SSPPS Office of Experiential Education

Preceptor News

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

SSPPS UPDATES: Welcome to our Spring issue of our quarterly OEE Newsletter. The month has been busy as we said our final farewells to our Class of 2021 at the Diploma distribution at the SSPPS and cheered our students at the virtual Commencement on May 15. The Class of 2020 had their virtual Commencement on May 22, and it was marvelous to see last year's graduates, learn where they are now practicing and feel proud of their career paths despite a year and a half of a pandemic. We also enjoyed the many talents of our students, faculty and staff who provided performances for the events.

OEE UPDATES: Our APPE and IPPE rotations are now finalized and site directors and preceptors should have received their schedules for the 2021-2022 APPE cycle and summer IPPEs. If you have not yet received instructions on how to access your schedule, please contact our APPE coordinator, Ezra Blaize, or our IPPE Coordinator, Pam McGlynn. OEE provided an Experiential Updates Webinar on June 10 from 12:00-12.45pm to preceptors to provide timely updates prior to IPPEs and APPEs starting in mid-late June. If you were unable to attend our webinar, it has been recorded and is available on CORE.

APPE preceptor evaluations completed by students for the class of 2021 were released on June 25th. Ezra Blaize has emailed instructions on how to access these evaluations through CORE.

I am truly grateful to our preceptors who offered rotations to our students, despite the uncertainties of an ongoing global pandemic, and who continue to care about teaching student pharmacists.

APPE Updates for the Class of 2022: The Class of 2022 were excited to be receiving weekly APPE Orientation presentations this quarter, in preparation for their APPEs. The five hours of orientation topics include Keys to Success, Syllabi Expectations, Midpoint and Summative Grading Process, Receiving Feedback Graciously, Giving Feedback Respectfully, Logistics (such as site onboarding requirements and expectations), information on the P4 Career Planning evening series, Reflections of a Recent Graduate, When the Unexpected Happens, COVID FAQs/Guidance, Wellness, Preventing Burnout and Counseling Resources, Professionalism Expectations, and a Patient Work-Up Workshop.

Students are advised to contact their APPE rotation preceptor(s) two weeks prior to the start of rotations for day 1 instructions (e.g. meeting time/location, prerequisite reading, dress code).

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COVID-19 Updates: We continue to advise our students that COVID vaccination is a requirement prior to IPPE and APPE rotations, as well as completing a daily UCSD Online Symptom Tracker. We have instructed them not to report to their rotation site if they are exhibiting any symptoms concerning for COVID-19. In this case, they should notify their preceptor immediately, as well as our office. If you have any COVID-related concerns regarding our students during the year, please contact us immediately for guidance.

P4 Wellness Program: During 2020-2021, the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Experiential Education (OEE) piloted a three-part P4 wellness program for the Class of 2021, which was received very well by students who attended. As a result, we will continue this series with the Class of 2022 to help them build confidence and resilience during their APPE year. To ensure engagement and participation, student attendance will be mandatory, and preceptors are requested to release students from their sites at 3pm on those dates, to enable students sufficient time to drive to our school and have some time to socialize with their peers over some refreshments before each session. The dates are:
- Wednesday Sept 8, 2021 (Block 2: Summer B)
- Wednesday December 1, 2021 (Block 4: Fall B)
- Wednesday March 9, 2022 (Block 6: Winter B)

IPPEs: OEE met with the P1 and P2 classes on March 21 to provide an Orientation to IPPEs in preparation for their upcoming summer community and/or health-system IPPE rotations. Topics included COVID updates, Syllabi Review, including the eleven domains that must be completed by the end of their IPPE rotation, Evaluation Process, Giving Feedback Respectfully, Attendance and Absence Guidelines, When the Unexpected Occurs, Diversity and Inclusion, and Professionalism Requirements on rotation.

PRECEPTOR DEVELOPMENT AND NEWS:

We had a very successful Spring Preceptor Development Program and announced our 2021 Preceptor Excellence and Recognition Awards on April 17. Details are outlined later in this newsletter.

STUDENT UPDATES:

Our Class of 2021 were very successful with the ASHP Residency Match. They achieved an 82% residency match rate, which was the highest of all California schools of pharmacy, and one of the highest match rates in the nation. In addition, six students were accepted into a Fellowship program, which we are also very proud of. A large part of their success comes from completing high quality rotations with dedicated and strong preceptors who mentored them, reviewed CVs, wrote letters of recommendation, provided mock interviews, and allowed our students time off to attend residency interviews. A HUGE THANK YOU to all of you!!

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

SSPPS: How do you structure rotations to promote successful student outcomes?

Catherine: It is imperative to discuss the rotation’s objectives along with the student’s expectations and goals early on during the learning experience. Weekly S.M.A.R.T. goals provide the student and preceptor with the opportunity to reflect on the student’s progress and successes. These discussions lay down the foundation for a successful rotation.

SSPPS: Can you share some teaching pearls that you have learned over the years?

Catherine: As preceptors we are required to provide continuous feedback, however, it is just as important to be receptive to feedback from your learners in order to develop your precepting skills. Student feedback has provided me with invaluable insight. Also, inquire about your learners’ areas of interest in pharmacy. If possible, align their interests with rotational goals. Lastly, invest in your learners as they are the future of our profession.

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

Catherine: Being a part of the learning process can be challenging yet rewarding. It definitely is gratifying to share and experience the learner’s “aha” moments.
Preceptor Development Program: Spring 2021

On Saturday April 17th, 2021, preceptors from the community joined us for a virtual preceptor development seminar via Zoom. The seminar, “Adapting to COVID in the Experiential Learning Environment,” featured five different speakers: Timothy Chow, PharmD from Scripps Health; Mina Said, PharmD from PureCare Pharmacy; Joanne Lau, PharmD from Prospect Medical Group; Felix Yam, PharmD, from VA Medical Center San Diego and SSPPS; and Desiree Shapiro, MD, SSPPS Student Wellness Counselor. The varied areas of expertise of the speakers (Health-system Pharmacy, Independent Community Pharmacy, Ambulatory Care, Acute Care, and Student Wellness, respectively) provided a rich diversity of experience. Each speaker shared how they were able to modify rotations during the pandemic while still providing a robust learning experience. New practices that were found to enhance rotations and could be sustainable for future rotations beyond the pandemic were discussed. At the end of the presentations, a speaker panel question and answer session involved discussion with the audience on such topics as rotation logistics and student mental health.

Also during this event the Office of Experiential Education presented Preceptor Excellence Awards and Special Recognition Awards to APPE and IPPE preceptors who have demonstrated outstanding teaching and guidance to our students. Preceptor Excellence Award and Special Recognition Award winners for 2021 are listed at left.
Reflections from a P4 student by David Sung Kim

To reflect on the P4 year experience, I certainly feel practice ready for the upcoming fellowship at Rutgers - Genentech, which starts July 2021. Even with COVID and multiple cancellations of APPE sites, the wonderful faculty and staff at OEE were able to schedule a new experience within the same field of practice in a short amount of time. My favorite rotation was actually outside of the pharmaceutical industry practice - and was actually at UCSDH Owen Clinic Retrovirus. This APPE rotation allowed me to interact with such diverse population of patients. I put all the skills that I learned from OSCEs into use and surely felt rewarded in the world of patient care.

Throughout all the rotations, I appreciated every preceptors’ effort and tenacity to really help us students. Any questions that I had, they were able to help me out tremendously, but at the same time, they all knew when they needed me to work independently. I think I was very fortunate to have this balance of independent vs supervised work style for all my rotations this past year. I think some advice for the next P4 class is that really to go into each rotation with an open mind. I had some rotations where I had a negative perspective before even starting the first day (based on schedule, what others said, etc.), but as I went through each day, I figured out those rotations were infinitely rewarding and became one of my favorite ones. And overall, I know the times could be tough and tiring - but keep your head up to all the kings and queens out there!

To answer if I could do anything differently, I wish the rules and regulations of the pharmacy board will allow more electives for us to take. Because of my decision to do industry, I chose both of my elective rotations to in the traditional industry setting (which was most beneficial for mid-year/interviews). However, there were so many different electives that caught my eye. Managed care, compounding, informatics, nuclear pharmacy, and so many other practices in pharmacy that I wish I had the chance to explore. I really wish there was more time to explore all these areas. This year truly reminded me that pharmacy is really infinitely diverse.

Lastly, looking back at this year, it really reminded me of one of my favorite quotes of all time: “Cherish these nights, cherish these people; Life is a movie, but there will never be a sequel.”

“This year truly reminded me that pharmacy is really infinitely diverse.”
- David Sung Kim, Class of 2021
Changes in the Office of Experiential Education
Dr. Sarah Lorentz retires July 1, 2021

Dr. Sarah Lorentz will be retiring on July 1st. She has been employed by UC San Diego for nearly 39 years. Dr. Lorentz has worked in Office of Experiential Education for over 12 years. Most recently she has served as the Director of Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences and has worked closely with students and precepting pharmacists in community and health-system pharmacies as well as service learning outreach events. Dr. Lorentz has also coordinated immunization training for student pharmacist since 2006. She has also guided student pharmacists in career development and has administered the P4 student career planning program. This year Dr. Lorentz took a leading role in organizing COVID-19 Vaccine administration opportunities for student pharmacist in the San Diego and Orange County.

Additionally, she has been the Director of Medication Therapy Management (MTM) for Partners in Medication Therapy, an innovative venture of UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy since 2011. This program is specifically designed to provide comprehensive medication reviews for patients on complex regimens. Dr. Lorentz graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in Pharmacy and a Doctor of Pharmacy. Her fellowship training at UCSD Medical Center focused on ambulatory care practice with research related to hypertension and anticoagulation. She helped establish the Pharmacy Home Infusion Service in the UCSD Department of Pharmacy. In addition, Dr. Lorentz served as a pharmacy consultant at St. Vincent de Paul Village Family Health Center, where she initiated an MTM and anticoagulation clinic, while providing care to underserved and homeless patients. She has extensive experience precepting pharmacy students and residents throughout her career. Dr. Lorentz had maintained a strong interest in ambulatory care practice and expanding the role of pharmacists in providing MTM services.
Dr. Alex Luli is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of California San Diego, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS). He obtained his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Northeast Ohio Medical University in 2013. He completed a post-graduate year 1 community pharmacy residency at NorthShore University HealthSystem in Evanston, IL. In his current role at UC San Diego SSPPS, Dr. Luli teaches in various courses including a self-care pharmacy practice course provided to first-year student pharmacists. He practices in an interdisciplinary primary care clinic that provides free services to uninsured and underserved patients, and he enjoys precepting pharmacy learners of all levels. Dr. Luli’s interests include advancing patient care services in the community setting, enhancing experiential training for students and residents, and increasing public awareness and outreach regarding safe and proper use of medications. He also serves as a board member for the San Diego County Pharmacists Association (SDCPHA).

Dr. Luli looks forward to this new role, supporting our outstanding pharmacy preceptors, and working with all those involved in the education of our fantastic UCSD SSPPS pharmacy students.

Revisiting the Experiential Education Absence Policy

Attending professional pharmacy meetings and residency/fellowship interviews is 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
SSPPS Preceptors: Do You Have an Appointment with us?

Benefits of an Appointment include:

- 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