

PHARMACY

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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

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*Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD
Dean, College of Pharmacy*

New Beginnings. It has been just over one month since I joined WesternU's College of Pharmacy and what a great beginning it has been. I have taken this opportunity to meet individually with most of our faculty to discuss their vision for the College, to learn more about their professional goals and their scholarly pursuits. What has impressed me the most is their strong commitment to the quality of our educational programs and an almost universal optimism regarding the future of the College of Pharmacy. I am truly surrounded by a dedicated faculty and staff who work hard

Dean's Message

everyday to make this one of the strongest programs in the nation.

One of my earliest teaching assignments was a Dean's Seminar that I conducted with first-year students. Conducting the seminar with roughly forty students on each of three days, it was easy to see that we are attracting an amazing group of students who bring a diverse combination of work and educational experiences. Roughly one-third of the students have had pharmacy work-related experiences prior to coming to WesternU. Student pharmacists at WesternU have learned about pharmacy through experiences with family and friends, through personal experiences as consumers, and even through various forms of media. Regardless of their background I was struck by the enthusiasm they have toward the future of our profession. As dean of the College of Pharmacy I want to work with our faculty, our alumni and friends to ensure that our graduates' enthusiasm is maintained and

provide our graduates the opportunity to use their knowledge, skills and abilities to the fullest extent. It is our goal at WesternU to improve medication-related outcomes for the patients that we serve, regardless of practice setting.

I am delighted to be part of such a vibrant organization and I look forward to many years of service to the College and the University as we strive to increase our national reputation in pharmacy education, pharmacy practice, and the science of pharmacy. I also

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Message from the Alumni President



Dear WesternU Alumni, I would like to begin by thanking **Megan Nguyen**, Class of 2000, for all her hard work and dedication as Alumni Section President. In the last 2 years, she has been a voice for the College, helped rally and fundraise

for the Debbie Robinson Scholarship and helped organize the 5-year reunion for the Charter Class. I know now I have big shoes to fill. And it is my pleasure and honor to be welcomed in as the new Alumni Section President for the College of Pharmacy.

This year marks a special and exciting year for the College of Pharmacy as we celebrate its 10-year anniversary and a new dean, **Dr. Daniel Robinson**. I have so many fond memories when I think back to when I was a student at WesternU. We were a new College with a unique curriculum, an amazing faculty and it was the start of many lifelong friendships and professional growth. Being

in the 4th graduating class, we had a lot of challenges that we faced daily that made us stronger and united as a student body. It is my goal that as alumni, we will continue to stay united and close to one another as we continue to grow in our professional careers, but also continue to share in our lives with each other. The Alumni Association is one avenue that I hope you will actively come back to, for it is a place to foster old and new relationships as well as provide mentorship to new students and recent graduates.

To the new graduates of the Class of 2006, I would like to congratulate you on your achievements and extend a special welcome to the alumni community. This year we are looking forward to creating a stronger Alumni Association, more programs for mentorship, providing more membership benefits to you. If you are not a member of the Alumni Association, please consider taking this opportunity to support your College of Pharmacy. We are looking for people who would like to take a more active role in the Alumni Association, and if you have any interest in becoming more active in your alma mater, please contact the Alumni Association or me. I look forward to serving you and our university.

~Joyce Li, PharmD '03

Alumni News



Melanie Begian, PharmD '05, completed her residency at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. She recently got married to **Scott Helf, DO '99**, who is the Director of Rotations Development and Medical Informatics at COMP.

Cynthia Chan, PharmD '03, has an article on influenza (prevention and treatment) to be published in Rx Consultant in November

2006. She is currently a Content Specialist for TheraDoc in Utah.

Heddie Choi, PharmD '01, and **Andrew Jun, PharmD '01**, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Gavin Andrew Jun, born on August 1, 2006. They also have a daughter, Kayla Madisen Jun.

Rita Gupta (formerly Rita Patel), **PharmD '01**, has recently been named Director of Pharmacy Recruiting for Longs. She was formerly a recruiter for Albertsons.

Melanie Luces-de la Cruz, PharmD '01, and **Ferdinand de la Cruz, PharmD Candidate '08,** recently had a daughter, Nia de la Cruz.

Avetis Tashyan, PharmD '03, received a promotion 3 months ago to Pharmacy Manager at Kaiser Permanente in Glendale, CA.

Western States Conference for Residents, Fellows, & Preceptors - Update

The Western States Conference for Residents, Fellows, and Preceptors was held during May 22-26, at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California. The meeting has grown to over 700 attendees including 493 residents, 249 preceptors, 30 sponsors and 11 guests.

Twenty-one alumni presented their residency projects at the meeting:

Helen Achio, PharmD '05 (Kaiser Orange County), Melanie Begian, PharmD '05 (Arrowhead), Lisete Breto, PharmD '05 (Banner in Arizona), Annie Cao, PharmD '05 (Kaiser Los Angeles), Yvi Cao, PharmD '05 (UCI), Hasmig Chilingirian, PharmD '05 (VA Long Beach), David Duong, PharmD '05 (VA Long Beach), Katerina Dzhangirian, PharmD '05 (Cedars-Sinai), Rowena Gascon, PharmD '05 (Resident Kaiser IE), Muoi Gi, PharmD '05 (VA San Diego), Lara Gillian, PharmD '05

(Sharp Chula Vista), Tammy Ginder, PharmD '05 (WesternU/Fountain Valley), Clifford Keltner, PharmD '05 (Stanford), Reagan Lee, PharmD '05 (Kaiser Tri-Central), Bony Ma, PharmD '05 (Sharp Chula Vista), Anne Nguyen, PharmD '05 (Arrowhead), Hoa Nguyen, PharmD '05 (Children's San Diego) Lan Phuong Nguyen, PharmD '05 (UCI), Thuy Nguyen, PharmD '05 (Long Beach Memorial), Liza Rahimi, PharmD '05 (Loma Linda), and Michelle Stivers, PharmD '05 (Banner in Arizona).

Also in attendance were: Nicholas Katsiadakis (WesternU/Jeffrey Goodman Resident), Karl Hess (new WesternU faculty starting in August and USC Resident), Panit Pollavith, PharmD '04 (Second year Drug Information Resident at UCSD), Nancy Nguyen, PharmD '02 (UOP Faculty), Carolyn Laddoo, PharmD '03 (Kaiser IE), Rosemarie Boward, PharmD '03 (Hollywood Presbyterian), Steve Gray (Member of the COP Dean's Advisory Council/Kaiser), and Richard de Leon (Member of the COP Dean's Advisory Council/Amgen). In addition, there were many preceptors from our affiliated sites including Andy Lowe (Arrowhead), Jenny Ung (Fountain Valley), Patty Gray (Kaiser IE), Kal Khoury (Kaiser IE), Ken Wong (Huntington Memorial), Jane Takagi (Kaiser Downey), Mirta Millares (Kaiser Downey), and Carl Kildoo (Long Beach Memorial).



*Liza Rahimi PharmD '05,
Tammy Ginder PharmD '05
Melanie Begian PharmD '05
Anne Nguyen PharmD '05*



Thuy Yen Nguyen, PharmD '05



Reagan Lee, PharmD '05



*Dr. Jim Scott and
Dr. Nicholas Katsiadakis*

Residency - Class of 2006

Sixteen members of the Class of 2006 have chosen to do a residency or fellowship.

Megan Au	VA West Los Angeles
Nela Chang	VA Palo Alto
Clarissa Dee	Kaiser Permanente, Fontana
Michael Dunn	VA San Diego
Howard Nguyen	Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
Jignesh Patel	VA San Diego
Linaflore Sagadraca	Kaiser Permanente, San Diego
Elaine Sien	Kaiser Permanente, Fontana
Samantha Taing	Long Beach Memorial Hospital
Masa Tanaka	Loma Linda
Jeffrey Thoongsuwan	Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
Lyndall Vu	St. Joseph Medical Center in Stockton
Joyce Wong	UCI Medical Center
Hailey Yim	Kaiser Permanente, Woodland Hills
Jessica Peng	Centinela Hospital (WesternU Pharmacy Practice Fellowship)
Jae Wook Yang	St. Vincent's Medical Center (WesternU Pharmacy Practice Fellowship)

Class of 2010 Admissions Update: Alumni help select future alumni

Interviews for the Class of 2010 have concluded and seats have been offered to the top candidates. This year we received over 1,200 applications and interviewed 378 candidates for 120 seats. We would like to thank the following alumni who participated in this year's interview process: **Mark Bounthavong, PharmD '04; Tim Chen, PharmD '05; Tammy Ginder, PharmD '05 and Niki Lin, PharmD '00.**

We are already in the planning stages for our next admissions cycle. Interviews for the Class of 2011 will be held on Saturdays only. The projected dates are as follows: December 2, 2006; January 27, 2007; February 24, 2007 and March 24, 2007. The day will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at approximately 12:30 p.m.; lunch will be provided. We would love to get more of our alumni involved in this important process. If you are interested in being part of an interview team please contact **Dr. Sunil Prabhu** at sprabhu@westernu.edu.



The PharmD Class of 2010 and the Mid-Career PharmD Class of 2008 received their white coats from the faculty at the 10th Annual White Coat Ceremony on August 12, 2006. One of our best preceptors, Roger Klotz, presented the keynote address entitled "A Pharmacist's Professional Journey".

Sam Shimomura, Associate Dean, Roger Klotz, Adjunct Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Keynote Speaker and Wallace Murray, Interim Dean (back). Ann Nguyen, PharmD, and Cammy Young, PharmD, from CVS (front).

...Continued from page 1

want to extend my gratitude to those who have given to the College of Pharmacy through contributions to our educational programs and through annual gifts, which allow us to take advantage of opportunities today that will strengthen our programs tomorrow.

I extend an open invitation to alumni and friends to visit our website at (www.westernu.edu/pharmacy) and to visit our campus. You will quickly discover that we are a campus in transition, with evidence of growth, new construction and new landscaping that is being guided by a 3-5 year master plan that will change the face of WesternU. I look forward to working with each and every one of you during this exciting time.



Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD
Dean



Drs. Cohen, Robinson and Pumerantz at the reception for the incoming dean.

Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Sheryl Chow, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice; her abstract, "Longer duration of nesiritide infusion may be associated with worsening renal function," was accepted for presentation at the Heart Failure Society of America meeting in Seattle, September 10-13. Congratulations also go to **Mark Okamoto, PharmD**, and **Jessica Peng, PharmD '06**, who also were involved with this project.

Dr. Cynthia Jackevicius, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, recently had an abstract accepted for publication "Concordance between discharge prescriptions and insurance claims in post-myocardial infarction patients," Jackevicius CA, Paterson JM, Naglie G., *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Safe* 2006.

Dr. Jennifer Le, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Thuy Nguyen, PharmD '06, and **Anandi V. Law, PhD**, Associate Professor of Social & Administrative Sciences, and Jane Hodding, PharmD, "Adverse Drug Reactions Among Children Over a 10-Year Period" *Pediatrics* 118:555-562, August, 2006.

Dr. Stephen O'Barr, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been selected for a review panel member for AACP's New Investigator Program in Biological Sciences. He also received tenure from WesternU.

Dr. Stephen A. O'Barr, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and MSPS student, Tricia Kao, presented their work "Thyroid Hormone Treatment Decreases Amyloid-Beta Levels in Brain of Transgenic Mice," on July 19, 2006, at the 10th International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ICAD) in Madrid, Spain.

Dr. Rajan Radhakrishnan, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was appointed as the Regional Editor for North America for the MEDLINE indexed journal *InflammoPharmacology*, which publishes papers on all aspects of inflammation and its pharmacological control emphasizing comparisons of (a) different inflammatory states, and (b) the actions,

therapeutic efficacy and safety of drugs employed in the treatment of inflammatory conditions.

Dr. Jim Scott, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, was senior author of a publication that appeared in the March-April issue of *HIV Clinical Trials* titled "Serious Renal Impairment Occurs Rarely with Use of Tenofovir DF." Co-authors were PR Wolfe, RK Bolan, and B Guyer.

Dr. Gollapudi Shankar, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, published the article "Metabolic and Endocrinologic Adverse Effects of Atypical Antipsychotic Medications" in the spring edition of *California Pharmacist Journal*. A co-author is our former colleague at the College of Pharmacy, Dr. Jack Chen.

Dr. Sam Shimomura, Associate Dean, presented a lecture in Visalia on April 20, 2006, on "Understanding the Interface with Medication in Old Age." The program was sponsored by the California Geriatric Education Center based at UCLA.

Drs. Sam Shimomura and Jack Chen (now on the faculty at Loma Linda) authored the Parkinson chapter for the 3rd edition of *PharmPrep* published by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. They also authored the Parkinsonism chapter for the 8th Edition of "Textbook of Therapeutics: Drug and Disease Management."

Dr. Sam Shimomura, Associate Dean, has been named the 2006 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP). This award recognizes a pharmacist who has made exceptional and sustained contributions to the profession and to CSHP at the regional and state levels.

Dr. Jeff Wang, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Hogenkamp DJ, Tran M, Li WY, Yoshimura RF, Johnstone TB, Shen WC, Gee KW "Reversible lipidization for the oral delivery of leu-enkephalin," *Journal of Drug Targeting*: 14(3):127-136, 2006

Promotions

Gerri DeGelia has been promoted to Administrative Associate and Hillary Wilcox to Curriculum Support Specialist in the Academic Affairs Office of the College of Pharmacy.

Letty Ramirez has been promoted to Director of Rotations in the Rotations Office of the College of Pharmacy

New Staff

Binh Vo joined the College of Pharmacy as Secretary III for budget and faculty support.

Cyndy Horan was hired to be a Secretary III in the Rotation's Office of the College of Pharmacy

New Faculty

Kelly Brock, PharmD

Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Brock, PharmD earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at The University of Iowa College of Pharmacy and then completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency with an Emphasis in Community Care at The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy in Columbus, Ohio. Before joining Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy, Dr. Brock was as a clinical pharmacist in community practice and primary care. She also has experience as an assistant professor in academia. Her areas of interest include medication therapy management services (MTM services), nonprescription medications, and self-care. She also serves as a national speaker for the American Pharmacists Association in the area of self-care.

Arezoo Campbell, PhD

Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr. Arezoo Campbell received her PhD in Toxicology from the University of California, Irvine. From 1999-2002 she served as postgraduate researcher in neurotoxicology and from 2002-2006 as assistant adjunct professor in the Department of Community and Environmental Medicine, University of California, Irvine. She came to the WesternU College of Pharmacy in 2006. Her research interests are in the role of aberrant induction of the innate immune response in the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative disorders and in uncovering the beneficial innate immune responses in human embryonic stem cells.

Dr. Karl Hess, PharmD

Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Hess received his PharmD from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in Boston. He completed his residency in community pharmacy practice at the University of Southern California in 2006. Before coming to WesternU, he was a lecturer at the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy. Dr. Hess is interested in the implementation of collaborative-practice based disease state management services within the community pharmacy setting. His areas of academic and research interests include travel and preventive medicine as well as outcomes based research.

Ying Huang, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr. Huang received her MD from Beijing Medical University and her PhD degree from The Ohio State University. She completed two postdoctoral fellowship programs over three years at The Ohio State University (in pharmacogenomics) and at Dana Farber Cancer Institute of Harvard Medical School (in oncology). Dr. Huang was previously a Principal Investigator in Division of Pharmacogenomics and Molecular Epidemiology in National Center for Toxicological Research/US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Her current area of research focuses on pharmacogenomics of membrane transporters, responsible for drug absorption, distribution and targeting to tumor cells, and their potential relevance to cancer chemotherapy. Another project is to identify the gender differences in membrane transport of drugs and their contribution to inter-individual variation in drug actions, using mRNA and protein profiling of transporters in human liver.

Madonna Mashburn, PharmD

Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Mashburn received her PharmD from Western University of Health Sciences in 2005. She completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency with an emphasis in Family Medicine at The State University of New York at Buffalo. Her areas of academic and research interest are Primary Care and HIV pharmacotherapy and adherence counseling.



Alumni Relations

It is a busy time of year for our COP alumni. If you are not currently receiving the monthly alumni e-newsletter, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@westernu.edu to subscribe. This is a great way to keep up with upcoming events, alumni announcements, and volunteer opportunities. This fall we have two COP Alumni events scheduled. We hope that you will join us!

Mark Your Calendar For the Following Alumni Events

October 12-15 – CSHP Seminar 2006: The California Society of Health-System Pharmacists Seminar 2006 is scheduled for October 12-15 at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, California. WesternU will be hosting a reception on October 13, 2006. For more information on the conference, please visit the CSHP website at www.cshp.org/.

December 3-7 – ASHP Mid-Year Clinical Meeting: The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Mid-Year Clinical Meeting is scheduled for December 3-7 in Anaheim, California. WesternU will be hosting an alumni reception on December 4, 2006. For more information on the conference, please visit the ASHP website at www.ashp.org/.

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