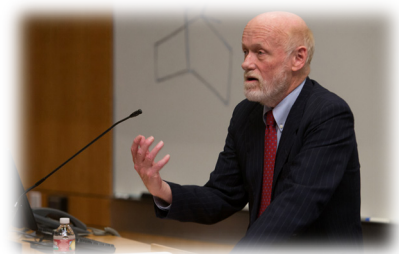
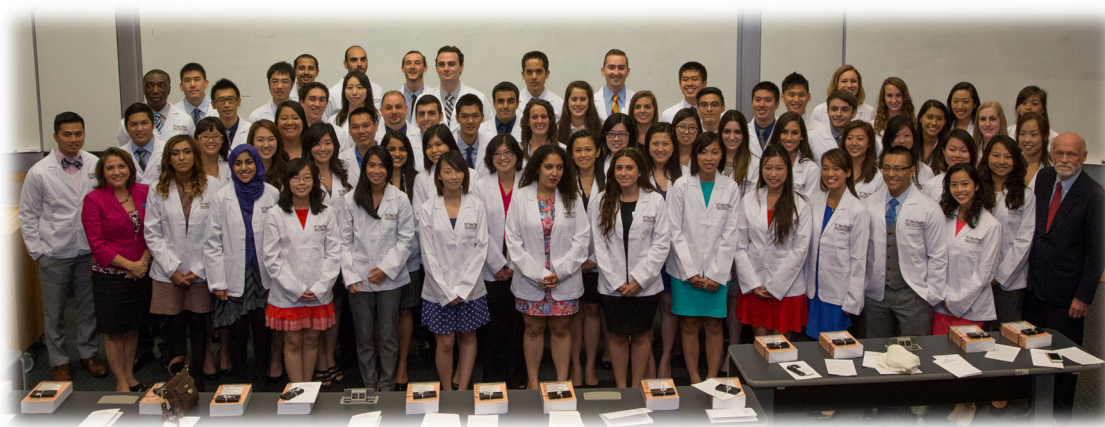


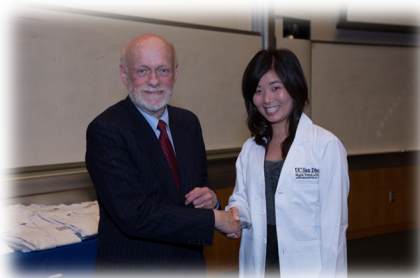
# UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Newsletter

Fall 2013

## 2013 White Coat Ceremony – Class of 2017



## 2013 White Coat Ceremony – Class of 2017





## 2013 White Coat Ceremony – Class of 2017



## Student News

### CSHP-UCSD Clinical Skills Competition

By Aakash Patel, P-3

This year's CSHP-UCSD Clinical Skills Competition was held on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Five teams of two put their clinical knowledge to the test with a chance to represent our school at CSHP Seminar and ASHP Midyear on the line. Two P3 teams (Minh Nguyen and Alyssa Miyake, and Crystal Zhou and Francis Wang) and four P4 teams (Natalie Elder and Meghan Aslanian, Karen Wu and Mark Aparicio, Jennie Ma and Andrea Chan, and Angela Bougetz and Irina Gutman) competed at a high level. Each team was given two hours to analyze, evaluate, and dissect a clinical case and subsequently provide a written pharmacist's care plan. Additionally, each team gave a two minute oral case



presentation to our four judges: Dr. Felix Yam, Dr. Timothy Bassell, Dr. Elizabeth Jackson, and Dr. Sarah Mcbane. Finally, each team defended their respective care plans during a tough eight minute question and answer session with the judge's panel. After a lively discussion and careful deliberation the judges selected Meghan Aslanian and Natalie Elder as this year's CSHP-UCSD Clinical Skills Competition Winners! Meghan and Natalie recently participated in the CSHP Clinical Skills Competition at Seminar and are now getting ready to compete at the National Clinical Skills Competition at ASHP Midyear on the weekend of Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

This year's competition was made possible by the help of our Clinical Skills Competition Coordinator Dr. Jaclyn Jaskowiak and our dedicated CSHP volunteers: Alan Chin, Carol Yoon, and Suraya Jabaiah. A big thank you to the contestants, judges, and volunteers for putting together another successful competition and good luck to Meghan and Natalie!

### CSHP-UCSD 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Residency & Fellowship Showcase

By Tiffany Meng, P-3

The CSHP-UCSD 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Residency & Fellowship Showcase was held on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013. This showcase was intended to provide an opportunity for pharmacy students in San Diego to network and learn about residency and fellowship programs in California. A total of sixteen residency programs and two fellowships programs participated in the Showcase. Moreover, more than 140 pharmacy students, including students from University of California, San Diego; University of Pacific; California Northstate University; Touro University; and Roseman University, attended the event.

The event began with an introduction by Dr. Charles Daniels, Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, Associate Dean at UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the Pharmacist-in-Chief at UC San Diego Health Systems. Dr. Daniels also hosted an additional information session for the third year pharmacy students by providing an overview of the residency application timeline.

Unlike past years, Showcase this year included workshops to emulate the ongoing workshops at CSHP Seminar. These workshops were held by Dr. David Ha, Dr. Sarah Lorentz, Dr. Joseph Yam, Dr. Sarah McBane and Dr. Felix Yam, and were created to better educate the first and second-year students. Workshop topics included 'How to create a good Curriculum Vitae', 'How to Act and Dress Professionally', 'How to Prepare for Fellowships' and 'How to Prepare for Residency Programs'.



The main attraction of the event was the showcase in which the participating programs interacted with students interested in post-graduate training opportunities. Students moved from one program booth to another,

networking with various program directors, residents, and staff and learning about different post-graduate opportunities from all over California. This year, we were able to provide an independent block of time for the fourth year students to interact with the different programs, allowing them to build a better connection with the program representatives.



The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Residency & Fellowship Showcase was a successful event and received much enthusiasm and positive feedback from the programs, speakers, and students. It was my pleasure to have the opportunity to work with the various program representatives and the guest speakers. Additionally, I would like to thank the entire 2013-2014 CSHP-UCSD Executive Board, the 2013-2014 PILL Executive Board and Susan Bui for volunteering their time and help to make this event possible. Last but not least, many thanks to the UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Office of Student Affairs for their support and sponsorship.

## Student Awards

Congratulations should go to **Rebecca Kandilian** for recently she received three awards from the California Society of Health Systems Pharmacists! The first is the 2013 Student Leadership Award given to a graduating student in all of the seven pharmacy schools in California. The second and third, the Student Leadership in Health System Practice Award and the Joseph M. Beckerman Memorial Scholarship, are far more significant for there is a single awardee in the state. Congratulations to Rebecca. This is further evidence that SSPPS students stand out in national and state selections for academic and service endeavors.



## Clinical Faculty News

### Clinical Faculty Accomplishments (July 2012-July 2013)

By Grace M. Kuo, PharmD., Ph.D, M.P.H., FCCP

Associate Dean for Academic Clinical Affairs

#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

- Drs. Rabia Atayee and Joe Ma have been asked to be affiliated and lecture to San Marcos State School of Nursing in the area of pain and palliative care.
- Dr. Linda Awdishu received an invitation to participate in Acute Kidney Injury Clinical Workgroup (CWG) for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Hospital eMeasures project.
- Dr. Linda Awdishu participated in the NKF Annual Walk and received a grateful patient donation to support student screenings for hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol.
- Dr. Linda Awdishu helped organize the first Inter-professional Educational Event between SSPPS, UCSD SOM, and USD SON with multi-media coverage of the event by the Union Tribune (TV, print, online).
- Dr. Brookie Best was selected as Member 2013, Panel on Treatment of HIV-Infected Pregnant Women and Prevention of Perinatal Transmission Guidelines, A Working Group of the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council (OARAC). This guideline establishes the clinical practice standard of care for treatment of HIV-infected pregnant women and prevention of perinatal transmission in the U.S.
- Dr. Brookie Best served as class of 2020 Admissions Application Community Reviewer for Preuss Charter Middle and High School in La Jolla, CA. 2013.
- Dr. James Colbert is an elected delegate to ASHP House of Delegates, 2013.
- Dr. James Colbert is an elected delegate to CSHP House of Delegates, 2013.
- Dr. James Colbert is an invited member to the AACP Council of Sections Preceptor Development Task Force, 2012-2013.
- Dr. James Colbert is an invited member to the Inaugural AACP Master Preceptor Recognition Program Advisory Board, 2013-2014.
- Dr. Jan Hirsch was selected as member, Pharmacy-Medication Therapy Management Policy Work Group of the California Right Care Initiative, 2012.
- Dr. Jan Hirsch organized and hosted the 9th SSPPS Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Forum on February 11, 2013 - Specialty Pharmacy Distribution Channels & Processes: Challenges & Opportunities Today & Under Health Care Reform – attended by representatives of managed care, academia, medical centers, pharmaceutical and biotech companies in Southern California.
- Dr. Grace Kuo and SDPharmNet staff sponsored a Medication Therapy Management Seminar on December 10, 2012 for SD pharmacists.
- Dr. Grace Kuo served as a reviewer for the United States Federal Government Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Health Care Research Training (HCRT) Study Section; 2012-present.
- Dr. Grace Kuo served as a reviewer for the United States Federal Government Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Center for Scientific Review, Understanding and Promoting Health Literacy review panel
- Dr. Grace Kuo served on the Editorial Board of the NIH NHGRI G2C2 Program. 2012-present.

- Dr. Jennifer Le was invited to be Editorial Board Member for Infectious Diseases Section, Pediatric Pharmacotherapy (new textbook), Editors Milap Nahata and Sandra Caballero, American College of Clinical Pharmacy. 2010-2013.
- Dr. Jennifer Le was appointed Member to the Board of Pharmacy Specialties in Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Practice Analysis Taskforce. 2012-2013.
- Dr. Jennifer Le served as a Scientific Reviewer for Memorialcare Health System Institutional Review Board, 2012.
- Dr. Jennifer Le served on the Clinical Research Operations Task Force at Memorialcare Health Services, 2013.
- Dr. Jennifer Le served on the Clinical Research Operations Implementation Task Force at Memorialcare Health Services, 2013.
- Dr. Jennifer Le served on the Clinical Research Operations Committee at Memorialcare Health Services, 2013 – present.
- Dr. Sarah McBane was a volunteer pharmacist at the Deaf Community Health Fair, October 2012.
- Dr. Sarah McBane served as a pharmacist preceptor for the Medical Education for Diverse Students (MEDS), January 2013.
- Dr. Sarah McBane was an invited speaker at the San Diego County Chamber of Commerce: SB 493, April 2013.
- Dr. Sarah McBane was an invited lecturer for the Pharmacy Practice Module – Advanced Learning Series 5 in Kerala, India, July 2013.
- Dr. Nathan Painter was elected to the board of directors for the American Association of Diabetes Educators, 2014-2016.
- Dr. Felix Yam was asked to serve as a didactic lecturer/preceptor for Medicine 401 – acute care medicine rotation for 3rd year medical students.
- Dr. Felix Yam was appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board for the California Journal of Health System Pharmacy.

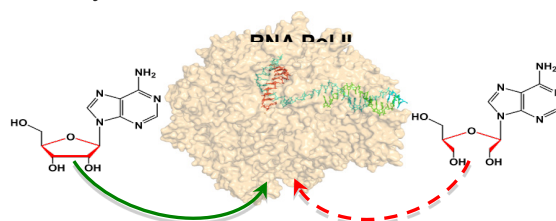
## Faculty News

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently published a new policy statement on drug use during breastfeeding (<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/132/3/e796>). The document recommends LactMed as a comprehensive and current source of information on drug use during breastfeeding. LactMed is written by faculty member Phil Anderson and is published as an on-line database and an app by the National Library of Medicine (<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?LACT>). Dr. Anderson is acknowledged as the primary author of LactMed in the AAP document along with a detailed description of the database. Articles on the topic that he published (one with former Associate Dean, Dr. Tony Manoguerra) are also cited in the AAP document. Release of the AAP document was widely reported by national media such as CBS, CNN, NBC, The Wall Street Journal, and MedPage Today. All of the reports mentioned LactMed as the recommended source for information on medication use during breastfeeding. Medscape published an interview with Dr. Hari Sachs from the FDA, the primary author of the AAP document. In the interview, she referred readers to LactMed and the package labeling as preferred sources of information. Dr. Anderson was also interviewed about the AAP document and LactMed for an article published on Lifescript.com, a women's health web site.

**Dr. Dong Wang** and colleagues Liang Xu, Steven W. Plouffe, Jenny Chong and Jesper Wengel have just had their article, "A Chemical Perspective on Transcriptional Fidelity: Dominant Contributions of Sugar Integrity Revealed by Unlocked Nucleic Acids" accepted and published by **Angewandte Chemie International Edition**.

Below is an excerpt and picture from their article.

"Using synthetic nucleic acid analogue, Dong Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and colleagues investigated the role of this central sugar by comparing natural nucleic acids to synthetic nucleic acids. The only difference between the natural nucleic acids and the synthetic nucleic acids used in this study is that the central sugar ring is broken in the synthetic nucleic acids; all of the other chemical groups are identical. They found that integrity of this central sugar is actually the most essential component for maintaining RNA Pol II transcriptional fidelity. When the ring was disrupted, RNA Pol II lost its ability to discriminate between matched or mismatched base pairs, which in nature could result in mutations and non-functional proteins."



## SSPPS News

### Welcome New Clinical Faculty

**By Grace M. Kuo, PharmD., Ph.D, M.P.H., FCCP**

**Associate Dean for Academic Clinical Affairs**

We are pleased to announce appointments of two new clinical faculty at Assistant Professor rank, Dr. Jeremiah Momper and Dr. Jonathan Watanabe.



**Dr. Jeremiah Momper** received a PharmD in 2006 and a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2011, both from the University of Pittsburgh. During his graduate training, he was a clinical pharmacist with the Drug Use and Disease Management Program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. After completing his PhD degree, Dr. Momper joined the U.S. FDA in Silver Spring, MD as a Commissioner's Fellow in the Office of Clinical Pharmacology. As a member of the Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology Staff at FDA, he performed research aimed at applying novel clinical pharmacology tools to optimize pediatric drug development. At UCSD, Dr. Momper will develop a clinical pharmacology research program focused on mechanistically understanding alterations in drug disposition and response in special populations. He will also precept students at the UC San Diego Health System Kidney Transplant Clinic. Dr. Momper's teaching responsibilities are expected to be in the biopharmaceutics area.



**Dr. Jonathan H. Watanabe** received his BS in Zoology from the University of Washington (UW). His PharmD was performed at the University of Southern California. He completed an MS with the UW Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy Program (PORPP) as part of the UW / Allergan Health Economics and Outcomes Research Fellowship. He returned to UW PORPP to complete his PhD under the advisorship of Professor Sean D. Sullivan. Jonathan's research areas include Pharmaceutical and Health Services Analysis, Outcomes Research, and Pharmacoepidemiology. His research goal is to proceed with analyses that will allow maximization of clinical benefit of pharmacotherapies particularly in residents of extended care facilities. Much of his research has been focused on the understanding of patient medication adherence behavior. Traditionally, this research has involved patient surveys, interviews, and questionnaires. With the burgeoning prevalence of large medical databases and electronic medical records it is now possible to use statistical procedures to execute large-scale regression-based assessments of adherence behavior using sample sizes unachievable in most patient reported outcomes-based analyses. These database approaches also offer advantages by eliminating respondent bias to adherence measurements. His practice interest is in Long Term Care (LTC) Pharmacy. Dr. Watanabe has a research appointment at the VA San Diego and is a licensed pharmacist in California and Washington State.



## Founders' Day 2013

By Kristine McCabe

SSPPS is thrilled and honored to have won first place in the Affinity Booth competition for Founders' Day 2013! On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Town Square was transformed into a 60s-themed beach boardwalk that featured a brief program, free food, interactive activities, and music and dance performances. This year's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Founders' Day celebration was a showcase of UC San Diego's accomplishments, discoveries, and innovations.

SSPPS participated in the boardwalk-themed Affinity Booth competition, along with fifteen other academic areas. Criteria for judging the booth included the overall look of the booth, the presentation of historical information, the interactive element, and the

incorporation of both the "Tritons United" motif and the beach boardwalk/carnival look into the booth. The competition was fierce (and fun!), but the SSPPS booth ultimately took home the gold medal.

The SSPPS Affinity Booth featured an actual boardwalk lined by beach pails that led to the *Rx in a Bottle* game, where participants were asked



questions about either the history of UC San Diego or the history of pharmacy, depending on the prescription bottle they unburied from the “beach” display. The inside of the booth was decorated to look like a UC San Diego-style carnival, including pennants with the five academic divisions of UC San Diego on them and a prominently displayed “Tritons United” banner.

Special thanks to SSPPS team members Teah Stacks, Kristine McCabe, Tracy Cruz, and Doreen Lacy.

## The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Asian Heritage Awards

By Binh Tran, PharmD

The 10th Asian Heritage Awards celebration on September 14, 2013 at Marriott Marquis and Marina in San Diego was a wonderful event. A big thank you to Len Novarro, Roz Carmen, and all the organizers for their tremendous efforts to realize this superb 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The ample display area in front of the Marriott Marquis Ballroom showcased the diverse achievements of current and former honorees. The Tzu Chi Foundation booth attracted visitors with their Ecoverse products promoting recycling of disposable materials. Of note was a warm blanket made from 70 empty plastic bottles explained Dr. Tenshang and Peggy Joh. Books with inspirational sayings by Master Cheng Yen in Chinese, English, Japanese, and Spanish were also offered at each banquet table.

Grandmaster Akiko Bourland, President of the Ohara Ikebana Society of San Diego, donated three autographed copies of her book, “Harmony with Flowers,” for silent auction. Binh Tran presented a copy as a gift to Dr. Susan Taylor, UCSD Professor of Chemistry, who came with Dean Palmer Taylor of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Another copy was presented to Mrs. Robert Gish, who loves flower arrangements and had attended a previous Ohara Ikebana show at Balboa Park, where she met the great teacher.

Nearby displays included Thai fruit carvings by the Thai culture group, along with dancers in colorful dress and musicians playing traditional instruments. The rich program started with “God Bless America”, and continued with the welcome address by Asian Heritage Founders Roz Carmen and Len Novarro. Phoebe ChongChua and Marcella Lee were the eloquent emcees. The 14 honorees in all the categories were introduced by prominent sponsors followed by a vibrant video segment delineating the main activities of each honoree.

We were pleased to hear the acceptance speeches by Tony Oales, Honoree for Entrepreneurship; AnhLan Nguyen,



Honoree for Science and Technology; Dr. William Tseng, Honoree for Medicine; and Dr. Loc Le, Honoree for Public Health who were warmly introduced by Dr. Robert Gish, former Diversity Pioneer at last year's AHA event. Other honorees were: Shashin Desai (Innovation), Chris Phan (Government), Sgt. Sarah Hakala (Military Service), Darnai Ngawjeenanand (Local Humanitarian), Frank Jao (Business Enterprise), representatives for Council for Teaching Filipino Language & Culture, and the Lions Club of San Diego. Julia Cheng and Marcella Lee received special presentations.



The Diversity Pioneer Award was presented posthumously to philanthropist Dennis Avery, and accepted by Sally Wong-Avery, Director of the San Diego Chinese School. Dr. Pradeep Khosla, UCSD Chancellor, received a Special Recognition; he later visited with Dean Taylor and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty and students.

The wonderful tribute to outstanding Asian members toast to Dr. Bert Fong on his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Sponsors and friends everywhere in San Diego, the US and beyond, shared in the event.

We thank all the AHA Gala co-chairs, organizing committee members, sponsors, UCSD Deans, professors, the Antiviral Research Center staff members, all the volunteers, students, and friends who came from far and near to attend this meaningful event. All proceeds go to the support of the BOOST program to bring Business Opportunity, Outreach, Science and Technology with strong emphasis on Innovation and Entrepreneurship to female middle school students of Asian and Hispanic descents.

## In Honor of World Hepatitis Day

By Binh Tran, PharmD

### Overview of Hepatitis Free San Diego Project

In San Diego, the Hepatitis Free San Diego Project is a partnership between:

- UCSD Hepatobiliary Disease and Abdominal Transplantation and the Antiviral Research Center,
  - The Asian Pacific Health Foundation ,
  - Family Health Centers of San Diego (FHCS), screening San Diego County's Asian and Pacific Islander immigrant community for Hepatitis B. Early identification of chronic hepatitis B infection in this group of foreign-born persons allows linkage to care, which is done through a UCSD-FHCS partnership. Besides patients who are identified at an early stage, persons who are neither infected nor immune are linked to resources for vaccination and education on prevention.
- This comprehensive project is supported by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since September 2012.



The Asian Pacific Health Foundation carried out the following events around World Hepatitis Day:

### Health Fair on July 27, 2013

This event was organized at the Vietnamese Catholic Center on 40th Street in San Diego.

A strong contingency of volunteers came from diverse sources:

- Thuy Nguyen and Lillian Nguyen, SSPPS students working on Summer research studies on Hepatitis, performed Hepatitis B Point of Care tests, with phlebotomy services provided by the AVRC Hep team at UCSD.
- UCSD APAMSA members doing visual acuity and glaucoma screening under the direction of Dr. Thao Nguyen, faculty and ophthalmologist in town.
- Dr. Ton Tran doing one-on-one consultations for medical ailments, with Angie doing blood glucose screening
- Dr. Robert Gish speaking on the Hepatitis B and C experiences in Viet Nam and the US.
- Kayla Giang, PharmD, presenting on Safe Meds.
- Tri Luu, PharmD, MD, medical resident from Loma Linda University, with Thi Le and Tea Luu handling registration and consenting for the Hepatitis B screening program.
- Binh Tran, PharmD, coordinating and supervising the program, which included bone densitometry via OnSite Wellness.

### Project Health Fair on July 27, 2013 and Tzu-Chi Family Health Day on July 28, 2013

Tzu Chi Foundation is a non-profit, international charitable Non-Governmental Organization that the Asian Pacific Health Foundation (former Asian Pacific Health Center) has collaborated with over the past ten years. The foundation devotes its efforts to helping the poor and disaster-inflicted victims around the world, providing medical services to the needy in Taiwan and abroad.

The organization holds twice yearly Family Health Days, one in January, and one in July, along with workshops and educational events at many different locations. It was very meaningful that this year's Health Day was held *on World Hepatitis Day*, as was last year's event at Saint Peter's Catholic Church in Fallbrook, California.

On the day of the event, volunteers from Los Angeles started their drive at 6 AM to be on the premises at 7:15 AM to prepare for all the services of the day. For the first time, patient data were entered live from the registration tables on the patio to the testing stations and the pharmacy area in the main hall. Services provided to the 180+ patients ranged from patient examinations, acupuncture, stress reliever exercises, and dental procedures, to medications and pharmacy information regarding hepatitis A, B, C, and non-viral liver diseases.

Many patients asked the next family health event will be, as this is the only time they have access to needed medical and dental care. We appreciated the opportunity to provide the free services to the community. Toward the end, Dr. Ten Shang, Pei-Chuan Joh, and Hue Wang thanked all the volunteers in a warm round of applause that vibrated long after the day was finished. Most



volunteers will come back next year, as Chan Nguyen, DDS from San Diego, who readily answers the call for help did this year.

### Hepatitis B Screening on the East Coast

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, the Vietnamese Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Society of North East America and the Vietnamese Community Organizations in Fairfax, Virginia organized a large Annual Summer Health Fair with several hundreds of people being educated, screened and vaccinated for Hepatitis B. Activities across the US are posted on the National Task Force for Hepatitis B with focus on the Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, Hep Free campaign in various cities, HepB United and other groups' websites.

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## Alumni News

Please join me in welcoming **Nina Haste, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**, as the 2014/2015 UC San Diego PGY2 Infectious Diseases Specialty pharmacy resident. Nina interviewed for this early commitment position last week and accepted our offer this morning. We look forward to her staying on with us for an additional year of advanced infectious diseases training. Please join me in congratulating her!

Charlie James, Pharm.D.



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**Julie Nguyen** graduated from UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2010, where she gained priceless experiences. Some unforgettable adventures included rotating at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and on the USNS Comfort Navel Ship (a medical mission that provides medical services to underprivileged countries in Central America). After pharmacy school, her journey continued as she moved to the island of Oahu, Hawaii to become a PGY-1 pharmacy resident at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC), the largest military hospital in the Asian and Pacific Rim region. During her residency program, she learned a tremendous amount by working with highly qualified clinical pharmacists and gained valuable experiences by working in numerous clinical settings. It was not a surprise that she was captivated by the beauty of the Hawaiian Islands and decided to stay on Oahu after completion of her residency training. She became a



board certified pharmacotherapy specialist (BCPS) and now works at Schofield Barracks Health Clinic, in the Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) Clinic as a clinical ambulatory care pharmacist. She works daily with wounded soldiers who have suffered injury or illness while serving as a member of the U.S. Army. These service members require complex medical management, including treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, pain, insomnia, migraines, and other chronic disease states. Julie is the sole pharmacotherapy specialist in the WTB clinic and is a vital part of a multidisciplinary team, alongside physicians, nurses, physical therapists, and social workers. She looks forward to going to work every day and being a part of the healing process for those wounded warriors, who serve our country.

### SSPPS Alumni David Vu Wins Best Paper Competition

The winner of the Best Paper Award from the 2013 ACCP Annual Meeting was announced on Tuesday, October 15, 2013, during the Scientific Poster Presentation II. SSPPS Alumni **Dr. Don Vu** from the National Institute of Transplantation and the Western University of Health Sciences, Los Angeles, California, won the Best Paper award with the presentation titled "Genetic Variations in a Sestrin2/Sestrin3/mTOR Axis and Development of New-Onset Diabetes After Transplantation in Hispanic Kidney Transplant Recipients." Dr. Vu's coauthors were Robert Naraghi from the National Institute of Transplantation and the St. Vincent Medical Center, Los Angeles, California; Ian V. Hutchinson from the USC School of Pharmacy, Los Angeles, California; and David I. Min from the Western University of Health Sciences, Los Angeles, California.



### SSPPS Staff News

SSPPS staff were given Hawaiian shirts for their annual staff retreat. The retreat this year had a Hawaiian theme. Ernest Mendes, Ph.D. was the facilitator for the event. There were a lot of laughs and thought provoking activities and conversations throughout the morning.

**Back Row L to R – Ann Lischer, Nicole Griffin, Ashley Brunson, Kristine McCabe, Beryl Nasworthy, Kim Ciero, Shelly Fromholtz, Yoly Rigonan, Victoria Banks, Tracy Cruz, Trace Sinclair, Doreen Lacy.**

**Middle Row L to R – Teah Stacks, Andrina Marshall, Lisa Avery, Cynthia Barlow, Shirley Lash, Nadine Wilson, Amber Colosky.**

**Bottom Row L to R – Allison Page, Loralyn Cross, Shelly Askren, Mandi Berger, Adrienne Gomez**





## SSPPS Staff Service Awards



Victoria Banks, Teah Stacks and Nadine Wilson receiving their 10-year Staff Service Awards.



Mandy Berger (L) presenting Lisa Avery with her 25-year Staff Service Award.

## UC San Diego Biomedical Library



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