

# SSPPS Office of Experiential Education Preceptor News

## Progress Notes and Updates from Renu Singh, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education

**SSPPS UPDATES:** Welcome to our Fall issue of our quarterly OEE Newsletter! By now, we have all adjusted to the realities of living alongside COVID-19, while sanitizing, masking, physical/social distancing and online meetings have just become a way of life for us all. The Return-to-Learn program at UC San Diego welcomes some students back onto campus, with all UC San Diego students completing a [daily online COVID-19 symptom tracker](#), frequent COVID-19 testing, as well as UC San Diego providing a contact tracing program, and a sewage testing program for on campus housing.



As you may have read in our SSPPS Summer newsletter that was emailed to preceptors recently, our school [ranks FIRST nationally](#) in achieving the highest mean, first-attempt pass rates for NAPLEX for the years 2017-2019. So proud of our students! Recognition is also due to all of you who precept our students for IPPEs and APPEs and train our students to become strong pharmacy practitioners. Kudos to you all!

**OEE UPDATES:** Our [ACPE Site Visit for accreditation](#) is scheduled for November 3-5. Due to the pandemic, the site visit will be conducted virtually. The ACPE site review team will also be interviewing some preceptors to assess OEE, IPPEs, APPEs, preceptor orientation and development. We appreciate your engagement with our school and OEE.

**APPE UPDATES FOR THE CLASS OF 2021:** The Class of 2021 has started their third APPE (Fall A). Just a reminder that [students may not initiate changes in rotation schedules](#). If a site or preceptor is unable to offer their originally scheduled rotation, we request that site coordinators/preceptors contact OEE, so that our office can work with you to make alternate arrangements for the student.

**P4 Wellness Program:** Acknowledging that stress levels are high for the P4 class, OEE, in partnership with the Office of Student Affairs is piloting a wellness program for our P4 students. Our first session was held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6.30-8:00 pm and was led by Drs. Desiree Shapiro and Sid Zisook, from the Dept. of Psychiatry. Three preceptors and/or faculty shared their stories of professional challenge or a failure during pharmacy school or during residency. This was followed by small group breakout sessions with faculty facilitators, which allowed students to reflect on the preceptor/faculty stories, and to share their own stories of personal setbacks or fears they may have. Most students who attended the session felt the session was extremely beneficial. There will be two additional wellness programs held in November 2020 and March 2021, which will cover themes of resiliency, and preventing burnout. If student survey results continue to be positive, this program will be continued each year and potentially expanded in coming years.

**IPPEs:** Summer block community and health-system IPPEs are completed for the Class of 2022 and 2023. We have a few longitudinal health-system IPPEs continuing over the next several months, providing some students an opportunity to complete these experiences once a week for ten weeks, or sometimes longer. This year was an extremely challenging year for health-system IPPEs, given the pandemic, and we are immensely grateful to site directors and preceptors who were able to open their sites to student pharmacists over the summer. We were also able to establish a few new partnerships, enabling students who lived outside San Diego, to complete their health-system IPPEs closer to home.

### PRECEPTOR DEVELOPMENT AND NEWS:

- 1) In this issue, we highlight our well attended, virtual summer Preceptor Development Workshop presented by Dr. Carolyn Sandoval on Inclusive Precepting: Fostering Equity and Inclusion in Health Care Practice.
- 2) Thank you to all preceptors who completed our [AACP Preceptor Survey](#). Five respondents were randomly selected to win Amazon gift certificates. Our [winners](#) were:

Drs. Maggie Box, Daniel Farney, Jayson Napolitano, Sean Lee, and Sarah Michael. Congratulations!

## PRECEPTOR DEVELOPMENT AND NEWS (Continued):

3) OEE has updated some key guidance documents, which are available for viewing on CORE:

a) COVID Symptoms or Exposure FAQ:

[https://www.rxpreceptor.com/artifacts/?Zbl2nU68g%2ByuLUZZbPtOQd6SjTow%2FfyS4pkxxSDQVVCbNQOXUcVH9cs5bYz7CSqR%2FFztHv91Za6dqQcxUk%3D\\_2021](https://www.rxpreceptor.com/artifacts/?Zbl2nU68g%2ByuLUZZbPtOQd6SjTow%2FfyS4pkxxSDQVVCbNQOXUcVH9cs5bYz7CSqR%2FFztHv91Za6dqQcxUk%3D_2021)

b) Procedure Following Experiential Education Exposures, Injury and Emergencies

[https://www.rxpreceptor.com/artifacts/?Ijuf24m0xdQk5mTAexC3N7bx4JYe6GgNr6vofuyeevubo3Nw024yY9a5geJGZXTe4BqIU5ElvdHv6zqBjE4%3D\\_2021](https://www.rxpreceptor.com/artifacts/?Ijuf24m0xdQk5mTAexC3N7bx4JYe6GgNr6vofuyeevubo3Nw024yY9a5geJGZXTe4BqIU5ElvdHv6zqBjE4%3D_2021)

If you are an SSPPS preceptor and do not have access to CORE, please contact Ezra Blaize at [eblaize@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:eblaize@health.ucsd.edu)

4) We have fully transitioned to our new experiential learning management system, CORE. Additionally, we have deployed updated student rotation evaluation forms based on the Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) rubric. Please continue to provide us with feedback on this new system and these evaluation forms so we can make updates and improvements.

5) Please inform OEE of any updates to your COVID-19 policies or PPE requirements for students, and whether students need to bring their own masks, face shields, etc., on-site.

6) You should have received an [IPPE and APPE Availability Request](#) email through CORE for the 2021-2022 cycle. Please submit your availability by **November 1**.

7) Our annual [APPE Rotation Fair](#) is being planned for January 2021, and it will be held virtually. We will be contacting site coordinators/directors soon with a date, time, and format. We hope you will be able to participate in sharing the APPE rotations that your site offers so that our P3 students can be better informed and ask you questions prior to their APPE selection Lottery in late Winter/early Spring.

## STUDENT UPDATES:

As Fall quarter progresses, many students will be asking preceptors for Letters of Recommendation (LOR) for residency, fellowship, or pharmacist positions. We have advised students to make requests early, to provide preceptors adequate time to complete their LORs. Students may be feeling stressed and anxious in late Fall to early Winter, due to the residency/fellowship application process as well as residency/fellowship and job interviews. We appreciate you allowing students some professional time off, if needed, to attend residency showcases (which are all virtual this year) and other professional events that may help them in their career journey.

Thank you for partnering with our school's Office of Experiential Education to train the next generation of strong, compassionate, and caring pharmacists.



## Preceptor Spotlight: Seung Oh, PharmD, MS

### Pharmacy Manager, Vons Pharmacy

**Training:** Doctor of Pharmacy, The University of Arizona; Master's in Healthcare Leadership, UC San Diego.

**Specialty:** Community Pharmacy (Insurance and healthcare system, management and workflow efficiency, pharmacy student education). Was appointed to the CA State Board of Pharmacy in 2020.

**SSPPS:** *What inspired you to become a preceptor, and how long have you been precepting?*

**Seung:** As a pharmacy student, I recognized the importance of great preceptors who I was lucky enough to meet and learn from. They fostered my growth as a

**PRECEPTOR SPOTLIGHT (Continued):**

student stepping my feet into the real world of pharmacy. In addition, I had the unfortunate displeasure of having a few preceptors that were not inspiring or wanting to educate. From that experience, I developed a desire to help foster and educate pharmacy students as soon as I was able to do so and it has been about 6 years that I have been precepting. For most pharmacy students, 4th-year rotations are considered important in understanding many aspects of pharmacy work and career options. Also, it is the final chapter in pharmacy education where you tie everything together to apply in real life. I want to be a support for students who are entering this stage in their academic life. I want to make sure pharmacy students are educated on the current healthcare landscape, how to provide great patient care, and how to be a great leader.

**SSPPS:** *What is the most satisfying aspect of precepting students?*

**Seung:** One of the most satisfying aspects of precepting students, of course, is to see my students grow and become great pharmacists. But what is even more satisfying is to see so many wonderful students overall that gives me hope for the pharmacy industry in the future. We are at a crossroads in our industry where we need to innovate and change so that our standing in the healthcare team stays strong and that we are a valued member in American healthcare. It is so great to see students from all over the country with a passion for pharmacy career, love for patient care, and their desire to make a difference in the lives of people.

**SSPPS:** *Are there some specific challenges for future pharmacists you feel are important to address with your students?*

**Seung:** There are tons of challenges that are facing future pharmacists within our industry and beyond our industry, ranging from pharmacists' scope of practice, reduced pharmacy reimbursements below costs, increase in robberies, and potential healthcare reform. What I find most discouraging, however, is the abusive nature of how our pharmacy benefits system is designed and operating in our country. After all, we pharmacy, as a whole industry need to come together to grow and provide excellent patient care without abusing the system and being greedy in the name of saving health plan money. The abusive practices by Pharmacy Benefit Managers must be fixed so that our industry can function harmoniously as a whole. In addition, the changing healthcare landscape is both concerning and hopeful for what we can do as pharmacists. The role of pharmacists as a pure dispensary of medications will diminish and we will have to step up as clinicians in providing more patient care in the future. This can only happen with increased responsibilities given to us via our lawmakers and/or regulators. Pharmacists must come together to lobby and make their voices heard in increasing our scope of practice and asking to be part of the healthcare team in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Therefore, I ask all current and future pharmacists to be deeply engaged in lobbying for our industry. Our future will be bright and impactful as long as we fight for the progress and protection of our profession.

## Preceptor Development Events

On Saturday, August 8, 2020 the SSPPS Office of Experiential Education hosted a preceptor development event titled "Inclusive Precepting: Fostering Equity and Inclusion in Health Care Practice." Delivered by Carolyn L. Sandoval, PhD, Associate Director at UC San Diego Teaching & Learning Commons, this virtual event via Zoom was attended by 99 preceptors. The presentation focused on dimensions of identity and their impact on experiences, precepting practices that can cultivate a sense of belonging, and strategies that support learning and foster inclusion. Although attendees could not meet face to face, they did have lively discussions in break-out rooms about topics that were mediated by facilitators that included SSPPS faculty, staff, and students. Renu Singh, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education, also addressed the participants and gave updates from the Office of Experiential Education.



One of SSPPS's class of 2021 students, David Sung Kim, attended the event and described it as follows:

"On August 8th, I was able to participate and help facilitate a preceptor development program as a student liaison/ambassador for the Office of Experiential Education. This event was to emphasize equity, diversity, and inclusion

**PRECEPTOR DEVELOPMENT EVENTS (Continued):**

in APPE and IPPE rotations from the preceptor point of view to help students feel more comfortable in this learning environment. With the help and preparation from Dr. Singh and Dr. Sandoval, I was given the chance to facilitate the discussion of diversity and inclusion in small breakout groups with several preceptors. The format of the development program switched back and forth from smaller groups to a larger discussion, which allowed everyone to be much more engaged in the conversation.

It was an amazing and rewarding event to really provide the student perspective to this important discussion. I felt like I was understood and heard by each preceptor in my group and overall had a pleasant feeling that the preceptors all care this much about the students at SSPPS. Facilitating this event made me realize overall how much SSPPS emphasizes the well-being of our students - especially with our smaller class size; this is an aspect of our program that needs to have a continual focus. Especially during these times, it is not only pivotal to have the discussion about diversity and inclusion, it should be a mandatory practice that should be adapted in various functional areas. It was very interesting and educational to hear each preceptor's experiences regarding this topic. I felt that everyone during this development program learned from each other's stories and will continue the conversation for the future. Overall, this was a great experience that facilitated an essential discussion - and I hope that this will continue to be a point of emphasis for our school"

## Students Share Their Rotation Experiences

My IPPE was truly an introduction to the field of retail pharmacy because it was my first time being exposed to community pharmacy. Prior to pharmacy school, I had never worked as a pharmacy tech or clerk, like many of my classmates, so I was eager but also a bit nervous to start my IPPE. My 3 week rotation was scheduled at a Rite Aid pharmacy, and those 3 weeks flew by quickly. I was lucky to have had a great experience. My preceptor, along with the entire pharmacy team, including the technicians and floaters, were extremely knowledgeable, approachable and all contributed to and supported my learning.

I started my IPPE around the time when the 2020-2021 flu vaccines became available, so I spent much of my time immunizing and counseling patients about vaccines. I enjoyed this because outside of the immunization course that I completed during Fall quarter, I hadn't had the opportunity to practice vaccinating. The rotation also reinforced a lot of the OTC drug information that I learned in Pharmacy Practice. One thing that I did learn that was particularly new to me was how to deal with insurance problems and how much of a burden that insurance issues can be to both pharmacists and patients. My favorite part of my IPPE experience was connecting with the patients themselves. The area I served had a large senior population and they were all so incredibly sweet! Overall, I had a wonderful time learning from the team at Rite Aid.

**Penelope Nwaukwa** *Pharm.D. Candidate, Class of 2023*

I recently completed my hospital IPPE at UCSDH with Dr. Neil Patel. I observed how pharmacy technicians and pharmacists stock and dispense medications to the entire hospital. Since this was an overnight rotation, it was a challenge in and of itself, but learning from Dr. Patel and the rest of the pharmacy team made it worthwhile.

During my rotation, I was able to shadow the technicians as they filled Pyxis machines on the different floors and prepared IV medications. Additionally, I learned how pharmacists verify medication orders as my preceptor navigated EPIC to review lab values, medication dispensing histories, and patient notes to see if the medication and dose were appropriate before dispensing the order. This was my favorite part of the rotation because it gave me a comprehensive understanding of the patient's condition and why they were being prescribed certain medications.

Our second year of pharmacy school involved taking classes with the medical students as a way to encourage collaboration among different health fields. During my rotation, I saw how frequently physicians would call or message the pharmacists to discuss medication therapies and how nurses would ask the pharmacist to check patient labs and adjust medication dosages, clarify medication administration, and verify appropriateness of patients' medications. This experience allowed me to see the collaboration firsthand, understand the importance of pharmacists on the healthcare team, and has encouraged me to explore a career as an inpatient pharmacist.

**Amanpreet Sarai** *Pharm.D. Candidate, Class of 2022*

**STUDENTS SHARE THEIR ROTATION EXPERIENCES (Continued):**

APPE rotations are finally underway and 4th year has been a truly unique experience for our class. Despite the unusual circumstances surrounding the 2020-2021 school year due to the ongoing pandemic, this has not stopped our passion for becoming leaders in pharmacy and healthcare. Since starting this rollercoaster of a year, I’ve had the opportunity to provide outpatient care to our veterans and active duty servicemen and women at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton and now currently I’m working as part of hematology/oncology consult service at UCSDH with some of the nation’s top experts in the field. I’ve had the opportunity to contribute my medication knowledge in developing treatment plans and providing the best possible care to our patients battling cancer. Whether virtually or in person this has been a rewarding and truly unforgettable learning experience and I look forward to everything this year has to offer.

**Matthew Mitchell, M.S. Pharm.D. Candidate, Class of 2021**

## SSPPS Preceptors: Do You Have an Appointment with us?

### Benefits of an Appointment:

- Physical and VPN access to the UC San Diego [library system](#)
- Utilize the UC San Diego [shuttle bus service](#) (shuttles serve campus, UC San Diego medical centers and key points off campus)
- May be eligible for reimbursement for poster presentations and/or meeting registration
- Eligible to attend SSPPS Preceptor Development Programs, with CAPE credit
- For more information visit our Experiential Education website at: <https://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/faculty/experiential-education-preceptors>

## Revisiting the Experiential Education Absence Policy

Attending professional pharmacy meetings and residency/fellowship interviews are an important component of professional and career development for student pharmacists. Preceptors are encouraged to allow APPE students to attend professional meetings and interviews required for postgraduate applications. It is the responsibility of the student to organize these dates in ways to minimize the impact on their educational experiences. Students are expected to work with their preceptors when planning/scheduling interview dates. The Experiential Education Attendance and Absence Guidelines for the SSPPS may be viewed at this link:

[https://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/sites/pharmacy.ucsd.edu/files/Experiential%20Education%20Attendance%20and%20Absence%20Guidelines\\_0.pdf](https://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/sites/pharmacy.ucsd.edu/files/Experiential%20Education%20Attendance%20and%20Absence%20Guidelines_0.pdf)

Links	Questions? Comments? Ideas? Please feel free to contact the OEE
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