

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

Summer 2016

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



While the summer months are upon us, SSPPS remains busy as always. Our faculty and students received so many awards and accolades last quarter that we couldn't fit them all in the last newsletter and many needed to be included in this one. As noted, our faculty received Physician Excellence Awards, teaching awards, and have been featured on local television news reports.

Two of our outstanding faculty members retired last month. Beverly Freedman was an outstanding teacher, beloved by our faculty, staff and student body. In fact, the P1 class awarded her with their teaching award at the recent Faculty & Staff

Excellence Awards Ceremony. Many students regarded her not only as a mentor but also a friend. In addition, one of our founding faculty and deans, Dr. David Adler also retired last month. Dr. Adler was instrumental in establishing the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and enhancing its reputation over the last decade. He served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and his passion for our students and our school was evident in everything he did.

While we will miss our retiring faculty, we are pleased to welcome our newest member, Dr. Jason Lam, an SSPPS alumnus. More about his background and contributions can be found on page four in this Newsletter.

Finally a major change in the leadership of our School has transpired as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Brookie Best has assumed the role of Associate Dean for Pharmacy Education and Dr. Rabia Atayee has taken over as Associate Dean for Admissions & Outreach. Furthermore we now have divisions, which function in our school much the same as departments function in the School of Medicine. The Division Heads were elected by their constituent faculty and are Dr. Jan Hirsch for Clinical Pharmacy, Dr. Bradley Moore for Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and Dr. Tracy Handel for Pharmaceutical Sciences. An updated org chart noting these many exciting changes can be found here: [http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/docs/ORG\\_Chart\\_-\\_SSPPS\\_Divisions.pdf](http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/docs/ORG_Chart_-_SSPPS_Divisions.pdf)

# SSPPS News

## 2016 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 worked diligently to plan a lovely evening in celebration for and appreciation of those who have helped them and guided them along this journey. Attendees and students, dressed to the nines, enjoyed a delicious buffet, open bar, an entertaining photo booth and musical performances including the legendary Taiko drummers! A lovely personalized gift basket filled with handpicked items was given to each SSPPS staff member present in appreciation for their ongoing efforts, and it wouldn't be an awards ceremony without the awards. The awards went to:

P1 Instructor – **Bev Freedman**, Pharmacy Practice  
P2 Instructor – **Katharina Brandl**, Principles of Pharmacology and Physiology  
P3 Instructor – **Linda Awdishu**, Therapeutics  
P4 Preceptor – **Farivar Jahansouz**  
Volunteer Faculty – **Linda Dean**  
Special Recognition for **David Adler** for his academic contributions to the school

Congratulations to the Class of 2016 and to the dedicated staff, faculty and voluntary professionals!

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## New SSPPS Division Heads

**Please join us in congratulating our new Division Heads for 2016:**

Jan Hirsch – Clinical Pharmacy  
Tracy Handel – Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Brad Moore – Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Their terms started July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

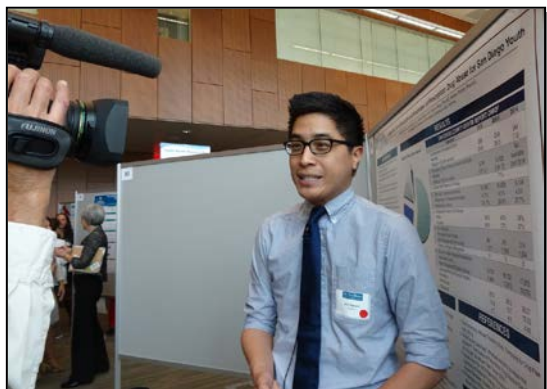
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## Dorrestein a 2016 National Award Finalist

The New York Academy of Sciences and the Blavatnik Family Foundation have identified Dr. Pieter Dorrestein as a finalist for the 2016 Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists. He is one of the top ten candidates in the Chemistry category. As a finalist, he will join a special group of Blavatnik Awards honorees and other esteemed members of the Blavatnik Awards community.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Health Research Day

By Binh Tran, PharmD



Dr. Linda Hill related her interests in science and public health from an early age in Detroit, then moving to the University of Ottawa, Canada for her medical training before starting an internship at McGill University and finally San Diego State University for her Master's in Public Health. She practiced Preventive Medicine at UC San Diego, and is currently Director and Faculty of UC San Diego-SDSU Preventive Medicine Residency in San Diego. Upon her arrival to San Diego, she worked at Linda Vista Health Center, a four-room clinic at that time. With the wave of refugees from Viet Nam, she dedicated her work to this population while witnessing 36 years of growth of the Health Center to three campuses. To this day, she still has an important Vietnamese patient load at the center, with many patients still remembering her caring medical services.

Mr. Nick Macchione is the Director of the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency, and the head of the ten-year, county-wide wellness strategy known as Live Well San Diego. Mr. Macchione showed examples of the wonderful work done through a video clip.



Awards were announced for each category of posters: undergraduate, graduate and faculty and staff. Over 100 posters were presented in the poster room, with five from APHF and SSPPS.

## Faculty News

### Capparelli Receives a Physician Excellence Award



Edmund Capparelli, Pharm.D. has received a Physician Excellence Award for Excellence in Research for his broad contributions across multiple disciplines – along with a culture that puts the patient first, which are necessary to develop new therapeutic approaches to improve care. Excellence in patient care is the ultimate objective.

## Alumnus Jason Lam Joins SSPPS Faculty

By Grace Kuo, PharmD, MPH, PhD, FCCP



Dr. Jason Lam, Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor, joined SSPPS in June 2016. Dr. Lam attended the University of California, Berkeley and graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts in Molecular and Cell Biology and a minor in Business Administration. He completed his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2006 as a member of the SSPPS charter class. Prior to joining UC San Diego, Dr. Lam worked as a Senior Specialist, Evidence Based Medicine in the Clinical Informatics department at Sharp Healthcare in San Diego. His specialty and research have been in the area of clinical decision support in the electronic medical record, and applying Lean Six Sigma process improvement methodologies in the acute care and community pharmacy settings.

Dr. Lam's involvement with local pharmacy organizations include serving as past president (2008) for the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP), San Diego Chapter and as a board member (2007-2008) for the San Diego County Pharmacists Association (SDCPhA). He continued his involvement at the state level as a member (2009) and chair (2010) of the CSHP Committee on Nominations and a board member (2010-2012) of the California Pharmacists Association (CPhA), Academy of Health System Pharmacists.

As a UC San Diego SSPPS alum, he has remained involved as a guest lecturer for courses including Pharmacy Practice and Therapeutics, a speaker on Professional and Financial Awareness (PFA), and a member of the Community Pharmacy Deans Advisory Board. Dr. Lam will practice at Ralph's Pharmacy to develop medication therapy management (MTM) programs in the community pharmacy setting. His teaching responsibilities at SSPPS will include chairing the Concepts in Pharmacy Practice course, teaching the PFA seminar series, and precepting the UC San Diego/Ralph's Community Pharmacy PGY1 resident. His areas of interest include challenging student pharmacists to explore varying and alternative career paths and promoting professional development.

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## Jair Siqueira-Neto Teams Up With Crowdsourced Research Project for Zika

IBM's World Community Grid and scientists from Brazil, the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at University of California San Diego, and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School have launched OpenZika, a project to find drug candidates to treat Zika, a fast-spreading virus that the World Health Organization has declared a global public health emergency. For the OpenZika project, World Community Grid powers virtual experiments on chemical compounds that could form the basis of antiviral drugs to treat the virus, which has been linked to serious neurological disorders. The project will screen more than 20 million compounds from existing databases against models of Zika protein structures with dramatically more speed than in a traditional lab.

Anyone with a computer or Android device is invited to join the OpenZika project as a "citizen scientist." Volunteers don't need to provide time, expertise or money to help — they simply run an app on their devices that automatically performs virtual experiments for scientists whenever their machines are idle. Once the computer modeling phase of the project identifies a few promising candidate drugs, Jair Siqueira-Neto, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, will use leading-edge robotic equipment to rapidly test them against real-world Zika virus.



## Preceptor Conference

By Amber Berean

On Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, the Office of Experiential Education (OEE) hosted the Spring Preceptor Conference: "The Goldilocks Approach to Opioid Therapy - Not too Little, Not too Much, Just Right!" The conference was led by Dr. Rabia Atayee, Associate Clinical Professor at SSPPS; Dr. Bailey Crandall, Pharmacist, Oncology Specialist at the VA; Dr. Joe Ma, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at SSPPS; and Dr. Maggie Mendes, Program Director, VISN 22 Academic Detailing Service at the VA. The presenters imparted on the attendees information outlining the opioid abuse epidemic, the pharmacist's responsibility in opioid therapy, CDC guidelines, opioid use in the setting of pain management, considerations before starting opioid therapy, and the pharmacist's role with Naloxone. In addition, there were two breakout sessions during which attendees assessed a patient's risk for opioid misuse using the Opioid Risk Tool and assessed the efficacy and appropriateness of another patient's opioid medication therapy. To conclude the conference, each attendee shared their take-aways from the event. The OEE would like to thank the presenters as well as the attendees for a highly successful conference!



*From left to right: Dr. Margaret Mendes, Dr. Bailey Crandall, Dr. Rabia Atayee and Dr. Joseph Ma*

## Faculty Participation in FDA Lactation Meeting

San Diego was well-represented at the US FDA workshop entitled, "Evaluation of the Safety of Drugs and Biological Products used During Lactation" on April 27 & 28 at FDA headquarters in Silver Spring, MD. The FDA Division of Pediatric and Maternal Health wished to obtain a broad perspective on the issues involved in conducting and interpreting studies, and presenting information on drug use during breastfeeding to incorporate into drug labeling. UC San Diego faculty Phil Anderson, PharmD and Tina Chambers, PhD, MPH, were on the planning committee and spoke at the meeting. Jason Sauberan, PharmD from Sharp Mary Birch Hospital was also involved. Phil spoke on modeling drug passage into breastmilk, which was based on an article that he wrote with Jason that will be published in *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics* in a July supplement. Jason spoke about the many drugs that lack adequate lactation labeling. Tina discussed the MotherToBaby counseling services and UC San Diego's Human Milk Repository, which she heads. Both Phil and Jason are on the Steering Committee for the Repository. Numerous other researchers from academia, industry and government also presented their perspectives.

In related news, Phil was asked by the editor of the journal *Breastfeeding Medicine* to write a monthly column about drugs and breastfeeding in the context of the *LactMed* database, which he writes and maintains for the National Library of Medicine. *LactMed Update* articles published thus far cover the topics of cancer chemotherapy, monoclonal antibodies and radiopharmaceuticals during breastfeeding.

## Student News

### Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2016

By Phuong Thoi (P4)

On Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences hosted its annual graduation at the Price Center Ballroom. The day celebrated the 56 graduates who are on their way to residencies, fellowships, and community practice.

The day started with speeches from distinguished speakers such as Dean James McKerrow, Chancellor Pradeep Khosla, and Dean David Brenner of the UC San Diego School of Medicine. The commencement speech was given by University of Florida School of Pharmacy, Dean Julie Johnson, who motivated the students to strive for their best and to make a difference in their patients' lives. Following these speeches, reflection speeches were given by graduates Andrea Ching, Neeloufar Fakourfar, and Tiffany Vu, who expressed their appreciation to SSPPS and the people who have become their second family. The ending speech was given by alumna, Dr. Crystal Zhou.

Following the commencement, families and friends celebrated the day by taking photos at Price Center and a reception was hosted at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The day was filled with laughter, joy, and celebration of the graduates' successes. We wish for the Class of 2016 only the best and are sure that they will all go on and do great things!







## Graduation Celebration





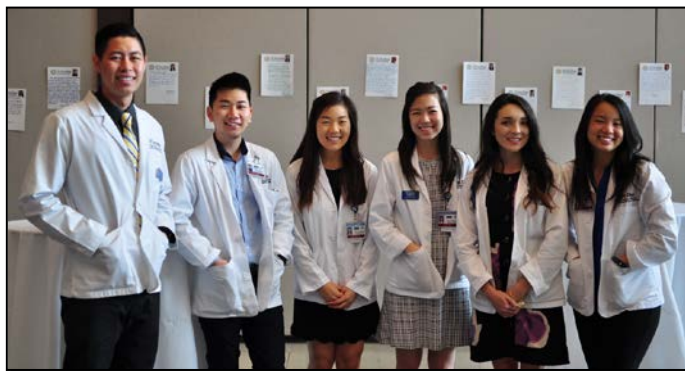
2016 Commencement



## SSPPS First –Year Student Pharmacists and First-Year Medical Students Share in UC San Diego Health Systems Body Donor Program Event

By David Adler, PharmD

Memorial Day Weekend 2016 was the Fourth Annual UC San Diego Body Donation Program Memorial Service celebration for 700+ families and friends who provided body donation for pharmacy and medical students and the several added training and research programs supported by the Anatomical Services of the School of Medicine. Pharmacy and medical students served as hosts, greeting family and friends of donors. Each student posted a reflection on the walls of the reception area sharing personal thoughts of the anatomy course experience and engaged with families and friends to hear memories and more about their donor's lives. The timing of this event was unique since it came as the students were



completing their anatomy course. It brought a close to a very humanitarian and sensitive Memorial Day Weekend.



The memorial service program was conducted by pharmacy and medical students and an orthopedic resident. This memorial provided expressed donor selfless recognition with heartfelt words of thanks. P-1s, Cara Erickson and Eric Chen, shared a piano – violin duet of “See You Again,” and Michael Lam shared a personal reflection on behalf of the Class of 2019. MS-1s Abishek Kumar and Sarah Watler provided personal comments, while Danien Scipio and Arjun Baneree played and sang the Beatles classic “Blackbird” and a third student vocalist joined to share “Amazing Grace.”

Compliments and congratulations to the Pharmacy and Medical Classes of 2019 for your participation, professionalism and humanitarian sensitivity, and contributions from Drs. Mia Savoia and Mark Whitehead.

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## Alumni News

### A Distinctive UC San Francisco Alumni Weekend

By Binh Tran, PharmD

The fifth annual UC San Francisco Alumni Weekend masterly conducted on April 8-9<sup>th</sup> at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco had a very special meaning to the faculty and members from Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UC San Diego. **Dean David Adler** received the **Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Year** at the Pharmacy Gala Dinner, for his long and distinguished career of clinical, administrative, and leadership activity.

## I. MORNING PROGRAMS

Earlier in the day, the Alumni Weekend began with the **Chancellor's Breakfast and Alumni Roundtable**. University of California President Janet Napolitano was the moderator, with panelists speaking in diverse fields:

- Andy Bindman, MD, on health policy and the Affordable Care Act
- Claire Brindis, DrPH, on health disparities, health insurance coverage, access to care for special populations
- Michelle Henshaw, DDS, on global and population health
- Rear Admiral Pamela Schweitzer, PharmD, on advancing the pharmacy profession with a focus on the underserved populations
- Mark Smith, MD, on Action Network for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services



After the Roundtable session, Dr. Elizabeth Watkins moderated **Discovery Talks**. We enjoyed listening to:

- Jason Gestwicki, PhD, on regulation of proteins in neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Huntington's
- Elise Riley, PhD, on how clinical and behavioral factors converge to influence health
- Jeffrey Bush, PhD, on congenital defects in humans
- Sharon Kaufman, PhD, on topics at the intersection of medical knowledge and society's expectations for health
- Shuvo Roy, PhD, on the Kidney Project, to create a bio-artificial kidney for end-stage renal disease patients

Due to inclement weather, lunch was moved indoors to the Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center in Mission Bay. This provided the opportunity to meet with physicians, pharmacists, and health professionals - alumni of the school.

## II. AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

After an informational bus tour about the expanding UC San Francisco Mission Bay campus and surrounding neighborhood, and an Art Tour to acquaint attendees with the art collection named in honor of J. Michael Bishop, MD, Nobel Laureate and UC San Francisco chancellor emeritus, participants joined in two programs conducted in the Byers Auditorium in the Genentech Hall on the Mission Bay campus.

The panel **Classes Without Quizzes #3: The New Face of Primary Care** featured clinicians in professional programs in Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Physical Therapy for a look at how and who will be providing primary care services to patients in the future.

The next panel **Continuing the Tradition...Outside the Box** opened new opportunities to expand the scope of practice for pharmacists.

## III. PHARMACY GALA DINNER

Dr. Brian Komoto, former recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012, was Master of Ceremonies at the Gala Dinner on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chancellor Sam Hawgood gave remarks, and Dean Joseph Guglielmo recognized all of the contributors at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ninth Floor Pharmacy Project. "Their hard work and dedication made it possible for the Project to be implemented and to flourish," said the Dean.

Dean Robert Day, Pharmacy Alumni Association Board of Governors Emeritus, was instrumental in Dean David Adler's nomination. Dr. Wilma Wong, former CPhA President and current Board of Governors Emeritus, did a wonderful job of presenting Dean Adler's long list of achievements for pharmacy education and leadership at UC San Francisco, UC San Diego and SSPPS.

In his address, Dean Adler reflected with emotion on his involvement with the faculty at both schools, including the innovations with the refugee pharmacists from Viet Nam in 1984-85. Binh Tran, a former student among the 110 Vietnamese pharmacists enrolled in the review classes organized by Dean Adler, expressed her and the group's gratitude to Dean Adler, Dean Robert Day and the faculty of the UC San Francisco School of Pharmacy for traveling to San Diego every weekend for eight months to teach the classes that were coordinated by Dr. Elvera Richardson. Dr. Tran presented Dean Adler with a copy of the letter signed by her and 63 of her colleagues supporting Dr. Adler's nomination for the Distinguished Alumnus Award. The letter was a superb initiative of Dean Robert Day.

Present at the Gala Dinner was former Dean Mary Ann Koda-Kimble, Dr. Betty Dong, and Dr. Michael Winter among other faculty coming to San Diego during that period. We also saw Dr. Sam Shimomura from Western University of Sciences in Pomona, who continued the pharmacy training classes in Irvine.

From SSPPS, we saw Dean Candis Morello, who came with several colleagues and Penny Adler with daughter Laura, a speech language pathologist assistant at the San Diego Unified School District. Dr. Tran also networked with Peter Nguyen, Alexi Kimura and other pharmacy students, expanding the link of the Vietnamese Pharmacist Association in the USA with students from all the pharmacy schools in California.

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## **SSPPS Alumni Weekend**

### **Class of 2006 Ten Year Reunion and Class of 2011 Five Year Reunion**

Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 marked a new tradition in our school's history. We celebrated the ten-year reunion with the Class of 2006 and the five-year reunion with the Class of 2011. This event was held in conjunction with the UC San Diego, Alumni weekend series of events, which took place June 2-5<sup>th</sup>.

The SSPPS-hosted reunion was intimate and family-friendly. It began with brunch in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, where alumni and faculty each had the opportunity to share what they have been doing over the last five to ten years. This was followed by the opportunity to tour the Birch Aquarium at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Later that evening alumni were treated to a three-course meal at the UC San Diego Faculty Club, which many commented felt like sitting down to dinner with extended family.





Brunch at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences





Family time at the Birch Aquarium at  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography





Dinner at the UC San Diego Faculty Club



## UC San Diego Biomedical Library



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Visit the library website for hours: <http://scilib.ucsd.edu/bml/>

**Proxy Access to Library System:** - pharmacy@ucsd.edu