



# The Capsule

Summer 2023



## A Message From the Dean



Greetings to all of our alumni, students, staff, faculty, and friends. I hope everyone had a great summer!

Calling all alumni in the Los Angeles/Orange County area: please register and come to our alumni event on

Sunday October 1st in Santa Monica (see below)! We'd love to catch up and reconnect with you. We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating milestones and updates with alumni at the reunions in June with the Classes of 2008, 2013 and 2018.

SSPPS along with UC San Diego Health continue to excel in patient care and research. UC San Diego Health achieved the "Best Hospitals National Honor Roll" distinction for the first time (one of only 22 hospitals in the nation for outstanding patient care). SSPPS was recognized for placing in the Top 5 Pharmacy Schools in the nation for extramural research funding awards, indicative of our groundbreaking advances in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences that lead to improved health. Kudos to our faculty, staff, trainees, graduates and everyone who contributes to the success of our program year after year!

Our alumni, students, staff, and faculty have been keeping busy this summer - representing our school at national meetings, advancing into new leadership positions, and gaining well-deserved recognition and awards for their contributions to science, health and our profession. I am proud to share their latest updates in this newsletter.

## **Summer Quarter Highlights**

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**Alumni Reunion  
Classes of 2008, 2013, 2018**



# ALUMNI REUNION

Class of  
2008, 2013, 2018



On June 24th, SSPPS hosted its Alumni Reunion for the Classes of 2008, 2013, and 2018. The celebration included brunch at PSB and dinner at the Faculty Club where we had live music from our very own Fund Manager, [Kevin DelMastro](#)! The 2022 SSPPS Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award was officially presented to Dr. David Ross Ha (Class of 2012). While Dr. Ha was not able to join us that day, he did provide an acceptance video which was shown to all those in attendance.

Thank you to the faculty and staff who organized the full day of events, and to our alumni for coming back to spend time with us and your fellow classmates!

**Dr. Christina Mnatzaganian Appointed  
Associate Dean for Experiential Education**



We are pleased to announce the [appointment of Dr. Christina Mnatzaganian as the next Associate Dean for Experiential Education](#), effective September 1, 2023.

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**Farewell to Dr. Laura Hart**



With sadness and appreciation, we share the news that [Dr. Laura Hart will be leaving our UC San Diego Skaggs family](#) to pursue an exciting career opportunity in a tenure track faculty position in geriatrics at the University of Washington School of Pharmacy in the Department of Pharmacy.

### **Farewell to Jenna Bastear**



It is with bittersweet emotions that we [announce the departure of our Director of Student Affairs, Jenna Bastear](#). She is expanding her career growth and interests by taking on a Student Affairs position at UC San Diego's Structural Engineering Department.

## **Achievements and Awards**

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**UC San Diego Health**



# IN SAN DIEGO

& BEST HOSPITALS **NATIONAL HONOR ROLL**



## UC San Diego Health

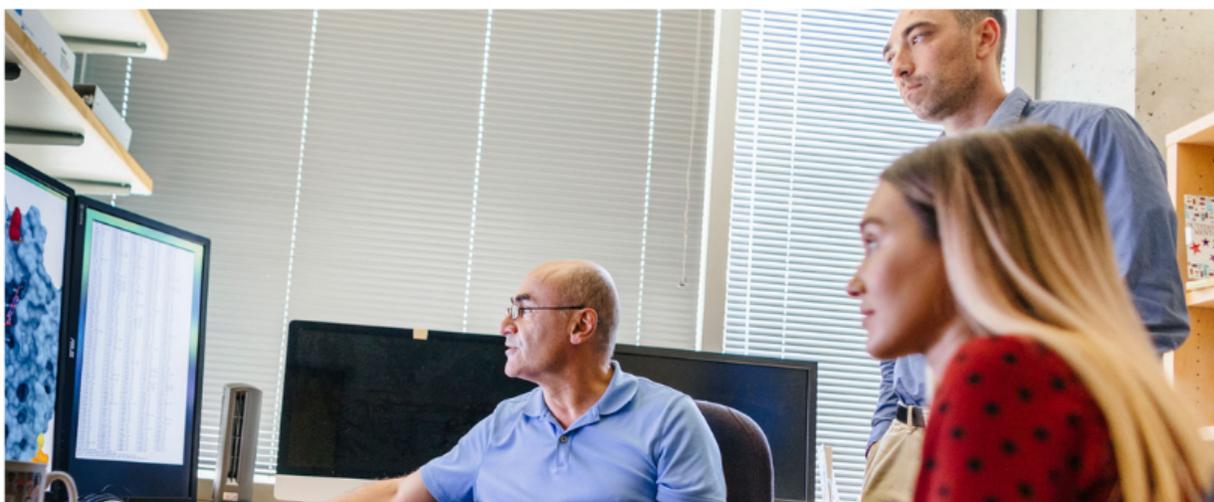
UC San Diego Health has once again ranked No. 1 in San Diego, according to the 2023-2024 U.S. News & World Report “Best Hospitals” survey, placing it among the nation’s best health care providers.

For the first time in the academic medical center’s history, UC San Diego Health was also placed on the 2023-2024 “Best Hospitals National Honor Roll,” a distinction awarded to only 22 hospitals nationwide that are recognized for outstanding patient care.

Read the full article about this honor [here](#).

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**SSPPS**



## **Top 5 Schools of Pharmacy in the Nation**

**for FY2022**

**Total NIH Funding Awards**

**Total Research Funding Awards from Non-Federal Sources**

**Total Extramural Research Funding Awards**



We are excited to report that SSPPS is among the top 5 schools of pharmacy in the nation during FY 2022 for Total NIH Funding Awards, Total Research Funding Awards from Non-Federal Sources, and Total Extramural Research Funding Awards (>\$31M), according to [AACP](#). SSPPS was also in the top 10 for Total Research Funding Awards from All Federal Sources (#6).

These achievements are due to the outstanding efforts of our stellar faculty, grants staff members, and the research teams who support them. We thank you all for your commitment to accelerating vital pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences research to improve the health of communities worldwide.

## Faculty

### **Linda Awdishu, PharmD, MAS**

- Recipient as part of Steering Committee of a second Advancing Faculty Diversity award.

### **Pieter Dorrestein, PhD**

- Selected as 2023 Honorary Fellow of the Metabolomics Society.
- Recognized on [The 2023 Analytical Scientist Power List](#).

### **Christina Mnatzaganian, PharmD, BCACP, APh**

- Appointed to serve as a member on [ASHP's Section of Pharmacy Educators Development of Student Education and Learning Experiences Advisory Group](#) for the 2023-2024 term.

### **Jennifer Namba, PharmD, BCPS**

- Recipient of this year's [UC Value and Impact Scholarship](#).

### **Nimish Patel, PharmD, PhD, AAHIVP**

- Invited to serve on the FDA's Anti-Microbial Drugs Advisory Committee (AMDAC).

### **Palmer Taylor, PhD**

- Recipient of the Gavin S. Herbert Award for Excellence in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Chapman University School of Pharmacy.

### **Andrew Willeford, PharmD, PhD, BCCP**

- Recipient of this year's [UC Value and Impact Scholarship](#).

## Alumni

### **Han Dinh, PharmD (Class of 2019)**

- Appointed the La Jolla Acute Care Supervisor at UC San Diego Health.

### **Dustin Huynh, PharmD (Class of 2022)**

- Recipient of the [2023 ACCP Student & Trainee and Early-stage Professional Abstract Award](#).

### **Nhi Truong, PharmD (Class of 2022)**

- Received [3rd Place in Most Impactful Project category](#) for Resident Research Awards at the UC Pharmacy Collaborative Conference 2023.

## Students

### **Xiaoying Huang (Class of 2025)**

- Recipient of the 2023-2024 AFPE Gateway to Research Award.

### **Andrea Pence (Class of 2026)**

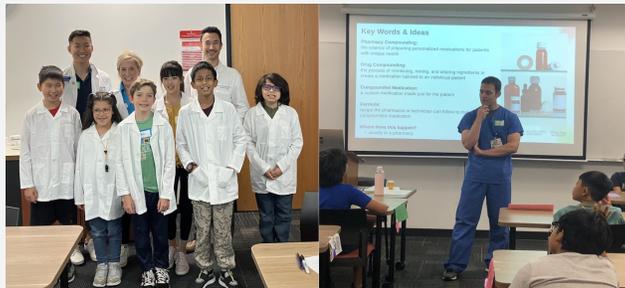
- Recipient of the 2023-2024 AFPE Gateway to Research Award.

## Events

### Summer Quarter Events



On Thursday, August 3rd, SSPPS Office of Admissions and Recruitment (SOAR) proudly welcomed the Kaiser Permanente Apothecary Circle Program and aspiring scholars from the Summer Training Academy for Research Success (STARS) for an engaging workshop. The event encompassed a comprehensive presentation on the dynamic field of pharmacy, insights into the admissions process, an interactive student panel Q&A session, and an campus tour!



Twice during the month of July, SSPPS partnered with Sally Ride Science (SRS) Academy to deliver the weeklong course "[A Dose of Pharmacreations](#)" to students in grades 4-6.

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## Upcoming Events

# UC San Diego

## ALUMNI



## An Afternoon with SOM and SSPPS in Los Angeles

Please join Dr. Michelle Daniel, Vice Dean for Medical Education at the School of Medicine, and Dr. Brookie Best, Dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, for an alumni and friends reception and conversation. Hear about how the schools are using innovation, top-notch academics and learning experiences to fulfill UC San Diego's mission of enhancing education, research, and clinical care. Plus, learn more about successful programs like the Student-Run Free Clinic Project and efforts to provide health care to underserved communities.

### Details

Date: October 1, 2023

Time: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. PT

Cost: Free\*

Location: Stella Barra  
Pizzeria & Wine Bar

2000 Main St

Santa Monica, CA 90405

*\*Space is limited.*

[Alumni RSVP](#)

Features and Publications



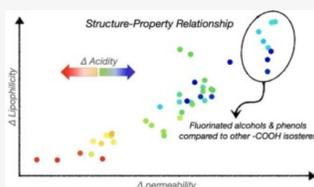
Thibault Alle



Karol Francisco



Carlo Ballatore



## Structure-property relationships of fluorinated carboxylic acid bioesters

### [Structure-property relationships of fluorinated carboxylic acid bioesters](#)

June 8, 2023 | ScienceDirect

Thibault Alle (*Staff Research Associate - Ballatore Lab*); Karol Francisco (*Postdoctoral Scholar - Caffrey Lab*); Carlo Ballatore, PhD (*Faculty*)

**B** Population with Optimal Access to Independently-Owned but not Chain Pharmacies

**C** Population without Optimal Pharmacy Access

**Role of independent versus chain pharmacies in providing pharmacy access: a nationwide, individual-level geographic information systems analysis**

"In the inaugural issue of Health Affairs Scholar, we report that 15.1M US individuals rely on independent pharmacies for pharmacy access."

**Nimish Patel**  
PharmD, PhD, AAHIVP

**Inma Hernandez**  
PharmD, PhD

### [Role of independent versus chain pharmacies in providing pharmacy access: a nationwide, individual-level geographic information systems analysis](#)

June 20, 2023 | Health Affairs Scholar

Inmaculada Hernandez, PharmD, PhD (*Faculty*); Shangbin Tang, MS (*Research Data Analyst - Hernandez Lab*); Jasmine Morales (*GSR - Hernandez Lab*); Nico Gabriel, MA (*Research Data Analyst - Hernandez Lab*); Nimish Patel, PharmD, PhD, AAHIVP (*Faculty*)

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