Preceptor Spotlight: Alice Yu, UC San Diego Health System-La Jolla

Education: Pharm.D. from University of Southern California
Training: PGY1 Residency, UC San Diego Medical Center
Specialty: Medicine

Preceptor Tools & Tips: Precepting students allows me to give back some of the knowledge I’ve picked up from the wonderful people I’ve worked with throughout my career. The most important part of being a preceptor is carving out time to meet with students. This way, they feel that I am invested in their learning, and that the time and effort they’ve spent working up patients and researching topics is valuable. Discussing patients also gives students confidence when presenting recommendations to physicians because a licensed pharmacist has verified their interventions.

In precepting fourth-year pharmacy students, I prefer not to engage in too much didactic teaching of familiar disease states, as most of the topics on a medicine rotation should have already been taught and learned during therapeutics. Instead, it is an opportunity for the student to apply their "book knowledge" in a clinical setting. I feel strongly that the clinical rotation is the time when soon-to-be pharmacists need to be developed from thinking as a student ("Can you teach me this?") to thinking as a practitioner ("I'm not familiar with this, but I know my resources, so I will look into this"). It is also a time to instill confidence in their skills by exposing them to multiple interactions with pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers. Students are also my way of staying current on guidelines, journal articles, and new medications in the market. This keeps me excited to keep teaching, because not only do the students learn from me, but I from them.

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Pharmacy Leaders Breakfast

The Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) and the San Diego Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (SDSHP) co-sponsored the San Diego County Pharmacy Leaders Breakfast on November 12, 2013. The topic of the breakfast discussion was “The Future of Sterile Compounding,” presented by Dr. Kenneth Schell (Assistant Dean for Pediatric Clinical Affairs and Health Sciences Clinical Associate Professor at UC San Diego, Chief of Pharmacy at Rady Children’s Hospital).

Dr. Schell led an informative and spirited discussion regarding recent changes in state pharmacy legislation, specifically the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 294. SB 294 was passed in October 2013 and requires a special license for in-state and out-of-state pharmacies that compound sterile drug products. Under this new law, the board is required to inspect these facilities annually to provide consistent oversight and to ensure compliance with pharmacy law.

Dr. Schell outlined the potentially challenging effects these restrictions would have on the healthcare industry and on patient care, and he encouraged everyone to contact their senators to express concerns about SB 294. In addition, Dean Palmer Taylor recommended the formation of a committee composed of San Diego-area healthcare systems, industry leaders, and community pharmacists, with the purpose of writing a strong, united statement opposing the bill. If you are interested in participating in the committee in February, or would like to receive more information, please contact Michelle Schlueter at mischlueter@ucsd.edu.

Reminder of SSPPS Rotation Absence Policy

* Students are to contact both their preceptor and the Office of Experiential Education (Lisa Avery lavery@ucsd.edu) if they are unable to attend the rotation due to illness or emergency.

* Missed rotation time will need to be made up at the discretion of the preceptor.

* The preceptor’s approval needs to be secured in advance if a student needs to be absent on a scheduled rotation day.

* A plan should be developed by the preceptor and student for the completion of missed time from the rotation, if the preceptor deems necessary.

* Conditions for excused absences: Students are encouraged to attend professional meetings and interviews required for residency application activities. It is the responsibility of the student to organize these dates in ways to minimize the impact on their educational experiences. Students are expected to work with their preceptors when planning/scheduling interview dates.

New Leaders in SDCPhA and SDSHP

**SDCPhA**
President: Rachel Sperling (Sharp Community Health Group)
Immediate Past President: Margaret Bahrami (Optum Rx)
Secretary: David Ha (UCSD)
Treasurer: David Bao (Optum Rx)
Board Members:
David Truong (Santarus Pharmaceuticals)
Alis Fago (Costco)
Nathan Painter (UCSD)
Kevin Gan (Board Member/Student Representative, UCSD P3)

**SDSHP**
President: Harminder Sikand (Scripps Mercy)
President Elect: Jennifer Floyd (Palomar)
Immediate Past President: Helen Park (VA Palo Alto)
Secretary: Timothy Chen (VA San Diego)
Treasurer: Kim Tallian (Keck Graduate Institute)
Board Members:
Marcie Lepkowsky (UCSD)
Sarah McBane (UCSD)
Winnie Thi (Scripps Mercy)
Juan Toledo (UCSD)
Marie Scott (UOP)