



Charter Class Graduates!

By Anthony Manoguerra

On June 3, 2006, the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences graduated 24 members of the Charter Class of 2006. Over 700 family members and guests attended the ceremony which was held in the Price Center Ballroom.

Associate Dean Anthony Manoguerra led the academic procession, carrying the UCSD ceremonial mace, followed by UCSD **Chancellor Marye Anne Fox**, UC President **Robert Dynes**, UC President-Emeritus **Richard Atkinson**, Vice-Chancellor for Health Sciences **Edward Holmes**, Dean **Palmer Taylor**, Commencement Speaker **Henri Manasse**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Health Sciences **David Bailey** and Associate Deans **David Adler** and **Charles Daniels**. More than 50 members of the faculty preceded the graduates into the ballroom.



Charter Class of 2006



Following brief welcoming comments by **Dean Taylor** and Vice-Chancellor Holmes, UC President **Robert Dynes** recalled his first meeting with the graduates in 2002 when he attended the School’s first White-Coat Ceremony. He said “I remember thinking: ‘Jeez, these kids are going to make history. And you did. Today, the potential is huge. I want you to take this opportunity to use your talents to serve others. Now go and make us proud.’”

President-emeritus Atkinson provided a historical perspective for the development of the School and how the process from inception to implementation

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Graduation News

took nearly two decades. He described how the tireless leadership of Dean Taylor led to the approval of the School, the building of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Building, and the naming gift by the Skaggs Institute for Research.

Rachel Stengone and **Payman Shilian** were chosen by the members of the Class to provide reflections of their four years at the Skaggs School. They spoke of arriving on campus in September of 2002 to a new school, new faculty, new curriculum and in a school in temporary space. They spoke of the many unknowns that faced them and the challenges they overcame together as they progressed through the four years. They arrived as 8 men and 16 women who were complete strangers and were leaving as 24 close friends and colleagues.

Dr. Henri Manasse, Executive Vice President and CEO of the American Society of Health System Pharmacists gave the commencement address. Dr. Manasse used the words from the Dr. Seuss book, *Oh the Places You'll Go*, to inspire the students to serve the needs of their patients and the profession of pharmacy.



Henri R. Manasse, Jr., Ph.D., Sc.D.

Chancellor **Marye Anne Fox** congratulated the graduates and on behalf of the Regents of the University conferred the Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Each graduate was then escorted to the stage by a member of the faculty. **Drs. Adler and Daniels** hooded each graduate with the regalia signifying the Doctor of Pharmacy degree. The graduates then received their diploma along with congratulations from **Dean Taylor** and **Chancellor Fox**.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Building.

Diane Bao, Amy Chan, Rani Dibbini, Dan Ford, Daniel Hoang, Patty Lok, Lisa Mueller, Doan Nguyen, Khanh Nguyen, Rachel Stengone, Shadi Vaccani and **Susan Yee** decided to complete pharmacy practice residencies upon graduation. The residency sites include UCSD Medical Center, San Diego Children's Hospital and Health Center, VA Long Beach Healthcare System, University of Washington Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente San Diego, UC San Francisco Medical Center, UC Irvine Medical Center, Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, and the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System. **Sanam Ansari, Ansam Asmar, Brandi Bain, Joe Ennesser, Mehrnaz Farrokhi, April Haines, Jason Lam, Sarah McCoy, Linda Ngo, Ali Rezaei, Payman Shilian** and **Jeanette Sung** elected to enter pharmacy practice.



The types of practice sites range from community and hospital practice, to hospice care, compounding pharmacy and pharmacy management.

Graduation News, Continued



Student News

Immunization Training Course by Sarah Lorentz

Pharmacists have been integrally involved in vaccination since the earliest days of vaccine administration. Pharmacists have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services since the mid-1990's for their capabilities for educating patients and other health care providers about vaccines, distributing vaccines, vaccine access and administration, and vaccine registries and tracking systems. According to the APhA there are now 44 states which authorize pharmacists to administer vaccinations. This provides the pharmacist with the ability to improve the rates of immunization and ultimately overall public health.

The Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences held the first Immunization Delivery Training Course on May 4th, 5th, and 6th. The course was taught to the entire student body. It was the first time the course was offered at the school and included participation of the Charter class, the class of 2007, 2008 and 2009.

We now have over 130 students who are certified to administer immunizations under protocol. The training opportunity was also offered to our faculty, UCSF students, and pharmacy residents.



The class started on Thursday, May 4th. All students had completed a pre-study of the CDC Pink Book. **Victoria Serrano, Pharm.D.** started the lecture portion of the training with a discussion of immunization concepts, vaccination history, and childhood immunizations. The following day, lectures included a wide variety of



Student News Continued

topics and speakers. **Charlie James, Pharm.D.** spoke on influenza and immunization. **Sarah Lorentz, Pharm.D.** discussed hepatitis A and B. **Chris Woo, Pharm.D.** lectured on Pneumococcal Vaccination. The practical and legal issues of immunization including, documentation, storage, and marketing were presented by **Fred Cho, Pharm.D.**

The last day of the course was the most fun, but the most stressful for the students. The day started with presentation of a DVD on Immunization Techniques. During the morning, students took a post-test and practiced their injection technique with syringes and oranges. They then learned the practical techniques for subcutaneous and intramuscular immunization and practiced those techniques on their classmates. The students received expert training and guidance from pharmacists involved with immunization in the community. Our pharmacist trainers included **Sally Smith, RPh., Kate Shea, Pharm.D., Bram Rubenstein, RPH, Terry Brewer, Pharm.D.,** and **Jason Kim, Pharm.D.**

This course will be incorporated into the curriculum for our incoming first year class, so that they can maximize the opportunities to use these skills under pharmacist supervision. This was an important milestone for the Skaggs School as pharmacists with this training provide the public with a great asset in the advancement of public health and disease prevention.



Daniel Ford, member of the Charter Class of 2006, receives a special award from the American Pharmacists Association for his role in the founding and development of the UCSD chapter of the Academy of Students of Pharmacy. Presenting the award are **Dr. Jan Hirsch**, ASP-APhA Faculty Advisor and **Jerald Limcolioc**, current out-going President of the UCSD Chapter.

Student News Continued



LCDR Elizabeth Girard and Ni-Chi Wu

On June 30, 2006, **LCDR Elizabeth Girard** of the United States Public Health Service, assigned to the San Diego Office of the Food and Drug Administration, presented 4th year student **Ni-Chi Wu** with the Excellence in Public Health in Pharmacy Award. This award is given to students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in activities aimed to further the public health of the community. Ni-Chi received the award for her outstanding work as founding committee chair for Operation Immunization. Through that activity, she organized the fund-raising efforts that led to a pneumococcal vaccination program at the UCSD Free Medical Clinics. She had discovered that the vaccine was too expensive for the free clinic

budget and found a way for this much needed treatment to be provided to the patients in the clinic. In addition, she developed and implemented a Meningococcal Awareness Day for the undergraduates at UCSD, she facilitated participation of her classmates in a FluMist clinic at Scripps Memorial Hospital and an immunization campaign conducted by SavOn Drugs. She also participated in Operation Stand Down for homeless veterans and a hypertension screening and education program through Walgreen's Pharmacies. She also just completed a term as president of the school chapter of the California and San Diego Societies of Health System Pharmacists. In recognition of Ni-chi's outstanding commitment to public health, LCDR Girard presented Ni-Chi with a plaque, a congratulatory letter from the Pharmacy Director of the Public Health Service and a book commemorating the history of the US Public Health Service.

Graduation Celebration

On Friday, June 2, 2006, SSPPS held the "Graduation Celebration" for the Charter Class of 2006. Students invited family and friends to celebrate with them at the UCSD Faculty Club. After mingling and eating, the students and guests retreated to the dining room where students and selected faculty were presented special awards. The Charter Class presented a slide show of highlights from their time at SSPPS. A good time was had by all!



Applied Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Forum

By Jan Hirsch, Ph.D.

The Inaugural Applied Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Forum was held May 17th on the University of California San Diego campus. The event was hosted by the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and supported by a grant from Allergan.

The number of individuals in the Southern California region with interest in pharmacoeconomics (PE) is growing rapidly across the healthcare system - from those involved with creation of PE data within pharmaceutical and biotech companies to those incorporating results into decision making within a plethora of managed care organizations. The region provides a unique opportunity to gather individuals to debate issues, and propose solutions that are vetted from multiple perspectives – not just individual silos defined by employer.

The Applied Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Forum was created to facilitate communication among stakeholders in the healthcare system. The goals of the forum are to:

1. Discuss commonly encountered obstacles to conducting or utilizing results of applied pharmacoeconomic studies and explore solutions from various perspectives of the health care system.
2. Create an environment and foundation to foster the creation of a Southern California Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Interest Group

Attendees of the Inaugural Forum represented Managed Care Organizations, Government Agencies, Medical Centers, Academia, Pharmaceutical and Biotech companies in the Southern California area. Each attendee was invited because they had a demonstrated interest in expanding the practical application of pharmacoeconomic and outcomes research to enhance decision-making.

The topic for this Spring Forum was related to the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Dossiers for formulary decisions. These dossiers contain information regarding the value (clinical, economic and humanistic) of a new pharmaceutical and are submitted by manufacturers to managed care organizations at the time of a new product's launch to help gain formulary placement. As experience with preparing and submitting these dossiers has increased, the relevant question for the forum was "**AMCP Dossiers: Useful for Decision Making or Not? A Debate**" Four speakers presented views from different perspectives: **Sean Sullivan, Ph.D.**, University of Washington: Academia and AMCP Format history; **Lisa Vivero, Pharm.D.**, MedImpact Healthcare Systems: Managed Care/PBM; **Peter Glassman, MBBS, MSc.**, VA Greater Los Angeles: Government; **Nick Poullos, Ph.D.**, Elan Pharmaceuticals Inc.: Pharmaceutical Industry. The general opinion was, the creation process for Dossiers is working well – the next challenge is to improve ability of health care systems to synthesize and incorporate Dossier data into their formulary decision making process. A key suggestion was to expand PE education efforts (within pharmacy schools and for practicing pharmacists) to increase the number of PE trained staff in healthcare systems able to evaluate Dossier data – this is a bottle neck and rate limiting step to incorporating data into decision making processes. Facilitating creative ways to supplement healthcare systems' internal review process (e.g., independent group(s) review of Dossier content quality and credibility) was also discussed.

SSPPS News, Continued

With the success of the first Forum, the steering committee believes we are on our way to accomplishing the Forum's second goal of fostering the creation of a broad, multi-perspective Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Interest Group in our region. The steering committee has representation from each of the major perspectives or the healthcare system.

Charles Daniels, R.Ph., Ph.D.

UCSD Healthcare Department of Pharmacy

Jan D. Hirsch, R.Ph., Ph.D.

UCSD, Skaggs School of Pharmacy
& Pharmaceutical Sciences

Anthony P. Morreale, Pharm.D., MBA, BCPS

VA San Diego Healthcare System

Robert Schoenhaus, Pharm.D.

UCSD Healthcare Department of Pharmacy

Ted Ganiats, MD

UCSD School of Medicine

Mirta Millares, Pharm.D., FCSHP, FASHP

Kaiser Permanente – CA Regions

Frank J. Papatheofanis, MD, MPH, PhD

Aequitas

Ray Townsend, Pharm.D.

Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

The Forum is only one of the activities in our larger effort to promote the application of pharmacoeconomic and outcomes analyses to provide timely, actionable data for enhanced decision-making regarding the value of pharmaceuticals and medication related services for key across stakeholders in the U.S. health care system. Other activities include education, training, research, and dissemination activities, including Continuing Education Programmes to support this goal.

Our second Applied Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Forum will be held this fall. The topic will be "New Biological Agents: Drasing (or Crossing) the line of Cost vs. Benefit?" as voted by the attendees on May 17th.

Farmacy Funnies

A doctor is to give a speech at the local AMA dinner. He jots down notes for his speech. Unfortunately, when he stands in front of his colleagues later that night, he finds that he can't read his notes. So he asks, "Is there a pharmacist in the house?"



An elderly woman went into the doctor's office. When the doctor asked why she was there, she replied, "I'd like to have some birth control pills."

Taken aback, the doctor thought for a minute and then said, "Excuse me, Mrs. Smith, but you're 75 years old. What possible use could you have for birth control pills?"

The woman responded, "They help me sleep better."

The doctor thought some more and continued, "How in the world do birth control pills help you to sleep?" The woman said, "I put them in my granddaughter's orange juice and I sleep better at night."

More SSPPS News

By Jeff Milton

On June 10th, The Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences hosted the RCSB Protein Data Bank (PDB) Advisory Board for its annual review. Thirteen Board members, all distinguished scientists (see http://www.pdb.org/pdb/static.do?p=general_information/about_pdb/pdbac.html) arrived from around the world for a full day of presentations and demonstrations of new RCSB PDB activities.

The PDB is the single worldwide repository for the structures of biological macromolecules and is used by 150,000 different scientists each month and has an audience ranging from Nobel Laureates to high school students. Drug discovery and many research activities in molecular biology would not be possible without the PDB. The RCSB PDB is a joint initiative of UCSD and Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey. The ten UCSD PDB professional staff and ten undergraduate students, all of whom are part of Professor **Philip Bourne**'s research group moved to SSPPS soon after the building opened.

Meeting highlights included a review of the new RCSB PDB website, a review of data remediation efforts and new education initiatives, including a proteomics display to be placed in the Birch Aquarium and an immersive environment for the study of biological macromolecules located at CalIT2.

Advisors commented very positively on the move of the PDB to the School where it can be integrated into research activities of the School and get feedback on new developments that the PDB should undertake.

A dinner for the Advisors was held at the home of Professor Bourne and was attended by Dean **Palmer Taylor** and Professor **John Wooley**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research.

The RCSB PDB team would like to thank the Skaggs School staff for helping make this a successful event.



More SSPPS News

New Seven-Year Combined B.S./Pharm.D. Program Announced!

By Barbara Sawrey, Ph.D.

UCSD's Academic Senate and Administration recently approved an exciting new program. Starting with the entering pharmacy class of Fall 2008, the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) will offer a combined seven-year program. A small number of exceptionally well-prepared undergraduates can earn both a B.S. degree in Pharmacological Chemistry and a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree – a process that otherwise would take eight, or more, years.

Students will apply to the combined program after two years at UCSD and completion of a designated set of courses in chemistry and biochemistry, biology, mathematics, and physics. Up to five students would be accepted into this program each year (out of a total class of 60 pharmacy students per year). These students would have to complete an additional set of courses in their third (junior) year as an undergraduate. Years 4-7 would be spent taking the pharmacy curriculum at the SSPPS.

At the successful end of the first year of the pharmacy curriculum, the students in this program would be awarded a B.S. in Pharmacological Chemistry. At the end of their seventh year of study at UCSD the students would be awarded the Pharm.D. degree.

This program would only be open to students who start their college education at UCSD.

Students in the seven-year program also must complete the general education requirements of the college with which they are affiliated, and are expected to show significant progress toward doing so at the time of their application to the program.

Students who apply, but are not accepted into the seven-year program, can apply to the SSPPS, or any other pharmacy school, at the usual time, just before or during their graduation year from UCSD.

Typical Program for an Undergraduate Prior to Application

Freshman Year: calculus, general chemistry and lab, introductory biology, general education courses

Sophomore Year: physics, differential equations, organic chemistry and lab, more general education courses

Typical Program for an Accepted Undergraduate

Junior Year: biochemistry and lab, physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry, economics, public speaking, human behavior

Senior Year: First-year pharmacy program

New B.S./Pharm.D. Program at-a-glance

- Students must start their college career at UCSD
- Up to 5 students may be admitted annually to the combined program
- Students apply after sophomore year, are accepted during their junior year
- First applications submitted Summer 2007, for admission to the SSPPS entering class of Fall 2008
- B.S. awarded after 1st year or pharmacy school; Pharm.D. awarded 3 years later

Need more information? An information session for UCSD undergraduates will be held on October 24, 2006, at 5PM in NSB 1205.

Information on Post-Doctorate Fellowships

The Importance of Supporting Post-Doctorate Fellowships

Bart J. McDermott
Director of Development

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Trained to meet the needs of patients and to become leaders in drug development and delivery in the 21st-century, the first class of the UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences graduated this June. The charter class entered the new Skaggs School in 2002 and is the first to complete the four-year program leading to the doctorate in pharmacy (Pharm.D.)

But for many, graduation is just a beginning; most will continue with post-graduate or post-doctoral studies. The School offers a joint Pharm.D./Ph.D. program – envisioned to be closely aligned with the drug development process, therapeutic practices and outcomes – as well as post-graduate residencies for the Pharm.D. graduates, usually in academic medical centers, community hospitals or health system pharmacies, and some community practices.

Post-graduate students are vital to the quality, reputation, and capabilities of the Skaggs School – Southern California’s only public pharmacy school – because of the research and care they perform, the assistance they provide to faculty and mentors, and the innovative ways they approach and advance their fields. A post-graduate fellowship is where private support can play a critical role in pharmaceutical development and innovative care, a priority for the school.

Funding a fellowship at the post-doctoral level is a particularly powerful and gratifying gift for donors to consider because it is a catalyst for change, linking a bright mind with the resources necessary to carry out ideas. Graduate fellowships bestow a prestigious honor to students, broadening their career opportunities. Given the cost of living in San Diego, even a modest fellowship can be the deciding factor that attracts a top student to UCSD and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Palmer Taylor, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and the school’s dean, emphasized that there is an ongoing need for philanthropic support particularly in the area of student fellowships. “Many of our students have already acquired indebtedness in their undergraduate years, and professional school tuition and fees have increased substantially in recent years. Ideally, we would not like to have financial considerations limit student decisions to pursue post-Pharm.D. training.”

Pharm.D. graduates can opt to go directly into a post-graduate research residency at the Skaggs School or, after completing a clinical residency, can return to the school as a research fellow for additional training and experiences in an area of specialization. This track provides valuable clinical experience that can be used in drug discovery and development, health care delivery or other areas of research.

Graduates who seek a career with a biotech or pharmaceutical company may choose a post-doc industry-focused research fellowship. This specialized fellowship is usually two years in length and the Skaggs School looks to corporate partners to help fund this type of post-graduate program. Typically, the first year of the fellowship focuses on the clinical aspects of the specialized area, while the second year returns the fellow to a research focus pushing the boundaries of the specialized area and is usually one of strategic importance to the industry sponsor.

Information on Post-Doctorate Fellowships, Continued

“Biotech or pharmaceutical company residencies/fellowships offer industry the potential contributions of a clinically trained pharmacist to identify, develop, document and enhance the value of drug products in development as they approach entry into the marketplace,” said **David Adler, Pharm.D.**, professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Clinical Professor of Pharmacology and Community and Preventive Medicine and associate dean for Academic Affairs for the Skaggs School. “At the same time, a student receives a tremendous leg up and training to reach their career goals. It’s a win-win situation.”

Industries that focus on research and development, such as biotech and pharmaceutical companies, tend to cluster around leading research universities. Companies in these fields depend upon discoveries from university research laboratories and on graduates who will fill their professional, scientific and managerial positions.

For more information on how you can help fund a fellowship opportunity for a deserving student –whether as a donor or an industry partner – please contact:

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Faculty News



Welcome to the World Lucas!

On June 1, 2006, **Lucas Sebastian Morello** was born to **Candis** and **Chris Morello** and big brother **Joey**. Lucas weighed 7 lbs. 0 oz. and was 18 inches long. Congratulations are in order for the Morello family!