A Message from the Dean – James H. McKerrow, PhD, MD

I have just completed my eighth month as the second Dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UC San Diego. It is already clear to me that we have a lot to be proud of. I have had the opportunity to visit most of our clinical practice sites thanks to the guidance of Associate Deans James Colbert and Grace Kuo and Deputy Dean David Bailey. Visiting each of the sites is important to me because I want to emphasize my support as Dean for the clinical and educational efforts of our site directors and preceptors. I have been pleased to see the integration of pharmacists into healthcare teams in a variety of settings. This is the future of pharmacy and in particular the future of our current PharmD graduates. Perhaps it has been easier for me as an MD to get feedback from physicians and nurse practitioners at each site. Universally, they recognize the contributions by pharmacists on their team especially as regards medication therapy management and patient education. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to see the training and participation of our PharmD students at each of these sites. Having just returned from the AACP meeting in Austin, Texas, I can assure all of our faculty and students that we have an innovative and forward-looking curriculum and educational experience that is the envy of many schools. It is not surprising that our students again had 100% pass rate this year on the NAPLEX.

UC San Diego has met my expectations as an incubator of interdisciplinary collaborations and I have been pleased with the openness of faculty throughout the campus to collaborate on new initiatives. I made a commitment to have our School of Pharmacy be an integral part of the exciting Global Health program being organized by Dr. Steffanie Strathdee. We also just launched the UC San Diego Drug Development Pipeline that will provide research faculty throughout UC San Diego with a unique pathway to translate their basic discoveries into new therapies. The drug development pipeline has been made possible by the participation of faculty from Hillcrest to La Jolla who graciously provided their expertise and time to this campus-wide project. We are pleased to have received funding from the Health Sciences Vice Chancellor as well as a Frontiers of Innovation grant.
Student News

Generation Rx – UC San Diego Rx Abuse Awareness Week

By Deborah Kim, P-3

Our goal is to reach students with the urgent message, “Don’t let your short term actions affect your long term goals.” It is a simple message, but as the rate of prescription drug use continues to rise nationwide, the importance of spreading awareness to protect the future of impressionable youth and teens becomes ever more apparent. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the abuse of prescription drugs among college-age students (18-25) has come second only to the abuse of marijuana and the CDC has now deemed prescription drug abuse to be an epidemic.

To address the growing crisis, a Fortune 22 company Cardinal Health issued a nationwide take-home challenge to target collegiate prescription drug abuse and misuse. In response to the Cardinal Health Foundation, the UC SAN DIEGO-APhA Generation Rx chapter submitted a proposal for the first ever “UC San Diego Rx Abuse Awareness Week (RxWeek).” Then, on December 23, UC San Diego’s Generation Rx was selected and awarded $2,500 to implement this campus-wide symbolic pledge designed for our UC San Diego undergraduate campus.

The goal of RxWeek is to promote awareness of the detrimental consequences of prescription drug abuse using a symbolic pledge to cultivate peer-to-peer influence. The pledge is to be represented by an Rx-labeled handcuff replica. For that week, students taking the pledge promise to wear the Rx-cuffs to illustrate the captivating hold that prescription drug abuse has had in recent years. Simultaneously, the Rx-handcuff actively acknowledges the legal consequences that seem to be downplayed in our society. Along with the Rx-cuff, a small bookmark insert will be provided to highlight key facts and educational points on the real dangers of prescription drugs. Concluding the week, there is to be a candlelight vigil where students can symbolically remove the cuff and reflect on their experiences. The hope is to stimulate a unified bond amongst UC San Diego students to combat the passive acceptance of prescription abuse throughout the campus.

At its core, Rx Week is centered on awareness and education. Ultimately, the primary goal of RxWeek is to take the first step towards prevention by first acknowledging the problem. As future pharmacists, we have been educated to recognize that drug abuse can come in many forms: overuse, misuse, and addiction. However, in our communities, the abuse of prescription drugs is sometimes under-recognized as being harmful or illegal because society sees that these medications have been approved by the FDA. The number of fatalities as a result of prescription overdoses illustrates the dangers of this misconception. As pharmacy students at UC San Diego, we have made it our responsibility to utilize our education to catalyze a shift in this perception.

With this in mind and through the help of our faculty advisor, Dr. Nathan Painter, and collaborations with UC San Diego Student Health and the UC San Diego Pre-Pharmacy Society, Generation Rx hopes to introduce the first Rx Abuse Awareness Week to the UC San Diego undergraduate campuses in the Fall of 2015. Planning is now underway and we hope to have a successful RxWeek next fall.
ASCP/APhA Collaboration Event: Medication Review for Seniors

By Siu Mei Ma, P-2

On Wednesday morning of February 18th, ASCP and APhA dispatched an enthusiastic group of student pharmacists to the College Avenue Center. Their purpose: to ensure the safety and well-being of seniors in the San Diego area.

We were ready—to listen closely, think critically, and respond accordingly. At 10AM, a couple of seniors arrived for their medication review. We formed pairs, sat down with a senior and asked them about their health conditions, medication adherence, and adverse reactions. Then we assessed for duplicate therapies and misuse. The SafeMed team looked for drug interactions that could result in sedation, dizziness, and increased risk of falls. For more complicated health conditions and medications, we referred to our veteran pharmacist, Dr. Nathan Painter, for advice. When necessary, we wrote an advice sheet for our patients and their doctors to review. By 11AM, the waiting area was filled with seniors, all patiently waiting for their appointment. It was an extremely busy, but productive experience for everyone. With all of our combined efforts, we were able to assist sixteen patients in two hours.

The seniors would like to express their gratitude towards the UC San Diego student pharmacists and their pharmacist preceptor who came to sort out their medications and improve their quality of life. The students are also very grateful for such a valuable learning experience. We hope to continue providing these services to seniors in the future.

If anyone is interested in helping out at brown bag events like this one, please contact Siu Mei Ma at smm012@UC San Diego.edu
In the first year of its existence, the UC San Diego Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) student chapter will compete alongside eight other teams, including UC San Francisco and University of Illinois, in the finals for the national Pharmacy and Therapeutics competition (P&T). The first annual local P&T competition was held on January 17th, where three teams of four AMCP members participated. Each team spent numerous hours composing a monograph either defending or refuting the use of Yervoy and presenting their recommendation to a panel of experienced judges. All three judges were impressed by the quality of work produced by each team.

In the end, the winning team of the local competition consisted of Jonathan Chiang (P2), Samantha Ma (P2), Yu Jin (P2), and Karen Cham (P3). They were selected to present their case at the AMCP National Conference, held in the San Diego Convention Center on April 9th. We welcome you to attend and cheer our team to victory.

UC San Diego-AMCP chapter strives to educate students about the extent of managed care in different areas of pharmacy practices and the P&T Competition was a great way for students to gain hands-on experience in the field of managed care.

A special thank you to the judges: Dr. Jan Hirsch, Dr. Chuck Daniels, and Dr. Emilie Smith, participants and the P&T student committee for making this competition a success.

If you would like further information, please contact Cindy Lau at c4lau@ucsd.edu.

Crystal Zhou, P 4, CPhA, Student Pharmacist of the Year. This single state-wide award will be conferred at the CPhA exchange in Anaheim, April 9th-13th.
UC San Diego Rx Abuse Awareness Week
By Brittany Newton P-3, Andrew Nguyen P-3

February 21st marked the much anticipated Pharmacy Day, awaited not only by the 120 pharmacy students facilitating the annual event, but also by 136 high schoolers eager to learn more about the profession of pharmacy. A total of ten schools participated this year including Mira Mesa, Madison, University City, San Diego, Kearny, Sweetwater, Mater Dei Catholic, Southwest, Hilltop, and Eastlake High Schools.

Dr. James Colbert kicked off the event with a brief history of pharmacy and music to set the energetic tone for the day. In the morning session, students were taught how to compound “pills,” how pharmacists apply clinical knowledge in the inpatient and outpatient settings, and the dangers associated with prescription medications. Following an educational morning, students then learned what it means to be an organ donor. Actual organ recipients spoke to the crowd giving a testament to how important the role of Pharmacy is.

As in previous years, specialty workshops included Asthma, Hypertension, Diabetes, and Immunization. A well-received addition to this year’s curriculum was the Pharmacy Industry Liaison Loop’s workshop focused on drug discovery and development. To conclude their educational experience, high schoolers created posters detailing what they learned in the specialty workshops. Students showed off their creativity with drawings, color and catchy titles. The posters created in the afternoon were taken back to their respective schools and used to teach their fellow classmates.

The day flew by and all in attendance can say that they learned something new. Our dean, Dr. James McKerrow, kindly gave closing remarks which were a perfect conclusion to Pharmacy Day 2015. This annual event wouldn’t be possible without the many student and preceptor volunteers. Thank you to those who participated and see you at Pharmacy Day 2016!
Faculty News

Eduardo Fricovsky, PharmD and the UC San Diego Student-run Free Clinic The 2015 American Pharmacists Association Foundation Award for Student Innovation in Immunization Practices

Nathan Painter, PharmD The American Pharmacists Association Generation Rx Award of Excellence The award recognizes a pharmacist that has demonstrated a commitment to substance abuse education.

These awards were presented at the American Pharmacists Association meeting in San Diego March 27-30th.

UC San Diego Frontiers of Innovation Program Funds Collaborative Nanomaterial Engineering for Drug Discovery

A project to design responsive nanostructures for drug delivery, jointly proposed by Professor Michael Gilson in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Professor Nathan Gianneschi in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has been awarded a $25,000 fellowship from the UC San Diego Frontiers of Innovation Scholars Program.

Recently, the two participating labs reported that high density peptide-polymer nanomaterials are resistant to proteolysis and retain key biological activities of the constituent peptides (J. Am. Chem. Soc.136:15422, 2014, doi: 10.1021/ja5088216). Building on this study, postdoctoral scholar Dr. Jane Yin, in the Gilson lab, will use molecular simulations to help the Gianneschi lab design smart nanomaterials that can respond to environmental changes in vivo. This interdisciplinary research combines computational modeling with advanced material design to take the first critical steps toward the goal of developing bio-switchable nanomaterials for targeted drug delivery.

Candis Morello, PharmD and Kelly Lee, described drugs that promote weight gain in the article below. Please see the link to article below:


James H. McKerrow, PhD, MD is a recipient of the UC San Francisco 150th Anniversary Alumni Excellence Award.
Grace Kuo, PharmD Receives Visiting Professor Certificate from Taipei Medical University

Dr. Grace Kuo received a Visiting Professor Certificate from Taipei Medical University (TMU) at a ceremony held on March 26, 2015. Jackson Chieh-Hsi Wu, Dean of the College of Pharmacy at TMU presented the certificate. Dr. Wu also met with the Dean and others to discuss potential future collaborations between TMU and the SSPPS.

Special Announcement

Frontiers of Innovation Program Seeds Seven Multidisciplinary Projects on Campus

An initiative led by the Office of the Chancellor and Research Affairs will help launch seven major research projects on campus, all focused on advancing the university’s strategic research goals. The “Frontiers of Innovation” program is a campus-wide effort to support the primary initiatives of the university’s Strategic Plan.

A major component provides funding to support teams of our scholars from all across campus as they work to launch large-scale multidisciplinary research applications.

The Frontiers of Innovation Center Development funds going to SSPPS Faculty include:

**UC San Diego Center for Translational Computer-Aided Drug Discovery & Project Management**
Led by Rommie Amaro, James McKerrow
Research area: Enriching Human Life and Society

**UC San Diego Center for Compound Resources**
Led by William Gerwick, Dionicio Siegel
Research area: Enriching Human Life and Society
SSPPS News

By Jan Hirsch, PhD

The eleventh Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Forum was held February 9th, 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 contributions to the PE Forum Sponsorship Fund and Exhibitors. Thank you to Allergan, AbbVie, Partnership for Health Analytic Research, Teva and Ventega for their support and participation.

The topic for the Forum was “Patient Reported Outcomes: Useful for Whom?”

Continuing our theme of kicking off the Forum by testing the audience knowledge we challenged participants to name the “7 Most Famous TV Doctors of All Time” (http://www.hollyfame.com/7-famous-tv-doctors-time/)

Can you name the 7 Most Famous TV Doctors? (Answers on page 13)

SPEAKERS

Overview of PRO definitions, requirements, & future for drug development
Ari Gnanasakthy, MBA, MSc
Head, Patient Reported Outcomes
RTI Health Solutions International

Stakeholder Views:

View from the Patient Perspective
Liz Helms
President/CEO, California Chronic Care Coalition

View from a Health Plan Formulary Decision Maker Perspective
Jeff White, PharmD, MS
Director, Drug Evaluation and Clinical Analytics, Anthem

View from a Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Perspective
Priti Jhingran, PhD
Field Director East, US Health Outcomes, GSK

Speaker slides are available via the link: http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/pharmacoeconomics_forum.shtml
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

Current PE Forum Steering Committee members are:

- Charles Daniels, RPh, PhD  
  UC San Diego Healthcare Department of Pharmacy
- Jan D. Hirsch, RPh, PhD  
  UC San Diego, Skaggs School of Pharmacy
- Anthony P. Morreale, PharmD, MBA, BCPS  
  VHA Pharmacy Benefit Management Services
- Mirta Millares, PharmD, FCSHP, FASHP  
  Kaiser Permanente
- Michael Pollock  
  PPD
- Robert Schoenhaus, PharmD  
  Sharp Healthcare

2015 Tet Celebration in San Diego

By Binh Tran, PharmD

It was a very nice Tet celebration on January 24, at the Double Tree Hotel in Mission Valley, San Diego.

We thank Dr. Viet Truong, President of the San Diego Vietnamese Pharmacists Association (SDVPA) and Chair of the organizing committee for realizing a great program with the participation of the Vietnamese Physicians Association (VPASD) members and Dentists in San Diego.

This was also the first time that the Asian Pacific Health
Foundation had a booth to showcase the health screening activities performed with the participation of VPASD physicians, SDVPA pharmacists, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences students, UC San Diego medical students and volunteers from SDSU and area colleges.

Featured were posters of 2014 Summer Research studies on:

1. **Expanding Hepatitis B screening in Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in San Diego County: Needs Assessment and Linkage to Care** by Karen Yu, BS, Binh N. Tran, PharmD, and Robert Gish, MD
2. **Relationships between Known Risk factors for Osteoporosis and Heel Bone Mineral Density in Asian populations in San Diego County** by Esther Park, BS, Binh N. Tran, PharmD, Brookie Best, PharmD, and Renu Singh, PharmD.
3. **Pearls Gained from Hepatitis B screening in a community setting** by Binh N. Tran, PharmD, Kristiana Nguyen, BS, David Adler, PharmD, Robert Gish, MD.
4. **Dr. Thai Nguyen, cardiologist from Orange County, presented on Managing Hypertension using combination therapy.**

The two emcees of the evening were pharmacists Grace Nguyen, and Nolan Le. After the welcome and speech by Dr. Truong, the program began with the Opening Group song, followed by the traditional lion dance, the Kitchen Gods’ report, and vibrant songs by health care members and professional singers. Of note this year was the Ao Dai fashion show designed by Quynh Paris, comprising 19 models in the medical, pharmacy and dentistry fields. Mai Lan Anh, spouse of Dr. Viet Truong, was the singer of Vietnamese songs during the spectacular show. The acclaimed Four Brothers’ band performance drew a large crowd on the dance floor. After the raffle ticket drawing, dancing continued until midnight.

We would like to thank:
- Dr. Palmer and Dr. Susan Taylor, Dr. David and Mrs. Adler, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Gish for their support and participation at this annual event;
- Dr. Jonathan Lam, President of the Vietnamese American Medical Association, Dr. and Mrs. Howard Nguyen coming from Dallas,
- Mrs. Hao Bui, President of the Northern California Vietnamese Pharmacists Association,
- Dr. Christopher Bui, Dr. Christine Bui and members of the Southern California Vietnamese Physicians Association,
- Dr. Hai Tran, president of the VPASD and physician members,
- Dr. Yen Le and dentists in San Diego,
- Skaggs Student pharmacists, UC San Diego, SDSU and other Schools,
- Dr. Danh Truong, President of Asian Pacific Health Foundation, with Staff and volunteers,
- Family, guests and friends attending the 2015 Tet Celebration in San Diego.

**Happy New Year of the Goat!**
Award from the Vietnamese Pharmacists Association in the USA

By Binh Tran, PharmD

Andrew Nguyen, 3rd year student from UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences was the recipient of the Annual Award from the Vietnamese Pharmacists Association in the USA at the Tet Celebration on February 22nd, at Villa Banquet, Westminster. The other three awardees were: Elaine Nguyen (Western U), Dan Vy Nguyen (USC), and Peter Truong (UC San Francisco). President Man Nguyen, owner of May Pharmacy, recalled the formation of the Vietnamese Pharmacists Association in the USA 35 years ago by the late co-founder Dr. Dong To, Dean of the Saigon School of Pharmacy.

First Outreach at NGOC MINH Temple

By Binh Tran, PharmD

The first outreach of the year was carried out at Ngoc Minh Temple in East San Diego on January 11, 2015. In spite of rain falling most of the day, a great number of student pharmacist volunteers came to provide various screening services starting at 10:00 AM on the covered patio of the temple:

- Hypertension screening: with Andrew Nguyen, Phuong Thoi
- Cervical cancer screening with Tuyet Phan, Annie Nguyen
- Bone densitometry with Esther Park, Karla Jorgensen - Ponce, Ethan Truong
- Breast cancer early detection with Angie from Every Woman Counts program
- Patient consultation: Dr. Hai Tran, Dr. Ton Tran

Registration was handled by Kristiana Nguyen, and logistics by Gary Tang. Ngoc Nguyen, Caly Tran, Anh Nguyen and Felicia Han helped with translation.

Preceptors were: Kim Dang, PharmD, Ethan Truong, PharmD, Binh Tran, PharmD. At 12:15 PM, Dr. Ton Tran presented on Hepatitis B and C in the main building.

Hot vegetarian lunch was provided with appreciation from the temple’s staff and volunteers.
Thank You to the SSPPS Voluntary Faculty! All 305 of You!
### 7 Most Famous TV Doctors of All Time

1. Dr. Gregory House (House MD)  
2. Dr. Doogie Howser (Doogie Howser, MD)  
3. Dr. Cliff Huxtable (The Cosby Show)  
4. Dr. Doug Ross (ER)  
5. Dr. J.D. Dorian (Scrubs)  
6. Dr. Benjamin Franklin "Hawkeye" Pierce (MASH)  
7. Dr. Leonard McCoy (Star Trek)

(http://www.hollyfame.com/7-famous-tv-doctors-time/)

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