

UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Newsletter

Winter 2019

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

I recently returned from the 2019 Pharmacy Deans Research Group meeting. This is a select group of schools of pharmacy that are research intensive. Not surprisingly our school is held in high regard particularly in terms of the quality of our incoming students. I am in the midst of lunch meetings with our first year (P1) class, and they have indicated to me that the teaching they have received from our faculty has been uniformly stellar. I also had a chance to welcome our first class of Masters of Science students in the program of Drug Development and Product Management. This program represents an important step forward in the educational activities of our school. We have also heard that our students will be eligible for an accelerated MPH program based upon the course credits they have accrued in their first two years. I know this second advanced degree will be valued by many of our current and future students. Finally it is worth noting that we continue to have interest from professional schools throughout the world in developing exchange programs and learning about our successful and innovative joint curriculum with the School of Medicine.



Student News

SoCal LGBTQIA Health Conference

By Lytia Lai, P2

The 5th Annual SoCal LGBTQIA Health Conference was held at UC Irvine January 20th. This student-led event is a collaboration of various health professional schools in Southern California ranging from pharmacy, medical, PA, and Chiropractic schools. A 2nd year SSPPS student represented UCSD and the field of pharmacy on the Executive Planning Committee this year.

This sold-out event of 250 tickets was sponsored by universities and hospitals across Southern California, with an overarching aim to mainstream the highest quality of care for the LGBTQIA community by bringing together diverse practitioners dedicated to evidence-based care, education, research, advocacy, and public policy that promote equality and respect for LGBTQIA health.

The theme this year was *Empowered We Stand*, and the breakout tracks featured: *Empowering Allies*, *Supporting One Another*, *Self-care and Wellness*, and *Continuing Medical Education*. The opening Keynote spoke about the importance of language in promoting equitable treatment and health in the intersex community, while breakout sessions discussed topics such as PreP, how to be an advocate for the trans community, psychosocial issues facing the queer Asian American & Pacific Islander community, and many more. With 14 speakers in total, attendees of this conference gained a deeper understanding about providing culturally competent health care to LGBTQ+ patients, the diverse experiences within the LGBTQIA+ community, suitable resources, and creating inclusive and safer spaces for LGBTQIA+ folks in healthcare.



Winners of the AMCP P&T Team Competition

By Jonathan Watanabe, PhD

The winners for the 2019 UCSD Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) P&T Team Competition featured 7 teams (28 students). Our largest P&T Competition to date. The students on the 1st place team were Anna To (P2), Claire Chen (P2), Lydia Chen (P2), and Derek Yang (P2). Their winning clinical and

economic evaluation of osteoporosis drug abaloparatide (Tymlos) will represent UCSD SSPPS for consideration for the AMCP National P&T Finals in March.

The written submissions and oral presentations prepared by ALL of the student teams were outstanding using a new (and longer) format. The pharmacists present were blown away by the comprehensive reviews and industry-grade presentations given by every one of the students who competed with the goal of improving evidence-driven decision-making to improve patient care and affordability.

Many thanks to our judges Dr. Jan Hirsch, Dr. Chuck Daniels, Dr. Aryana Sepassi from Becton Dickinson, and Dr. Mark Bounthavong from the VA Palo Alto. P&T student coordinator Tim Reynolds (P3) and AMCP President Trinh Nguyen (P3) worked hard to make the event and training of the student competitors a success.

Congratulations to Derek, Lydia, Claire, and Anna!

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Awards Scholarships to Pharmacy and Therapeutics Competition

By Kelly Chan, P2

National Finals Team Members from UCSD for the First Time



The Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) National Competition in Boston, MA was an incredible experience for me. Traveling to another state to compete against seven other famous universities as a first-year pharmacy student gave me anxiety and excitement all at once. It was an honor to represent our UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the 2018 National AMCP Conference and to prove again our school's tenacity by reaching the national competition four out of five years of our club's existence. The \$1000 scholarship I received from AMCP has allowed me to get more involved in pharmacy professional activities. The award has also inspired other UCSD students to become more active in our local AMCP chapter, and

look deeper into managed care pharmacy as a career path, shown by the increasing number of P&T Teams in the local competition for 2019.

Our local organization continues to grow and produce new educational and professional opportunities. Though we are one of the newer organizations on campus, we continue to make strides improving our events and creating innovative programming for our fellow students. The additional flexibility of having a few more dollars has inspired me to speak with more students about managed care pharmacy principles and population-health management to learn from regional leaders about managed care pharmacy. It has emboldened my former teammates Trinh Nguyen, Timothy Reynolds, and Victor Tang to support transporting our members to local pharmacy benefit managers and health plans in the San Diego area, so that they can witness actual P&T meetings. Armed with newfound vigor at our events, we strive to advocate for managed care pharmacy and show pharmacy students the effects that they can have on not only singular patients, but also multiple populations. I am thankful for everything this honorarium has supported and the doors it has opened for UCSD SSPPS students. It has made a lasting impression on me and many others to continue to innovate to improve patients' lives and public health.

Twenty-eight Students Participate in the Largest UCAS Pharmacy and Therapeutics Competition to Date

By Jefferson Luong

On Saturday January 19th, AMCP hosted the 5th annual Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Local Competition. One of the crucial jobs of the Pharmacy & Therapeutics committee in the pharmacy world is assessing how to integrate newly approved medications into the formulary in settings that assist the insurance companies such as hospital and Pharmacy Benefit Managers. The goal of this competition is to determine the finalist that will represent Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to compete in the National P&T Competition during the annual conference in April in our hometown, San Diego.



This year, there were seven teams, making this competition the largest to date in our chapter's history. On the day of the competition, we had the honor of having four professional judges Dr. Jan Hirsch, Dr. Chuck Daniels, Dr. Aryana Sepassi and Dr. Mark Bounthavong, who are all very experienced pharmacists in the field of pharmacoconomics. After much deliberation, the winning team was decided the following day. The winning team is comprised of an all P2 group: Anna To, Lydia Chen, Derek Yang, and Claire Chen. In the meantime, they will submit their competition materials for consideration in the national competition.

Student Research News

Prizes award by UC San Diego Library for Best Posters

By Penny Coppernoll-Blach, Pharmacy Librarian

Five librarians from the UC San Diego Library judged the 67 posters at the evening “2018 Annual Summer Student Research Poster Presentation” on January 24th and presented cash prizes. Posters were judged on the quality and variety of the cited references, plus whether the references were used throughout the poster.

First and Second place prizes were given to the following winners:



Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

First prize – Karla Ponce, P3 Assessing Linkage to Care for Asian and Hispanic Populations with or at Risk for Viral Hepatitis in San Diego

Second prize – Tran Bui, P3 Assessing the Prevalence and Awareness of Osteoporosis in San Diego County

School of Medicine

First prize – Natalie Oberhauser-Lim, Clinical and Histologic Characteristics of Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer (NMSC) Recurring Within 5 Years After Mohs Micrographic Surgery (MMS): Single institution chart review, retrospective study of five calendar years

Second prize – Parisa Oviedo, Influence of Endoscopic Endonasal Approach of Midface Development

All four winning posters are on display on the 1st Floor of the Biomedical Library Building, so please stop by to view them.



SSPPS News

A Visit from the Chancellor

By Alex Luli, PharmD

Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla paid a visit to the UCSD Student Run Free Clinic Project, downtown location, on a recent Monday night. Chancellor Khosla spent time touring the facility, located at First Lutheran Church in San Diego, and interacting with volunteers, students, staff, and faculty. During the visit, Chancellor Khosla was given insight into how the pharmacy operates in an inter-professional environment and the role it plays in providing much needed medications and direct patient care to the local community. Also emphasized was the extraordinary work done by our SSPPS student managers and volunteers to keep such an important operation running smoothly.

A big thank you to the entire pharmacy team at all Free Clinic locations for filling a critical need in the efforts to keep our communities healthy.



Alumni News

Russell and Yunnie Luke Alumni Class of 2007

Russell and Yunnie (Class of 2007) were in the second class at SSPPS with a class size of only 26 students. They just celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary! They have two fun-loving children, Nicholas who is six and Julia who is three. Their children enjoy bey-blades, swimming, soccer, and



going to Legoland. Russell and Yunnie currently works for Sharp HealthCare. After graduation, Russell began working as a clinical hospital pharmacist and excelled in hospital IT where he helped develop the CPOE build at Tri-City Medical Center. Currently Russell is the Inpatient Pharmacy Supervisor at Sharp Memorial Hospital and serves on multiple committees, including Nutrition and P&T. With Russell's expertise, Sharp Hospitals' Leap Frog score (Hospital Safety Score) rose from a C to an A.

Yunnie celebrated 11 years working for Scripps hospitals. She wore many hats staffing in Inpatient Pharmacy, ranging from bedside rounding to assisting with Investigational Drug Services. Yunnie recently transitioned to Sharp Mary Birch Hospital Pharmacy where she finds helping mothers and newborns to be very rewarding. She also does per-diem work for UCSD Student Health Pharmacy, where she can get to know the students better and provide teaching.

Training at UCSD SSPPS has proven to be invaluable in so many ways for this couple who met while in line for their ID cards (15 years ago!). They are grateful for the education and mentorship they received from Skaggs faculty and staff over the years and feel fortunate to have worked in a variety of healthcare settings. Outside of work this couple loves movies, theater, and attending stand-up comedy shows. Recently the Luke family became the proud owners of two adorable, deer-face Chihuahuas, named Spotty and Panther.



Kayla Giang, PharmD, MS, BCPS, BCCCP, BCCP Alumnus Class of 2013

Since graduating from UCSD SSPPS in 2013, I have not stopped looking for ways to learn more about the world of pharmacy and to strengthen my clinical knowledge. After graduation, I joined the VA San Diego Healthcare System for my PGY1 General Practice residency. Although the VA San Diego hospital is only one building away from the school of pharmacy, providing care to the veteran population gave me unique opportunities to improve my clinical knowledge in pharmacotherapy in complex patient populations - elderly patients with many comorbidities. I also gained exposure to clinical research and teaching and this gave me a new perspective on the roles outside of direct healthcare that pharmacists often fulfill. My PYG1 research study was published as a poster at the Society of Critical Care Medicine. I continued my training as a PGY2 in Critical Care with the VA San Diego. During my two-year residency with the VA, I rotated through different inpatient care areas and furthered my skills in staffing the inpatient care. I worked with Dr. Mouwakeh to refine the Cardiology rotation for trainees by integrating rounds with the Cardiology team into the newly created curriculum.



Following my pharmacy residency, I worked at a Trauma Level I center, Scripps Mercy, as a surgical satellite pharmacist. This experience further increased my clinical knowledge, versatility and problem-solving skills to work in a variety of dynamic inpatient settings. In 2016, I returned to the VA San Diego as the Emergency Department Pharmacist. Currently, I am the Clinical Inpatient Pharmacist for Cardiology, Direct Observation Unit and Operating Room/Surgery/Cath lab at the VA. I am also board certified in Pharmacotherapy, Critical Care, and Cardiology.

Besides working as a Clinical Inpatient Pharmacist, I continue to pursue my interests in community service and research. My passion for advancing health and wellness for the underserved has drawn me to the Asian Pacific Health Foundation (APHF) for their commitment in providing accessible health care screenings of silent diseases such as hepatitis and diabetes. I have been an active team member with APHF since 2009. In 2013, I accepted the position of Associate Director for Clinical Activities for APHF. In March of 2017, I became Acting Director, and as of April 8, 2017, I am the Executive Director at APHF. In January of 2019, I was elected for Southwest Regional Director on the Hepatitis B Task Force, where I hope to share my knowledge and experience with the organization on a national level to eliminate the transmission of Hepatitis B and decrease health disparities among the underserved through free hepatitis screening, health education and linkage-to-care. I am currently a principal investigator for viral hepatitis, non-alcoholic liver disease, and osteoporosis research projects.

I am thankful to have the support from my supervisors, mentors, and coworkers at VA San Diego. I am also sincerely grateful to my hard-working, committed staff from APHF and UCSD. Finally, I cannot thank enough my family and friends for their constant support and trust in me.

Khanh Nguyen, PharmD, APh Alumni Class of 2006



The sounds of little feet stomping down the empty halls of UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences as their voices echo “Mommy is that your picture on the wall?” was sweet nostalgia as I took the kids to visit my alma mater for their school project. Brandon, now 10, Katelyn and Allison, now 8, were standing on the very foundation of which shaped and built my future; what they know now as their reality. In this moment, I was overwhelmed with fulfillment as I reminisced on the path that led me to this day.

Graduation day finally arrived after four long years. I wanted to hold on a little longer as the uncertainties became more and more intimidating.

Over a decade later, I know now, that it is the uncertainties in life which allow for new beginnings and opportunities.

I graduated UCSD in the Charter Class of 2006. After graduation, I pursued an Ambulatory Care Residency with UCSD Medical Center and St. Vincent's De Paul. It was during this time that I discovered my passion for patient care. The concepts of preventative care and disease management resonated with my desire to keep patients healthy. I started to recognize some of the challenges in healthcare which include access, cost, quality gaps and fragmented care; areas which I wanted to impact.

In 2007, after residency, I joined the San Diego Kaiser Permanente Ambulatory Care team as a clinical pharmacist. With Kaiser's integrated care model and mission to "provide high-quality affordable health care", it seemed like the obvious choice for my career commitment. Since joining Kaiser, I have worked as a clinical pharmacist in the Oral Anticoagulation Clinic, Medication Therapy Management Program, New Member Program and Complete Care Management, managing cholesterol and asthma.

About three years ago (after nine years of providing direct patient care), I became an Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Department Supervisor. As a supervisor, I support one of the largest Anticoagulation Clinics in the nation and Southern California's Regional Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOAC) Program; providing care for > 16,000 members on oral anticoagulation locally and regionally. Some of my recent projects include, restructuring the Regional DOAC Safety Net Program, implementation of pharmacist workflows in Eldercare, Multiple Sclerosis, Inflammatory Bowel Disease and exploring the potentials of pharmacogenomic guided pain therapy. In addition, I am the PGY1 Residency Coordinator for Kaiser San Diego and help support the Education Program, where fourth-year pharmacy students fulfill their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience APPE.

In my current role, I enjoy most impacting patient care on a larger scale and working with learners and new practitioners. I hope to continue my journey in ambulatory care embarking on unexplored territory and expanding the roles of clinical pharmacists.



Register for your new @UCSD.EDU email address!

Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla is excited to announce the launch of Alumni Email for Life, a free permanent @UCSD.EDU email address for all UC San Diego alumni. When you sign up, you will be assigned a new @UCSD.EDU email address that you must link to an existing email account such as Gmail, Yahoo, Outlook, etc. Through this linked email account you will be able to send and receive mail from your new @UCSD.EDU address.

Please note that if you previously registered for the old @alumni.ucsd.edu email forwarding service you can receive email using that address. However, in order to send *and* receive email from an @UCSD.EDU address, you must subscribe for a new email address.

STEP 1: Request

Start by logging into your alumni account and [submit your request](#) for your new @UCSD.EDU email address. You will be asked to provide an email account so that we can link it up to your new address.

STEP 2: Activate

Within two business days after you submit your request, you will receive a confirmation email with your new @UCSD.EDU email address and a temporary password. Please follow the instructions in the confirmation email to activate your address.

STEP 3: Set-Up

Once activated, log into the email account you linked to your new @UCSD.EDU email address. Go to your email account's settings and add the new address.

Once set up, you will begin to receive email sent to your @UCSD.EDU address, which will appear in your linked email account's inbox. You will also now have the option to send mail as your @UCSD.EDU through your email account's inbox.

Please refer to your email service provider for additional instructions about adding a new account or how to send email under another name.

UC San Diego Biomedical Library

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