

PHARMACY

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy

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Message From The Alumni President



Dear Alumni,

As the academic year closed this past year, I was privileged to watch another group of students walk across the podium to accept their diploma with Western University of Health Sciences, College of Pharmacy written boldly across the top. I am certain that all of us will look back upon our years here at WesternU with great fondness as we remember the countless hours of studying, sleepless nights, and more importantly a time where many of us found ourselves fostering dreams. It is with great hopes that all of us have found or are on a journey to find that job that eagerly wakes us up in the mornings.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Giang Nguyen, PharmD '01 for her dedication and contribution to the College this past year. During her time as President of the Pharmacy Section of the Alumni Association, she was constantly thinking of what we as a group of alumni could do to benefit the current pharmacy students at Western University and each other. Fortunately, through the generosity of all of you who contributed to the fundraising effort this past year, a printer for the Pharmacy 3 Classroom was purchased. Many of you from the Class of 2005 were able to enjoy the convenience of having a printer in that classroom and we are glad to know that there will be future classes to come that will put it to great use as well.

Thank you to those who contributed toward making that fundraising event possible and a success. I feel fortunate and am looking forward to serving you and serving with you this upcoming term. I hope all of you are as proud of your alma mater as I am.

To all the new graduates, your first steps into the profession of

pharmacy has just begun and I and my fellow alumni officers would like to encourage you to join the Alumni Association in an effort to unite us as a community of people who came from a common place with a common goal and a common vision to make a difference in the lives of the patients we care for.

*Best Regards,
Megan Nguyen, PharmD '00
Assistant Professor of
Pharmacy Practice*

P.S. Enclosed with this newsletter is an envelope for your use in making a personal gift to the College of Pharmacy. We hope you will be generous in your support of our College.

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Message From the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

"We can make it better."

That's the theme of a year-long self-study process recently initiated by the faculty and staff of the College of Pharmacy to help prepare us for our next accreditation site visit.

Those of you who graduated in our charter class (Class of 2000) will recall that we received full accreditation by ACPE that year. (New schools are not eligible for full accreditation until their first class graduates.) We will complete our first six-year cycle of accreditation during the 2005-2006 academic year, and we will be reviewed for reaccreditation during that year.



I think we are all very proud of what the College has accomplished in the few years since it was founded. We have now graduated

five classes, and our alumni have achieved great success in the profession. The College is a stable organization, with a strong faculty, modern facilities, an impressive research record, an outstanding student body, and a solid university infrastructure. But, looking to the future, we know we can make it better.

During the coming year, we will be examining the College from top to bottom. We will attempt to identify both our strengths and areas for improvement. In that process, we will be asking for your help. As alumni of the College, you are in an ideal position to help us, particularly in the area of curricular improvements. We will attempt to reach you later this year to ask for your feedback. Your response will be of tremendous help to the College.

We are pleased to welcome the following new faculty members this academic year:

Sheryl Chow, PharmD, BCPS, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice. Dr. Chow completed her PharmD degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY-B) and completed a pharmacy practice residency at Buffalo General Hospital. She served on the faculty of the SUNY-B School of Pharmacy for two years before joining our faculty. Dr. Chow's area of specialization is cardiovascular drug therapy.

Eric Gupta, PharmD, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice. Dr. Gupta earned his degree at the UOP College of Pharmacy. He completed a residency in pharmacy practice and a cardiovascular pharmacotherapy fellowship, both at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. Dr. Gupta was on the faculty at the UOP College of Pharmacy prior to joining us. He specializes in cardiovascular pharmacotherapy.

Ryan Quist, PhD, Assistant Professor of Social and Administrative Sciences. Dr. Quist completed his PhD degree in Social Psychology at Claremont Graduate University. He subsequently spent two years as a Biostatistician at Western University College of Pharmacy, and was simultaneously a member of the Research Faculty at Claremont Graduate University.

We are currently recruiting for three additional faculty members, in the areas of pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacy practice. In addition, we are recruiting for a Chair for the Department of Social and Administrative Sciences, to replace **Dr. Katherine Knapp**. Dr. Knapp recently left us to become the founding dean of the College of Pharmacy at Touro University in Vallejo, CA.

We remain very proud of the accomplishments of our entire faculty, and in my next column I would like to share some of their accomplishments with you.

The faculty and staff join with me in extending best wishes to all our Alumni.

Max D. Ray, PharmD, MS
Dean



Alumni Profile

Nancy N. Nguyen, PharmD '02

Nancy Nguyen is a graduate of Western University College of Pharmacy Class of 2002. As a student, she actively participated in professional pharmacy associations and held positions such as President of the Western University chapter of the California Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (CSHP) and Chair of the Executive Committee of the Student Forum of the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (ASHP). After graduation, she pursued a general practice residency at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF). Following her general pharmacy practice residency in San Francisco, Nancy went on to complete a one-year specialty residency in HIV/AIDS at UCSF under the preceptorship of Dr. Betty Dong. A few of her activities as a HIV/AIDS specialty resident included: serving as the clinical pharmacist in a family-centered HIV clinic at San Francisco General Hospital, performing consultation services for the National HIV/AIDS Clinicians' Consultation Center, precepting senior pharmacy students on rotations, and providing seminars and lectures on various topics in HIV/AIDS therapeutics to pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and other health care providers, as well as to pharmacy students. Her residency research focus was on

efficacy and toxicity outcomes of dual-boosted protease inhibitor therapy, a treatment strategy being used in highly treatment-experienced HIV-infected patients. She will be presenting a poster on her research data during the upcoming annual meeting of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy in Dallas, Texas.

Nancy Nguyen recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Regional Coordinator with the University of the Pacific, Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Her activities as a Regional Coordinator primarily involve overseeing the clerkship program and coordinating UOP senior pharmacy students and experiential pharmacy practice rotations for the Palo Alto region. In addition, she will be involved with teaching activities for senior pharmacy students in the Palo Alto region, as well as the first- and second-year pharmacy students on-campus in Stockton. Currently, she is exploring her options to provide clinical pharmacy services for the VA Palo Alto Health Care System, with an interest in the pharmacist-based ambulatory care clinics. Her research focus continues to be in HIV/AIDS and she hopes to expand her research to a broader range of infectious diseases.

Residency – Class of 2004

<i>Megan Brown, PharmD</i>	Kaiser Permanente, Oakland
<i>Veronica Castillo, PharmD</i>	Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco
<i>Timothy Chen, PharmD</i>	VA San Diego
<i>Ann Chung, PharmD</i>	Tripler Army Hospital, Honolulu, Hawaii
<i>Rochelle Galace, PharmD</i>	VA West Los Angeles
<i>Levita Hidayat, PharmD</i>	Huntington Memorial, Pasadena
<i>Gurpreet K. Johal, PharmD</i>	Alameda County Medical Center
<i>Panit Pollavith, PharmD</i>	Community Medical Centers, Fresno
<i>Sandra Shibuyama, PharmD</i>	Western University/Jeffrey Goodman Clinic, Los Angeles
<i>Julie Ugai, PharmD</i>	Kaiser Permanente, Inland Empire
<i>Mark Bounthavong, PharmD</i>	VA Loma Linda
<i>Ann Gutierrez, PharmD</i>	VA Sepulveda



Alumni News

Megha Agarwal, '01

Megha Agarwal (now Megha Kaltia) was featured in an advertisement for Saddleback Memorial Medical Center in Laguna Hills that ran in the Orange County Register on August 20 & 22. Megha is a preceptor for WesternU pharmacy students at Saddleback.

Andrew S. Jun, '01 and Heddie Choi, '01

Daughter Kayla Madison was born on May 19, 2004, and weighed in at 7lb, 5oz and was 20 inches long.

Nancy Nguyen, '02 and Ryan DeGuzman '01

On September 25, 2004, Nancy married Ryan DeGuzman, PharmD '01, at a ceremony in Santa

Clara, CA. Nancy is a Regional Coordinator for the UOP Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Ryan works as a Veterinary Compounding Pharmacist for Golden Gate Pharmacy in San Rafael, CA.

Ann Chung, '04

Ann Chung completed her officer training program, September 17 2004, at Fort Sam Houston. She will then report to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, on October, 1, 2004, to begin her residency program.

Sandra Chan '04

Sandra Chan has accepted a position at Kaiser Permanente, Oakland as a Pediatric Specialist Pharmacist in the NICU Satellite Pharmacy.

Western University Awarded NIH Grant



Dr. Kabir Lutfy, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a \$510,000 grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse, an NIH agency, to support a three-year study to determine the role of a peptide called Orphanin FQ/nociception in animal models with cocaine addiction.

Scholarships

Second Annual Scholarship Golf Classic

Mike Quick of Good Neighbor Pharmacy and Walter Cathey of the Institute for Community Pharmacy hosted the Second Annual Scholarship Golf Classic at the Robinson Ranch Golf Club in Santa Clarita, California on June 16, 2004. The event provides scholarships to WesternU and USC pharmacy students. Over 200 golfers participated in the tournament.

The first Annual Scholarship Golf Classic provided five \$10,000 scholarships to the following WesternU students who were recognized at the event: Robert Fox '04, Rowena Gascon '05, Simone Yik '04, Jessica Peng '06 and Christine Hanna '05.

Albertsons/Savon Scholarships

Seven students from the first year class of 2008 received \$2,500 scholarships created by Albertsons/Savons: Ruben Ayala, Kathleen Cardosa, Sarah Carmona, Brandie Carolina, Xochytl Espinoza, Kristina Reyes and Aldo Vasquez.

Deborah Robinson Memorial Scholarship

Thanks to the generous donations of alumni, faculty and students, over \$4,000 have been raised so far in the memory of Debbie Robinson. If you would like to make a donation that will help fund a scholarship for WesternU pharmacy students, please send your checks made out to: "WesternU College of Pharmacy" and mail to Dr. Sam Shimomura, WesternU College of Pharmacy, 309 East Second Street, Pomona, CA 91766-1854.



Western States Conference for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows and Preceptors—May 20-23, 2004

Each spring, residents from the west Coast gather at the beautiful Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California to present their residency projects in a 20 minute presentation. This year, 16 WesternU alumni from the Class of 2003 gave the following presentations:

Rosemarie Boward, PharmD – Implementation of a Pharmacist Intervention Tool for Heart Failure. Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA.

Cynthia Chan, PharmD – Hematopoietic Response After Therapeutic Conversion From Epoetin Alfa to Darbepoetin Alfa. Stanford Hospital and Clinics, Stanford, CA.

Hung Chau, PharmD – Serum Cefazolin Levels Associated With the Incidence of Infection Complications in Major Spinal Surgery. Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, Whittier, CA.

Irene Chhan, PharmD – Evaluating the Cost Effectiveness of Insulin Glargine and NPH Insulin. VA Loma Linda Healthcare System, Loma Linda, CA.

Estelle DeBelen, PharmD – Assessment of the Safety and Tolerability of Travoprost in Patients Converted From Latanoprost: A Drug Utilization Evaluation. VA San Diego Health Care System, San Diego, CA.

Donald Hsu, PharmD – Bioavailability and Intracellular Pharmacokinetics of Azithromycin in Adult Patients With Cystic Fibrosis. USC School of Pharmacy, Los Angeles, CA.

Tung Huynh, PharmD – The Benefit of Monitoring Cyclosporine C2 in Stable Asian Transplant Patients. University of California Irvine Medical Center, Orange, CA.

Grace Lee, PharmD – Medication Use Evaluation of Epoetin Alfa in an Oncology Patient Population. VA Long Beach Medical Center, Long Beach, CA.

Joyce Li, PharmD – The role of a Pharmacist in a Cardiovascular Risk Assessment Group Appointment Model for CAD Patients. Kaiser Permanente Inland Empire, Fontana and Riverside, CA.

Kimmy Ngo, PharmD – Building Strong Bones: An Osteoporosis Outreach Program. Kaiser Permanente Orange County Service Area, Anaheim, CA.

Jenny Nguyen, PharmD – Comparing Adherence to American Diabetes Association Clinical Practice Guidelines in a Diabetes and General Medicine Clinic. Alameda County Medical Center (Ambulatory Care/Community Practice), Oakland, CA.

Carolyn Patel, PharmD – Heart Failure and Pioglitazone: Is There a Connection? Kaiser Permanente, Orange County Service Area, Anaheim, CA.

Jorge Quiros, PharmD – Improving Compliance with Discharge Medication Instructions in Patients With Limited English Proficiency. Scripps Mercy Hospital, San Diego, CA.

Nasim Salehinasab, PharmD – Retrospective Review of Bivalirudin in Patients Undergoing Angioplasty and Stent Replacement. Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian, Newport Beach, CA.

George Tran, PharmD – Assessment of the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System Lipid Clinic. Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center, Loma Linda, CA.

Kristen Ward, PharmD – Development of Outpatient Pharmacist Guidelines and Training Program for Medication Profile Review. Kaiser Permanente Inland Empire, Fontana and Riverside, CA.



“My Fountain of Sanity”

Last Christmas, I turned down all invitations to Christmas gatherings except Nhan Hoa Clinic’s Christmas lunch. All other gatherings seemed obligatory; with Nhan Hoa Clinic’s, however, I did not think twice. I suppose that was how I knew if someone or something meant more to me than I realized. I need not think twice: family, prayer, work and service. And Nhan Hoa is a soft blend of the latter two.

I started volunteering at Nhan Hoa Clinic in Garden Grove, while I waited for my CA Board of Pharmacy result during the summer of 2001. Once I got the Board results, I took a hiatus from Nhan Hoa and started working full-time at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital (FVRH).

By my second anniversary with FVRH, I became familiar with the workload and the three days OFF each week became idle...bordering on wasteful.

My family suggested that I commit to a long-term volunteer service. Without thinking twice, Nhan Hoa Clinic! Since September of 2003, I have volunteered at the Clinic’s dispensary every Tuesday. Though I come only once a week, everyone treats me as one of his or her own: a fellow co-worker.

During the Christmas lunch, as 1400 hours approached, I returned to the dispensary to resume operation. The technicians and medical assistants pulled me out to take pictures and to line up for the Christmas gift from the Board of Directors. I protested then negotiated to be at the front of the line.

We are a family at Nhan Hoa Clinic, and I am one of the younger children—carefree, spoiled and looked after.

I was recently invited to join the Board of Directors at Nhan Hoa Clinic. After my first Board meeting, I returned home—head lowered and heart inflated—inspired by the selflessness, devotion, and vision of all those present. At our round table sat physicians, an accountant, a lawyer and a licensed vocational nurse, all practicing full-time, some raising a family, and still committed to voluntarily sustaining the Clinic. With the present economic hardships, more and more patients go to the Clinic. Meanwhile, funds and grants are becoming tight, and the staff is overworked. The Clinic must stay open, if not for the community, then for our sanity, or rather, my own.

We need so much help. We always need pharmacists to volunteer, any day, however many hours you can spare. The dispensary opens Monday through Friday, 0900-1800.

Dr. Sam Shimomura is the Clinic’s pharmacist consultant. When we learned of each other’s involvement with the Clinic, Dr. Sam hinted that I take students on rotations. Perfect timing because the Clinic has wanted to revise its medication formulary for years, so I welcomed the students. Thus far, Beth Tseng, Jean Mak and Gurpreet Johal ’04 and Gisele Nguyen and Amy Di, ’05 and Thang Nguyen, ’07 have passed through our doors and have produced valuable projects and left cheerful impressions.

The other day, I worked a fifteen-hour shift at the hospital. The next morning, I went to Nhan Hoa Clinic...I needed to rejuvenate.

Giang C. Nguyen, PharmD '01

Western University at CSHP Seminar '04

Western University will have a strong presence at the CSHP Seminar '04 to be held November 4-7, 2004 in Long Beach, California. Over 250 students from Western University will be in attendance along with many alumni, preceptors and faculty. Highlights will include:

- Douglas Chang '04 will receive a Student of the Year Award at the Opening Session.
- Western University will host a reception Friday, November 5, 2004 at 5:30pm
- Western University alumni Tung Huynh, PharmD Class 2003 will present the following poster:
UTILIZATION OF CYCLOSPORINE C2 MONITORING IN STABLE ASIAN TRANSPLANT PATIENTS.
Huynh TT, Bui LC, Cao S. University of California, Irvine Medical Center, Orange, CA 92868
- Western University students will present the following posters:
STUDENT LEADERS AT THE WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES COLLEGE OF PHARMACY EXPLORE THE CONTROVERSY OF DRUG RE-IMPORTATION. Phillips A, Chen B, Lin K, Ong J, Peng J, Ramdorsingh C, Tran H, Van T, Vu A, Yatsenko T. Western University of Health Sciences School of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA
THE IMPACT OF PHARMACIST-LED MEDICATION GROUP POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS. Chilingirian, Hasmig and Nguyen, Hoa. Western University of Health Sciences/SHARP Mesa Vista Hospital – Department of Pharmacy
- Western University faculty members will present the following lectures:
“Review of Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency and Comparison of three Alpha-1 Proteinase Inhibitors” by Rick Sylvies, PharmD
“Drug-Induced Movement Disorders” by Jack Chen, PharmD, BCPS, CGP
“Parkinson’s Disease: Unmet Needs and Treatment Challenges” by Jack Chen, PharmD, BCPS, CG

After Residency, Where Are They Now?

Donald Hsu, PharmD '03

Completed a Hospital Practice Residency at University of Southern California (USC). Currently completing a second-year Infectious Diseases Residency at Huntington Memorial in Pasadena, CA.

Joyce Li, PharmD '03

Completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at Kaiser Permanente in the Inland Empire Area, Fontana and Riverside, CA. Currently working as an Ambulatory Care Pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara, CA.

Kimmy Ngo, PharmD '03

Completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at Kaiser Permanente in Orange County, CA. Currently working as an Oncology Pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente in Riverside, CA.

Cynthia Chan, PharmD '03

Completed a one-year Drug Information Residency at Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, CA. Currently working in Clinical Informatics as a Drug Information Content Specialist for TheraDoc in Salt Lake City, UT.

Estelle DeBelen, PharmD '03

Completed her residency at VA San Diego Health Care System. Currently working as a pharmacist at Tri-City Medical Center, Oceanside.

Carolyn Patel, PharmD '03

Completed her residency at Kaiser Permanente, Orange County Service Area, Anaheim. Currently working at Kaiser Permanente, Orange County.

Kristen Ward, PharmD '03

Completed her residency at Kaiser Permanente, Inland Empire, Fontana and Riverside. Currently doing a second-year administrative residency at Long Beach Memorial.



Alumni Relations

Greetings from the Alumni Office!

I am so glad to welcome the class of 2004 to the alumni family. As 2004 graduates, you receive your first year of membership in the Alumni Association for free. If you want to renew your fitness membership please let us know.

There are other perks associated with joining the association which you may review by visiting our website at www.westernu.edu/alumni. We had our first Alumni Board meeting on August 21, at which we talked about developing our membership perks as much as possible. So please check back from time to time to see what has been added.

As always we are eager for your feedback and encourage you to keep us posted on news of your family, career, or anything else you are proud of. You may reach the alumni office for any of the above reasons by calling us at (909) 469-5310 or at alumni@westernu.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

Amy Esposito

Director of Alumni and Constituent Relations



Western University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

The discipline of learning. The art of caring.

College of Pharmacy

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PHARMACY

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College of Pharmacy
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