

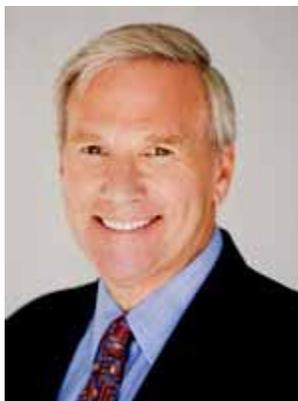


## Congratulations

**By Palmer Taylor, Ph.D.**

We are pleased to announce that Dr. James Halpert has been elected President of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET). ASPET is a 5,000 member scientific society founded in 1909, whose members conduct basic and clinical pharmacological research in academia, industry and the government. His service to ASPET and its Council will commence as President-elect in July of 2009 and continue as immediate Past President through June of 2012.

Jim joined the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in March 2008 as Professor and Associate Dean for Scientific Affairs. Before coming to UCSD, he was at the University of Texas Medical Branch, where he also held the titles of Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, Director of the NIEHS (Sealy) Center for Environmental Health and Medicine and Mary Gibbs Jones Distinguished Chair in Environmental Toxicology



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**By Debra Kain**

The Research Institute is pleased to announce the appointment of Grace Kuo, Pharm.D., MPH, as Director of the ACCP Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN). Dr. Kuo is Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; she is also a member of the University of California–San Diego (UCSD) Health Services Research Center. At UCSD, Dr. Kuo is conducting several practice-based research projects with the Medical Group, Internal Medicine, and Family Medicine clinics. She collaborates with the Health Services Research Center and the Center for Management Science in Health on campus. Since 2007, Dr. Kuo has been collaborating with pharmacist practitioners and researchers to form a pharmacist-based practice-based research network in San Diego. Network practitioners work in inpatient and outpatient pharmacies from community and institutional settings.

Before joining UCSD, Grace was Program Director for a physician-based



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## Congratulations

### *James Halpert Continued*

Jim earned his B.A. summa cum laude from UCLA, his M.A. degree from the Karolinska Institute, and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Uppsala University, Sweden. He served as a member and Chair of the NIH Pharmacology Study Section and as Editor of the journal *Drug Metabolism and Disposition* from 2000-2005. Dr. Halpert was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2006, earned the Distinguished Faculty Research Award in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences UTMB in 2006, and was a recipient of an NIH Career Development Award and an NIH Merit Award. His research has focused on the structure and function of cytochrome P450 family of proteins. Heterogeneity in the expression levels and/or activities of these important drug-metabolizing enzymes is a major determinant of individual response to medications and likely contributes to individual susceptibility to environmental toxicants as well.

### *Grace Kuo continued*

Southern Primary-care Urban Research Network, from 2001 to 2007. Dr. Kuo served as principal investigator, co-investigator, and consultant on Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)-, National Institutes of Health (NIH)-, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded projects.

Dr. Kuo has been a member of ACCP since 1997 and is an active member of the Ambulatory Care PRN. She has been a speaker on PBRN and clinical research topics at several ACCP national and spring forum meetings. Regarding the new ACCP PBRN, Dr Kuo stated:

"I applaud the efforts of the Boards of ACCP in envisioning and supporting the national PBRN. Other health care professionals—including

physicians, dentists, and nurses—have been engaged in organized PBRN research on the national level for many years. I truly believe the contribution of clinical pharmacist and pharmacist researchers through the national PBRN will help redesign our health care system and improve the quality and safety of patient care."

Dr. Kuo received her undergraduate degree in psychobiology at UCLA. She completed her pharmacy degrees at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Oregon State University/Oregon Health Sciences University. Dr. Kuo completed postdoctoral training at the W.G. Magnuson Clinical Center at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. She holds a Master's of Public Health degree in health promotion and health education from the University of Texas–Houston School of Public Health. Currently, she is completing her Ph.D. training in health services research.

Dr. Kuo's research includes medication safety, practice-based health services research, and chronic disease management. Currently, she and her investigative teams are conducting the following studies: "The Effect of Electronic Medical Records on Medication Safety" (funded by AHRQ R03 HS14406) "Effects of Literacy on Medication Safety in the Elderly" (funded by NIA/NIH R03 AG026420) and "Safe Use of Medications in Primary Care Practices"

### **Congratulations Dr. Vivian Hook**

Dr. Vivian Hook has received an NIDA/NIH T32 Training Grant, "Training in Neuroscience Related to Drug Abuse."

## Congratulations

**Adah Almutairi, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of California, San Diego, is first author of a paper recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS.) The work of Almutairi and her former colleagues at UC Berkeley, along with researchers from the Washington University School of Medicine, describes a novel synthetic nanoparticle developed for noninvasive imaging of angiogenesis.



Angiogenesis, or the formation of new blood vessels, plays an important role in many human diseases such as cancer and heart disease causing weakening of the heart muscle (cardiomyopathy) or thickening and hardening of the arteries (atherosclerosis). Nanotechnology has the potential to revolutionize the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases; and the research team has developed a biodegradable nanoprobe to target a biological marker known to modulate angiogenesis.

“One challenge of nanoparticles has been the difficulty in targeting where they go, because of the properties of size and structure,” said Almutairi. “Either they are unable to diffuse into tissue, because the nanoparticles are too large, or - if too small - they clear out of the system too rapidly.” The nanoparticles also have to be structurally camouflaged so they aren’t attacked by the body’s immune system.

The researchers designed a nanoprobe that is commercially viable because it is biodegradable and dissolves so has no long-term toxic effect, according to Almutairi.

“This particle is small enough to easily circulate - about ten to 12 nanometers in size, where most nanoparticles are about 50 nanometers,” Almutairi said. “We also ‘decorated’ it with targeting groups in a novel way so that it can recognize diseased tissue.”

Most importantly, this nanoprobe has increased selectivity for cells that express a specific integrin receptor,  $\alpha_3\beta_1$ , which serves as a biological marker for angiogenesis. These adhesive receptors are critical for the proliferation, survival and function of new blood vessels.

Almutairi says she hopes to collaborate with cancer researchers who can use this nanoparticle in the development of new diagnostics and therapeutics.

### Ambulatory Care Preceptors Conference

By Shelly Fromholtz

In her new role as Ambulatory Care Coordinator for SSPPS, Sarah Lorentz presided over the school’s 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ambulatory Care Preceptors Conference on Tuesday, March 17th.

Attendance exceeded expectations and the enthusiasm from the Ambulatory Care preceptors was fantastic.

The Office of Experiential Education reported that great gains were made this year in Ambulatory Care APPE site availability. Thanks in large part to inaugural preceptor Grace Kuo, three Family Medicine sites opened to our P4



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## Congratulations

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students in Summer 2008. Several more sites have grown as well and offer a wide range of student experiences, including Moores Cancer Center, Veterans Administration, Naval Medical Center San Diego and Kaiser Permanente. These sites are growing strong and are a vital part of the Ambulatory Care APPEs.

Other topics of discussion included the incorporation of the Community Pharmacy APPE into the Ambulatory Care APPE, the APPE student absence policy and the need and desire for Spanish-speaking students at sites heavily visited by Spanish-speaking patients. Aide Gomez, Medical Spanish instructor at the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy, suggested we identify the needs at these sites and then work together to meet them.

Easily, the highlight of the conference was "Precepting Tips" presented by Ashley Feist, UCSD Transplant Clinic preceptor. Dr. Feist shared her clinic's structure, practice and philosophy as it pertains to the Ambulatory Care student experience. Viewing the student as an extension of the preceptor, the students are gradually allowed more responsibility and independent time with the patients. A project calendar with varying weekly topics is followed and the student is provided with ongoing feedback. Dr. Feist cited the keys to the Transplant Clinic's success with APPE students as organization and structure, timely evaluations and allowance for administrative time. The Transplant Clinic continues to be a valuable asset and is dedicated and committed to the goals and objectives of SSPPS.

The conference concluded with a brainstorming session on topics to discuss at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ambulatory Care Preceptors Conference.

### **A Laudable Humanitarian Mission**

**By Binh Nhung Tran, Pharm.D.**

On Friday, January 9, 2009 in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences auditorium, Amie Nguyen and Julie Nguyen, who spent six weeks last summer with the Mercy ship crew on a humanitarian mission, gave a wonderful recollection of their experiences to their classmates. About 40 persons were present during the lunch presentation. Amie and Julie earned credit for their work, and the time spent was counted as intern hours. While on board, Dr. Ashley Dalton was their preceptor.

Assistant Professor Jan Hirsch introduced the speakers, who took turns presenting on various legs of the 148-day voyage. The joint multinational and non-governmental crew that made up the Mercy departed San Diego May 1, and for four months the crew provided humanitarian assistance in the form of medical, dental and engineering projects to the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia.

This mission reached thousands of people throughout the Western Pacific. More than 90,000 patients were treated, more than 14,000 dental patients were seen and more than 1,300 surgeries were conducted.

Julie related the relief work in Nha Trang, a seaport in Central Viet Nam, and in Timor-Leste in the Malay Archipelago. Amie talked about the Engineering Civic Action Program (ENCAPS) and VET CAPS Program, which provided care to animals such as the water buffaloes in the area.

The Mercy team was also joined by volunteers from NGOs such as Operation Smile, Project Hope, University of California Pre-dental Society, East Meets West and International Relief Teams.

Present at the travelogue were Dr. Kathryn Nguyen, Director of Research and Academic Development at the SSPPS, and Dr. Binh Tran, Executive Director at the Asian Pacific Health Center, both of whom have followed the students' itineraries from the beginning.

## San Diego Medicare Part D Outreach

By Binh Nhung Tran, Pharm.D.

It was a beautiful Sunday morning on November 16, 2008 to herald the Open Enrollment period (November 15 – December 31) for eligible patients in the Medicare Part D program in San Diego.

As with last year, the Outreach was organized by the UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Asian Pacific Health Center and the Vietnamese Federation of San Diego at the Federation site on Linda Vista Road. The purpose was to help residents choose the prescription programs that benefit them the most. The sessions also provided an opportunity for the student pharmacists to apply knowledge learned in Dr. Jag Rai's and Mrs. Sally Smith's course at SSPPS.

The students arrived at the premises at 9:00 AM and set up the two rooms with laptop computers. The main hall was used as a general waiting area for the patients.

They were briefed by preceptor Mrs. Sally Smith, and were reminded to fill out all the questions on the renovated Medicare Outreach Patient Survey (MOPS) forms. To prepare for the practicum portion of the course, students participated in four committees for ads, flyers, logistics, and food and refreshments, earning credit towards their Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience.

At 10:00 AM, Pharmacist Tien Bui, former President of the Vietnamese Federation, welcomed the audience and thanked the faculty and students for helping the community with the complex Medicare Part D programs. A former lecturer during the 1984-85 Pharmacy review courses taught by the UCSF faculty on the UCSD campus, Mr. Bui is also the longtime owner of nearby Linda Vista pharmacy.

Dr. Rai presented the Partners in D program, a collective effort of the seven schools of pharmacy in

California, and relayed the procedures at the outreach. Dr. Shirley Tsunoda, Principal Investigator of the program, was also present to oversee the operations. Dr. Binh Tran summarized the talks in Vietnamese and commented on both the "Medicare Part D Facts you should know in 2009" and the PowerPoint slides, which were run continuously during most of the outreach.

Seventeen patients came, including one private insurance member and one who was not eligible for Medicare yet. Some were accompanied by their spouses or family members, resulting in a higher total number. There were a comparable number of students, thus each student worked with one patient. One senior patient first discussed his spouse's condition as she was too debilitated to travel and then discussed his own case.

"We had a number of cases where the students were able to help the patients by enrolling them in a new Part D plan, saving them money and also ensuring that each of their medications were covered on that particular plan," said Dr. Jag Rai. "The average annual savings for these patients was around \$600, and in one particular case a patient was able to save over \$1000 in her annual drug costs."

We thank the Skaggs School of Pharmacy faculty for their great commitment and expertise, and the students for excellent follow through. The patients who I helped expressed great appreciation for the services received. Ms. Amanda Smith from UCSF and the collaborators provided timely assistance for the translations of the Medicare Part D Facts and the Patient Survey Forms. Mr. Tien Bui and Xuyen Vo from the Vietnamese Federation provided outstanding help with patient cases and language communications. We look forward to future outreaches to benefit the San Diego community.

## Community Outreach at the Tet Festival and the start of a healthy new year!

By Angie Lee, P3

On the weekend of January 24-25, 2009, UCSD APhA-ASP members participated in a community outreach project at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lunar New Year Tet Festival in Balboa Park. At this celebration of the Lunar New Year, Lion Dancers graced the field with their blessings for everyone in attendance. There were also local performers who sang, danced, and kung-fu'd their way across the stage. The festival culminated with the lighting of 8 foot strips of firecrackers which not only scared away evil spirits but got the party started!



The UCSD APhA-ASP Community Outreach Group along with collaboration from the UCSD School of Medicine and UCSD's Pre-Pharmacy Society participated at this festival by holding a large-scale health fair. We handed out brochures to educate patients and performed screenings for all festival attendees. The patient population consisted of many Vietnamese, Chinese, and Caucasian patients with ages ranging from school-aged children to senior citizens. Operation Hypertension, Operation Diabetes, Operation Cholesterol, Operation Immunizations and the Heartburn Awareness Challenge all took part in this event to spend valuable one-on-one time with patients to talk about their health conditions. The Medicare Part D Outreach Team also took part in our health fair to inform seniors about enrollment in suitable plans based on their

medication profiles. A total of 42 student pharmacists and three preceptors volunteered over the two-day event. And an astounding 250 patient screenings or consultations were provided on those days!



Megan Chynoweth, Chair of our brand new patient care project Operation Cholesterol, commented on the patients she helped. "Many of those counseled were motivated to improve their risk factors for high cholesterol and heart disease; they especially enjoyed learning about practical ways to modify their current lifestyles. Just a few of the things the student pharmacists discussed with the patients included healthier ethnic-specific menu options, smoking cessation, and determining types of enjoyable (patient-specific) exercise. The attendees who were counseled appreciated all the cholesterol and heart disease education and look forward to cholesterol blood screenings at next year's Tet Festival."

For the first time, we invited UCSD's Pre-Pharmacy Society to join us at an event to get some experience participating in our patient outreach efforts and to

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show them how pharmacists can play an important role in providing health information to the community. Pre-pharmers were enthusiastic to speak with student pharmacists and to help by promoting our services at the festival and by directing patients to screenings. The fruitful collaboration will definitely be continued for future events!

It is our hope that by participating at this New Year Festival we have made an impact in the lives of some patients. It is also our hope that we can further our profession by bringing valuable expertise to the public and showing what we can do for patients. We look forward to more events of this nature in the near future. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements on Spring Quarter events brought to you by UCSD APhA-ASP.



We would like to thank all of the volunteers involved in planning and working at this health fair who made it all possible: Dr. Binh Tran, Dr. Ton Tran, Dr. Sally Smith, Kessee Stewart, Sang Luu, Megan Chynoweth, Elaine Wang, Tihua Chao, Kam Soleymani, Christine McCue, Robin Kinnear, Susan Cho, Catherine Hong, Rachel Sperling, William Liang,, Helen Page, Jennifer Johnson, Elaine Tsang, Inna Sosinsky, Allyson Le, Stephen Rettig, David Ha, Jeannette Truong, Emily Nguyen, Seung Ah Son, Nina Phak, Traci Bricker, Ohannes Kandilian, Duy Tran, Tina Nguyen, Susan Truong,

Esther Shim, Christina Sejersen, Annie Wong, Rebecca Lau, Ran Oren, Melissa Neighbors, Julia Pchelnikova, Erica Lee, Margie Leung, Tiffany Wong, Andrea Backes, Maggie Ching and Justin Cho. Special thanks to Richard Tran (MS4) of the UCSD School of Medicine who provided funding and support and to My-Hanh Nguyen of the Pre-Pharmacy Society who coordinated undergraduate pre-pharm volunteers to help.

Thanks to all and we wish everyone a joyous, prosperous and healthy New Year!! Gung Hay Fat Choy!



## SSPPS 2008 Summer Research Projects a Success!

By Brookie M. Best, Pharm.D., M.A.S.

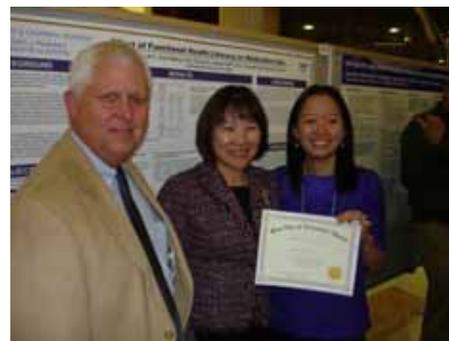
Ten SSPPS student pharmacists completed Summer Research Projects in 2008 with support from either the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences or from the NIH/NCRR Health Professional Student Clinical Research Training Grant. Each student identified a project and mentor, researched and drafted a study proposal last spring. They devoted themselves full-time to the research projects over the summer (and beyond in many cases) and presented their findings on January 8, 2009 at the Health Sciences Summer Research Training Programs Poster Presentation. As usual, this event drew a large crowd of hundreds of health sciences faculty and students, with over 60 posters from pharmacy, medical and bioengineering student research projects. Our students did an outstanding job explaining their research findings and answering questions.



Andrea Backes, Rukhsana Siddiqi,  
Rebecca Lau, Angel Lam

At the event, judges from the UCSD Biomedical Library evaluated every poster for the use of scientific literature including the quality and quantity of the references, the variety or types of references used, and the consistent use of the references throughout the poster. Two students, Andrea Backes (SSPPS Class of 2010) and Tina Sapia (School of Medicine), out of the 60+ presenters

received the “Best Use of Literature Award” with perfect scores from the judges. Their posters are on display in the Biomedical Library and will be posted online at [www.scivee.org](http://www.scivee.org). Andrea’s project evaluated “Medication Errors in Adult Patients with Low and Adequate Functional Health Literacy” under the mentorship of Dr. Grace Kuo.



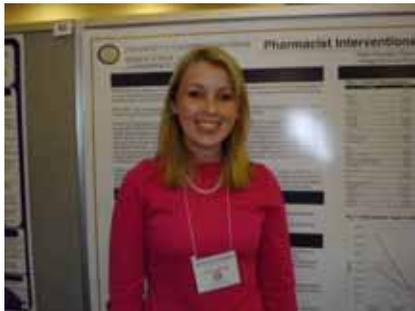
Dr. Charles Daniels, Dr. Grace Kuo,  
and Andrea Backes

Not surprisingly, the high quality of our students’ projects has already been demonstrated at the national level as well. At the 2009 American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting & Exposition in San Antonio this April 3 – 6, 2009, Andrea Backes (described above) and Robin Kinnear (SSPPS Class of 2011) participated in poster sessions presenting their research projects. Robin was also mentored by our talented Dr. Kuo, and her project is titled “Pharmacist Interventions in the Medication Management Process”. Likewise, for those of you planning to attend the 2009 ACCP/ESCP International Congress on Clinical Pharmacy in Orlando, Florida, I encourage you to learn about Rebecca Lau’s (SSPPS Class of 2011) project results in her poster presentation titled, “Assessment of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Utilization in Cancer Patients”, mentored by Dr. Meghana Trivedi. Paula Park (SSPPS Class of 2011) worked with a UCSD psychiatrist, Dr. Neal Swerdlow to determine

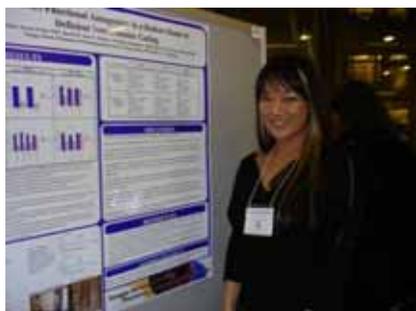
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the “Impact of D3 Stimulation on Prepulse Inhibition in Rats, and Activity of Novel D3 Compounds in Predictive Models of Antipsychotic Activity”. The results have already been presented at neuropsychopharmacology (SCN and ACNP) scientific meetings, and submitted to a journal for publication. Ai-Hang Do analyzed “Health Related Quality of Life in Pharmacy Students Cohort Study: Second and Third Year Results” with assistance from her mentor, Dr. Jan Hirsch, and she delivered a podium presentation at the Western Pharmacoeconomics Conference in Los Angeles.



Robin Kinnear



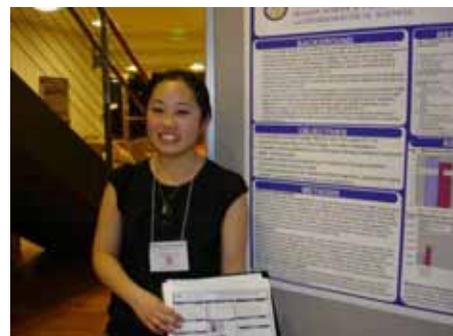
Paula Park

In addition to the projects described above, please join me in congratulating the following SSPPS Class of 2010 and 2011 students who completed summer research projects. Heather Cox described a “Pharmacokinetic Model of Trazodone in HIV-Infected Patients” (mentored by yours truly). Angel Lam studied the impact of “Standardization of Processing Oral Chemotherapy Prescriptions in the

Outpatient Pharmacy” with mentor, Dr. Rabia Atayee. Rukhsana Siddiqi investigated “Genetic Predictors of Lamotrigine Response in Bipolar Disorder” with mentors Prof. Susan Leckband and Dr. Kelly Lee. With guidance from Dr. Timothy Chen, Jeanette Truong documented the “Effectiveness of a Pharmacist-run Disease State Management Clinic on Hypertension for the Veteran Population: A 3 Year Retrospective Analysis”. Kimberly Tsai and mentor Dr. Sarah Lorentz researched “Understanding Functional Health Literacy and its Effects on Taking Medications in the Underserved Population”. Please check the display cases on the first floor of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Building over the next few months to learn the interesting findings of these projects. These were truly a talented and impressive group of young professionals, who are already contributing to our profession. Congratulations, all, on a job well done!



Ai-Hang Do, Jeanette Truong



Kimberly Tsai

## One-Stop Health Assessment Shop at Kobey's Swap Meet

By: Angie Lee, P3

Kobey's Swap Meet is San Diego's largest outdoor market, drawing more than 20,000 shoppers and 1,000 vendors every week. It attracts a large and diverse audience to a market that sells a variety of goods, both used and new<sup>1</sup>. The UCSD SSPPS APhA-ASP chapter organized a health screening event at this location in the parking lot of the San Diego Sports Arena on an early Saturday morning on November 15, 2008. Through the Kobey's Swap Meet non-profit organization donation, we obtained 3 vendor booths and set up our patient care projects. These included blood pressure monitoring, glucose testing, heartburn assessment, immunizations information, and our newest project, cholesterol testing. Many of the swap meet shoppers made use of our free services as well as vendors and Kobey employees. The ethnicities of the patient population were diverse with Hispanics, African Americans, Asians, and Caucasians all using the free services. The age ranges were also diverse



ranging from seniors to children, the latter of whom, even to their dislike, were educated on vaccinations that they will need in the near future. During peak hours, lines were formed for several services. In particular, cholesterol and blood glucose testing were among the most popular with each screening more than 45 patients. In total, we provided more than 200 screenings and health assessments to the community.

Many of the patients seen had results within the normal range with a few notable exceptions. At the Heartburn Awareness Challenge booth, one patient complained of

heartburn and shaking after drinking beer but upon further investigation, it was realized that the patient was not experiencing heartburn, but rather, was likely experiencing alcohol toxicity and withdrawal symptoms, as he routinely



drank 12 cans of beer during these occasions. The patient was asked to make an appointment with a medical physician and the local Alcoholics Anonymous group. At the Operation Hypertension booth, two patients were noted to have stage 2 hypertension with blood pressures at 160/95. Both patients were referred to the attending pharmacists, who advised the patients to follow up with their physicians within the next 1-2 weeks.

With several types of screenings available, our booth was a "one-stop shop" for patients; they could get their blood pressure read, obtain information about booster vaccines, and measure their blood glucose all at one site. Patients commended us on the convenience of this location as well as the quality of service that was provided. Many were thankful for the services, stating that they had not visited their health care professionals for routine check ups either due to lack of healthcare or just apathy. With our big blue "Free Health Screenings" banner, patients were reminded and urged to speak with our student pharmacists for an assessment. After their assessments, some patients were so impressed by our student pharmacists that they asked us to provide more screenings at this venue in the future.

Kudos to all of the student pharmacists and preceptors who made this event a huge success! Not only did we provide a great service to a much needed community, but

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we also represented our school in a positive way. We're looking forward to more great events in the near future!



We want to extend a great big “thank you” to our preceptors, Dr. Renu Singh, Dr. Shirley Tsunoda, and Dr. David Bao, whose pearls of wisdom not only served to properly educate our patients but also our student pharmacists. Also many thanks to the numerous student pharmacists whose participation made it all possible: Steven Tan, Kay Nguyen, Inna Sosinsky, David Ha, Stephen Rettig, Isabel Rivas, Robin Kinnear, Karen Yi, Christine Luu, Anh Dinh, Shaddy Javadinejad, Amie Nguyen, Lorena Arellano, Therasa Kim, Annie Chen, Kam Soleymani, Andrea Backes, Alex Engelman. Thanks to the new project chairs for their coordinated efforts in helping to make this a successful event: Tihua Chao (Heartburn Awareness Challenge Chair), Megan Chynoweth (Operation Cholesterol Chair), Sang Luu (Operation Immunizations Chair), Kessee Stewart (Operation Hypertension Chair), and Elaine Wang (Operation Diabetes Chair). And finally, a big thank you to Kobey’s Swap Meet and their non-profit coordinator Liz Anderson for their generosity in providing us with the facilities and support for our health screening.



Please join us in congratulating the following members from the class of 2012 on their selection to the CAPSLEAD program:

Jennifer Johnson

Susan Cho

Melissa Neighbors

Brian Sears

Ina Sosinsky

Deepika Nayyar

Ohannes Kandilian

Jacqueline Hovhanessian

Pamela Ny

Tina Nguyen

These individuals participated in a two-day leadership program in Palms Springs on February 28 and March 1. They completed a group project that will be presented as a poster at either the CSHP Seminar 2009 or the CPhA Outlook program in early 2010. Again, congratulations!



Congratulations to Jennifer Lai and Lina Meng who placed in the top 10 at the Clinical Skills Competition at the ASHP Mid-Year in Orlando. Jennifer and Lina were selected as one of the top 10 teams in the Clinical Skills Competition at the national level! These fourth year student pharmacists have helped UCSD SSPPS achieve another historical first.



## Skaggs Gives Back – Winter 2009

By Ohannes Kandilian, P1

It was a nice Friday afternoon, the last day of instruction for the fall '08 quarter at UCSD. The student pharmacists quickly filled a couple of cars and carpoled to their destination, Point Loma Convalescent Home. We had been preparing for this event for a good month, and were filled with excitement to finally be a part of the final phase of the project. Along with excitement, there was also a certain amount of uncertainty as to what to expect.

While driving, some started optimistically visualizing how pleasant this experience would be. Furthermore, we discussed how rewarding it always is to help people in need, especially around the holidays, when the feeling of being around people has even greater importance. Others, afraid of disappointments, were trying to be realists and left some room for a setback or two. In the meantime, I was getting carsick. Finally, we got there and entered the center with a basket filled with hand-made cards and a few pages of holiday songs.

With the caroling, we thought we would either raise the residents' holiday spirits or their blood pressure. However, it was a chance we were all willing to take and felt worth taking. Once we entered, the picture became clear... it was really a convalescent home. It was for the elderly that needed some medical attention. As we did our rounds, we quickly came to realize that each resident/patient was unique. Some were able to communicate, joke around, tell stories, give advice, show their appreciation of what we were doing, but others had memory issues, with communication skills somewhat impaired, or they simply did not want a non-family member to give them their first visit or card.

Therefore, for us the experience became even greater! The residents in general loved what they got and some asked us to sing for them. Others, on the other hand, were simply not willing to gamble. After making the rounds, we met the rest of the residents around the Christmas tree and started our caroling. I must say, it

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was not as bad as you may think. It sure was the first time that we were all singing together but it was all in good spirit. To put it bluntly, for them it was like watching elementary school kids perform. The more we messed up, the cuter we looked to them. Our singing even inspired a few residents to sing some of the songs in their native languages. It was amazing to see how happy they were. It was a different and a unique day for us, but not nearly as different and as exciting as it was for them.

This incredibly rewarding event, organized by our first year student body president Christine Luu, took place

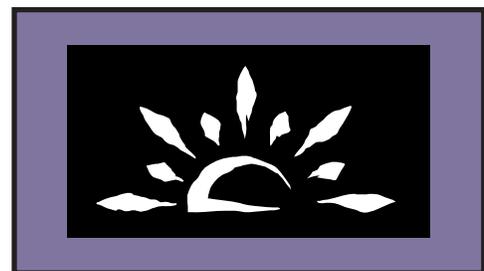


Jennifer Johnson and Mary Moss (pictured at left) smile pretty for a picture with some of the cards lovingly made by Skaggs students, staff, and faculty.

on December 5 at Point Loma Convalescent Home where a few first year student pharmacists distributed hand-made Christmas/holiday cards. Several other first year students also visited Loving Care Senior Day Center on December 15, run by P1 student Inna Sosinsky's aunt - thank you Aunt Helen for allowing us to sing and having the seniors serenade us with Russian songs!

More than one hundred student pharmacists, UCSD students, and pharmacy school staff and faculty took the time to make the cards. It is fair to note that without the cooperation and the hard work of my classmates, the Class of 2012, it would have been impossible to make this happen. Our cards were significant and symbolic because they were handmade. The students who distributed the cards were definitely not the only ones who worked on these cards. This translated to patients as, "Oh... people actually do care about us and know that we exist." I have always thought that there is no greater feeling in the world than the one that a person experiences after making someone's day. And this visit reassured me how true that is.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for the hard work and the difference they made by being a part of this project. On the way home, it was remarkable how the atmosphere in the car took a very positive tone and the conversations changed from "Oh what if..." "I hope..." to "Awww... did you see that! Good job!!" "We should do this more often..." and the usual "Ohannes... next time please lip sinc..." and of course it is redundant to mention that I got carsick.



**Rotation Fair  
by Lisa Avery**

November 25, 2008 marked the date of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rotation Fair hosted by the Office of Experiential Education. The Rotation Fair provides the 3<sup>rd</sup> year pharmacy students an opportunity to meet hospitals and community pharmacy representatives from the sites where they may be doing their 4th year Advanced Pharmaceutical Practice Experiences (APPE).

The students use this time to ask questions about the rotations, including discussing specific goals and objectives. They also learn a little about the site and their preceptors. The sites represented at this year's fair included Walgreens, Target, Scripps Mercy Hospital, VA Medical Center, Palomar Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, Sharp Healthcare, UCSD Medical Center and UC Davis Veterinary Hospital.



Pictured above are P3 Jamie Eichhom (left) and others speaking with Dr. James Colbert, Assistant Dean of Experiential Education.



Pictured above are P3s, Kacie Sasaka & Cassie Schmid speaking with Dr. Margo Karriker from UCD Veterinary Hospital.



## BioMedical Library

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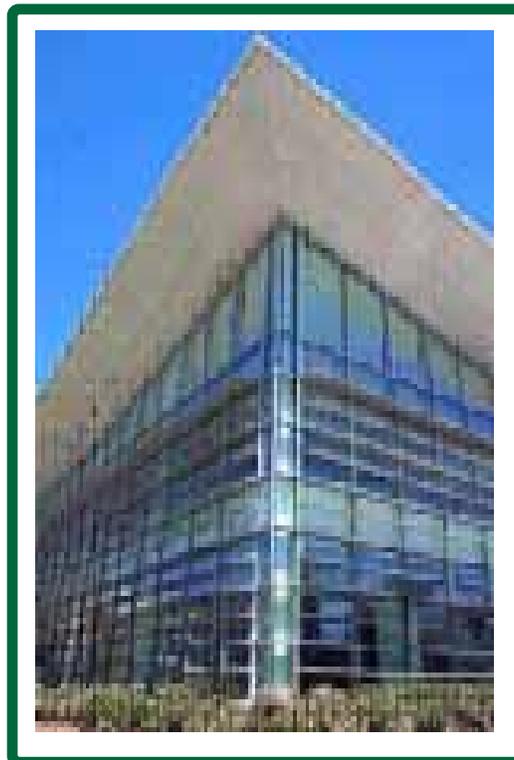
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Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you

**A special thank you to our Alumni for their  
generous contributions to SSPPS**

**Shadi Vaccani**

**Sana Ansari**

**Thu Tran**

**Michelle Ceng**

**Danielle Carbajal**