

UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Newsletter

Winter 2018

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

We have just completed interviewing four groups of applicants for our P1 class that will matriculate this Fall. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our faculty, staff and student volunteers, we greeted academically stellar applicants with diverse backgrounds and geography. Despite the young age of our school, it was easy to impress each group of applicants with the quality of teaching, clinical and research opportunities, and success of our graduates.

We were also proud that our recent graduating class again had a 100% first-time pass rate on the NAPLEX. This year our graduating class also scored highest of any California pharmacy school on the California jurisprudence exam.

This quarter marked the launch of the first Biomedical Sciences (BMS) graduate course developed by faculty for the new BMS focus area in Pharmaceutical Sciences. I was pleased to note that students participating in this course have come not only from BMS but other graduate programs throughout the UC San Diego campus. This Fall we will also be welcoming the first students in our new Master of Science program in Drug Development and Product Management. We hope to launch our second Master of Science program in Health Informatics the following year.

I was pleased to hear praise from both campus leadership and UC San Diego donors for our recently launched Core Facilities in High Throughput Drug Screening and The Drug Development Pipeline. We can all be proud that our School is held in high regard throughout the San Diego community.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our faculty, staff, alumni and friends for their generous donations to our academic, research and student scholarship programs. Contributions at every level are essential to accelerating the pace of advanced research, delivering quality care to patients and training the next generation of pharmacy leaders. I would also like to thank our volunteer faculty who lecture in our didactic courses, precept our students and participate in many of our events. All of your contributions are sincerely appreciated.



SSPPS News

SSPPS Receives Visitors from Osaka Ohtani University School of Pharmacy

By Jenna Bastear, MPH

On March 2nd, SSPPS hosted Dean Seigo Tanaka, his wife; and a group of ten students from Osaka Ohtani University's School of Pharmacy.

The primary goal of their visit was to better understand the content and methodology of teaching used in a PharmD program. Many SSPPS faculty offered presentations covering: UCSD SSPPS PharmD curriculum, Experiential Education, and International

Collaborations/Programs. Lastly, seven of our own SSPPS students, Maher Alhaja, Lucy Chen, Steven Chen, Karen Cheung, Natalie Hinds, Sung Kim, and Brianna Zimmers, presented on what it is like being a PharmD student at UCSD SSPPS. There was excellent discussion between all presenters and our visitors.



Highlights 2018 Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Forum

By Jan Hirsch, RPh, PhD

The 14th Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Forum was held February 5th at the UC San Diego, Faculty Club.

The topic for the Forum was ***“Drugs to treat rare and ultra-rare diseases: Beyond the price and headlines”***

As has become tradition, we started off by testing the audience's knowledge with a series of trivia questions related to ***The Power of Serendipity*** (*medical discoveries occurring by accident*).

Our speakers:

Overview of current issues surrounding rare and ultra-rare diseases

Michael S. Broder, MD, MSHS

President, Partnership for Health Analytic Research

Stakeholder Perspectives

Pharmaceutical Manufacturer

Denise Globe
VP and Head US Health Economics and Outcomes Research, Novartis

Health Plan/Payers

Steven G. Avey, M.S., R.Ph., FAMCP
Vice President, Enterprise Specialty Clinical Solutions, Medimpact Health Systems, Inc.

Patient Advocacy Groups

Kristina Bowyer
Executive Director, Patient Advocacy, Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Speaker slides are available via the link below.

http://pharmacy.UC San Diego.edu/faculty/pharmacoeconomics_forum.shtml

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND EXIBITORS



PE Forum Steering Committee members are:

Michael S. Broder, MD, MSHS
Partnership for Health Analytic Research

Charles Daniels, RPh, PhD
UCSD, Skaggs School of Pharmacy
& Pharmaceutical Sciences

Mirta Millares, PharmD, FCSHP, FASHP
Kaiser Permanente

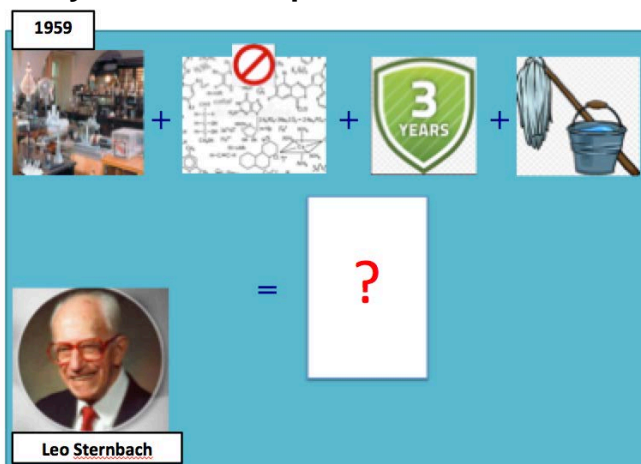
Jan D. Hirsch, RPh, PhD
UCSD, Skaggs School of Pharmacy
& Pharmaceutical Sciences

Michael Pollock
PPD
Robert Schoenhaus, PharmD
Sharp Healthcare

Anthony P. Morreale, PharmD, MBA, BCPS
Pharmacy Benefit Management
VA Central Office

Can you solve this puzzle?

1959



Leo Sternbach

Answer can be found on page 14. More examples 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

SSPPS Faculty and Fellow Present on Integrating Geriatric Care into Safety Net Primary Care at UC Irvine Symposium

By Bitá Naderi, PharmD

In December 2017, five representatives from each of the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Programs (GWEP) at the University of Hawaii (UH), UC San Francisco (UCSF), UC Irvine (UCI), and UC San Diego (UC SAN DIEGO) gathered in Anaheim for a seminar organized by UCI. The event consisted of a full day of learning and establishing collaborative efforts to improve geriatric healthcare.

The U.S. Census Bureau predicts in 2050 there will be 83.7 million people in the U.S. over age 65, nearly twice as many as there were in 2012. Such staggering numbers can have major implications on the healthcare system. Therefore, it is no surprise that the U.S. government is investing in efforts now to prepare for these challenges. Each group presented an overview of their GWEP, unique challenges they have faced over the course of the program, and efforts made to improve cultural competency in healthcare. At the end of the program, all participating universities agreed on a collaborative effort to publish papers on Safety Net Diversity through GWEP and valid and improved screening tools for dementia.



From left to right: Carmelo Veneracion, PT, Merce Veneracion, PT, Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, PhD, Vera Sverdlovsky, MD, PhD, Bitá Naderi, PharmD

SSPPS faculty member Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, PhD, UC SAN DIEGO; GWEP Fellow Bitá Naderi, PharmD, UC SAN DIEGO; GWEP Education Coordinator Vera Sverdlovsky, MD, PhD; and UC SAN DIEGO GWEP Scholar Merce Veneracion, PT presented on training programs established by UC San Diego to improve geriatric healthcare by training healthcare teams in an interprofessional manner to practice evidence-based medicine specifically focusing on areas relevant to geriatric patients such as falls, polypharmacy, wounds, and cognition and mental health. Falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries in older adults with an older adult being treated in the emergency room for a fall every 11 seconds as reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mental and behavioral health continues to be a growing issue as the elderly population in the U.S. increases. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, older Americans have the highest rate of suicide accounting for 20% of people who commit suicide even though they only make up 13% of the U.S. population. Taken collectively, such challenges require an interprofessional team approach.

UC SAN DIEGO GWEP illustrated development and implementation of interprofessional education strategies in which clinical outcomes that can be measured are then studied to assess such initiatives. Training formats include symposiums, workshops, assigned readings, and online lectures. Textbooks have been developed on various topics such as homeless healthcare as it pertains to geriatric patients. Creative use of technology, such as Zoom Video Conferencing, has allowed distance learning to become available to rural communities

that often have vulnerable geriatric patients. Furthermore, the importance of different levels of cultural competency, particularly as it relates to the large Latino population in San Diego, can help to overcome barriers to medication adherence. The GWEP collaboration with the San Diego Program of All-inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) was also discussed at the meeting.

Each GWEP is funded by roughly \$2.5 million from the Department of Health and Human Services. The goal of the grant is to improve geriatric healthcare, particularly in underserved populations, by designing new and innovative interprofessional clinical training environments.

Faculty News

By Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, MS, PhD, BCGP

On February 20th, the winner of the Sternfels Prize for Drug Safety Innovation (www.sternfelsprize.org) was announced—Dr. Jennifer Le (Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at UC San Diego, SSPPS) received this honorable award for her proposed research that seeks to improve vancomycin and aminoglycosides dosing in critically-ill neonatal and pediatric patients on *extracorporeal* life support using robust population-based pharmacokinetic modeling techniques. This prize is awarded to the “most novel, important, and testable idea to reduce life threatening drug-drug, drug-disease, or pharmacogenomic interactions.” While the award seeks proposal (not execution) of innovative research, Dr. Le and her collaborators Drs. John S. Bradley (Rady Children’s), Michele Domico (Children’s Hospital of Orange County), Felice Adler-Shohet (Children’s Hospital of Orange County), Joanne Starr (Children’s Hospital of Orange County) and at Miller Children’s and Women’s Hospital of Long Beach have “leaped” into this study with the successful recruitment of 10 study sites (eight in the United States, one in Australia and one in Canada). This is truly an exciting time for us to improve our understanding of drug pharmacokinetics in children *extracorporeal* life support.



Student News

Creating Leaders in Measuring Value of Medications

By Jincheng Yang, P3 & Kathy Nguyen, P3

On January 27th, three teams of talented student pharmacists presented their evaluations of combination insulin degludec and liraglutide (trade name Xultophy®) to a panel of expert judges at the UC San Diego-AMCP Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) competition. The student teams assessed clinical, safety, and economic data to evaluate real-world effectiveness of insulin degludec and liraglutide, a combination injectable medication to treat type II diabetes mellitus. After submitting a comprehensive monograph of the drug and an analysis of the manufacturer's eDossier, each team presented their formulary recommendation to the judge panel.

These impressive teams demonstrated outstanding analytical thinking and presentation skills in both written and oral components of the competition. Thank you to all participants for their dedication and effort.

The winners of the 4th annual local student pharmacist P&T competition are Kelly Chan (P1), Timothy Reynolds (P2), Trinh Nguyen (P2), and Victor Tang (P2). Their winning materials will now represent UCSD



From left: Agnes Suh (P1), Annie Chang (P1), Hailey Hirata (P1) and Jefferson Luong (P1)



From left: Anna To (P1), Claire Chen (P1), and Lydia Chen (P1)

SSPPS for consideration as one of eight finalist teams in the National AMCP P&T competition in April in Boston, MA. Good luck!

Many thanks to judges Dr. Jan Hirsch (SSPPS), Dr. Vincent Lin (Kite Pharma, a Gilead Company), and Dr. Carolyn Szigethy (MedImpact) for their time and expertise. We also thank Dr. Jonathan Watanabe and Dr. Sara Erickson for their guidance as chapter advisors. If anyone is interested in the competition or has questions, please contact Student P&T Competition Director Jincheng Yang (jy178@ucsd.edu).

Preventing Illness—One Immunization at a Time

By Vesta Guiv, P2

Members of the UCSD APhA-ASP/CPhA Operation Immunization Project have gone above and beyond during the fall and winter quarters in terms of administering vaccinations. Alicia McGhie (P2, 2016-2017 Operation Immunization Chair) and Vivian Tran (P1, 2017-2018 Operation Immunization Chair) worked incredibly hard this past year to organize immunization clinics for both influenza and hepatitis A at the Downtown & Pacific Beach Free Clinics and UCSD Hillcrest Medical Center.

Why is it so important to be immunized? The hepatitis A outbreak that hit San Diego has been one of the largest seen in the county. It has affected the homeless population and illicit drug users the most; however, it can be spread to any individual via close contact. From data reported on February 21st, there have been a total of 583 cases of hepatitis A documented in San Diego, contributing to 20 deaths and 399 hospitalizations. The influenza outbreak has greatly affected San Diego as well. As of February 20th, influenza has been contracted by 16,827 individuals and led to 257 cases that required ICU visits. Immunizations against these viruses will help protect individuals from contracting these illnesses, in the hopes of containing the outbreak and keeping the population healthy.

Our clinics have provided the opportunity for our pharmacy students to work with UCSD School of Medicine students to prevent the spread of these outbreaks. These collaborative efforts help foster interdisciplinary relationships that start in the classroom setting during P2 year. Together, pharmacy and medical students administered a remarkable total of around 550 vaccinations to the homeless population. The vaccination efforts were not limited to only free clinic locations, but also included UCSD Hillcrest Medical Center. Skaggs students volunteered their time to vaccinate current UCSD health employees as well. Each and every vaccine brought our population one step closer to protection against illness.

When asked about her favorite experience of this year's immunization clinics, Alicia McGhie (P2) recalled that during a shift at Downtown Free Clinic, she spoke with a recently-hospitalized patient diagnosed with hepatitis A. He was so adamant about stopping the spread of hepatitis A that he accompanied her as she approached patients to convince them about the importance of the vaccine from his personal perspective. The result was successful as several people became interested in receiving the vaccination.

Overall, these clinics have been a huge success and a round of applause is in order for the Operation Immunization Chairs Alicia and Vivian, as well for every student who volunteered their time to help vaccinate patients. Thank you for your hard work and for contributing to a healthier San Diego.



Another Year of Productivity and Achievements for CSHP-UCSD

By John Wang, P3

CSHP-UCSD kicked off our 2017-2018 school year with a regional Clinical Skills Competition, in which students challenged themselves with therapeutics-driven cases and competed amongst the classmates at our school of pharmacy. Hannah Nguyen (P4) and Warren Yau (P4) were the top competitors and represented our school on a state level at CSHP Seminar in Las Vegas. Many UC San Diego students attended the meeting and particularly enjoyed the endless networking, educational workshops, and various events tailored to pharmacy students. Our classmate Allison Cid (P2) and her caption, "I love CSHP because it provides such great opportunities for involvement with current pharmacists, pharmacy students, and provides a bridge to advance the profession of pharmacy," was chosen as the winner for the Hashtag Contest at the CSHP seminar. Our student chapter concluded the CSHP Seminar experience on an exceptional note, as our chapter was by far, one of the most recognized schools at the awards ceremony. We were awarded all three of the community service awards (Asthma Education, Tobacco Cessation, and Poison Prevention Awareness). Our immediate past president Rachelle Roxas (P4) was the recipient of not only the Student Leadership Award, but also CSHP's Student Leadership in Health-System Practice Award and the Joseph H. Beckman Memorial scholarship as well. Rachelle and our student chapter definitely deserved the recognitions, and we cannot wait to see what other successful accomplishments we will carry out this year. To top it all off, Dr. Candis Morello's Diabetes Intense Medical Management Clinic's research team comprising of Dr. Jan Hirsh, Andrew Zimmerman, Crystal Zhou, John Khoan, Taylor Rotunno, Jennifer Vu, Carmen Truong, Mandy Leung, Ginger Lo, Tran Nguyen, Lillian Tao, Kevin Nguyen, and Nancy Kong, received the Innovative Practice Honorable Mention Award.



Rachelle Roxas (P4) was awarded Student Leadership Award, CSHP Student Leadership in Health-System Practice Awards, and the Joseph H. Beckman Memorial Scholarship. Dr. Jason Lam awarded for achieving CSHP Fellow Practitioner Status.

We also continued our international volunteer efforts in Tijuana, Mexico this year. Our volunteers helped operate the make-shift free clinic, seeing approximately 150 patients each day throughout a weekend trip. We were humbled by each patient's story and reassured why we are pursuing a career to truly help people in various walks of life. Furthermore, CSHP-UCSD events on campus were abundant this year. We successfully hosted Legislative Day, Residency Showcase, and various professional development workshops, such as How to Network and How to Write a CV. Carrying the momentum forward from Seminar, our student chapter relentlessly volunteered for our community through numerous local service events, including VA Stand-Down for our veteran and homeless population in San Diego and PRYDE (Prevention, Recreation, Youth, Diversity, and Education) Outreach & Oceanside Outreach for our local elementary population. Our Poison Prevention

Chair (Kaitlyn Kennett) immediately began Parent's Presentation in the Fall quarter, targeting the parent population and highlighting how to respond to common household poison exposure.

Upcoming Events

As we kick-off the new year with winter quarter, we are keeping our even busier Spring quarter in mind. Our upcoming events include Phun Run, our 13th annual 5k run/walk to fundraise for UCSD student-run free clinics. All the proceeds will go towards purchasing supplies, medications, vaccinations, and other resources to help the underserved population in San Diego. This year, our Phun Run is set to take place at the UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on Sunday, April 8th at 09:00 AM. Registration is \$20 and is open to everyone interested in supporting our wonderful cause. Another notable and highly anticipated event is our annual Culture Fusion, which will take place in the Price Center Ballroom at UCSD on Thursday, May 17th. This event showcases the talents of our faculty and students through a fashion show, performances, and very delicious student-chef competition!

CSHP-UCSD would like to thank our local SDSHP chapter's pharmacists and preceptors for their time, support, and sharing as many experiential opportunities with our membership as possible. Our student chapter was provided opportunities to host their Fall Social BBQ event at La Jolla Shores and be an integral part in organizing the annual SDSHP Installation Gala. As students, we will always be eager for such opportunities and we are very thankful to have our local pharmacists guiding us throughout our journey in pharmacy school.



CSHP Community Affairs Chairs, Christie Hoang (P2) and Thuy Nguyen (P2) volunteering at the VA Stand Down along with a team of CSHP-UCSD student volunteers.



PHI LAMBDA SIGMA
PHARMACY LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

SSPPS Welcomes the Newest Members of Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society- 120th Chapter, Epsilon Alpha

Selection for the SSPPS Phi Lambda Sigma chapter membership serves to recognize the outstanding leadership efforts of our student pharmacists, and all of the leadership development opportunities they provide to our student body. The four main goals of this society are to:

1. Ensure the continuing availability of student and practitioner leaders for the profession of pharmacy.
2. Acknowledge leadership achievement and award membership to leaders recommended by the Society.

3. Enhance the talent, skill, and effectiveness of leaders for the profession of pharmacy.
4. Support and encourage sustained leadership commitment.

To be eligible for Phi Lambda Sigma, student pharmacist leaders at SSPPS must have met all of the following qualifying criteria:

1. Good academic standing,
2. Full-time student in P3 or P4 year, and
3. Minimum of three demonstrable leadership positions (past and current) that advance the profession of pharmacy.

Following the application process, 31 students met the criteria for this year's honor. On Thursday, October 19, 2017, SSPPS held the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society induction and installation ceremony, officiated by Deans McKerrow and Morello, Dr. Mnatzaganian and P4 PLS member Josie Vo. Each PLS member was presented a certificate acknowledging their leadership within their school and profession and an engraved PLS pin, and may wear the gold and green PLS graduation cord-- the only cord SSPPS recognized at graduation. Each year students meeting criteria can apply to become PLS members of SSPPS.



Kaylene De Vries (below) receiving her PLS pin from Dr. Morello



Michael Lam receiving his certificate from Dr. Mnatzaganian.



PLS Class of 2017 with long time PLS Members, Candis Morello and Christina Mnatzaganian



Candle Lighting

Alumni News

Upcoming Alumni Events

13th Annual Phun Run
5K Run/Walk Fundraiser
April 8, 2018

The Phun Run is an annual 5K Run/Walk fundraiser through UCSD campus, past the landmark Geisel Library, and through wooded trails in UCSD's nature preserve. Its proceeds go towards UCSD Student-Run Free Clinics, which provide high quality, free-of-cost healthcare to San Diego's underserved population.

Triton 5K & Festival
April 15, 2018
<http://5k.UC San Diego.edu>

Students, alumni, staff, faculty and the greater San Diego community are invited to join UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla on Sunday, April 15th, for the 22nd annual Triton 5K & Festival. The 3.1 mile, USATF-sanctioned course is a scenic trek through the heart of campus, past towering eucalyptus groves and familiar campus landmarks. Come join as an individual runner or form a team of your fellow SSPPS alumni, faculty and staff!

UC San Diego SSPPS Alumnus Elected Grand Regent for Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc.



Robert Mancini, PharmD, BCOP (Class of 2008) was elected to the office of Grand Regent (international president) of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc at the 58th Grand Council Convention (GCC) this past August in Naples, FL. Robert is an initiate of the Delta Phi chapter of Kappa Psi at UC San Diego's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and has served in multiple capacities within the fraternity including on the International Executive Committee of Kappa Psi as Grand Counselor (2013-2015) and Grand Vice-Regent (2015-2017) where he most recently served as the convention chair for the 58th GCC. Robert's goals as Grand Regent include establishment of a new international philanthropic project Reach Out & Read, assisting Kappa Psi Chapters in getting more positive media coverage of their philanthropic efforts to show value to both the community and the schools/colleges of pharmacy where Kappa Psi exists. Robert is the

first Brother of Delta Phi chapter to be elected to the International Executive Committee of Kappa Psi and will be lucky to return to his alma mater in March when the Delta Phi Chapter hosts the Pacific West Province's Spring Assembly.

By Crystal Zhou, PharmD - Class of 2015

Hi! Since I graduated from UC San Diego SSPPS in 2015, I have not stopped learning and exploring the world of pharmacy. I completed my PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at UCSF and experienced rotations in family medicine, hepatitis c, transitions of care, cardiology, drug policy, neurosurgery, hematology/oncology, and infectious disease. My PGY1 experience strengthened my passion for ambulatory care pharmacy and I continued my training as a PGY2 Ambulatory Care Specialty Resident at the University of Washington. During my PGY2, I practiced under a very liberal collaborative practice agreement at the family medicine clinic (my home clinic), renal/hepatology specialty clinic, and worked on projects with the accountable care network pharmacist. I also married my pharmacy school sweetheart, Francis Wang, during my PGY2 residency. It was a busy year! I recently started my dream job as an Assistant Clinical Professor at UCSF where I am designing the Applied Patient Care Skills (APCS) Course in the new curriculum. The longitudinal APCS course is a bridge between the students' classroom learning and their IPPE and APPEs. My current clinical practice is in outpatient general cardiology, advanced heart failure, and pulmonary hypertension. I have obtained my hypertension, ambulatory care, and advanced practice pharmacist certifications so far, and hope to practice at the top of my license while educating the future generation of pharmacists.



SSPPS Alumni Happy Hour By Cyndy Stalmaster

On November 30th, UCSD Alumni hosted the SSPPS Alumni White Labs Happy Hour. As a fellow UC San Diego graduate, Chris White, PhD '96, started White Labs in 1995 after researching and developing a library of yeast strains from around the world. Today, White Labs is a pioneer in providing commercial quality yeasts to home brewers and has grown to include offices in California and Colorado.



We had a great turnout of alumni, faculty and staff and some wonderful connections were made!! Delicious craft beers and tasty treats from Cheesy Amigos rounded out a fun evening of reconnecting with friends, colleagues and fellow alumni.

We look forward to seeing you at future Happy Hours!

By Rebecca Kandilian, PharmD, BCPS – Class of 2014

In a 2002 Department of Defense briefing, Donald Rumsfeld philosophizing on the knowns and the unknowns of life says the following, “As we know, there are known knowns. There are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns. That is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns, the ones we don’t know we don’t know.” The fact that I am now practicing in an area that was an unknown unknown to me at graduation reminded me of this quote. A fair question is how do you learn about what you don’t know if you don’t even know what you don’t know? For me, it was my curiosity and drive to learn that led me down paths less traveled filled with unknown unknowns.

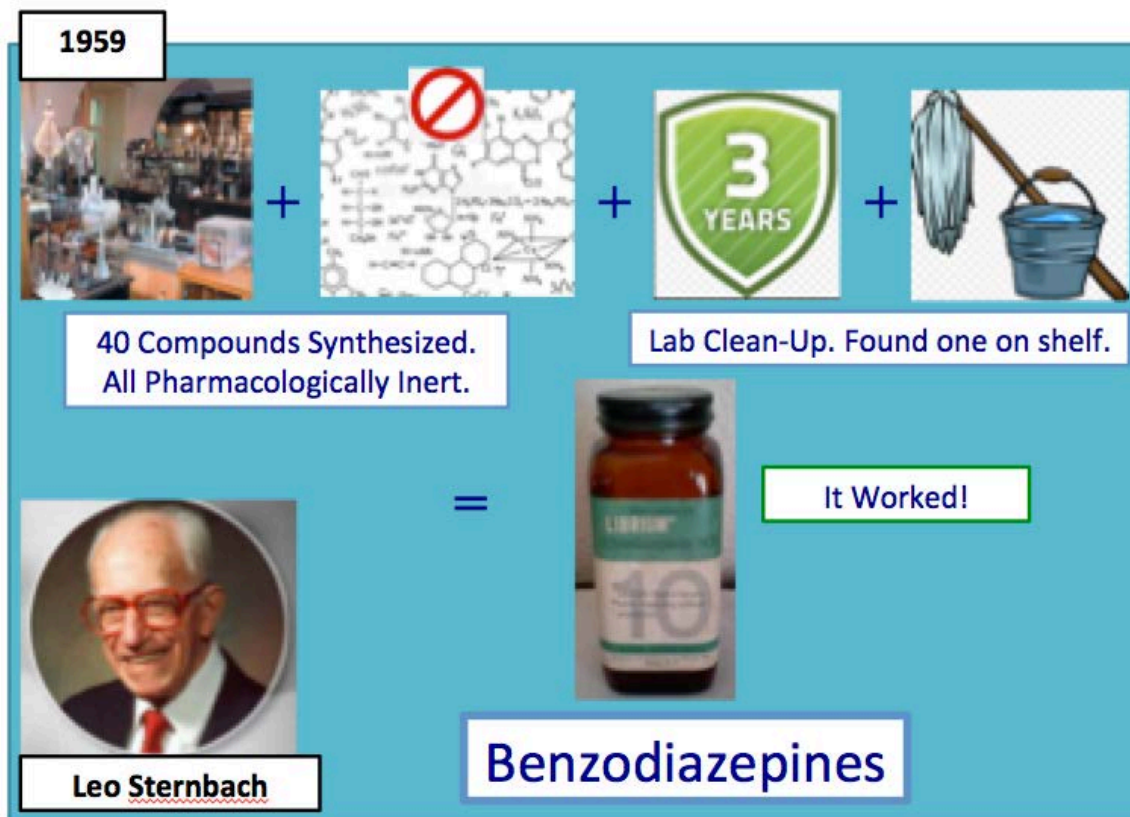
Soon after graduating from SSPPS, I relocated to Sacramento, California to start my PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at UC Davis Medical Center (UCDMC). I had enjoyed working in the inpatient setting for four years as an intern and envisioned myself doing so post-graduation. In addition to many rudimentary responsibilities we had as residents, we reviewed requests for high cost medications by evaluating adherence to institutional guidelines. I enjoyed participating in this process and when opportunities arose, I volunteered to work on projects that focused on cost-effective and evidence-based use of medications. With each project, my work-life imbalance became even greater but my drive to learn outweighed all. Halfway through residency, I realized that I had a natural aptitude and a passion for utilizing data to improve both quality and cost as it relates to medication use. I reasoned that if resources are utilized in a cost-conscious manner without compromising quality, more patients can receive care and that brought a great deal of satisfaction to me. I then embarked on a quest to find a training opportunity that would give me the skills necessary to do drug use management for a large health system. In parenthesis, at this point, I did not know what opportunities would be out there for me after a second year of training. Neither was I sure that there was a program that would give me these skillsets. But, I had a very strong inkling that I was meant to pursue this field and was determined to find a way to get there.



After exploring different PGY-2 programs, I was fortunate to match with VA Sierra Pacific Network’s (VISN 21) Pharmacy Outcomes and Healthcare Analytics Residency Program, which aligned well with my interests, goals and vision. As a resident, I helped maintain the network’s clinical data warehouse, developed and implemented quality and cost performance metrics for the network with patient specific reports and dashboards, and led formulary management activities such as pharmacoeconomic analyses and contract initiatives. I spent hours data mining to find cost-quality opportunities that are difficult to uncover until a population-based approach and analytics are applied. I found this process extremely gratifying and of all the years of education and training I had to this point, this was by far the most challenging, enriching and intellectually stimulating year.

Shortly after finishing residency, I moved back to Southern California for a position at Kaiser Permanente San Diego as a drug education coordinator. In my current role, I have the co-responsibility of planning and coordinating the San Diego Service Area drug education program for physicians, pharmacists and other medical personnel. This includes strategy, analysis and implementation of drug cost containment and quality programs and formulary initiatives, oversight of drug manufacturer marketing practices and supervisory duties.

AND THE ANSWER IS...



UC San Diego Biomedical Library



9500 Gilman Drive 0699
La Jolla, California
92093-0699

Penny Coppernoll-Blach, MLS
Biomedical Library Liaison for SSPPS
pblach@UC San Diego.edu
(858) 534-4431

Email Reference Service:
biomed@UC San Diego.edu

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

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