Beyond the White Coat

Influenced by the work of Leonardo Da Vinci and her travels through Asia and Europe, student pharmacist Alana Zapata is inspired to blend arts and sciences.  page 4

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Gold Award

RxBound, the biannual magazine of the College of Pharmacy, won a 2014 Gold Award in the Special Constituency Magazines category, part of the CASE District VII 2014 Awards of Excellence. The Silver award went to the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and Bronze went to the UC Davis School of Education.

RxBound, a joint effort of the College of Pharmacy and University Advancement, published biannually for alumni, faculty, students and friends of the College of Pharmacy. The magazine is edited by Dr. Sam Shimomura, Dr. Jesse Martinez, Renee Cook and Ligaya Chan from the College of Pharmacy, and Bill Burrows from University Advancement. RxBound is designed by Debra Nelson in Publications. Thanks to Dean Daniel Robinson and all the writers and photographers for their contributions.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) supports alumni relations, communications, development, and marketing professionals at educational institutions worldwide. The association provides networking, recognition, and continuing education for more than 64,000 advancement professionals at more than 3,400 colleges, universities, and independent elementary and secondary schools in more than 70 countries.

Above, RxBound committee:
Ligaya Chan, Project Coordinator
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Sam K. Shimomura, PharmD, FASHP, CGP
Associate Dean of College Advancement
Jesse Martinez, PharmD, FASCP
Vice Dean, Academic Diversity and Development
Bill Burrows, Director of Development, University Advancement
Renee Cook, Manager of Continuing Education and Events, and
Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD, FASHP, Dean, College of Pharmacy

MISSIO

The mission of the College of Pharmacy Dean’s Advisory Council is to assist the College in building a strong presence in the world of pharmacy, to increase the College’s national and international visibility for quality research, education and service, and to serve as ambassadors for the College.
Beyond the White Coat

Student pharmacist Alana Zapata is a “Renaissance woman.” Influenced by her travels through Asia and Europe, and the work of Leonardo Da Vinci, Zapata is inspired to blend arts and sciences.

Cover artwork is a study in oil by Alana Zapata, PharmD ’15. The original painting by John Singer Sargent entitled “Lady Agnew of Lochnaw” is housed in the National Galleries of Scotland.

WesternU College of Pharmacy and Kaiser Permanente Apothecary Circle Diversity Partnership Pathway

The Kaiser Permanente Apothecary Circle program was founded in 2007 with a mission to attract students in underrepresented ethnic groups to the pharmacy profession by providing mentoring opportunities, practical experiences and leadership development.
Our Mission:

Educating future pharmacy professionals to serve the health care needs of society and improve the quality of patient care through science, caring and humanism.
Message from the Dean

Over our eighteen year history, the WesternU College of Pharmacy has become recognized for the quality of our graduates and our innovative educational initiatives. We were the first program in California to extend advanced experiential training beyond one year. We were the first in the nation to deliver a block curriculum, allowing students to master one subject at a time while integrating prior learning into each subsequent block. We have become national leaders in interprofessional education by having students in all nine colleges participate together in case-based problem solving starting in the first year, and we utilize more objective structured clinical exams (OSCE) and standardized patients in our curriculum than perhaps any other program in the nation. As a result, our students are graduating with the necessary skills and confidence to meet both the challenges and opportunities they will face in our evolving health care environment (97% of the 2013 College of Pharmacy graduates secured employment within the first six months of graduation – see info-graphic at the bottom for more details).

On the research front, the College has reached a new milestone. During 2013-2014 our external funding, including National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, reached $2.3 million. This is extremely noteworthy because our Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty has been able to compete successfully for elusive research dollars during one of the most challenging times in history. For nearly 45 years Congress saw research as a priority, and funding increased appropriately over time. However, funding over the past 5 years has leveled off and even declined, including an across the board 5% cut associated with the “sequester” of 2013. It is clear, therefore, that our current funding success speaks volumes about the quality of our faculty and the importance of their research. Although I do not yet have the official numbers, this should place us among the top 10% nationally for research funding among private colleges of pharmacy. You can read more about our research and faculty achievements in the “Research Spotlight” section of this issue.

Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD, FASHP
Dean, College of Pharmacy
Western University of Health Sciences

97% of 2013 WesternU College of Pharmacy Graduates
Employed Six Months Post Graduation

78% Employed in Field

- 47% Community Pharmacy (chain)
- 12% Hospital Pharmacy
- 11% Community Pharmacy (independent)
- 5% Armed Services, Regulatory Agency, other Government
- 2% Long-term Care Pharmacy
- 1% Managed Care Pharmacy

19% Residency or Fellowship

3% Unemployed/not in school
Beyond The White Coat
Student pharmacist Alana Zapata is a "Renaissance woman"
Science and the arts have long been paired with one another since the times of Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance period. Western University of Health Sciences’ College of Pharmacy has its own budding young artist and pharmacist in fourth-year student pharmacist, Alana Zapata.

Although she is currently focusing most of her attention on completing her graduate studies in the College of Pharmacy, Zapata still finds time to continue developing her passion and talent as an accomplished painter and charcoal artist. Zapata says she enjoys studying other artists’ techniques, and trying to blend those with her own skills in her work, just as she did in her oil-on-canvas portrait entitled “Study of Sargent’s Lady Agnew,” which is on the cover of this issue of RxBound. “I’m still a student of art,” Zapata said, “and I am always trying to find a style and technique that I like best, based on artists who I have studied, and then mixing those styles into a composition that I like.”

While Zapata does have a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, she is also very close to obtaining her Bachelor of Arts degree in painting. In fact, following her graduation from the College of Pharmacy in May 2015, Zapata plans on going back and completing her art degree.

As a youngster, Zapata was influenced as an artist by her extensive travels in other countries, especially Saudi Arabia. When she was eight years old, Zapata’s family moved to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where her father took a job as a software consultant for the Saudi Aramco Oil Company. They lived in the Aramco residential community known as the Dhahran Camp, which was built in the late 1930s to house U.S. Aramco employees.

“Saudi Arabia definitely influenced my interest in art,” Zapata said. “Because we travelled through Asia and Europe for breaks and vacations, we would get to stop in parts of the world like Dubai, Amsterdam, France, Thailand, Italy and Spain.” One of Zapata’s favorite art scenes is the “Sagrada Familia” in Barcelona, Spain.

“I remember as a kid being able to see amazing paintings, and when I look back now, I feel so fortunate that my parents gave me that really big gift of traveling and experiencing the world.”

At age 16, she was sent back to the U.S. to attend high school in Austin, Texas, and then moved with her family to Las Vegas to finish her high school education as well as her undergraduate degree.

Zapata says that she has often taken inspiration from Leonardo Da Vinci’s ability to excel in the both the arts and sciences.

“He was a great influence of mine, someone who could develop and maintain their interest in both art and science, and figure out ways to innovate in both,” Zapata said.

In her years here at WesternU, painting and drawing became a prescription for Zapata, helping her to flourish as a student leader in the College of Pharmacy. Zapata takes great pride in the many leadership positions and activities that she has been a part of at WesternU.

Zapata is a member of Phi Lambda Sigma-Pharmacy Leadership Society, the National Community Pharmacists Association, WesternU Chinese-American Health Students Association, Korean Student Association, American Pharmacists Association – Association of Student Pharmacists, and the Association of Managed Care Pharmacy.

“The first leadership position I had coming into WesternU was as chair for International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF),” Zapata said. “Traveling extensively helped me be involved, plus it was a goal of mine to be in leadership to help me overcome my fear of public speaking.”

Zapata also participated in the Smoking Cessation Program as a student coordinator and as the co-chair and an instructor in the Spanish for Pharmacist’s Consultation Elective course.

“I like working in a community pharmacy mainly because I enjoy doing patient consultations,” Zapata said. “I like talking to people, and I speak Spanish. So I’m fortunate that I am able to communicate more directly with my Spanish-speaking patients. Their consultation is coming from a pharmacist who speaks Spanish, so it’s not just a translated thing.” Alana’s Spanish speaking background will, no doubt, enable her to help improve the overall healthcare outreach for the underserved Spanish-speaking communities she will be working with throughout Southern California.

Currently a pharmacy intern at Walmart in Chino, California, Zapata likes the idea of eventually owning her own pharmacy where she could practice integrated health medicine. Leonardo da Vinci would be proud.
By Jesse F. Martinez, PharmD, FASCP, Vice Dean, Academic Diversity & Development

The WesternU College of Pharmacy (COP) and Kaiser Permanente met in 2011 to discuss a mutual vision — to increase underrepresented future leaders in the profession of pharmacy. The Kaiser Permanente Apothecary Circle program was founded in 2007 with a mission to attract students in underrepresented ethnic groups to the pharmacy profession by providing mentoring opportunities, practical experiences and leadership development. The mission also called for engagement by students in pharmacy-related community activities to improve the health outcomes of diverse communities. Importantly, the mission addresses collaboration with schools and colleges of pharmacy to develop underrepresented students into prime candidates for admission.

“Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy is committed to creating an academic environment that celebrates diversity and the value that multicultural perspectives add to the quality of the educational experience,” said Daniel Robinson, PharmD, Dean of the WesternU College of Pharmacy. “Thus, the WesternU College of Pharmacy seeks to attract students who can offer different perspectives on life in a multicultural society and who can contribute to the awareness of socioeconomic and multicultural diversity at WesternU.”

Step 1: WesternU Pomona Health Career Ladder (PHCL)
An initiative founded by Pomona Unified School District, Cal Poly Pomona and Western University of Health Sciences to attract young underrepresented students, beginning in the sixth grade, to health professions careers. The PHCL program is now in its sixth year.

Step 2: Kaiser Permanente Summer Youth Leadership Program (KP SYLP)
A community outreach program founded by Kaiser Permanente to recruit underrepresented junior and senior high school students who are interested in healthcare careers. Designated Kaiser Permanente medical centers draw 25 students into a work program each summer to work in various departments for 9 weeks.

Step 3: Kaiser Permanente Apothecary Circle and INROADS
INROADS is a non-profit organization whose mission is to develop talented minority youth and prepare them for corporate and community leadership in the healthcare industry. INROADS helps recruit students who are college freshman, sophomores and juniors into summer pharmacy internships for the Kaiser Permanente Apothecary Circle program. The Apothecary Circle program is designed to offer underserved college students an opportunity to interact in a variety of pharmacy settings within Kaiser. A Kaiser Apothecary Circle pharmacist advisor supervises rotations, coordinates pharmacy projects, and mentors Apothecary Circle interns. The goal is for the student interns to matriculate into a school or college of pharmacy.

Step 4: WesternU College of Pharmacy Early Assurance Program (EAP)
The Early Assurance Program is an outreach partnership initiative between the Kaiser Permanente Apothecary Circle program and the WesternU College of Pharmacy. The program is designed to recruit underserved students interested in a career in pharmacy who are working towards an undergraduate degree and are successfully satisfying pharmacy prerequisites. The purpose of the EAP is to increase the admission, matriculation and graduation of underrepresented students in order to enhance communication and cultural sensitivity in serving the health care needs of the community and region.
This spring, Jaime Vallinas Calderon was accepted into the incoming class of the WesternU College of Pharmacy, and therein completed the pathway, and fulfilled the partnership between the Kaiser Permanente Apothecary Circle and the WesternU College of Pharmacy. Jaime is grateful for the mentorship provided by Art Dominguez, PharmD, Clinical Operations Manager, Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center, and for the guidance and advice he received on multiple rotation sites from his colleagues at Kaiser Permanente. “As an aspiring pharmacist,” said Jaime, “Kaiser Permanente has dramatically enhanced my knowledge and understanding of what it takes for me to reach my educational goals. I am being exposed to so many things that many pharmacy students have yet to see.”

The value of this partnership for Kaiser is in recruitment to attract qualified candidates into the profession of pharmacy while increasing the number of underrepresented pharmacists to serve their communities and address health disparity issues in medication therapy management and medication safety education. The Apothecary Circle gives students a comprehensive overview of pharmacy practice settings for additional career opportunities. It also gives the WesternU College of Pharmacy an increased pool of qualified, underrepresented students to better serve the diverse population of California.

Jaime Vallinas Calderon
This spring, Jaime Vallinas Calderon was accepted into the incoming class of the WesternU College of Pharmacy, and therein completed the pathway, and fulfilled the partnership between the Kaiser Permanente Apothecary Circle and the WesternU College of Pharmacy.

College of Pharmacy inspires students during annual Palomares Day
On Wednesday, May 21, 2014, more than 20 Palomares Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) 10th-graders visited the WesternU campus on a field trip to the College of Pharmacy’s Compounding Lab. They came to learn firsthand how to compound non-medicated toothpaste during Palomares Day, an annual event organized by WesternU’s Latino Medical Student Association. Rudolf Mireles, PharmD, Pharmacist in Charge at the pharmacy located in the WesternU Patient Care Center (PCC), and several fourth-year WesternU student pharmacists, helped teach and organize the exercise with Vice Dean of Academic Diversity and Development, Jesse Martinez, PharmD, FASCP.

These students, who are learning about becoming health care professionals, were afforded this opportunity because of the relationship between the Pomona Unified School District and the WesternU Pomona Health Career Ladder program (PHCL), a program with the goal of encouraging the youth in the Pomona community to pursue the health professions as a career option. The PHCL program is supported in part by annual contributions from Optum, part of the UnitedHealth Group.

This laboratory exercise showed the students how to prepare a pharmaceutically elegant paste composed of six active ingredients, and also how to work effectively in a real laboratory setting. When the students finished the exercise and had labelled their tubes of toothpaste, Dr. Martinez said, “Congratulations! You now know how to make toothpaste!”

All of the students said that they were inspired after participating in this hands-on pharmacology exercise.
Life expectancy in the United States, once firmly in the middle of the pack compared to most of the other major developed nations in the world, is relatively low and declining, a nationally recognized gerontology expert told WesternU students, staff and guests Thursday, April 17, 2014.

Eileen Crimmins, PhD, AARP Chair in Gerontology at the University of Southern California’s Davis School of Gerontology, and director of the USC/UCLA Center on Biodemography and Population Health, was the keynote speaker at The Ray Symposium, an annual event jointly presented by the WesternU College of Pharmacy and the Interprofessional Education program.

Crimmins, who recently served as co-chair of a committee for the National Academy of Sciences charged with addressing why life expectancy in the U.S. is falling so far behind that of other countries, narrated a power point presentation that opened with a map of the United States. The map showed how life expectancy actually declined in some areas between 1987 and 2007 — mostly in the South — and was followed by other slides showing the U.S. is at or near the bottom in most major mortality categories, relative to other wealthy nations.
“Except for the very old, life in the U.S. is shorter and lived in poorer health than in other countries,” Crimmins said, hastening to add that the “other” countries are the 16 other wealthiest nations in the world, including the United Kingdom, France, Japan and Australia.

For decades, Americans have been less likely to survive to age 50 than people in other rich nations, for a variety of reasons Crimmins cited in data from 2007-10. The U.S.:

• Had the second-highest injury mortality rate (2008).
• Had the highest death rate from transportation accidents. (2009)
• Has an extraordinarily high percentage of homicides involving firearms — 69 percent — compared to the 26 percent average in other countries. (2007)
• Has an obesity rate (34 percent) that is twice the average of the 16 other comparison countries. Consequently, obesity-related illnesses — including diabetes, stroke, heart disease, asthma, cancer, and arthritis — also are at a higher percentage in the U.S.

What’s more, infant mortality in the United States is 16th out of 17 wealthy nations, with a death rate of 6.7 infants per 1,000 live births. “The probability of children dying before age 5 is higher than the 16 other peer countries,” Crimmins said.

“Finally, drug overdose deaths in the U.S. have more than tripled since 1990, the HIV rate among 18-24-year-olds is the highest among the 17 peer nations, and the U.S. has the highest teen pregnancy rate,” Crimmins said.

So, what’s going right stateside when it comes to mortality? People are better diagnosed and undergo earlier treatment for breast cancer, prostate cancer and colorectal cancer, Crimmins said, and broad public awareness and attention to high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol have enabled health care providers to get a better handle on them.

“This is where pharmacy comes in,” she said. “This indicates our health care system is doing something right when it knows what to do.”

Crimmins said she believes the solutions to American health and mortality issues lie less in the way or type of health care is provided than in the health care policies and practices that are followed. Very old people are in better health than many others in the U.S. because there’s a strong focus on end-of-life care, when much more attention must be paid to preventive care and overall wellness, she said.

“We’re really at a place where we need to do a lot of work just to stay in place. What we need to work on is health expectancy,” she concluded.

The symposium was held in Lecture Hall I of WesternU’s Health Education Center. About 300 people attended. Sponsors included Blue Shield of California, Ralphs supermarkets, and the Azizyants Family.

The Ray Symposium honors Max D. Ray, MS, PharmD, Dean Emeritus of WesternU College of Pharmacy. As Professor and Dean, from 1996-2006, he created a stimulating educational environment that fostered excellence and professionalism. His professional career was divided almost equally into pharmacy practice, association management, and education. A major focus of his work throughout his career has been seeking ways in which to improve the value of pharmacy to society.

This event is a joint presentation by WesternU College of Pharmacy and the Interprofessional Education Program.
AMCP
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
By Kjersti Rich, PharmD '17

On March 10th 2014, AMCP held its annual Night of Managed Care event. This event provided the opportunity for student pharmacists to interact with pharmacists and professionals throughout the field of Managed Care pharmacy. Guests representing 7 different companies were in attendance at the event. Students and pharmacists were able to engage in a roundtable format and discuss an array of career opportunities within Managed Care ranging from computing to business leadership.

In the community, AMCP held several Medicare Part D/Medication Therapy Management health fairs which assisted seniors by navigating their prescription drug benefit options and conducting reviews of their medications.

Our chapter also saw success in being represented in this year’s Pharmacy and Therapeutics competition at the national level. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) competition involves student teams acting out the role of a P&T committee to evaluate the dossier of a new drug for inclusion or exclusion to a formulary. A team of four students from PharmD ’15 (Celeste Briones, Triet Nguyen, Linda Tran, and Hung Tran) qualified as top 8 finalists out of 34 other competing teams at the regional level. They delivered their oral presentation for the National P&T Competition at the AMCP Annual Meeting & Expo in Tampa, Florida on April 3, 2014.

NCPA
National Community Pharmacists Association
By Kayla Uh, PharmD ’16

Often times, student pharmacists are presented with vast information about different fields of pharmacy practice. As students can be overwhelmed with such information, student organizations help students by planning events that can provide meaningful guidance to students in choosing their career path.
NCPA has launched an event series called “Dinner with a Pharmacist” to provide an opportunity to students to connect with local independent pharmacists. NCPA has recruited local independent pharmacy owners to have dinner with NCPA members. An intimate dinner setting provides a place where students and pharmacists can exchange conversation freely. Members are encouraged to ask questions about independent pharmacy ownership and the pharmacists share their personal stories about their careers. We’ve been getting positive feedback both from members and pharmacists. NCPA plans on recruiting more pharmacists to host more dinner events to continue to provide guidance to our members.

Please visit: www.ncpawesternu.com

Kappa Psi

By Lisa Pham, PharmD ’17

This year, the Brothers of Kappa Psi were given the opportunity to partner with St. Baldrick’s Foundation in an effort to both raise awareness and fundraise for research for pediatric cancer. St. Baldrick’s traditional events of shaving heads for pediatric cancer awareness was foregone in place of a push-up contest for our event. Titled, “St. Baldrick’s Push-Up Against Cancer” held during WesternU’s Club Extravaganza, participants were sponsored to complete as many push-ups as they could. The event garnered participation from the College of Pharmacy as well as other students and faculty of WesternU. This was a unique event for us on campus in that we were able to collaborate interprofessionally outside of IPE. Collectively, we were able to raise about $500 within 30 minutes thanks to the participants, their sponsors, and fellow donors.

Coming up on our agenda later this summer is a uniquely exciting philanthropic event introduced to us by our Professional Chair, Marvin Peredo. For this event, called “Life Rolls On,” we will be helping paraplegics into the ocean and help them be able to surf again, or try it for the first time in their life. More to come on this event and more in the next issue of RxBound!

Please visit: www.kyepsilongamma.com

Craig S. Stern, RPh, PharmD, MBA, President, Pro Pharma Pharmaceutical Consultants, Inc., at the WesternU AMCP Night of Managed Care event, March 2014; Vinson Lee, PharmD, Sr. Regional Medical Liaison, Health Outcomes & Pharmacoeconomics at Amgen, and Chair, Academy of Managed Care at California Pharmacists Association at the WesternU AMCP Night of Managed Care event; Teresa Lo, PharmD ’15, Kate Miyamoto, PharmD ’15, Sarah Kim, PharmD ’15, and Natasha Gonzalez, PharmD ’15 at an AMCP Medicare Part D/Medication Therapy Management Health Fair; Tran Tran, PharmD ’16 and Elaine Nguyen, PharmD ’16, for Kappa Psi at “St. Baldrick’s Push-Up Against Cancer” held during WesternU’s Club Extravaganza.
CAPSLEAD
By Ilene Dominguez, PharmD ’16

This year’s CAPSLEAD team traveled to San Francisco, CA in March to engage in a weekend of leadership development alongside the CAPSLEAD teams from other California pharmacy schools. Prior to the conference, each student was required to take a Strengthsfinder test to determine their top 5 strengths. Rather than addressing weaknesses and trying to improve upon them, the conference focused on examining one’s own strengths and developing a leadership style based on these. Each team was able to capitalize on this knowledge and assess the best leadership roles for each of the members in the upcoming months during the research project.

WesternU was fortunate to get third pick for topic selection in the lottery. Our team selected the following topic, “Are California Pharmacy Schools preparing graduates to be Advanced Practice Pharmacists? How do we get there?” We found the question interesting because of the clinically expanding role of pharmacists and the opening of several new pharmacy schools in California. Moreover, we wanted to explore what schools were presently doing and plan to do to address these new opportunities for pharmacists. We are excited to share our findings later this year so stay tuned and find our poster at an upcoming conference!

Phi Lambda Sigma
Gamma Nu Chapter
By Mona Niki Marzban, PharmD ’16

The Gamma Nu chapter of PLS can sum up spring with one word: “GROWTH!” In March, PLS members JR Flores, Kamran Mahramzadeh, and Mona Niki Marzban attended the House of Delegates meeting in Orlando to represent our chapter’s participation in the Charles Thomas Leadership Challenge. In April, we hosted prospective students from CSUN, CSUSB, and Cal Poly Pomona to learn about the great aspects of being part of the WesternU family! The Pre-Pharmacy Society Mixer was a delight and we received such positive feedback from the prospective students. Along with learning about our unique curriculum and outstanding support from faculty and staff at WesternU, we encouraged attendees to be leaders starting now!

CAPSLEAD team: Patrick Chan, PharmD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, Mona Niki Marzban, PharmD ’16, Daruin La, PharmD ’16, Ilene Dominguez, PharmD ’16, Diana Jeon, PharmD ’17, Maira Khan, PharmD ’17, Brandon Samson, PharmD ’16, Andrew Millano, PharmD ’16, and Janice Hoffman, PharmD, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration.

Ashlee Hong, PharmD ’16, and Kamran Mahramzadeh, PharmD ’16 at the Phi Lambda Sigma Pre-Pharmacy Mixer; Ashlee Hong gives a presentation to prospective students at the Phi Lambda Sigma Pre-Pharmacy Mixer.

ASHP-CSPH: Janet Shin, PharmD ’15, gives a presentation on HPV Vaccination Awareness at Pomona High School.
In May, Ranjit Sidhu and Mona Niki Marzban educated Pomona community members on safe medication disposal and the Drug Take Back initiative. Finally, we closed out the school year celebrating the acceptance of incoming students with the COP and student organizations. The afternoon was full of excitement and inspiring speeches from our PLS graduates, Drs. Richard Garcia, Paideia Le, and Linda Danh. The Gamma Nu chapter of PLS looks forward to hearing all about the achievements and growth of our WesternU family throughout summer!

Please visit: www.westernupls.com

Rho Chi Society

Gamma Sigma Chapter

By Danny Tang, PharmD ’15

The 2014 Rho Chi Society Annual Meeting was held in Orlando, Florida on Sunday, March 30, 2014. This was a prestigious day as our WesternU Gamma Sigma Chapter was honored with the 2013 Chapter Project Proposal Award. The proposal was created by the 2012-2013 board, which included Mintra Chansiri (President), Peter Phan (Vice President), Drupad Parikh (Treasurer), Salpi Yaghoubian (Secretary), Simon Huang (Historian) and Jacob Arslanian (Student Liaison). The proposal is entitled “Future Pharmacy Educators Boot Camp and Mentorship Program” and proposes events focused on inspiring students to consider academic pharmacy as a future career and creating a mentorship program to guide students interested in academia. In addition, the project sought to highlight and appreciate the continual hard work, achievement, and contributions made to the profession by our pharmacy educators. For many years, the Gamma Sigma Chapter has annually celebrated our pharmacy faculty by decorating the hallways of the Health Professions Center (HPC) with biographies and features on our educators as well as hosting large events such as the Faculty Panel and the newly-created Faculty Roundtable. As we move forward, our chapter hopes to continue developing programs that will teach students something new about academia.

Please visit: rhochigammasigma.westernu.edu/home

ASHP-CSHP

California Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists

By Stephanie Ho, PharmD ’17 & Katie Choi, PharmD ’16

HPV Vaccination awareness

The ASHP/CSHP WesternU Chapter strives to address the evolving health concerns of patients to the best of our ability. In 2013, the CDC reported that 75% of males and females are
affected by the Human papillomavirus (HPV) sometime in their lifetime. To combat this, our Cancer Awareness subcommittee collaborated with Dr. Pon to develop a new project in promoting HPV Vaccination awareness. Our goal is to educate high school students about HPV and the HPV vaccine.

Since January 2014, WesternU CSHP's Cancer Awareness subcommittee has attended six all-day outreaches at Pomona High School. With the help of student pharmacist volunteers, resident pharmacists, and faculty members, we were able to teach over 800 students about what HPV is, the facts and myths of HPV, and how to prevent HPV. Many students found the interactive session to be highly engaging and easy to relate to. But our outreach didn’t stop there! We also extended an option to students’ parents to learn more about HPV. For the parents who were interested and opted in, our Cancer Awareness subcommittee would contact them to answer their questions. We are very excited about this program and welcome you to join us in future outreaches!

Please visit: westernucshp.com

APhA-ASP Interprofessional Health Fair: Richard Garcia, PharmD ’13, Eric Gupta, PharmD, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, Marisa Leal, MSPA ’15, Ashley Smaldone, MSPA ’15, and Lusi Akopyan, PharmD ’15.

APhA-ASP Interprofessional Health Fair: Mona Marzban, PharmD ’16, Shokoofeh Namiranian, PharmD ’17, and Miriam Velazquez, MSMS ’14.

screenings such as nutrition and exercise/BMI; strength, balance, and flexibility; blood pressure; blood sugar; foot; and OMM/structural exams. Our chapter's Patient Care Project committees as well as fellow College of Pharmacy organizations were able to provide patients with various health education topics, including drug take back, smoking cessation, and nutrition. We look forward to hosting another successful Interprofessional Health Fair in the coming year!

Our ongoing efforts towards community outreach were recognized at this year's APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition in Orlando, Florida, as our chapter was the recipient of two national awards for the 2012-2013 year: Chapter Innovative Programming Award and 2nd Runner-Up for Operation Diabetes. We hope to continue these achievements in the future, with the help of our members!

Please visit: aphaaspwesternu.org

Follow us on Instagram: @westernuasp

APhA-ASP/CPhA
The American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists
By Jessel Villegas, PharmD ’17

On a sunny day this past spring, the APhA-ASP/CPhA Chapter at WesternU continued its community outreach efforts with our 4th Annual Interprofessional Health Fair. In conjunction with WesternU’s Student Government Association (SGA), we provided health screening services and health education to our own community at the Pomona Valley Indoor Swap Meet. Pomona residents attending the event were able to check-off things on their shopping lists and check-up on their health! Interprofessional in nature, we had students from the different colleges at WesternU provide
Poster Day

By James D. Scott, MEd, PharmD, FCCP, AAHIVP
Associate Dean of Experiential and Professional Affairs, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration

This year’s Advanced Elective Poster Day was organized by topics and a complete abstract book was available to all P-4 student pharmacists, poster reviewers, and guests. Posters Awards were also given to the top posters:

Community Track:
1st Place: Parinaz Pourbahrami, “Measuring Patients’ Knowledge about Antibiotics and Providing Education on Its Proper Use.” Market Pharmacy
2nd Place: Bhavisha Jethwa
3rd Place: Kruti Rawal
Finalists: Christine Castro and Uyen Tran

Health-Systems Track:
1st Place: Lusineh Keshishian, “Protecting Our Futures: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Educational Program to Increase Motivation for Vaccination.” Doreen Pon — City of Hope
2nd Place: Natividad Rodriguez
3rd Place: Stephanie Wu
Finalists: Vien Huynh & Stephen Kang/Stephanie Shieh

Best Business Plan Presentation:
Paniz Abbaspour

Best Business Plan Overall:
Karen Ekizian

Most Creative Business Plan:
Shin Ok Choi

Congratulations to all of the class of 2014 graduates for their hard work during their final projects as student pharmacists!
Leo Rouse, DDS, FACP, Professor of Clinical Dentistry, Interim Deputy Provost for Health Sciences and Dean, Howard University College of Dentistry

To the class of 2014 and their families, I have 5 Pearls of Wisdom to share with you:

1. Give back to this great university that has afforded you the opportunity to receive this coveted degree today. Graduates always feel the ladder beneath your feet, there is more than one way to thank those that came before you and to give back to those who will climb that ladder after you, become a donor who understands the benefits and values of giving and caring for your alma mater.

2. Do not let this experience go to your head because you have so much more to learn, you have heard it before, yes learning is life-long, become an active member of pharmacy and continue your professional development.

3. Graduates look to your left and right, look in front and behind you, yes, you see America’s future health care leaders, life-long partnerships, striving in many ways to engage in a healthcare system, waiting for your input.

4. Become a healthcare advocate for all, become part of the access to care conversation not in silos, but in consensus building that is both ethical and professional.

5. I encourage you tomorrow to get busy and continue your engagement in the conversation related to the core competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice. This encompasses domains of values, ethics, roles, responsibility, interprofessional communication and teams and teamwork, those things you learned here at WesternU. If you are asked the question, “why” just simply say we deliberately work together with the common goal of building a safer and patient-centered and community population oriented US healthcare system. I am counting on you to be part of the conversation in removing the obstacles to educating health professionals to practice in healthcare delivery teams. I quote your distinguished President Pumerantz when he conceptualized the university and he said, “The Discipline of Learning, the Art of Caring,” you dear graduates understand the landscape that fosters innovation and collaboration.

The Five Fingers of Healthcare providers:

1. Become socially conscious
2. Remain community oriented
3. Stay civically active
4. Be politically informed
5. Always be professionally competent

In my view those 5 values are alive and well at this great institution and in you graduates.

In closing colleagues, one of my mentors and heroes is General Colin Powell. I share with you a quote from one of his recent books, “To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.” In essence, General Powell speaks to the importance of kindness, which is an integral part of our healthcare professions. Remember to always feel the ladder beneath your feet.

ALUMNI MESSAGE
Giang C. Nguyen, PharmD ’01
Clinical Pharmacist/Residency Program Director, Fountain Valley Hospital Fountain Valley, California

Gratitude. Class of 2014, please do not forget how blessed you are: your health, your youth, and your education. Be grateful for the people who helped and sacrificed for you so that you are here today.

So what happens next? You become the most ethical and competent practitioner, you give back to the community and to your “alma mater” as much as you can.

Why? Because every day of our lives, we are judged not by how much money we make or what degrees we hold. We are judged by our ability to love, to care for others. And giving is the most consequential act of love.

Give your time to precept students. Give your “rewards” to support scholarships at WesternU. Give your attention to those you love, including yourself.

Because when you give, I promise you, you will sleep well at night.
Honors Day

Western University of Health Sciences, College of Pharmacy hosted its annual Honors Day on Thursday, April 3, 2014. Dr. Eric Gupta served as the master of ceremonies for this event. Honors Day is an event to honor student pharmacists who put in an extra effort to better our community through community service, those who were active in pharmacy organizations, and those who were able to achieve the top grades of their class. Winners of scholarships were also announced at the ceremony. Representatives attended from all different areas and companies in order to present these scholarships. The companies that were represented were Albertsons, Cardinal Health, CVS, McKesson, Rite Aid, Safeway, Target, and Walgreens.

Inset photos: Heather Nguyen, Amy Le and Anhdao Nguyen, all PharmD ’14, receive the Cardinal Health Pharmacy Scholarship from Daniel Rim, Director of Sales at Cardinal Health, and Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD, FASHP, Dean, WesternU College of Pharmacy; Nektar Hakopian, PharmD ’16, receives the Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Scholarship from Tiffany Huynh, Pharmacy Supervisor at Walgreens, and Dean Robinson; and Katie Yomen, PharmD ’14, and Karen Ling, PharmD ’17, receive the CVS Charitable Trust, Inc., Scholarship from Sheryl Lee, Pharmacy Intern Coordinator at CVS Caremark Corporation, and Dean Robinson.
ALBERTSONS SCHOLARSHIP
Stephanie Chau, PharmD 2016
Ilham Hassan, PharmD 2014
Hemant Hirpara, PharmD 2014
Nancy Shabani, PharmD 2014

CALIFORNIA KOREAN AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP
Karen Ling, PharmD 2017

CARDINAL HEALTH PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP
Amy Le, PharmD 2014
Anhdao Nguyen, PharmD 2014
Heather Nguyen, PharmD 2014

CVS CHARITABLE TRUST, INC. SCHOLARSHIP
Karen Ling, PharmD 2017
Katie Yomen, PharmD 2014

DEAN’S MERIT SCHOLARSHIP
Anita Askarinam, PharmD 2017
Azadeh Attaran, PharmD 2017
Rachel Banales, PharmD 2017
Jennifer Briggs, PharmD 2017
Rodolfo Encarnacion, PharmD 2017
Tenille Francisco, PharmD 2017
Lori Kechichian, PharmD 2017
Azin Keyvani, PharmD 2017
Christopher Lin, PharmD 2017
Hanna Mabazza, PharmD 2017
Aleen Marcoosi, PharmD 2017
Nathalie Nguyen, PharmD 2017
Marvin Peredo, PharmD 2017
Randall Rodriguez, PharmD 2017
Steve Saelee, PharmD 2017
Ashley Shibuya, PharmD 2017

EAST WEST SCHOLARSHIP
Jennifer Briggs, PharmD 2017
Abdallah Dakhlallah, PharmD 2016
Kitty Huynh, PharmD 2015
Reem Karkar, PharmD 2015
Minh Phuc Nguyen, PharmD 2016
*Prabhdeep Sidhu, PharmD 2015
**Anhdao Nguyen, PharmD 2014

GNP/ICP SCHOLARSHIP
Teresa Lo, PharmD 2015

MCKESSON SCHOLARSHIP
Nancy Shabani, PharmD 2014

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHAIN DRUG STORES FOUNDATION PHARMACY PARTNERS SCHOLARSHIP
Sharon Deng, PharmD 2017

RITE AID PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP
Canny Chang, PharmD 2016
Nhi Dinh, PharmD 2016
Celine Gharibian, PharmD 2015
Reem Karkar, PharmD 2015

ROSENBERG SCHOLARSHIP
Brian Lam, PharmD 2016

Rx PREP SCHOLARSHIP
Reem Karkar, PharmD 2015

SAFEWAY PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP
Yalda Howard, PharmD 2014
Michelle Poon, PharmD 2014
Nancy Shabani, PharmD 2014

TARGET CASE COMPETITION SCHOLARSHIP
Akash Agarwal, PharmD 2017
Stephanie Ho, PharmD 2017
Yuri Kang, PharmD 2017
Marvin Peredo, PharmD 2017

TRIBUTE TO CARING SCHOLARSHIP
Yun Jung Choi, PharmD 2017
Gavrielle Concepcion, PharmD 2017

VIETNAMESE PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION (VPhA IN THE USA)
Maureen Ngo, PharmD 2015

WALGREENS SCHOLARSHIP
Lydia Anh, PharmD 2015
Diana Chang, PharmD 2015
Corey Edwards, PharmD 2015
John Flores, PharmD 2015
Thu Ha, PharmD 2015
Johnson Hung, PharmD 2016
Joon Hwang, PharmD 2015
Jennifer Ito, PharmD 2015
Ani Khachatourian, PharmD 2014
Eva Levbarg, PharmD 2014
Amy Lo, PharmD 2014
Christina Nguyen, PharmD 2015
Janet Shin, PharmD 2015
Catherine Van, PharmD 2015
Juanqi (Nikki) Zhu, PharmD 2014

WALGREENS DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP
Reem Karkar, PharmD 2015
Bansari Rao, PharmD 2014

WALMART DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP
Nektar Hakopian, PharmD 2016

USPHS EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH PHARMACY PRACTICE AWARD
John Flores, PharmD 2015

ASHP STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD
Eva Levbarg, PharmD 2014
Alumni and Preceptor Profile: Greg Collins, PharmD

Alumnus makes an impact with WesternU and its students

By Jeff Malet, Writer/Photographer

Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy graduate Greg Collins, PharmD, from the inaugural Class of 2000, says his alma mater prepared him well for his career with CVS Caremark Corporation.

In 1996, Collins began as an intern for Sav-On Drugs, which was eventually bought by CVS. Upon graduation from WesternU’s College of Pharmacy, he moved to La Quinta, Calif., where he steadily rose through the ranks at CVS to become a Pharmacy Manager, a Pharmacy District Supervisor and his current role as Manager of Professional and College Relations.

“WesternU provided a terrific curriculum preparing me for where I am today,” Collins said. “I enjoyed the curriculum and the integration of presentations in front of the class in every single subject, which prepared me for public speaking and enabled me to hone that skill. Students who are good at public speaking, good at delivering presentations, really stand out in the professional world.”

Collins is the CVS liaison for 14 colleges of pharmacy in the western United States, helping to manage the intern pipeline of student pharmacists who he says, “become our future clinicians, managers, and leaders.” Collins maintains strong ties to WesternU, and is always happy when he learns that another College of Pharmacy alumnus has joined CVS.

“WesternU continues to have a high number of pharmacists hired annually by CVS,” Collins said. “WesternU student pharmacists exhibit overall performance excellence, and are a reason we concentrate so much of our recruiting efforts on WesternU. The College of Pharmacy has produced great pharmacists, and it’s a tribute to the curriculum, the faculty and the Dean’s leadership.”

Collins said he believes that WesternU student pharmacists exhibit an exceptional ability to speak to customers in layman’s terms, are sound in their pharmacy knowledge and understand customer service. His time as a preceptor for rotation students has reinforced his feelings about the strengths of a WesternU graduate. Collins states that he “enjoys being around and challenging young professionals to understand how to put their knowledge, experience, and compassion for patients to work in the real world.”

He attributes these abilities to some of the unique aspects of the WesternU College of Pharmacy curriculum, and specifically, the Interprofessional Education Program (IPE). The IPE program provides group training for students from all nine of the University’s disciplines together in small groups working with facilitators to discuss cases from multiple points of view. Similarly, the Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) program, assesses the behavior of a student pharmacist or clinician in live-patient simulations. WesternU student pharmacists learn how to work as part of a cohesive health care team in realistic patient care situations, and it is this training, combined with the one week intensive Pharmacist In Charge (PIC) course, that prepares them so well for the real workplace.

Collins pointed out that he too has benefitted from his own WesternU training over the years, sharing the story of his coworker’s automobile accident a few years ago. Collins’ colleague was in a severe auto accident in the high desert region of California, and ended up being admitted to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, Calif. with an acute foot injury.

While visiting her, Collins noticed that she was in severe pain, and he wondered if her treating physicians weren’t dosing her correctly. He then recognized the ER attending physician as a WesternU College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (COMP) grad whom he had known when he was at the College of Pharmacy. Collins pulled her aside to talk about his coworker’s pain management, and together they were able to make adjustments to improve her level of pain.

Collins said that CVS normally hires 40-50 WesternU graduates a year in his territory covering the western United States. This represents close to 20% of the graduate hires for his 5 regions encompassing over 800 stores.

“I get very excited about the WesternU student pharmacists and what they are going to do for our businesses at CVS,” Collins said. “It’s really enjoyable to see the pharmacists from your own school performing well and succeeding. Whether that means they are a staff pharmacist, pharmacy manager, or pharmacy supervisor, it’s neat to know that they all started at WesternU.”
Robert Ngo, PharmD ‘07, will have a booth to promote his SCUBA diving classes at the WesternU Alumni Day, Saturday, August 9, 2014, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on the WesternU Pomona campus.

Giang Nguyen, PharmD ‘01, was the 2014 commencement speaker at the ceremony for WesternU’s Colleges of Pharmacy and Dental Medicine in May 2014. She is a clinical pharmacist/resident program director (PGY-1) at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital.

Tuyet-Mai Le, PharmD ‘01, was married in 2012 and gave birth to twin girls in June. She was also recently promoted to Drug Education Coordinator for Kaiser Permanente mail order processing center.

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Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration Micah Hata, PharmD ’07, and his wife, Kristi, recently gave birth to triplets. Trent, Cole and Mackenzie Hata were born on Feb. 10, 2014, at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach. The two boys and one girl join the Hatas’ first child, two-year-old sister Kierra.

Save the Date for the next alumni gathering during CSHP

Dessert Reception • November 1, 2014
Hilton Union Square • 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Register now!
http://cshp-reception.eventbrite.com

Shama Ashrafi (née Ahmad), PharmD ’11, got married October 2013. She works for CVS Pharmacy in Irvine, CA and CHOC as a clinical pediatric Pharmacist.

Are You Taking Your Medications Correctly?

By Dee Zuniga on July 3, 2013

I used to work as a pharmacist for a retail store. One day, after ringing up a medication, I told the customer that the medication was on their insurance. They said, “Oh, that’s fine, I just take it twice a day.” I didn’t think twice, so I asked him, “You weren’t taking it twice a day? Why not?” The patient replied, “Maybe I was, but I was working all day, you know.” I explained, “That’s the reason why you’re saying that it didn’t work.” He looked at me, paused, and stated “That information would have cost me a lot of my hard earned dollars.”

My point is that it’s important to ask questions about your health and the medications you are taking in order to get clarification of your medication instructions at the pharmacy. Even if you have not asked a question in the past, you could have been taking your medication incorrectly because you never had the conversation or read any of the material that came with your prescription.

So you’re thinking, I’ve been taking my medication for a long time. I’m sure you do not receive updates on any new warnings from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) about your medication. And sure, you may hear about the warnings on the news, but what if you missed the warning announcement on the news that week because you were busy living life? Pharmacists who work in large retail drug store chains are usually too busy to run after you to make sure you know how to take your medications correctly. So I can only remind you to ask, ask, ask.

Salpi Yaghoubian, PharmD ’13, graduated from her PGY1 ambulatory care pharmacy residency at WesternU, and was hired as a clinical pharmacist at Ralph’s.

Dereck Huynh and Ailynne Fruto, both PharmD ’12, were married on June 28, 2014.

Jacob Arslanian, PharmD ’13, in collaboration with faculty member Dr. Olivia Phung and her team, presented a poster on “Early combination treatment improves glycemic goal attainment in type 2 diabetic patients failing metformin monotherapy: a meta-analysis” on May 17, 2014, at the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists 23rd Annual Scientific and Clinical Congress, Las Vegas.
Are You Taking Your Medications Correctly?

By Dee Zuniga on July 3, 2013

I used to work as a pharmacist for a large retail chain drug store. One day, after ringing up a patient at the cash register, I told the patient, “Let me go over this medication with you real quick.” The patient replied “No, that’s fine, I just took the same antibiotic and it didn’t work, so I have to continue taking it.” So I asked him, “You weren’t taking it with any multivitamins, were you?” The patient replied, “Yea, I take it in the morning with all of my vitamins”. I explained, “That’s the reason why this antibiotic didn’t work”. He looked at me, paused, and stated “That information would have saved me over a hundred dollars”.

My previous article stressed the importance of asking questions about your health and the medications you are taking. It is very important to get clarification of your medication instructions at the pharmacy. Even if you have taken a medication in the past, you could have been taking your medication incorrectly because you never received a consultation or read any of the material that came with your prescription.

So you’re thinking, I’ve been taking my medication for a long time. I’m sure you do not receive updates on any new warnings from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) about your medication. And sure, you may hear about the warnings on the news, but what if you missed the warning announcement on the news that week because you were busy living life? Pharmacists who work in large retail drug store chains are usually too busy to run after you to make sure you know how to take your medications correctly. So I can only remind you to ask, ask, ask.

Don’t be a decliner of consultations. The patient I took care of at the register was never counseled about his medication and he declined my request to go over the medication again. What if I wasn’t working at the register? Since I work in California, a pharmacy clerk or technician would have stated “The pharmacist will be right with you.” And if the patient said “No, I’ve taken this before”, the clerk or technician would have had him sign to verify that he declined to be counseled and the patient would have gone home to take his medication as incorrectly as he did the previous week.

Allow us, the drug experts, to assist you by telling you the appropriate way to take your medications. It may save you time and money. And I’m sure you have better use for your time and money.

Just ask your pharmacist what main points you need to know about your medications. Then go home and read the material that goes along with the medication.

Will the patient I rang up at the pharmacy decline another consultation request? Possibly. But judging by the look on his face when I explained to him that he could have saved time and money, he may not be declining a consult anymore.

~Dr. Dee
McKesson RxOwnership Gives $15,000 for College of Pharmacy’s Spanish Language Patient Counseling Elective

On April 3rd, the WesternU College of Pharmacy received a generous grant of $15,000 from McKesson RxOwnership in support of the Spanish Language Patient Counseling Elective. This elective was created in 2012 by a small committee of student leaders in the College of Pharmacy with the guidance of faculty member, Dr. Jesse Martinez, with the goal of improving a pharmacist’s ability to more effectively communicate medication information to the Hispanic patients in the Southern California communities.

“Competent communication in patient consultation is one of the real-life skills associated with pharmacy practice,” said Martinez, “and throughout this elective, student pharmacists practice their Spanish language skills relating to explaining pharmacy and medical therapeutics in the patient consultation setting.” Developing this skill is a capstone of medication consultation for wellness and patient safety.

Dr. Martinez worked closely with McKesson RxOwnership over the past year to develop this partnership opportunity, and the new funding provided by McKesson RxOwnership will be used to enhance and expand the educational materials used in the course modules that address Spanish cultural competency and a breadth of medical terminology. “Others tell me what they’re planning to do,” said Bob Graul, McKesson RxOwnership National Vice President, “but you all do it, and that’s why we support the WesternU College of Pharmacy.”

McKesson has a 178-year history of partnering with community pharmacy, and it supports the valuable role that pharmacists play in our communities. McKesson RxOwnership works with independent community pharmacists, providing support through the buying or selling of a pharmacy, and they strive to motivate student pharmacists to consider mapping strategies towards independent ownership as well.

“We are responding to the needs of our community by preparing pharmacy graduates with skills in Spanish that will allow them to provide a higher level of care,” said Daniel Robinson, Dean of the College of Pharmacy. “This grant of support from McKesson RxOwnership will help continue to make that possible.”
Generous Support for WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarships & Student Programs

January ’14 – June ’14

Thanks to our corporate and association partners, and to the alumni, friends and family donors for their continued support of the many scholarships, programs and initiatives that enrich the educational experience for our incredible WesternU College of Pharmacy student pharmacists. We are truly grateful!

Gifts from Corporate and Association Partners

- $17,000 from McKesson and McKesson RxOwnership
- $11,000 from AmerisourceBergen/Good Neighbor Pharmacy
- $9,000 from CVS Caremark
- $7,000 from the California Korean American Pharmacists Association
- $7,000 from Cardinal Health
- $4,000 from Target
- $2,000 from Alpha Medical Pharmacy, Victor Law, RPh, owner
- $1,500 from the Vietnamese Pharmacists Association in the USA
- $1,000 from K&B Pharmacy Associates, Inc., Brian Garner, PharmD and Ken Thai, PharmD, owners
- $1,000 from Natalie’s Catering
- $800 from Pharmacy Brokerage Services, Charles Le Bon, President
- $800 from RxReverse, Joe Delaney, Principal

Alumni Donors

- Alireza Albinaezi, PharmD ’01
- Afsoon Javaherian, PharmD ’01
- Alan Lu, PharmD ’12
- Ann Vu, PharmD ’07
- Bony Kari, PharmD ’05
- Giang C. Nguyen, PharmD ’01
- Haikui Parsamyan, PharmD ’10
- Jennifer Briggs, PharmD candidate ’17
- Joanne Tuquero, PharmD’10
- Megan Nguyen, PharmD ’00
- Kyung Sig Choi, PharmD ’06
- Luis Aguilar, PharmD ’00
- Lynh Nguyen, PharmD ’13
- Melinda Mah, PharmD ’10
- Ray Yutani, PharmD, MS, DO ’97
- Reagan Lee, PharmD ’05
- Sandra Chan, PharmD ’02
- Stacy Yang, PharmD ’09
- Su-Fen Chen, PharmD ’08
- Tung T. Huynh, PharmD ’03
- Tzu-Chi Hsu, PharmD ’13
- Jonathan Pennacchio, PharmD ’13

Family & Friends

- $1,000 from Joel Weber, PharmD, member of the College of Pharmacy Dean’s Advisory Council
- $500 from Bi-Rite Pharmacy, IR Patel, RPh, owner
- $250 from Fletcher Jones Motor Cars
- $1,000 from MICRO Merchant Systems
- $1,000 from Rx relief
- $1,000 from NACDS Education Foundation

DAC New Members and Meeting

Dean Robinson convened the Dean’s Advisory Council meeting on March 7, 2014 at Kaiser Baldwin Park. He welcomed new members Vinson Lee, PharmD, Senior Regional Medical Liaison for Amgen and Brian Hodgkins, PharmD, Executive Vice President, Clinical Operations and Coachella Valley, ACO at Desert Oasis Healthcare. Brian gave a short presentation describing his ACO and how ACO’s are affecting the role of pharmacists. Other topics discussed were the impact of SB 493 on WesternU’s curriculum, the WesternU Scholarship Golf Tournament, the award winningRxBound magazine, the opening of 7 new schools of pharmacy and the redesign of WesternU’s class rooms. Art Dominguez, PharmD, of Kaiser Baldwin Park hosted our meeting and described the Apothecary Circle program at Kaiser and introduced one of the students in the program. The program encourages students from diverse backgrounds to enter the profession of pharmacy. The program offers mentorship and training for these students.

Brian Hodgkins, PharmD, FCSHP, FASHP
Executive Vice-President, Heritage California Accountable Care Organization, Coachella Valley and Clinical Operations for Desert Oasis Healthcare

Vinson C. Lee, PharmD, MS, FCPhA
Sr. Regional Medical Liaison, Health Outcomes & Pharmacoconomics, Scientific Affairs, Amgen, Inc.

Complete biographies for members of the Dean’s Advisory Council can be found at www.westernu.edu/pharmacy/pharmacy-msps_about/pharmacy-advisory/
Alumna, Ann Vu, PharmD ’07, creates an annual gift

This past May, 2014, COP alumna, Ann Vu, PharmD ’07, made a special gift to the College of Pharmacy.

She began what will now be an ongoing annual gift in support of the College of Pharmacy’s General Scholarship Fund.

Ann said that she really appreciates the education she received at WesternU, and that she is happy to help. Thank you so much, Ann!

2014 East West Scholarship Dinner reaches new fundraising heights

On April 12, 2014, more than 30 WesternU students from 10 disciplines collectively received over $40,000 in scholarships at the 8th Annual East West Scholarship Dinner in San Gabriel, Calif.

WesternU honored Jonathan Y.H. Wu, MD, PhD, President and Chairman of AHMC Healthcare Inc., operator of a Southern California network of hospitals that employs more than 2,500 physicians and treats more than 200,000 patients annually.

“Let me say to our friends who are here tonight, you are paying tribute to some very important people,” said WesternU President Philip Pomerantz, PhD. “These students being honored tonight will be our future healers, and they will be making a difference in the quality of life in our communities.”

WesternU sold a record 319 tickets to the East West Scholarship Dinner this year, raising over $110,000, said WesternU Senior Vice President Thomas G. Fox, PhD. Much of that money will go towards continuing to build the East West Scholarship Endowment Fund, which now has a value of more than $300,000.

Scholarship recipients were selected on academic achievement, financial need and community service. Nine student pharmacists from the WesternU College of Pharmacy received East West Scholarships, including the Las Familias Chan y Mah annual scholarship and the Melanie Lim Endowed Scholarship. The Las Familias Chan y Mah scholarship is supported by gifts each year from Dr. Eugene Chan, a longtime East West donor and Committee member, and Melanie Mah, PharmD, a WesternU College of Pharmacy alumna, class of 2010. The Melanie Lim Endowed Scholarship is an endowment that was established by Soojung Kim, PharmD, in 2013 in memory of her daughter, Melanie Lim.

OptumRx Makes Seventh Gift in Support of PHCL

The Pomona Health Career Ladder (PHCL) program received another gift of $10,000 this past April 2014 from our generous partner at OptumRx (part of the Optum group).

John Jones, Senior Vice President, Professional Practice and Pharmacy Policy with OptumRx, and a member of the College of Pharmacy’s Dean’s Advisory Council contacted the College of Pharmacy in late March with the good news. With this seventh gift, OptumRx has provided key funding for the PHCL program totaling over $67,000.

“We at OptumRx definitely admire your PHCL program,” Jones has said, “and we want to support it when we can.” Please check out the interactive website, “Pharmacy Is Right For Me,” (www.pharmacyforme.org) launched by OptumRx. OptumRx is one of the largest pharmacy benefit managers in the United States.

“I just felt like it was time to start giving back.”

— Ann Vu, PharmD ’07

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“I just felt like it was time to start giving back.”

— Ann Vu, PharmD ’07
On Wednesday, March 26th, 2014, the WesternU College of Pharmacy hosted its second annual Scholarship Golf Classic tournament out at the beautiful Morongo Golf Club at Tukwet Canyon in Beaumont, California. In spite of it being a cold and windy day out on the course, we had over 95 golfers come out to support scholarship fundraising for the WesternU College of Pharmacy, and they doubled the monies raised from last year. In addition to our golfers, we had several members of the WesternU faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees join us as well, including Mike Quick, Dean Friedrichson of the College of Dental Medicine, Dr. Tom Fox, Senior Vice President, and Jeff Keating, Executive Director of Public Relations and Marketing. We also had over 25 student pharmacists from the College of Pharmacy volunteering their help for this year’s tournament, and they all said that they truly enjoyed meeting so many of the generous donors and supporters who are helping them fulfill their dreams. For a complete list of sponsors and donors, please visit: http://www.westernu.edu/scholarship-golf-classic/index.html
The Office of Experiential Education

Improving patient care by optimizing the clinical training of student pharmacists

WesternU College of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Education (OEE) can provide on-site CE preceptor development programs for many of our clinical sites. If you bring ten or more pharmacists together for a CE (lunch or dinner), then we will come to you to provide the CE credit focused on improving the skills involved with precepting students on clinical rotations. Contact the OEE for more information about these programs if you are interested.

Preceptor Development

The Office of Experiential Education will be hosting preceptor development programs in three locations this Summer and Fall. “Evaluating Trainees on Rotations, The Good, Bad and the Ugly” was presented on July 23rd at Universal City in collaboration with the San Fernando Valley Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists. Upcoming programs will be held in Orange on September 24th in collaboration with the Orange County Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, and on November 13th in San Diego in collaboration with the San Diego Society of Health Systems Pharmacists. These live programs will offer two hours of ACPE approved CE credits. Please contact Renee Cook for more information.

rcook@westernu.edu

We look forward to seeing you there!!

The WesternU OEE offers a variety of resources to help our preceptors become better mentors. For more information contact:

Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy
Office of Experiential Education
309 E 2nd Street, HPC 203
Pomona, CA 91766
Email: OEE@WesternU.edu
Telephone: (909) 469-5517

www.westernu.edu/pharmacy-oeet

Rotations Fair

Save the Date — October 23, 2014

On October 23, WesternU College of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Education will hold its 5th annual Rotations Fair. The purpose of this event is to provide third year students an opportunity to meet with key preceptors and managers prior to the selection of their rotations. This will assist students in selecting the most appropriate clinical rotations for their career path.

Please contact the OEE office for more information, email: oee@westernu.edu

Congratulations Preceptors of the Year

Ken Fukushima, PharmD, College Medical Center, Long Beach, California; Jason Wong, PharmD, Rite Aid Pharmacy, San Gabriel, California; David Pham, PharmD, Mary and Dick Allen Diabetes Center, Newport Beach, California, Hoag Hospital, Newport Beach, California; and Brian Nguyen, PharmD, Walgreens Pharmacy, Pomona, California
Over 100 pharmacists and technicians attended the CE program “Sterile Compounding: New Laws and Regulations” on January 18, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach. The 6-hour program addressed the major changes occurring at the state and national levels to ensure greater patient safety through new laws and regulations. The speakers for the program were Steve Gray, PharmD, JD, from Kaiser Permanente, David Miller, RPh, from the International Association of Compounding Pharmacists, John Cronin, PharmD, JD, from FMG Pharmacy Law, Amy Gutierrez, PharmD, LA County Department of Health, and Tony Park, PharmD, JD, from California Law. In addition, Alan Huber, PharmD, from Biofusion and Marvin Finnefrock, PharmD, from Comprehensive Pharmacy Services participated in the closing panel.

Save the date: March 21, 2015, “Sterile Compounding Update”
Dr. Fadi Khasawneh has been awarded a $140,000 grant by The American Heart Association for his project, “Investigating the Role of The Transient Receptor Potential Channel 6 in Platelet Function.”

Thrombosis is a key manifestation of heart attacks and stroke. These two disease states are major causes of death and suffering in the United States and result in a significant economic burden on our society. To this end, platelets, one of the blood cells, are key mediators of thrombosis, and are also known to play an important role in maintaining vascular integrity based on their ability to respond to lesions in a vessel wall. While hyperactivity of platelets is known to cause spurious clot formation and occlusive loss of blood flow leading to strokes and heart attacks, hypoactivity causes bleeding diathesis with life-threatening consequences. To address and potentially ameliorate the underlying mechanisms of occlusive thrombotic disease states, it is critical to understand how platelets respond to external stimuli. Based on these considerations, one of the research goals in our laboratory is to address fundamental aspects of the biology of one of the calcium channel proteins, namely the transient receptor potential channel 6 (abbreviated as TRPC6), that is known to be found on the surface of platelets. Our interest in this protein derives from the fact that while change in intracellular calcium levels is a central step in platelet activation, its underlying mechanism is still ill defined, and our belief that TRPCs participate in these processes. Consistent with this notion, our previously published studies had shown that TRPC6 contributes to the pathogenesis of occlusive thrombotic disorders, such as heart attacks and stroke, and that it regulates hemostasis (the process of clot formation to prevent blood loss). Thus, the focus of the current work that just received funding from the American Heart Association (AHA; $140,000 over two years) is to investigate the role of TRPC6 in platelet function, and elucidate the underlying mechanism by which it contributes to thrombogenesis and physiological hemostasis. To achieve our goals, we will employ genetic as well as pharmacological approaches.

Collectively, these AHA funded studies address fundamental questions and provide mechanistic insight concerning calcium signaling and function downstream of TRPC6 in platelets. Results obtained from these studies should lay down the foundation for defining a new therapeutic target, and/or reagents for the therapeutic management of thrombosis-based disease states.
The Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy celebrated another year-end for the Residents and Fellows on Thursday June 26th, 2014. This past year (2013-2014), the College hosted 11 Post-Docs [4 Fellows and 7 Residents], with 10 completing their programs: Aida Oganesyan, PharmD, Keri Hurley, PharmD, Lingyun Lu, PharmD, Deana Dunn, PharmD, Bik-Wai Tai, PharmD, Salpi Yaghoubian, PharmD, Don Vu, PharmD, PhD, Hali Yang, PharmD, Mehgan Hassanzadah, PharmD, and Castor Phan, PharmD. To date, 40 post-docs have graduated since post-doc training began at the College in 2003.

The year-end reception marked another milestone — Dr. Cynthia Jackevicius stepped down as the second Director of Residency and Fellowship Training. Dr. Jackevicius culminated her 4-year term with the highest number of Post-Doc graduates to-date.

One of the main goals Dr. Jackevicius set out for the post-graduate training program was to strive for accreditation of the programs. This past year, a PGY1 (Post-Graduate Year 1) Ambulatory Care Residency directed by Dr. Emmanuelle Schwartzman was granted the full 6 year accreditation by the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP). In addition, two other PGY1 residencies (Acute Care directed by Dr. Mark Nguyen and Geriatrics directed by Dr. Janice Hoffman) completed their candidate accreditation visits by ASHP. Currently, the College of Pharmacy has 2 accredited PGY1 residencies, 2 candidate status PGY1 residencies, and 2 American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) peer-reviewed research fellowships. As of July 1, 2014, Dr. Emmanuelle Schwartzman will assume the position of Director of Residency and Fellowship Training.

College of Pharmacy Resident and Fellow Accomplishments 2013-14

Aida Oganesyan

- Oganesyan, A. Multiple Sclerosis Lecture, 6209 Neurology Block; WesternU Class of 2016; April 2014.

- Appointed Recording Secretary for American Society of Consultant Pharmacists California Chapter 2014.
- Integral part in the ASHP Accreditation Survey for WesternU and Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging, Survey, March 2014.
Welcome!
The 2014-2015 academic year will welcome 9 post-doctoral trainees

Paideia Le (WesternU ’14)
Community Practice (Karl Hess): 2014-15

Ginnie Kim (UIC ’14)
Ambulatory Care (Emmanuelle Schwartzman): 2014-15

Juanqi (Nikki) Zhu (WesternU ’14)
Acute Care (Mark Nguyen): 2014-15

Expanded Content


Keri Hurley
- Keri will also be joining the faculty at West Coast University as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice with a focus in community pharmacy practice.

Lingyun Lu

Abstract of American Heart Association Quality of Care and Outcomes Research meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, 2014 (Oral Presentation).


Deanna Dunn
- The Impact of Patient Education of Care Coordination on Patient Satisfaction in a Specialty Pharmacy. Western States Conference 2014, San Diego, CA (Platform Presentation)

Raynold Yin
• Yin RV, Pham T, Phung OJ. Metformin as adjunct therapy to insulin treatment in patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus: systematic review and meta-analysis. American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists 2014, Las Vegas, NV (Poster Presentation).


Mehgan Hassanzadah


• Hassanzadah M, Shankar GS. Anxiety and Agitation in Schizophrenic Smokers: A Retrospective Cohort Study. 2014. The Mental Health Clinician. CPNP (Submitted).

• Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training/Certification. The University of Mississippi Medical Center. ACT Center for Tobacco Treatment, Education, and Research.

• Dr. Mehgan Hassanzadah assisted Dr. Shankar with writing a research protocol and submitting a grant application, and is the Co-PI for “Evaluation of a Pharmacist-Managed Tobacco Dependence Program in Individuals with Mental Illness.”

Bik-Wai Tai


Expanded Content


Salpi Yaghoubian

- Yaghoubian SK, Yin R, Ochoa C, Schwartzman E, Phung OJ. Effect of Social Support on Glycemic Control in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: A Cross-Sectional Study. Western States Conference 2014, San Diego, CA (Platform Presentation)
- Salpi will be joining Ralphs Pharmacy as an MTM pharmacist July 2014.

Don Vu

- Vu D, Shah T, Hutchinson I, Naraghi R, Min D. Interferon-gamma polymorphism +874 A/T is associated with an increased risk of cytomegalovirus infection among Hispanic renal transplant recipients. Transplant Infectious Dis (In press)

Jeff Chen (UCSF ‘14)
Cardiology Outcomes Fellowship (Cynthia Jackevicius): 2014-16

Raynold Yin (Cal Northstate ’13)
Ambulatory Care Outcomes Fellowship (Olivia Phung): 2013-15

WesternU, College of Pharmacy
CPhA West Coast Exchange: Palm Springs 2014

CE Presentations:

Thursday, April 24
• Dr. Janice Hoffman in CPhA’s Leadership Development Institute Project (could not attend the presentation, but helped in its development)
• Dr. Tony Park presenting 2014 New Pharmacy Laws Update

Friday, April 25
• Dr. Karl Hess presenting SB493, Immunizations and You
• Rebecca Cupp presenting MTM — Mastering the Method

Saturday, April 26
• Dr. Eric Gupta presenting Update on Cholesterol Guidelines
• Dr. Tony Park presenting Pharmacy Ownership 101 — A Step-By-Step on How to Open an Independent Pharmacy

Sunday, April 27
• Dr. Tony Park presenting 2014 New Pharmacy Laws Update
• Dr. Tony Park presenting Legal Implications of Dispensing Controlled Substances

Poster Presentations:

• WesternU CAPSLEAD Team 2013: Intern Pharmacists and The Standards Placed Upon Their Employers, Are They Rigorous Enough?
  ○ Kayla Uh (P2)
  ○ Sarah Hernandez (P3)
  ○ Maureen Ngo (P3)
  ○ Amy Vanmali (P2)
  ○ Purvi Vira (P2)
  ○ Livia Wang (P2)
  ○ Kitty Huynh (P3)
  ○ David Yang (P2)

• Broad Spectrum Rx — Feasibility of Starting an MTM Clinical Within an Independent Pharmacy
  ○ Diana Chang (P3)
  ○ Rena Dong (P3)
  ○ Corey Edwards (P3)
  ○ Carla Espinoza (P3)
  ○ Tanya Khamis (P3)
  ○ Van Pham (P3)
  ○ Daisy Park (P3)
  ○ Thomas Schuetz (P3)
  ○ Jenni Ito (P3)

Delegates:

Dr. Karl Hess on behalf of the CPhA Board of Trustees
Dr. Eric Gupta as a CPhA Past President
Dr. Micah Hata on behalf of OCPhA
Dr. Hyma Gogineni as part of the Reference Committee

Quiz Bowl Participants:

Paideia Le (P4)
Diana Chang (P3)
Jenni Ito (P3)
Susie Jeun (P4)
Residency Matches

ASHP released the 2014 Pharmacy Residency Match results on March 21, 2014. More than 4,700 graduating pharmacy students and new practitioners participated in the Resident Matching Program seeking PGY1 and PGY2 pharmacy residencies. An additional 260 PGY1 residents participated in the early commitment process to stay on at their site to complete a PGY2 residency. This year, 268 additional residency positions were added, including 168 PGY1 and 100 PGY2 positions. http://www.ashp.org/menu/News/NewsCapsules/Article.aspx?id=531

Congratulations to all those that matched!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Residency Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eva Chung Levbarg</td>
<td>Providence Health and Services at St Vincent, Portland, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandni Dudhia</td>
<td>Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Newark, NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khyati Ganatra</td>
<td>Desert Regional Medical Center, Palm Springs, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simon Huang</td>
<td>White Memorial Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paniz Joukar</td>
<td>Kaiser Panorama City, Los Angeles, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ani Khachatourian</td>
<td>Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Pittsburgh, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paideia Le</td>
<td>Western University PGY1 Community Pharmacy, Pomona, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Lee</td>
<td>Kaiser Central Valley Managed Care, Stockton, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Lee</td>
<td>Providence Little Company of Mary, Torrance, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Lo</td>
<td>Keck Hospital at USC, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merlin Mathews</td>
<td>Oklahoma State University Medical Center, Tulsa, OK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petrina Miao</td>
<td>Kaiser Woodland Hills, Woodland Hills, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luis Moreno</td>
<td>Kaiser Napa-Solano Medical Center, Napa, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nikita Patel</td>
<td>VA Central California Health Care System, Fresno, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payal Patel</td>
<td>Princeton Baptist Medical Center, Birmingham, AL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maya Yanover Riva</td>
<td>Long Beach Memorial/Millers Children’s Hospital, Long Beach, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Turcios</td>
<td>Kaiser Baldwin Park Medical Center, Baldwin Park, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Wu</td>
<td>VA Long Beach Healthcare System, Long Beach, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Yomen</td>
<td>Providence Health and Services at St Vincent, Portland, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juanqi (Nikki) Zhu</td>
<td>Western University PGY1 Acute Care Pharmacy, Pomona, CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Faculty and Staff

JaeJin An, BPharm, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration

Dr. An earned her Bachelor of Pharmacy degree at Ewha Woman’s University, South Korea and her PhD in Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy at the University of Southern California in 2011. Prior to joining the PhD program, Dr. An worked as a marketing/regulatory affairs specialist in pharmaceutical industry for about 4 years. After completing her PhD, she joined the Kaiser Permanente (KP) Southern California outcomes research group in Pharmacy Operations. Dr. An served as a principle or co-principle investigator for about 3 years at KP in the area of atrial fibrillation, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, medication adherence, and drug safety. She will instruct the Biostatistics and facilitate the Introduction to Health Systems courses for P1 students. Her research areas of interest include comparative effectiveness, medication utilization, medication adherence, pharmacoeconometrics, health outcomes, and comorbidity management.

Graciela Pulido
Administrative Associate
Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration

Gracie Pulido joined the College of Pharmacy in May 2014 as an Administrative Associate and works under the Department Chair and Fellowship and Residency Oversight Committee Director. She also supports other faculty within the College of Pharmacy. Gracie completed her BA in Spanish Language and Literature at University of California, Riverside. Her experience working in education at UCR ignited a passion for helping others and a desire to be around aspiring people.

Her professional background includes four years of Administrative work and Admissions counseling at a college level. Most recently, she came from Hunter Donaldson, LLC, where she held the title of Executive Assistant and coordinated monthly company-wide events and assisted with lien and payroll processing. Prior to that, Gracie worked at Sage College — recruiting, enrolling, and counseling all incoming and new students. Coordinating, organizing, and communication are things that she emphasizes in her daily work. She is excited to be part of a forward thinking organization and to also be once again in Education.

Abbie Aziz
Administrative Assistant
Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration

Abbie Aziz joined the College of Pharmacy as an Administrative Assistant for the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration in February 2014. She supports faculty of the department and assists with budget operations. She graduated from University of California, Riverside in 2013 earning a Bachelor’s of Science degree and interns at the UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center.

Western University of Health Sciences has been named a “Great College to Work For” by the Chronicle of Higher Education for the third consecutive year, and also made the Honor Roll for the first time.
Faculty News

College of Pharmacy receives $20,000 grant

Principal Investigator: Anandi Law, BPharm, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration
Co-investigator: Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD, FASHP, Dean, College of Pharmacy

WesternU College of Pharmacy was one of six applicants awarded a $20,000 grant from the NACDS Foundation through its Pharmacy Partners Program at the Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, AZ, this spring. Awardees were selected from 35 high-quality applications from deans of colleges and schools of pharmacy across the country. The awarded grant will be used to establish a program in San Bernardino County to provide medication management and other pharmacist care services to a community with unfulfilled health care needs.

Grants & Contracts

Sheryl Chow
• Received an in-kind contribution of $20,000 awarded by Critical Diagnostics for her research proposal entitled “I-PRESERVE biomarker study: ST2 and IL-33 on Treatment Effect and Outcomes in Patients with Preserved Ejection Fraction.” Drs. Stephen O’Barr, Barry Massie, Michael Zile, Inder Anand, Peter Carson, Henry Krum, John McMurray, and Michel Komajda are co-investigators on the collaborative biomarker study

Fadi Khasawneh
• Awarded a $140,000 grant by The American Heart Association for his project entitled “Investigating the Role of The Transient Receptor Potential Channel 6 in Platelet Function.” Dr. Khasawneh has brought in $834,398 in research funds since July of 2010

Cynthia Jackevicius
• With Drs. Louise Pilote, Vidal Essebag (co-PIs). Population level evaluation of ablation therapies in atrial fibrillation. Canadian Institutes for Health Research. Funding of $189,344 over 2 years

Olivia Phung
• Received funds from Merck to conduct a systematic review to determine the prevalence of clinical inertia in patients with type 2 diabetes. This grant is for $30,000 over a 9-month period

Honors & Awards

Arezoo Campbell
• Invited as a speaker and participant at the U.S.-Iran Symposium on Air Pollution in Megacities sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, University of Southern California, and the National Academy of Sciences

Sheryl Chow
• Served as vice-chair for the AHA Clinical Pharmacology Committee semi-annual meeting at the American College of Cardiology Annual Meeting, Washington DC, March 2014

Eric Gupta
• Served on the APhA Policy Reference Committee and addressed the Kappa Psi Reception with a State of the Fraternity Address as Grand Regent/National President during the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, March 2014

Lingyun Liu (Cardiology Fellow)
• Winner of the “ACC Best Cardiovascular Team Poster” on their presentation, “Impact of a Multi-Disciplinary Heart Failure Post-Discharge Management Clinic on Evidence-based Medication Adherence.” American College of Cardiology Meeting, Washington DC, March 2014

Karl Hess
• Interviewed and included in CA Health Report an article on pharmacist involvement in primary care and SB 493, entitled “A Quiet Revolution in Primary Care”

Fadi Khasawneh
• Elected American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), Biological Sciences Chair. This is a three year commitment as Chair-Elect, Chair and Past-Immediate Chair
• Invited to serve on the Hemostasis and Thrombosis (HT) Study Section, of the Vascular and Hematology Integrated Review Groups, Center for Scientific Review, NIH Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

Lyna Luo
• Received Director’s Discretionary award of 8 MillionsCPU hours on BlueGene/Q supercomputer from U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Argonne Leadership Computing Facility, May 2014
This past April, Daniel Robinson, PharmD, Dean of the WesternU College of Pharmacy, travelled to Taiwan to participate in the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Taipei Medical University (TMU). Taipei Medical University President, Yun Yen, MD, PhD, and Dean of the TMU College of Pharmacy, Chieh-His (Jackson) Wu, PhD, welcomed Dean Robinson in the official recognition of this growing partnership. TMU will identify pre-health professions students who wish to enroll in the WesternU College of Pharmacy’s Doctor of Pharmacy program who meet the academic requirements and display the personal qualities that give evidence of their suitability for a career in pharmacy.

Chieh-His (Jackson) Wu, PhD, Dean, College of Pharmacy and Yun Yen, MD, PhD, President Taipei Medical University, and Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD, FASHP, Dean, WesternU College of Pharmacy

### Honors Day Faculty and Staff

- **Jenny Barajas**
  - Staff Service Award
- **Cecelia Long**
  - Staff Service Award
- **Dr. Karl Hess**
  - Faculty Service Award
- **Dr. Patrick Chan**
  - Faculty Service Award
- **Teacher of the Year**
- **Dr. Kabir Lutfy**
  - Faculty Service Award
  - Teacher of the Year

**Congratulations to all that were recognized for their hard work and dedication!**
Publications


Presentations

Hyma Gogineni


Doreen Pon

- “Therapies for Painful Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy” The Western Foot and Ankle Conference, Anaheim, California, June 2014.

- “Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting: To Guidelines and Beyond” Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA March 2014.

Jeffrey Wang


Zhijun Kevin Wang


Poster Presentations

Jae Jin An


Patrick Chan


Sheryl Chow


Hyma Gogineni

Lyna Luo

Mark Nguyen

Olivia Phung
- Raynold Yin (Ambulatory Care Outcomes Fellow). Hirpara H, Lee NC, Yin RV, Phung OJ. “Momordica charantia (bitter melon) does not show any significant effect on Type-2 diabetic patients.” American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Annual Meeting, December 2013, Orlando, FL.

Mark Nguyen

Olivia Phung
- Raynold Yin (Ambulatory Care Outcomes Fellow). Hirpara H, Lee NC, Yin RV, Phung OJ. “Momordica charantia (bitter melon) does not show any significant effect on Type-2 diabetic patients.” American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Annual Meeting, December 2013, Orlando, FL.
The Geriatric Pharmacy Course & Board Review is designed for healthcare professionals who wish to enhance their ability to care for older adults and for pharmacists who are preparing for the Certified Geriatric Pharmacists Examination offered by the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy. This program has been developed effort to assist pharmacists practicing in all settings to strengthen their abilities to provide quality pharmaceutical care to their geriatric patients.

Western University of Health Sciences, College of Pharmacy, is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. This activity is accredited for a maximum 35.29 CEU hours. Your registration fee includes all educational sessions, continental breakfasts, lunches, Wi-Fi access and a downloadable interactive syllabus that includes all session handouts, tools and resources to use in your daily practice.

Learn more at geronet.ucla.edu/ic
Calendar 2014

August 4-8   Orientation Week
August 9    Convocation and White Coat Ceremony
September 6  PLS Leadership Retreat, Pomona, CA
September 6  Indian Pharmacist Association (IPA) Tradeshow, Huntington Beach, CA
September 10-13  Annual Intensive Course in Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review, Los Angeles, CA
September 12  Residency Showcase
October 6    Job Fair/Career Day
October 7-10  AMCP Educational Conference, Boston, MA

October 12-15  ACCP Annual Meeting, Austin, TX
October 18-22  NCPA 116th Annual Convention & Trade Expo, Austin, TX
October 23    Rotations Fair
October 30- November 2
November 1    WesternU CSHP Dessert Reception, Hilton Union Square, San Francisco, CA
November 8    A Tribute to Caring, Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, CA
November 2-6  AAPS Annual Meeting & Expo, San Diego, CA
December 7-11  ASHP Midyear, Anaheim, CA

WesternU College of Pharmacy Poster Day, May 2014