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*If you would like to continue
supporting our school and our
mission, we welcome you to:*

Give Now

A Message From the Dean

James H. McKerrow, PhD, MD



As we enter the 2020 Fall Quarter, we continue to face the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, our students have risen to the task. All our classes are currently given remotely. Our Associate Dean for Pharmacy Education, Dr. Brookie Best and the Office of Pharmacy Education have done an amazing job ensuring that our students are well educated as well as forming plans for winter and spring quarter classroom activity. In addition, our Assistant Dean for Experiential Education, Dr. Renu Singh, along with the Experiential Education team, have done a remarkable job making sure that our students have access to the experiential experiences they require. In addition, our students have taken on many new volunteer activities ensuring that at-need populations in San Diego are supported in these challenging times.

Because of the current situation, the Office of Student Affairs created and hosted a virtual White Coat Ceremony this year. It was however very moving as I watched Director of Student Affairs, Jenna Bastear, students, family members, spouses, or friends assume my role in putting on the white coat. It was great to see all of the different locations that our students come from and I suspect this unusual ceremony was viewed as being even more positive by family members.

We recently had an accreditation site visit by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). Despite the fact that for some reason it began on Election Day, our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and preceptors "wowed" the ACPE team. Among the quotes I heard was the important observation that our school felt like a community and to one visitor even as a family.



Class of 2024 White Coat Ceremony

by Jenna Bastear, Director of Student Affairs

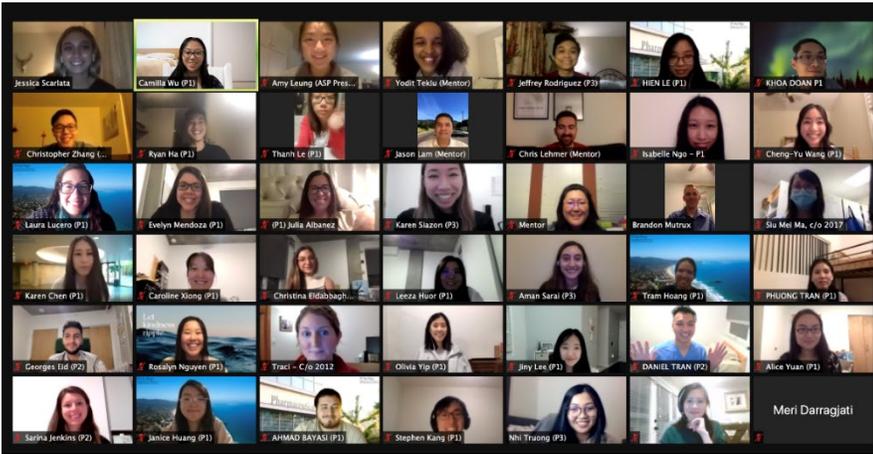


UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) students, faculty, and staff are innovative. The calendar year of 2020 has offered many challenges in the world of academia. The Class of 2024 has experienced a significant amount of loss this year, including many missing out on in-person graduation ceremonies for their undergraduate programs. UC San Diego SSPPS would not allow for the students to miss out on yet another celebratory event. Rather than cancel our annual White Coat Ceremony, the school had to make the difficult decision to host it virtually this year. However, a virtual ceremony does not mean without personality and excitement! The Office of Student Affairs, got creative and with the help of Christine Carlidge, Andrina Marshall, and the UC San Diego Health AV team, created a unique and heart-warming virtual ceremony for our students packed with special moments with our P1s' families and friends. Special thanks to Dean McKerrow, Dr. Jonathan Watanabe, Dr. Candis Morello and our ASP President, Erin Yamanaka, for the thoughtful and inspiring speeches, leading up to the Presentation of the Students.

If you would like to view the ceremony, please follow the link [here](#). Although this celebration was different in comparison to our annual in-person ceremony, it showed that we can be creative and find moments of joy even in these unprecedented pandemic times. The Class of 2024 is the perfect example of optimism. We hope this ceremony made our P1s proud to join the Skaggs family! Everyone at SSPPS is impressed with its students' perseverance and enthusiasm as we enter into this unique year. Congratulations Class of 2024!

Fall Quarter ASP Highlights

by Nhi Truong (ASP VP of Information Resources)
and Aman Sarai (ASP VP of Communications)



ASP Mentor/Mentee Meet and Greet

ASP hosted its annual mentor-mentee networking event on November 18th via Zoom! Despite the change in setting, the event had about 50 participants, which included students ranging from P1s to P3s as well as 12 pharmacy mentors and fellow Skaggs alumni. Throughout the evening, students spent about 15 minutes in different breakout rooms with 2-3 pharmacists from different areas of pharmacy like retail, administration, informatics, ambulatory care, discharge

pharmacy, prior authorization review, transitions of care and regulatory drug diversion & fraud. The pharmacists shared details about their current role as a pharmacist, how they ended up in their current positions, and offered advice on how to navigate pharmacy school and beyond. Though the pandemic brought about many new logistical challenges for our VP of Networking, Jessica Scarlata, it also allowed us to include mentors from outside of the San Diego region and to continue to expand our network. Our students had the opportunity to hear from pharmacists from UCSD Ambulatory Care, UCSD Discharge Pharmacy, Sharp, the DEA, OptumRx, Kaiser, and more! Although the event looked very different from previous years, the essence remained. Students and mentors were able to interact and establish a new connection!

ASP P4/P1 Mixer I

During this event, a few of our P4 students spoke to the current P1 class about their experiences as pharmacy students at Skaggs. The topics ranged from how to obtain leadership positions, to internships, to research opportunities. This event served as a great opportunity for P1s and P4s to interact. This interaction is rare even under normal circumstances and the pandemic has made it increasingly difficult.

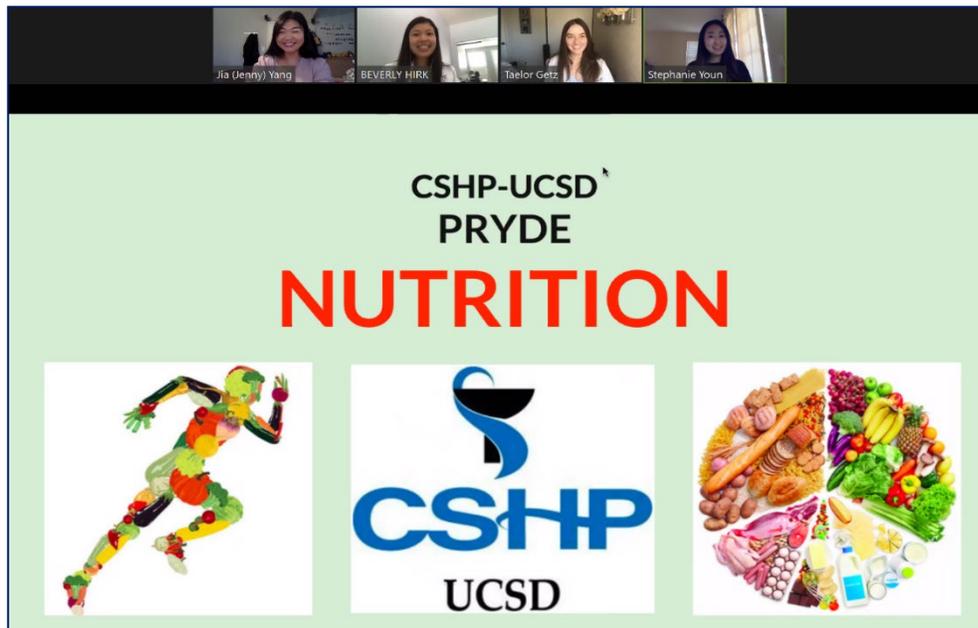


The P4s were able to share their insight and experiences with the P1s, which eased the pressure of starting pharmacy school and gave reassurance for many. Kenneth Ta, current P1 class president shares his experience: "I really enjoyed being able to learn from the P4s' experiences because as P1s, we don't realize what things we do now will be important for our future. I realized that even though studying for classes is important, the experiences with our friends are what we are going to remember and cherish years from now. I'm really glad that the grading system at UCSD fosters an environment that encourages us as classmates to work together and support each other and allows us to put more time into pursuing opportunities in pharmacy that interest us."

ASP would like to thank the P4 students who joined after their APPE rotations and shared their experiences. Thank you for your time, your advice, and your willingness to pay it forward!

Virtual Outreaches: Apart But Together During COVID-19

by Jenny Yang (P2) and Stephanie Youn (P2)



What was our experience like?

Every year, CSHP-UCSD organizes and participates in the PRYDE (Prevention, Recreation, Youth, Diversity, and Education) Outreaches to educate middle school students on various topics like Nutrition and Asthma. However, due to COVID-19, in-person outreaches were not an option and we had to make adjustments this year. We decided to continue it virtually, as we still believed in the importance of educating young students. We were inspired by our professors who were still able to interact with us and engage our attention during lectures with questions and activities, so we planned a virtual outreach utilizing the resources we had to continue our goal of educating the public and raising awareness for important health topics.

Aside from a few awkward pauses that most of us may have encountered during Zoom, our recent virtual PRYDE outreach on nutrition went really well! Our presenters Taelor Getz (P2) and Beverly Hirk (P2) did a great job at engaging our audience by incorporating interactive activities, such as asking the students to show us their favorite snacks and telling them some interesting fun facts about different foods and drinks throughout the presentation. During this virtual outreach, we were also able to engage with our preceptor, Dr. Amy Rorstad, which the students really enjoyed. Since we have gotten very positive feedback from our presenters, preceptor, and the PRYDE coordinator, we are planning for our next virtual outreach already!

What are our plans for the future?

We plan to continue setting up virtual outreach events for CSHP, as we had a great experience with this one. One of the perks of doing outreaches remotely is that there are no limitations in terms of location and distance! We're reaching communities outside of the San Diego area, throughout California, to promote awareness and educate young students and adults on nutrition, asthma, organ donation, and other health-related topics, which we normally would not have the opportunity to do. We're looking forward to all the future virtual outreaches!

World Diabetes Day

by Kaleb Brown (P1),
APhA-ASP/CPhA Operation Diabetes Chair



Great start to the school year!

Fall quarter is now coming to a close, but not without its highlights. Although World Diabetes Day on November 14th couldn't be held in person this year, it was quite exciting that we all got to promote this virtually. Students, faculty, and pets at Skaggs were able to submit selfies that contained the World Diabetes Day circle for the event. We were able to compile all of the photos together into the photo seen above to show support for this event.

A staggering statistic is that 88 million Americans (or more than one-third of American adults) are prediabetic, 84% of whom do not know! A reason for this statistic is that prediabetics tend to have no symptoms; the best way to know you are prediabetic is to have a blood sugar test performed. Some symptoms that may indicate diabetes are frequent urination and excessive thirst and hunger.

World Diabetes Day was a success, and we were able to have hundreds of people around the world educated on prediabetes and diabetes. I want to thank everyone who participated, I was not expecting the high turnout rate! If anyone has questions for me, don't hesitate to reach out to me at ksbrown@health.ucsd.edu.

Community Outreach on Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness

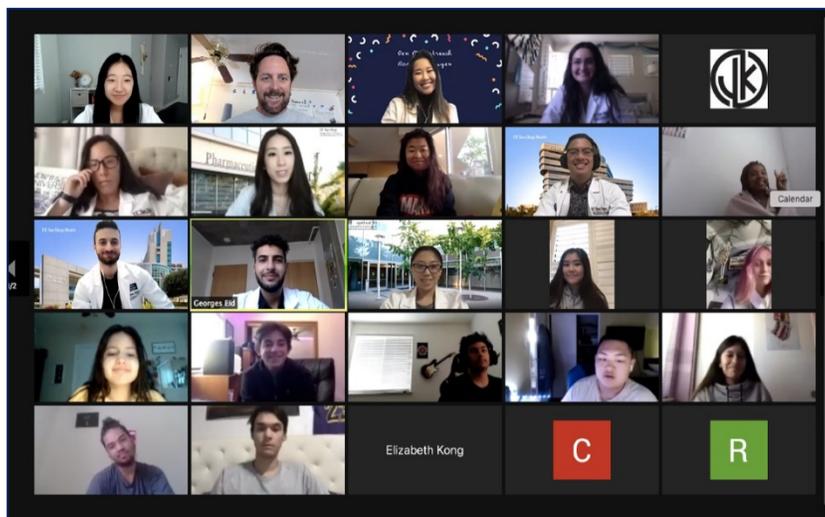
by Georges Eid (P2), APhA-Generation Rx Chair 2020-2021

The social and economic restrictions imposed by COVID-19 have created a public health crisis, to which many are unaccustomed, impacting the predictable trends of drug abuse throughout the country. Factors such as isolation and loneliness are taking a toll on the physical and mental well-being of many – including those otherwise unsusceptible. With that being said, access to drugs has become more difficult, pushing many to purchase illicit substances either from the black market or to abuse accessible in-house drugs. The potential adverse effects that can follow those who use prescription medication in ways other than what was prescribed can be harmful, and in many situations, deadly. With October being Drug Awareness Month, I decided to hold two Zoom presentations for students at the John F. Kennedy High School in Sacramento in the hopes of enlightening and educating students on not only the danger of prescription drug abuse but on the proper technique of disposing unwanted drugs. This event was an incredible success due to the help of Dr. Nathan Painter and the first-year student pharmacist Generation Rx trainees.

What pushed me to create this event?

With school being virtual, I did not want this to stop me from fulfilling my Generation Rx goals and plans for this year. I decided to work on a virtual presentation and activity that focused on the danger of prescription drug abuse due to the fact that this is an incredibly difficult and sensitive time for many. Informing students on this topic, especially now, is very important as in many situations parents are not aware just how dangerous this can be. There is a false sense of security that many,

including adults, feel towards prescription and OTC medications which can manifest to yield deadly results. I do not want short-term and rash decisions limiting the long-term goals of our upcoming youth. In addition to that, I wanted to provide my peers with the opportunity to stay active in our community and presented them with more hands-on experiences to fulfill their required service learning (SL), co-curricular (CC), and introductory pharmacy practice experience (IPPE) hours.



What do the student pharmacists do?

Student pharmacists facilitated the presentation by providing a safe learning environment to educate high school students about prescription drug abuse and illicit drugs, and provided them with resources that the community offers to safely dispose of unwanted medications. Student pharmacists informed high school students about myths and facts related to drug abuse by showing a Generation Rx video, playing an informative Kahoot game and by facilitating students' involvement in a skit. In addition to this, we made sure to emphasize the misinformation and misconceptions regarding drug abuse, as volunteers are trained to answer common questions about the topic.

American Pharmacists' Month

by Andrew Dang,

APhA/CPhA-ASP International Vice President 2019-2020



This fall quarter, the American Pharmacist Association and the California Pharmacist Association of Academy of Student Pharmacists' (APhA/CPhA-ASP) Chapter at UCSD virtually participated in the American Pharmacists' Month which took place in October 2020. This year, the APhA/CPhA-ASP Chapter decided to focus on the contributions of student pharmacists in the community. The Chapter decided to pursue this theme to demonstrate that, even during these tough times, student pharmacists and pharmacists are still caring for and managing their patients' health. Therefore, this event highlights the significance of the pharmacists' role.

To achieve this theme, the APhA/CPhA-ASP Chapter shared student pharmacist reflections on its Facebook and Instagram pages. These posts were created twice a week throughout October to highlight the community involvement of different student pharmacists. With the help of Dr. Ila Saunders, these

student reflections covered major aspects of pharmacy care from immunizations to diabetes care to high blood pressure management to over-the-counter medication education. For example, Emily Lim, a second-year pharmacy student, contributed a post to the event highlighting how pharmacists recommend the necessary vaccines for patients in order to stay up to date on their health. Additionally, she highlighted her role in the community as a student pharmacist where she coordinates and administers flu vaccines to patients at the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinics. In addition to Emily Lim, eight other student pharmacists including Vi Nguyen, Aysell Medina, Sydney Fuertes, Christina Eldabbagh, Binh-An Nguyen, Kristy Huynh, Raymond Wen, and Andrew Dang shared their experiences and contributions in the field of pharmacy and how pharmacists are vital health care team members for the community.

With these posts, the APhA/CPhA-ASP Chapter gained over 2,100 views and likes on its posts. This number shows the impact and impression the APhA/CPhA-ASP Chapter has made on the community by sharing these insightful student reflections. All in all, this social media event for the American Pharmacists' Month helped highlight the role of the pharmacist to a larger audience.



Class of 2024: Immunization Training Workshop

by Emily Lim (P2)

Despite continued COVID-19 related social distance orders and safety challenges, Dr. Sarah Lorentz and Dr. Alex Luli along with many other wonderful Skaggs faculty and staff coordinated a successful in-person immunization training workshop for the Class of 2024 and local pharmacists. This event was on Saturday, Oct 10th and was the final experience of the APhA's Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery certificate training program. We are very grateful to the volunteer pharmacists from the community who precepted our trainees. Additionally, a number of P2s and P3s were recruited to support this training effort by the APhA Operation Immunization Chair, Emily Lim.



Why is this event significant?

It is important for student pharmacists to become immunization certified because pharmacists, as highly accessible health care professionals, are instrumental in disease prevention. However, this year's immunization workshop came with the challenge of adhering to updated CDC guidelines and appropriate safety measures due to COVID-19. This was achieved by grouping one pair of students per table at the outdoor lawn of the Skaggs building and the PPE included eye protection, medical-grade surgical masks, and gloves. Additionally, all attendees participated in COVID-19 symptom screening and all students were tested for COVID-19

prior to the event. This immunization workshop was the first large-scale, in-person event with SSPPS students since transitioning online back in March.

What were the responsibilities of the student pharmacists?

The P2 and P3 volunteers were paired with an experienced immunizing pharmacist as the preceptor. Each pair was in charge of teaching four P1 students about vaccine administration and safety, as well as the management of adverse effects, including how and when to administer epinephrine. Student volunteers guided the P1s on their vaccine technique for intramuscular and subcutaneous injections. The student volunteers were key players because they were able to share their own past hesitations and experiences, as they were recently in the position of being a P1 themselves.



We are very pleased that 64 P1 student pharmacists and 4 pharmacists completed their immunization training. This will provide more student pharmacists and pharmacists who are prepared to immunize our community for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Where My Voice is Heard

by Monica Sliwa (P3)

I come from a country where women do not always have a voice or opportunities for leadership. For me to share ideas, be creative, or lead an initiative while living in the Middle East was oftentimes considered “out of the ordinary.” I am so grateful to live in the United States and be a part of UC San Diego SSPPS, where students have a voice and are encouraged to share their student perspective in various capacities. We also have an opportunity to advocate for our patients and profession.

As a proud first-generation student, I have had to struggle and eventually learn my way through undergraduate and pharmacy school. I am grateful to Dr. Atayee, one of my supporters and mentors, who has taken the time to listen and guide my creative ideas. I have been honored to serve as a student ambassador lead for our social media accounts. With the support of Dr. Atayee, Christine Cartlidge, and Sahar Adibi, I am continually trying to find innovative ways where we can utilize social media to connect with prospective applicants who are exploring the profession of pharmacy. One example of this is our newly launched Facebook Live sessions. Its intent is to provide a casual environment where prospective applicants can ask questions in real time regarding our school, admissions process, curriculum, and so many other topics that I am so proud to highlight about our SSPPS community. I presented the idea to Dr. Atayee, Sahar, and Christine and not only did they support the idea, but they worked with me to come up with different topics for our monthly Facebook Live sessions. It is one of many examples where as a student pharmacist I felt like I was being heard.

Coming from a culture of gender inequality, I am grateful to grow in an environment where I have a voice, opportunities for leadership, and the support of staff, faculty, and my student peers.

Hosts
Sahar Adibi Monica Sliwa

FACEBOOK LIVE
Q&A
TOPIC: UC SAN DIEGO
SSPPS ADMISSIONS

WHEN
November 6th, 2020

WHERE
Facebook: UC San Diego
Skaggs School of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences

TIME
5 pm (Pacific Time)

CONTACT US
If you are unable to attend, please send us your questions on our social media platforms!

Rabia Atayee
Pharm.D., BCPS, APH
Professor of Clinical Pharmacy
Associate Dean for Admissions and Outreach

Jair Siqueira-Neto
Ph.D.
Associate Adjunct Professor
Admissions Committee Co-chair

Christina Mnatzaganian
Pharm.D., BCACP, APH
Health Sciences Clinical Associate Professor
Admissions Committee Co-chair

UC San Diego
SKAGGS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

SSPPS Honors New Members of Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society-120th Chapter, Epsilon Alpha

by Christine Cartlidge, Administrative Coordinator



PHI LAMBDA SIGMA
PHARMACY LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

On Thursday, October 15th, 2020, 37 student pharmacists were initiated into the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society. These SSPPS students have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills as defined by [Phi Lambda Sigma](#) and a pursuit of pharmacy profession advancement, all the while successfully managing the rigor of our SSPPS curriculum.

Hosted by Dean McKerrow, Associate Dean Morello and Dr. Mnatzaganian, this event was choreographed very differently due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of gathering in HSEC 2 & 3 as normal, this year's Phi Lambda Sigma Initiation and Installation Ceremony was held virtually via Zoom in order to follow safety guidelines while still allowing these students' achievements to be celebrated. This also allowed for opening up the ceremony to a larger audience of clinical faculty who also hold Phi Lambda Sigma lifelong membership and could be there to support their new fellow members.

At this point, we would normally break down the events of the ceremony to those who could not be present. However, another benefit of holding this ceremony via Zoom is that it was recorded for the first time! We invite and strongly encourage everyone to watch the full ceremony on our school's official [YouTube channel](#) to further support these 37 student pharmacist leaders.

Congratulations to our newly initiated lifelong members of the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society! We can't wait to see the brilliant ways in which you become the thought leaders of the pharmacy profession in the years to come.



Student Award Recipients



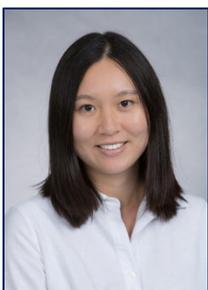
Please join us in congratulating Hailey Hirata (P4) who was selected as the recipient of the [California Society of Health-System Pharmacists \(CSHP\) Student Leadership in Health-System Practice Award for 2020](#). Hailey was recognized for her achievement during the CSHP Seminar 2020 Awards Ceremony held on October 23, 2020. This award recognizes, on an annual basis, one student who has demonstrated exemplary leadership ability and celebrates the contributions of students who represent the very best attributes and accomplishments of CSHP student members.

Hailey has been an active member with the SSPPS CSHP chapter since 2018. From the get-go as a P1 liaison, Hailey assisted with planning and participating in the San Diego Science Expo and multiple CSHP-UCSD outreach events. During her P2 year, she served the roles of both President and President-Elect where she oversaw all events, outreaches, educational talks and workshops sponsored by CSHP-UCSD during the 2018-2019 year, including CSHP-UCSD Mexico Missions Trips where students volunteered throughout clinic sites in Mexico. She has continued her role as president during the 2019-2020 academic year where she worked to pilot a virtual outreach platform for CSHP in light of COVID-19, working to transfer CSHP's outreach content to digital platforms that disseminated information throughout the San Diego community (shared with over 200 students).

Please also join us in congratulating Maher Alhaja (P4) who has achieved a rare award trifecta by winning THREE pharmacy awards with state and national organizations. He is the recipient of the CSHP John J. Carbone Memorial Scholarship (read more in our [previous newsletter](#)), the [CSHP 2020 Student Leadership Award](#), and a U.S. Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy award.



The CSHP 2020 Student Leadership Award recognizes pharmacy students' involvement in and contributions to CSHP and the profession of pharmacy. Maher's CSHP awards were recognized at the CSHP Seminar 2020 Awards Ceremony held on October 23, 2020.



The **OPTUMRx** pharmacy student scholarship was awarded to **Lydia (Li-Hui) Chen**, PharmD candidate, Class of 2021. The scholarship specifically recognizes students who have demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, and service and expressed an interest in managed care pharmacy while in pharmacy school.

Alumni Trivia Night



As has been the 2020 trend, the SSPPS Office of Alumni Relations put together an alternative for our standard mid-November Alumni Happy Hour. Partnering with a trivia company that hosts at various locations in the county, SSPPS held its very first virtual Alumni Trivia Night.

We were so pleased to welcome a range of alumni from the Class of 2006 all the way to the Class of 2018, plus a handful of faculty members who got to play along with their former students. While we can't wait to get back to White Labs Brewing Co. and see our beloved alumni in person once more, we are so grateful to our attendees for allowing us to still share an evening of friendly competition and conversation while also doing our parts to keep our various communities safe.

We hope that you and your family members have a relaxing and safe holiday season. See you in 2021!

Triton Leaders Conference: Dr. Peace Uche



Our very own SSPPS alumna, Dr. Peace Uche (Class of 2013), will be one of the featured speakers at the upcoming **Triton Leaders Conference (February 5-6, 2021)**. This year's theme of "Advancing Equity" celebrates advocacy and empowerment, reimagining an inclusive community and equitable future where everyone can thrive.

Please [register today](#) to support Dr. Uche and UC San Diego's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion!

Alumni Highlights: Dr. Mark Lin

by Jenna Bastear, Director of Student Affairs

One of our esteemed alumni, Mark Lin – Class of 2017, was kind enough to offer words of wisdom for our recent and soon-to-be SSPPS graduates. Thank you to Dr. Lin and keep doing amazing things up in Oakland! You are making SSPPS proud.

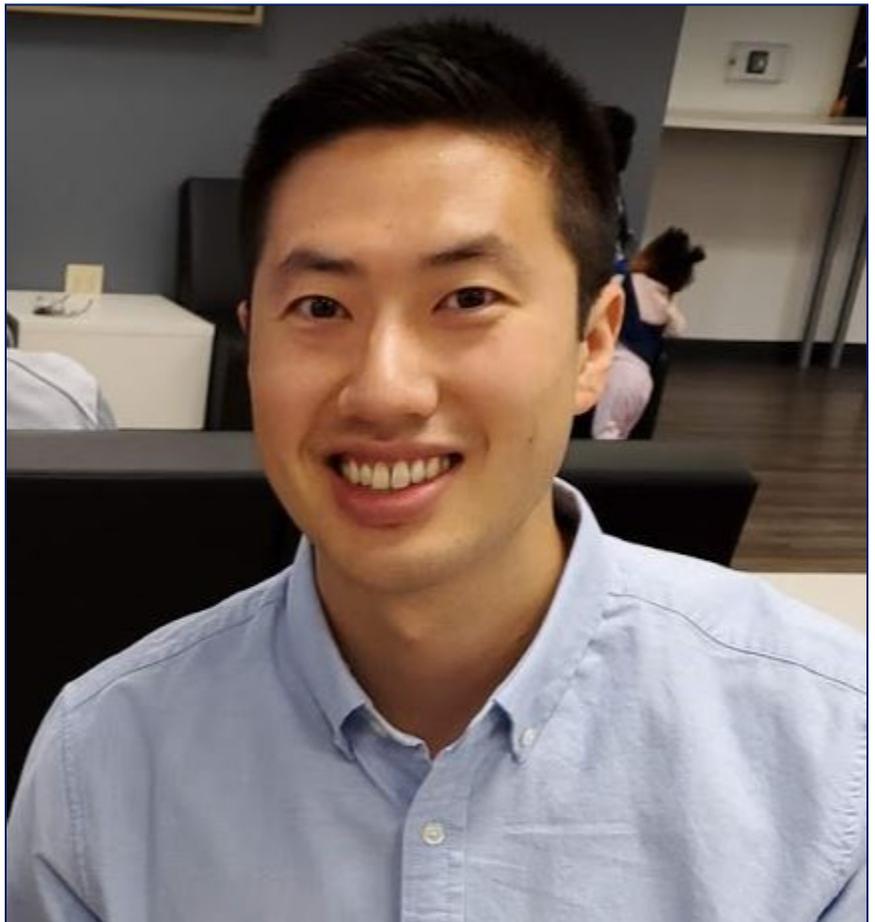
“After graduation, I completed a PGY1 in pediatrics at Rady Children's Hospital - San Diego. I'm now working at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital - Oakland as one of the clinical pharmacists. We're in the process of starting our own Residency Program where I'll be the lead NICU Clinical Pharmacist.

Words of wisdom for new graduates:

If you're interested in working as a clinical pharmacist, I would highly recommend pursuing a residency. The knowledge and experience I gained from my PGY1 was invaluable and definitely played a role in the current position I'm in now.

I always knew I wanted to work in pediatrics, so being able to pursue that goal post-graduation through a residency program in pediatrics and now as a clinical pharmacist at a stand-alone pediatric hospital has been a dream come true! The relationships I've developed with the NICU attendings, nursing supervisors, and medical residents have made my work very rewarding. My fellow co-workers also have a passion in pediatrics which makes for an enjoyable working environment.

There are many different career options open to someone with a Pharm.D. UC San Diego SSPPS has a lot of resources available for those interested in varying fields of pharmacy post-graduation, so take advantage of them! Also, pharmacy really is a small world. I know you may have heard that before, but I feel it needs repeating. Don't burn any bridges and try to keep in touch with past preceptors who are in fields of pharmacy that you are interested in.”



Alumni Highlights: Dr. Joe Ennesser

by Jenna Bastear, Director of Student Affairs

SSPPS alumni can be found near and far! Joe Ennesser, class of 2006 is the perfect example of the wide breadth of opportunities available to our Pharm.D. graduates. Below Dr. Ennesser describes where he's been since pharmacy school and offers a bit of advice to our current students. Thank you Dr. Ennesser, we wish you well!

"Prior to pharmacy school, I was in construction which led to a bit of a chuckle from the audience when they announced my background during our White Coat Ceremony. Since graduating in 2006, I have spent most of my career working in retail pharmacy. I started as a Pharmacy Manager at a Target in Riverside, California then moved my way progressively through several promotions at Target, then CVS, followed by Rite Aid where I was a Regional Vice President with leadership over 250 pharmacies and several states. Through my career I have had the opportunity to relocate six times which I have enjoyed because you get to see new parts of the country, and the best part is you have a job there already. Of all the places I've lived (San Diego twice, and Portland three times), the Pacific Northwest has been my favorite.

Currently I am Chief Operations Officer at Crossover Health which is based in San Clemente, CA. It is a super cool primary health organization with a mission to change how healthcare is delivered. Our health centers are very modern, include all primary care services, and based on a high touch model that operates outside of the insurance system. This allows us to focus on what the patient needs most since we are not fee-for-service and there are no financial incentives for us to provide unnecessary services/procedures.



In my role as COO, I lead all areas of operations, which includes Facilities design, construction, launch, and implementation; Clinical Operations; and overall Project Management across the organization. We recently won Amazon as a client and just last week my team launched the first four of 16 clinics across the US to serve the Amazon fulfillment center employees and their dependents. I'm most proud of my team because we accomplished this on our original launch timeline that was set last year despite the impacts of COVID and bringing care to a population that is in need during the pandemic. In this role I use very little of my pharmaceutical knowledge but the skills I rely on most were all learned through working for and with great leaders in pharmacy and learning how to run operations at scale.

My fondest memory of SSPPS, words of wisdom, and how SSPPS best prepared me are all related - *be flexible, adapt, and have fun*. During our time at SPPS (before the second "S" was added), we didn't have the building yet so our classes happened all over campus sometimes with us running from one end to the next! At times, I think the program was literally being built as we were in it but I have so much respect and gratitude for the administration and leaders within the early SPPS. There was no doubt that they cared immensely about our education and experience and I know they all made personal sacrifices at times to help us succeed."

Welcome Dr. Mark Bounthavong!

by Linda Awdishu, PharmD and Division Head for Clinical Pharmacy



Our clinical division extends a hearty welcome to Dr. Mark Bounthavong, who was appointed as Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy on September 1, 2020. Dr. Bounthavong completed his PharmD training at the Western University of Health Sciences, his PGY1 residency at the Jerry L. Pettis Veteran's Affairs Health System, Fellowship in Outcomes Research at Western University of Health Sciences. Dr. Bounthavong obtained his MPH from the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University and his PhD in Comparative Health Outcomes, Policy and Economics at University of Washington. Dr. Bounthavong brings a wealth of expertise in health outcomes and economics from his funded research focusing on the impact of academic detailing on health outcomes with a recent focus on naloxone detailing. Dr. Bounthavong is a dedicated and passionate teacher who began

teaching Pharmacoeconomics in Spring Quarter before he officially started at SSPPS! Dr. Bounthavong will be chairing Pharmacoeconomics, co-chairing Study Design and Biostatistics and will serve as faculty advisor for our student chapter of AMCP. We are very excited to welcome him as part of our faculty and indebted to him for his teaching efforts!

International Online Session on Structure of Cholinesterases

by Zoran Radić, PhD



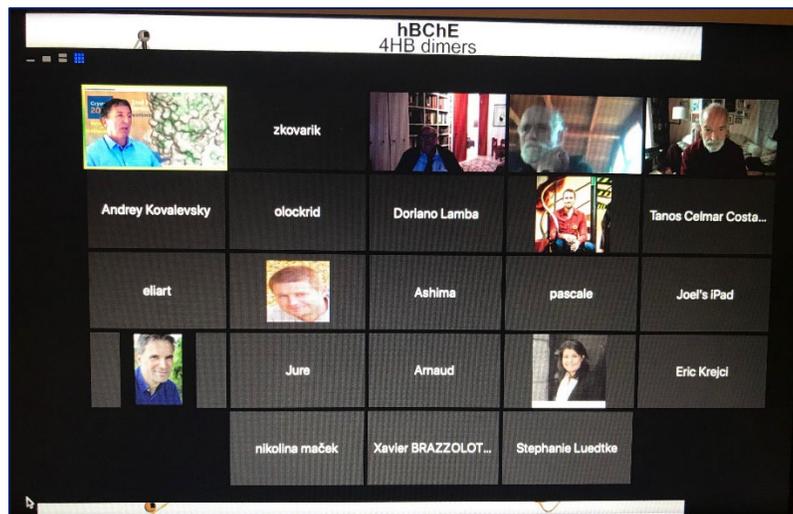
Speaker	Time				Title
	PST	CST	EST	CET	
Doriano Lamba IC-CNR, Trieste Italy	8.00	10.00	11.00	17.00	Identifying Potential Multitarget and Selective Ligands for Alzheimer's disease: the Yin and the Yang of Acetylcholinesterase Inhibition by Mechanistic X-Ray Crystallography.
Fredrik Ekström FOI, Umeå Sweden	8.45	10.45	11.45	17.45	Recent insights on the conformational landscape of a congeneric set of nerve agent reactivators.
Andrey Kovalevsky ORNL, Oak Ridge, TN USA	9.30	11.30	12.30	18.30	Accelerating structure-based design of rapid uncharged reactivators of organophosphate-inhibited human acetylcholinesterase by joint X-ray/neutron mechanistic studies.
	10.15	12.15	13.15	19.15	Coffee break
Scott Pegan UGA, Athens, GA USA	10.30	12.30	13.30	19.30	Using X-ray crystallography for gaining insight into stereospecific obstacles related to nerve agent therapeutics.
Oksana Lockridge UNMC, Omaha, NE USA	11.15	13.15	14.15	20.15	Polyproline-rich peptides organize 4 cholinesterase subunits into a tetramer.
Zoran Radić UCSD, La Jolla, CA USA	12.00	14.00	15.00	21.00	Lines of communication within and between catalytic subunits of human acetylcholinesterase revealed by cryo- and room-temperature X-ray crystallography and by Small Angle X-ray Scattering (SAXS).



An international online scientific session on Structure of Cholinesterases was organized and chaired by Dr. Zoran Radić, Adjunct Professor at SSPPS. The session was held on November 19th, 8am-1pm PST as one of nine sessions, and the only live session of the [2nd International Online Conference on Crystals](#). Speakers included distinguished experts in the field including Dr. Doriano Lamba, IC-CNR, Italy, Dr. Fredrik Ekström, Deputy Scientific Director, FOI (Swedish Defense Research Agency), Sweden, Dr. Andrey Kovalevsky, Senior Scientist, ORNL, USA, Dr. Scott Pegan, Director, UGA Center for Drug Discovery, USA, Dr. Oksana Lockridge, UNMC, USA. Dr Radić also presented a lecture and led a group of UC San Diego undergraduates for a video/poster presentation (prepared by Stephanie Luedtke et al. of the Radić 's "VRcircle" project).

Presenters discussed their latest research in structure-based design of small molecule anti-Alzheimer's dementia treatments, design and characterization of antidotes against organophosphate poisoning, novel details of tertiary and quaternary structure and connectivity in cholinesterase molecules. For the first time ever [structural and functional data on inhibition and reactivation of the Novichok](#) inhibited acetylcholinesterase, were communicated to the open public in the session.

The session attracted more than 70 Zoom connections at an average of 35 active connections during the session. Well-recognized scientists and experts in the field connected to the live session from France, Italy, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Brazil, and USA.



Faculty Featured In The News

Anjan Debnath, PhD

[“Cholesterol Drug Hits Brain-Eating Amoeba’s Achilles Heel”](#)

News of UC San Diego Health Sciences

Nathan Painter, PharmD

[“Taking Metformin Despite the Recalls”](#)

AARP News

SSPPS ACPE Accreditation Site Visit

by Laurie C. Nelson, Assessment Coordinator,
Office of Assessment and Accreditation



On November 3-5, 2020, the ACPE Accreditation Site Visit, about which there have been previous articles presented, took place virtually. The ACPE site visit team consisted of six surveyors:

Robert Beardsley, RPh, PhD
Fadi Khasawneh, BPharm, PhD
Michael A. Mone, BS Pharm, JD, FAPhA
Cindy D. Stowe, PharmD
Gundy V. Sweet, FASHP
Maria D. Serpa, PharmD

The site visit started with an introductory session with Dean McKerrow, followed by a meeting with the SSPPS Leadership Team, which includes all Associate/Assistant Deans and Division Heads. Subsequent ACPE team meetings on the first and second days of the visit included the Self-Study Steering Committee, Offices of Student Affairs and Admissions, the Committee on Educational Policy, Office of Experiential Education, and the Assessment Committee. The ACPE team then met with nine students as a group representing the P1s, P2s, and P3s, who described their experiences with the SSPPS PharmD program. Both the students and the ACPE team appeared to learn quite a bit from each other. Twelve faculty members were interviewed individually by ACPE team members to discuss their perceptions of any strengths or issues at SSPPS.

On the final day of the site visit, the ACPE team met with a group of eight preceptors to review the Introductory (IPPE) and Advanced (APPE) programs, and to learn how preceptors are trained and engaged with these programs. Additionally, the site visit team met individually with 12 P4 students, to obtain insights about their APPE experiences. The third day ended with two exit report meetings – one with Dean McKerrow, and one with Dr. David Brenner, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences. Dr. McKerrow noted that the team mentioned how impressed they were with the students they met and the expertise and program knowledge of the preceptors, and especially their impression of the culture of community, teamwork, and family at SSPPS. Normally the site visit also includes a tour of the physical facilities, but given the necessity of a virtual site visit, the team was provided comprehensive facility information, and an in-person facility review will take place separately at a later date.

Now that the site visit is complete, the ACPE site visit team will prepare a Draft Evaluation Team Report (ETR), and Dean McKerrow will be provided an opportunity to address any errors or omissions. The team will then revise (if necessary) and finalize the ETR, and distribute it to Dean McKerrow, University officials, and the ACPE Board of Directors. The University and Dean again have an opportunity to respond. The Public Interest Panel reviews the ETR, and then the ACPE Board of Directors reviews and makes any recommendations for action. The Board makes accreditation decisions twice per year, in January and June. Their decision regarding SSPPS will take place at their January 23rd meeting and will result in the Actions and Recommendations (A&R), which includes possible actions, term, monitoring provisions, specific comments, and recommendations.



We in the Office of Assessment and Accreditation would like to thank the entire faculty, students, preceptors, and staff for their tireless efforts in preparing, reviewing and editing the ACPE Self-Study Report as well as participating in the site visit. It was truly a team effort!

If you have any questions regarding the self-study, the ACPE virtual site visit, or the future recommendation of the Board, please feel free to contact Dr. Kelly Lee (kellylee@health.ucsd.edu), Andrina Marshall (amarshall@health.ucsd.edu), or Laurie Nelson (lnelson@health.ucsd.edu).

2 SSPPS Staff Members Recognized for Years of Dedicated Service to the UC System

Staff Members in the UC System are recognized for their years of service once they achieve 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of dedicated work. Recently, two of our very own SSPPS staff members received recognition for their achievements. Shelly Fromholtz, Curriculum Coordinator, received an award for 15 years of service and Pamela Fletcher-Rice, Project Policy Analyst, received an award for 30 years of service. The SSPPS Human Resources Team put together a special Zoom celebration recently where the two were celebrated amongst the SSPPS staff. Both Shelly and Pam will be recognized in a UC San Diego Health System-wide celebration in early 2021. We thank them both for their dedication and commitment to serve the UC System and are very thankful to have them both on our team here at SSPPS!



Left photo: Shelly Fromholtz, **Right photo:** Pamela Fletcher-Rice

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