Dean Max D. Ray, MS, PharmD, Retires from WesternU

Max D. Ray, MS, PharmD, will retire as Dean of WesternU College of Pharmacy on June 30, 2006, after 10 years of service as both a faculty member and Dean. Dr. Wallace Murray, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, will serve as Interim Dean during July and August. The new Dean, Dr. Daniel Robinson, currently Dean at the School of Pharmacy at Northeastern University in Boston and previously Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice at USC, will start on September 1, 2006. The next issue of the Alumni Newsletter will provide full details of his background.

Dr. Max Ray joined the faculty of the new College of Pharmacy at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California, as Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Director of the Center for Pharmacy Practice Research and Development in 1996. He was appointed Dean of the College in 1999.

Dr. Ray has received the Hospital Pharmacist of the Year Award from both the South Carolina Society of Hospital Pharmacists (1975) and the California Society of Hospital Pharmacists (1990), and the Distinguished Service Award from the California Board of Pharmacy (1990). He received the Albert W. Jowdy Award from the University of Georgia in 1994 for contributions in the area of residency training, and in 1997 the John Webb Lecture Award, given by Northeast University in Boston, as well as the ASHP Harvey A. K. Whitney Lecture Award. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy in 2003.

Dr. Ray has over 60 publications in professional and scientific literature, and has given over 400 presentations at the state, national and international levels. He is a registered pharmacist in South Carolina and California.

Dr. Ray views his life’s work to be in helping the profession of pharmacy realize its full potential as a clinical profession. One of his research interests is the relationship between the professions of pharmacy and medicine.

Some of the highlights of his tenure as Dean include:

• The Charter Class graduated in 2000
• The College of Pharmacy received full accreditation from ACPE in 2000
• A new departmental structure was created in 2002: Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Department of Social and Administrative Sciences

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On May 18, 2006, WesternU administration honored Dean Max Ray with a reception celebrating his many contributions to the College and the University. A video with cameo messages from his friends and colleagues was shown. Dean Ray was presented with a print of the Father of American Pharmacy, William Proctor, by the artist Robert Thom.

The achievements of our students come about because of the intersection of visionary leaders, outstanding faculty and superb students. The man who has provided that leadership for the College of Pharmacy since 1999 is Dean Max Ray. Dean Ray has seen the college grow in status and reputation over the years. I know he has a great sense of fulfillment and pride in what he has achieved. However, alas, he is retiring now and we will indeed miss him.

Max, we all salute you and wish you Godspeed!

Philip Pomerantz, PhD
President
Western University of Health Sciences
First Annual College of Pharmacy Symposium

The First Annual Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy Symposium was held on April 6, 2006, at Hinds Pavilion at the Los Angeles Fairplex.

Dean Max Ray invited students, faculty, preceptors, alumni and friends of WesternU to the symposium examining the major technological, professional and ethical issues that will impact our lives for the next 20 years or more.

The topics and speakers included Alvin Cheung, PharmD, MHSA, Area Pharmacy Director, Diablo Area Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, in Northern California, who discussed the science of “Pharmacogenomics.” His presentation gave the audience a view of current trends in pharmacogenomic research and the potential applications in patient care.

Margaret Laws, MPP, Director, Public Financing and Policy Program, California Healthcare Foundation, in Oakland, California, spoke on “The Public Policy Implication of Increasing Health Care Costs.”

The final speaker, Lorie Rice, MPH, Associate Dean for External Affairs, UCSF School of Pharmacy, examined the topic “Reflections on Your Retirement.” She helped new practitioners assess their career decisions from an ethical and professional prospective, spanning 40 years forward leading to their retirement.

After the conclusion of the Symposium, lunch was served and the Honors Day portion of the day commenced. Dr. Mark Okamoto was the featured faculty speaker. Honors Day is celebrated each year to recognize WesternU students for their pursuit of academic excellence and community and University service.
Rho Chi

The following College of Pharmacy students were elected as officers in the Gamma Sigma Chapter of the Rho Chi Society, the pharmacy honor society: Angela Ta, PharmD '07 (President), Elke Wong, PharmD '07 (Vice-President), Meighan Bartholomew, PharmD '07 (Secretary), Karen Lin, PharmD '07 (Treasurer), and Ann Vu, PharmD '07 (Historian). Congratulations!

CAPSLEAD Conference
February 2006

The 4th Annual California Pharmacy Student Leadership (CAPSLEAD) Conference was held on February 25-26, 2006, at the Hyatt San Francisco Airport Hotel. The seven California schools of pharmacy (WesternU, UCSF, UCSD, Touro, Loma Linda, USC and UOP) each sent 10 students and several faculty members to the meeting.

WesternU Students Place First at CPhA Quiz Bowl

At the annual meeting of the California Pharmacists Association (CPhA) in Palm Springs, February 17-19, 2006, our students won the annual CPhA Quiz Bowl for the second year in a row. There were seven participating pharmacy schools at the event. Questions ranged from pharmacy law, OTC drugs, Medicare Part D, drug interactions and TV trivia! WesternU was considerably ahead of the second-place school.
Dr. Hugo Arias, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, had the following articles published:


“Molecular mechanisms and binding site location for the noncompetitive antagonist crystal violet on nicotinic acetylcholine receptors,” published in the journal Biochemistry, 45 (2006), 2014-2026, by Arias H.R., Bhumireddy P., Spitzmaul G., Trudell J.R., and Bouzat C.

Dr. Hugo Arias, had the following abstracts presented at the 50th Biophysical Society Annual Meeting, February 18-22, 2006, in Salt Lake City, Utah:


Dr. Hugo Arias, published “Marine Drugs and Ion Channels” in the scientific journal Marine Drugs, where he acted as the guest editor and contributed with the following reviews: “Marine toxins targeting ion channels.” Mar. Drugs 4, 37-69, and “The nemertine toxin anabaseine and its derivative DMXBA (GTS-21): Chemical and pharmacological properties.” Mar. Drugs 4, 223-248. He also recently had the following book published: Biological and Biophysical Aspects Of Ligand-Gated Ion Channel Superfamilies, where he contributed with the following chapters:


Dr. Mark Bounthavong, ’04, a research fellow in Social and Administrative Sciences, has been working on a research project that has been accepted as an abstract for the ACCP Spring Practice & Research Forum. The project is entitled, “Decision analysis model evaluating cost effectiveness of risperidone, olanzapine, and haloperidol in the treatment of schizophrenia.” He is seeking grant funding for the project and will be submitting the work for publication soon. This is his first published abstract as a fellow.

Dr. Kelly Brock, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, the newest College of Pharmacy faculty member, published “Documentation of Patient Care Services in a Community Pharmacy Setting” that appears in the May/June 2006 edition of Journal of the American Pharmacists Association.


Dr. Sheryl Chow, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, published an article on aspirin resistance. She was given the lead article for the month of April. The reference to her publication is: Chow SL, Cheung RJ. Aspirin resistance: a growing concern. Formulary 2006; 41:192-201.

Dr. Eunice Chung has been promoted to Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice effective July 1, 2006.

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Drs. Eunice Chung, James Scott and Sandra Shibuyama contributed to a new book recently published by the American Pharmacists Association, “Natural Products – A Case-Based Approach for Health Care Professional,” which contains chapters written by several faculty members from the College of Pharmacy. The book’s primary author is Dr. Karen Shapiro, a former faculty member.

Dr. Eric Gupta, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, has been invited to be a guest speaker at Long Island University in October. He will present the hyperlipidemia portion of the symposium, “Innovative Approaches to Managing the Metabolic Syndrome: Hypertension, Diabetes, Hyperlipidemia and Obesity.”

Dr. Karl Hess, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, another new member of the COP faculty, published “Immunization Update,” which appeared in the Spring 2006 edition of California Pharmacist. Dr. Hess is completing his Community Practice Residency at USC and will join COP in July.

Dr. Cynthia Jackevicius, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, has had an abstract titled “Adherence to Evidence-Based Multi-drug Regimens in Older Persons Post-Myocardial Infarction,” accepted for a poster presentation at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy conference held in Monterey this past April. Additionally, Dr. Jackevicius’s Canadian research group has been awarded a $4.2 million, 5 year grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Canadian NIH equivalent). The grant supports the accumulation and analysis if de-identified outcomes data for cardiovascular interventions.

Dr. Cynthia Jackevicius published “The Use of Lipid Lowering Therapy for Secondary Prevention in Patients Undergoing Percutaneous Coronary Intervention” in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology. She has also been awarded the designation of “Added Qualifications in Cardiology” as a subspecialty within the Pharmacotherapy Board Certification process.

Dr. Anandi Law, Associate Professor of Social and Administrative Sciences, was included in the Who’s Who in Medicine and Healthcare, 2006-2007! This award is given out to accomplished people in the healthcare field. Her work in Outcomes Research has led to this honor.

Dr. Kabir Lutfy, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, had the following article, “Differential involvement of enkephalins in analgesic tolerance, locomotor sensitization, and conditioned place preference induced by morphine,” published in Behavioral Neurosciences. Marquez P, Baliram R, Gajawada N, Friedman TC, Lutfy K.

Congratulations to Dr. Kabir Lutfy on his publication and his invitation to be a speaker at Charles Drew University, “Repeated stress alters the ability of nicotine to activate the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis,” in the Journal of Neurochemistry. He also will be an invited speaker at the “Second Annual Drug Abuse Research Symposium at Drew,” held at Charles Drew University in August.

Dr. Steve O’Barr, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded an intramural grant in the amount of $18,750 in support of a project titled “Long Term CHP+Zn and T4 Treatment Increase IDE Activity and Amyloid-beta Metabolism in vivo.”

Dr. Rajan Radhakrishnan, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been appointed as the regional editor for North America for Inflammopharmacology journal, and the College of Pharmacy will be the regional editorial office for North America. This is a Pubmed-indexed journal. In addition, Dr. Rajan Radhakrishnan’s recent publications are:


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Dean Max Ray published an editorial in the May 1, 2006, issue of Pharmacotherapy, titled “Clinical Maturity in Pharmacy.”

Dean Max Ray published an excellent commentary in the April 1, 2006, issue of Am J Health-Syst Pharm 63:666-669 entitled “Curbside conversation about noblesse oblige and moral commitment.”

Dr. James Scott, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, has had his abstract titled “Rare Occurrence of Renal Impairment When Retrospectively Evaluating the Use of Tenofovir DF When Used > 12 Months,” accepted by the Canadian Association for HIV Research conference that will be held in Quebec City in May, 2006.

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- A Student Services Director was appointed in 2002 (Mark Iannuzzo)
- A program was established for the commercialization of faculty intellectual property
- A College of Pharmacy Practice Plan was established
- Two students won the Clinical Skills Competition at CSHP Seminar 2002
- The Mid-Career PharmD Program, for pharmacists with BS degrees in pharmacy to obtain a PharmD, was started in 2003, and graduated its first class in 2005
- A Dean’s Advisory Council was formed in 2003
- The First Annual Good Neighbor Pharmacy/Institute for Community Pharmacy (GNP/ICP) Golf Tournament was held in 2003, and raised $50,000 in scholarship funds for 5 WesternU pharmacy students and 5 USC pharmacy students who plan to make a career in independent community pharmacy practice. The golf tournament has raised $200,000, through this year, for student scholarships
- A graduate program in Pharmaceutical Sciences was established in 2003, and has thus far graduated 7 students with Master degrees. A PhD program is being planned
- A two-year fellowship program in the Department of Social and Administrative Sciences was established in 2003, and two residencies were started in the Department of Pharmacy Practice in 2004. Several more residencies and fellowships have been established since then
- The College of Pharmacy held its own stand-alone Commencement Program with its own speaker in 2004
- A Vice Chair of Pharmacy Practice position, responsible for the experiential programs, was created in 2004 (Dr. Rick Sylvies)
- WesternU students have placed first or tied for first in the Patient Counseling competition three years in a row against the other schools in California
- WesternU received its first NIH grant (Dr. Kabir Lutfy, $510,000) in 2004
- The first patents received by a WesternU faculty member (Dr. Guru Betageri) in 2004 and 2005
- Four alumni have been hired at Colleges of Pharmacy as paid faculty: Megan Nguyen, PharmD ’00 (WesternU), Donald Hsu, PharmD ’03 (WesternU), Nancy Nguyen, PharmD ’02 (UOP) and Madonna Mashburn, PharmD ’05 (WesternU)
- Responsibility for the College of Pharmacy Assessment was elevated to an Associate Dean position (Dr. Mark Okamoto)
- WesternU Pharmacy Associates, a support group for the College of Pharmacy, was established in 2005 to raise funds for the College
- The First Annual College of Pharmacy Symposium was held in April 2006
- The College of Pharmacy prepared a Self-Assessment Report and hosted a successful ACPE re-accreditation visit in 2006
- Alumni of the College of Pharmacy have passed the national board examination (NAPLEX) at a pass rate of 98.2% since the start of the College
- At least 110 (17%) alumni have completed residencies; this is much higher than the national average of about 12%
Alumni Relations

BE INFORMED & GET INVOLVED!

The Office of Alumni Relations is pleased to announce the implementation of a monthly e-newsletter, which contains information on upcoming alumni events, news from the College of Pharmacy and information on faculty and current student activities and successes. To sign up for the COP e-newsletter, please contact The Office of Alumni Relations at (909) 469-5274 or alumni@westernu.edu and provide us with your current e-mail address. Also, please remember that all COP alumni have lifetime e-mail through WesternU. If you would like to reactivate your account or reset your password, please let us know.

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