

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

Spring 2017

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

Last Saturday was our Commencement Ceremony for the class of 2017. This is always the highlight of the year for our school. It serves to remind us that we provide a quality, affordable education leading to a professional degree for 60-70 students each year. In some cases these are the first members of their family to ever receive an advanced degree, in other cases the graduating students are carrying on a tradition that may trace back several generations.

The class of 2017 distinguished itself by the diversity and quality of the research projects they presented at the poster session last week. In addition students recounted their experiences during international electives in Vietnam and Taiwan. We now have an active committee for International Education that will be broadening the number of sites throughout the world that are available and suitable for our students.

In a relatively short period of time our school has established valuable research collaborations with 32 different companies ranging from local biotechs to large international corporations. In addition, our school now boasts a number of core facilities that serve to increase the number of contacts, not only other faculty at UCSD, but with the community at large. These include our NMR Facility, Crystal Lab, the Drug Development Pipeline, and most recently the Drug Screening Facility.

SSPPS faculty member, Dr. Michael Gilson, and I attended the UC-wide Drug Discovery Symposium held at UCLA. This symposium highlighted the very interactive research and drug development community that has formed amongst several UC campuses including our own.

Finally I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to interact with our P1 class by serving as faculty in their histology and gross anatomy laboratories. Like their predecessors, this class exhibits insight, focus, and a love of learning.



Dr. Jim McKerrow in Shanghai in March with Professor Ming Wei Wang of Fudan University and Director of the Chinese National Compound Library.

# SSPPS News

## Medical Education for Diverse Students (MEDS) Conference

By Andrina Marshall, MA/MBA



Despite a light rain and coastal fog, 50 pre-pharmacy students participated in the annual Medical Education for Diverse Students (MEDS) Conference held on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. The MEDS Conference is UC San Diego's largest conference for pre-health students, which is hosted by the UC San Diego Health & Medical Professions Preparation Program (HMP<sup>3</sup>), the School of Medicine (SOM) and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS).

James Colbert, PharmD, Associate Dean for Experiential Education, provided the Keynote Address, which included an overview of the field of pharmacy and the many career opportunities available. Students were enthralled as they watched videos of emergency medicine pharmacists and other hospital pharmacists who demonstrated how the pharmacist is a key member of the healthcare team.



Under the leadership of Eduardo Fricovsky, PharmD and the direction of the ACTION Committee (comprised of SSPPS pharmacy students) the pre-pharmacy students had the opportunity to participate in three workshops. One workshop included learning how to do basic compounding by making lip balm, and the other two workshops included learning how to use a glucometer and a series of pulmonary devices.

Kim Ciero, Director of Student Affairs and Terry Le, Student Affairs Officer, then provided the pre-pharmacy students with an overview of the pharmacy admissions process, along with tips on how to be a competitive candidate.

At the end of the day, Rabia Atayee, PharmD, Associate Dean for Admissions, further elaborated on the many career opportunities in the field of pharmacy (beyond the counter).

## Highlights 2017 Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Forum

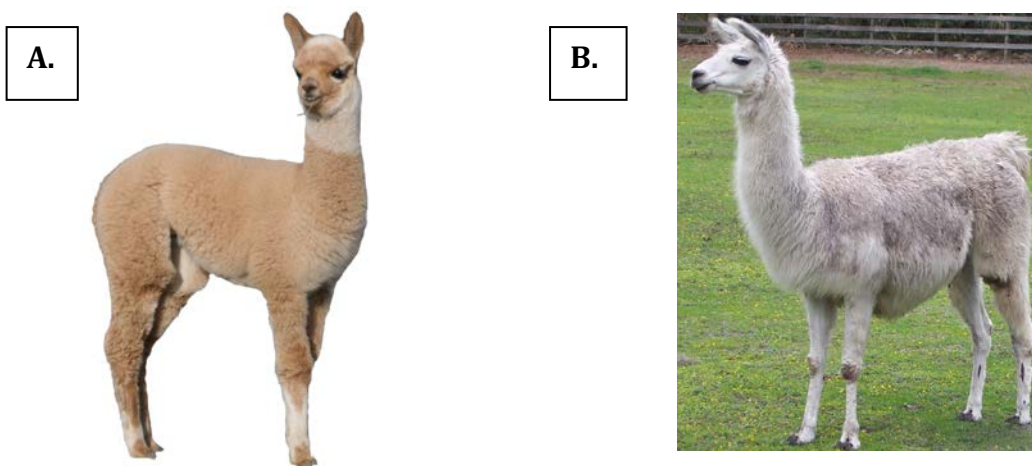
By Jan Hirsch, RPh, PhD

The thirteenth Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Forum was held February 6<sup>th</sup> at the University of California San Diego, Faculty Club.

The topic for the Forum was ***“The New World of Biosimilars in the U.S.: Current Challenges to Inform Future Directions.”***

Continuing our theme of kicking off the Forum by testing the audience's knowledge, we challenged participants with a series of trivia questions related to ***Biosimilars of the Animal Kingdom*** (*commonly confused animals that look similar*).

***What are these? Which guards herds of the other? Which is sweater worthy?***



Answers to these questions can be found on Page 16. Seven more Biosimilar Animal Pairs can be found in the PE Forum Introductory slide set posted along with the speaker slides at the link below:

[http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/pharmacoeconomics\\_forum.shtml](http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/pharmacoeconomics_forum.shtml)

**Our speakers were:**

***Biosimilars: Are we there yet?***

Charles Daniels, PhD, Pharmacist-in-Chief, UC San Diego Health

**Stakeholder Perspectives**

***Pharmaceutical Manufacturer – Innovator and Biosimilar Products***

Scott Foraker, JD, Vice President and General Manager, Biosimilars, Amgen

***Health Care System***

Ambrose Carrejo, PharmD, Director, National Pharmaceutical Contracting, Kaiser Permanente

### **Health Plan**

Mark Cziraky, PharmD, VP Research HealthCore, an Anthem Company



Speaker slides are available via the link below.

[http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/pharmacoeconomics\\_forum.shtml](http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/pharmacoeconomics_forum.shtml)

### **MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND EXIBITORS**



### **PE Forum Steering Committee members are:**

<b>Michael S. Broder, MD, MSHS</b> Partnership for Health Analytic Research	<b>Charles Daniels, RPh, PhD</b> UCSD, Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences	<b>Mirta Millares, PharmD, FCSHP, FASHP</b> Kaiser Permanente
<b>Jan D. Hirsch, RPh, PhD</b> UCSD, Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences	<b>Michael Pollock</b> PPD  <b>Robert Schoenhaus, PharmD</b> Sharp Healthcare	<b>Anthony P. Morreale, PharmD, MBA, BCPS</b> Pharmacy Benefit Management VA Central Office



# Faculty News

By Palmer Taylor, PhD

Jonathan H. Watanabe, PharmD, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, has been selected as one of three outstanding health professionals for the Class of 2016 Fellows National Academy of Medicine (NAM).

The NAM fellows were chosen based on their professional qualifications, reputations as scholars, professional accomplishments, and relevance of current field expertise to the work of the NAM and the Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. There is only one pharmacy fellow nationally.

Watanabe earned his PharmD at USC and his master's and PhD degrees from the University of Washington. Jonathan's major research areas include: cost time to-event analysis, cost epidemiologic assessments, payer cost modeling, drug interactions impact, guidelines adherence assessment. He is interested in biostatistical methods (survival analysis) and applications of epidemiologic techniques to cost analysis.

The Class of 2016 NAM Fellows in addition to Dr. Watanabe: Osteopathic Medicine Fellow Jennie H. Kwon, DO, Washington University School of Medicine; and American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Fellow Sean C. Lucan, MD, MPH, M.S., Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The three fellows will collaborate with eminent researchers, policy experts, and clinicians from across the country. They will help facilitate initiatives convened by the Academies to provide nonpartisan, evidence-based guidance to national, state, and local policymakers, academic leaders, health care administrators, and the public.



Each fellow will continue in his or her primary academic post while engaging part time over a two-year period in the Academies' health and science policy work. Each will work with an expert study committee or roundtable related to his or her professional interests, including contributing to its reports or other products. A flexible research stipend is awarded to every fellow.

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## Congratulations

The Annual Student/Faculty Awards Dinner

1st Year Professor of the Year – Jeremiah Momper, PharmD, PhD

2nd Year Professor of the Year – Steve Schneid

3rd Year Professor of the Year – Joe Ma, PharmD

4th Year Professor of the Year – Eduardo Fricovsky, PharmD

Volunteer Faculty Member of the Year – Timothy Bassell, PharmD

Eduardo Fricovsky, PharmD will receive a 2017 UC San Diego Campus-Wide Distinguished Teaching Award! This is the fourth consecutive year that an SSPPS faculty member has received the award: 2013-14, Brookie Best, PharmD, MAS; 2014-15, Linda Awdishu, PharmD, MAS; 2015-16, Katharina Brandl, RPh, PhD; and 2016-17, Eduardo Fricovsky, PharmD. For the small number of faculty we have, this is indeed an extraordinary accomplishment! Congratulations, Eduardo and all past winners of this prestigious award!

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## Renu Singh, PharmD and Vivian Hook, PhD Receive the SSPPS Innovation in Teaching Award



Sponsored by the University of California San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (UCSD-SSPPS), the Innovation in Teaching Award recognizes two faculty members who have demonstrated an extraordinary level of curricular innovation either in the classroom or clinical training site for pharmacy students.



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## Dean McKerrow Visiting Shanghai

By Jenna Bastear, MA

In March, Dr. Jim McKerrow was invited to speak at the 2017 Queenstown Molecular Biology Meeting in Shanghai, China, focusing on drug discovery and basic science research. While in Shanghai, Dr. McKerrow had the pleasure of visiting Fudan University School of Pharmacy and toured the Chinese National Compound library.



## Congratulations

The Croatian Society of Natural Sciences presented the 2016 Spiridion Brusina Medal to **Zoran Radić, PhD**, Associate Adjunct Professor in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The medal, named for 19th century Croatian malacologist and Charles Darwin contemporary, Spiridion Brusina, is presented annually to researchers in the field of natural sciences for contributions to international promotion of Croatian science and fostering collaborations with Croatian scientific institutions.

**Victor Nizet, MD**, professor of pediatrics and pharmacy, received a 2017 Chancellor's Associates Faculty Excellence Award for Excellence in Research in Science and Engineering.

**Palmer Taylor, PhD**, Sandra and Monroe Trout Professor of Pharmacology and founding and Dean Emeritus of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, is the 2017 recipient of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Volwiler Research Achievement Award. The annual award recognizes individuals within the ranks of pharmacy education recognized by his or her peers as one of the leading research workers in a given area of the pharmaceutical and clinical sciences, pharmacy practice and the social and administrative sciences, and for outstanding contributions to the respective disciplines.

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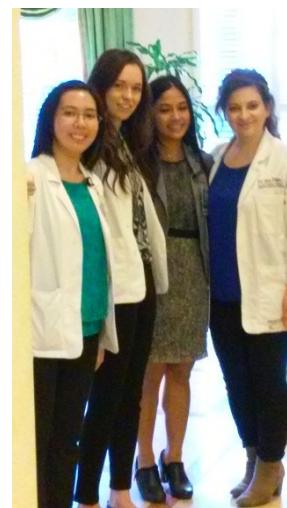
## Student News

### College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) – UC San Diego Educational Talk Outreach About Insomnia

By Hooree Amerkhanian, P3

College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) - UC San Diego hosted a new event at the end of Winter Quarter 2017. The event was an educational talk about insomnia presented by Trinh Nguyen (P1) and Courtney Gray (P1), and it was precepted by Patricia Pepa, PharmD, M.S. During the event, the student pharmacists introduced the topic by first giving a background on the sleep cycle, then proceeded to explain the clinical presentations of insomnia. The student pharmacists also gave recommendations on how to resolve insomnia, including suggestions about proper sleep hygiene and over-the-counter medications. They concluded the talk by reviewing some patient cases and answering questions by the residents.

The outreach was held on March 18, from at Vi at La Jolla nursing home, where many residents have insomnia. During the talk, several residents shared their stories as to why they have insomnia and what they have done to treat it. The residents were also very engaged when we reviewed the patient cases, asking general questions about sleep and about their medications. In addition to the residents enjoying the talk, the outreach coordinator from Vi also appreciated the student pharmacists sharing their knowledge with the residents, and she welcomed us back to set up other talks at the facility.





Overall, the event was successful, and CPNP plans to continue hosting it annually at Vi nursing home. In the future, we also hope to prepare other educational talks related to psychiatric and neurologic issues for this facility, and we hope to expand to other facilities as well.

We would like to thank: (1) the student pharmacists for participating in this new CPNP event, (2) Dr. Patricia Pepa for attending and providing suggestions for this event as well as many other CPNP events in the past, and (3) Dr. Kelly Lee for reviewing and providing content for the presentation and for her continuous guidance and support for the organization.

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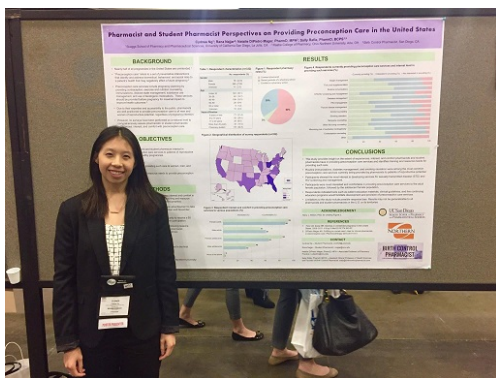
## AMCP-UCSD Student Members Share Research Findings at National Pharmacy Conferences: Gold Medal at AMCP Annual Meeting

By Jamie Ta, P3

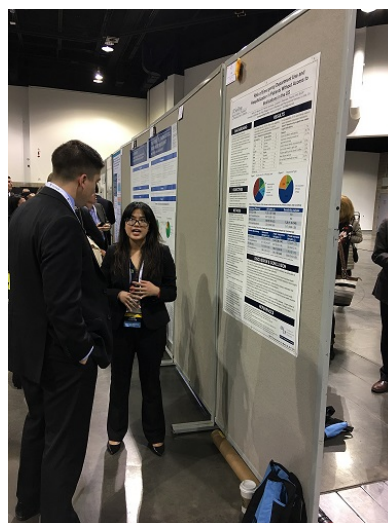
**Kathy Nguyen (P2)** received a Gold Medal award for having one of the top research abstracts at the AMCP Annual Meeting that took place March 27-30, in Denver, CO. Her peer-reviewed abstract “Risk of Emergency Department Use and Hospitalization in Patients Without Access to Medications in the United States”, which was co-authored by **Dr. Jonathan Watanabe**, concluded that failure to get access to necessary prescribed medications was associated with an increased risk of emergency department visits in the same year and following year. Kathy’s abstract was selected from over 350 professional peer-reviewed abstracts for the Gold Medal award, and Kathy was the only PharmD student to have an award-winning abstract. More details can be found here: <http://www.jmcp.org/doi/pdf/10.18553/jmcp.2017.23.3-a.s1>

**Cydnee Ng (P2)** presented her poster “Pharmacist and Student Pharmacist Perspectives on Providing Preconception Care in the United States”, which was coauthored by **Dr. Sally Rafie, Dr. Natalie DiPietro-Mager, and Rana Najjar (pharmacy student from Ohio Northern University Raabe College of Pharmacy)**, at the APhA Annual Meeting March 24-27, in San Francisco, CA. Cydnee shared that pharmacists are interested and well-positioned to provide and expand preconception care services, such as immunizations, STD/HIV screenings/management services, and disease state management programs to improve patient health and future pregnancy outcomes.

Congratulations Kathy and Cydnee!



Cydnee Ng



Kathy Nguyen



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## Rachelle Roxas Recipient of the 2017 California Society of Health-System Pharmacists Student Leadership Award

By Candis Morello, PharmD

The San Diego Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SDSHP) has selected **Rachelle Roxas** as the UCSD SSPPS recipient of the 2017 California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) Student Leadership Award. As one of the faculty student liaisons to CSHP and SDSHP, over the past three years, I have observed Rachelle's dedication to the pharmacy profession at our school, community, state and national levels. She is definitely a motivational leader! Under her leadership as the student chapter president from 2016-2017, Rachelle led her team to successful community and student pharmacy educational outreaches, fundraisers that benefit our UC San Diego Free Medical Clinics, and Culture Fusion, which supports grant funding for student-initiated diversity projects. Rachelle is an excellent role model for her peers and is truly an attribute to our profession! In October, she will be recognized at the upcoming 2017 CSHP Seminar meeting in Las Vegas, NV.

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## Anxiety During Protracted Withdrawal from Alcohol in a Rat Model of Alcohol Addiction

By Tran Nguyen, P-2

Last summer, I had the opportunity to intern with Dr. Chitra Mandyam at the Neurobiology Laboratory in the Dept of Research at VA San Diego Healthcare System. It was definitely one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences I have ever had. Before I delve into the details of my internship, I want to give a brief overview of the overall research objectives of the Mandyam Lab and why they are important. The lab studies moderate to severe alcohol use disorder (AUD) as well as a chronic relapsing addictive disorder with the objective to identify why it is difficult for alcoholics to stay abstinent for a long period of time. Hopefully, if we can pinpoint the neurological and psychological changes in prolonged withdrawal, we can identify, and therefore prevent relapse in alcoholism.

For my project, I worked with Dr. Sucharita Somkuwar, a post-doctoral scientist in the Mandyam Lab. We were studying anxiety; high levels of anxiety and stress have been found to be associated with an increased risk of alcohol relapse. Therefore, we generated an animal model of alcohol dependence to see what happens to anxiety during prolonged withdrawal. Animal models give us the ability to assess brain changes objectively with a tight control over other environmental and psychosocial aspects that can independently affect stress, anxiety, and thereby relapse.

We treated 23 rats with seven weeks of **Chronic Intermittent Ethanol (CIE)**, a widely accepted model of moderate to severe AUD; a 7-week period was long enough for the animals to exhibit alcohol dependence behavior and we withdrew them



from alcohol for eight days and tested their anxiety behavior on a testing model called **Elevated Plus Maze (EPM)**. EPM objectively quantifies an inherent conflict in a rat to stay secure in closed, dark spaces vs. their need to explore novel areas. The EPM maze is a plus sign with two open well-lit arms and two closed dark arms. The EPM maze is also elevated 50cm from the ground, so that includes another factor of anxiety as well. Time spent in the open lighted arms is associated with lower anxiety, and time in closed dark arms is associated with higher anxiety. The test was only done once on each rat since repetition (i.e. habituation to the maze) decays the anxiety in rats, thereby invalidating conclusions associated with effect of a treatment on these measures.

Data showed time spent in open arms is greater and time spent in closed arms is lower in the animals withdrawn from CIE compared to controls. In addition, CIE-withdrawn rats spent less time freezing and experienced a fewer number of freezing episodes. Therefore, overall, at eight days post-withdrawal, we have a decreased level of anxiety in the CIE-withdrawn group. Total distance travelled did not differ between the two groups, showing that CIE-withdrawn rats did not show hyper-locomotion or were not hyperactive compared to control.

This is novel and surprising because previous studies have shown that at 8-24 hr withdrawal from alcohol and also at a much longer one to two months withdrawal from alcohol, rats showed increased levels of anxiety using the same EPM test. Therefore, this transient period of time (eight day post CIE) is critical as there is a decreased level of anxiety. This is relevant to clinical practice, since healthcare providers and patients might think patients no longer have anxiety and are therefore at reduced risk for relapse and stop the treatment; this puts patients at a risk for alcohol relapse at a later time.

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## UCSD APhA-ASP/CPhA: Spring Highlights

By Jackie Liu, P3

UCSD APhA-ASP/CPhA kicked off its Spring quarter with 25 student pharmacists attending CPhA's Western Pharmacy Exchange in Palm Springs, CA. The weekend was deemed highly successful, as we came home with more awards, friends, and motivation to advance the profession of pharmacy than ever before! Some highlights included successfully rebranding the CPhA California Pharmacist Journal with our submission to the **Name the Journal Contest**, participating in the annual Quiz Bowl and making it as far as the Final Question round in third place, and being recognized as a **Chapter of Excellence!** Last but not least, we took home the grand prize and trophy for **"Best Picture with the Most Impact"** for our creative interpretation of the prompt: "Pharmacists as Providers" during the Western Pharmacy Exchange Film Festival. The film starred our very own chapter members and depicted a young and eager pharmacist who begins his career but quickly becomes disillusioned as he is unable to provide the patient care he desires. Pharmacists then achieve provider status by law, and subsequent scenes show him practicing at the top of his license. Special thanks to our Communications VP, Jackie Liu, for filming and editing; our Board of Delegates representative, Sarah Graveline, for brainstorming and assisting; and our VP of Membership, John Nguyen for starring in the lead role. View the winning submission here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBLEDFO-ARc&feature=youtu.be>



At the beginning of April, the chapter held its largest annual fundraiser, Mr. Pharmacy. The friendly competition featured Savi Toma (P1), Pourya Pourhosseini (P1), Steven Mouwad (P1), Andrew U (P2), Lai Saechou (P3), and Matt Horton (P4) as the contestants vying for the coveted Mr. Pharmacy crown. The show's format followed those of previous years and included a fashion show, Q&A, and talent section. This year, however, was definitely the most entertaining yet. Novel fashion statements were made and the talents displayed during some of the acts were out of this world. In the end, Matt Horton (P4) was crowned Mr. Pharmacy by the faculty judges and student vote - his leg splits at the end of the runway and P4 posse definitely helped him take home the title! The executive board would like to thank Drs. Nathan Painter, Christina Mnatzaganian, Beverly Freedman, and Kathryn Hollenbach for judging, Drs. Renu Singh, Brookie Best, and Jan Hirsch for attending; Nate Luna (P1) and Kathie Tran (P1) for emceeing; and everybody else for making the night a wild success!



Lastly, the Executive Committee is also proud to announce that based on the 2015-2016 Chapter Achievement Awards Report and Performance Evaluation, our APhA-ASP chapter has advanced from being a 3 star chapter to a 4 star chapter. This is extremely exciting news, and it couldn't have been done without our strong membership and leadership. The Chapter Achievement Awards Report is required for all APhA-ASP Chapters to maintain their charter, and serves not only as a performance evaluation but as a comprehensive record to guide future operations. In June of every year, the Executive Committee submits a large report that includes a chronological list of every chapter activity as well as an essay covering the topics of Leadership, Patient Care, Policy, and Professionalism. Special thanks to the 2015-2016 Executive

Committee for compiling an excellent report that has given our chapter this recognition.

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## A Dose of Research — This article originally published in This Week @ UC San Diego, March 23, 2017

By Heather Buschman

### Pharmaceutical company collaboration supports research and education in neglected diseases and underserved patient populations

Doctorate of pharmacy graduates typically follow paths that lead them to careers as pharmacists in a hospital or community pharmacy, or as researchers in academia or pharmaceutical companies. For **Jincheng Yang**, a student in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UC San Diego, it's a tough choice.

"I'm really interested in learning more about how therapeutic drugs move through the human body," he said. "But I also like working with patients—something we get to do more and more of in the second half of pharmacy school."

To help find his path, Yang has become the first Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences student to take advantage of a new fellowship funded by Janssen Research & Development, LLC (Janssen R&D), one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. He's taking a year off between his second and third years of

pharmacy school to try his hand at research that bridges both academia and the pharmaceutical industry, while making a difference in global health.

This academia-industry partnership is specifically aimed at addressing neglected diseases and underserved patient populations. Yang is spending the first half of the year working with Edmund Capparelli, a professor at UC San Diego School of Medicine and Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Dr. Mina Nikanjam, a visiting hematology-oncology fellow from UC Los Angeles Health. He'll spend the second half of this year working on a related project at Janssen R&D.

Yang uses various computer programs that simulate organ systems in the human body. With these tools, he investigates Kaletra, a first-line medication for pediatric HIV, dosing in infected children—typically an underserved patient population, particularly in developing countries.

Yang's work is known as pharmacokinetics, or the study of how a medication moves through the body—how it's distributed, absorbed, eliminated, and everything in between. A drug's pharmacokinetics determines how much you need to take in order for it to work as well as possible, while minimizing harmful side effects.

Drugs have their own characteristics that influence pharmacokinetics—such as the type of compound it is, or whether it's a capsule, tablet or liquid—but so do patients. How old you are, how much you weigh, how well your kidneys work, all influence how long a medication stays in your body, how it's distributed and how it's cleared away. For example, drugs are often metabolized much more slowly in older adults than in younger people. Doctors and pharmacists can plan for some of this and adjust their dosing recommendations accordingly, but pharmacokinetics can differ greatly from person to person.

Determining the best amount (or dose) of a drug to give a person is especially tricky for children, where pharmacokinetics are rarely tested.

"Initial pediatric dosing recommendations for drugs to treat HIV and other global diseases are often generated from small studies that measure drug levels in just a few infants and children from the U.S. and Europe," Capparelli said.

That's why Capparelli's lab often works with the World Health Organization (WHO) to find the best methods to determine HIV and other medication dosages around the world, particularly in regions that lack access to expensive pharmacokinetics tests. As larger pediatric studies are performed that also include patients from Africa, Asia and Latin America, Capparelli's team incorporates drug level measurements into their computer simulations.

"We use these pediatric pharmacokinetic models to optimize dosing strategies and help improve how pediatric drugs are used across the world," Capparelli said.

Yang uses Phase I-IV clinical trial data available from multiple sources, including International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network, a global collaboration of researchers who are treating and preventing HIV in what are often considered neglected populations in this patient group—infants, children, teens and pregnant women. Yang runs this data through existing computer models, but also builds on them using his own programming skills.

"I'm lucky to have this opportunity — it's rare to find pharmacokinetics in academia," Yang said. According to Dr. James McKerrow, Dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, this post-sophomore year research fellowship is modeled on similar programs commonly found in medical schools and other degree programs.



McKerrow and his own research team are also collaborating with Janssen R&D to find new therapeutic targets for another neglected disease—Chagas, a parasitic infection that is the leading cause of heart failure in Latin America.

As part of this partnership, Janssen R&D provides McKerrow and team with funding and access to their “Jump-Starter” screening library of compounds. Access to this library helps McKerrow and team search for chemical probes for studying Chagas disease and aids the discovery of compounds that might treat it. In the past year, McKerrow says they’ve already identified a number of promising compounds that are being evaluated and prioritized at Janssen R&D. The next step will be to test the compounds in animal models of Chagas infection to see if they are safe and effective.

“We and our collaborators at Janssen R&D share a commitment to global public health,” McKerrow said. “Our partnership is an example of the unique industry-academic training and research culture we’re building here at UC San Diego to both advance drug discovery work and open up new career paths for our students.”



## National Academies of Practice Inducts Grace M. Kuo

The National Academies of Practice (NAP) is pleased to announce the election of Grace M. Kuo, Pharm.D., MPH, PhD, FCCP, as a Distinguished Practitioner & Fellow of NAP. Dr. Kuo was inducted at a gala banquet on March 18 in Philadelphia, PA.

Founded in 1981, NAP is an interdisciplinary, nonprofit organization, with membership representing 14 health care professions willing to serve as distinguished advisors to health care policy makers in Congress and elsewhere. The 14 academies of practice within the NAP include: Audiology, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Podiatric Medicine, Psychology, Social Work, Speech-Language Pathology and Veterinary Medicine.

Membership in the NAP is an honor extended to those who have excelled in their profession and are dedicated to furthering practice, scholarship and policy in support of interprofessional care. The central purpose of NAP is to advise public policy makers on health care issues using NAP's unique perspective -- that of expert practitioners and scholars joined in interdisciplinary dialogue. New Fellows were inducted following a forum on “Interprofessional Partnerships: Advancing Collaborative Practice, Education, Research and Policy”



Grace Kuo Inducted to NAP  
Distinguished Practitioner & Fellow



NAP Pharmacy Class of 2017 Group

## Alumni News

### SSPPS Alumni Son Nguyen, Class of 2009

This is Son Nguyen, PharmD Class of 2009. In 2012, you encouraged me not to be afraid to follow my dreams of becoming a physician and trust that I am on the right path for me. In just two months, I will be graduating medical school from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Medical school has been quite the adventure. I spent my first two years in the classroom in Des Moines, IA. Then my last two years have been in Sandusky, OH with rotations in Cleveland, OH, Shreveport, LA, and Danville, PA. For residency interviews I traveled the country, logging 10,000 miles in the air, and 5,000 miles by car across 13 states. Fortunately, I matched at Albany Medical Center in Albany, NY in Internal Medicine-Pediatrics residency. I've grown so much as a person on this path. It has really gotten me out of my comfort zone. But I think I became a better person because I had the courage to pursue my dreams against the odds. I'm excited to have the opportunity to continue my medical training after medical school knowing how difficult it is to land a residency these days. I just wanted to let you know how appreciative I was for you during pharmacy school and after especially in the year 2012 when my life completely changed and I was accepted into medical school. I hope you are doing well! I hope to continue improving inter-professional relationships as I continue my training and my career. I really want to make the best use of my pharmacy background. Without pharmacy I would never have gone to medical school.

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## Volunteer News

UC San Diego Faculty, Anthony P Morreale, Assistant Chief Consultant for Clinical Pharmacy and Healthcare Services



Research for VA PBM in Central Office, received through the VA's Clinical Pharmacy Practice Office (CPPO) a 5-year, \$120M grant to improve access to care for rural Veterans through expanding Clinical Pharmacy Specialists (CPS) Providers. Increasing rural veterans' access to care continues to be one of the top priorities for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) and there is increasing recognition that the CPS can play a very important role in achieving that goal. For nearly 40 years, VA Clinical Pharmacists and Clinical Pharmacy Specialists demonstrated their ability to impact quality of care, access to care and clinical outcomes for Veteran patients. More recently, there has been increased focus on how their roles can be optimized, in a variety of practice settings, to improve Veterans' access to care by autonomously providing medication and disease management services. The advanced practice role allows primary and specialty care providers to use their time on more urgent and acute patient care needs. As part of the Office of Rural Health (ORH) fiscal year 2017 Enterprise-Wide Initiatives, 203 Clinical Pharmacy Specialist positions will be added at more than 60 VA facilities and community-based outpatient clinics to serve rural

communities nationwide. These Clinical Pharmacy Specialists, with advanced scopes of practice and prescriptive authority, are a highly-trained clinical workforce that will focus on and increase rural veterans' access to primary care, and provide much needed medication management services to rural Veterans in areas such as diabetes, high blood pressure, pain management, mental health, heart health, cancer treatment, anticoagulation, and women's health. It is anticipated that this initiative will increase access by more than 230,000 visits annually. The VA Pharmacy Benefits Management, Clinical Pharmacy Practice Office leads the fiscal year 2017 ORH-funded Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Enterprise-Wide

Initiative. To learn more about the initiative, visit <http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/providers/collaborativeaccess.asp>. For more information about the VA Office of Rural Health, visit [www.ruralhealth.va.gov](http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov).

## Congratulations Dr. Katie Medders Preiksaitis

By Gary Hagney, BS

I am pleased to announce the promotion for Dr. Katie Medders Preiksaitis to Managed Care Pharmacist Specialist, UC San Diego Medical Center. In her current role as Managed Care Staff Pharmacist, Katie has done an outstanding job of developing this new pharmacy position for the organization providing medication management to our ACO and full risk managed care patients. Katie has assisted with the development of risk scoring tools for pharmacists and managed care colleagues and was essential in the development of the flowsheets and tracking tools for documenting pharmacist interventions. As full risk and ACO patient populations continue to expand at UC San Diego and across the nation it has become apparent that pharmacy oversight plays a critical role in making sure that patients get the best value in healthcare through improved outcomes and reduced costs. As the need for our clinical services grows, Katie will be well positioned to help lead this effort for our organization. Katie will continue to report to me with a matrix reporting relationship to Managed Care. She will also continue to play a key role in the PRIME initiative for managing high cost drugs used in the ambulatory setting. Please join me in congratulating Katie on her promotion and the success of this new pharmacy role.

### SSPPS Newsletter Production Calendar (Tentative)

Issue	Deadline	Printed
Summer 2017	August 1, 2017	September 1, 2017
Fall 2017	November 1, 2017	December 1, 2017
Winter 2018	February 1, 2018	March 1, 2018
Spring 2018	June 1, 2018	July 1, 2018
Summer 2018	August 1, 2018	September 1, 2018
Fall 2018	November 1, 2018	December 1, 2018

## UC San Diego Biomedical Library



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Visit the library website for hours: <http://scilib.UC San Diego.edu/bml/>

**Proxy Access to Library System:** - pharmacy@UC San Diego.edu

### BIOSIMILAR ANIMAL ANSWERS FROM PAGE 3:

Animal Pair #1: A is an Alpaca, B is a Llama. Llamas are used to guard herds of Alpaca that have valuable fleece for sweaters.