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*If you would like to continue
supporting our school and our
mission, we welcome you to:*

Give Now

A Message from the Dean

James H. McKerrow, PhD, MD



As you may have heard, I will be retiring as Dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on July 1, 2022. I have really enjoyed steering the school during the last eight years and will always remember the contributions of faculty, staff, alumni, and students to our reputation. Among our many accomplishments is breaking into the top 20 Schools of Pharmacy according to US News and World Report. Unheard of for a school so young.

We just hosted the P4 students and faculty at the annual "Paella Party". A bittersweet ending for me but buoyed by a great performance, formal and informal, by the Serotones.

I will still be around the UC San Diego campus teaching pharmacy students, graduate students, medical students, and undergraduates in a variety of settings. I will remain affiliated faculty of Revelle College and the Division of Infectious Diseases.

While as of this date we do not know who the new Dean will be, Vice Chancellor Brenner and I are both wowed by the quality of the top candidates.

Looking forward to still seeing you in "The Neighborhood".



Class of 2022 Commencement Ceremony

by Jenna Bastear, Director of Student Affairs

On May 14th, 2022, SSPPS hosted its first in-person Commencement Ceremony in three years for our Class of 2022 graduates. For many, this was the first time they had seen each other in a few years. Hugs and laughs were shared as they reminisced the last few years and chatted about the impending new beginnings post-pharmacy school. We are proud to announce that the Class of 2022 had an 87% residency match rate. The remainder of the class will be pursuing other paths such as completing fellowships and industry roles either locally or nationally. They are all rockstars!

What a day of celebration! Many faculty and staff were present at this Commencement Ceremony cheering on the graduates as they crossed the stage to receive their diplomas in front of their family and friends. Thank you to all who attended this momentous event. If you are interested in seeing photos from the Commencement Ceremony, please visit our [website](#). You may also watch the recording of the Commencement Ceremony [here](#).

The faculty and staff are incredibly proud of the Class of 2022's accomplishments during their P4 year and throughout their time here at SSPPS. We look forward to hearing about our graduates' future successes as they become leaders of the pharmacy profession. Good luck to the Class of 2022! Join our [alumni Facebook page](#) and don't forget to stay in touch. We will miss you!



ASP Spring Quarter Recap

by Melanie Kwok, ASP VP of Communications



This quarter ASP had the pleasure of hosting the End-of-the-Year Banquet in-person! Thank you to all of the students, staff, and faculty members who attended and honored our graduating Class of 2022. Also, we would like to thank the entire ASP Board and each of the Class Boards for their contributions in making this 20th annual banquet a success.

We would like to include a special thank you to retiring faculty member, Dean James McKerrow, and congratulations to all of the recipients of the faculty of the year awards for the P1s, P2, P3s, P4s, and volunteer faculty of the year: Drs. Alex Luli, Katharina Brandl, Felix Yam, Linda Awdishu, and Yazdi Pithavala, respectively.

Organ Donation Symposium

by Thomas Vien and Laura Lucero, CSHP Community Affairs Chairs



On Friday, April 22nd, 2022, the CSHP Community Affairs Chairs hosted the annual CSHP Organ Donation Symposium. We had the great privilege of having three amazing speakers present. For the symposium, we had a panel format where students had the opportunity to engage and ask questions to the speakers. Dr. Aleah Brubaker, a Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgeon, shared her experience within her specialty as a liver transplant surgeon and her integral role in the transplant team. Dr. Brubaker discussed the dynamic process of assessing both organ donors and recipients for transplantation. Dr. Alicia Lichvar, a Solid Organ Transplant Pharmacist, shared her role in transplant pharmacy, personalized medication management, and the different interactions she has with her patients. Donna Saracho, a Lifesharing Volunteer and organ recipient, shared her personal story of being a liver transplant recipient and how her life has changed post-transplant. Donna lives life to the fullest degree, and she experiences life's moments as if they were a blessing. A memorable quote from Donna, "When you don't have *life*, and *life* is given back to you, it becomes a different four-letter word." It was very moving to hear how Donna was given a second chance at life and how physicians and pharmacists can make the transplantation possible. We were grateful to have amazing speakers for our panel and we hope everyone who attended was able to learn more about organ/tissue donation and the different healthcare professional roles in transplantation.

We believe that one of the most generous gifts one can grant another is life. It's a last immeasurable kindness that impacts the lives of many. Strangers, through courage and generosity, provide others with an everlasting mark and opportunity at life. We are thankful to be part of a committee that can reach out to many individuals and educate them on the importance of organ donation and becoming organ donors. We encourage everyone to learn more about organ and tissue donation here: <https://www.lifesharing.org/>.

We would also like to thank Christy Heymann from Lifesharing and Dr. Shirley Tsunoda for making our organ donation awareness events possible!



CSHP-UCSD Updates

by Sarina Jenkins, CSHP-UCSD Treasurer/Secretary/Public Affairs Chair

During the 2021-2022 academic year, CSHP-UCSD held over 60 events! With over 120 student members, there was an event for everyone. Events included everything from hospital tours to lunchtime talks to career planning workshops. Here are just two of our most recent events.

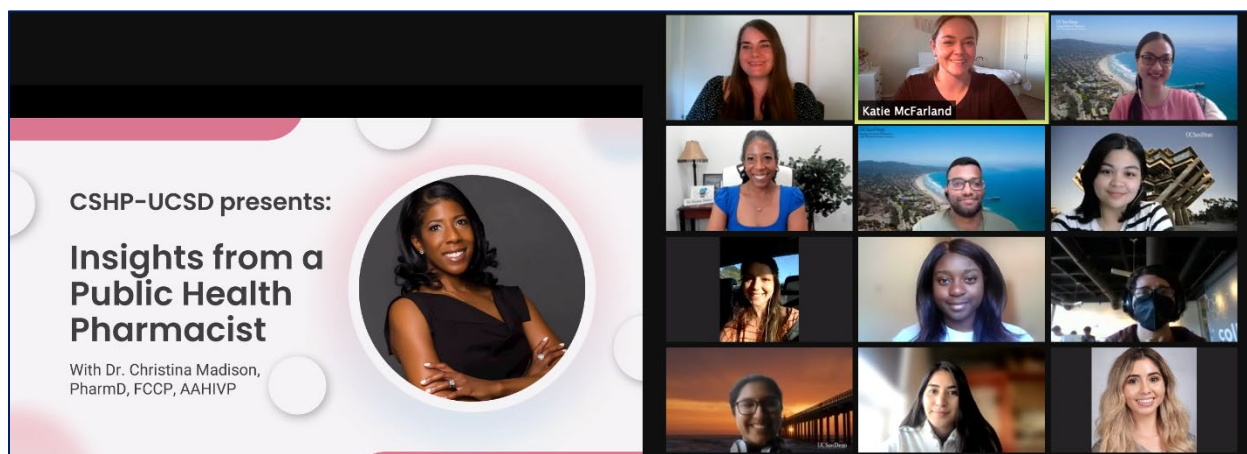
17th Annual Phun Run

Our Phun Run Chair, P2 Elizabeth Haddad, planned and hosted the 17th Annual Phun Run along with the Phun Run committee. This year, the Phun Run raised a record-breaking amount of over \$4,000 for the UC San Diego Student-Run Free Clinics! One hundred and fifty-two UC San Diego students, friends, family, faculty, and alumni gathered for the in-person return of Phun Run! This year's Phun Run was an Aloha Party. As participants checked in, they were given a lei to don, and then mingled with friends as they awaited the start of the race. Participants enjoyed the path along Geisel Library and through the wooded area. After the 5k, runners and walkers participated in a Silent Auction and appreciated a variety of breakfast snacks and drinks. Everyone had a great time raising money for the Free Clinics!



Insights from a Public Health Pharmacist

Current P1 Liaison, Brenna Dooley, organized an interactive talk for pharmacy students with Dr. Christina Madison. As a clinical pharmacist with a focus on public health and infectious communicable diseases, Dr. Madison shared her valuable insight on various ways pharmacists can advocate for underserved populations in healthcare. Topics of discussion included racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare, HIV PrEP/PEP, transgender and nonbinary health services, mental and behavioral health awareness, and many more. This was the first event of its kind for CSHP-UCSD and participants enjoyed the exposure to topics that often don't get covered. The discussion between Dr. Madison and student pharmacist attendees generated a conversation on how student pharmacists can implement changes to advocate for underserved populations.



Western Pharmacy Exchange

by Michael Kieu, CPhA BoD Representative

Early during the Spring Quarter, CPhA (California Pharmacists Association) hosted their annual event, Western Pharmacy Exchange (WPE) in Las Vegas from April 22 – 24. WPE is a conference where pharmacy professionals from all over California congregate to celebrate and discuss all things pharmacy. These pharmacy professionals are not only limited to pharmacy students and pharmacists, but also include pharmacy technicians, pharmaceutical representatives, and anyone else in the pharmacy world. With attendance not being limited this year, it was fantastic to see the incredible turnout with UC San Diego SSPPS nearly tripling last year's attendance.

A few noteworthy events that took place over the weekend included our student chapter and local chapter being awarded the Chapter of Excellence Award, and the 2020 and 2021 SSPPS California Pharmacy Student Leadership (CAPSLead) teams presenting their research findings. The Chapter of Excellence Award is given to those chapters that embody CPhA's mission and goals in promoting the health of the public through the practice of pharmacy. Our student chapter has worked hard to be able to receive this award for the second year in a row!

The CAPSLead Conference is now being held in conjunction with WPE. This conference invites CAPSLead students representing California pharmacy schools to attend leadership seminars, network with other students, and begin a team-based project. The 2020 CAPSLead team (Christina Eldabbagh and Kyle Ota) and the 2021 team (Julia Albanez and Dan Surdilla) presented their research findings at the WPE Poster Session. The WPE

Poster Session is a specific event where

CAPSLead teams from all California pharmacy schools and any other willing participants showcase their research findings and engage in discourse with any passersby. The 2022 CAPSLead team includes Brenna Dooley, Sophia Ho, Kimberly Ngo, Jenny Nguyen, Lilliana Nguyen, and Brooklyn Valdez. In addition to the aforementioned events, WPE hosted CE (continuing education) sessions, an exhibit hall in conjunction with the poster sessions, and a Quiz Bowl.



With over 30 attendees ranging from P1s to P4s, we were able to strengthen current relationships, form new ones, and create lasting memories. Even with the amazing turnout this year, we hope to see even more next year!

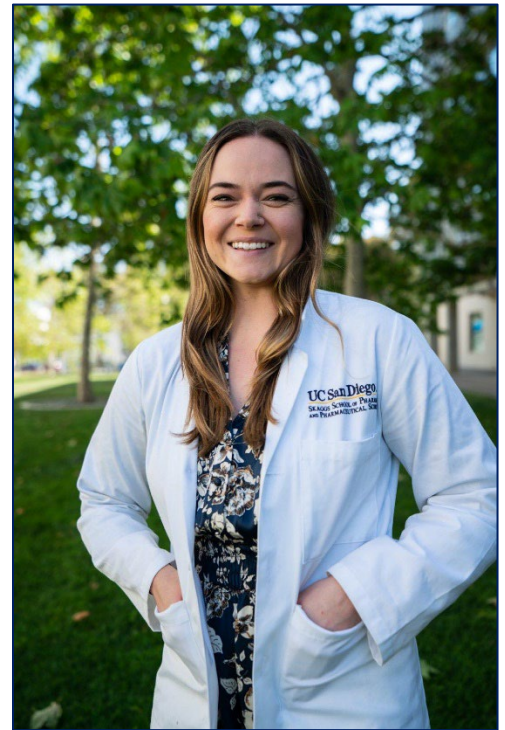
Student Awards



Congratulations to Monica Sliwa (Class of 2022) for being awarded a [USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award](#). This prestigious award recognizes pharmacy students who have made significant contributions to public health by promoting wellness and healthy communities.

Ninety pharmacy students from across the country were recognized as USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award recipients in 2022. Of those, the PharmPAC Student Awards Program selected ten top award recipients for their public health work that positively impacted their local communities and beyond. We are happy to share that Monica was one of the top recipients for 2022!

Congratulations to Katie McFarland (Class of 2023) for being chosen as one of 12 recipients of the prestigious [ASHP Student Leadership Award](#). She has been recognized for her leadership and strong representation of the best attributes and accomplishments of ASHP student members.





Congratulations to Cheng-Yu Wang (Class of 2024) for placing first in our nation, out of well over 100 participants in the 2022 [APhA-ASP National Patient Counseling Competition](#)! The goal of the competition is to encourage student pharmacists in their efforts toward becoming better patient educators.

Congratulations to our UCSD-CSHP (California Society of Health-System Pharmacists) chapter for receiving an [Outstanding Professional Development Award](#) for the 2021-2022 academic year!

This award recognizes exceptional professional development projects that SSHPs conduct as a part of the ASHP-SSHP recognition program. A total of 25 SSHP chapters were recognized with this honor for the 2021-2022 year.



Alumni Highlight: Dr. Kyunghun Park (Class of 2019)



Prior to pharmacy school, I started out at a biotechnology company in 2011 as a quality control analyst for a few years. One day, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspectors came to the company for an on-site inspection. The interaction with the FDA inspectors ignited my dream to become a regulatory scientist at the FDA and make contributions to public health. This small spark led me to UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS), where I had an opportunity to participate in an APPE rotation at the FDA in Maryland. After graduation, I went back to the FDA as a postdoc fellow in 2019. Currently I am working in the Office of Product Quality at the FDA as a full-time CMC (Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls) reviewer – my decade-long dream has come to fruition.

As a pharmacy student, the career path I envisioned was rather odd compared to a conventional one, but I never gave up because I felt supported at SSPPS. The PharmD program at UC San Diego SSPPS is very resourceful, supported by great professors who are genuinely willing to help students grow. I truly feel lucky to have been a part of SSPPS and appreciate the opportunities I was allowed by the program and my preceptors. So, no matter how “odd” you are, don’t get discouraged – never give up because you’re in good hands.

Dr. Laura Lafranchise: Assistant Chief Pharmacy Officer

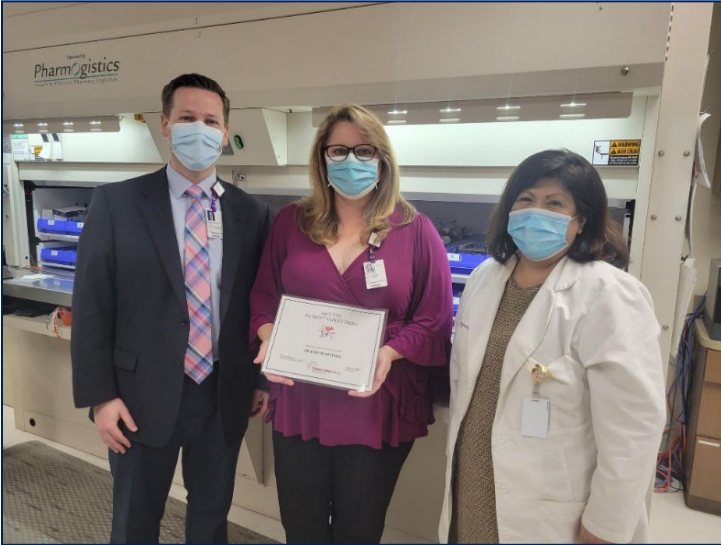
by Charles E. Daniels, BS Pharm, PhD

Associate Dean for Professional Practice and Chief Pharmacy Officer



Please join us in congratulating Dr. Laura Lafranchise (Class of 2010) who was recently appointed to Assistant Chief Pharmacy Officer at UC San Diego Health. Laura completed PGY1 residency training at UC San Diego Health, followed by 8 years on the staff. She became Inpatient Pharmacy Manager at UC San Diego's Jacobs Medical Center in 2018. Her new assignment will include management of teams in pharmacy financial & budgeting, purchasing and administrative support, and projects in pharmacy automation.

Alumni Awards



Congratulations to Dr. Brandi Martinez (Class of 2006), the latest recipient of the Temecula Valley Hospital Patient Safety Hero Award, who through her quick thinking and thorough actions significantly improved the outcome for one of our GI patients.

Congratulations to Dr. Crystal Zhou (Class of 2015), the 2022 recipient of the [CPhA Excellence in Innovation Award](#). She was recognized at this year's Western Pharmacy Exchange Conference for "reimagining the role of clinical pharmacists in the community...and creating innovative ways to deliver remote care to patients with low socioeconomic status."

Photo credit: Dr. Jason Lam (Class of 2006)



Faculty Awards



It is with great pleasure that we announce that Dr. Candis Morello is the recipient of the [UC San Diego 2022 Distinguished Teaching Award for Senate Faculty](#). This is the 8th time SSPPS faculty have received this prestigious teaching award! Dr. Morello is one of the founding faculty members of SSPPS and has created much of the foundation for the stellar curriculum we have today. The breadth of her teaching is vast and includes didactic lectures on diabetes, workshops on diabetes self-monitoring and management, APPE and IPPE rotations in the Diabetes Intensive Medical Management Clinic at the VA Health System, and a robust research program involving a team of student researchers. She is also the faculty mentor for numerous student organizations. This award is a well-deserved recognition of her tremendous efforts to provide high quality education to our PharmD students.

Dr. David Adler was selected to be a member of the [California Pharmacists Association Hall of Fame](#). This capstone, lifetime achievement award was conferred to him at the Western Pharmacy Exchange meeting in Las Vegas this past April and documented his unique contributions and faculty leadership initially at UC San Francisco and then at UC San Diego, when we emerged as a free-standing school of pharmacy. While a UC San Francisco faculty member he led the educational program for pharmacists licensed under the French system in Vietnam but forced to leave their country and practices. Their retraining and preparation for licensure was largely conducted on the UC San Diego campus for pharmacist refugees in California and considered to be the forerunner of the Asian-Pacific Pharmacists Foundation, a volunteer organization assisting underserved Asian-Pacific Islander groups.

Photo credit: Dr. Jason Lam (Class of 2006)



ASP Banquet Faculty of the Year Awards



In order of appearance (left to right):

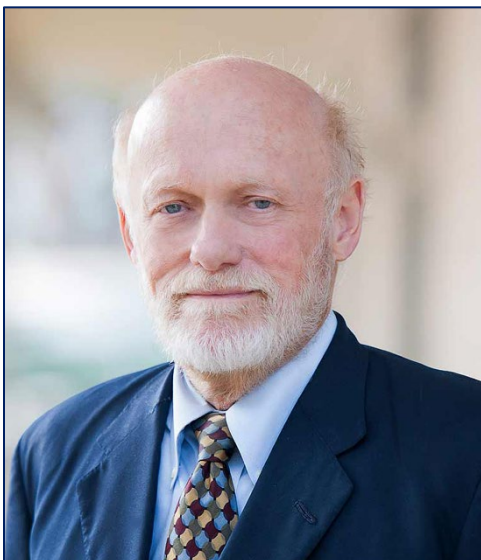
P3 Class Teaching Award: Dr. Felix Yam

P4 Preceptor Teaching Award: Dr. Linda Awdishu

P2 Class Teaching Award: Dr. Katharina Brandl

P1 Class Teaching Award: Dr. Alex Luli

(not pictured) **Volunteer Faculty Teaching Award:** Dr. Yazdi Pithavala



Dr. Palmer Taylor, Founding and Emeritus Dean, was the recipient of the [Excellence in Stewardship Award](#). This award is given to those in the Triton community who demonstrate excellence in stewardship when engaging with our invaluable community of supports – donors, volunteers, and corporate and foundation partners.

Faculty In the News

Kelly Lee, PharmD

[Pharmacists at Higher Risk of Suicide than General Population, Study Finds](#)

UC San Diego News Center

Staff Appreciation Lunch

April 27th was SSPPS Staff Appreciation Day and to celebrate, the SSPPS staff had lunch together for the first time in over two years. We used the opportunity to reintroduce ourselves to one another and to learn about our current passions outside of work.



SSPPS Ranked #1 in Pharmacy Technician Guide

by Rabia S. Atayee, PharmD, Associate Dean of Admissions and Outreach

Quick Look at 25 Best Pharmacy Schools - 2022

Rank	School Name	Location	School Type	Enrollment		Program Length	NAPLEX Performance				Program Info
				Male	Female		2017	2018	2019	2020	
1	University of California, San Diego	La Jolla, CA	Public	78	170	4 Years	100.00%	98.44%	100.00%	100.00%	View

Thank you to Dr. Edmund Capparelli for sharing the online Pharmacy Technician Guide article featuring the [Best Pharmacy Schools in the Nation in 2022](#). In this article, they evaluated 130 schools of pharmacy and ranked the top 25. The factors taken into account included 4-year NAPLEX pass rates, research activity, graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratios and faculty credentials, and Pharmacytechnicianguide.com ratings. This last rating included student reviews, other rankings, extra-curricular activities, student organizations, school policies, personal and professional student growth, collaborative partnerships of the school, and location of its campus (see table below). The organization performing the ranking is in the same prestige tier as the US News and World Report, differing in that they have cut out the subjective “peer assessment score/reputation” and placed higher emphasis on NAPLEX Passing Rates. Their methodology is described further on their website.

I am proud, but not surprised, to share that **SSPPS was ranked #1!**

Factors taken into Account for our Pharmacy Schools Ranking

Criteria	Weightage
Past 4 Years NAPLEX Pass Rates 2017 = 10%, 2018 = 20%, 2019 = 30%, and 2020 = 40%	60%
Research Activity	15%
Graduation Rate	10%
Student-to-Faculty Ratio and Faculty Credentials	10%
Pharmacytechnicianguide.com Rating	5%

Pharmacy Student Scholarship – Chancellor's Match Opportunity

We have a golden opportunity to grow our student scholarship support with a couple of weeks remaining in the Chancellor's 50% match to support scholarships for our PharmD students. The Chancellor matches \$1 for every \$2 we give. Any support in ANY amount makes a huge difference – every single dollar counts. Our students are the future of our profession, and they need our help now. This is a fantastic way to stretch and grow every dollar donated. Please send this request for this very worthy cause to your friends and family who may want to support pharmacy students.

Please donate to [SSPPS Student Scholarships](#) by June 30, 2022.

Thank you for everything you do for our students and our program!

UC San Diego Biomedical Library

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<https://library.ucsd.edu>

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pharmacy@ucsd.edu

