

SSPPS Office of Experiential Education Preceptor News

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



SSPPS UPDATES: Welcome to the Winter issue of our quarterly OEE Newsletter. I cannot believe it's already been a year since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have come a long way since, and many lessons learned. All students have been reporting to their rotations physically, with the exception of a few virtual clinics or non-patient care electives. With the arrival of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID vaccines in December 2020, all health care providers, including our students, were prioritized to receive their vaccinations. This allowed our students to start volunteering at vaccination sites in early January, including the UCSDH Petco Park Vaccination Super Station. With the recent approval of the J&J COVID vaccine, and our local pharmacies obtaining vaccines, our students will continue to join our pharmacists and other health care providers in the widespread ongoing effort of getting our entire communities vaccinated. It makes me even more proud to be a pharmacist!

In other important news, I am very pleased to share that our school successfully completed our ACPE Site Visit in November and received the full 8-year accreditation. Of note, the ACPE site team were very complimentary of our preceptors. Thank you to those of you who were able to meet with the site team and share your insights. We are very grateful.

OEE UPDATES: Our office is in the process of entering all site rotation offerings for the APPE Rotation Lottery. In the next few weeks, our P3 students will provide their preferences for their rotations. OEE have met with the P3 students to discuss the how the ranking system works. Our goal is to send preceptors finalized APPE schedules by next month.

APPE Updates for the Class of 2021: The Class of 2021 are halfway through their 6th and second to last APPE (Winter B). For the final APPE rotation starting March 29 (Spring A), we ask that preceptors submit their final evaluations no later than May 5th, as grades need to be submitted to the registrar to ensure our students graduate on time. Our APPE Coordinator, Ezra Blaize, will email a reminder to Spring A preceptors during that rotation. OEE will provide a webinar to all preceptors in June to provide timely updates prior to IPPEs and APPEs starting.

We continue to guide our students to remain vigilant during these final few months of the APPE year. They have been advised that even if vaccinated, they may continue to carry and transmit the virus. We ask them to continue to follow social distancing guidelines and follow all appropriate PPE requirements as directed by their rotation site. Additionally, they are required to continue to use the online UCSD Symptom Tracker daily and not to report to their rotation site if they are exhibiting any symptoms concerning for COVID-19. If you have any COVID-related concerns regarding our students, please contact us immediately for guidance.

Commencement for the Class of 2021 will be held virtually on May 15. In addition, a virtual commencement will be held on May 22 for the Class of 2020, who had postponed their commencement last May.

P4 Wellness Program: Our third and final wellness program for our P4 class was held on March 11th. Dr. Kelly Lee led the virtual evening program focusing on preventing burnout. Faculty and residents facilitated the smaller breakout sessions. The program was well received by students. We hope to continue our wellness series for subsequent P4 classes.

IPPEs: OEE met with the P1 and P2 classes on Feb 26 to discuss upcoming summer IPPE rotation dates and other updates, such as vaccination opportunities for service learning IPPEs. Students will be submitting their preferences for their Community and Health System IPPEs for this Summer. We will be finalizing the schedules in April and emailing the students and preceptors in early May.

PRECEPTOR DEVELOPMENT AND NEWS:

- 1) Please hold the date for our upcoming virtual **Spring Preceptor Development Program and Annual Preceptor Excellence Awards Ceremony** on Saturday April 17. Details are provided within this newsletter
- 2) We had a very successful virtual **APPE Rotation Fair** for our P3 class in January. We thank all preceptors who were able to attend and share information about their rotation offering to our students. The students were very appreciative.

3) The SSPPS **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee** is currently surveying students, faculty, alumni and preceptors to obtain a better understanding of our diversity make-up. Feedback from the survey will help the school develop policies and strategies for improving diversity, as well as equity and inclusion, at SSPPS and at UC San Diego. The committee would appreciate your participation of the short survey. The **survey** can be accessed by clicking on the following hyperlink: https://ucsd.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bdepY6V6jmOdcpg

STUDENT UPDATES:

Many of our P4 students will be anxiously awaiting the results of the **Residency Match on March 19**. We thank all of you who have supported our students with writing letters of recommendation, reviewing their CVs and Letters of Intent, in addition to offering your guidance and mentorship. This year has been a difficult year for all of us, including our students, many of whom dealt with personal or family COVID illnesses or losses, quarantining and isolation. We are fortunate to have a wellness counselor available for our students, Dr. Desiree Shapiro. If you encounter a student who you feel is experiencing emotional stress, please contact OEE and we will ensure the student is connected to our wellness counselor and additional resources.

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: Christine Joy Vo, PharmD

Clinical Inpatient Pharmacist and Acute Care Coordinator



Recipient: SSPPS Office of Experiential Education Preceptor Excellence Award, 2020, APPE Health-System

Training: Doctor of Pharmacy, Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy; PGY1 pharmacy residency at VA San Diego Healthcare System

Main practice: Internal medicine

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

Vo: I grew up in the Philippines and was given an opportunity to come to the United States for a better life through my dad being in the military. I promised myself that I would continue to give back to the community that made it possible for me to be successful and happy. In addition, I have always been lucky to have amazing preceptors. To combine both goals, I decided to work with veterans and continue to precept the future of pharmacy, our pharmacy students.

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

Vo: One of the most important pieces of advice I give the students at the beginning of the rotation would be to treat every patient like a loved family member. This way, every student will choose the best possible care for every patient and make the experience memorable to both the patients and the students.

SSPPS: What advice would you give to new preceptors of pharmacy students?

Vo: The best advice that I can give to new preceptors of pharmacy students would be to always remember how they felt early on in their rotations. We oftentimes forget how challenging and intimidating rotations can be. Remembering those times, makes it easier to understand the amount of pressure the students feel and help ease their anxiety and provide assurance that everyone goes through this process.

Preceptor Development Events

On Saturday, April 17, 2021 the SSPPS Office of Experiential Education will host the Spring Preceptor Development Program and Annual Preceptor Excellence Awards Ceremony from 9:00-11:00 am. 1.5 hours of CAPE credit will be offered for the program entitled **"Adapting to COVID in the Experiential Learning Environment: What's Here to Stay?"** Four dynamic speakers from various areas of pharmacy practice will discuss lessons learned while precepting during the pandemic. If you would like to RSVP for the virtual event please register through the following link before April 3rd:

https://ucsd.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1QYVpAsR6fgwJU2

OEE Welcomes New APPE Coordinator: Ezra Blaize



SSPPS welcomed a new team member in 2020! **Ezra Blaize** was born in California, but grew up on Florida's eastern coast. He attended Flagler College in St Augustine, FL for his Bachelor's in English and Secondary Education, and moved to Madison, WI to attend UW-Madison for his Master's in Curriculum and Instruction Theory. He has extensive English and Mathematics tutoring experience - from middle school students to graduate program learners - and similarly diverse teaching experience. After several years advising Social and Behavioral Science students while moving around the Midwest, he ultimately came back to the West Coast to rediscover San Diego's legendary climate, and to find a more curriculum-oriented role. In his spare time, he enjoys board games, racquet sports, and writing essays and poetry. We welcome Ezra to his new role as our APPE Coordinator and primary contact.

Our APPE Coordinator position has seen the transition from Jayne Laity to Ezra Blaize. We thank our partners for their support as our Coordinators worked together and shared responsibilities during this transition. Jayne continues at SSPPS and remains closely involved with OEE from a strategic and planning perspective, as well as assuming additional responsibilities within the Office of Assessment and Accreditation.

Our Students Share Their Experiential Experiences



Kathryn M. Becker, Pharm.D. Candidate, Class of 2022; OEE Student Leader for P3 Class

Reflecting on my first time completing Service Learning hours at the UC San Diego Student-Run Free Clinics, I remember my anticipation; students in slightly yellowed “white” coats, and a crowded waiting room. I was so excited to serve the underserved at a small, white church in Pacific Beach. I sat close to classmates as we filled prescriptions, and discussed classes, jobs, and hobbies.

Since the pandemic began, everything has changed. We no longer see patients in person and socially distance with masks. We enter through an empty waiting room and our preceptor checks that we are cleared to be there. We fill important medications for at-risk patients who may have lost their jobs, homes, or even loved ones. The last thing they should have to worry about is where they will get their next medication refill or annual flu vaccination. It is critical for these high-risk patients to receive their annual flu shot, and during the COVID-19 pandemic it required meticulous planning, screening, and volunteers. Pharmacy students were able to provide this service and many free clinic patients received their flu shots.

Being a healthcare trainee in a pandemic is difficult. It requires flexibility, hard work, and emotional intelligence. Personally, I have learned a lot during this time, like how to communicate critical medical information and empathy over the phone. I recently worked with a caregiver to help transition her mother from warfarin to Xarelto for treatment of a suspected DVT. For the patient, the COVID pandemic meant the DVT was diagnosed through telehealth and her INR was taken at home. But it also meant that the caregiver felt a little isolated and unsure of the process. I was fortunate to be able to help her with the assistance of my supervising pharmacist.

In the past year, there have been many unknowns and changes. We have been expected to shift to virtual learning, continue supporting our community, and find new ways to support our mental health. The transition has been different for each of us, but we all are figuring it out as we go. We find support in peers through zoom and facetime. We reach out to faculty for help and advice. And we continue to dedicate time to help vulnerable populations. Whether that is at the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinics 6 feet apart, or by bringing groceries to the elderly. The students of Skaggs School of Pharmacy have shown incredible resilience in the face of a global crisis and will continue to do so.

SSPPS Preceptors: Do You Have an Appointment with us?

Benefits of an Appointment:

- Physical and VPN access to the UC San Diego [library system](#)
- On-demand, ACPE-accredited preceptor development programs provided in collaboration with UC San Francisco School of Pharmacy
- Utilize the UC San Diego [shuttle bus service](#) (shuttles serve campus, UC San Diego medical centers and key points off campus)
- Access to Pharmacist's Letter continuing education resource
- 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>

Links	Questions? Comments? Ideas? Please feel free to contact the OEE
SSPPS Home Page OEE Website	<p>Renu Singh, Pharm.D., BCACP, APh, CDE, Assistant Dean, Experiential Education rfsingh@health.ucsd.edu 858-822-5585</p> <p>Felix Yam, Pharm.D., MAS, BCPS, BCCP, Director, APPEs fyam@health.ucsd.edu 858-822-3648</p> <p>Sarah Lorentz, Pharm.D., Director, IPPEs slorentz@health.ucsd.edu 858-822-5720</p> <p>Pamela McGlynn, IPPE Experiential Education Coordinator pmcglynn@health.ucsd.edu 858-822-7803</p> <p>Ezra Blaize, APPE Experiential Education Coordinator eblaize@health.ucsd.edu 858-822-2458</p>