



Congratulations, Class of 2008!



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Congratulations Class of 2008

Eva Barker
Lindsey Bowman
Karen Chen
Emily Cho
Cheryl Ea
Sanaz Farhadian
Stephanie Gershgol
Thomas Hatch
Leola Hau
Evelyn Hoevatanakul
Robert Mancini Jones
Brandon Mutrux
Kristine Nalagan
Amy Nguyen
Mylinh Nguyen
Bryan Nouvong
Rita Patel
Warren Quigley
Rakhee Ranga
Matthew Regoli
Ashley Rosenquist
Russell Mason
Raquel Sabino
Elizabeth Sarles
Gerald Siazon
Warren Tong
Christie Tran
Don Vu
Katherine Watkins
Erica Winter
Ali Yasseri
Anesia Zeller



2008 Graduation Celebration



Operation Diabetes Explores New Land, New Events

by Spondee (Ancong) Shen, P-1 & Rebecca Romasco, P-1 and
Candis M. Morello, Pharm.D., CDE, FCSHP

Diabetes affects people from all socio-economic backgrounds. Recognizing this fact, in the winter and spring quarters, the UCSD SSPPS Operation Diabetes (OD) team made strong efforts to plan and set up diabetes educational events where our aim was to service every area of the San Diego community. The following paragraphs describe how we spread awareness and knowledge to the public of diabetes, its complications, and preventative measures.

On February 9th and 10th, 2008, OD took part in the annual Tet Vietnamese New Year's Festival and Health Fair at Balboa Park. We set up our booth in close proximity to the main stage in order to obtain maximum visibility for potential participants where we promoted free screenings and counseling. Student pharmacists offered a comprehensive four-stage evaluation process. In the first part of the screening process, we evaluated participants' risk of developing diabetes using the American Diabetes Association risk assessment questionnaire. Next, we performed finger sticks and used glucose meters to determine actual glucose concentrations. Then, we explained the concept of target fasting and non-fasting glucose concentrations and compared the patient's reading with these benchmarks in order to assess the patient's risk. Finally, we provided overall diabetes education including lifestyle management and preventative measures. Both the participants and student pharmacists benefited from this education program, and we received excellent feedback. We were grateful for our community pharmacist volunteers who helped make this two-day event a successful educational experience.

On February 13th, 2008, the OD team screened homeless people and low-income families for diabetes at the UCSD



First year UCSD pharmacy student, Sohil Rai, performs a fingerstick on a patient at the Pacific Beach free clinic screenings.

Free Clinic Project located at a church in Pacific Beach. We counseled patients on a variety of complications that may develop from uncontrolled diabetes (e.g. peripheral neuropathy, blindness, impotency, amputations) and discussed nutritional and lifestyle modifications shown to delay the progression of the disease. While working at the free clinic, we identified a significant communication barrier—a large portion of the participants did not speak English as their first language. Thus, as part of OD's goal to spread awareness to all diverse populations of our local community, we always provided educational pamphlets and booklets on topics like diabetes, nutrition, and exercise in various languages. Furthermore, we worked with a translator to counsel our

patients. Our aim was to make sure that all of our patients have the greatest chance to succeed in taking control of their diabetes and in order for us to do that, we had to break down the language barrier that stood between them and the help they needed. We screened a total of 23 people and identified three who were in the pre-diabetes range and at risk for developing diabetes.

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Switching locations once again, OD was present at the Dance by the Shores event, which is a major state-wide dance competition held on the UCSD campus March 1st, 2008. OD's goal was to provide screenings for family members and friends of the dancers. With over 2000 performers in this competition, we anticipated a busy day. Unfortunately, the atypically gloomy weather forced most people to rush inside the dance hall, but we still remained outside and screened enough patients to reach double digits (10!). Luckily, none were at high risk for diabetes.



(Top Row, from Left to Right: Spondee (Ancong) Shen, Megan Chynoweth, Azadeh Bamshad, Anahita Karimpour Bottom Row, from Left to Right: Heather Gao, Jeanette Truong, Shida Hashemi, Ai-Hang Do, Christina Sejerson, Dr. Renu Singh)

On April 1st, 2008, OD set up camp in front of Wal-mart on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. We brought our poster boards describing nutrition, insulin, foot care, and common diabetes medications. We offered opportunities and resources for patients to learn and understand more about diabetes, prevention methods, and tips on improving their diabetes control. We also provided information on the ways diabetes medications work, and techniques and advice on how to properly administer the correct dosage of insulin so that it can be well absorbed and utilized to control blood glucose concentrations.

At all our OD events, we have found that despite the language barriers for some participants, student pharmacists were able to effectively use the hand jive method we learned in our pharmacy practice course to clearly demonstrate appropriate dietary portion sizes that help patients reduce the risk of developing diabetes. Participants expressed appreciation for the information and services we provided. The opportunity to directly interact with patients was particularly rewarding for us; especially for those of us in the first year class. We had recently completed extensive training in diabetes management and were eager to put our knowledge to use.

Our plans do not end here! Over the summer we have diabetes screenings scheduled in the San Diego community, since the fight against diabetes is ongoing. We are very excited about a new additional project and outreach effort. To continue with our goal of promoting a healthy life and spreading awareness of the disease to all diverse populations of the community, we are providing a one-hour interactive session in September 2008 with elementary students on developing good nutrition and exercise habits. This will be the first time that OD will hold an exclusive event for children. Since obesity in children and adolescence is becoming more prevalent these days, we feel this is an important outreach effort. By teaching children proper eating habits and how to make healthy lifestyle choices, Operation Diabetes hopes to provide these kids with the tools and education to shape the quality of their future.

Poison Prevention Program at Elementary Schools

By Irina Olshanskaya, P-1

In April of 2008, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences held a 3rd annual poison prevention program at more schools than ever before. Student members of San Diego Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SDSHP) visited five schools of San Diego County with presentations about poison prevention. During this event student pharmacists educated nearly 500 first and second graders about the dangers of poisons in a fun and interactive way. Through entertaining games, we taught the children about poison and multiple places where it can be found. Seeing little children's faces light up with excitement when raising hands to answer questions was very heartwarming. Kids discovered that even a sniff or a lick of poisonous material can be hazardous. Presenters showed a set of similarly looking products and the children had to guess which one was safe to ingest. Being so confident with



their answers, students were surprised at how easy it was to mistaken a brightly colored avocado fertilizer container for a box of cereal, or deliciously looking white squares of fish bait for marshmallows, and many more. By teaching, instead of just forbidding, we emphasize responsibility. Also, children learned that they can help to protect their little siblings and pets by sharing their knowledge and looking after them. Packaging can be very deceiving and kids realized that they need to read the label and always ask parents even if they find it in a food cabinet or refrigerator.

At the end of the presentations, a poster contest for children from each classroom took place. The theme was "Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons". Winners from each class won movie tickets, and the grand prize winner received a San Diego Zoo/Wild Animal Park pass with an opportunity to display his or her poster at



the San Diego Poison Control Center. The presentation at the Rock Academy was broadcasted on channel 17 on April 2, 2008, which brought attention to poison and children. Outreach committee member Angel Lam said, "This project provides valuable information to the children and allows them to express and apply what they learned in the posters they created. As a participant of the poison prevention program, I am really proud to contribute and to serve the children in our community." This event was a great success because many families heard about poisoning. Having a simple talk with children can save a life.

This program was made possible due to the efforts of many Skaggs School of Pharmacy SDSHP volunteers and faculty, and the support of Midland Elementary School, The Rock Academy, Explorer Elementary Charter School, Village Elementary School, and Silver Strand Elementary School staff.

Highlights of the APhA 2008 Annual Meeting in San Diego, California

By Binh Nhung Tran, PharmD

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) just held its Annual Meeting in San Diego from March 14 to 17, 2008.

At the **Opening General Session** on Saturday, March 15, on the theme *Lighting the Way to a stronger profession*, President Winnie Landis depicted the APhA as the light-house which is of no use if the light is not projected forward. The session highlighted the relationships that serve as the foundation of the association's success, the recognition pharmacy is receiving from consumers and healthcare stakeholders, and the responsibility pharmacists have for medications and their use.

The distinguished Remington Honor Medal was awarded to Dr. Lyle Bootman, who was recognized for his contributions in outcomes research and pharmacoconomics. Five other awards were presented to other contributors in various fields.

Dr. Uwe Reinhardt, professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University gave the keynote presentation on *The Economics of Health Care*, presenting ideas for achieving greater cost-effectiveness, especially in the area of drug therapy.

In the afternoon, the APhA-ASP Opening General Session was well-attended by the student pharmacists on the theme: *Embracing Health Literacy*.

John Alston, the keynote speaker, was a powerful storyteller, and delivered vibrant messages of extraordinary personal performance. Character, integrity and common sense were emphasized in his super energetic speech.

On Sunday, March 16, in the second **General Session**, Liz Murray, author of the book *"From Homeless to Harvard"* was the featured speaker. She related her hardships since a child and her determination to overcome all the obstacles to finish high school in two years while living on the streets of New York City, then went on to graduate from Harvard on a full scholarship.

Her message was that we can choose what to do with our lives, and as pharmacists, we can provide the human touch on which our patients depend. She was grateful to the

school counselor who gave her a helping hand when she most desperately needed it, and in doing so, he perpetuated the legacy of previous mentors.

Dr Robert Day was one among several to receive the award, Fellow of the APhA.

A wide array of topics was presented during the four days. Highlighted below are the sessions that I attended:

How to Find the Right Partner: Building a High Quality Clinical Services Pharmacy Business Model by a panel of presenters. The purpose was to improve patient safety, enhance experiential education and develop a clinical services business model.

In the MTM Grand Rounds, actual case-based MTM therapeutic interventions were presented. Several other sessions on this topic complemented the release of the *Core Elements of an MTM Service Version 2.0*, a document created through the collaboration of APhA and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Foundation.

In *Screening for disease: Risk Assessment and Point-of-Care testing by pharmacists*, we saw numerous opportunities that exist for pharmacists to identify patients at risk for chronic conditions.

Advances in the Treatment of Fibromyalgia, and a comprehensive HIV Update 2008 (by Betty Dong, PharmD from UCSF School of Pharmacy) were well-attended sessions.

On the last day, the program on *Nuclear Imaging Revolution* gave an overview of significant changes to nuclear pharmacy practice as it merges with the molecular imaging age. Radiopharmaceuticals, instrumentation, and new imaging approaches to disease management were discussed.

Federal Pharmacy Forum on the very first day was attended by pharmacists in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Public Health, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare, and Coast Guard Services.

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The featured speaker, J. A. Waddell, PharmD, presented: "Sharing Success with Colleagues: Publishing your Experiences in Journals and Books", giving pointers on bringing ideas to fruition and publishing articles and books through the APhA.

Many San Diego pharmacists were sighted at the Meeting: Dr. Jag Rai, Immunization specialist and faculty member in the Partners in D program involving the seven California schools of pharmacy; Dr Renu Singh and Dr Grace Kuo, Clinical Faculty members; Anh Thu Ha; and many students from the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UCSD. A poster depicting the activities of the SSPPS was prominently displayed in the hallway leading to the meeting rooms.

The next APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition will be held in San Antonio, Texas, April 3-6, 2009.

Cholesterol and Hypertension Screenings for Underserved Patients at the Linda Vista Health Care Center

Son Nguyen, P-3

It was a sight to see. A line of eager patients waiting to be screened awaited us as we arrived at the clinic. This was a good sign of things to come. On Saturday, February 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., eight UCSD pharmacy students under the guidance of faculty advisor and preceptor, Dr. Renu Singh, performed cholesterol and hypertension screenings at the Linda Vista Health Care Center. Dr. Linda Hill, Medical Director of the center, opened her new Reproductive Health Center for the students to use, giving us access to a waiting room, exam rooms and offices for counseling. This allowed for smooth transitions between our stations of blood pressure screenings, body mass index (BMI) measurements, weight and height measurements, cholesterol screenings and patient counseling. Patients signed in for the screenings, completed a health questionnaire, and were then assigned to a student who conducted the screening and counseling session for them. Students who saw patients with high blood pressure

results or cholesterol levels discussed their results with Dr. Singh, and developed a counseling and/or triaging plan. Several patients were found to have high cholesterol levels, and one patient with stage 2 hypertension was triaged to the medical clinic next door.

The screening event was very successful, with a constant flow of people being screened throughout the morning.



From left to right: Omar Alemi, Andrew Urquhart, Son Nguyen, Lannie Duong, Sara Aghassy, Vivian Yeung and Leeda Barreau (Not pictured: Dr. Renu Singh, Dr. Linda Hill, Angela Tran)

Overall, we were able to screen and counsel a total of 20 people. The patients seemed to be very appreciative of the service that was provided to them at no cost. Nearly all the patients lacked health insurance and/or had not had a medical evaluation for several years. Several patients were Spanish-speaking, so we were very grateful for Leeda and Lannie's Spanish-speaking skills. The student volunteers had a good experience with the screening and hands-on interaction. They enjoyed having the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to clinical practice. As Andrew Urquhart describes, "It was a great experience to apply things learned in class into actual patient care and it was a whole lot of fun working together as a group to take care of underserved people."

This screening was the second joint cholesterol and hypertension screening event performed by UCSD

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pharmacy students as part of a cholesterol screening project headed by William Wong and Son Nguyen, who are third year UCSD pharmacy students. We would like to thank Dr. Renu Singh for being our faculty advisor and preceptor for this event, and Dr. Linda Hill for her assistance and willingness in working with us to facilitate this event at her health center. We hope to be able to hold similar screening events at this ideal location in the future. I would also like to thank our third year pharmacy student volunteers: Sara Aghassy, Omar Alemi, Leeda Barreau, Lannie Duong, Angela Tran, Andrew Urquhart and Vivian Yeung. On this day we were able to make a small difference in this community and we look forward to touching more communities with the knowledge and training pharmacy students can offer.

Preparing for Therapeutics: A Message to the 3rd year Students

Joseph D. Ma, PharmD

Therapeutics is a three quarter course taken during the 3rd year of pharmacy school. The overall objective of this course is to create a foundation of knowledge that will prepare students for 4th year clinical clerkships. One of the challenges for students is the implementation of case-based learning via the SOAP format. The SOAP format was introduced during the Pharmacy Practice core series and involves a combination of memorization and a thorough understanding of concepts. Therapeutics will focus on disease states and the drugs used to treat disease states. To successfully “SOAP” a disease state, the student needs to have a good understanding of past didactic material. We expect students to understand topics covered from past didactic lectures in pharmacology, organ physiology, laboratory medicine, and pharmaceutical chemistry. This means that students may need to review (again) material from past courses. Let me take this opportunity to offer some advice in order to prepare students for this course.

Talk to your predecessors. Your predecessors (AKA) classmates who are one year ahead of you who have finished the therapeutics course can be very helpful by providing insight into how they studied the material and how they prepared for exams. One’s personal study habits are critical to the success for this course. With the amount of material to study, “cramming” for an exam will not work. Students must have good time-management skills and

should begin to study for upcoming exams well in advance. Your predecessors should also be able to provide insight as to how therapeutics is tested. For the written midterm and final exams, you will be given a “patient on paper” and will need to evaluate therapy based on patient-specific factors. What is meant by patient-specific factors? You will need to factor in other disease states of the patient, his/her kidney and liver function, other lab values, concurrent medications, and symptom presentation. In some ways, you need to evaluate the “pros” and “cons” of the potential drugs and then make a decision as to which drug to use for your “patient on paper”.

Self study and group study. All of you have your unique way of studying, most of which inevitably involves a large portion of your time studying by yourself. Another component to consider is to study in small groups of three to five. I would recommend small group studying in conjunction with self studying. However, be aware of the dynamics and logistics of small group studying. Hold your group members accountable for their assignments, be aware of different learning styles, organize specific times to meet and discuss, and be open to sharing your notes with your group. You will be amazed by what your classmates know and what you know about a certain disease state.

On behalf of the co-chairs, we believe the Therapeutics course is of paramount importance for establishing your pharmacy careers. We are up to the challenge of this course (eg, finding expert speakers, grading 10+ page exams, answering student questions, and committing a large portion of our time to this course) and we will expect the same level of commitment from our students.



A heartfelt thank you goes to

**RiteAid
Bayer
Abbot Diabetes Care
Roche Diagnostics**

for their generous contributions
to the Pharmacy Practice Course

Potential Alzheimer's Disease Drug Target Identified by UC San Diego Researcher

By Debra Kain

In findings with the potential to provide a therapy for Alzheimer's disease patients, where none now exist, a researcher at the University of California, San Diego and colleagues have demonstrated in mice a way to reduce the overproduction of a peptide associated with the disease. The study, which showed substantial improvement in memory in an animal model of Alzheimer's disease, was led by Vivian Y. H. Hook, Ph.D., professor at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and professor of neurosciences, pharmacology and medicine at the UCSD School of Medicine, together with American Life Science Pharmaceuticals of San Diego. The study will be published in the March 21 edition of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, online March 14.

A hallmark sign of Alzheimer's disease, seen during autopsy of a patient's brain, is the accumulation of amyloid plaque deposits composed primarily of the neurotoxic beta-amyloid (A β) peptide which is believed to be a major factor in the cause of the disease. The A β peptides are "cut" out from a larger protein called the amyloid precursor protein (APP) and bind together to form plaques in brain regions responsible for memory. One drug strategy to fight Alzheimer's disease is to reduce production of A β .

"We discovered two chemical compounds that inhibit a new enzyme target, leading to reduced production of beta-amyloid and improved memory in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease," said Hook.

Accumulation of A β and plaque build-up are initiated when the large precursor protein, APP, a long string of amino acids, is "cut" into the smaller, neurotoxic A β peptides that generate amyloid plaques. Protease enzymes, a type of protein, are the "scissors" that cut the large APP to generate A β peptides. The protease must cut the APP amino acid sequence in two places: at the beta-secretase and the gamma-secretase sites. In this study, by inhibiting and therefore preventing the enzymatic "scissors" from "cutting" the APP chain into smaller peptides, the research team observed



improved memory, as well as reduced levels of beta-amyloid protein in the brain, in mice bred to exhibit Alzheimer's disease symptoms.

In the past, many scientists have focused on a mutant beta-secretase sequence only seen in one extended family of patients in Sweden with Alzheimer's disease, Hook explained. This mutation, the so-called Swedish mutation, was known to result in an overproduction of A β . Past research has shown that this Swedish mutant sequence is cut by a protease called BACE1.

Hook and colleagues found that a different protease, called Cathepsin B (CatB), works to cut the normal beta-secretase site – which is the site present in more than 99 percent of patients with Alzheimer's disease – but not the Swedish mutant site. They also tested compounds that inhibit CatB – E64d and CA074Me – in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease with the normal beta-secretase site.

"After drug treatment, using water maze memory tests, we found that the mice exhibited great improvement in their memory, as well as reduced brain levels of beta

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amyloid,” said Hook. “These results are consistent with previous research indicating that CatB is elevated in brains of patients with Alzheimer’s disease.”

She added that a drug that duplicates this reduction by targeting CatB in humans could be an effective treatment for Alzheimer’s disease in the more than 99 percent of individuals with the normal beta-secretase site. “By disabling the enzyme’s ability to cut the ‘beta’ end of the amino acid sequence, researchers may discover a way to limit production of neurotoxic A β and reduce amyloid plaques in the brain.”

Additional contributors to this study are Gregory Hook, Ph.D., American Life Science Pharmaceuticals, San Diego, which is engaged in developing drugs based on this new target; and Mark Kindy, Applied Neurotechnology Inc. Charleston, SC. Funding was provided by the National Institute of Aging, NIH.

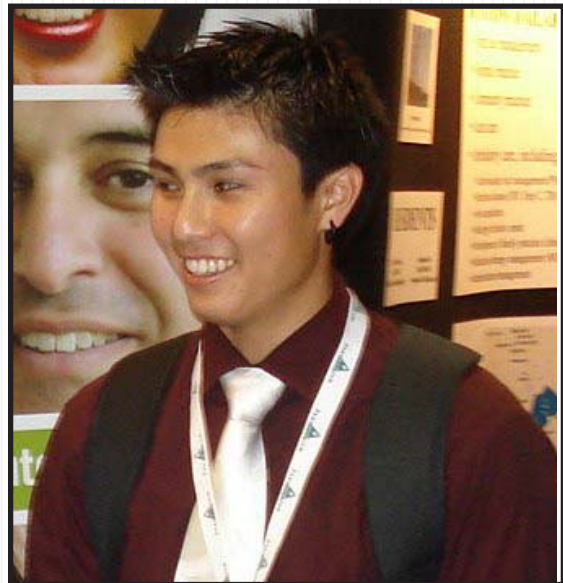
Student Awards

Patrick Chung wins the CSHP Student Leadership Award

By Candis M. Morello, Pharm.D., CDE, FCSHP

The San Diego Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SDSHP) has selected Patrick Chung as the UCSD SSPPS recipient of the 2008 California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) Student Leadership Award. As faculty liaison to CSHP and SDSHP, I have witnessed Patrick’s dedication to the pharmacy profession in several different arenas: at the student, community, local and state professional levels. Under his leadership as the student chapter president this year, Patrick led several community outreach projects including, “Poison Prevention Program,” where the students educated 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders in 4 different elementary schools on the dangers of poisons and how to prevent occurrences; the “Free Clinic Phun Run,” where students raise money for the UCSD Free Medical Clinics which provide free medical care to the homeless or working poor of San Diego; the initiation of an Asthma Educational Endeavor; and several other projects. Patrick was instrumental in writing the charter for the student chapter of SDHSP at UCSD SSPPS, and getting this charter approved at the CSHP House of Delegates last fall.

In addition, Patrick has a positive attitude, is a hard worker and is a genuinely caring person. These qualities have helped him successfully excel in our rigorous academic program while allowing him to assume several leadership roles and become involved in extracurricular activities. Patrick is an excellent role model to his peers and is truly an attribute to our profession!



American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) awards two SSPPS Students

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

Two SSPPS students have been recognized by the American Pharmacists Association as having exemplified outstanding characteristics as pharmacy students.

Ashley Rosenquist received the 2008 APhA-ASP Mortar and Pestle Professionalism award which recognizes students who have exhibited the ideals of professionalism and excellence in patient care in all aspects of their academic pharmacy career; and have demonstrated exceptional service and commitment to the profession of pharmacy through involvement in professional organizations and extracurricular learning opportunities. Ashley consistently demonstrated her professionalism in her many activities while at SSPPS including serving as Pharmacy Manager at the UCSD Student Run Free Medical Clinic, Vice President of Finance and Fundraising of the SSPPS Student Body and her leadership in community outreach programs related to a broad array of pharmacy practice.

Karen Chen was awarded the 2008 Senior Recognition Certificate which honors the one graduating member who has made the greatest, sustained contribution to the school’s Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter. Karen served in roles of increasing leadership within the SSPPS APhA-ASP chapter from Board of Trustee Representative (2004-2005), President-Elect (2005-2006) and President in 2006-2007. Under her leadership as President the chapter grew to a record number of members, expanded its community outreach to include innovative roles for pharmacy students such as providers of immunizations, and pursued greater involvement at the state [California Pharmacists Association (CPhA)] and national levels (APhA).

Please join me in congratulating Ashley and Karen on their achievements as pharmacy students. I am certain they will both continue to advance the profession in their own distinctive style as they progress in their career as practicing pharmacists.

William Wong awarded USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice

By Anthony Manoguerra, Pharm.D.

On May 27, 2008, Commander Elizabeth Girard of the United States Public Health Service presented the USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award to William Wong, Class of 2009. William was nominated for the award by Dr. Renu Singh in recognition of William’s initiative and perseverance to improving the health of our community. During his second year as a student pharmacist, William wrote and was awarded a grant from the UCSD Academic Geriatric Resource



Center to conduct a project aimed at using point-of-care testing devices for screening patients for hyperlipidemia. William organized a committee of his classmates, networked with manufacturers to obtain donations of needed supplies, developed and presented a workshop to his peers and held a number of community outreach events with his trained peers to screen for hyperlipidemia in underserved areas of the community. Through his insight, forethought, planning and determination, William has demonstrated the impact that student pharmacists can have on the public health of our community. The USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award is presented to students who demonstrate excellence through development and participation in programs that support the philosophy and goals of the U.S. Public Health Service and to advance the objectives of the “Healthy People 2010” initiative.

Highlights from the Spring 2008 Applied Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Forum

By Jan Hirsch, Ph.D.

The fourth Applied Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Forum was held April 21st 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 this Spring Forum was “*Using Large Databases to Inform Decision Making: Experience in Three Health Care Systems*”.

Four speakers, representing three perspectives of the health care system, described:

1. Types of large databases available in their organization
2. How data from these databases was being used to inform medical decision making
3. What types of decisions were being informed by data from databases

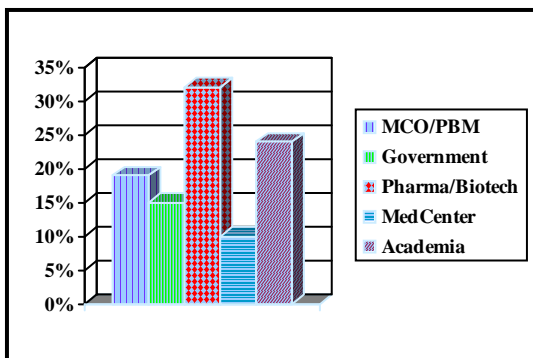


Speakers:

Fran Cunningham, PharmD	Director, Center for Medication Safety PSCI Program Manager Pharmacoepidemiologic/ Outcomes Assessment Department of Veterans Affairs PBM/SHG
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Michele Spence, PhD Randy Nakahiro, PharmD	Pharmacy Outcomes Project Manager Pharmacy Analytical Services Kaiser Permanente
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Robert Schoenhaus, PharmD	Medication Use Evaluation Coordinator UCSD Healthcare Department of Pharmacy
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Forum participants included representatives from managed care, government, pharmaceutical and biotech companies, medical centers and academia. Our moderator was Robert Schoenhaus from the UCSD Medical Center.

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Participants were 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/news.shtm> .

Summary Points

Department of Veterans Affairs PBM

- The VA has many integrated databases with linkages to their pharmacy database
- A wide range of data are available: demographic, diagnoses, medical and psychiatric resource utilization, laboratory data, medications, costs
- Databases used for medication safety projects, clinical decisions, and research, such as:
 - Monitoring exposure rate and adverse drug reactions
 - Risk reduction programs for patients and providers

Kaiser Permanente

- Kaiser has a wide range of data available similar to that in the VA system, and limited clinical measurements such as blood pressure and smoking status are also available
- Special databases include registries (Cancer, Diabetes, HIV/AIDs) and surveys of KP physicians and patients
- KP HealthConnect is a program-wide system that integrates the clinical record with appointments, registration and billing allowing:
 - Example database uses:
 - Support drug use management initiatives and address safety questions
 - Investigate effects of patient cost-sharing
 - Evaluation of therapeutic interchange programs
 - Contribute to national policy regarding important public health issues
- Permanente Online Interactive Network Tools (POINT) examples:
 - Early Start: proactively targets pregnant women with positive tests for certain drug
 - Forecasting Database: pharmacists collect data and estimate future drug expenditures
 - Med-SMART: monitoring medication or guideline adherence (e.g. Accutane® prescription guidelines)

UCSD Healthcare Department of Pharmacy

- The UCSD Medical Center is a unique environment for data mining, since there is no complete electronic medical
 - Data may live in multiple “silos” specific to the type of data (i.e., pharmacy, radiology, laboratory, etc.)

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- Compiling data from these different sources can be challenging, but rewarding if used to improve patient care
- Incorporating the various data available, several medication use evaluations have been completed that helped improve patient care and save resources
 - Reduction in marginal use of FVIIa within the Liver Transplant Service has reduced drug expenditure by >\$150K annually, while patient outcomes improved
 - Minimizing the use of aprotinin within UCSDMC cardiothoracic surgery has minimized risk of mortality and saved over >\$140K annually. The drug has subsequently been removed from the US marketplace – validated the local decision

Purpose of Applied Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Forums

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 an excellent 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 this cross perspective communication. 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

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 Programs to support this goal.

Current steering committee members are:

Charles Daniels, R.Ph., Ph.D.
 UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences and
 UCSD Healthcare Department of Pharmacy

Ted Ganiats, M.D.
 UCSD School of Medicine

Jan Hirsch, R.Ph., Ph.D.
 UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

Mirta Millares, Pharm.D., FCSHP, FASHP
 Kaiser Permanente - CA Regions

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

Robert Schoenhaus, Pharm.D.
 UCSD Healthcare Department of Pharmacy



to all of our new and reappointed voluntary faculty

New Appointments

Reappointments

Julie Abraham
Sheila Alignay-Rivera
Rabia Atayee
Beatriz Batarse
Jennigrace Bautista
Amy Benner
Mark Bounthavong
Catherine Bousman
Christina Chan
Timothy Chen
James Chow
Michael Cipriano
Therese Clark
Thomas Cookson
Karen Dang
Minh Dang
Olga De Torres
Linda Dean
Larry Drechsler
John Eastham
Williams Ettouati
Marian Eusebio
Michael Falcon
Ashley Feist
Emerald Foster
Beverley Freedman
John Gama
Robert Graul
Ashkan Khabazian
Jason Kim
Michael Kruse
Jonathan Lacro
Jason Lam

Thuan Le
Jeremy Lee
Chitra Mandyam
Carol Manifold
Sue McGuinness
Pamela Moise-Broder
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(The above vountary faculty were appointed or reappointed between 6/16/07 to 6/16/08)

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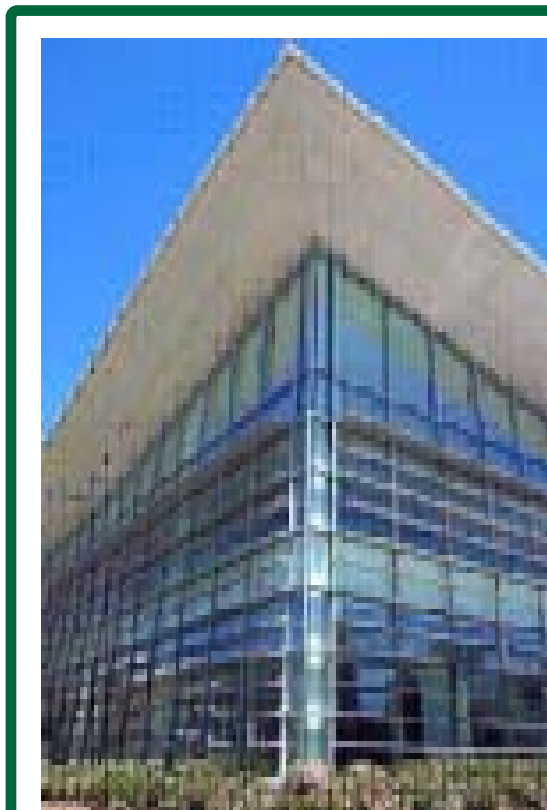
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Announcing New Resources at Biomed!

The Biomedical Library recently acquired online access to the US Pharmacopeia. Links will be added to the Roger catalog record and the e-books list when it becomes available.

The Biomedical Library has approved a network license for STATA Data Analysis and Statistical software. STATA/IC 10 will be installed on the Information Commons and 24-hour Graduate Study computers in July 2008.

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If you need help finding information for your research or teaching, accessing and navigating the library's resources, or helping students with research projects, please contact Sue McGuinness at (858) 822-4645, or smcguinness@ucsd.edu