

UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Newsletter

Spring 2015

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

Several of us had the honor of attending the ASP 2015 Faculty & Staff Excellence Awards Ceremony at the Price Center in which awards were presented, by each class, to teaching faculty. I was again reminded of the exceptional quality of our entire teaching staff including school of pharmacy faculty, volunteer faculty, and preceptors. The students also appropriately honored the remarkable support we all receive from our administrative staff. I learned that the students had even queried individual staff members to ensure that the awards they were given were personal.

UC San Diego is about to launch a new Microbiome Center directed by our own Pieter Dorrestein and new pediatrics faculty recruit, Rob Knight. We are also one month away from opening the new Drug Screening Facility on the fourth floor of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Building. This screening facility will include state-of-the-art, robotic-driven



equipment allowing drug screens against a variety of cellular targets all encompassed in a Biosafety Level II facility. The facility will include lifecycles of several important protozoan and helminth parasites that produce global health problems.

We also are excited to welcome new faculty recruits to the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. A new clinical faculty member is about to join us who will aid in many aspects of School of Pharmacy teaching. We are also initiating a second search for a clinical faculty member to partner at one or more of our clinical sites. This July two new research faculty members will join the school. Dr. Conor Caffrey is an expert in the biochemistry and molecular biology of schistosome and hookworm parasites. Dr. Anthony O'Donoghue will work

closely with Pieter Dorrestein launching new technology to identify and characterize proteolytic enzymes in complex cellular and tissue environments. We are also initiating a search for another medicinal chemist. Of course our faculty had already grown significantly last year with the additions of Ila Saunders, David Gonzalez, Larissa Podust, and Zoran Radic.

Student News

Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2015

By Binh Tran, PharmD

May 16, 2015 was the long-awaited graduation day for many student pharmacists at Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS). After the welcome address by Chancellor Pradeep Khosla, SSPPS Dean McKerrow said that pharmacists are a key part of the health team, and have a lifelong commitment to increase professional knowledge

and embrace changes that optimize patient care. By improving the individual, the pharmacist improves health care. Dean David Brenner of the School of Medicine also gave inspiring comments.

Graduating student, Justine Abella analogized the current student classes to the ingredients of a massive burrito, with P1 forming the cheese, P2 the French fries, P3 the carne asada, and P4 the guacamole topping that we never have enough of. Mitchell Vitale spoke on the diversity at

the school of pharmacy which does not blur the feeling of harmony and coziness among students.

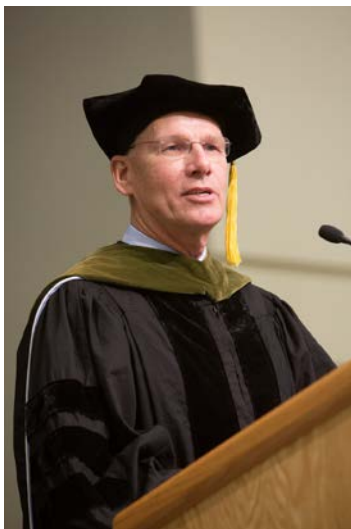
Dr. Robert Blouin, Dean of the School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, delivered a vibrant commencement address. The Dean has a new way of raising funds based on innovation, by encouraging potential donors to surpass their comfort zones.

SSPPS Dean Candis Morello presented the 54 PharmD candidates who were then successively hooded by Dean David Adler, and greeted by Deans Charles Daniels and James Colbert. Admission to Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences is very competitive, and for each admitted student, there are 20 other students desiring that spot.

Kathy Le, on behalf of the Alumni Association, warmly welcomed the new graduates, offering help when needed.

In closing, Dean McKerrow invited all family members and guests to the reception in the foyer of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. **Congratulations to All!**











Graduation Celebration for the Class of 2015





AMCP Debuts Kaiser Night, Builds Bridges with Professional Community

By Jonathan Chiang, P-2

The AMCP-UC San Diego student chapter presented its first annual Kaiser Permanente networking night at SSPPS on Tuesday, March 31. Pharmacy managers from across San Diego were invited to attend this event, which was praised as a mutual bridging of interests between students and professionals.

Student pharmacists learned about the Kaiser health system through presentations on the various pharmacy services and student programs offered; this included talks about the different inpatient, outpatient, clinical and home infusion services provided, in addition to the residency programs at Kaiser. Students were also provided the opportunity to apply to internships and had direct access to several hiring managers in the roundtable networking session that preceeded the presentations.

Over 50 students and 16 pharmacists participated in this event. We look forward to continued success in this event next year!



Students Promote Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

From the La Jolla Light, By Pat Sherman

In April, students at UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences and at Serra High School in Tierrasanta teamed up with Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy in La Jolla to help prevent misuse of prescription drugs and ensure safe disposal of old medicines.

The students created a patient advisory guide that will be available to customers at the pharmacy counter at Pharmaca. It includes questions for patients to ask their pharmacist, such as what time of day they should take their medications, whether the medicine could have a negative interaction with other medications they may be taking and whether it is safe to cut a pill in half to reduce the dosage.

"Involving high school students in the project was also intended to increase awareness of the problem of prescription drug abuse," said La Jolla resident Karen Lenyoun and representative of Social Advocates for Youth San Diego which organizes the Elevated program at Serra High School. "It's really important to educate the students at this level so they understand the dangers involved with abusing prescription drugs and can pass this on to their friends."

UC San Diego pharmacy student Michael Pham, who worked with Serra High School students to produce the pamphlet, is part of a group at UC San Diego called Generation RX, which conducts similar outreach to middle and high school students about the dangers of prescription drugs.

AMCP Student Chapter and their successes at the AMCP Annual Meeting

By Jan Hirsch, PhD

Our new UC San Diego AMCP student chapter was the first to ever advance to the final eight in the P&T competition during their first year as a chapter. Our team (Jonathan Chiang, Karen Cham, Samantha Ma, Yu Jin) was recognized at the annual meeting for this achievement both during their competition presentation session and at the Student Awards Program.

Their presentation and response to questioning at the P&T competition session was amazing – poised and professional, they demonstrated their ability to “think on their feet”. Although they did not win the competition they were immediately planning for improvements next year – even before we could gather them for pictures after the awards program. [winning schools were Rutgers (1st), Purdue, and Minnesota].

And let's not forget successful poster presentations by Jamie Ta and Alice Koh (Silver Medal Award).

Finally, congratulations are due to the chapter advisors, Jonathan Watanabe and Sara Carruth Erickson (SSPPS alumna) who worked with the students behind the scenes all year long to create the chapter and provide our students with insight into professional opportunities within the ever growing arena of managed care pharmacy.

Congratulations to all - our students and faculty are amazing!



A New Learning Module for Students

By Beverley Freedman, RPh

In the second part of the Spring Quarter '15, the first year students donned what looked like apparel only seen in movies. For each of the weeks of IV Preparation and Aseptic Technique, the students prepared themselves following the rigid code as set out in USP<797>, so as to create as clean an environment as possible for preparing intravenous preparations. This was the second year of implementing the module in the curriculum for pharmaceuticals. The students prepared for the weekly sessions by studying provided and recommended material on their own time; and after taking a mini-quiz, immediately went into the practice of the material just learned. It was



an exciting, stimulating, hands-on experience not only for the students, but for the entire volunteer faculty as well. From the moment the students 'garbed up' in their blue gowns, head and feet coverings, and masks, they were to act as if they were in a 'clean room' environment with their desk tops as simulated laminar air flow hoods. Each session dealt with different aspects of preparing intravenous infusions – how to reconstitute a powder vial into solution; injecting the requisite product into an IV bag; preparing the tubing attached to an IV bag for administration to a patient; chemotherapy preparation in a simulated biohazard hood; amongst many other learning activities. The final session allowed the student pharmacists the opportunity to 'sign-off' on an



already prepared intravenous solution; as they would do in practice. The experience could not have been



accomplished without the support of the volunteer faculty, Nancy Yam, Ashley Dalton, Jackie Jaskowiak, Stephen Segal, David Bao and the accomplished demonstrations and instructions from Sam O'Neal, pharmacy technician at UCSD Pharmacy Home Infusion Service. It was a great success, and judging from comments received both this year and last year from the students, an invaluable learning experience.

SSPPS News

Party at Dean McKerrow's Residence

By Binh Tran, PharmD

The tradition of an "end of the year" party was carried on by Dean McKerrow and his wife, Dr. Marty Hales, to the delight of all, especially the graduating class of 2015.





After the elegant reception, guests enjoyed the acclaimed paella catered by Paella Valenciana. Retired staff member, Gail Gipson and her musical group The Brown Sugar Blues entertained, performing “I got news for you” with wit and zest followed by Dean McKerrow and the evening program. Justine Abella delivered the speech for the graduating class, and Dr. Gabriel Gonzaga spoke from the alumni group.

Before leaving, each graduating class member received a pair of sunglasses with the school’s logo inscribed in anticipation of many world travels after graduation.

Sarah Brown Wins the CSHP Student Leadership Award

By Candis M. Morello, PharmD, CDE, FCSHP, FASHP

The San Diego Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SDSHP) has selected Sarah Brown as the UC San Diego SSPPS recipient of the 2015 California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) Student Leadership Award. As faculty liaison to CSHP and SDSHP, I have witnessed Sarah’s dedication to the pharmacy profession in several different arenas: student, community, local and state professional levels. Under her leadership as the student chapter President this year, Sarah led her team on successful educational outreaches, fundraisers that benefited our UC San Diego Free Medical Clinics and global health grant funding. On her chapter’s behalf, she has also accepted several CSHP and ASHP Chapter of Distinction Awards.

Sarah’s positive attitude and strong work ethic are infectious, and I observed the impact she had on other students and her ability to motivate them in professional and community outreach endeavors. Sarah is an excellent role model for her peers and is truly an attribute to our profession!

2015 Faculty & Staff Excellence Awards Ceremony

A fun evening was had by all who attended this year’s Faculty & Staff Excellence Awards Ceremony. As usual the students created a lovely evening in which to thank some of those who have helped them and guided them along this journey. Attendees enjoyed a delicious buffet, a fun photo set-up, open bar, students dressed to the nines, hilarious skits put on by students and faculty, and of course the drummers! A lovely basket filled with goodies chosen just for them was given to the SSPPS Staff as they walked onto the stage. And it wouldn’t be an awards ceremony without the awards. The awards go to:

P-1 Award – **Kathryn Hollenbach** - Biostatistics
P-2 Award – **Nora Laiken** – Cardiovascular System and Renal System
P-3 Award – **Larry Hansen** – Human Disease
Preceptor – **Felix Yam**
Voluntary Faculty – **David Bao**

Congratulations to the Class of 2015 and to the dedicated staff, faculty and voluntary professionals!

National Hepatitis Day in San Diego

By Binh Tran, PharmD

May 19th is **National Hepatitis Day** around the country. For the first time in San Diego, the Asian communities joined forces to raise awareness of hepatitis B, a liver disease that affects disproportionately the Asian populations. Nationwide, one among twelve Asian Americans has chronic hepatitis B. The disease can be detected early by screening blood and taking appropriate action before the liver is harmed, which can lead to scarring and possibly cancer.

On **Sunday, May 17**, a Commemoration of the National Hepatitis Day took place at 10 AM at the Vietnamese Federation of San Diego (VFSD), a central location for most civic, educational and cultural activities for the Asian organizations. The Asian Pacific Health Foundation (APHF) conducted hepatitis B and C screenings via blood tests, and osteoporosis screenings using bone densitometry. UCSD student pharmacists provided hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol screenings, as well as cervical cancer awareness, self-care and safe meds education.



Mr. Liem Pham, President of the Federation, welcomed all the guests present, and Dr. Doan Dao, Chair of the National Task Force on Hepatitis B with Focus on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and Dr. Robert Gish, Medical Director of APHF, spoke on seriousness of hepatitis and concerted efforts to prevent and control hepatitis B and C nationwide.

Mr. Nghiep Le, former President of the Federation, presented the Proclamations from San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Congressman Scott Peters to Drs. Ton Tran and Binh Tran, co-founders of the APHF. Health screenings were performed until 1:30 PM.

We deeply thank the following organizations, members and volunteers:

Sponsors and supporters:

Greg Nolan, Gilead Sciences; Tuan T. Nguyen, MD; David Mier, UCSD Government and Community Activities; Anthony George, City of San Diego Mayor's office; Howard Ou, Congressman Scott Peters' office in San Diego; Hep B Foundation; UCSD AntiViral Research Center.

National Task Force on Hepatitis B – Focus on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans:

Doan Dao, MD, Chairperson (2014-2016)

Asian Pacific Health Foundation:

Danh Truong, MD; Nghiep Le; Robert Gish, MD; James Hai Tran, DO; Nghiep Le; Ton Tran, MD; Binh Tran, PharmD;

Sandy Chong, PharmD; Randy Jimenez, PharmD; Kristiana Nguyen; Jenny Nguyen; Karla Jorgensen-Ponce; Lisa Vuong; Esther Park; Anh Phuong.

UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences: Kimberly San Agustin, Hooree Amerkhanian, Choi Brittney, Lindsay Ditmars, Althea Han, Erika Hefazi, Gene Hur, Parisa Karimian, Michael Lam, Bao Ling Lei, Mandy Leung, Jenny Liang, Jane Lim, Hannah Nguyen; Annie Phuong Nguyen; Andrew Nguyen, Quyen Nguyen, Vi Nguyen, Bryan Pham, Mike Pham, Tuan Phan, Tuyet Phan, Joy Shi, Jamie Ta, Thien Tran, Josephine Vo, Yafang Xie, Zin Cheng Yang.

Team HBV:

Andrew Tsun, Felicia Han

Vietnamese Federation – San Diego:

Liem Pham, Hien Lam; Le Nguyen

San Diego Physicians:

Charles Liu, DO

Tayson Delengocky, MD

San Diego Vietnamese Pharmacists Association:

Viet Truong, PharmD; Lan Anh Mai; Tanya Nguyen,

RPh; Dung Phan, RPh;

Tuan Nguyen, PharmD

San Diego County Department of Health and Human Services:

Winston Tilghman, MD; Elizabeth Rosenblum, MD;

Amy Tao, MD

La Maestra Community Health Centers:

Javier Rodriguez, MD; Sonia Tucker

UCSD Department of Family Medicine and Public Health:

Wael Al-Delaimy, MD, PhD; Happy Araneta, PhD

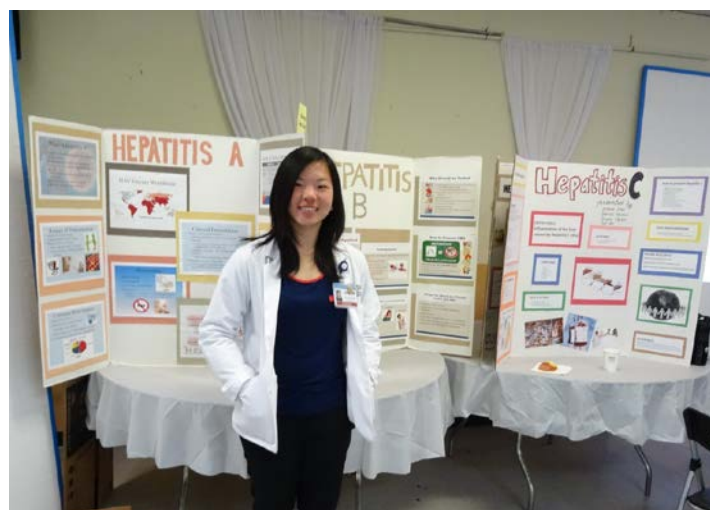
UCSD Government and Community Affairs:

Andrea Thai

San Diego Vietnamese Elderly Association:

Dung Trang; John Tran; Giai Do; Quang Minh Nguyen

and many other volunteers.



Alumni News

Sara Erickson, PharmD, Class of 2007, was recognized at the Annual AMCP Meeting, in San Diego, on April 8th with the Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy Award for Excellence, presented to the author or authors of the best article in the Journal in the prior calendar year for her work "Is there an Association Between the High-Risk Medication Star Ratings and Member Experience CMS Star Ratings Measures?"

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