

UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Newsletter

Spring 2013

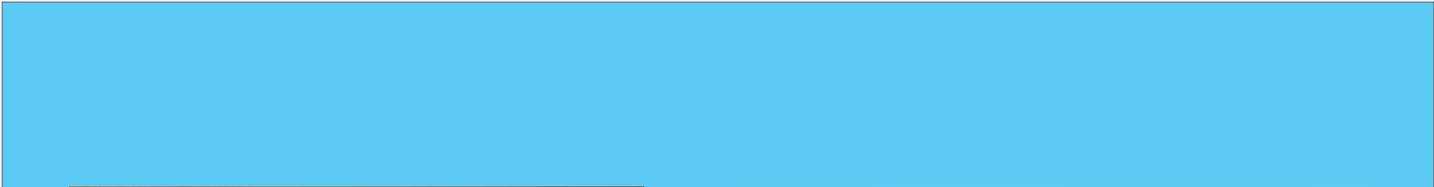
Congratulations to the SSPPS Class of 2013 By Kim Ciero

The SSPPS Class of 2013 graduated in fanfare on Saturday, May 18, 2013 in the Price Center Ballroom. The class was composed of 59 students, two of whom were the first to graduate in the combined PharmD/PhD program. Most of the graduating class, 51%, will be pursuing postgraduate residencies or industry/research fellowships in health care systems and the pharmaceutical industry. The remaining students will pursue careers in pharmacy practice positions throughout the United States. Also, five members of this class participated in six week international rotations, three went to Vietnam and two went to Nigeria.

The commencement was well-attended by the SSPPS faculty, UC San Diego Pharmacy residents, current students, family and friends of the graduates. The commencement address was given by Paul W. Abramowitz, PharmD, FASHP, Chief Executive Officer of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists in Bethesda, Maryland. The three lively, and at times sentimental, student speakers representing their esteemed class were Christopher Mapes, Jack Yeung and Stephanie Chauv. A reception in the Health Sciences Education Center immediately followed the ceremony and was well attended by the graduates and their families.

Congratulations Class of 2013 for a job well done!





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May 12, 2013 Graduation Celebration

A good time was had by all the graduates, family, and friends at the UC San Diego Faculty Club. A sense of excitement filled the air as everyone ate, drank and said their goodbyes. The graduates put on a slide-show from all the events and parties throughout their four years. Tears and laughter were heard throughout the program. Although it is an evening of celebration, tears came when they realized they were going to scatter around the country. Students create tight bonds in their small classes here at Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. The Graduation Celebration gives them a time for celebrations and goodbyes. Each student received a certificate in recognition of the contributions made as a member of the class of 2013 by Dean Taylor.





Student News

2012 ASCP Annual Meeting and Exhibition

By Christine Marie Manalo, P3
VP of Community Affairs

The 2012 American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Annual Meeting and Exhibition was held on November 6th-9th at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. The Annual Meeting is a one-of-a-kind event where pharmacists, students, health care providers, and guests can equip themselves with the education and training necessary to provide quality care to the fastest growing group, the elderly population.

Three executive members from the UCSD-ASCP Chapter had the opportunity to attend the conference. The Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences sponsored Chapter President, Denise Harano, and Vice President of Community Outreaches, Christine Manalo, to attend as delegates. Vice President of Professional Education, Tiffany Lee, also attended the meeting. The three members were astonished by the numerous educational talks, workshops, and continuing education events offered and the many innovative products and services showcased. Some continuing education topics presented were, "Optimizing the Care of People with Dementia Living in Nursing Homes," "Advances in the Treatment of Inappropriate Laughing and Crying," "Advances in the Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes in Adult Patients Across Age Groups," and "Management of Pain in Geriatrics and Advanced Illness."



Although ASCP Annual had many continuing education events geared towards practicing pharmacists and healthcare providers, ASCP did not forget to cater to students! In addition to attending three continuing education workshops,



Christine, Denise, and Tiffany attended the academic track all day on November 8th. Brief formal presentations were given such as "Preparing a Curriculum Vitae and Interviewing Skills," "On Your Mark...Get Set...Match! How to Become a Standout Residency Candidate," "Applying Clinical Practice Guidelines to the Care of Older Adults," and "Oh, the Places You'll Go: A Showcase of Various Geriatric Practice Opportunities." They also attended presentations that taught them the complexities of medication management, changes with aging, and approaches to caring for the elderly. All presentations were informative, however, "Oh, the Places You'll Go," was the most enlightening. During this event, about 10 consultant pharmacists rotated around tables with 10-12 pharmacy students during a 1.5 hour period. At the tables, the pharmacists talked about their current

jobs, past experiences, what they initially wanted to do after graduation, what it took for them to get where they were now, and most importantly why they loved their job.

Additional interactive events included a poster presentation session, where ASCP Chapter members showcased their posters and the Student Reception, where students and pharmacists mingled with one another. Also, there was a rare opportunity to sit-in and listen on a California Regional Meeting, where various consultant pharmacists representing different counties within California were present. Overall, the three executive members are thankful for the opportunity to attend an ASCP Annual Meeting and Exhibition. The experience not only enhanced their passion for caring for the rapidly growing senior population, but also taught them the importance of continuing education and exposed them to the many challenges and critical issues impacting the care of seniors.

New Student Committee Demystifies Organ Donation to Campus Community

By Khadija Amin, P3

CSHP-UCSD recently launched a new initiative to emphasize organ donation awareness. With the guidance of Dr. Shirley Tsunoda, an Organ Donation Awareness Focus Group was created to initiate new programs that increase knowledge and demystify the myths surrounding the often controversial topic of organ donation. The team consists of P1s: Andrew Nguyen, Christine Lee, P2s: Crystal Zhou, Francis Wang, and P3s: Rebecca Kandilian, Andrea Bechtold, Tiep Ly, Angela Bougetz, Pamela Saarikoski, and Khadija Amin.

April is widely recognized as Organ Donation Awareness Month. Currently 118,074 individuals are awaiting an organ in the United States and 18 people will die every day from not receiving a transplant. The need for donors and awareness is thus critical to the lives of many individuals, yet the myths surrounding organ donation prevent many people from considering becoming donors. The Organ Donation Awareness Team will compete at the national level for the Organ Donation Awareness Challenge. This is a nationally sponsored competition among all Schools of Pharmacy across the country sponsored by the The American Society of Transplantation (AST) Transplant Pharmacy Community of Practice (CoP).



Members created educational posters outlining important information about becoming an organ donor and demystifying the process of organ donation and transplant. During Triton Day, they raised awareness among the UCSD undergraduate population, particularly incoming freshman, with the educational posters and a booth where participants could register to become donors. Members also informed the showcase attendees about organ donation facts and corrected many myths surrounding the process. At the end of the day, ten people signed up to become organ donors. Considering an average donor can save up to eight lives, a total of 80 lives may be potentially affected by this single outreach event.

One of the highlights of the month was the Organ Donation Symposium which attracted nearly 100 students and faculty to hear about the intricacies of organ donation. Sharon Ross from Lifesharing discussed the need for organ donors, provided grave statistics on the topic, and explained how organ donation affects future health care professionals, particularly pharmacists. Surgical coordinator Billy Snyder talked in-depth and provided detailed photography about the surgical procedures involved in the organ donation process and explained how donations are arranged from donors to recipients. Afterwards, two heart transplant recipients shared moving stories on how receiving an organ gave them a second chance at life and how pharmacists are critical to their well-being by helping manage the many drugs they need to take for the rest of their lives. Six lucky students also won Sprinkles cupcakes by answering trivia questions related to current statistics on organ donation. Overall, the event was well-received by students; the presentation prompted some thought-provoking discussions and even inspired a few students to sign up to become organ donors immediately after the talk.

The Organ Donation Awareness Focus Group plans to continue raising awareness in the San Diego community via outreach events. The group hosted a booth at CSHP-UCSD's yearly Phun Run event held on May 5th, which commonly draws hundreds of local residents and students together for a refreshing jog around the UCSD campus to raise funds for the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinics' pharmacy department.

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Conducts Health Screenings and Showcases the Pharmacy Profession at UCSD's Annual Triton Day

Dr. William Ettouati and Natalie Elder, P3

On April 6th, 2013, families of admitted undergraduates to UC San Diego visited the campus to participate in Triton Day. The Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences booth consisted of blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol screenings, as well as educational activities revolving around compounding and medication safety. Many prospective students, as well as their families, took advantage of the booth and learned about the pharmacy profession and its impact on the community. Thank you to all the student pharmacists who participated and to Dr. Atayee and Dr. Singh who were preceptors for the event!



A Great Year for Generation Rx

Francis Wang, P2

What a successful year for Generation Rx! As a joint team of 25 student pharmacists and 15 UC San Diego PGY1 pharmacy residents, Generation Rx has helped educate highschool students on the dangers of prescription abuse.

Over the past year, Generation Rx has educated over 1,000 highschool students at six highschools and one high school leadership conference. These presentations empower high school students to make the right decision about the use of prescription drugs. The presentation starts with a video, followed by facts and statistics about prescription abuse. Students then work in groups to answer a series of questions and act out a skit based on what they have learned. These presentations last approximately an hour. The ultimate goal is to inform students about the dangers of prescription drug abuse.

From January to April 2013, Generation Rx presented at Clairemont High School, Mira Mesa Highschool, San Dieguito Academy, and SoCal WESTOP highschool conferences. Highschool administrators enjoyed and were pleased with the presentation.



Many students were engaged and asked questions about certain drugs and the consequence of abusing these medications. Lastly, student pharmacists enjoyed giving these presentations because they felt they made a difference in the students' futures, helping students make the right decisions.

In addition to our success with the presentations, UCSD APhA-ASP won the 2012 Region 8 Generation Rx Award at the 2013 APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition for UCSD's Generation Rx's outstanding development and implementation of Generation Rx. This is the first time UCSD APhA-ASP has received a regional award at the APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition. In addition, at CPhA's West Coast Pharmacy Exchange in Monterey, California, Dr. Nathan Painter received the CPhA Cardinal Health Generations Rx Champions Award. This is the first time this award has been offered and it recognizes Dr. Nathan Painter as a pharmacist who demonstrates excellence in community-based prescription drug abuse prevention.



This year has been an exciting and successful year for Generation Rx. We look forward to next year. In addition to more presentations in highschools, Generation Rx will be working with the San Diego County of Education to provide presentations to high-school and middle-school students at local conferences. The Generation Rx team would like to thank our two excellent faculty advisors, Dr. Eduardo Fricovsky and Dr. Nathan Painter, for all their help and support.

Let us congratulate **Rebecca Kandilian** for being selected as the UC San Diego SSPPS student pharmacist for the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (**CSHP**) **Student Leadership Award!** As a student pharmacist her dedication to leading our profession and her colleagues through numerous community service and professional growth activities has been exemplary. With her commitment to excellence, her strong work ethic, and leadership skills, Rebecca has led the CSHP-UCSD student chapter through its most productive year to date.

Rebecca will be recognized for this distinguished achievement at the CSHP Seminar 2013 meeting in the fall.

UC San Diego SSPPS First-Year Student Pharmacists Conduct Senior Health Education Event

Drs. Beverley A. Freedman, PharmD, Rabia Atayee, PharmD and Jennifer M. Namba, PharmD

After a great deal of preparation throughout the Spring quarter, the Class of 2016 student pharmacists and Pharmacy Practice Faculty hosted the much anticipated Senior Health Education Event (SHEE). This year, the event was held at the College Avenue Older Adult Center, in the College area of San Diego. It was a hot sunny day in May, and the

weather allowed for the posters and tables to be set up outside on the large patio. The College Avenue Older Adult Center provides a place for seniors to obtain a subsidized lunch and participate in weekly activities such as exercise classes and arts and crafts sessions as well as educational events.

Student pharmacists and faculty focused on public education and service as a primary goal of the educational process. This community outreach event allowed the students to combine skills developed during their 3-quarter Pharmacy Practice experience including patient counseling, public speaking, self-care with OTC medications, literature evaluation, and special issues related to the older population. The Class of 2016 assisted seniors in understanding ways to better manage and improve health issues predominant with ageing.

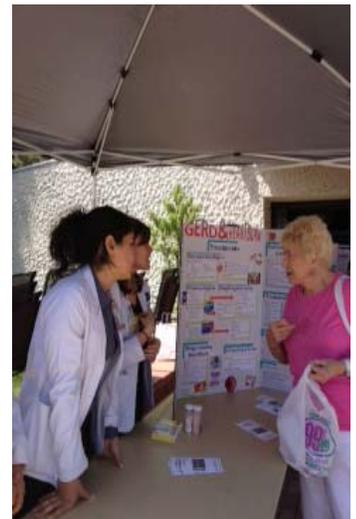


With assistance from volunteer faculty liaisons, students worked in groups of three or four to create educational posters, self-made brochures, and hand-outs as part of the requirement for the Pharmacy Practice course. Students presented posters on topics including: tips on safe use of medications, footcare in general and with diabetes, muscle aches and pain, oral health, preventing eye disease, constipation and gas, bone health, dietary guidelines, infection control, blood pressure, cholesterol, reflux and heartburn, and diabetes. Student pharmacists also performed on-site blood glucose testing and blood pressure monitoring; and subsequently assisted the seniors with referrals and advice on their specific measurement results.



The College Avenue Older Adult Center was the ideal location for the students to setup their posters, provide educational information, and assist the over 40 seniors who attended with related questions. From 10:15 am until 12:15 pm, seniors crowded the booths and lined up for the on-site screening and were provided with educational information. Those who attended, as well as the management team at the center, were extremely appreciative and positive of their interactions with the students. Mrs. Elissa Landsman, the

center's director, commended the students and faculty for putting on such a fantastic event. She invited us back and requested the students to return for any number of outreach events. Many of the participants commented on the professionalism and exceptional communication skills of the students. The event also proved to be entertaining as well. Raffle tickets were handed out to each participant at every booth they visited. The raffle drawings were announced by Dr. Atayee and received with eager anticipation from the attendees in the hope of winning one of the raffle prizes prepared by P1 student volunteers and Dr. Beverley Freedman. Our students represented UC San Diego SSPPS well. A few of the P1 students had long and interesting conversations with the senior attendees, forging some deep connections and allowing the students the necessary experience of what it means to really communicate with the older adult population. Everyone had tremendous fun as well as gaining a great deal from this event.



Research Achievements by Pharmacy Students

By Dr. Vivian Hook

Paula Park, Pharm.D/Ph.D student, is first author of a new research manuscript accepted for publication in *The International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology* entitled “Corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) and alpha-2-adrenergic receptors mediate heroin withdrawal-potentiated startle in rats, for publication in 2013. Paula completed her Ph.D degree in June, 2013, and will continue to finish her Pharm.D degree for the joint Pharm.D/Ph.D degree program. The title of her thesis is “The role of pain and anxiety in the transition to opioid addiction” with Professor George Koob as thesis advisor, and Professor Vivian Hook as co-thesis advisor. During Paula’s three years of thesis research, she has been supported by the NIDA/NIH T32 program entitled ‘Neurosciences related to drugs of abuse’ directed by Professor Vivian Hook.

Conor Bowman, Pharm.D student, conducted research with the laboratory of Professor Vivian Hook in the summer 2011, and his preliminary data on proteases related to Alzheimer’s disease was included in an NIH grant entitled “Aminopeptidases for neurotoxic pyroglutamate beta-amyloid of Alzheimer’s disease”. Significantly, the grant was scored with high merit, with a 2 percentile score. Conor contributed important data to the project. This is a great achievement for student research.

Andrew Wahlert, Pharm.D. graduate in June 2012, is first author of a published article entitled “Spinal astrocytes produce and secrete dynorphin neuropeptides’ in the journal *Neuropeptides* (vol. 47, pp. 109-0115). This study demonstrates spinal astrocyte dynorphin release for pain mechanisms, a collaboration with the laboratories of Professor Tony Yaksh (Dept. of Anesthesiology, UC San Diego) and Professor Vivian Hook (SSPPS, UC San Diego).

Alumni News

Robert Mancini, PharmD, BCOP

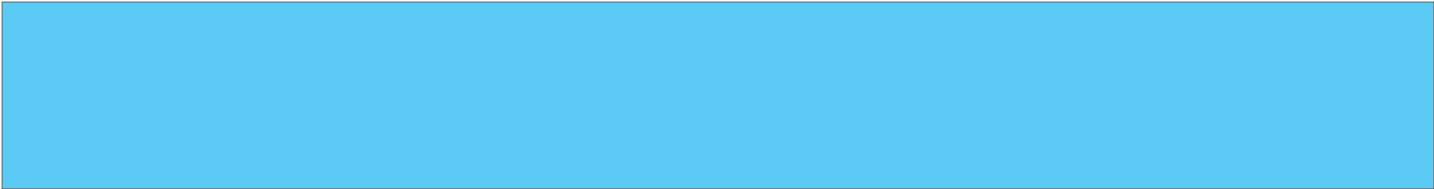
Class of 2008

After graduating from the Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2008 Robert has been busy pursuing his career as an oncology pharmacist. He went on to complete a first-year general residency at St. Luke’s



Regional Medical Center in Boise in 2009 and a second year specialty residency at St. Luke’s Mountain States Tumor Institute (MSTI) in 2010. After completing his residency, Robert was hired to take the reigns of the developing Oral Chemotherapy program at MSTI. Along side the development of that program, Robert also worked with other clinical staff at MSTI to develop a multidisciplinary supportive care clinic focusing on the symptom management and medication therapy management of complex patients undergoing cancer treatment.

Robert and MSTI were recognized twice by the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), which is one of the leading education and advocacy organizations for the cancer



team, by receiving an Innovator Award in 2011 for their oral chemotherapy program and in 2012 for their supportive care program. (<http://www.accc-cancer.org/association/InnovatorAwards-Winners.asp>) Robert was also recognized by the Idaho Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (ISHP) in 2011 as Pharmacist of the Year and in 2012 by the St. Luke's Department of Pharmacy for the same award. Robert and the MSTI team were also recognized by ASHP as a finalist for the Award for Excellence in Medication Use Safety by detailing the patient safety measures achieved by the Oral Chemotherapy Program. (<http://www.ashpfoundation.org/2012ExcellenceAwardees>) Robert has been recognized as a national practice leader on this particular topic. Robert received his Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist (BCOP) certification in December of 2012.

Throughout his years of practice Robert has also been involved in many local and national organizations including serving on various committees for the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacist Association (HOPA), serving as Programs Chair for ISHP, and the education committee for ACCC. Robert is still highly active in Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, an organization he joined while at USCD. He helped start the Epsilon Pi Chapter of the Fraternity in 2011 at the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy and has served as a supervisor for several provinces. At the 2013 Grand Council Convention in August, he plans to run for National Office within the Fraternity.

Robert has also had the opportunity to speak on many different levels which he attributes to the opportunities provided by the UCSD curriculum which emphasizes the importance of public speaking and presentations. Robert has given local talks at ISHP, the Concepts in Oncology Conference and several Palliative Care conferences. In addition, Robert has spoken nationally at ACCC, HOPA and several State Oncology Society meetings and presented posters at the ASCO Quality Care Symposium and ASHP Midyear Meeting. Robert has also been on the speakers board for Millenium Pharmaceuticals and recently has been asked to do the same for Incyte Corporation and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.

Most recently, after receiving his board certification, Robert has taken over as the Director of the PGY2 Oncology specialty residency at MSTI and will have his first full residents this coming summer. Robert firmly believes that he would not be where he is today without having had the experiences provided at the UCSD SSPPS, the relationships he formed there and the contacts he made. The best advice he can give to future students is take advantage of any opportunity you can get and develop important relationships now in pharmacy school because they will follow you throughout your career.

Lawrence Alejandro, PharmD Class of 2007

Dr. Lawrence Alejandro, Alumni, Class of 2007 was recognized by Rady Children's Hospital San Diego (RCHSD) as an Employee of Excellence in February of 2013. He was nominated by several departments for this prestigious honor. He was selected for his Leadership and Innovation in the successful implementation of the electronic medical record project in the Pediatric Oncology area and his exemplary work on behalf of the Renal and Hepatic Transplant Services at RCHSD. Dr. Alejandro is in his 6th year of employment at RCHSD where, after his graduation from UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, he was brought onto the staff after successfully completing the Pediatric Residency Program there. Dr. Alejandro recently celebrated the birth of his first child (January 2013).

Rachel Sperling, PharmD Class of 2007

Congratulations to Dr. Rachel Sperling, the CPhA speaker-elect. Rachel will serve one year as speaker-elect, and then one year as Speaker of the House for CPhA. Rachel has been involved in CPhA since she was a student at UC San Diego SSPPS, and has served on several policy committees for CPhA.

She is also our President-elect at the local level, and we are excited about her involvement and leadership.

Preceptor News

Ambulatory Care Preceptors Conference, March 26, 2013 Shelly Fromholtz

On Tuesday, March 26th, the Office of Experiential Education (OEE) hosted its annual Ambulatory Care Preceptors Conference on “Professionalism: How it’s taught at the school and in the workplace.” Dr. Sarah Lorentz, Ambulatory Care Coordinator for SSPPS introduced the two featured presenters, Kimberly Tallian, Pharm.D., Scripps Memorial Hospital, speaking on “Professionalism Taught in a Hospital Setting” and Christopher Woo, Pharm.D., Walgreens Pharmacy, speaking on “Community Pharmacy Rotation Site Professionalism.” Dr. Lorentz then provided a summarized version of the presentation given to the P3 students at their APPE Orientation. The three different perspectives on professionalism – school, hospital, community – spurred a hearty discussion on the definition of professionalism and how to communicate expectations to the students. Professionalism continues to be a challenging and popular issue for discussion due to its subjective and varied definitions and guidelines. To view the presentation handouts and to listen to the conference, please visit <http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/experiential.shtml>. Thank you to all who attended and participated in the

Faculty News

Dr. Charles Daniels



SSPPS was an important element of a recent publication from McGraw-Hill Medical, *Roadmap to Postgraduate Training in Pharmacy* (2013). Class of 2012 member Ohannes Kandilian and UC San Diego Resident Yelena Atlasevich served as reviewer/contributors and Associate Dean Charles Daniels was a chapter author.

Dr. Eduardo Fricovsky and Student Pharmacists Recognized at a National APhA Meeting

Dr. Eduardo Fricovsky was awarded the National APhA Immunization Champion Award for Community Outreach for the accomplishments of delivering immunizations to the underserved and underinsured through the Student-Run Free Clinic Immunization Program. Under Dr. Fricovsky's leadership and direction, student and resident pharmacists participate in the administration of flu vaccines each year. In addition they provide individual patient care and collaborate with a team of physicians, nurses and other healthcare professions and social sciences volunteer students.

Greg Estep, Class of 2014 Pharm.D. Candidate received the APhA Region 8 GenRx Award for UC San Diego for the student and faculty effort in the newly established GenRx Prescription Drug Abuse effort, an elective course associated with community outreach established in 2012.

Crystal Zhou, Class of 2015 Pharm.D. candidate was selected to be among the APhA National Patient Counseling Competition Top 10 finalists from over 100 Schools of Pharmacy across the country.

Dr. Candis Morello

Dr. Candis Morello was one of 51 health-system pharmacists in the United States selected to be given the title "Fellow" by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) in recognition of the excellence they have achieved in pharmacy practice. The 2013 Fellows were honored on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, during the ASHP Summer Meeting & Exhibition in Minneapolis.

The ASHP Practitioner Recognition Program rewards excellence in pharmacy practice by granting recognition and promoting public awareness of pharmacists who have distinguished themselves in hospital and health-system pharmacy. Members who have achieved FASHP status have successfully demonstrated sustained commitment or contributions to excellence in practice for at least 10 years, contributed to the total body of knowledge in the field, demonstrated active involvement and leadership in ASHP and other professional organizations, and have been actively involved in and committed to educating practitioners and others. The program has recognized 771 Fellows since it began in 1988.



SSPPS News

A Successful San Diego Tet Festival By Binh Tran, Pharm.D.

The Tet Festival, organized by the Vietnamese American Youth Alliance (VAYA) on February 15th, 16th, and 17th, was a successful event for Mira Mesa and San Diego communities at large. This was a change from the previous Festivals at Balboa Park, which was not available due to construction work (in preparation for the park's

Centennial Celebration in 2015). The Asian Pacific Health Foundation was present to promote awareness on Hepatitis B prevention on February 16th and 17th, with actual screening on Sunday February 17th.

At the loading curb, we were glad to have Phuong Thoi, P1, from Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences and a crew of volunteers from Sierra and other high schools to help us find the way to our booth #13 near the VietNews TV station, Van Lang Language School, Dr. Chi Ha from Highly Artistic Surgery, and other establishments.

Were Visited By:

- Mrs. Kim Thoa Hoang from UPAC, Emcee of the event
- Dr. Tri Nguyen, local cardiologist, accompanied by his four children
- Mr. Hung Nguyen, from the San Diego Police Department, an organization which was acknowledged for their excellent work in the community
- Mr. Julio De Guzman accompanied by elected and would-be officials in the San Diego public arena
- Alex Nguyen, Director of the Festival, assisted by Sydney and a wonderful team
- Gwen Coronado and her spouse
- Jennifer Trinh and other pharmacists, Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences students and friends
- VAYA members
- Dr. Ton Tran's former staff and other members in the community



We thank you for your support in order to continue free screening events in the community.

The 3rd Annual Gastro-Enterology and Hepatology Conference

By Binh Tran, Pharm.D.

The 3rd Annual Advances in Gastro-Enterology and Hepatology Conference was held by the UC San Diego Division of Gastro-Enterology at the Omni Hotel downtown San Diego on March 2nd. The event coincided with the big Urban Warrior race being held at Petco Park, so the area was barred from access for long stretches. Many attendees were delayed, but for those who could attend, the conference was one of the best so far, with the participation of leading experts from UCSD and other universities. .

Dr. William Sandborn, Professor of Clinical Medicine and Chair, Division of Gastroenterology was the Conference Course Director.

On the UC San Diego panel of speakers from **Hepatology**:

- Rohit Loomba, MD, on Non Alcoholic Steato Hepatitis and Non Alcoholic Fatty Liver
- Robert Gish, MD, Chief of Hepatology, on Treatment of Viral Hepatitis circa 2013
- Alexander Kuo, MD, Director of Transplantation, on Liver Transplantation
- Yuko Kono, MD, on Liver and Biliary Tract Cancers

Other sections on

GI Oncology and Advanced Endoscopy; Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Celiac Disease; and **Esophagus, Motility and Nutrition** were covered by outstanding specialists in the fields.

Among participants:

- Puri Barin, MD, Retired and Violeta Martel, MD, from Edgemoor Geriatric Hospital, Santee
- Ngoc Pham, MD, and Suong Tuong, MD, from the Vietnamese Physicians Association of San Diego
- Sam Elsheikh, MD
- Ton Tran, MD, and Binh Tran, PharmD, from the Asian Pacific Health Foundation
- Nina Krishun, RN, and Kathy Smith, RN, from UCSD Hepatology group
- Samrang Schimelpfenig, NP/PA
- Katie L. Vo, PharmD, from Salix Pharmaceuticals



Health Fair By Binh Tran, Pharm.D.

Thank you to those who attended the Health Fair at Wesley First United Methodist Church on March 17th.

The event went smoothly, with a steady flow for Hepatitis B and C screenings with only one phlebotomist (Anh Phuong) drawing blood for 38 persons. At the registration table, Lani Chau, Nghia Ong, and Duc Hoang, a 4th-year pharmacy student doing his final rotation in Los Angeles, coordinated patient consent before a volunteer called each person to the blood drawing station. Angie Thach operated the centrifugation station. Kayla Giang,

4th-year pharmacy student from SSPPS, handled the HCV Rapid test using whole blood obtained from venipuncture, whereas Lillian Nguyen and Christina Nguyen performed the two hepatitis HBV Point of care tests using the serum from Rapid Separating Tubes. Standard hepatitis B tests for HBs, anti HBcore and anti HBs were sent to Quest Diagnostics Lab. Dr. Ton Tran presented on Hepatitis B to the audience, and also answered questions at the consultation table.

The glaucoma station performed well with the new APAMSA group at UCSD under the direction of Dr. Stadwiser, who came early on Sunday.

Truc Nguyen, who is completing her medical assistant requirements, volunteered as an able translator at the glaucoma screening station.

Almost all the health fair attendees went through the glaucoma screening and bone densitometry set up at the event.



Kristiana Nguyen, coordinator of the event, brought enthusiastic volunteers to attend to the logistics of the day. Attached are some pictures at the health fair.

We thank the pastors at Wesley Church for letting us use the spacious hall for the health fair activities and hope to have many more occasions to provide free health services to the community in East San Diego.

This is a very special year as we had three enthusiastic Class of 2013 students rotate in Viet Nam: Thien Vu, Tri Ho, Vuong Le and two in Nigeria: Whitney Dickson and Echezona Okoli.



UC San Diego's Palmer Taylor Awarded France's Legion of Honour

By Debra Kain

Palmer Taylor, PhD, Dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, and Sandra and Monroe Trout Professor of Pharmacology at the University of California, San Diego, has been awarded the rank of "Chevalier dans l'Ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honour) by the President of France, François Hollande.

The Legion of Honour, established after the French Revolution, is the highest French national decoration, a distinction recognizing eminent personalities, both French and foreign, who have contributed significantly to the development of relationships with France.

"This prestigious honor, and Dr. Taylor's important work, exemplifies the cooperative international research for which UC San Diego is renowned, and I join in congratulating him on behalf of the university," said UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla.



Annick Suzor-Weiner, Counsellor for Science and Technology at the Embassy of France in the United States, was a recent visitor to UC San Diego, and recognized Taylor's achievement: "Palmer Taylor is a world-leading scientist whose commitment to international research has yielded strong and productive collaborations between French and American scientists. He is great ambassador of the excellent partnerships that exist between France and the United States in the fields of science and technology," Suzor-Weiner stated.

"Dr. Taylor's collaboration with the Pasteur Institute and the Centre National de La Recherche Scientifique at Aix-Marseille Université reminds us that scientific research is a unified endeavor which relies on teamwork at the international level," she added. It is my role, as the Science Counselor of France in the United States, to encourage cooperative research work between our two countries, which have always been strong allies. It is through shared research objectives that both France and the United States can play a key role in advancing the fields of science and technology, and drive innovation for both their benefit and for that of humanity."

"UC San Diego Health Sciences is extremely pleased and proud of Dean Taylor for this much-deserved recognition of his many contributions to medical science," said David A. Brenner, MD, vice chancellor for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at UC San Diego.

Taylor is the founding dean of Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which opened in 2002. He earned his Bachelor of Science and PhD degrees in physical pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin, followed by post-doctoral fellowships with the National Institutes of Health and Cambridge University.

Taylor's research is related to the structure, recognition capacity, and regulation of expression of proteins governing neurotransmission in junctions between cells called cholinergic synapses.

"This honor is very well deserved not only for your outstanding work on cholinergic systems, and for your exceptional devotion to teaching and training in the pharmaceutical sciences, but also for your generous and creative co-operation and friendship with French scientists, including myself," said Jean Pierre Changeux, professor of molecular neurobiology at the Collège de France and the Institut Pasteur.

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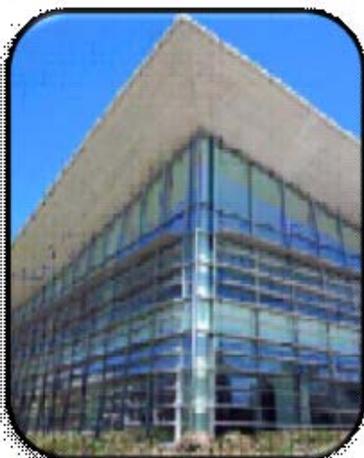
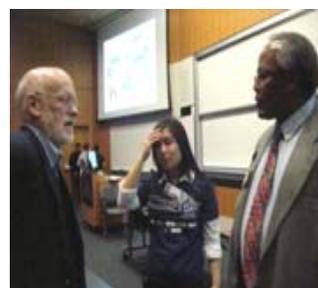
Annual Tripartite Celebration

By Binh Tran, Pharm.D.

The **Tripartite Celebration** at Dean Taylor's residence on April 27th was superb as with past years' celebrations. This year had the added presence of distinguished guests: Molly Wagner a former graduate from UC San Francisco School of Pharmacy and her spouse, Arthur Wagner a pioneer in the arts and music field.



Photos from Pharmacy Day 2013



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