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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



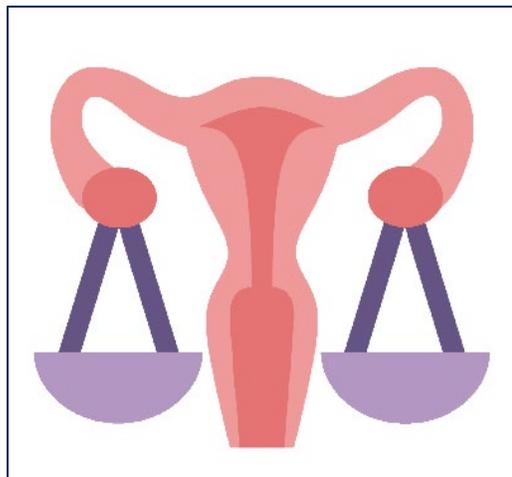
For many, the summer months are a quiet time, but not at SSPPS. Our dedicated staff and faculty are preparing for in-person classes this fall as our PharmD students return. Our research faculty continue to teach graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in their laboratories under fewer restrictions due to the success of the [Research Ramp-up](#) program. Despite the surge of the SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant and continued issues in some regions with vaccinations, UC San Diego remains a very safe environment. Not only safe by California standards, but also even safer than San Diego County. This is due to diligence by our students and employees in mask wearing indoors and the wastewater-testing program now monitoring virtually every campus building. The vaccination rate on campus is over 90% including virtually all of our faculty and students.

Despite the restrictions dictated in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our faculty received significant promotions and many national awards. Six of our faculty received tenure or were promoted to Professor. This honor requires cross campus approvals.

Read more about events, successful programs, and awards for our staff, students, alumni and faculty in the following newsletter pages.

# A Primer on Reproductive Justice for Pharmacy Professionals

by Gayane Kechechyan, P3 Student



## What is reproductive justice?

Reproductive justice is “the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities” as defined by SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective [1]. Reproductive justice exists in a trinity of frameworks also consisting of reproductive health and rights.

## How does it apply to pharmacy practice?

All health care providers, including pharmacists, take oaths to serve their patients as ethically and professionally as possible. The concept of reproductive justice falls within the scope of this promise, especially as it pertains to women of color and other marginalized people.

Legislators, healthcare providers and communities can address the intersectionality of oppressive forces (e.g. racism, sexism, classism, and ageism) that influence care given and received [2]. Barriers to the realization of reproductive freedoms and choices have stood in the way of family planning and personal health for ages. If we value reproductive justice and recognize the injustices of the past and present, we can prepare providers to shape a revolutionized future for reproductive care.

## What historical injustices should we be aware of?

In contrast to reproductive justice, reproductive oppression is the control and manipulation of people through their bodies, sexuality, labor, and reproduction, according to Forward Together [3]. The goals of reproductive justice become clear when the injustices of the past are studied and acknowledged as reproductive oppression. They are stark by today’s standards, but they also remind us of a time when such acts were considered appropriate.

Just a few examples are outlined here [4]:

- Rape and forced breeding of black slaves (1700s-1800s) [5]
- Sterilization of the “hereditarily diseased” in Nazi Germany (1934-1945) [6]
- Experimentation on low-income, imprisoned, and/or colored women for birth control research without informed consent (mid-1900s) [7]

- Eugenics and attempts to increase the occurrence of traits deemed desirable by a society (late 1800s-1900s) [8]
- Sterilization of Native Americans (1960s-1970s) [9]
- China's one-child policy (1979-2015) [10]
- Family welfare cap laws which deny further financial assistance to families after the birth of an additional child (since 1992) [11]

### Are reproductive injustices still occurring now?

Although not as extreme, reproductive injustices still exist and hide in plain sight. They include the following [4]:

- The Hyde Amendment, which restricts the use of federal funds for abortions
- Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws, which shut down abortion clinics and effectively reduce access to abortion services
- Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC, e.g. implants and IUDs) as first-line birth control methods
- Refusal of service (denying OTC emergency contraception sales or prescription medications)
- Propagation of social "taboos" like teen and premarital pregnancies
- Promotion of abstinence
- Low access and availability of services to immigrants
- Providing access to reproductive and contraceptive resources but limiting their feasible attainability through scarcity, geographical distance, and cost (lack of insurance)

### What can pharmacy professionals do?

The changes needed to achieve reproductive justice are easier said than done but not impossible. Widespread change depends on political decisions made at state and federal levels, but each health care provider can do their part in enacting progress in their workplaces. Putting aside personal beliefs in favor of patients' best interests is key. Pharmacists in 12 U.S. states and Washington, D.C. may prescribe birth control independently of collaborative practice agreements [12]. They can adopt practices that align with reproductive justice like the following:

- Be *aware* of personal biases; it is normal to have them, but recognition is key to avoid acting on them. Imagine serving a patient who has a different racial or socioeconomic background from you. How would your care and demeanor differ (if at all)?
- Do your research. Don't fall prey to industry claims and monetary bribery. Consider all methods equally initially and narrow down the choices throughout the course of the patient interview.
- Shared Decision-Making: Do NOT assume that effectiveness is the most important factor for patients. There are many others that influence their choices, such as side effects (a potential concern for estrogen-containing products), frequency of use (oral contraceptives), return to fertility (the shot), invasiveness/discomfort (the implant, IUD, and ring), and confidentiality (the patch). In one study, 28% of black women reported feeling pressured to use a method that was not their preferred [13]. To lower this number, educate patients on the various options available and give them the freedom to make their own decisions; this will improve patient satisfaction as well as adherence. Always be mindful of their values, goals, and lifestyles to help them make the most tailored selection.
- Remember that what we now view as outrageous was once normal, and always try to think years ahead of the present to lead and be better prepared for inevitable change.

\* *This modified article was originally published on [birthcontrolpharmacy.com](http://birthcontrolpharmacy.com) on June 24, 2021.* \*

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# The PACE Model of Care

by Kathryn Becker, P4 Student

## San Diego PACE

*Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly*



As a fourth-year pharmacy student my “summer” was mostly spent on my first clinical rotation. I had the privilege of rotating at a fairly new Advanced Practice Pharmacy Experiences (APPE) site in San Ysidro, California - a border town where the San Diego Program All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) was started in 2015 and is currently the fastest growing PACE in California. As the name implies, PACE is all-inclusive and to be eligible an individual must be over 55 years old, live in the coverage area, and be able to live at home safely with the aid of PACE. Comprehensive care is provided to PACE participants through an interdisciplinary team that includes, but is not limited to, primary care physician, dietician, nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapist, psychiatrists, social workers, and pharmacists. It has been such a great learning experience to work so closely with so many other disciplines to provide an integrated approach to managing the care of our society’s frailest. From providing a basic haircut to the management of complex chronic illnesses. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time learning about this model of care and watching our seniors Zumba or play “Lotería” (A type of Mexican bingo) in the day center.



# Western Pharmacy Exchange

by Michael Kieu, P3 Student, CPhA BoD Representative

At the beginning of summer, CPhA (California Pharmacists Association) hosted their annual event, Western Pharmacy Exchange (WPE) in Palm Desert, CA from June 18 - 20! We were fortunate enough to have this event be safely in-person with limited attendance. If you aren't familiar with WPE, it is a conference where pharmacy professionals come together to discuss and celebrate all things pharmacy. These pharmacy professionals are not only pharmacists and pharmacy students, but also pharmaceutical company representatives, pharmacy technicians, and anyone else who is part of the pharmacy world. With WPE being open to everyone on the West Coast, pharmacy professionals come from all walks of life with various perspectives on pharmacy. Talking and networking with these professionals allows you to grow professionally and personally.



Some noteworthy events that took place over the course of the three days: our very own Dr. Nathan Painter accepted the Excellence in Innovation Award, our chapter achieved the Chapter of Excellence Award, and our Quiz Bowl team placed second! Additionally, many of our students had the opportunity to present their research to students from various schools and pharmacy professionals. WPE also had CE (continuing education) sessions where hand-picked speakers presented on specific topics, such as asthma, LGBTQ healthcare, entrepreneurship in pharmacy, and many more.

Despite WPE being a professional and pharmacy-focused event, there were moments when our chapter could relax and enjoy the venue (even with a low of 100 degrees during our time there). Our chapter's attendees were able to use the hotel's amenities, explore the surrounding area, and build long-lasting relationships with students from other schools. The event coordinators and planners were very aware of how difficult and stressful this past year has been. The atmosphere they created was very low-stress and relaxed. Several events were hosted after all the professional events to allow everyone to let loose and enjoy their time.

WPE was a very memorable and enriching experience for all attendees. Relationships were formed and strengthened. It was made known that everyone in the pharmacy profession stands behind us, and that we are one.

Thirteen of our chapter members attended this event in-person. We do hope to see more come out next year as a little birdie told us that WPE would be hosted in Las Vegas...

We hope to see you there!



# Amanda Roberts, P4, Selected as 2021 AACP Walmart Scholar

by Renu Singh, PharmD, Associate Dean for Experiential Education



Amanda Roberts, one of our P4 students, was selected for the [American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy \(AACP\) Walmart Scholars Award for 2021](#). Amanda was one of 85 nationwide recipients of this award. Amanda has been an active member of the SSPPS Committee on Educational Policy and was a teaching assistant for the Human Anatomy course. Walmart Scholars attend the Teachers Seminar prior to the AACP Annual Meeting, as well as educational and poster programming at the meeting. This year's meeting was held virtually in mid July. Amanda shared her reflection of the Teachers Seminar, as well as a slogan that best describes her values:

*The biggest "aha" moment for me during the Teacher's Seminar was understanding the teacher's role in creating lecture material and presentations that aim to inspire learning. Managing content and fitting relevant information into a strict timeline is challenging for many topics in pharmacy, so it was eye-opening to realize the amount of time that a teacher puts into preparing strong case examples, appealing visuals, and including*

*engaging material that enhances pharmacy education.*

*My favorite slogan is "No rain, no flowers" - this small reminder has helped me get through undergrad and now pharmacy school. It is a mantra that helps put things into perspective that things won't be difficult forever!*

The AACP Teachers Seminar and Annual Meeting offers Walmart Scholar recipients an opportunity to explore career options with the goal of enhancing their commitment to a career in academic pharmacy. Congratulations, Amanda!

# A Quick Check-in with an SSPPS Alumna

by Jenna Bastear, Director of Student Affairs

## Elizabeth Vital – Class of 2019



*What have you been doing since graduation?*

Since graduating SSPPS in 2019, I completed my PGY1 pediatric pharmacy residency at Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego. I was offered a job after residency and have been working as a clinical pharmacist at Rady's now for a little over a year. I currently work in the acute and ICU care of pediatric patients.

*Any words of wisdom to a new graduate?*

Always be willing to take on new opportunities. Each new opportunity will be a challenge and can teach you something about yourself or your future career in pharmacy.

*What makes you love what you do?*

I love that pharmacy is a field that is constantly evolving and growing to improve care for our patients. In pediatrics, we have to extrapolate data from adults, which is a challenge, but a challenge I take with pride.

*What has made you successful after pharmacy school?*

I try to always have a positive attitude. By being positive, you help create a successful work environment for the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and technicians you work with daily.

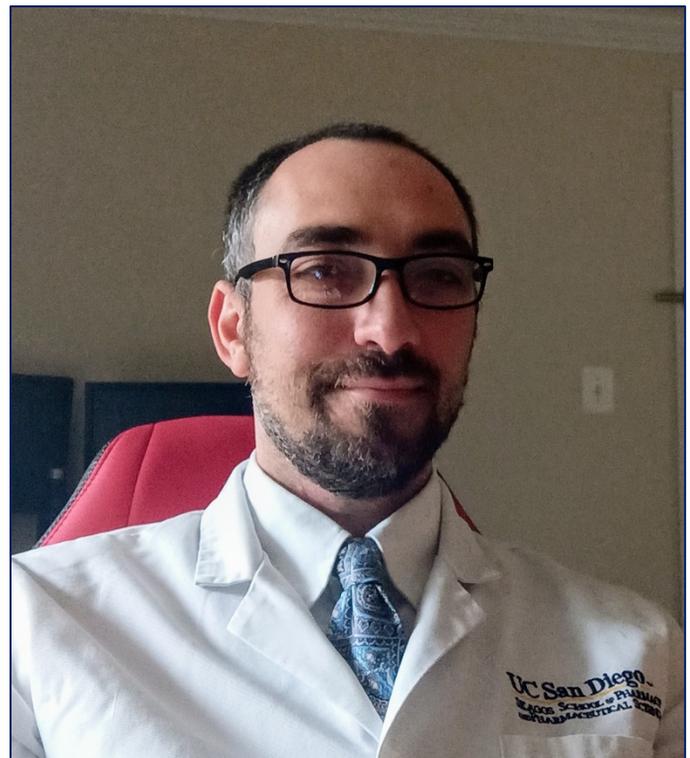
# Pharmacovigilance and drug safety research opening doors to new research and career opportunities for Skaggs pharmacy students

by Tigran Makunts, PharmD, Research Data Analyst

In 2012, the Abagyan lab conducted the first study on drug safety surveillance with SSPPS pharmacy students. Since then, SSPPS students have worked on over thirty drug safety surveillance research projects presented at numerous local, national, and international conferences, with the majority of the projects resulting in publications in reputable journals. Additionally, the lab has given pharmacy students opportunities to collaborate with healthcare professionals and scientists outside of SSPPS, including UC San Francisco, Touro University California, Moores Cancer Center, US FDA's Office of Clinical Pharmacology and Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology, Hamburg Medical University and Asklepios Kliniken in Germany, Hannover Medical School, Ewha Womans University in Korea, De La Salle University in Philippines, and University of Strasbourg in France. Some of the more exciting research topics included Ketamine and Botox effects on depression, proton-pump inhibitor renal and neurologic toxicities, and association between cancer immunotherapy and myocarditis which was published on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

The field of drug safety and pharmacovigilance is mostly contributed by nurses and physicians, although pharmacists are at least as qualified to make those contributions and support clinical development. In 2020 alone, about 3000 positions across the United States were posted for drug safety specialists on the recruitment sites, and all the postings included a degree in pharmacy as an acceptable training requirement for the job.

Considering the continuously changing career opportunities faced by newly graduating pharmacists, there is ample opportunity to prepare SSPPS students toward a career in drug safety or pharmacovigilance. With the support of Dr. Brookie Best, the Abagyan lab is currently in the process of designing an elective course to be co-chaired by me, Tigran Makunts, PharmD (Class of 2019) and Ruben Abagyan, PhD, focusing on drug safety related surveillance research and clinical development. It is exciting to be part of pharmaceutical and regulatory research, which is so important for both patients and healthcare professionals.



# UC San Diego SSPPS Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award

The award recognizes a UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences graduate who has made outstanding contributions to the profession, society, and/or the School.

## Nomination and Selection Process

Nominees must be graduates of the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences' Doctor of Pharmacy program, and be at least five years-post-graduation. We welcome nominations from any graduate, colleague, or faculty. The nominee will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:

- Nominees have made significant contributions to the profession of pharmacy, pharmacy practice, health care delivery, pharmaceutical research, pharmacy education, and/or public health.
- Nominees have made contributions that are unique and innovative.
- Nominees have demonstrated continuous and sustaining service, contributing to the growth and development of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, professional pharmacy organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, and/or community or government entities.

All nominations must include a signed nomination form as well as a CV or resumé and a minimum of two letters (up to five) of recommendation. Nominations are considered active for a five-year period.

Selected awardee should be available to attend the Alumni Reunion in June 2022.

Nominations including nomination form and letters of recommendation for the 2022 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year will be accepted until November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

[Apply Here](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Jenna Bastear at [jbastear@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:jbastear@health.ucsd.edu).

# Faculty Featured In The News

## David Gonzalez, PhD

[“From landscaping to the lab: David Gonzalez’s journey through academia”](#)

*UC San Diego Health N Equals One Podcast*

## Victor Nizet, MD

[“Why We Volunteered in COVID Vaccine Trials”](#)

*Medpage Today*

[“Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine not yet authorized for children under 12, trials still underway”](#)

*10News*

## Dong Wang, PhD

“How Cells ‘Read’ Artificial Ingredients Tossed into Genetic Recipe”

[Science Daily](#), [The Medical News](#), [Phys.org](#), [AZoLifeSciences](#), [Technology.org](#)

## Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

“How subtle tweakments could be the answer to ‘post-lockdown face’”

[The Telegraph](#)

# SSPPS Welcomes UC-HBCU Summer Research Scholars from North Carolina Central University



Mary Taylor (L) and Kimberly Mundy (R); UC-HBCU scholars

This past summer, June through August, the school had the pleasure of welcoming two students from North Carolina Central University, Mary Taylor (Chemistry Major) and Kimberly Mundy (MS Pharmaceutical Science) to work in [Dr. Conor Caffrey's](#) research group on neglected diseases of poverty. Mary and Kimberly's visit was supported by a competitive [UC-HBCU initiative](#) summer research award to Dr. Caffrey.

Mary performed research on a project relating to small molecule drug discovery for the pathogen causing schistosomiasis, whereas Kimberly's focus was on the pathogen causing Human African Trypanosomiasis. In addition to research, both students were also enrolled in the UC San Diego [Summer Research Program](#) (SRP) which aims to equip students with the skills to become research scholars, encourage students' pursuit of graduate study, and increase graduate school enrollment among underrepresented, low-income and first-generation college students.

"Both Mary and Kimberly came well-equipped for the research based on their chemistry background and pharmaceutical sciences training with the added bonus of having already worked with diseases of poverty," states Dr. Caffrey. "Their enthusiasm for research was so infectious (pun intended), and they were focused, diligent and very hard-working, both here in the lab and with their SRP activities. They also gave excellent exit presentations that summarized their research activities very well. Everyone in our team really enjoyed interacting with them and we hope to welcome them back to the school in the future." The latter point is important as it aligns with the goals of the UC-HBCU initiative, namely to encourage UC faculty to engage in collaboration and cooperation with faculty and students at HBCUs thereby strengthening and enriching UC's mission of teaching, research and public service. To this point, Mary and Kimberly add "UC, including UC San Diego, just isn't on the radar for many of our friends and colleagues who are considering graduate studies. We had a terrific time here, and learned a lot about the career opportunities available, including in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences, while also developing valuable career-building skills. Our visit has completely changed our perception of the opportunities ahead and we will definitely recommend both the school and university as places to continue further education."

Additionally, our EDI Project Manager, Mr. Dominic Cooper, and P3 student Tyler Sanders showed Mary and Kimberly around sunny San Diego this summer, including Liberty Station pictured above where they had an awesome lunch together. We hope they had a wonderful time learning about the pharmaceutical sciences in Dr. Caffrey's lab and consider applying to our program soon!



# Awards of Excellence in Experiential Education

On July 9<sup>th</sup> members of the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences experiential education team were recognized by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) with **Awards of Excellence in Experiential Education** in recognition for their dedication and innovations over the past year. Their photo was included as a montage for the AACP Experiential Education Section Community at the AACP Annual Meeting.



*Pictured, left to right:*

*Dr. Felix Yam, Jayne Laity, Dr. Sarah Lorentz, Dr. Renu Singh, Pamela McGlynn, Ezra Blaize*

# UC San Diego Biomedical Library

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