

## A Message From the Dean

James H. McKerrow, PhD, MD



We are all in a profound moment of challenge and change as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of you have received the memo sent on behalf of our Leadership Team, but in case you haven't seen it, I have attached it below. It outlines many of the important education changes we have made and highlights the remarkable contributions of our students, faculty, and staff in these difficult times.

On the bright side, our school just underwent its annual budget review with the CFO and Vice Chancellor. Thanks to the tireless work of our Associate Dean for Business Administration and Fiscal Affairs, we were praised for maintaining financial viability in these trying times for the University. Your donations helped to keep us afloat. You may have also seen our students and faculty on local TV news. We are so proud of their efforts at both supporting the community and ensuring lifesaving healthcare information is broadcast to the public. Read more about their efforts in this Newsletter.

## **A Special Message from Dean James McKerrow**

### **Dear Faculty, Students, Staff, and Preceptors at SSPPS:**

We know all of you are doing your best to navigate these difficult times. We wanted to let you know that we are constantly monitoring the situation for our school and that your success and well-being are our top priorities. We view all of you as family and have been buoyed by your efforts to support the goals of our School.

Our faculty and staff have been working tirelessly and have successfully redirected our didactic curriculum to online and virtual platforms, while maintaining our commitment to rigor and academic excellence. Our incredible students are adapting to these unprecedented and rapid changes with grace and professionalism. We are particularly proud of the student volunteerism to support those that are especially in need of help during this crisis. Even on TV! Also, thanks to faculty for their efforts in accumulating PPE equipment for health care workers.

The Office of Student Affairs team is working with students and staff to create a modified live virtual graduation (stay tuned!) and to facilitate a virtual review and mailing of Board of Pharmacy applications for our Class of 2020 graduates. To support all students, we are holding routine virtual check-ins with each class president and creating virtual wellness and self-care programs during the spring quarter, as well as encouraging the use of UC San Diego resources. While we miss seeing all of our students' at SSPPS, we remain connected using email and our two new ways of seeing their smiling faces via FaceTime and Zoom!

We would especially like to acknowledge all of our incredibly dedicated and caring preceptors and site/pharmacy directors, in all practice settings, who supported our students during this stressful time to ensure that our Class of 2020 met their APPE requirements to successfully complete each of their rotations. We thank our community and health-system pharmacy preceptors for their ongoing support in precepting our students for their rotations, despite rapid changes to workflow and increased workload at their sites due to the pandemic. Many of our health-system, ambulatory care and industry preceptors found creative ways to incorporate our students into their practices, including providing virtual assignments, remote rounds, and incorporating students into Telehealth clinics. We are immensely grateful to you all. Thank you!

We have finished interviewing and are excited to welcome our incoming P1s (class of 2024) in the fall. We are remotely in contact with incoming students and prospective applicants through email, Zoom meetings, and LiveChat through our website. We have plans in place to hold outreach events, summer open houses, and our admissions annual retreat virtually in the upcoming weeks to months.

Despite sudden, unforeseen challenges caused by the requirement to work remotely, our resilient staff have remained committed to supporting faculty and students and dedicated to the vision and mission of SSPPS. They are remarkably resourceful, creative, collaborative and flexible, while doing their best to maintain service continuity. For this, we are sincerely appreciative.

We applaud all of our basic research faculty and their labs for their compliance with research reduction plans, and their creative approaches for making the best use of "shelter at home" time to remain productive members of our school. Special thanks to all faculty who are directly or indirectly involved in-patient care of covid19 patients, and to the many faculty who have redirected their research efforts to the development of new technologies to combat covid19.

Yes, everything changes from day to day, but we will prevail because we are family and proud of all of you.

Sincerely,

**James McKerrow**, *Dean and Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences*

**David Bailey**, *Deputy Dean*

**Rabia Atayee**, *Associate Dean for Admissions and Outreach*

**Brookie Best**, *Associate Dean for Pharmacy Education*

**Charles Daniels**, *Associate Dean for Professional Practice and Chief Pharmacy Officer*

**Kelly Lee**, *Associate Dean for Assessment and Accreditation*

**Andrina Marshall**, *Associate Dean for Business and Fiscal Affairs*

**Candis Morello**, *Associate Dean for Student Affairs*

**Renu Singh**, *Assistant Dean for Experiential Education*

**Linda Awdishu**, *Division Head, Clinical Pharmacy Division*

**Tracy Handel**, *Division Head, Pharmaceutical Sciences Division*

**Dionicio Siegel**, *Division Head, Pharmaceutical Chemistry Division*

# STUDENT NEWS

## Dear Student Pharmacists,

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery and countless other men and women of color in this country are heartbreaking and upsetting. The pain that has been driving the protests around our country this past week stems from long-standing, systemic problems of racial injustice. SSPPS fully supports and re-iterates the statements from Chancellor Khosla's email, "[Statement on George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery](#)" sent on Friday, May 29, 2020.

Racial injustice – like other forms of social injustice - is not only a threat to public health, but is a threat to individual health. We at SSPPS stand together with all who oppose it. We have a particular duty to uphold the health and welfare of those around us, and can no more look away from racial injustice and racial invisibility than we can any other scourge on the health of our communities. It not only affects our patients and their families, but also deeply affects those in our own pharmacy school family - our own students, trainees, staff and faculty of color.

How can we respond and what can we do? To help care for members of our own SSPPS family, we need to pay attention to what others may be feeling, and listen to and acknowledge their concerns. Reach out to one another not just now in the heat of the moment, but during all the times to come. Have respectful conversations, and work together to address concerns. As health care providers, we must understand the systemic inequities and racism that not only lead to violence, disenfranchisement and oppression, but also lead to health disparities, as most recently evidenced by the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on people of color. The Student National Medical Association recently circulated [Anti-Racism Resources](#) to help people become better informed about injustices against Black people in this country; one thing we can all do is learn more about these problems, so we can take sustained action against racism. Further, our SSPPS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee is currently seeking input from our SSPPS community on creation of our own student/faculty/staff-based community response group. For those with ideas, suggestions, useful resources, or who would like to get involved, please email our EDI Project Manager, Dominic Cooper at [docooper@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:docooper@health.ucsd.edu).

While our attention has been drawn to the unjust deaths of three people of color, we re-affirm our commitment to eradicating not only the effects of racism but also other forms of injustice or discrimination based on ethnicity, country of origin, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. These principles guide us as we refine our curriculum, support our learners and teachers who are disproportionately affected by injustice, and continue to grow and thrive as an institution serving our community.

We are all here for you, including your faculty advisors and your big sibs. You can reach out to any of us in the pharmacy school and to any of the staff who are here to support you at any time. Remember that you have the Office of Student Affairs team, and these additional specific resources available to you for support:

- **Advisor for Student Wellness (ASW):** The ASW, Dr. Shapiro, is available at any time – contact Dr. Morello at [cmmorello@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:cmmorello@health.ucsd.edu).
- **Weekly Let's Chat:** Dr. Chang-Caffaro is available every Tuesday at noon [here](#)
- **The UC Health System:** The UC San Diego [Healer Education Assessment and Referral](#) (HEAR) program is available to you as pharmacy students.

- **CAPS:** You have access to Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). Their urgent care psychologist remains available, and all CAPS providers will be able to provide mental tele-health. Call 858-534-3755 (select Option 2 after hours). Remember, pharmacy and medical students are guaranteed same-day service, so remind them that you are a pharmacy student.

Take care and stay well,

**James McKerrow, PhD, MD, Dean, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**David Bailey, MD, Deputy Dean, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Candis Morello, PharmD, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Rabia Atayee, PharmD, Associate Dean for Admissions & Outreach, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Brookie Best, PharmD, MAS, Associate Dean for Pharmacy Education, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Renu Singh, PharmD, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Kelly Lee, PharmD, Associate Dean for Assessment & Accreditation, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Charles Daniels, PhD, Associate Dean for Professional Practice, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Andrina Marshall, MA, MBA, Associate Dean for Business & Fiscal Affairs, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Linda Awdishu, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacy Division Head, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Tracy Handel, PhD, Pharmaceutical Sciences Division Head, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Dionicio Siegel, PhD, Pharmaceutical Chemistry Division Head, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Dominic Cooper, EDI Project Manager, UC San Diego SSPPS**

**Conor Caffrey, PhD, EDI Champion, UC San Diego SSPPS**

# Class of 2020 Diploma Drive-Thru

by Jenna Bastear



UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences students, faculty, and staff are resilient. In light of recent events, the school had to make the difficult decision to postpone the Class of 2020 commencement ceremony until Fall 2020. However, we could not let our students graduate without a proper send off. On May 13th, the graduating students received their diplomas, school-side, from our Associate Dean and Director of Student Affairs, Dr. Candis Morello and Jenna Bastear. They created a special moment for each graduate, complete with Pomp and Circumstance music, balloons, graduation decorations, and a bull horn (yes, a bull horn which the students loved)!

Although this celebration was small in comparison to our annual ceremony, it proved that the human spirit is irrepressible and we will overcome life's challenges. The Class of 2020 is the perfect example of that spirit. Many jumps for joy, car honks, and laughs

were shared together on that day.

Everyone at Skaggs is extremely proud of its students' many achievements and looks forward to seeing what amazing things they will do as alumni. Congratulations Class of 2020!



# A Message From the ASP President

Arianna Choi (P3)

Dear SSPPS Faculty, Staff, and Students,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones in great health, safety, and positivity! As many of you know, the ASP Banquet is an event we all look forward to attending each year as a celebration of a successful school year. Although we are not able to celebrate in person, the ASP Board feels compelled to reflect on and celebrate this past school year's successes virtually. Each class board has compiled class contributions (collages and videos) to commemorate the past year. These contributions can be found [HERE](#).

To the students of Skaggs - I am immensely proud of each and every one of you. We successfully completed another school year! Through times of adversity that we faced throughout the school year, each of you remained resilient and positive in overcoming the different obstacles that were presented. I truly look forward to the next time we all reunite!

I would like to congratulate the P4 Class.

To the P4 Class - thank you for everything you have done during your time here at Skaggs. From being incredibly involved in extracurricular activities to serving as effective mentors to the underclassmen, your class has been a significant part of the success seen in all facets of SSPPS for the past four years. The hard work, intelligence, and empathy that each of you possess will continue to lead you down a successful path. We have great confidence that each of you will achieve great heights! We wish you the best for the years to come. Congratulations again! We hope you enjoy your graduation gift that is being shipped to your current address. If you do not receive one in the upcoming weeks, please reach out to Erin or me.

Furthermore, I would like to honor our amazing faculty and staff that we have at Skaggs.

To the SSPPS Faculty and Staff - Thank you for everything you have done for all the students. Your endless support and guidance has been a huge part of each of our success in our pharmacy school journey. We genuinely appreciate all that you do for us! We are so fortunate to have such a solid support system in our Skaggs family.

The ASP Board decided to continue the Faculty of the Year awards tradition that we usually present at the ASP banquet each year. We would like to recognize the following faculty members who have been voted by each respective class as the Faculty of the Year:

P1 Class of 2023: **Dr. Brookie Best**

P2 Class of 2022: **Steve Schneid**

P3 Class of 2021: **Dr. Shirley Tsunoda**

P4 Class of 2020: **Dr. Kelly Lee**

Volunteer Faculty: **Dr. Timothy Bassell**

Congratulations to our Faculty of the Year winners!\*\* Thank you to all the winning faculty members for making such a positive impact on our growth here at Skaggs! The ASP board will be contacting

you soon to receive your plaque of recognition.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message to celebrate another successful year at Skaggs, to show gratitude towards our faculty and staff, and to congratulate the Class of 2020. I would also like to thank our awesome ASP Executive Board and Class Boards for helping me compile all the wonderful class contributions. As the school year comes to an end, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Summer break!

**\*\*Editor's Note:** *Faculty of the Year winners each have spotlights in the **SSPPS NEWS** section of this newsletter.*

**APhA-ASP  
National Patient Care Project Awards**



**Operation Diabetes National Award  
1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up**

**University of California San Diego  
Skaggs School of Pharmacy and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences**

At the end of each academic year, every APhA-ASP chapter in the nation submits a Chapter Achievement Report for the awards standing committee to review. For the 2018-2019 year, our chapter received the Operation Diabetes National Award - 1st runner-up. Congratulations to all of our APhA-ASP chapter members for all of their hard work!

# CSHP-UCSD Hosts a Successful Virtual Organ Donation Week

by Hailey Hirata (P3)



As a cornerstone of our outreach efforts, once again CSHP-UCSD focused during the spring quarter on organ donation awareness. This year, our Organ Donation Week moved to the virtual realm, using social media, email, and Zoom to spread awareness on the principles, practices and benefits of organ donation and transplantation.

The week began with a series of Facebook posts highlighting testimonials from both organ donors and survivors. Each day our team posted a new written post or video from a survivor or about a donor chronicling their experience with organ donation and the effect it has had on their lives and/or the lives of others. We then used our various social media accounts to perform a mini “Donor Awareness Drive” working to provide students and members of the San Diego community with the resources on how to become an organ donor.

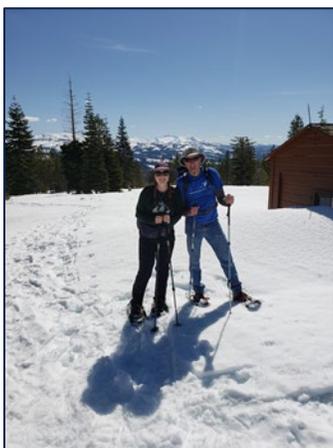
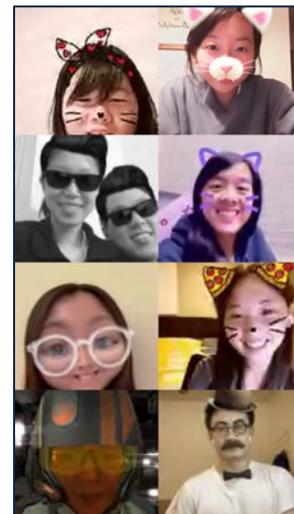
Finally, the week culminated with a virtual Organ Donation Symposium, a joint event for pharmacy and medical students alike that highlighted the roles of pharmacists and physicians in the organ transplantation process as well as shared personal stories from an organ transplant recipient. This year our guest speakers included Dr. Heather Patton who gave an overview of liver transplant and the transplant process from a medical perspective, transplant pharmacist Dr. Ashley Feist who described the principles of immunosuppression and a pharmacist’s role in transplantation, and Marlon Gardinera who shared his story of liver transplantation and how transplantation has positively affected his life. Their personal stories not only inspired our students in both a personal and professional manner, but also stressed the importance of organ donation as a whole! We would like to thank our speakers, Dr. Patton, Dr. Feist, and Mr. Gardinera for sharing their stories with us, as well as our Community Affairs Chairs, Julie Trinh and Allison Vu, for all of their hard work in making this Organ Donation Week one of our most successful yet!



# Quaractivites: CPNP-CSHP work together to help highlight mental health

by Hayley Cliatt (P2) and Hailey Hirata (P3)

Mental health and wellness has always been an important part of student, faculty, and staff life at Skaggs and these unprecedented times are no different. As many of us shelter in place and participate in virtual learning due to COVID-19, it may be easy to feel isolated or disconnected from Skaggs and the community at large. To combat these feelings, CPNP-UCSD and CSHP-UCSD have teamed up to create an event focusing on how the Skaggs community has been handling sheltering in place and to provide students, faculty, and staff with fun ideas to help maintain their mental health while staying at home! This event, entitled “Quaractivites”, is a virtual compilation video made up of photos and short videos sent in by the Skaggs community showcasing the variety of different activities and hobbies that our students, faculty and staff have picked up while in quarantine.



From the moment the initial call for content went out, the response has been robust, with faculty, staff, and students of all years sending in photos and videos to highlight all of the positive ways they are keeping themselves busy and maintaining their mental health. From making spring rolls to learning a new language, our Skaggs family has been hard at work exploring new interests and working to stay both mentally and physically healthy while at home! Thank you to all who have shared their hobbies and activities with us, we appreciate you giving us a glimpse into your home life and inspiring us with some great ideas of things to do while we stay in our own homes! If you would like to see more of what everyone has been up to while sheltering at home, make sure to check out the full [“Quaractivites”](#) video!

# UC San Diego Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Team Reaches National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Competition Finals 2020

by Vivian Pham (P2)

Our UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences AMCP Pharmacy and Therapeutics team, consisting of My Phung (P3), Annie Chang (P3), Youngjun Yoo (P3) and Kelly Chan (P3), reached the National Finals as one of the top eight teams out of more than 60 pharmacy schools across the country. These teams presented to the judges their evaluation and recommendation of addition of Dupilumab (Dupixent) as an add-on treatment for asthma. These teams competitively evaluated this drug by creating the monograph and utilizing multiple evidence reviews, then virtually presented to a panel of pharmacist judges. The winning teams were announced in a virtual celebration hosted by the Foundation on May 8, 2020, with UC San Francisco School of Pharmacy taking first place. Remarkably, this marks the fourth time in which UC San Diego's team made it to the national stage. Amazing work from our students and special thanks goes to our P&T Coordinator Agnes Suh (P3), Chapter President Anna To (P3), our AMCP chapter advisors, Dr. Jonathan Watanabe, and also to our local competition judges, Dr. Mark Bounthavong (VA Palo Alto), Dr. Chuck Daniels (UC San Diego), Dr. Aryana Sepassi (Becton Dickinson), and Dr. Hannah Nguyen (Kaiser).

# **SSPPS NEWS**

## **Awards**



### **Excellence in Teaching**

Dr. Katharina Brandl was selected by the MS1 class for the 2020 Kaiser “Excellence in Teaching” Award! These awards are given to faculty who excel in their work as pre-clinical or clinical instructors.

### **Distinguished Teaching**

On May 19, 2020 Dr. Christina Mnatzaganian was approved by the UC San Diego Academic Senate to receive one of only three annual Barbara and Paul Saltman Distinguished Teaching Awards. She will receive an award and citation at an awards ceremony to be scheduled in the future.



## ASP Faculty of the Year Awards



### P1 Class of 2023: Dr. Brookie Best

When I compare the expectations I had for my first year of pharmacy school to how it actually turned out, I can't help but laugh. However, there was one thing that exceeded my expectations: our faculty, but more specifically, you. We are ever so grateful to have been welcomed here by you. Your dedication to our class has been apparent to us since day one of Biopharmaceutics. We want to thank you for being an amazing professor, but also for fighting on our behalf to ensure that we obtained the best education possible during such a hard time like this. There are many attributes we admire about you: you lead by example, you are honest and transparent with us, you have the ability to inspire, and you are resilient. It is not surprising at all to know that the class of 2023 voted for you this year. It is an honor to announce you as the P1 Faculty of the Year.

Thank you Dr. Brookie Best for all the hard work you put into this year's curriculum.

*-Jessica Gutierrez, P1 Class President*

### P2 Class of 2022: Steve Schneid

It is virtually (haha) impossible for any P2 to NOT know who this faculty member is and recognize his greatness—most would recall his perfectly-paced physiology lectures, his cheesy yet oddly helpful drug mnemonics, or his relentless calls to have more participants in his lonely office hours. How about his “game-show-esque” hosting of Team-Based Learning sessions, where he would run up and down the lecture hall, mic in hand, to make sure that every group is heard and that every concept is thoroughly dissected? Call him the Steve Harvey of TBL. There are so many ways to remember and appreciate the ways that this faculty member has enriched our time at Skaggs. Me? I remember him as the guy who stopped me in the halls of MET last spring as a



P1, saying “Hey, I remember you from Mr. Pharmacy—I was one of the judges!” Yes, he is that type of approachable, down-to-earth faculty who makes sure that you, as an individual, feel seen and recognized in this school. Congratulations to Steve Schneid, for being voted as the P2 Faculty of the Year! You have helped every one of us navigate through this tumultuous time we call “P2 year” and we all are so thankful and grateful for all that you've given us—your time, wisdom, empathy, and of course, endless Kahoots.

*-Howard Phang, P2 Class President*



### **P3 Class of 2021: Dr. Shirley Tsunoda**

Before I was a P3, the mere thought of P3 year filled me with excitement and awe. Here was the year when I would learn everything, when I would be armed with the clinical knowledge needed to brave my APPE rotations. But when P3 year at last arrived and I sat down for my very first Therapeutics lecture half a year ago, the eagerness gave way to trepidation. Was I ready for this? Or would I be a disappointment to the faculty? I looked at the course chairs, trying to find the answer in their faces. The kind and patient smile that met my eyes immediately assuaged my fears. That smile belonged to Dr. Shirley Tsunoda. For the next eleven weeks, Dr. Tsunoda would ease my classmates and me into Therapeutics, teaching us how to be great pharmacists without discouraging us, showing us our flaws without putting us down. Under her guidance, I

learned the importance of determining renal function in every patient, how to use guidelines and interpret clinical trials, and how to decide optimal treatment plans based on pros and cons. From her, I learned the basics of being an effective healthcare professional, and I will carry her lessons with me for the rest of my pharmacy career. Every impactful decision that I might make in the future as a pharmacist, will have been possible in part because of Dr. Tsunoda. On behalf of the Class of 2021, I would like to thank you, Dr. Tsunoda, for all of the patience and nurture that you gave us during Fall Quarter of P3 year.

*-Quynhmy Nguyen, P3 Class President*

### **P4 Class of 2020: Dr. Kelly Lee**

On behalf of the Class of 2020, we are proud to announce our selection of Dr. Kelly Lee as faculty of the year! The scope of her dedication to our professional development was extensive and started even before our first day of pharmacy school - when she was writing the quality of life surveys, and aiding in the establishment and coordination with each of our academic advisors. She captured our attention with her witty sense of humor way back in Pharmacy Practice when she lectured on oral health. Multiple students in our class have also commented on how they appreciated her psychiatry elective, which addressed various mental health disorders to increase awareness, diminish stigmas, and provide resources to students. In the psychiatry elective and spring therapeutics, her ability to convey the gravity of serious material when lecturing on mental health and related topics was thought-provoking, as well as very engaging. It's truly been a privilege to work with and learn from Dr. Lee, a leader in the field of psychiatric pharmacy.



It's truly been a privilege to work with and learn from Dr. Lee, a leader in the field of psychiatric pharmacy.

Her involvement with our class reached beyond the classroom as the supervisor for CPNP-UCSD, and even beyond the school of pharmacy by inviting the school of medicine to quarterly wellness symposiums. During her presentation on burnout, she was open and honest about her journey, and always encouraged us to find a hobby or some channel to support our mental health. In addition, she has always been a dedicated preceptor for CPNP-UCSD's annual depression screenings, suicide prevention talk, pharmacy day, and offering shadowing opportunities at her pharmacist-run outpatient psychiatric clinic at UC San Diego.

We also appreciate how Dr. Lee provided opportunities for students to get involved with research projects, as well as acted as an academic advisor and general mentor, all while being UC San Diego's residency director for the PGY2 in psychiatry, a proud mother and wife - and somehow, she

still had time to play tennis!

Dr. Lee has inspired us since day one and continued to support us through our journey in pharmacy school. All of this highlights Dr. Lee's commitment to her students' academic success, as well as their mental health and well-being!

Once again, we wish to express our sincere gratitude for Dr. Lee's dedication to her students, which has undoubtedly played a significant role in our professional and personal growth. We look up to you in more ways than one and intend to pay-it-forward throughout our future careers! For these reasons (and many more), we are honored to announce Dr. Kelly Lee as the Class of 2020's Faculty of the Year!

Respectfully,  
UC San Diego Skaggs Class of 2020

P.S. All of Skaggs is sending positive thoughts, and we wish nothing more than for you to have a successful and speedy recovery. We have missed you! -Casey Tiefenthaler and Courtney Gray, P4 Class Board



**Volunteer Faculty: Dr. Timothy Bassell**

Do you have an inhaler? Because you took our breath away during Quiz 9. That is my joke for you, although I have to admit, it's not as good as your weekly morning jokes. On a serious note, we want to extend a heartwarming thank you for bringing humor into our lectures. Your energy and enthusiasm made Anatomy and our Pharmacy Practice lectures more exciting. We appreciate your clear expectations because you prepare us for our quizzes and our careers as pharmacists. We also appreciate the amount of time you have

invested into our education, especially during a time like this. Thank you for believing in us, answering all our questions, and empowering us with knowledge. The knowledge you have shared is priceless, and we could never thank you enough. So, with much gratitude, I would like to announce you as the Volunteer Faculty of the Year. Thank you Dr. Timothy Bassell for setting a clear path for us to follow and for making us laugh along the way.

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Gas, Diarrhea, and Hemorrhoids. Who would have guessed that this Pharmacy Practice guest lecturer would turn out to be one of the most intelligent, hardworking, and dedicated volunteer faculty at Skaggs? In P1 year you showed us your mastery of the human anatomy, slicing away at

our cadavers' bones and muscles while tying all of the pieces together into a pharmacy-pertinent lesson plan. In P2 year you showed us your mastery of molecular pharmacology, breathing life into the list of drugs that you have used in your own clinical experience. All while using your own self-developed lecture slides, devoid of extraneous and irrelevant information yet riddled with memes and The Simpsons galore. It is baffling to think that any volunteer faculty would put this much time and effort into teaching mere students—that goes to show just how well-deserved this award is. Congratulations Dr. Bassell, and thank you for everything that you've shared with us thus far in our education.

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Growing up, I've realized just how invaluable time is. Time is the most nonrenewable resource in this world. Every second that slips away is a second that is gone forever. Time is also the most versatile of resources, because it can be spent in any way imaginable. Some people spend their free time watching Netflix all day, while others dedicate their free time to improving the lives of those around them. The latter, of course, is called a volunteer.

With that said, I would like to present this next award, the "Volunteer Faculty of the Year", to one of the most memorable volunteer faculty, not just of my P3 year, but of my entire pharmacy career here at Skaggs. This volunteer lecturer has followed us through pharmacy practice, PPP, and

therapeutics, and even guided us through anatomy lab. He has seen us grow up, from eager P1s sitting in 1160 to P3s, now preparing to test out our wings in rotations. He has made us laugh throughout his lectures, as many times as memes and South Park/Simpsons references have shown up in his slides. And most importantly, he has been an amazing lecturer with a great sense of humor.

Thank you, Dr. Bassell, for dedicating your time, this invaluable and nonrenewable resource, to furthering my education and the education of my classmates. We've loved having you as our guest lecturer throughout these years

and hope that you will continue to volunteer your time for future generations of students to come.



## SSPPS Research Fellow Selected for AACP Award

By Jeremiah Momper, PharmD, PhD  
Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy



Engie Salama, PharmD, a fellow in the UC San Diego & Pfizer Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Clinical Pharmacology – Oncology, was selected for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Walmart Scholars Award for 2020. Engie graduated from the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy in May 2019 and is currently involved in clinical pharmacology research at SSPPS and Pfizer La Jolla. She has a passion for global health and understanding the pharmacology of HIV in special populations including pregnant women. Engie is also actively engaged in teaching at SSPPS and has served as a workshop leader for several courses. The goal of the Walmart Scholars program is to strengthen the recipient's skills and commitment to a career in academic pharmacy through participation in the AACP Annual Meeting in July.

# Faculty Featured In The News

## Charles Daniels, PhD

[“3 of 4 Major San Diego Health Networks Using Unproven Drug to Treat COVID-19”](#)

*NBC San Diego 7*

## Pieter Dorrestein, PhD

[“Using dust and DNA to trace products all the way back to the factory”](#)

*Seattle Times*

## James McKerrow, PhD, MD

[“Here’s how San Diego scientists are mounting a counterattack against the coronavirus”](#)

*San Diego Union Tribune*

## Victor Nizet, MD

[“Could Old Vaccines for Other Germs Protect Against COVID-19?”](#)

*New York Times*

[“Call for citizen scientists to contribute to COVID-19 studies”](#)

*Medical Xpress*

[“Scientists looking at old vaccines for other germs to protect against COVID-19”](#)

*Japan Today*

[“Sugary Camouflage on Coronavirus Offers Vaccine Clues”](#)

*Quanta Magazine*

## Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, PhD

[“A Solution Exists, Why Aren’t We Using It?”](#)

*Medium*

# ALUMNI NEWS

## How Our Alumni Have Been Affected by the COVID-19 Crisis

by Jenna Bastear

Over the course of a few months, COVID-19 has drastically changed the way we work and live. To find out how our recent alumni are dealing with these changes, SSPPS sent out a brief survey. Below are the responses from two of our alumni from the class of 2019. Kaylene De Vries, current pharmacist-in-charge at CVS, and Jordan Amato, PGY1 Resident at Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, kindly offered their first hand experiences of work-life and how it has or has not been altered since COVID-19.

Kaylene De Vries, Pharm.D., Class of 2019

### **Where do you work?**

CVS Pharmacy in La Jolla (right down the street from the school),  
Pharmacist-in-Charge, Community setting

### **What in your day to day work life has changed in light of the COVID-19 crisis?**

I took over as pharmacist-in-charge right when the stay at home order was put into place. It has been tough transitioning into this position while navigating the new laws and exceptions the board of pharmacy releases each day while also being a new pharmacist. My biggest concern

with the crisis was making sure my staff pharmacists, technicians, and clerks are safe in the work place. Thankfully, CVS has set us up with appropriate PPE, adequate cleaning supplies, and new



shields and glass at our consultation and checkout areas.

**Have there been any positive changes?**

One thing I have noticed is that patients have been a lot kinder to us in the pharmacies. Typically, patients come to us tired and frustrated after waiting all day to be seen by their provider and just wanting to go home; however, since the crisis began many patients are much more appreciative that we are accessible healthcare providers and have taken the opportunity to recognize us as partners on their healthcare team.

**Have you learned any new techniques or creative ways to do your job due to this crisis?**

90% of my consults now are over the phone and I have had to learn how to teach injections and inhaler use without visual aids. There are lots of wonderful YouTube videos available that definitely help, however with many of our older patients that isn't always an option.

**What kind of hours do you work right now?**

When the crisis began, my staff pharmacists and I were all working 12 hour days, 6 days a week in order to keep up with the demand to "stock up" on maintenance medications. Now things have calmed down and we are back to normal working hours.

**Have you been asked to assist in ways that you didn't expect?**

Yes, I am on a list of pharmacists who can be pulled to Los Angeles at any time to help administer COVID-19 tests. Fortunately, I have not been called up yet.

Jordan Amato, Pharm.D., Class of 2019



**Where do you work?**

Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, Critical Care PGY1 Residency

**What in your day to day work life has changed in light of the COVID-19 crisis?**

As a resident in the COVID-19 crisis, the major difference in my everyday work life is the lack of rounding with the medical teams. The majority of the services have either restricted the number of healthcare professionals rounding or resorted to skype rounds via phone. Unfortunately, since rotations are only 4-5 weeks on average, this limits the ability to make a personal connection with the team and is more challenging to establish the role of pharmacy on rounds.

**Have there been any positive changes?**

I believe as a hospital system we have utilized many other platforms of communication which has saved time throughout the day and allowed more individuals to

communicate, leading to positive benefits for patient care. For instance, with Skype rounds we are able to schedule a time that is convenient for not only the attending, residents, fellows, and pharmacist, but also extended the online rounds to PT, OT, dietitians, RN, and case managers.

**What kind of hours do you work right now?**

I am fortunate to be working the same hours that I would be without COVID; however, the patient load has been significantly less due to a decrease in hospital census. Therefore, more of my day can be allotted to topic discussions, teaching and projects.

**Have you been asked to assist in ways that you didn't expect?**

Currently, we have not seen a surge as initially anticipated and therefore, have not been asked to assist at this time. However, because each of the residents have gone through ICU training, if the need were to arise, the residents would take on the additional floors that had been converted to the ICUs.

# My Career Path Since Graduating

by Son Nguyen, D.O., Pharm.D., Class of 2009



Fifteen years ago I started pharmacy school at UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences with the intent of becoming a pharmacist and serving my community. My first year of pharmacy school I had aspirations to pursue a career in clinical pharmacy, then came second year when we would take classes with medical students and the rigorous curriculum that followed. At the time, UC San Diego was forward thinking in its emphasis on interprofessional education. I did not expect that this unique curriculum would cause me to re-evaluate my career goals, but it did. I realized I was just as, if not more, interested in the diagnosis and pathophysiology aspects of disease as I was in the therapeutics and monitoring.

After graduating from pharmacy school in 2009, I tried balancing working full time as a retail pharmacist and applying to medical school. While working allowed me to pay back my school loans and afforded me the ability to give back to my parents who were Vietnamese refugees who worked hard to raise my five siblings and me, I was unsuccessful at balancing both aspirations. I was not fully committed to either process. The summer of 2012 was the turning point in my future, after a conversation with Dr. Morello I realized I was afraid to follow my heart, which was a career in medicine. Her encouragement pushed me to pursue my true goal as that was where my sentiment was and to not be dissuaded by others. I put in my two week notice that day and allowed life to run its course.

Since then, I graduated from medical school in Des Moines, Iowa in 2017. I am currently a resident in Internal Medicine-Pediatrics in Albany, New York and I will be applying to an Endocrinology Metabolism Fellowship this upcoming year. My career has gone full circle. It was the unique experience at UC San Diego that unlocked my interest in medicine. My interest in endocrinology began in pharmacy school through being a member of Operations Diabetes with Dr. Morello and my senior research project exploring student pharmacist-run lipid screenings in the community with Dr. Singh. I am proud of my pharmacy background and what life lessons it taught me. The most important of which were how to be a leader, a professional, and a team player. For those of you who are unsure what the right career path is for you, I want to reassure you that it is okay not to know right now. You are on your own path and no one else's. But once you do know, to follow your heart and pursue what moves you. Everything works itself out if it is meant for you. Do not give up on your dreams even if it takes longer to accomplish than you anticipated. I did not give up on mine and look where that got me. I have found my life's purpose and that started while attending UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, for which I am truly grateful to be Class of 2009. Go Tritons!

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