Incorporation of Community Pharmacy into the Ambulatory Care Rotation:
In order to satisfy ACPE’s community pharmacy APPE requirement, SSPPS has incorporated Community Pharmacy into the Ambulatory Care rotation. Students participate in Ambulatory Care for the 1st five weeks of the six-week block, and then participate in Community Pharmacy for the last week.

This method presents some challenges to both the preceptors and the students. Community Pharmacy preceptors expressed that one week just isn’t sufficient for teaching and learning high-level tasks. Ambulatory Care preceptors expressed similar concerns as well, with the extra challenge of having students from other schools on a 6-week schedule & SSPPS students on a 5-week schedule.

Other options to satisfy ACPE’s requirement include eliminating an elective rotation or an Ambulatory Care rotation in favor of a full 6-week Community Pharmacy block. SSPPS will explore other options as well in order to better satisfy all parties concerned.

Online Training Opportunities via SSPPS Website:
SSPPS has partnered with NACDS and Pharmacist’s Letter in order to provide all preceptors with CE training opportunities at no charge. Links to both programs are available on the SSPPS website: http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/experiential.shtml. In addition, Pharmacist’s Letter provides several valuable resources to preceptors such as case studies, an interactive preceptor forum and sample assignments via their Preceptor Training and Resource Network, also available to all SSPPS preceptors at no charge.

Preparing your Students to Work with the Spanish-Speaking Patient:
Aide Gomez facilitated a discussion regarding the Spanish-speaking population in our pharmacies. She addressed cultural norms, religious beliefs and communication behaviors. For example, she emphasized the importance of confirming understanding by having the patient repeat instructions back to the pharmacist, rather than on simply relying on the answer, “Yes” to the question, “Do you understand?” She also discussed critical issues such as translation errors and drug interactions. For further information and guidance, she recommends www.medlineplus.gov and the Manual Merck de informacion medica para el hogar (Merck Manual in Spanish).