The College has focused on three major initiatives over the past several months.

First, we are in the process of realigning our strategic goals based on our inherent strengths and a desire to build national recognition of our faculty and programs. On January 18, 2007, we brought faculty, staff, students, residents, fellows, members of the Dean’s Advisory Council and alumni together for a half-day retreat at the Kellogg West Conference Center at Cal Poly Pomona. Our objective was to modify our strategic goals in a way that incorporated a current scan of the environment for pharmacy practice and education, and create a set of goals that were realistic and bold. Our strategic plan will continue to be refined over the next month prior to general distribution.

Second, we are committed to recruiting and enrolling highly talented students who are selected based on their individual attributes and their potential to contribute to the education of their fellow students. Having a student body with diverse cultural, socioeconomic and educational backgrounds will enrich the educational experience for all, and enhance our broad educational purpose of serving society’s health care needs.

Third, we are focused on recruiting and retaining faculty scholars who will enhance our national reputation in research, practice and service. Part of retaining quality faculty has been a focus on making sure they have the resources and equipment necessary to support their research efforts. We have identified mid-cycle funding with the assistance of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Research and Biotechnology, along with matching funds from the College of Pharmacy in order to purchase essential core equipment that will be used by several faculty. We are also in the midst of an active recruiting season with plans to finalize our search for a Department Chair for Pharmacy Practice and Administration. We have now identified a director for the new Center for Pharmacy Practice Research & Development, Dr. Moses Chow, who will start on August 1, 2007. We are also pleased to welcome the newest member of our Pharmacy Practice and Administration faculty, Roger S. Klotz, R.Ph., Assistant Professor and Regional
Coordinator for Experiential Education. We are indeed very lucky to have him working with us to further develop our clinical and experiential programs.

In addition, our pharmacy graduates continue to do very well in passing licensing examinations. In the May-August 2006 reporting period, NAPLEX passing rates were 96.7% for WesternU and 94.5% nationally. For the California Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (CPJE), passing rates were 93.8% for WesternU and 80.2% overall.

Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD
Dean

Class of 2001 Reunion

The WesternU Class of 2001 celebrated their 5-year reunion at the Disneyland Hotel on December 4, 2006 during the ASHP Mid-Year Clinical meeting. The reunion followed an alumni reception hosted by Dean Daniel Robinson and Dorothy Buchanan, Director of Alumni Relations.

Mid-Career Post Baccalaureate PharmD Program at WesternU Renamed International Post-Baccalaureate PharmD Program

The Mid-Career Post Baccalaureate PharmD (MCPP) Program offered in the College of Pharmacy at Western University of Health Sciences has been renamed the International Post-Baccalaureate PharmD (IPBP) program to more accurately reflect the educational needs it addresses.

The program provides a unique educational offering for qualified U.S. or foreign-trained college graduates with bachelor's degrees or equivalents in pharmacy that allows them to bypass the first year and enter directly into the second year of the traditional or professional program. Students in the program have the opportunity to complete their studies within three years instead of the traditional four.

The Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree awarded to IPBP students is equal to the degree given to traditional students. For more information, please visit the IPBP website at http://www.westernu.edu/xp/edu/pharmacy/mcpp_about.xml

The International Post-Baccalaureate PharmD (IPBP) 2006 students completed their last rotations and have officially graduated. A reception was held in their honor on December 18, 2006.
Emergency Preparedness and Response for Pharmacists

Pharmacists can play a key role in helping their communities after a disaster or public health emergency. The top priority is to insure the safety and well-being of yourself and your family members. Emergencies can happen at any time, often with no warning. Some emergencies can force a family to evacuate their home: others may force whole neighborhoods to be evacuated, while still other may require families to stay in their homes for days. Emergencies don’t always happen in the evening when families are at home. They may occur while you are at work and children are at school.

If you were forced to evacuate your home or basic services such as water, gas, electricity, or telephones were cut off, would you and your family know what to do? Families are best prepared to cope with emergencies by preparing an emergency plan in advance. Everyone needs a plan for work, school and home because knowing what to do is your best protection and an important responsibility.

For information on creating a Family Emergency Plan, go to www.labt.org, Build a Plan. The next step is to build a kit of emergency supplies. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, experts recommend stocking a seven-day supply of water and food. Keep these supplies in large plastic containers with lids for easy access and transportability. For information on building a Family Emergency Supply Kit, go to www.labt.org, Family Preparedness, Build a Kit.

When you have taken care of your family first, your services may be needed to help others. Please do not show up to the site of the emergency to offer your help. The primary mission of the American Red Cross during disasters is to provide food and shelter but not medications. As pharmacists, it is best to register with a local medical professional volunteer organization. For information on Volunteer Center of Los Angeles, go to www.vcla.org.

Glen K. Tao, PharmD
Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Emergency Preparedness and Response Program

The WesternU Advisor
A Gift That Keeps On Giving and Giving

Wouldn’t it be nice to make a gift to the College of Pharmacy that “keeps on giving!” There is a way to do this through an endowed gift. An endowment may be created using cash, a gift of appreciated stock, a will bequest, or a gift of an IRA. If you would like more information on the benefits of these various types of gifts, please contact Olive Stephens, Planned Giving Administrator, (909) 469-5211, ostephen@westernu.edu.
Student Accomplishments

Denise Dinh, PharmD ‘07 Receives National Award for Patient Counseling
Denise Dinh, PharmD ‘07 has been selected as one of five students nationally to be recognized by the Pharmacy Today/Student Pharmacist One to One Counseling Recognition Program. This program honors pharmacists and student pharmacists who have proven themselves outstanding in the field of one-to-one patient care. The award includes airfare, hotel and registration to the 2007 APhA Annual meeting in Atlanta.

Apothecary Olympics

Class of 2010 winners; Yvonne Tongoc, Dennis Do, and Terence Mckenna

2006 KPhAC Scholarship Recipients
On December 10, 2006, fourth year WesternU pharmacy students Christine Paeng, PharmD ‘07 and Chang Soo Lee, PharmD ‘07 were presented with the Korean American Pharmacists Association of California’s Student Scholarship Award. The students were recognized at the KAPhAC Annual Christmas Banquet held at the Reef in Long Beach and awarded with a certificate and a monetary scholarship of $1,000 each. These WesternU students were two out of five award recipients for this year. The remaining recipients included two students from UCSF and one student from USC. The recipients were carefully selected by the scholarship committee based on their academic performance, pharmacy-related community service activities, involvement in pharmacy associations, and an essay entitled “Why I Will Make an Effective Pharmacist.”

New Faculty

Roger S. Klotz, RPh, BCNSP, FASCP, FACA, FCPhA, CDM
Regional Coordinator for Experiential Education and Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration.

Roger S. Klotz, RPh, BCNSP, FASCP, FACA, FCPhA, CDM has joined the faculty of the College of Pharmacy. After many years of hospital and community pharmacy experience, Mr. Klotz was most recently President and CEO of Care Partners Consulting Pharmacists located in Anaheim, CA. As a member of the College of Pharmacy, Mr. Klotz will serve as Regional Coordinator for Experiential Education and as Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration.
Alumni News

Lara Gillian, PharmD ’05 and Elaine Levy, PharmD Dean’s Advisory Council member received the 2006 ASHP Best Practice Award at the ASHP Mid-Year Clinical meeting.

Bilingual Pharmacy Technician Medication Reconciliation at Hospital Admission Reduces Omissions of Prescribed Medications; Kim Luong-Schwab, PharmD, BCPS, Lara Gillian, PharmD, Ronald A. Floyd, PharmD, BCPS, Blair Frater, PharmD, Elaine Levy, PharmD; Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center: A Sharp HealthCare Facility, Chula Vista, California.

2007 Pharmacy Interviews

It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in this year’s interview process. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated as we attempt to recruit yet another outstanding class of students for the Class of 2011!

Interviews will be held one Saturday out of each month as follows; February 24th and March 24th. Please contact Jenny Barajas at jbarajas@westernu.edu or at (909) 706-3469 for more information and/or to sign up. Thank you in advance for your consideration to participate in this important process!

New Staff

Jenny Barajas joined the College of Pharmacy as Operations Support Specialist and comes from the Admissions Department.

Linda Ortega was hired to be Secretary III in the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the College of Pharmacy.

We would like to thank (from left to right) Roseanne Papoyan PharmD ’02, Ryan de Guzman PharmD ’01, and Nancy Nguyen PharmD ’02 for their participation in the December 2nd interviews.
Faculty Accomplishments

Faculty publications:


**Scott JD**, Wolfe PR, Bolan RK, Guyer B. Serious renal impairment occurs rarely with use of Tenofovir DF HIV *Clinical Trials*, 7 (2) March-April, 2006


Grants:


Betageri G. Research Contract, Roxro Pharma LLC, Evaluation of compatibility of Ketorolac with processing equipments. $5,000.

Betageri G. P&B Pharmaceuticals, Formulation and dissolution study of Nisoldipine tablet dosage form. $5,000.

O’Barr S. Evaluation of surrogate morbidity and mortality markers in acutely decompensated heart failure patients receiving nesiritide compared to nitroglycerin. Western University of Health Sciences, Intramural Research Grant, Co-I, $10,000, approved, funded, 2006-2007, intramural.

O’Barr S. A randomized controlled trial to evaluate renal function, inflammatory mediators, and neurohormonal markers in acutely decompensated heart failure patients receiving nesiritide compared to nitroglycerin. Research Institute of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, Co-I, $29,981, approved, funded, 2006-2008, extramural.

Okamoto MP, ACCP Research Institute. 1 year, $10,000 (Co-Investigator). A randomized, controlled trial to evaluate renal function, inflammatory mediators, and neurohormonal markers in acutely decompensated heart failure patients receiving nesiritide compared to nitroglycerin.

Wong SF (Principal Investigator), Phase II Trial of Neoadjuvant chemotherapy for the treatment of IA-IIIA non-small cell lung cancer (Principal Investigator Initiated Trial) July 2006

Wong SF et al (Principal Investigator) A prospective randomized pilot study to evaluate the screening tools used to monitor depression in palliative care patients (Principal Investigator Initiated Trial) July 2006


Honors:

Jackevicius CA. Added Qualifications in Cardiology, Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties, 2006.

Law AV, appointed to the Pharmacy Quality Alliance Quality Metrics Workgroup through the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. http://www.pqaalliance.org/

Lutfy K was invited to serve as a member of the “Molecular Neuropharmacology and Signaling” study section of the National Institute of Health (NIH). He accepted the offer and will serve on this study section until June 2010.

O’Barr S has been selected for a review panel member for AACP’s New Investigator Program in Biological Sciences. He also received tenure from the WesternU.

Okamoto MP, Marquis Who’s Who in America (Indoctrinated 2006); Who’s Who Among American Teachers (Indoctrinated 2006)
Happy New Year! The College of Pharmacy and the Alumni Office have many exciting plans for you this year. WesternU is celebrating its 30th anniversary during 2007, so check out the University Anniversary page at www.westernu.edu for information about events, volunteer projects, and how you can become involved. Lastly, we will be hosting an alumni breakfast on Saturday, February 17 at 7:30 a.m. at the CPhA Outlook 2007 Conference in Palm Springs. This is a great opportunity to meet current pharmacy students and hear about what is going on at the College of Pharmacy, so mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Dorothy Buchanan
Director of Alumni Relations