

### *In This Issue*

#### **Student News**

Class of 2021 Diploma Distribution and Commencement Ceremony  
Drive Thru Vaccination Clinics: SNPhA in Collaboration with SD Black Nurses Association  
Faculty and Student Pharmacists Tour a Local Transitional Facility to Fill In the Gap  
ASP End-of-the-Year Banquet Recap  
Student Awards

#### **Alumni News**

Yet Another Notable Achievement from an SSPPS Alum  
SSPPS Alumni Reunion

#### **Faculty News**

SSPPS Clinical Pharmacy Welcomes Dr. Inma Hernandez!  
Faculty Awards  
Faculty Featured in the News

#### **SSPPS News**

Increasing Diversity at Skaggs: The Success of PUMP

*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



Our school is very pleased to see UC-wide restrictions ease as more vaccinations are delivered. Hopefully this is a harbinger of the end of the pandemic. This past year has been stressful for our students, staff, and faculty. And this makes it even more important that we recognize the amazing job they all did to steer us through the onslaught of COVID-19. Our faculty and students pivoted to remote learning and our staff somehow managed to continue their remarkable support remotely. Despite the limitations of Zoom meetings and classes, we prevailed. We all look forward to returning to “in person” in the Fall.

I just met with the Vice Chancellor for Research and was amazed (but not surprised) to find out that during the pandemic last year, our faculty actually submitted more grants than the year before and brought in more support for their research efforts. Not only that, but several clinical and research faculty received national recognition for their work. You can read more details of their awards later in this newsletter.

Finally, we must also recognize the hard work of Dr. Rabia Atayee and her Admissions team in making our incoming class the most diverse ever. At the same time, our EDI (equity/diversity/inclusion) Committee and Dr. Linda Awdishu helped recruit new faculty who will enhance our teaching as well. One of our recent faculty recruits, Dr. Fleur Ferguson, came as a joint faculty position with the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, highlighting our success in cross-campus initiatives.



# Class of 2021 Diploma Distribution and Commencement Ceremony

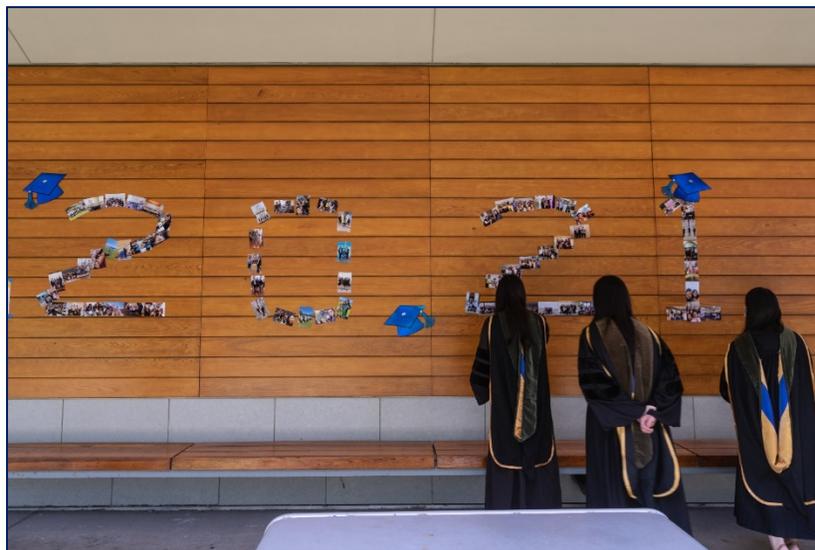
by Jenna Bastear, Director of Student Affairs

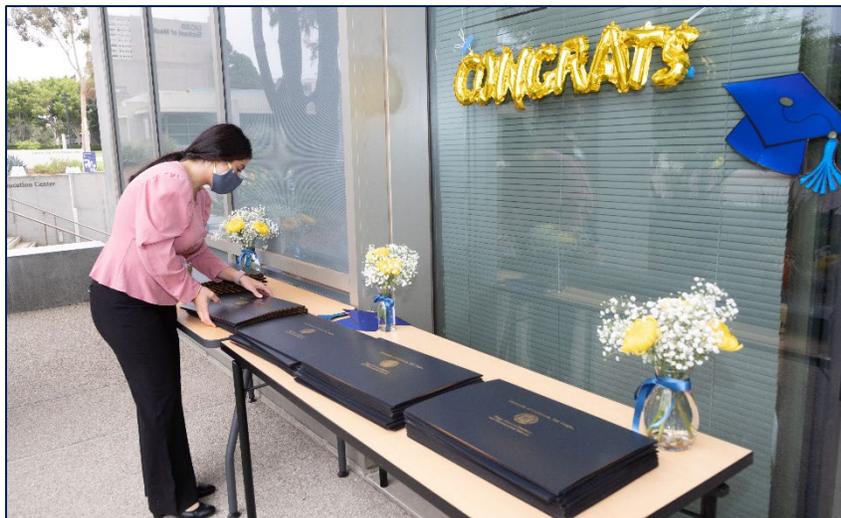
On May 14<sup>th</sup> 2021, SSPPS hosted an in-person, diploma distribution celebration for our Class of 2021 graduates. For many, this was the first time they had seen each other in well over a year. Hugs and laughs were shared as they reminisced over the past year and chatted about their impending new journeys post-pharmacy school. Of course, the students were not the only SSPPS representatives at this event. With Pomp and Circumstance playing in the background, faculty and staff cheered on the graduates as they received their diplomas. Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Candis Morello, gowned in her regalia, announced and distributed diplomas to the 66 newly conferred Doctors of Pharmacy, one-by-one. The graduates, also adorned in their commencement regalia, were each photographed holding their diplomas alongside Dr. Morello. . What a day of celebration! Thank you to all who were able to attend this momentous event. While this way of celebrating wasn't our usual, SSPPS wanted our graduates to feel loved, supported and celebrated. Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback, these goals were achieved. If you are interested in seeing photos from the diploma distribution, please visit our website [at this link](#).

The very next day, on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, SSPPS hosted its first ever virtual commencement celebration for the Class of 2021. Although this experience was quite different from previous commencement celebrations conducted in-person, seeing our graduates surrounded by their loved ones as their names were announced on screen, along with their thank you messages to those who supported them during pharmacy school, was a very special experience. We hope this ceremony brought the class a sense of closure and a well-deserved pat on the back for achieving their PharmD degrees. You may watch the recording of the commencement celebration [at this link](#).

The faculty and staff are incredibly proud of the Class of 2021's accomplishments during their P4 year. SSPPS looks forward to hearing about our graduates' future successes as they become thought leaders in the pharmacy profession. Good luck to the Class of 2021! Stay in touch.







# Drive Thru Vaccination Clinics: SNPhA in Collaboration with SD Black Nurses Association

by Tyler Sanders, P2, SNPhA President and Organizer



From April 14<sup>th</sup> to May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) collaborated with the Black Nurses Association of San Diego to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to underserved communities at Bayview Baptist Church in Southeast San Diego. Students vaccinated 100-400 community members at each event. The collaboration kicked off when I was able to get in contact with a graduating nursing student at SDSU, Briana Levett, a current member of the SD Black Nurses Association. We had previously spoken about the amazing work that our students do at Skaggs

and she wondered if we could collaborate on future events. From her posts on social media, every event looked so well-organized. From that point, I asked if we could collaborate on vaccination events. She put me in contact with the directors of these events, Ms. Jaleisha Jacobs and Ms. Samantha Williams. Both are members of the COVID-19 Task Force for their organization. After one conversation, we were good to go. We both saw the importance of pharmacists and pharmacy students being a part of these events.

Through working at these events, students were able to see the collaborative practice of the healthcare field in action by working with different MDs, RNs, and nursing students. Each table at the events housed eight students and faculty. Student pharmacists were fortunate to be precepted by UCSD SSPSS vaccination-certified faculty pharmacists. Students administered the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to qualifying patients while they sat in their cars. They also counseled them about side effects and what to do after receiving the vaccine. This gave students a great hands-on experience helping to improve students' immunization techniques. Nursing faculty and staff in addition to medical doctors also assisted in administering vaccines at nearby tables. Patients were observed after immunizations by EMS staff.

Many patients had hesitancy about receiving the vaccine because of distrust between the healthcare field and underserved communities. Ms. Samantha Williams, director of the COVID-19 Task Force for SDBNA, stated that at the beginning of the drive-thru vaccination events, only 2% of the African American population was vaccinated. That number is now up to 3%, showing that representation in numbers matter.



We want to provide a huge thank you to all students and faculty preceptors who assisted our organization in executing these events. We have a responsibility as pharmacists to provide adequate healthcare to all communities, especially underserved communities, during these dire times. It is important to garner trust with these underserved communities so that we can work together to provide health equity and slow the spread of COVID-19.

# Faculty and Student Pharmacists Tour a Local Transitional Facility to Fill In the Gap by Monica Sliwa, P3 Student Ambassador, Shirley M. Tsunoda, PharmD, Professor of Clinical Pharmacy

A woman's right to have basic necessities such as pads, tampons, and other hygienic products is often overlooked, especially in the homeless population. One's income should not be a setback to buy hygienic products. Nearly all women menstruate monthly and yet this is met with silence, taboo, and stigma.<sup>1</sup>

During February 2021, a few of our team members drove around downtown San Diego and interviewed women struggling with homelessness in efforts to learn more about their challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. While on their search, the team met a 37-year-old woman struggling

with homelessness who was willing to explain the process, barriers, and struggles including her access to hygienic products. This woman and her female companions were tearing pieces of their clothes to use for their menstrual periods, every month, due to lack of access to pads, tampons, and various other hygienic products. "I can barely save some money to buy food. I can't afford to pay for tampons... they are too expensive. I saw one of my friends rip her clothes so I started doing that too. Before the pandemic, I used to go to public bathrooms and use their toilet paper instead," the woman explained.

This encounter has motivated our student pharmacists, faculty, and community members to contribute and assist women by providing them with basic human needs and other hygienic products. Milano Sliwa, co-founder of the COVID-19 community outreach, states, "While reaching out to various homeless shelters, leaving numerous voicemails in an attempt to speak to a person-in-charge, we were finally able to connect with one of the coordinators at the East County Transitional Living Center in El Cajon." The team was offered an in-person tour to learn more about the programs offered

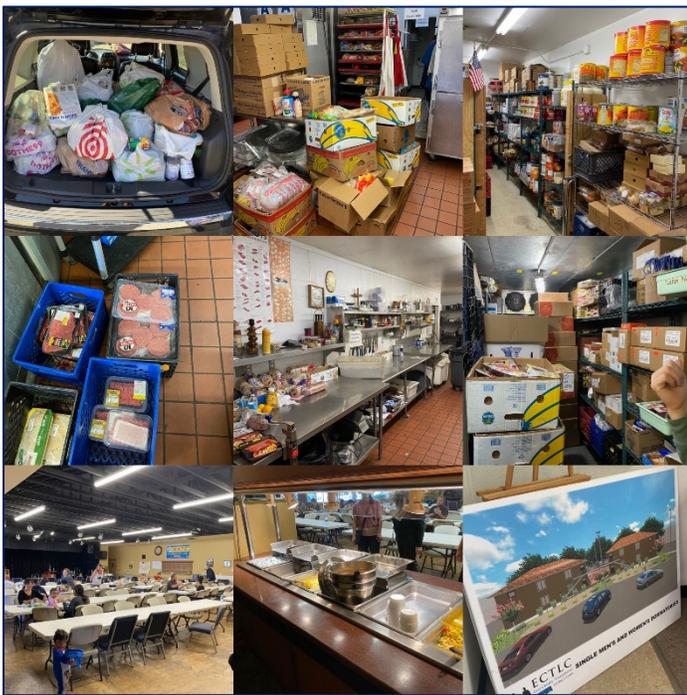


and to fill in the gaps. Dr. Tsunoda was very impressed with our students' enthusiasm and initiative in offering various services to help with a wide range of ages from infants and small children to teens and adults.

As of April 2021, we are in the process of distributing hygienic products to all women living in the facility. In addition, we will be providing mentorship to elementary, middle, and high school students living in the facility. We are also establishing a new program to teach students how to play the guitar in order to help with mental health and spread the love of music, following all safety guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

1- Menstrual Hygiene a Human Rights Issue. Accessed April 3, 2021.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/08/27/menstrual-hygiene-human-rights-issue#>

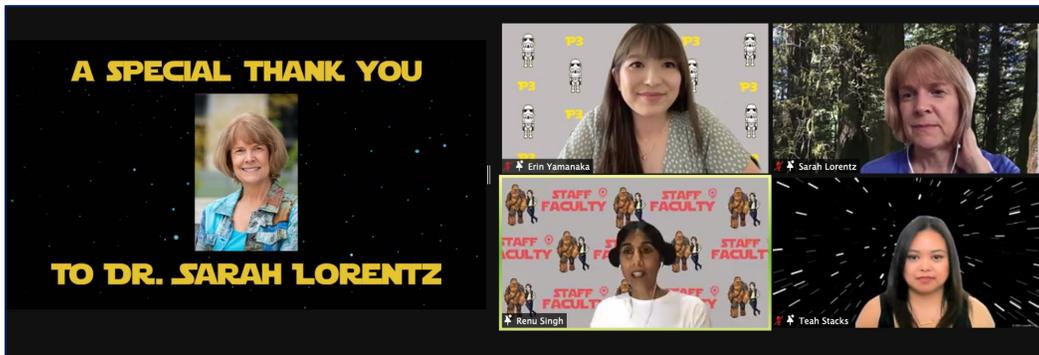


# ASP End-of-the-Year Banquet Recap

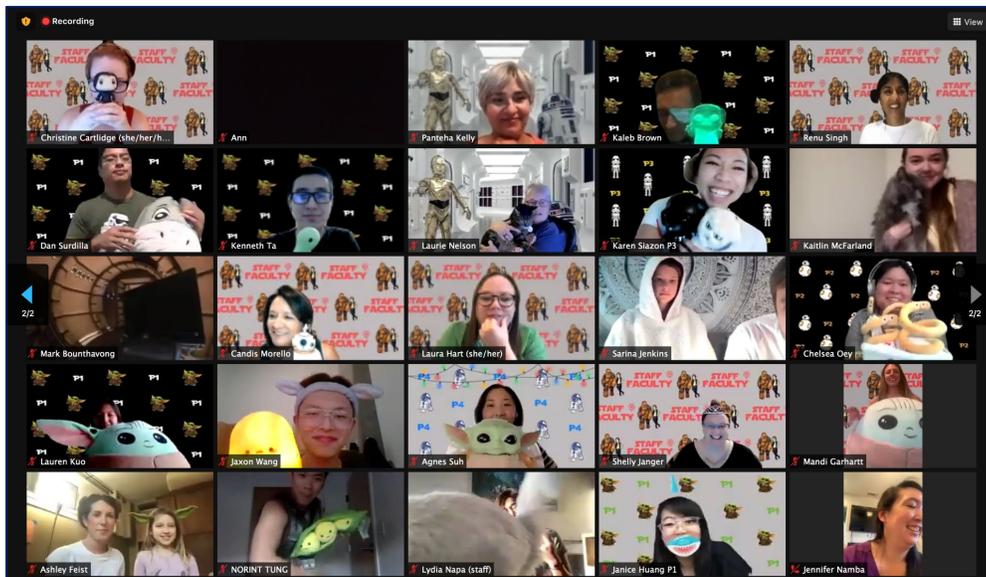
by Amanpreet Sarai, P3 Student, ASP VP of Communications

This quarter ASP held our first ever (and hopefully last) virtual End-of-the-Year Banquet. In order to emulate the true spirit of the banquet, those who participated were sent UberEats gift cards to order food (and drinks!) to enjoy throughout the evening. Since the banquet was held on May the 4th, it was only fitting that our theme was Star Wars. It was the perfect way to commemorate the end of a school year none of us could have imagined.

The night started off with ASP President, Erin Yamanaka, welcoming everyone to the event and a video that recapped what Skaggs pharmacy students have been up to this past year. The class highlights were shortly followed by a bittersweet moment. We congratulated Dr. Sarah Lorentz on her retirement and thanked her for all that she has done for UCSD, the students of Skaggs, and the pharmacy profession.



Similar to previous years, the pharmacy classes voted for their faculty and volunteer faculty of the year, and the winners are as follows: Dr. Mark Bounthavong (P1), Dr. Laura Crotty Alexander (P2), Dr. Jennifer Namba (P3), Dr. Andrew Khosho (P4), and Dr. Linda Dean (volunteer faculty). After the awards ceremony, there was a special tribute to the graduating Class of 2021. After awards and tributes were complete, the night continued with some friendly competition! LiveSounds, our special guest hosts, led numerous games resulting in some fabulous lip synching, dancing, and hearty laughing to end the night.



# Student Awards

**APhA-ASP**  
AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION  
ACADEMY OF STUDENT PHARMACISTS



APhA would like to congratulate Allison Vu for representing UCSD at the APhA's National Patient Counseling Competition!

**Allison placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in our nation, out of 125 participants!!**



# Yet Another Notable Achievement from an SSPPS Alumna

by Jenna Bastear, Director of Student Affairs



Dr. Mary Moss Chandran (Class of 2012) is excited to share that she has been approved as a Fellow of the American Society of Transplantation (FAST). The FAST designation recognizes American Society of Transplantation (AST) members who have demonstrated both an exceptional commitment to the field of transplantation and outstanding service to the AST. FAST designation is awarded to transplant practitioners (e.g. surgeons, physicians, and pharmacists). Mary is enthusiastic about promoting the important role of pharmacists on the transplant team and at the national organizational level! Congratulations Dr. Chandran! We can't wait to see where this new adventure takes you.

*You Are Invited!*



**Saturday,  
June 26th, 2021**

**SSPPS will host a virtual alumni reunion to  
celebrate the Classes of  
2006, 2010, 2011, 2015 & 2016!**

**10am - 12pm PDT**

**4pm- 6pm PDT**

**RSVP Here!**

# SSPPS Clinical Pharmacy Welcomes Dr. Inma Hernandez!

by Linda Awdishu, PharmD, MAS

Professor and Division Head, Clinical Pharmacy

Dr. Inmaculada Hernandez joined the SSPPS Clinical Pharmacy Division as an Associate Professor of Pharmacy. Dr. Hernandez received her PharmD from the University of Navarra, Spain in 2013 and her PhD in Health Services Research and Policy from the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. Her research program has focused on evaluating clinical and economic outcomes of oral anticoagulant agents, and the application of statistical, epidemiological, and econometric methods to administrative databases. She has made important contributions to the study of pharmaceutical pricing and medication use across health care settings with publications in high impact journals, including JAMA, Annals of Internal Medicine, Stroke among others. Her publications have been featured in the main media outlets, including NPR, Forbes, BBC, ABC, CNBC, Fox News, or Bloomberg. Dr. Hernandez will be teaching Health Policy to PharmD students in the upcoming year. We are very excited to welcome Dr. Hernandez to UC San Diego SSPPS!



# Faculty Awards

Congratulations to the following faculty and preceptors who were awarded Associated Student Body Teaching awards! These awards are given to passionate teachers dedicated to the learning and professional development of PharmD students.

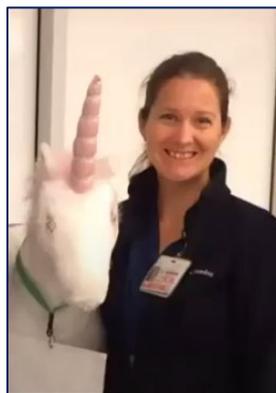
**P1 Faculty of the Year:** Dr. Mark Bounthavong (top left)

**P2 Faculty of the Year:** Dr. Laura Crotty Alexander (top middle)

**P3 Faculty of the Year:** Dr. Jennifer Namba (top right)

**P4 Faculty of the Year:** Dr. Andrew Khosho (R2D2 and C-3PO from banquet slides, bottom left)

**Volunteer Faculty of the Year:** Dr. Linda Dean (bottom right)



## Faculty Awards (cont.)

Our faculty not only make impressive contributions to the pharmacy education but also in the School of Medicine. Dr. Katharina Brandl was awarded the 2021 Kaiser “Excellence in Teaching” Award for the **FOURTH** time from medical students! These awards are given to School of Medicine faculty who excel in their work as pre-clinical or clinical instructors. Dr. Brandl’s dedication to teaching is outstanding!



Congratulations to Dr. Nuno Bandeira for being awarded the American Society for Mass Spectrometry Biemann Medal, which is given to early stage investigators for significant achievements in basic or applied mass spectrometry.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this very prestigious award!

# Faculty Featured In The News

## Michael Gilson, MD, PhD

[“DeepBAR: Faster Drug Discovery Through Machine Learning”](#)  
*SciTech Daily*

## Doug Humber, PharmD

[“Integrating Pharmacists Into Stroke Care Teams”](#)  
*Drug Topics*

## James McKerrow, PhD, MD

“A Government in COVID-19 Denial”  
[UC San Diego News Center, N Equals One Podcast](#)

[“First glimpse of pandemic’s impact on healthcare workers in Nicaragua, a country where secrecy reigns”](#)  
*Medical Xpress*

“Experimental Therapy for Parasitic Heart Disease May Also Help Stop COVID-19”  
[UC San Diego Health Newsroom, UC San Diego News Center, SciTech Daily, ScienceDaily](#)

## Victor Nizet, MD

[“Many Deep-Sea Microbes Invisible to Mammalian Immune System”](#)  
*The Scientist*

“Repurposed Heart and Flu Drugs May Help Body Fight Sepsis”  
[UC San Diego Health Newsroom, Medical Xpress, The Medical News, 10News, Times of San Diego, FOX 5, ScienceBlog](#)

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

# Increasing Diversity at Skaggs: The Success of PUMP

by Chelsea Oey, P2 Student Ambassador

• *"I enjoyed getting to know more about the program and what to expect when we start school in the fall. Hearing from the students I believe was very helpful. Having their insights on how to prepare and their perspective on seeking out jobs I believe was very useful." (February Q&A)*

As the academic year comes to a close, we at PUMP are also thrilled to be wrapping up our pilot year! In case you are unfamiliar with PUMP, PUMP stands for Pharmacy Underrepresented Mentorship Program. It provides incoming underrepresented students with tools to guide them throughout their interview process by preparing them for interviews, providing insight into our campus' climate, and facilitating small group discussions for questions. Underrepresented in pharmacy (URiP) includes Black/African American, Latinx, Native American/Alaska Native/First American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Southeast Asian (Cambodian, Filipino, Hmong, Lao, Thai, Vietnamese), First-Generation College Graduates, Refugees, and LGBTQIA students. With respect to the pilot year's success, at this time **nearly a quarter of our incoming P1s attended at least one PUMP workshop** since December! Forty-seven applicants (four national attendees and 43 regional attendees) attended our December workshops, and from that, 31 received offers of whom 15 accepted. Additionally, nine received alternate offers of whom five accepted.

I think I speak for everyone on the PUMP team when I say that we are all so proud and grateful of PUMP's initial success! I want to give a shout-out to all the members of the PUMP Team who made this success happen: Sahar Adibi, Dominic Cooper, Christine Cartlidge, Tyler Sanders, Teresa Benbarka, Jessica Gutierrez, Chelsea Oey, Georges Eid, Afroz Sabouri, Penelope Nwaukwa, Dr. Eduardo Fricovsky, Dr. Dionicio Siegel, Dr. Nimish Patel, Dr. Jair Siquiera-Neto, and Dr. Rabia Atayee.

I really appreciate everyone's efforts of making PUMP and its success possible. PUMP and its commitment to historically excluded populations means a lot to people like myself. Not only am I a bisexual woman of color, but I was also born in Indonesia, a third-world country, to a poor family. Due to schools requiring tuition, most people in my family did not even graduate elementary school, let alone high school. My mom was the exception, being the first to go to college after she worked for two years to pay off the first semester's down payment. When I was three, my family won the proverbial visa lottery, and my parents sacrificed everything to come to America. As a future pharmacist who is not only committed to helping underserved populations, but also whose intersectional identity aligns within this community, I specifically sought out pharmacy schools that could assure equal opportunity with a welcoming campus environment. I am really proud of my school for furthering its commitment to historically excluded populations, and I am really proud of PUMP for giving people like me a more equitable chance to pursue higher education.

If anyone is interested in helping with PUMP's efforts, we are having a full-day virtual workshop for the Fall 2022 applicants on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3:30pm. Feel free to contact me ([cmoey@ucsd.edu](mailto:cmoey@ucsd.edu)) if you have any questions. If you are interested in mentorship beyond the PUMP program please contact the Office of Admissions and Outreach [sppsadmissions@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:sppsadmissions@health.ucsd.edu).

# UC San Diego Biomedical Library

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