

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

Fall 2016

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

### Message from the Dean

I have just returned from Taiwan with a delegation of faculty from our School. We visited Chinese Medical University and Taiwan Medical University. I was reminded that our school not only has a national reputation, but also an international reputation for pioneering educational innovations for pharmacy students and new research directions in drug discovery and development. As documented elsewhere in this newsletter, our school continues to receive numerous national and international awards. Two notable ones are the Best Practices in Diabetes Care Award to our Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Candis Morello, and selection as the Anniversary Fellow in Pharmacy of the National Academy of Medicine for Dr. Jonathan Watanabe. Another of our faculty, Dr. Jair Lage de Siqueira-Neto appeared on local TV in a segment about new research on Zika virus.

We also recently welcomed our new P1 class of pharmacy students in a White Coat Ceremony. This is always a special event not only for our faculty, staff, and students but for families, friends and loved ones as well.

Finally our school is also very much involved in efforts by UC San Diego to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation throughout the campus. We have embarked on an important new collaboration with Janssen (J&J) that includes support for a pharmacy student as a “post sophomore fellow” in research. We are also pleased to house one of UC San Diego’s Entrepreneurs in Residence, Dr. Ted Daley. He has already facilitated the drug therapy research efforts of several of our faculty



## SSPPS News

### Pharmacy Practice at SSPPS By Adrienne Gomez

Raising money for any organization is always a challenge, whether in good times or bad. Every year Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences reaches out to neighboring companies and pharmacies seeking donations to help support one of the P1 courses, Pharmacy Practice. The Pharmacy Practice series is designed to build a core knowledge base in understanding and managing common self-treated conditions incorporating both non-pharmacologic therapy and over-the-counter (OTC) products. Throughout the year there are numerous workshops and conferences, where students are given case-based role-play scenarios to examine and become familiar with OTC medications. We have been fortunate to have various companies and local pharmacies donate to the Pharmacy Practice course. An ample amount of work goes into preparing supplies for these conferences and big workshops. Just to name a few of the workshops: Diabetes workshop, Pulmonary Workshop, OSCEs and the APhA Immunization Delivery Course.



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## Careers in Pharmacy

On Friday, July 29th James Colbert, PharmD provided a presentation on “Careers in Pharmacy” to 20 high school students who were visiting UC San Diego as part of an 11-day Medical Biology Summer Camp experience. Participants included students from not only the US but Canada, China and Turkey.



## SSPPS Hosts Three Delegates from Fudan University

By Jenna Bastear

As always, October was a busy and exciting month for the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS). On October 6<sup>th</sup>, the SSPPS hosted three delegates from the School of Pharmacy of Fudan University in Shanghai, China. These distinguished guests included, Dr. Wang, Professor and Dean of Fudan University, Dr. Li, Assistant Dean, and Dr. Xiang, Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy. The goal of this international meeting was to discuss potential collaborations between Fudan University School of Pharmacy and UCSD SSPPS.

Topics of discussion during this meeting included Clinical Faculty/Preceptor Train-the-Trainer Program, International Experiential Education, and Research Collaboration with Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Research Collaboration with Pharmaceutical Sciences, and PharmD Curriculum and Curricular Development.

The day's activities included a full tour of the impressive SSPPS facilities. After many hours of energized discussion Dean McKerrow and Dean Wang agreed to continue this conversation of future collaboration by signing a general Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).



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## Faculty News

### An Exceptional Retirement Celebration

By Binh Tran, PharmD

What a meaningful gathering of faculty, colleagues, family and friends on July 1<sup>st</sup>, at the UCSD Faculty Club for the Retirement Celebration of Dr. David Adler, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS). Dr. Adler has worked 45 years in the University of California system, first with UC San Francisco and their clinical advanced practice program in San Diego and then at UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Founding Dean Palmer Taylor extolled Dr. Adler's contribution to the formation of SSPPS and his many achievements during his tenure. Deputy Dean David Bailey spoke of his congeniality and recalled the successful installation of the Coumadin (anticoagulation)



clinic at UCSD, whose pharmacists have mentored, under Dr. Adler's leadership, innumerable classes of students in ambulatory care rotations. Dr. Doris Howell, Professor and Chair Emeritus, Department of Family Medicine and Public Health, praised his dedication to developing pharmacy practice and fostering all the free clinics in San Diego.



Dr. Adler's family was present and spoke of his lifelong dedication to healthcare and underserved populations. Many SSPPS faculty were in attendance, some of whom came to UCSD to lecture in the Pharmacy Review program for the Vietnamese pharmacists in 1984-1985 with the coordination of Dr. Elvera Richardson. SSPPS staff, current and former Deans located in San Diego, Southern and Northern California, and other states also attended.

A slide-show depicting the important milestones in Dr. Adler's life was presented by Andrina Marshall and SSPPS staff, before Dr. Adler delivered his excellent address, with deep recognition of all the members' contribution to the stature of SSPPS as a premiere school of pharmacy in the United States.

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## AACP "Excellence in Achievement" Recognizes Joseph Ma, PharmD

The [ACCP "Excellence in Achievement" Program](#) serves to acknowledge ACCP Members whose engagement with ACCP events/committees and contributions to the organization are deserving of recognition.

ACCP is pleased to recognize [Joseph D. Ma, PharmD](#), Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of California, San Diego, Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Ma received his Pharmacy Doctorate from the University of California, San Francisco and completed a fellowship in clinical pharmacology at Bassett Healthcare, Cooperstown, New York. His current research interests are evaluating drug metabolizing enzyme activity and pain medication variability. His current clinical practice is the Pain and Palliative Care Service at the University of California, San Diego, Moores Cancer Center, where he specializes in symptom management.



Dr. Ma originally joined ACCP as a Student Member in 2004, became a Member in 2008 and a Fellow in 2015. An outstanding young leader in ACCP, Dr. Ma has filled numerous roles, including serving as a member of the Position Paper Subcommittee and the Strategic Vision and Education Committees. Most recently, Dr. Ma organized and moderated the acclaimed ACCP Fundamentals Tutorials Series, designed to provide a "not too technical" overview of clinical pharmacology.

A regular attendee of the ACCP Annual Meeting since 2008, Dr. Ma has presented posters and served as faculty at the meeting. In 2011-2012, he served as the co-chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee for the highly successful 2012 ACCP Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Congratulations, Dr. Ma, on being recognized for your outstanding achievements and contributions to ACCP!

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## Joel & Ellen Gordon Young Investigator Award



Congratulations to Katharina Brandl, RPh (DE), PhD, who has received the 2016 Joel and Ellen Gordon Young Investigator Award (YIA) for her application based on the “connectedness study” that she is currently working on with Jess Mandel, MD and Carolyn Kelly, MD. The award, given by the Learning Communities Institute (LCI) aims to invite new participation, acknowledge scholarship, and support the professional development of young leaders in health professions education. As an award recipient, Katharina will present at the LCI Annual Conference and have lunch with a member of the LCI leadership.

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## SSPPS Faculty Member Named 2016-2018 National Academy of Medicine (NAM) Fellow in Pharmacy

Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, PhD, was selected as the 2016-2018 National Academy of Medicine (NAM) Fellow in Pharmacy. The award was supported by the boards of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) for a pharmacist in their early career in health policy or as a health science scholar.

The purpose of the NAM [formerly the Institute of Medicine (IOM)] Anniversary Fellows program is to enable talented, early career health policy or health science scholars to participate actively in the work of the NAM and to further their careers as future leaders in the field. As a Fellow, Dr. Watanabe will be assigned to a board of the NAM, attend its meetings, and actively participate in the work of an appropriate expert study committee or roundtable, including contributing to its report or other products. He will be invited to the NAM Annual Meeting and will also take part in an intense one week orientation to health policy in Washington, DC this fall. As a Fellow he will be introduced to a variety of perspectives, including legislators, government officials, industry, patient interest groups, scientists, and other health professionals. As AACP and ACCP indicated, Fellows in the NAM program are those that hold exceptional promise to become future national leaders in biomedical science, health care, health policy and medical professionalism.



## Clinical Faculty Accomplishments (July 2015 – June 2016) By Grace M. Kuo, PharmD, PhD, MPH, FCCP

### PROMOTION AND APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to the following clinical faculty:

- Dr. Rabia Atayee, Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy Step II
- Dr. Rabia Atayee, Associate Dean for Admissions and Outreach
- Dr. Brookie Best, Associate Dean for Pharmacy Education
- Dr. Jan Hirsch, Professor of Clinical Pharmacy
- Dr. Grace Kuo, Associate Dean for Strategic Planning and Program Development
- Dr. Jason Lam, Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor
- Dr. Jennifer Le, Professor of Clinical Pharmacy
- Dr. Felix Yam, Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor

### HONORS and AWARDS

- Dr. Linda Awdishu, Teacher of the Year selected by SSPPS third year student body
- Dr. Brookie Best, Top 5 Reviewer of 2015 Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency
- Dr. Brookie Best, Abstract selected for Lewis Sheiner Award at PAGE 2016
- Dr. Jan Hirsch, Elected Head of Division of Clinical Pharmacy
- Dr. Grace Kuo, Editorial Board Member of the NIH NHGRI G2C2 (Genetics/Genomics Competency Center) Program
- Dr. Grace Kuo, Trustee of the Research Institute Board, American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
- Dr. Jennifer Le, Invited Editorial Faculty Panel Chair for PedSAP 2016 Book 1
- Dr. Jonathan Watanabe, Faculty Advisor for National AMCP P&T Competition Winner
- Dr. Sarah McBane, 2015 National Community Pharmacists Association Leadership Award
- Dr. Sarah McBane, 2015 CSHP Grassroots Advocacy Award
- Dr. Sarah McBane, 2016 California Chronic Care Coalition Stars of Advocacy Award
- Dr. Sarah McBane, 2016 APhA/CPhA ASP Faculty Appreciation Award
- Dr. Candis Morello, 2015 Teacher of the Year Award, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

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## AADE Pharmacy Best Practices in Diabetes Care Award By Jonathan Watanabe

Congratulations to Dr. Candis M. Morello who is the recipient of the AADE Pharmacy Community of Interest Pharmacy Best Practices in Diabetes Care Award. This award was developed in 2011 to allow the pharmacy community within AADE to highlight excellent pharmacy leaders within diabetes care and patient care services. This year was one of the hardest as we had an overwhelming amount of submissions with excellent qualities and all nominees should be proud of their submissions.

Dr. Morello's clinical practice is an advanced collaborative effort with endocrinologists at the Veterans Affairs San Diego Health Care System (VASDHS) Ambulatory Diabetes Clinic. In 2009, Dr. Morello founded a unique collaborative PharmD-Endocrinologist specialty clinic model, the Diabetes Intense Medical Management Clinic. Dr. Morello initiated the innovative



DIMM clinic to meet the needs of this patient population. The goal of the model was to see if spending more time with patients - 60 minutes visits, three times over a six-month time period - would achieve glycemic control, free up primary care time and address other issues at hand with this population.

The enhanced patient contact time allowed her to couple her CDE and clinical training to provide personalized education and treatments. She obtained an advanced scope of practice with full laboratory ordering and prescribing authority to initiate, adjust, monitor or discontinue medication therapy for diabetes and all related conditions to create an individualized care plan for each patient. Her clinical markers for research was both clinically significant which allows her to continue her efforts with this expanded intensified model.

For over 17 years, Dr. Morello has positively expanded the role of the diabetes pharmacist-CDE. Her specialty is giving diabetes patients tools to successfully achieve glycemic control and motivating them to take control of their disease states. She continues to give back to pharmacy and other health care professional worlds through scholarship that demonstrates the impact of a pharmacist within diabetes care. Dr. Morello is passionate about teaching diabetes care to student pharmacists at the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

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## Student News

### 2016 AMCP Foundation/Pfizer, Inc. Summer Internship: Summer of Pharmacy and Mentorship in Salt Lake City, Utah By Jamie Ta, P3

This past summer, I had the privilege of spending ten weeks as an AMCP Foundation/Pfizer, Inc. Managed Care Pharmacy Intern at SelectHealth in Salt Lake City, UT, a regional health plan that is part of the non-profit Intermountain Healthcare integrated health system and serves approximately 800,000 members in Utah and Idaho. Throughout my time at SelectHealth, I had many opportunities to develop my clinical knowledge and skills in formulary management, evidence-based medicine, and outcomes research. I worked on a variety of clinical projects, including various drug

monographs, drug utilization reviews, and claims analyses. One of my major projects was a claims database analysis utilizing medical, pharmacy, and laboratory claims data to examine comparative adherence and effectiveness among the newer classes of antidiabetic medications. I had the opportunity to present my research project at the Pfizer corporate headquarters in New York City and internally to the Clinical Pharmacy team at SelectHealth. I also prepared a therapeutic class review and presented my recommendations for formulary placement of a novel agent to SelectHealth's Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee. In addition to my projects at SelectHealth, I participated in various manufacturer clinical presentations and contracting meetings, spent a day with the clinical pharmacists at the Intermountain Specialty Pharmacy, and attended meetings with SelectHealth pharmacists



From Left: Dr. Casey Koch, Dr. Kyle Stirewalt, Dr. Cody Olsen, Jamie Ta, Dr. Brandon Bellows, Dr. Curtis Wander

collaborating with Intermountain Healthcare physicians, clinical pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals on unique initiatives to improve healthcare delivery, care coordination, and patient outcomes. I was also paired with a Pfizer Medical Outcomes Specialist throughout the internship and visited Pfizer headquarters in New York City, where I met with Pfizer pharmacists from various departments to learn about different pharmacist roles in the pharmaceutical industry.

The AMCP Foundation/Pfizer, Inc. summer internship was an unforgettable and amazing learning experience. The internship at SelectHealth has provided a truly unique and rich experience that has provided me greater exposure to the dynamic and diverse opportunities within pharmacy to meaningfully impact patient care and population health outcomes. I have also been able to gain a more profound appreciation for the value of collaboration between healthcare professionals from various practice settings, such as managed care organizations, clinics, and hospitals to positively improve clinical outcomes. As this year's AMCP-UCSD student chapter President, I hope to use the experiences I've gained this summer to work with local pharmacists and develop new programming for the UCSD AMCP chapter that provides SSPPS students exposure to the real-world applications of managed care pharmacy in a variety of practice settings.

I am grateful for the generous support of AMCP Foundation and Pfizer in making this internship possible. Many thanks to the UCSD SSPPS deans and faculty who have been supportive of my summer internship experience. Most of all, I would like to thank all my pharmacist mentors at SelectHealth, Intermountain Healthcare, and Pfizer who have provided guidance and mentorship throughout the internship and thank Dr. Jonathan Watanabe and Dr. Sara Erickson who supported my selection to this summer internship.

For questions about the AMCP Foundation/Pfizer, Inc. Summer Internship program, please contact me ([jtta@ucsd.edu](mailto:jtta@ucsd.edu)).

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## Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) Ask a Psychiatric Pharmacist Day

### By Tigran Makunts, P2, Issac Cohen, P2

DBSA is a support group for individuals with mental illness that meets twice a week at the Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital in La Jolla. Here they share their life stories, how they cope with mental illness, medication issues, and miscellaneous topics they wish to discuss. In Fall 2015 we began attending DBSA meetings to gain exposure to patients with mental illness and learn of the challenges they face. From the very first day of attendance, it was clear that many patients had drug related questions that were not being sufficiently answered. In fact, many of the patients were incorrectly advising one another, potentially impairing treatment outcomes. Along with DBSA group coordinators, we arranged for a psychiatric pharmacist to attend a Q&A session at the VA DBSA meeting.

In September, Kelly C. Lee, PharmD, M.A.S., BCPP kindly agreed to attend the meeting, where she introduced the profession of the psychiatric pharmacist and answered medication related questions. These ranged from questions about weight gain from anti-psychotic medications to issues with drug titration and switching medications. The patients were given the opportunity to complete a brief survey after the meeting. Ten patients opted to complete the survey. All of the patients responded that they had not heard of or seen a psychiatric pharmacist before. They also all responded that they would be interested in seeing a psychiatric pharmacist in the future if their insurance covered the visit. Overall, patients responded well to our outreach. Ten out of the ten patients marked that they would be interested in attending another Ask a Psychiatric Pharmacist Day event.

We are currently working with the CPNP community outreach affiliate Hooree Amerkhanian, P3, to establish a depression bipolar committee which will oversee this event, and hopefully grow it into a quarterly Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience where Skaggs students can learn about psychiatric pharmacy and in turn help educate this extremely underserved community.

## Pharmacy School Exchange Program By Lisa Avery

For the second year running, UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and UC San Francisco School of Pharmacy entered into an exchange program where two students from each school completed two rotations at each other's respective institutions. This year, Kari Ehm and Malini Madhusudhan joined us from UC San Francisco for two six-week rotations at UC San Diego Health System – La Jolla Hospital. SSPPS sent two P4 students to rotate at UC San Francisco Medical Center, Alice Koh and Sammi Tam.

The UCSF students started their rotations at UC San Diego on August 15<sup>th</sup> with a thorough orientation from their preceptors. They also started developing relationships with the UC San Diego students. Deans McKerrow and Colbert, along with Lisa Avery, APPE Experiential Education Coordinator, went to UC San Diego La Jolla Hospital to host lunch and welcome the UC San Francisco students.



Pictured L to R, Lisa Avery, Dean Jim McKerrow, Malini Madhusudhan, Kari Ehm and Dr. James Colbert

## Senior Prom By Amy Hsu, P2, ASCP Board Liaison



Once again, ASCP hosted a successful Senior Prom for the elderly residents of senior homes. This year's Hollywood-themed event took place on April 8<sup>th</sup> at Temple Emanu-El in San Diego. The event was filled with music, dancing, laughter, and smiles as the volunteers joined hands with the senior citizens in singing and dancing. We had a huge volunteer and participant turnout and four poster sessions including cholesterol, blood pressure, shingles, and seasonal allergies. This event was one of the biggest events of the year and required



several different planning committees and quarters of planning ahead to make possible. We also received generous donations from Sprinkles Cupcakes and Teavana and gave out other raffle prizes for the participants who visited the volunteers at the poster sessions. At the end of the event, we gave special thanks to our beloved preceptor, Dr. Freedman, who has since retired. This event was special in that it was her last ASCP event before retirement. We would like to thank Dr. Freedman, and all of our sponsors and dedicated members for making this event such a success. We couldn't be happier with the turnout and we look forward to next year's Senior Prom!

## White Coat Ceremony 2016 By Binh Tran, PharmD

A full audience listened attentively to Dean McKerrow at the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences White Coat Ceremony held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Dean provided reasons why the 57 students as well as himself chose SSPPS: It is a premiere institution, the faculty is excellent, and there are interdisciplinary classes between the medical and pharmacy schools.

Christine Cadiz, PharmD, gave a most fervent call to the dedication of pharmacists in serving patients. Her vivid story of a patient living in a rural area, afflicted with hypertension and a range of other ailments who finally could have normal blood pressure again related well with the entering class, their families and friends. Dr. Candis Morello, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, presented the students, who were then hooded by Dean McKerrow, and photographed for school records. All recited the Oath of a Pharmacist, a meaningful moment for all pharmacists in the audience. Josie Vo, ASP President, welcomed the new class of 2020. In closing, Dean McKerrow invited all to join in refreshments out on the patio.



# Staff News

## Fire Extinguisher Training By Ann Lischer

SSPPS staff had a raucously fun time being fire rescue superheroes at fire extinguisher training on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Our expert instructor was Justin Turner, Training Program Manager for Environment, Health & Safety. At the end of class, each attendee practiced the procedure P.A.S.S. (Pull the pin, Aim, Squeeze the lever, Sweep at the base of



the fire). It was especially fun using the high tech practice equipment. We used a lifelike fire extinguisher which shoots a laser to subdue a randomly-selected electronic fire on the screen. As a reminder, do not attempt to extinguish a fire the size of a small trash can, or larger. Do not hesitate to call 911 for professional firefighter assistance.



## UC San Diego Biomedical Library



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