work at Rutgers University in New Jersey under the direction of Dr. Helen Berman, and here at UCSD’s San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) and SSPPS under the direction of Dr. Phil Bourne. The Rutgers group handles primarily the “data in” aspects of the RCSB PDB, that is structure deposition and annotation. The UCSD group, located mostly in room 3105 of SSPPS, manages the “data out” aspects, that is, the query and distribution systems such as the web and FTP sites (www.pdb.org, ftp://ftp.wwpdb.org).

Just as when I joined the RCSB PDB eleven years ago, I am still intrigued by the immediate impact of our daily work on many thousands of PDB users. Our website is used by over 200,000 unique users per month from virtually every country. On average, about 7 files are downloaded every second from our FTP servers. The PDB is also one of the oldest biological databases in the world, and just celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special symposium at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

The vision of the RCSB PDB is to provide a global resource for the advancement of research and education in biology and medicine. In order to enable scientific innovation and education, we have to deliver data in an accurate and timely manner, and provide both expert and simple views of the archive to address the needs of different user communities.

These strategic goals foster a rather unique working environment. Most staff members come from academic backgrounds, and we share lots of creative thinking on a daily basis to come up with better ways of serving our users. At the same time, we have very stringent production requirements for the uptime of our public data resources and the on-time delivery of weekly data updates. Through power outages, wildfires, or earthquakes, the PDB must stay online!

In addition to weekly releases of new and modified structures, several times a year we update the website with a major new software release. Added and improved functionality is highlighted in the “New Features” box on the home page. Our most recent release was on September 13, and the most prominent new feature was a redesign of our main search box that is located on the top of every web page. Just start typing what you are looking for, stop for about 2 seconds, and a box should pop up with multiple suggestions for specific searches.
Another new feature is the “Explore Archive” box, or “widget”, as we call it, right on the home page. This allows simple, one-click access to certain subsets of structures from the archive, such as all entries from a specific source organism or structures solved by a particular experimental method. Similar “drill downs”, a concept familiar from many shopping websites, are also available on the results browser page following any search that returns multiple entries.

We also have to keep up with the ever-changing technological landscape of our times. Less than ten years ago we would physically mail CDs or DVDs of our archive to users who requested them. Now, social media and mobile access play an increasingly important role. About a year ago, we released PDBMobile for the iPhone (just point your iPhone’s Safari browser to www.pdb.org and follow the prompts) and we are currently exploring how to expand to other mobile devices.

For much of its 40-year history, the PDB data resources could have been described by a “one size fits all” approach. For example, the website looked the same to any user, but because it had to cater first to its primary constituents such as crystallographers, structural biologists, and bioinformaticians, other user groups were not as well served.

Over the last few years, we have been steadily introducing ways to customize the website. MyPDB, available from the top left of the home page, lets you store queries and personal annotations, automatically run searches on a weekly or monthly basis, and receive email notifications of new results. Many widgets throughout the site can be hidden, shown, or moved around according to one’s personal preferences.

We have also been developing new “views” of the PDB archive that cater to particular user communities. The first such view is PDB-101, which offers a strong educational focus with Molecule of the Month articles, structures that are discussed in non-expert ways, and many other educational materials.

Currently under development is a “Drug View”, which should be of particular interest to SSPPS faculty and students. Its goals are to provide annotated sets of pharmacologically active compounds in complex with primary and off targets, metabolic enzymes, and transporters, as well as annotated targets of pharmacologically active compounds.

To learn more about the PDB, check out the many resources on the website and outside our third floor office, or just come talk to us! We have opportunities for Pharm.D. student internships and would welcome your interest and possibly even proposals. Finally, feedback from users is one of our most valuable resources, so don’t be shy about telling us what you think!

Clinical Faculty Accomplishments

By Grace Kuo, Pharm.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., FCCP

HONORS and AWARDS

Dr. Brookie Best

- Elected to the UCSD Health Sciences Faculty Rights and Welfare Committee (starting 9/1/11).
- Invited to serve on the U.S. Pediatric Formulations Initiative: Taste, Smell and Flavor Research in Infants and Children Working Group (established by Congress, Title V - Best Pharmaceutical for Children Act). The Pediatric Formulation Initiative (PFI) is a project of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

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- Invited to participate as a Pharmacokinetics Specialist on three Data and Safety Monitoring Boards for U.S. Phase 1 – 3 clinical trials involving rheumatoid arthritis, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and advanced follicular lymphoma.
- Served as an invited reviewer for two review panels in October, 1) NIH/NICHD T32/T35 Training Programs in Health Sciences, and 2) NIH/NICHD Special Emphasis Panel for T32 Training Programs in OB/GYN, Obstetric Pharmacology and Reproductive, Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology.
- Invited to serve as a Scientific Advisory Board member for the 2nd World AIDS Day (HIV-2011), being held from December 1 – 3, 2011 in Beijing, China.

Dr. Grace Kuo
- Invited to serve on the Cal eConnect ePrescribing Advisory Group. The Group’s charter is to advance the electronic exchange of prescriptions and other medication information to improve care delivery and ensure patient safety in California.
- Served as a reviewer for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Health Care Research Training (HCRT) review panel.

Dr. Sarah McBane
- Selected as Editorial Advisory Board Member for California Journal of Health-System Pharmacists (CJHP).
- Served as a reviewer during the BPS Ambulatory Care exam passing point meeting.
- Recognized by CSHP as a Grassroots Advocate, Bronze Level.

Dr. Felix Yam
- Selected as Editorial Advisory Board Member for California Journal of Health-System Pharmacists (CJHP).

GRANT AWARDS

Dr. Jan Hirsch has received funding ($88K for UCSD SSPPS, $100K for the University of Colorado - $188K total) for a collaborative study from the Skaggs Scholar Program. The project, Medication Regimen Complexity Methods and Measurement in Defined Clinical Populations, is for the period of 7/1/2011 to 6/30/2013. Her Co-PIs at University of Colorado are Anne Libby, PhD and Kavita Nair, PhD.

Dr. Jan Hirsch has received funding $56,483 from Novartis for further investigation and validation of the Gout Impact Scale (GIS) in two clinical trial populations. GIS measures the effect of gout and its treatment on the patient's quality of life. The project duration is one year starting August 2011.

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Drs. Edmund Capparelli/Victor Nizet (PIs), Jennifer Le (Co-investigator) and Brookie Best (Training Core Director) received a 5-year U54 network grant from NIH/NICHD titled, “Developmental and Translational Pharmacology of Pediatric Antimicrobial Therapy”. This program involves three primary studies (1 clinical, 2 translational), and 2 pilot studies.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Dr. Brookie Best was an invited speaker at the San Diego State University Association of Pre-Pharmacy Students, Oct. 25th, 2011.

Drs. Sarah McBane and Eduardo Fricovsky provided leadership for P2 students as they conducted two ACTION events during October: a “brain break” and a movie night.

Dr. Eduardo Fricovsky reports the successful “Project Immunization”, where we vaccinated over 340 homeless and uninsured patients at the Free Clinic. Natalie Elder P2 was the coordinator for Skaggs and Verena Schandera MS2 was the coordinator for the SOM. Over 20 pharmacy students (2nd and 3rd year pharmacy students) and 5 medical students participated in this project. This year the county only gave us 200 flu shots, a lot less than last year, so the Free Clinic Pharmacy Student Managers (P4 and P3) voted on purchasing 140 flu shots with the Phun Run money. Thanks to the student efforts and dedication to helping the underserved community we were able to immunize more patients this year than last year.