

A Message From the Dean

James H. McKerrow, PhD, MD



This summer has been a challenge for all of us because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Special thanks to Drs. Brookie Best and Renu Singh for crafting a unique curriculum that ensures we continue our stellar educational experience, safely, in both classroom and experiential experiences. We are especially proud of our students again having a 100% first-time pass rate on the NAPLEX exam for three years in a row (2017-2019), ranking #1 out of all accredited pharmacy schools in the U.S. Join me and Dr. Candis Morello in congratulations to our graduating class. Even with the challenges we face this year, our faculty have again garnered many awards both from our university and from national organizations. These are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are also fortunate to have successfully received from UC San Diego one of the coveted EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) FTEs for incoming faculty member, Dr. Inmaculata Hernandez. In addition, our joint recruitment with the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry was supported by the Chancellor to allow the recruitment of Dr. Fleur Ferguson. Finally, join me in welcoming Dr. Ashley Feist to our family. Ashley will be helping with Therapeutics teaching and brings expertise in the pharmaceutical challenges for cardiothoracic transplant.

We already had in place a vibrant EDI Committee when the death of George Floyd and the subsequent national protests took place. This is fortunate because committee members and our student leadership have quickly added their voices in support of Health Sciences efforts to ensure training in anti-racism and other EDI issues.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the successful “Research Ramp-up” that has occurred, despite the pandemic, and allowed key research programs in SPPS to once again function. Special thanks to Dr. Tracy Handel who served on the Research Ramp-up Taskforce and helped craft guidelines for training in laboratories and how to monitor work to ensure compliance.

If you'd like to continuing supporting our school and our mission, we welcome you to

Give Now

STUDENT NEWS

COVID-19 Community Outreach

As of August 6, 2020, UC San Diego's Student-Run Free Clinics mark the end of their food delivery project through the COVID-19 Community Outreach program. The generous donations made by many of you have assisted 1,457 San Diego residents, including 470 Free Clinic patients, over the past 11 weeks.

Special shout-out to P3, Monica Sliwa, for her continued service to our high-risk community members in San Diego County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her efforts have been featured on [local news stations](#) since the shelter-at-home orders began, and she has now been recognized by the CSHP CEO and SDSHP leadership along with an article in the American Pharmacists Association (APha) [Student Pharmacist Magazine](#). “[Monica] continue[s] to make our school and faculty so proud!” writes Assistant Dean for Experiential Education, Dr. Renu Singh. “Thank you for all you do to keep your community safe and healthy, Monica!”



Skaggs Students Facilitate COVID-19 Testing

by Samvel Abelyan (P2) and Raymond Wen (P2)

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented public health crisis and for the future pharmacists at UCSD Skaggs, it



has been a sensitive period of time to be of service to their communities. Students at Skaggs have shown their initiative in the fight against COVID-19 by collaborating with Dr. Mina Said from PureCare Pharmacy in San Diego to provide COVID-19 testing. As an owner of the only independent pharmacy to offer free testing in his community, Dr. Said has been a pillar of advocacy and informational resources



for his patients during this global pandemic. Samvel Abelyan and Raymond Wen are spearheading this project as Vice Presidents of Patient Care for APhA to give student pharmacists the opportunity to facilitate COVID-19 testing.

What pushed us to create this event?

It is one of APhA's missions to improve public health and during this pandemic, we saw COVID-19 testing as one of the barriers in our communities and believed student pharmacists have a role to play in our health system. Despite the diverse career specialties and paths our classmates share as student pharmacists, one underlying quality amongst all our colleagues is their dedication to our local communities and therefore we wanted to extend the opportunity to our peers.

We were also inspired to create this event as it would provide student pharmacists a novel way to fulfill their required service learning (SL), co-curricular (CC), and introductory pharmacy practice experience (IPPE) hours. In order to do so, we worked closely with Dr. Sarah Lorentz to develop a personal protective equipment (PPE) training protocol which will ensure the safety of our volunteers and patients for this event.

What do the student pharmacists do?

The student pharmacists are responsible for facilitating self-administered COVID-19 tests to patients at PureCare Pharmacy. This includes explaining how the test should be administered, expectations after the testing, as well as supervision to ensure the tests are administered appropriately. Also emphasized are the different kinds of misinformation regarding COVID-19 tests in our community, as volunteers are trained to answer common questions and nuances of testing.

What have the responses been like?

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive! Patients are happy to see student pharmacists taking part in advocating for the health of their communities. From our students' perspectives, this event has given them an opportunity to rise to the occasion and be an anchor to their communities. Michelle Chau, an incoming P2, stated "It feels rewarding to address some of the health disparities and barriers that we are trained to identify at UCSD Skaggs, in this case, making COVID-19 testing more readily available to those at risk." Like Michelle, the students of Skaggs are eager to continue to provide service to patients during this sensitive time.

Pharmacy and Beyond: Quarantine Edition

by Amanpreet Sarai (P3) and Nhi Truong (P3)

This summer has been quite different for students at SSPPS as most had to forego travel plans, cancel recurring pharmacy outreach events and find new ways to stay engaged. We asked some incoming and returning students to share a little bit about their summer in quarantine. Many of the students talked about what they have done in lieu of their usual activities, new hobbies while social distancing, how they've expanded their pharmacy experience and their desire to stay involved once school starts!

Mary Belaya, P1

I started attending outside yoga sessions as a new hobby since the lockdown started to help destress and spend more time outside so it doesn't feel like I'm trapped at home all the time. I'm staying involved through my job as a pharmacy technician at CVS. I'm looking forward to learning new content during pharmacy school and am excited to meet all my new classmates and work together on accomplishing all the goals we have set for ourselves.

Dan Surdilla, P1

During quarantine, I have enjoyed a lot of the outdoors, although it got hot recently. I've been doing a lot of cardio whether it's running or just power walking. A couple of my favorite runs include Mission Beach to Pacific Beach & Mission Trails. I try to keep up physically with outdoor gyms. Currently, I work for Guardian Pharmacy in Sorrento as a Data Entry Pharmacy Technician. I truly enjoy my job and it kept me busy prior to school. Hopefully, I get to transition into an intern for the company. One thing I'm looking forward to most is how the SSPPS will adapt to the pandemic. I'm excited to see how the year will unfold. I know it will be difficult but I know SSPPS will do its best to cater to the students. It's already interesting to see how we are doing orientation and our white coat ceremony. Even though times are tough, I look forward to experiencing something out of the ordinary.



Samantha Thompson, P2

I am currently working at Rite Aid and I also did an internship with a women's health pharmacist during the summer that has been incredibly fulfilling. I also had some shadowing opportunities and volunteered at free clinic. This summer I have done some trail running, working out, hiking, reading, and tried to learn Spanish but failed. I was really looking forward to the ACTION Welcome Back Event since I'm a student ambassador, but it sounds like we'll be having virtual events and socials so I hope to attend those as much as possible.

Gayane Kechechyan, P2

I've been doing an internship with Birth Control Pharmacist during the summer, learning more about birth control. I got the opportunity by reaching out to Dr. Sally Rafie who gave us the emergency contraception lecture in pharmacy practice. I help run social media, create and edit clinical tools, fundraising, and help create training modules. I moved back to LA months ago and so I haven't physically seen any SD friends since then, but we still message each other.

Nyssa Situ, P3

I've been doing more cross-stitching, reading a lot, and picnics. I also recently started doing a photo journal/diary so I can find joys in every day even if it seems really boring in quarantine. For pharmacy, I've been doing SRP and working at CVS. I was looking forward to the CSHP barbeque because it was a great way to catch up with everyone over food and games and I met a lot of P1s last year through that, so I'm sad we can't do that this year. Hopefully, we will do lots of zooms/picnics to study and hang out. A lot of pharmacy students go to lighthouse bible church and we've been having outdoor services where we just spread out on a big lawn, so I've been catching up with a lot of them weekly.





Please join us in congratulating Maher Alhaja (P4) for being the 2020 recipient of the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) John J. Carbone Memorial Scholarship. This award recognizes students with an interest in health-system pharmacy leadership who have demonstrated exceptional leadership ability. It recognizes and celebrates the contributions of students who represent the very best attributes and accomplishments of CSHP student members. CSHP offers one award annually to a student attending a school or college of pharmacy in California.

Maher has been an intern pharmacist at Scripps Memorial Hospital since 2018, a Pharmacy Student Manager for the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinics, and has held multiple student leadership positions at SSPPS, including assisting Dr. James Colbert in coordinating our annual UCSD SSPPS Legislative Day. Well done, Maher! You make our school proud!

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Highlights

by Jenna Bastear, Director of Student Affairs and Admissions



Traci Hennessy, Class of 2012

UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) has some pretty phenomenal alumni, and Traci Hennessy is one of them! After graduating from SSPPS in 2012, she went on to complete her PGY1 residency in acute care at the University of Chicago Medicine (UCM). After her residency, she worked in inpatient pharmacy operations (central dose, IV room, chemo, and OR) and ambulatory care clinics. Currently she is the Clinical Coordinator of the Meds2Beds Program at UCM where she coordinates the daily activities of the hospital's discharge medication delivery service. She makes sure that all of her patients go home with the right medication including dose/route/frequency/timing.

With two young children at home, Traci is one busy woman! However, in her "spare time" she kindly gave us some insight on why she chose pharmacy, how SSPPS prepared her for her career and what she loved about SSPPS.

Why did you choose a career in Pharmacy?

I loved organic and biochemistry in college (I majored in Pharmacology at UCSB) and was fascinated by the fact that a molecule could be ingested and change what was happening in someone's body. My primary goal was seeking out an education where I could become an expert in how these molecules affect our bodies and all the minute details involved in that process. What I discovered in pharmacy school was that I also loved learning about what our body does to the molecule and the downstream effects of that process as well.

How has SSPPS prepared you for your career?

SSPPS prepared me by focusing their curriculum in hard science (pharmacology/pharmacokinetics/therapeutics), teaching me critical thinking skills, and challenging me to think beyond the status quo and outside-of-the box. SSPPS also taught me that diversity matters - when you have a bunch of people from different backgrounds and cultures coming together to solve problems, the solutions end up being more creative and inclusive.

What is your fondest memory of your time in school?

There are too many. Winning the CSHP Clinical Skills competition and getting to go to [AShP] Midyear in New Orleans, performing the 'Thriller' dance on stage at an event with other Kappa Psi brothers, going downtown to different restaurants/bars with the UCSD School of Medicine students, running my first 5K during the PhunRun, competing with the other classes during the end-of-the-year competition at La Jolla Shores, dressing up for Halloween with my roommates, etc. I could go on forever.

Shadi Vaccani, Class of 2006

We now must highlight yet another one of our outstanding graduates, Shadi Vaccani. After graduating from UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) in 2006, Shadi went on to complete her PGY1 Ambulatory Care Residency at the UC San Diego Medical Center. Once she completed her post-graduate training, she took an ambulatory care position with Kaiser Permanente, San Diego. She has been at Kaiser ever since. She started by working in the Anticoagulation Clinic and then cross-trained in Medication Therapy Management, Renal, Hospice and New Member Clinics. She then became involved with the student program, by coordinating APPEs for the Kaiser site. She is currently a preceptor for both pharmacy students and residents.



Shadi kindly participated in a brief Q&A.

Do you hold any specific roles here at UC San Diego SSPPS?

I am a member of the Community Pharmacy Dean's Advisory Board and I serve on the Admissions Committee.

Any words of wisdom to a new graduate?

The field of pharmacy is always evolving, now more than ever. This is a great time to learn to think outside the box and be innovative. Always keep an open mind and don't be afraid to take chances!

What makes you love what you do?

There are many reasons why I love what I do! I really enjoy interacting with patients, helping them manage their medications and answering their questions. I find it very rewarding to know I can make a difference. I also feel very fortunate to be working with outstanding pharmacists, technicians and assistants, as I learn something new every day. The collaboration and camaraderie really make it a nurturing environment. Precepting students and residents also makes me love what I do. It's always a great experience getting to know them and watch them grow into brilliant clinicians!

We loved hearing from both Traci and Shadi and learning about how they are making a difference out in their communities. We hope all alumni and their families are doing well and staying healthy. Take care!

If you are an SSPPS Alumnus and wish to be featured in a future newsletter, please contact Jenna Bastear - jbastear@health.ucsd.edu

FACULTY NEWS

Welcome Dr. Ashley Feist!

by Linda Awdishu, Professor and Chair of Clinical Pharmacy



Our clinical division extends a hearty welcome to Dr. Ashley Feist, who was appointed as Associate Clinical Professor of Pharmacy on May 1, 2020. Dr. Feist joined UC San Diego Health in 2005 as a first-year acute care resident and stayed on to complete a second residency specializing in critical care with an emphasis in solid organ transplantation. Dr. Feist was hired as a transplant specialist in 2008. She has had numerous accomplishments at UC San Diego Health including the development of solid organ transplant pharmacy services from clinical inpatient services in heart and lung, to mail order pharmacy services and 7-day-a-week pharmacy coverage of inpatient transplant patients. She has a passion for teaching and has mentored over 200 students and residents on rotations, research projects and more recently in the didactic classroom education. She was the Director of the PGY2 Transplant Residency program and graduated nine residents over the last ten years. Dr. Feist is the recipient of numerous teaching awards from student and residents. We are very excited to welcome her as part of our faculty where she will co-chair for Therapeutics and continue to precept students and residents on rotations in heart and lung transplant clinics.



Congratulations to Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor, Dr. Laura Hart, for having been selected as one of 125 alumni legends that the University of Washington (UW) School of Pharmacy honored for their [125th Pharmacy Celebration](#). UW states that these 125 alumni legends have “made significant contributions and continue to enhance the profession in new and profound ways”.

Congratulations: SSPPS Excellence in Teaching Award



Sponsored by the University of California, San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS), the Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes a member of the SSPPS faculty for excellence in the classroom or at a clinical training site and/or for creative and innovative teaching methods, over the last two years.

The SSPPS Faculty Awards Committee is happy to report that this year's winner is Dr. Christina Mnatzaganian for her excellence and innovation in teaching in the Pharmacy Practice series. Please join us in congratulating her on this achievement!

Faculty Featured In The News

Ruben Abagyan, PhD

["Botox could ease depression in addition to wrinkles, study finds"](#)
CNN

Tracy M. Handel, PhD

Irina Kufareva, PhD

["3D Look at Cell Movement Molecule May Help Inform Cancer Drug Discovery"](#)
News of UC San Diego Health Sciences

Jennifer Le, PharmD

["UC San Diego Pharmacist's Work Helps Save Lives Across the Globe"](#)
UC San Diego News Center

Larissa Podust, PhD

["New science behind biodegradable algae-based flip-flops"](#)
Phys.org

SSPPS NEWS

SSPPS ACPE Accreditation Site Visit

by Laurie C. Nelson, Assessment Coordinator,
Office of Assessment and Accreditation



In the Winter 2020 Newsletter, I introduced and described the accreditation self-study process that SSPPS is currently undergoing, and has been for almost two years. Since that time, many stakeholders, including students, staff, preceptors, alumni, and faculty, have had the opportunity to read and comment on the narratives for all 25 ACPE Standards. All input generated from these reviews was provided to each self-study section chair and incorporated as appropriate. The narratives have now been through several internal reviews and were fine-tuned by a professional editor. The final narratives and all other required and optional documentation will be sent to ACPE in early September, completing this part of the two-year self-study process. The penultimate event for SSPPS is the ACPE Evaluation Team site visit in November.

The site visit evaluation teams are typically composed of an ACPE staff member, a pharmacy practitioner, an administrator, and faculty members from accredited Colleges/Schools of Pharmacy. Under normal circumstances, this team spends three days on-site, doing a survey of the physical and practice facilities, and conducting interviews with the dean, faculty, students, SSPPS committees, and university administrators. However, as we are all aware, there is nothing normal about the circumstances under which we find ourselves these days. So while the site visit on November 3-5 is still on schedule, it will be a virtual site visit instead, with a one-day, face-to-face verification visit at a later, more practical time, in order to meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for regular on-site inspections.



The virtual site visit will use Zoom to provide private meeting space to the site visit team and institutional and program representatives, and representatives of other groups who will meet with the team. The major purpose of this visit is to validate the self-study and provide an external peer evaluation. If you

turn out to be a participant in one of the committees or groups meeting with the site visit team, you will receive specific instructions on the procedures and guidelines well in advance of your meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the self-study or the upcoming ACPE virtual site visit, please feel free to contact Dr. Kelly Lee (kellylee@health.ucsd.edu), Andrina Marshall (amarshall@health.ucsd.edu), or Laurie Nelson (lnelson@health.ucsd.edu).

On Saturday, August 8, 2020 the SSPPS Office of Experiential Education hosted a preceptor development event titled “Inclusive Precepting: Fostering Equity and Inclusion in Health Care Practice.” Delivered by Carolyn L. Sandoval, PhD, Associate Director at UC San Diego Teaching & Learning Commons, this virtual event via Zoom was attended by 99 preceptors. The presentation focused on dimensions of identity and their impact on experiences, precepting practices that can cultivate a sense of belonging, and strategies that support learning and foster inclusion. Although attendees couldn’t meet face-to-face, they did have lively discussions in break-out rooms on topics mediated by facilitators that included SSPPS faculty, staff, and students. Renu Singh, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education, also addressed the participants and gave updates on the Office of Experiential Education.



Office of Student Affairs: Supporting, Building, Connecting

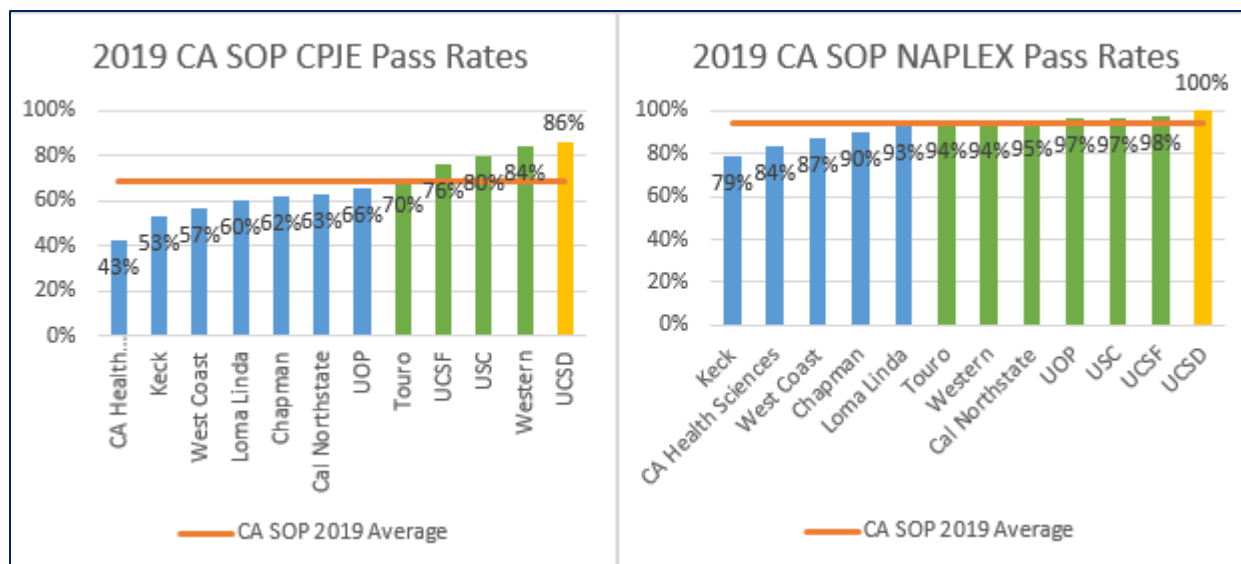
by Jenna Bastear (Director of Student Affairs and Admissions)
and Candis Morello (Associate Dean for Student Affairs)



Office of Student Affairs Annual Retreat, June 2019
Top row: Christine Cartlidge, Kim Ciero (*retired*)
Bottom row: Dr. Candis Morello, Sahar Adibi, Jenna Bastear

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) is available to support all student-pharmacist-related needs. The OSA is led by our Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Dr. Candis Morello, and with Kim Ciero's retirement in 2019, her team is comprised of all new faces! The OSA team includes Jenna Bastear, our Director of Student Affairs and Admissions; Sahar Adibi, our Student Affairs and Admissions Officer; and Christine Cartledge, our Administrative Coordinator. Over the last few years, OSA has made great strides to disseminate our graduate outcomes, promote student leadership collaboration, create student wellness and peer tutor programs, support curriculum strengthening, and improve alumni relations.

SSPPS Graduate Outcomes: Our graduates continue to make us proud, and performed the HIGHEST of California schools of pharmacy on the CPJE and NAPLEX exams for the last three years (Classes of 2017, 2018, and 2019). Moreover, our students' performance was not altered during the CPJE exam security breach of 2019 where the entire exam was halted for several months causing fiscal hardships, and making most graduates take a second exam. Despite this, our SSPPS 2019 graduates ranked number one in CPJE outcomes, far surpassing the state mean by almost two standard deviations as well as outperforming all other California schools of pharmacy. There is no doubt our curriculum prepares our graduates to successfully pass their boards, allowing them to become the future thought leaders of the profession. In addition, our annual post-graduate training percentage via residencies or fellowships has remained strong at over 50%.



ADSA-Student Leadership Collaboration: Dr. Morello holds quarterly meetings to increase communications with all SSPPS student organization and interest group leaders. These ADSA-Student Leader events have improved administration-student communication and fostered many positive curricular, leadership, and student life outcomes. Student voices are heard and issues acted upon, with the goal to create an even better environment for our students, faculty, and staff. A few positive outcomes from these meetings include uniform school/student calendar; California Board of Pharmacy Intern licenses being obtained in the summer for P1s to allow them to start IPPEs and Co-curricular hours much earlier; units for IPPEs/Research Project; class hours matching units to allow more time for leadership activities; dues collection process; a paid Peer-to-Peer tutoring program; and the formation of Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS), a national pharmacy leadership organization, to recognize our student leaders. Since 2015, we have inducted 167 PLS members and will recognize another 37 this October.

Student Wellness & Self-care: On any given day, our OSA team is counseling students, providing administrative support for student-related events, pushing for curricular improvements, and planning

wellness events. OSA is here to advocate for our students on campus as well. They are members of main-campus committees that make high-level decisions on behalf of the school as a whole. At Skaggs, OSA has selected an advocate at Counseling and Psychological Services, Dr. Chang, who provides weekly one-on-one support ("Let's Talk") to our students. Dean McKerrow also supported an OSA request for an Advisor for Student Wellness, Dr. Shapiro, who is available 24/7 to provide one-on-one virtual support. With the help of student leadership, OSA organizes quarterly student social events, which promote relaxation and an opportunity to put down the study materials and enjoy some self-care. OSA also organizes quarterly wellness events, sometimes paired with UC San Diego School of Medicine students. These events promote collaboration amongst fields of health sciences as well as an opportunity to spend time with like-minded people. The combined team of Dr. Christina Mnatzaganian who serves as our Self-Care Faculty Advisor, our Experiential Education team, our ASW, and OSA have helped facilitate a 3-part series for our 4th year student pharmacists called "Navigating P4 Year: Insights and Strategies for Success." Our first event, held earlier this month, was a success with over half of the P4s participating. We expect that number to increase as word gets out.

Alumni Relations & Collaborations: Led by charter class alumnus Jason Lam and Dr. Morello, the OSA also facilitates quarterly meetings and events for our alumni leadership group. Even after graduation, our alumni have continued to provide instrumental feedback, which has helped us strengthen our curriculum and make necessary changes. If any alumni are interested in being on this committee, helping with lectures, evaluating OSCE interviews, leading conferences, etc., please do not hesitate to contact us. Our current students LOVE when alumni are involved at SSPPS.

Pandemic 2020 Creative "Make It Happen" Attitude: Since March, the OSA and SSPPS have adjusted to our new temporary reality of virtual counseling, teaching, mentoring, and conducting business. Creativity, flexibility, tenacity, and positivity have been our key words to "make it happen." From a drive-through diploma dissemination for our Class of 2020, to personalized virtual Board of Pharmacy licensure preparation, to creating a special virtual White Coat Ceremony and bonding opportunities for our P1s during orientation, our OSA team is here to support all of our students and give them the best experience while at Skaggs and beyond. We look forward to another successful year!

SSPPS Staff Volunteer to Distribute PPEs to Local Pharmacies

by Andrina Marshall,
Associate Dean for Business and Fiscal Affairs

On Saturday, June 20th staff in the SSPPS volunteered to distribute critical PPEs to 18 local pharmacies via drive-by on Pharmacy Lane. The California Pharmacists Association (CPhA) was accepted as a trusted partner by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to provide PPEs on behalf of pharmacists in California for distribution by CalOES.



(L-R, Assemblyman Todd Gloria, Shelly Fromholtz, Trace Sinclair, Andrina Marshall, Nick Chiappe, CPhA, Teah Stacks)

UC San Diego SSPPS collaborated with CPhA as one of four regional hubs in California to distribute the essential resources to preserve and protect our pharmacists' and patients' health with proper equipment while working on the front-line.



SSPPS staff distributed **23,000 surgical masks** and **26 gallons of hand sanitizer** to pharmacies that came from as far south as Chula Vista and as far north as Valley Center.

Master of Science Degree Program in Drug Development and Product Management (MS in DDPM)

by Williams Ettouati, PharmD and Joe Ma, PharmD

In 2017, a Master of Science degree program in Drug Development and Product Management (MS in DDPM) was approved as an on-site program at UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical science.

The MS in DDPM has three central aims:

- First, give experienced professionals insights into the process of successful drug product development and commercialization;
- Second, to endow students with requisite knowledge and skills to collaborate effectively in the ongoing management of drug products; and
- Third, to provide a solid, practical knowledge to bridge to employment opportunities in pharmaceutical, biotechnology, or managed care industries; or related regulatory agencies such as the US Food and Drug Administration or the European Medicines Agency.



Distinctive features of the MS in DDPM include instruction by faculty who possess scholarly understanding and industry experience; a case-based and project-oriented approach to learning; exposure to international student colleagues with varied professional backgrounds; and the opportunity to learn from industry experts who serve as guest lecturers and course co-chairs.

To date, 43 students have graduated from the MS in DDPM and a third cohort is being recruited for the 2020 - 2021 academic year.

For more information about the program, please visit our [website](#).

SSPPS PGY1 Community Residency Accomplishments, Accolades, and Farewells

by Christina Mnatzaganian, PharmD, BCACP, APh

Clinical Associate Professor and Director,
SSPPS PGY1 Community Residency Program

It is hard to believe that we have just graduated our fourth Post-graduate Year 1 (PGY1) Community Pharmacy Resident! Faculty, preceptors, leaders, and alumni from SSPPS, UC San Diego Health, and Ralphs Pharmacy held a virtual celebration in June 2020 to celebrate our newest residency graduate, share accomplishments, recognize and award the Preceptor of the Year, and to re-visit memories of the last four years as our community residency affiliation with Ralphs Pharmacy comes to an end.

Many congratulations to Ariana Rhoten, PharmD, for completing the residency program in June 2020. Ariana has accepted a position as a Pharmacist Manager at Walgreens in Santa Rosa, CA, starting in July 2020. We are all so proud of you and can't wait to see all of the amazing things you will do in the pharmacy world!



PGY1 Community Residency Graduate, Ariana Rhoten (left), with Ralphs Pharmacy Corporate Preceptor, Rebecca Carr (right), celebrating Ariana's last day of residency at Ralphs Pharmacy.

Panteha “Pawny” Kelly, RPh, BCACP, APh, CDCES was awarded the 2019-2020 Preceptor of the Year Award. This accolade goes to a preceptor whom the resident has selected as demonstrating excellent teaching and clinical skills during residency training. Ariana participated in Pawny’s Diabetes



Self-Management Education Clinic during a longitudinal, quarter-long rotation. Congratulations, Pawny, this is well deserved!

2019-2020 SSPPS PGY1 Community Residency Preceptor of the Year: Pawny Kelly

Many thanks to our Ralphs Pharmacy partners and preceptors over the last several years. We have truly enjoyed working with you in this program and look forward to continued collaborations in the future.

Seven-Year B.S./Pharm.D. Program

by Sahar Adibi, Student Affairs & Admissions Officer



In January 2019, a UC San Diego undergraduate student walked into my office and expressed interest in pursuing the Seven-Year B.S./Pharm.D. program. At that time I did not know much about the program. Little did I know that her visit was going to help shape the program's future.

In the past year, I have worked collaboratively with Dr. Rabia Atayee, Dr. Dioncio Siegel, Dr. Eduardo Fricovsky, and Hanna Foley from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Dr. Atayee has helped significantly with reviewing the admissions requirements and ensuring that we create an equitable program for these undergraduate students. Dr. Siegel teaches undergraduate chemistry, has been an incredible mentor to the students, and has helped with reviewing course and other requirements. Dr. Fricovsky graciously agreed to provide students in this accelerated cohort with pharmacy experience in the Student-Run Free Clinic. Being able to volunteer has helped our Seven-Year students solidify their decision to pursue pharmacy and has helped build meaningful relationships with current students and pharmacists. For this program to be successful, I also needed to build a relationship with the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. That is where I met Hanna Foley. She ensured that the students were on track to finish their bachelor's degree within three years and would take all of their required science courses by the end of their sophomore year. Each team member not only dedicated their time to this program, but also expressed a genuine passion for helping the undergraduate students.

As interest in this program grew, our Seven-Year team got together and discussed different ways to support the students in the program. We decided to host quarterly workshops around the time when they would need to meet program milestones. For example, last fall we hosted a workshop for the sophomores where they learned about the requirements that must be fulfilled and volunteer experience at the Student-Run Free Clinic. In the Spring, we hosted a PharmCAS webinar where students learned more about the pharmacy school application and how to prepare for it.

On a personal note, I would like to add that I am very proud of all the undergraduate students applying through the accelerated route, especially during this time. Most of these students had their pharmacy experiences suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but our outstanding professors agreed to provide virtual pharmacy experience and mentorship. This program has taught me the true meaning of teamwork. I am grateful for all those who have supported the students and my vision for this program.

UC San Diego Biomedical Library



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Visit the library website for hours
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Proxy Access to the Library System:
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