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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 the Fall Quarter progressed, it was so exciting to again see our students in PSB classrooms and filling the halls. Yes, all our students are in compliance with the vaccine mandate and I enjoyed meeting with our first-year students for lunches again. UC San Diego as a whole, including our large undergraduate population, remains very safe and largely uninfected. Let us all hope this continues throughout the winter months.

We look forward to welcoming several new faculty this year and also congratulate our Adjunct Professor, Elizabeth Winzeler, for her election to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine. Several of our faculty, including joint Scripps Institute of Oceanography members, have published exciting new studies on the discovery of protease inhibitors targeting SARS-CoV-2. In addition, they have joined with faculty from Chemistry and Engineering in the submission of a UC-wide grant providing a research foundation to prevent any future virus pandemics.

Finally, I was pleased that so many of our faculty joined with my wife and me to celebrate in a garden party their contributions to keeping SSPPS safe and functional in the past year.

# Class of 2025 White Coat Ceremony

by Andrina Marshall, Associate Dean for Business and Fiscal Affairs

On Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) held its White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2025.

In person attendance was limited to the 73 members of the class, student guests, faculty, and event staff. Masks were worn during the ceremony, and students who would normally receive their pharmacy white coat from the Dean, put on their own pharmacy coats.

James Colbert, Pharm.D., FASHP, FCSHP, Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Emeritus was the featured ceremony speaker. The ceremony concluded with students reciting the *Oath of a Pharmacist* as they prepare for the trusted profession of pharmacy.

Live Stream of the Event Via YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Xbk5J5YfJTk?t=993>

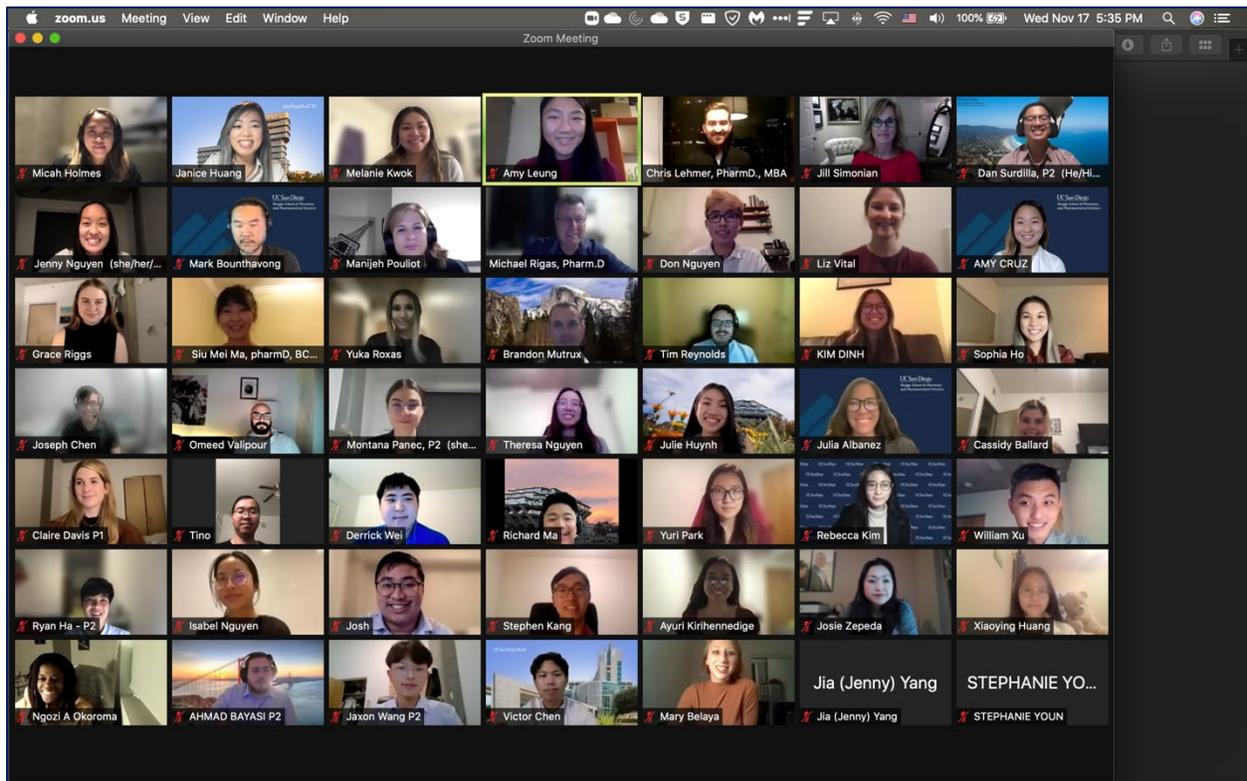


# ASP Fall Quarter Recap

by Melanie Kwok, ASP VP of Communications

This quarter ASP had the pleasure of hosting our annual Mentor-Mentee Meet and Greet organized by our VP of Networking, Janice Huang. This event is an annual tradition held by ASP matching student pharmacists to mentors who are practicing in their field of interest.

This year the 38 P1-P3 students and 19 pharmacists attended the event and were split into breakout rooms for Q&A sessions throughout the evening. The breakout rooms consisted of specialties such as pediatrics, ambulatory care, clinical pharmacy, managed care, regulatory/administration, industry, community pharmacy, and academia. We are so fortunate here in the Skaggs Pharmacy to have so many faculty members and UC San Diego affiliates who are willing to take time out of their busy schedules to mentor our students. Thank you again to everyone who attended!



# Puppies and Pumpkins Wellness Event

by Jenna Bastear, Direct of Student Affairs



During a stressful week of midterms our students needed to unwind and de-stress. Thanks to our friends at Therapy Fluffies and Pumpkin Patch Chula Vista, we provided SSPPS and SOM students with an opportunity to step away from studying for an hour. Four pups dressed in their best Halloween gear were ready for some love. Some dogs even had a few tricks up their sleeves. A pumpkin decorating station was set up allowing some of our more creative students to show off their skills. I saw a mix of funky-colored designs, spider webs, and even hemorrhaging pumpkins...oh my! I hope this brief hour of fun gave our students the break they deserve. We can't wait for our next wellness event!



# 2021-2022 Phi Lambda Sigma Ceremony

by Christine Cartlidge, Administrative Coordinator

On Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 42 student pharmacists were initiated into the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society. These SSPPS students have demonstrated both exceptional leadership skills as defined by [Phi Lambda Sigma](#) and pursuit of pharmacy profession advancement, all the while successfully managing the rigor of our SSPPS curriculum.

Student initiates, faculty, and event staff gathered in HSEC 2 & 3 for the first in-person ceremony in two years. Along with Dean James McKerrow and Associate Dean Candis Morello, who regularly host this event, Drs. Laura Hart and Ila Saunders joined the ceremony as new participants and fellow Phi Lambda Sigma members.

We invite you to [watch this slideshow](#) of photos taken that evening which includes images of Dean McKerrow's and Associate Dean Morello's opening remarks, the student initiates taking the Phi Lambda Sigma Oath and receiving their mortar and pestle pins, and Dr. Saunders's closing remarks.

To our new initiates, remember the Alexander den Heijer quote that Dr. Saunders recited in her speech, "You don't inspire people by revealing your superpowers; you inspire people by helping them reveal their own superpowers." You've already displayed your exemplary leadership skills and we look forward to seeing how you use those skills to improve the profession of pharmacy in the future. Congratulations!



# CSHP Seminar Clinical Skills Competition



We are very happy to announce that **Stephanie Lam** and **Anthony Huynh** (Class of 2022) won the Clinical Skills Competition at CSHP Seminar! Thirteen pharmacy schools competed this year and each respective team was responsible for developing a written care plan for a patient. The top six teams advanced to the final round where each team had two minutes to present the patient followed by a rigorous eight-minute Q&A session with a panel of judges. Please join us in congratulating Stephanie and Anthony! We are so proud of you!

# Joint Wellness Event with the School of Medicine and Health Promotion Services

by Jenna Bastear, Director of Student Affairs

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, SSPPS and the School of Medicine (SOM) Offices of Student Affairs joined with the Health Promotion Services Office to put on a Fall Wellness Fair. The wellness fair, titled “Wellness Together”, was the first of its kind as it was the first time the Health Sciences has collaborated on a wellness event alongside our main campus resources. SSPPS and SOM students alike met representatives from all over UC San Diego, including from CAPS, Recreation, UC SHIP, Care at SARC, the community centers, Student Legal Centers, Student Health Services, LGBT Resource Center, and many more! These campus resources are available to help our students achieve their wellness goals and maintain personal health.

We loved meeting new teammates from main campus and look forward to working with them again in the future.



# Health Outreach at Kobey's Swap Meet

by Phuong Tran and Karen Chen,  
APhA-ASP/CPhA Patient Care Vice Presidents



On November 13<sup>th</sup>, APhA-ASP/CPhA hosted a health outreach event in collaboration with CSHP at Kobey's Swap Meet, San Diego's largest outdoor market that draws thousands of shoppers weekly. Due to the generous donation of space and equipment from the Kobey's Swap Meet management team, student pharmacists were able to educate over 100 community members about hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol/body mass index (BMI), and asthma.

During this event, student volunteers participated in patient care activities such as free blood pressure and BMI screenings as well as poster presentations on how to manage blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol/BMI, and asthma. Shoppers, vendors, and Kobey's employees all enjoyed our services. The blood pressure and BMI screenings were our most popular stations; student volunteers saw over 50 patients within two hours. As many patients were also interested in blood glucose screenings, we will work to bring blood glucose testing to our next Kobey's Swap Meet health education event.

The purpose of this outreach event was to showcase how pharmacists can play an important role in healthcare and further the profession by bringing our expertise to the public. We were able to make valuable health information easily accessible. One patient expressed how he had not been able to see his primary care physician recently, so he was thankful that our booths allowed him to check on his health. After his screening, he was eager to follow up with his doctor. From interactions like this one, we believe we have made an impact in the lives of those we served.

APhA-ASP/CPhA Patient Care Vice Presidents would like to thank all the student pharmacists and preceptors who volunteered their time to make this event possible! Not only did we represent SSPPS to help the San Diego community, but we also helped our students apply what they learned in the classroom. We look forward to hosting more events in the upcoming months!



# Alumni Highlights: Dr. Patty Lok

by Jason Lam, Class of 2006

One of our esteemed alumni, Dr. Patty Lok from the Charter Class of 2006, received the Pharmacist of the Year award at Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center (SCVMC) during pharmacy week in October 2021. Dr. Lok graduated from SSPPS and completed a PGY1 residency at SCVMC. Beyond her training, she continued to expand her clinical expertise, now serving as a lead pharmacist in the SCVMC Infusion Center and a subject matter expert for the Cerner Oncology electronic medical record system.

**Words from her pharmacy director, Danny Huynh, at Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center (SCVMC):** “[Patty] is an awesome human being. She is truly genuine, hardworking, and fun to be around. Even after 15 years of working, she is excited to come to work and maintains an enthusiastic attitude and work ethic. Team player and leader...She cares about people, and she cares about the pharmacy team, bringing in her own stocked supply of hand sanitizers and alcohol as others were hoarding.”



**Words from Patty herself:** During the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Patty crafted an inspirational and heartfelt email to her SCVMC pharmacy team members. Here is an excerpt of her email:

“We’ve been through a lot collectively over this pandemic episode. I don’t think I ever thought I would experience a so-called pandemic in my lifetime. Two years ago, we had no idea what to use or how to treat COVID-19. We had no idea how to prevent it...and even once mask ordinances were in place, there weren’t even enough supplies to go around to protect our patients or ourselves. We’ve lost loved ones and acquaintances or know of people who have been personally affected. Our pharmacy department locomotive was running on loose wheels and an overworked steam engine.

I am grateful to everyone who pitched in to help get us through this. The pharmacy residents...really stepped up to spread pharmacist coverage across the ER and the rest of the hospital. Our pharmacy technicians stepped up to cross cover each other and to push themselves to do more than ever. Our pharmacy runners were put into overdrive without the help of volunteer staff. I appreciate each and every one of you. I am proud to be your friend, your compadre, your team member, and your co-worker.

I want us to be proud of the work that we do in the pharmacy, to be proud of the way we present ourselves to coworkers outside of the pharmacy department, to be proud of the end product we deliver to our patients. I want us to shine.

Let’s work together and have empathy for one another. Let’s provide constructive criticism and applaud and recognize each other’s efforts. Let’s work together to be the best that we can be!”



Recently, Dr. Steven Chen (Class of 2021) graciously took some time away from his PGY1 Residency at Kaiser Permanente here in San Diego to check in with SSPPS about how his residency is going. He gives some great insight about what residencies are, where he plans to go when his is complete, and some happy memories from his time here at SSPPS. We welcome you to view the full video [here](#).

Special thanks to Dr. Chen for this video and to P3 students, Khoa Vuong and Parto Pakravan for their work in editing and posting it to our YouTube channel.

# Alumni Happy Hour

by Christine Cartlidge, Administrative Coordinator



What a joy it was for us to come back together after two years apart for the Alumni Happy Hour! SSPPS teamed up once again with White Labs Brewing Co. to host the happy hour event on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Classes of 2010, 2012, and 2020 reconnected with SSPPS faculty over delicious brews and a catered taco bar. They talked about memories of SSPPS, current career paths, and even branched off to non-pharmacy topics such as Broadway musicals. It was incredibly refreshing to gather in person again to check in with our alumni, and we look forward to safely continuing this next year and beyond!

# Alumni Awards



Congratulations to Dr. Casey Tiefenthaler (Class of 2020), PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Resident, who is a recipient of the [College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists \(CPNP\) Foundation Research Grant](#) for his research project this year!

# San Diego County Proclamation of Pharmacy Month – October 2021

by Sarah Lorentz, PharmD, APh, Director Career Planning and Professional Development  
Charles E. Daniels, BS Pharm, PhD, Clinical Professor, Associate Dean and Chief Pharmacy Officer

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors made a proclamation to recognize the significant contributions of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and staff in San Diego County. Chair Nathan Fletcher and Vice Chair Nora Vargas awarded the proclamation on October 19<sup>th</sup>. They spoke of the important contributions of pharmacy professionals in San Diego County.

Acknowledgement of the proclamation was made by Dr. Suzanne Shea, Vice President, System Pharmacy and Clinical Nutrition, Sharp Healthcare. Dr. Sarah Lorentz represented the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) and recognized the accomplishments of the faculty and students during the past year as essential healthcare workers, becoming an integral part of the COVID-19 vaccination effort throughout San Diego County.

- *We joined forces with our nursing and medical colleagues and provided COVID-19 vaccinations at Petco Park and UC San Diego RIMAC.*
- *We collaborated with community partners such as Champions for Health and the San Diego Black Nurses Association.*
- *We have vaccinated in church parking lots, community centers, migrant camps, nursing homes, and neighborhood pharmacies.*
- *We have participated in our community by volunteering around class and exam schedules, on weekends, and on vacation days.*
- *We have reached out to many communities, including those hit hard by COVID-19.*

The local pharmacy community in San Diego has been, and continues to be, a critical partner in the San Diego County COVID-19 response. Pharmacy professionals in San Diego County spent the year providing clear "evidence-based" advice to patients, dispensing new COVID-19 drugs as they became available, providing testing, and immunizing the public with over 1.2 million doses of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines. It has been an opportunity to see how the most accessible health professionals can impact the health of our own communities. Additionally, Dr. Emily Do, Chief Pharmacy Officer, Director, Agency Operations, Medical Care Services Division, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, has played a critical role in providing leadership to our pharmacy community during this past year.

The Board of Supervisors meeting was attended by pharmacist representatives from the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists San Diego Chapter, California Pharmacists Association San Diego Chapter, and San Diego Health Systems, including SSPPS alumni and preceptors:

(Photographed from left to right)

Dr. Emily Do, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

Dr. Rachel Sperling, Sharp Community Medical Group

Dr. Harminder Sikand, Scripps Mercy Hospital, San Diego

Dr. Long Vu, San Diego County Pharmacy

Dr. Christine Cadiz, UC Irvine School of Pharmacy

Nathan Fletcher, Chair, San Diego County Board of Supervisors

Dr. Sarah Lorentz, SSPPS

Dr. Charles Daniels, UC San Diego Health/SSPPS

Dr. Suzanne Shea, Sharp Healthcare

Dr. Diandra Ruidera, Glaxo Smith Kline

Nora Vargas, Vice Chair, San Diego County Board of Supervisors

Dr. Sally Rafie, UC San Diego Health

Dr. David Truong, Jazz Pharmaceuticals



# Faculty Awards



Congratulations to Dr. Victor Nizet, recipient of the [2022 D.C. White Award for Interdisciplinary Research](#) from the American Society for Microbiology!

Congratulations to Dr. Nuno Bandeira, 2021 recipient of the [ASMS Biemann Medal](#) from the American Society for Mass Spectrometry!



# Faculty Featured In The News

## Pieter Dorrestein, PhD

[“Spinach reduces colon cancer risk: Study explores how”](#)

*Medical News Today*

## Olivier George, PhD

[“Withdrawal from Psychostimulants Restructures Functional Architecture of Brain”](#)

*UC San Diego Health, GEN, Science Daily, FierceBioTech, Science Blog, SciTech Daily, The Medical News, Yahoo! News, and Neuroscience News*

## Inmaculada Hernandez, PharmD, PhD

[“Domestic reference pricing may reduce Medicare expenditures on new drugs, study finds”](#)

*The Medical News*

[“Congress considers legislation to reform prescription drug pricing”](#)

*Texas Public Radio*

## Jennifer Le, PharmD

[“FDA advisers vote to recommend authorization of a pill to treat Covid-19”](#)

*CNN*

## Candis Morello, PharmD

[“Domestic reference pricing may reduce Medicare expenditures on new drugs, study finds”](#)

*The Medical News*

## Victor Nizet, MD

[“Health expert details Shigella symptoms, dangers amid outbreak”](#)

*FOX 5*

[“County, city officials work to contain shigella outbreak among homeless residents”](#)

*KPBS*

## Michael Taffee, PhD

[“Funding fairness: Racial disparities in research grant funding”](#)

*N Equals One Podcast*

[“NIH institutes try new approach to supporting Black scientists”](#)

*Science*

# SSPPS Staff Service Award Celebration

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the SSPPS Administrative Staff gathered for a Virtual Celebration of three SSPPS Staff Members' Service Award achievements. Service Awards are recognized as dedicated service to the University of California as a full-time career staff member in 5-year increments of 10 years or higher. Fund Manager, Yoly Rigonan (pictured left), and IPPE Coordinator, Pam McGlynn (pictured right), were both recognized for their outstanding 15 Years of Service. Administrative Coordinator, Danise Adrianzen (pictured center), was recognized for her remarkable 20 Years of Service. Congratulations to each of these individuals as they reach milestone achievements in their careers with the University of California!



# CSHP Seminar – Skaggs Reception

by Jenna Bastear, Director of Student Affairs



On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Skaggs hosted our first in-person conference reception in over two years. We were thrilled to gather with our alumni, faculty, students and even colleagues from other schools of pharmacy at the annual CSHP seminar. Our alumni, faculty and students are conducting groundbreaking research and it was a pleasure to support them at the seminar. For more photos, [click here](#) to view a slideshow.

We hope to see more friendly faces at the next Skaggs reception in 2022. Take care and happy holidays to all!



# Announcing a New SSPPS PGY1 Community Pharmacy Residency Program



We are excited to announce the UC San Diego PGY1 Community Pharmacy Residency Program is back! We have partnered with PureCare Pharmacy, an independently-owned community pharmacy located in Carmel Valley. This one-year postgraduate training program in community practice builds upon the Doctor of Pharmacy education and outcomes to develop community-based pharmacist practitioners with diverse patient care, leadership, and education skills. This program will also allow the successful candidate to practice in a dynamic, independently-owned pharmacy while developing their business acumen and entrepreneurial skills. Residents will gain experience operating and managing an independent pharmacy, designing a clinical service at the pharmacy, and developing their entrepreneurial skills. Additional learning experiences include UC San Diego Family Medicine Clinic and Student-Run Free Clinic.

We are currently recruiting for the upcoming residency year. Detailed information about the program can be found on our [website](#).

Program contact:  
Alex Luli, PharmD, BCACP  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
[aluli@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:aluli@health.ucsd.edu)

# UC San Diego Biomedical Library

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**Penny Coppernoll-Blach, MLS**  
Biomedical Library Liaison for SSPPS  
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**Email Reference Service:**  
[biomed@ucsd.edu](mailto:biomed@ucsd.edu)

**Visit the library website for hours**  
<https://library.ucsd.edu>

**Proxy Access to the Library System:**  
[pharmacy@ucsd.edu](mailto:pharmacy@ucsd.edu)

