Pomona Ninth Graders Experience Pharmacy Compounding page 6

Also inside: Coming Home: Richard Garcia, PharmD ’13, explores the connection between community and pharmacy, page 3
College of Pharmacy Named Top Partner by CVS Caremark, page 18
Expanding our reach. This summer gives us an opportunity to reflect on the wonderful academic year we have just completed. Our twelfth graduating class has just joined the ranks of our prestigious pharmacy alumni. Two very special alumni deserve mention; Mai T. Nguyen (2003) and Donald Hsu (2002). Mai, who is featured in this edition of RxBound, is changing lives in Vietnam for physically and mentally disabled children, orphans and seniors through Hearts of Charity and Friends, which she founded in 2007. It’s hard to imagine anyone who has a bigger heart. Donald Hsu, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration at WesternU, was doubly honored this spring in receiving the Preceptor of the Year Award and the Teacher of the Year Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to both classroom teaching and clerkship teaching. This double honor is a first for the College. Don is very humble and the first to acknowledge the wonderful role models and mentors who have given him guidance along the way. A listing of other student and faculty honorees can be found on pages 22-23. Ninth graders making toothpaste in our compounding and professional development laboratory is another important example of how we reach into the community to share with local students our excitement about the profession of pharmacy.

We are using RxBound to share our successes, our stories and pride in all that we do. By reaching out to our alumni and friends we hope that you feel an ever growing connection to WesternU. Please share your thoughts, suggestions, good news and photos at rxbound@westernu.edu and utilize the enclosed envelope to stay connected.

Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD, FASHP
Dean, College of Pharmacy
Western University of Health Sciences
Pomona Ninth Graders Experience Pharmacy Compounding

Ray Symposium: The Promise of Genomics What Lies Ahead
Guest speaker William E. Evans, PharmD, Director and Chief Executive Officer of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

Alumni Profile
WesternU Grad, Mai T. Nguyen, PharmD ’03, has a big heart.

Coming Home
Richard Garcia, PharmD ’13, explores the connection between community and pharmacy

Students in Action
News from student clubs, organizations and events.

Commencement
Keynote speaker, William Zellmer, BPharm, MPH, and Alumni Association representative, Bhavesh Desai, PharmD ’02 address the graduating class of 2011.

The Giving Center
News, notes and giving to the College of Pharmacy.

Faculty News

Honor’s Day

Western States Conference
This year 11 WesternU residents, fellows and alumni gave presentations at Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California, May 24-27, 2011

News from the Office of Experiential Education

GNP/ICP Golf Tournament

Master Student Profiles
Profiles of the Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences class of 2011.
Alumni Profile: WesternU Grad Has a Big Heart

By Jeff Malet, Writer/Photographer

Mai T. Nguyen’s friends and peers know her as a “small person with a big heart.”

Friends have dubbed the 3-foot-10-inch tall Western University of Health Sciences’ College of Pharmacy 2003 graduate “Mighty Wind,” because she’s small, powerful, and determined.

During the 2007 holiday season, Nguyen founded the Hearts of Charity and Friends (HoCF) with the goal of bringing awareness and raising funds to support physically- and mentally-disabled children, orphans, and disabled seniors in Vietnam.

Nguyen found inspiration in a quote by Joel Baker, author of “The Star Thrower,”

“Vision without action is merely a dream.”
“Action without vision just passes the time.”
“Vision with action can change the world.”

“The heart also represents the capacity for sympathy, generosity, courage with resolution and fortitude,” said Nguyen, describing the philosophy behind the HoCF name.

“It has an infinite capacity for compassion with deepest devotion to the body and the soul.”

While HoCF’s primary goal is to help disabled children in Vietnam, Nguyen learned that local children also need attention after her 10-year-old niece was diagnosed with autism.

After seeing the girl’s parents struggle to communicate with their daughter, Nguyen set out to establish the Autism Education Program and Vietnamese Parents Support Group in Orange County.

“It struck me that they are going through such difficult times, coping and understanding,” said Nguyen.

Nguyen works as a staff pharmacist at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital (FVRH).

Giang C. Nguyen (photo right), an unrelated fellow WesternU graduate from 2001, encouraged Nguyen to work with her at the hospital.

“Her warmth, smile, and eagerness to achieve were magnetic,” said Giang Nguyen. “I had never met anyone more determined and humble.”

Through serendipity of working with mutual colleagues—Mai Nguyen then recruited Giang Nguyen for her charity.

“Giang is very inspirational to me,” said Nguyen. “We share the same mission, goal and heart. We both want to make a difference in the community.”

Nguyen says she owes a lot to her father Cuong, who has since passed away. “He was a guiding light, resolute and a voice of encouragement.”

“Without him I would not even go to pharmacy school,” said Nguyen. “He’s the one who inspired me to help people, to think about all the people you can help and all the people who will look up to you for help. He was always 100 percent supportive of my charity.”
During Richard Garcia’s first week as a College of Pharmacy student, he asked Dean Daniel Robinson, PharmD, about outreach programs in Pomona for the Spanish-speaking community.

“His perception was there was a need for involvement, and he wanted to give back to his community now that he was in a professional program,” said Jesse Martinez, PharmD, Vice Dean, Academic Diversity and Development. “That is, to me, so amazing. I know for a fact Richard will make an impact in his professional life in some way. He’s already contributed so much, and he has not even completed his second year yet.”

That dedication is one reason why Richard Garcia, PharmD ’13, received the April 2011 Walmart/Pharmacy Times RESPy (Respect, Excellence, and Service in Pharmacy) Award, a national honor presented to the student who has made a difference in his or her community by demonstrating excellence in pharmaceutical care.

Winners receive a $1,000 scholarship and have an opportunity to intern with Walmart. Pharmacy Times selects one winner each month during the school year — 10 per year.

Garcia was nominated for the award by Dr. Martinez and Eric Gupta, PharmD, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration. The RESPy Award honors student pharmacists who perform a lot of volunteer public service, Dr. Gupta said.

“Ever since he’s been here, he’s been a solid student,” Dr. Gupta said. “He is a very good leader within the College of Pharmacy, and he really is very strong as far as public health outside the classroom. He has a big desire to serve the community.”

Garcia said he was humbled and excited to receive the award, although he doesn’t perform community service for the recognition.

“I’m glad to see if you take care of those things — if you do community service and you do well in the classroom — everything will take care of itself,” he said.

Being at WesternU is like coming home for Garcia, who attended Ganesha High School in Pomona. He left to pursue a mathematics degree at UCLA, which he earned in 2008, and then decided to attend WesternU.

“I felt WesternU would be a perfect fit, to go back to the community where I grew up,” he said.

His career path began in a Ganesha High summer program that exposed students to various health professions. The students visited the USC School of Pharmacy, which gave Garcia a different view of the profession.

“In my culture, traveling to Mexico a lot of summers, there is a pharmacy on every block. The profession is like any other profession,” he said. “I knew I wanted to enter the medical field, but I never really thought about pharmacy.”

The trip to USC introduced him to the flexibility and constant evolution of the profession.

“Pharmacists work alongside physicians, nurses and PAs to treat patients,” Garcia said. “That was attractive to me, something I wanted to look into.”

Just as his interest in pharmacy was sparked as a high school student, Garcia enjoys explaining to young students the vast opportunities in the field.

“You have to advocate for the profession. You have to let other people know what pharmacists can do,” Garcia said. “The perception is that a pharmacist counts pills behind a counter.”

Garcia, who is considering going into education or ambulatory care after graduation, said he also entered pharmacy because he saw a need for Spanish-speaking pharmacists. He and other bilingual College of Pharmacy students are developing a medical Spanish course for the college and, eventually, all programs at WesternU.

In California, 6 percent of registered pharmacists are Hispanic, Dr. Martinez said. The Hispanic population in Los Angeles County is nearing 50 percent, according to U.S. Census figures.

“Richard is doing very important work,” Dr. Martinez said. “He’s doing work that not only benefits the profession, but he clearly sees the need for Spanish-speaking health professionals, specifically pharmacists. He’s truly an amazing person and he gravitates to the areas where there is the biggest need.”
Everyone is unique, down to their DNA. Because of these genetic differences, the same drug therapy does not have the same effect on everyone. By taking into consideration a person’s genetic makeup, health care providers can help maximize effectiveness and reduce harmful effects by choosing drugs and dosages that fit the individual.

William E. Evans, PharmD, Director and Chief Executive Officer of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, talked about pharmacogenomics at the fifth annual Ray Symposium at Western University of Health Sciences April 21, 2011.

The Ray Symposium is organized by the College of Pharmacy in honor of Max Ray, MS, PharmD, Dean Emeritus of the College of Pharmacy. He joined WesternU as Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Director of the Center for Pharmacy Practice and Development in 1996, and served as Dean of the College of Pharmacy from 1999 to 2006. The Ray Symposium is sponsored by McKesson.

Pharmacogenomics looks at how genetics and inheritance affect drug metabolism and drug response, Evans said. If you take 50 people with leukemia and give them all the same drug therapy, not all patients will respond the same. For some, the treatment will not have the desired effect. Others will have adverse drug effects and develop toxicity from the treatment.

“At the very center of all of these things that happen to our patients is their DNA, their genetic constitution,” Evans said. “It is who they are that they inherited from their parents.”

Leukemia patients at St. Jude are treated with the medication 6-mercaptopurine. The enzyme thiopurine methyltransferase (TPMT) metabolizes this drug. About 90 percent of the population has high activity of this enzyme, about 10 percent have intermediate activity and 1 in 300 have low activity or no activity, Evans said.

“Our patients need this enzyme to get rid of this drug,” he said. “It is used to treat leukemia, but it also kills normal cells if the levels get too high.”

Evans and his colleagues developed a diagnostic test to identify patients who were deficient in TPMT.
The reason we wanted to know this was the kid who lacks this enzyme can’t get rid of the drug, and they have 10 times more active drug in their blood then kids that have normal activity of this enzyme,” Evans said.

Ten percent of the population is at risk of toxicity if they receive the standard dose of the drug, he said.

“Based on that information, we have completely changed the way we prescribe this drug,” Evans said. “We used to give everybody who walked through the door the same dose of mercaptopurine. We had wildly different levels of active drug in their blood, and markedly different risk of toxicity.”

Today, they test patients for TPMT activity levels before they begin treatment for leukemia. If they don’t have a good copy of the enzyme, they receive 10 percent of the standard dose.

“Once we do this, we have exactly the same risk of toxicity across the entire population, and the risk of relapse is not different among those different phenotypes,” Evans said.

Evans envisions a day when all research is combined to form a genetic map for effective treatments.

“If we do these diagnostic tests and we put them in a secure database, and only the patient can authorize their health care provider to look at it, then we can do those tests very cheaply and use it for the rest of that patient’s life,” Evans said. “So the day may come when mom and dad go home with the new baby and the baby’s genome. The baby’s genome can be deposited electronically in a secure database. For every treatment decision for that patient for the rest of their life, that data is going to be available to make smarter decisions, and it’s going to be used by all health care providers.

“We’re going to start moving away from that empirical model … where every patient with hypertension or leukemia is put in the same box,” he said. “We’re going to start subdividing them based on their ability to respond to drugs, based on genetics.”

Why isn’t this already being done? According to Evans, the medical community remains skeptical and has not embraced it because genetics sound complicated.

“It doesn’t have to be. Going forward, part of our challenge as professionals is to take some of the complication out of it, take some of the mystique out of genetics,” he said. “It is true you cannot expect every practicing health care professional to be able to interpret DNA sequence and make a decision about drug therapy. That’s not what they do.”

He compared pharmacogenomics to the bar code on a tomato sauce can. Most people don’t know how much a can costs just by looking at the bar code. But when you run it through a scanner, the price appears.

“So that is what has to happen with pharmacogenetics,” Evans said. “We’re going to have to have the readout, which is going to translate this DNA sequence to a readout of the genotype. And the input is going to be: I have new diagnostic, a new case of high blood pressure or a new case of leukemia. I have that patient’s genome. So based on that provisional diagnosis, and the list of drugs I can choose from, it’s going to tell me the genotypes that patient has and whether they can respond to clopidogrel.

There’s still going to be a lot of thinking that has to happen after that by the pharmacist, by the physician, by the nurse, but it’s not going to be that complicated in terms of the readout.”

College of Pharmacy Dean Daniel Robinson, PharmD, noted that moving from a survival rate of 35 percent to 90 percent in acute lymphoblastic leukemia in children — which is what St. Jude has accomplished — was done without a single new drug.

“There’s no magic drug, it’s how we are using the drug appropriately — the right drug in the right situation, in the right dose,” Robinson said. “If we just use our pharmaceutical products more intelligently, we can achieve a lot more.”

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By taking into consideration a person’s genetic makeup, health care providers can help maximize effectiveness and reduce harmful effects by choosing drugs and dosages that fit the individual.
Palomares Academy of Health Sciences students Julie Lac and her toothpaste-making partner, Caroline Rodriguez, were really careful while they made a tube of toothpaste. They wanted to make sure they had a nice product when they finished.

“When you do something for the first time, you want to handle it with care,” Julie said. “Today taught me to be real clean, and that you don’t want to get your hair in anything, and that you have to be extra careful when you deal with things like this, because it not only affects you, it affects your patients.”

Julie and Caroline were among 30 Pomona ninth-graders enrolled in their school’s Project Lead the Way Biomedical Program who visited WesternU’s College of Pharmacy on May 13, 2011. Faculty and students taught the high school students how to compound non-medicated toothpaste in the College of Pharmacy’s Compounding Lab.

Dean Daniel Robinson, PharmD, told the group that he was excited to showcase the pharmacy program and some of the things student pharmacists can do.

“It’s an opportunity to expose you to some of the sights and scenes in pharmacy and share the energy and excitement that goes on in the university campus and learning about the health professions,” he said.

Students were afforded this opportunity because of the relationship between the Pomona Unified School District and WesternU fostered by the Pomona Health Career Ladder program. The partnership has led to a strong pipeline of extended activities through the high school grades, said Palomares Academy of Health Sciences Principal Reedy Wade.
Vice Dean of Academic Diversity and Development Jesse F. Martinez, PharmD, FASCP, was active in offering a pharmacology lab experience field trip to these students because they are interested in pursuing careers in health sciences like medicine, pharmacy, forensics and nursing. “This is a simple exercise that you can follow, so you can appreciate what a pharmacist can do,” he said.

Ninth-grader Tahra Veasley said she wants to be a registered nurse. She was eager to know how medicine works, especially when she has patients many years from now.

The laboratory exercise educated students in preparing a pharmaceutically elegant paste composed of six active ingredients. They weighed and mixed ingredients such as calcium phosphate, sorbitol 70% solution, sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium saccharin, peppermint oil and purified water. Half the group used a mortar and pestle and half used an ointment mill to smooth out the toothpaste, which then was scooped into a toothpaste tube, crimped and labeled for grading.

WesternU president, Philip Pumerantz (pictured above right), visited the students during the exercise, and encouraged them to keep vigilant in their pursuit of their education. “You all are our future, and it’s wonderful to see you here today working and learning in our new laboratory.”

Fourth-year student Reginald Soriano was one of two teachers’ assistants helping the students, answering questions as they measured ingredients. “Today was really exciting,” he said. “Just thinking back to when I was in ninth grade, I don’t remember being this excited about working in a lab. Seeing their enthusiasm for this kind of work is really promising for pharmacy in the future.”

WesternU, College of Pharmacy
Phi Lambda Sigma
Harnessing the Leader Within

By Michael Trillanes, PharmD ’13

Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) is a national leadership society that honors leaders and advocates for the career of pharmacy. In December 2010, the PLS Gamma Nu Chapter at WesternU inducted new members based on their leadership skills and activities throughout the past year. The goal for the chapter is to inspire others to be leaders and to establish a strong foundation to grow as a leader. In February, PLS members took part in an outreach event at Cal Poly Pomona where they spoke to pre-pharmacy students, giving advice and information about the path to becoming a pharmacist.

Additionally, PLS has continued their collaboration with Target with a lecture module entitled, “How to Sell Yourself in an Interview.” This module included very important tips for interviews including verbal and nonverbal communication as well as skits to emulate real interviews.

While spring semester was great, fall semester will prove to be even more exciting. With the Class of 2015 starting class in August, PLS is hard at work creating events for the fall semester, which are geared towards the incoming class. PLS will continue to work towards their goal of leadership advocacy by encouraging the incoming class to harness their own leadership potential early on in their careers.
Kappa Psi

By Jacob Arslanian, PharmD ’13

Every year, the Brothers of the Epsilon Gamma chapter of Kappa Psi participate in the Revlon Run/Walk for Women. This year, 28 Brothers were able to raise funds for the good fight against breast and other cancers; we raised nearly $800. The day was an early day, starting at 5:30 am, in order to get to the LA Coliseum on time for the event. The run/walk is 5 kilometers, winding through the downtown area. While some of us ran, most of us walked, keeping good conversation throughout the experience. Although the event was long and tiring, we all had a great time hanging out with each other. The fun continued afterwards, when some of us enjoyed an amazing lunch: dim sum, everyone’s favorite!

Photo top (left to right): Mark Sabillo, Doug Chang and Charles Lam.
Photo bottom (left to right): Karen Lai, Julie Oda, Melissa Landry, Wen-Hsin Jiang, Mark Sabillo, Jacob Arslanian, Nhu Vo, Charles Lam, Karolin Abedi, Doug Chang, Bao-Chau Le, Vincent Ly, Jamie Ky, Stephanie Wu, Jackson Tang, and David Nhan.
Gamma Sigma Chapter of the Rho Chi Society
By Carrie Bitterlich, PharmD ’13, Vice President

The Gamma Sigmas of the Rho Chi Society started this year with a bang! After a lovely candlelit evening, 26 new members from the Class of 2013 and 2012 were granted lifelong membership into the society at the annual banquet. Next up? Fundraising! I ♥ Rx T-shirts were preordered at the club extravaganza day as we celebrated our new roles. And yes, you can get one too!

With fun and laughter still in the air, the Rho Chi chapter got to work participating in the Interprofessional Health Fair. Members and non-members alike educated the community in emergency and disaster preparedness. Finally, before we parted ways for the summer, a membership luncheon was held, keeping us all up to date and feeling loved. With these activities a success, we look forward to an exciting year of social events, community service, school, and encouraging excellence in the pharmacy world.

Photo top: Dr. Emmanuelle Schwartzman, Youkavet Samih, Annie Song, Joanne X. Nguyen, Mehrnoosh Esmaeili, Elnaz Panlouchi, Sooyoung Lee, Ian Rojas, Jinoo Lee, Valerie Bonifacio, Kelly Huang, Tony Chiang, May Chawasin, Joanne T. Nguyen, Carrie Bitterlich, Hue-Sheng Cheng, Candy Fan, Farah Nabi, Thao Pham, Jennifer Hong, Stephanie Lin, Julie Nguyen, Sangeeta Salvi, Eloise Santos, Shreya Shah, Hang Tran, Aliz Talatinian and Dr. Wallace Murray at the Rho Chi Initiation Banquet.

Photo inset top right: Jennifer Hong, Aliz Talatinian, Carrie Bitterlich and Stephanie Lin at the Rho Chi Health Fair.

Photo inset bottom right: Stephanie Lin, Sangeeta Salvi, Jennifer Hong, Candy Fan, Tony Chiang, Carrie Bitterlich, Aliz Talatinian, Hang Tran and Youkavet Samih at the Rho Chi Fundraiser.

APhA-ASP
By Yalda Jahromi, PharmD ’14

APhA-ASP’s eventful 2010-2011 academic year was highlighted with several firsts. This March at APhA Annual, which was held in Seattle, WA, WesternU earned its very first Region 8 Operation Diabetes Award! Activities that WesternU participated in which contributed to this impressive win included diabetes education as well as various screenings. We also brought home the CPhA Outlook “65 to Stay Alive Competition” award for raising more funds than any other California schools. Proceeds from the event will be used to provide schools of pharmacy from across California with the training and iPads for use in expanding patient access to the Pharmacy Foundation’s free online “medication safety check.” WesternU won a total of 3 iPads and a wireless printer. Another first took place on August 25th, when APhA-ASP organized and led WesternU’s first Interprofessional Health Fair, during which we screened roughly 200 members from our surrounding communities.

To conclude the year, APhA-ASP hosted another successful annual Wine and Cheese event, providing over 50 members and nearly two dozen pharmacists with the opportunity to interact and network. Additionally, APhA-ASP prides itself on our ability to give back to our members. In April we held a capstone Member Appreciation Meeting which was a great opportunity to inform our student members of where we have been as well as where we are headed in the near future.
Our NCPA chapter continues to offer our members a wide array of opportunities to broaden and enrich our educational experience and gain valuable knowledge in community pharmacy. Our mission has been to encourage and foster an interest in community pharmacy through the different events we organize. During this past year, our NCPA chapter invited several guest speakers from different areas of pharmacy. On January 22, 2011, CPhA Chief Executive Officer, Jon R. Roth, came to speak to our members on the future of pharmacy and the effects of health care reform in the practice of community pharmacy, encouraging students to play a stronger role in developing innovative patient care services for the community. In addition, NCPA hosted several health fairs this year including the St. Madeleine Annual Fiesta on May 14, 2011. This event was hosted for two consecutive days and the free health screenings we provided included blood pressure, blood glucose and BMI. We had almost seventy patients who were able to utilize the free services we provided. The event was a great success and we will be hosting more health fair events in the future to promote and educate the community about health lifestyle choices. Our events aid our members to further explore new ways to enhance patient care services in their future practice.

AMCP – Night of Managed Care

By Ani Khachatourian, PharmD ’14 & Jacqueline (Angel) Lim, PharmD ’14

As the year came to a close, the WesternU Chapter of AMCP hosted our 2nd annual Night of Managed Care for 60 pharmacists and students. Notable guests in attendance included pharmacists from Kaiser, LA Care, VA San Diego, GSK, IEHP, and Prescription Solutions, as well as our very own Chapter Diplomat, Dr. John Jones, and Chapter Advisor, Dr. Anandi Law. Students had a unique opportunity to engage in multiple roundtable discussions and to gain invaluable insight on the many pathways managed care pharmacy has to offer. The evening not only highlighted fundamental aspects of the new Health Care Reform Act, but more importantly stressed the proposals’ impact on the future of pharmacy practice. We would like to thank all of the pharmacists, as well as the board members and students who made the event a success.
By Nogie Demirjian, PharmD ’13

On January 14, 2011, United Pharmacists Network, INC. (UPNI) & WesternU hosted the 4th Annual Legislative Awareness Day to increase student understanding of political processes and its impact on our profession. Since the event’s introduction four years ago, this year’s student turnout was the largest, totaling 270 PharmD students composed from all four year level students. This year’s event was comprised of a variety of speakers from local government and leaders in the profession. Students heard the perspectives from Robert Small, RPh Co-Chair of UPNI and UPNI Legislative Committee Member; Dr. Steve Gray, Pharmacy Professional Affairs Director for Kaiser Permanente; Dr. John Cronin, CPhA General Counsel; Jon Roth, new CPhA CEO and Francisco Estrada, Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Norma Torres. Furthermore, students learned about the importance of how grassroots processes begin with reaching out to local government and other members of the community in order to facilitate change that can have a larger impact on our profession as a whole. Through the generous donations and key contacts of United Pharmacists Network, INC. (UPNI), the student chapters of APhA/CPhA, NCPA and ASHP/CSHP were able to assemble this special event at WesternU.

The following 3 student chapters were involved in the planning, APhA/CPhA, NCPA, and ASHP/CSHP with UPNI sponsoring the event.

The teamwork strategies learned at this conference will be utilized in the coming months as teams from each school conduct research projects on assigned topics related to pharmacy. The WesternU team will investigate the public perception of pharmacists and the public’s awareness of what services pharmacists provide. The team plans to use its findings to create a poster which will be exhibited at various pharmacy conferences in the forthcoming academic year.

The 2011 CAPSLEAD team for WesternU includes second year students Jacob Arslanian, Karen Lai, Van Nguyen and Claire Spahn. The first year students are Ilham Hassan, Ani Khachatourian, Paideia Le and Maya Yanover. The faculty advisors are Drs. Gupta, Hess and Hoffman.

Photo left (l-r): Maya Yanover, Karen Lai, Claire Spahn, Ani Khachatourian, Paideia Le, Van Nguyen, Jacob Arslanian and Ilham Hassan accepting their certificates.

Photo top (l-r): Marzieh Esmaeili, PharmD ’12; Nogie Demirjian, PharmD ’13; Robert Small, RPh; Dean Robinson; Maya Yanover, PharmD ’14; Jon Roth, CAE; Dr. Steve Gray; Dr. John Cronin; Quan Ngo, PharmD ’14.

Photo bottom (l-r): Dean Robinson, Marzieh Esmaeili, Nogie Demirjian and Dr. Sam Shimomura.
Fourth year student pharmacists are required to select and develop a research project, to be completed with their preceptors. Protocols are submitted to WesternU for IRB for approval prior to starting. At the end of the project, each student is required to create a poster formatted the same as a scientific poster presented professionally. A total of 142 Class of 2011 student pharmacists completed the project, and presented a poster. These included 33 student pharmacists in the Independent [Pharmacy] Ownership Track, 31 in Community Pharmacy, and 78 in the Institutional Track. Students in the Independent Ownership and Community Pharmacy tracks were required to provide MTM services at their site for 10 patients, and report the results of this intervention in their poster. Topics dealt with clinical issues, patient education, and organization project issues, with a great deal of new information presented. It was a wonderful experience for students, preceptors, and faculty.
Keynote Speaker

William Zellmer currently serves as a consultant, writer and speaker on strategic and professional issues in pharmacy practice. He holds appointments as Clinical Professor on the affiliate faculty of the School of Pharmacy, Virginia Commonwealth University; Contributing Editor, American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy; and Historian, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

William Zellmer’s message:

First, congratulations on your achievement! What a joy it is to finish a long and demanding journey and then to celebrate through a ceremony such as this.

The gap between the knowledge of pharmacists and the function of pharmacists is still very large. Too many pharmacists in all practice settings still assume a very narrow, technical role in the care of patients. We will not be sustained as a profession unless pharmacists take responsibility for the outcomes of patients’ use of medicines. It will be up to you to see that this is done.

We will not be sustained as a profession unless pharmacists find the courage to always give the highest priority to the best interests of the patient. It will be up to you to see that this is done.

We will not be sustained as a profession unless pharmacists develop new practice models, working much more closely with physicians and nurses in group medical practices, ambulatory care clinics, community health centers, chronic care programs, medical homes, and accountable care organizations. It will be up to you to see that this is done.
Alumni Message

Dr. Bhavesh Desai is a 2002 alumni of the WesternU College of Pharmacy. He owns two pharmacies in Southern California and is currently President of the Indian Pharmacist Association of California.

Bhavesh Desai’s message:
I still remember sitting in those same seats where you all are seated almost a decade ago and feeling proud of my accomplishments.

All your dedication and your families’ sacrifice has culminated into this important day today. So please don’t forget that your loved ones had a big hand in your success and always remember that. They gave unconditionally for your success and it is now your turn to give back.

Over the last 4 years, the education you have gained from WesternU may not define you, but it will certainly provide you with an identity that you’ll hold for the rest of your life and for that I ask that you stay loyal to the university and give back as others have done before you. When I graduated from WesternU, I had a very limited number of alumni to call upon but that is not the case for you all. We have over a decade of alumni practicing out there who I know would be happy to share their experiences and knowledge with you. It is crucial that we maintain the camaraderie and continue to remember that the professional network that we have with the WesternU alumni is our primary support organization and so we need to continue to foster this network and become active alumni of the college of pharmacy and the university.

Although I may not know you all, you are family, you are part of the WesternU family and as such, I want to contribute to your success in a small way.

It is our hope that you will be torchbearers of compassionate care and scientific excellence.

It is now my pleasure to officially welcome you as alumni of Western University of Health Sciences and the College of Pharmacy.
The California Korean American Pharmacists Association Establishes the College of Pharmacy’s 7th Endowment

This March, the California Korean American Pharmacists Association (CKAPhA) established the CKAPhA Scholarship Endowment Fund, a $20,000 pledge to be paid over the next five years. David Min, PharmD, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration at WesternU College of Pharmacy welcomed Jin-Sung Chang, PharmD, the President of the CKAPhA, and Sang-Ju Lee, RPh, the Chairman of Scholarship Foundation for the CKAPhA to the WesternU campus to sign the pledge agreement. During the signing ceremony, Dr. Chang presented Dean Daniel Robinson with the first pledge payment of $5,000, therein securing the first student recipient for the new CKAPhA Scholarship Endowment Fund. This year’s student recipient is Jinoo Lee, PharmD ’13, and she received her scholarship award at Honors Day in April. With the creation of this endowment, the CKAPhA Scholarship Endowment Fund becomes the seventh endowed scholarship for the College of Pharmacy, and further secures the future success of the WesternU College of Pharmacy’s ability to compete for the best and brightest pharmacy school applicants in the country.

Dr. Jin-Sung Chang, President of the CKAPhA (center) hands Dean Daniel Robinson (right) a check for the first payment on the $20,000 CKAPhA Scholarship Endowment Fund. Also present for the endowment signing was Sang-Ju Lee, Chairman of Scholarship Foundation for the CKAPhA (left).
The Power of Partnership

To date, 2011 has been an incredible year of generosity when it comes to the supporters of WesternU College of Pharmacy and its students. Our wonderful partners continue to consistently provide scholarship support, sponsor student travel, improve our facilities, and develop community outreach programming, all of which are vital and constructive activities that continue to raise the profile of WesternU on a regional, and now national, level. WesternU’s College of Pharmacy’s “star is on the rise,” and the value of a WesternU degree continues to grow. The remarkable thing is that this growth and expansion continues to occur in a frightening time of economic instability and uncertainty. But it is due in large part to the generous and consistently dependable support of donors like you that WesternU and the College of Pharmacy simply continue to steadily improve year after year. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Bill Burrows
Director of Development, College of Pharmacy

The WesternU Advi$or: Making a Bequest

Have you considered remembering the College of Pharmacy in your will or living trust? It is amazing how often this simple means of making a charitable gift is overlooked. When you name the College of Pharmacy in your will or living trust to receive a specific amount or percentage of your estate, you make one final and meaningful gift to an organization you supported during your lifetime. If you would like a personal visit or additional information about such a bequest, please contact:

Olive Stephens
Planning Giving Administrator
(909) 469-5211
ostephen@westernu.edu.

Tim Bamrick, CSPG
Director of Development
(909) 706-3455
tbamrick@westernu.edu

New Dean’s Advisory Council Members:
Rebecca Cupp and Amy Gutierrez

Rebecca Cupp, RPh, joined Kroger in 1983 as a Pharmacy Manager in San Antonio, Texas. She also served in Pharmacy Merchandising roles in Kroger-Atlanta until joining Ralphs as Director of Pharmacy in 2002. Currently, Rebecca is the Vice President of Pharmacy for Ralphs Pharmacies. Rebecca is a graduate of the University of Washington, School of Pharmacy. She is very active in state and national pharmacy organizations and is currently the Vice President of the Pharmacy Foundation of California.

Amy Gutierrez, PharmD, is the Chief Pharmacy Officer and Director of Pharmacy Affairs for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Dr. Gutierrez obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Southern California, and completed a California Healthcare Leadership Fellowship in 2007. She is currently an assistant professor of clinical pharmacy at both the University of Southern California and Western University of Health Sciences.

Dean’s Advisory Council

Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD
Dean, College of Pharmacy

Steven W. Gray, PharmD, JD
Chairman of the Dean’s Advisory Council

Bill Burrows, BS
Rebecca Cupp, RPh
Glenn Etow, PharmD
Richard de Leon, PharmD
Amy Gutierrez, PharmD
John D. Jones, RPh, JD, FAMCP
Roger Klotz, RPh, BCNSP, FASCP, FACA, FCPhA
Victor Law, PharmD
Elaine Levy, RPh
Jesse Martinez, PharmD, FASCP
Michael J. Negrete, PharmD
Megan Nguyen, PharmD
Thomas Russillo, BS
Tom Saito, PharmD
Sam Shimomura, PharmD, FASHP, CGP
Brad Trom, RPh, MBA
Joel N. Weber, PharmD, FCSHP, FASHP
Ray M. Yutani, DO, MS, PharmD, FACOFP

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CVS officials surprised College of Pharmacy administration and faculty with the award and a $50,000 check at the college’s dedication ceremony for the CVS/Pharmacy Student Services Center on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

“This is an amazing honor,” said College of Pharmacy Dean Daniel Robinson, PharmD. “We’re grateful to work so closely with CVS.”

CVS is a major employer of College of Pharmacy graduates, and the college has enjoyed a tremendous partnership with the company, Robinson said.

CVS Caremark recognizes one school partner each year that shares the same vision as CVS, said Papatya Tankut, RPh, CVS Caremark Vice President of Pharmacy Professional Services. Both organizations have a passion for community pharmacy, and the relationship is mutually beneficial. CVS hired 49 College of Pharmacy graduates in 2010 and has already recruited 22 students in 2011, she said.

CVS Caremark’s vision is improving the quality of human life through patient care and delivery of service. “The quality of students WesternU produces allows us to meet these standards,” Tankut said.

WesternU President Philip Pumerantz, PhD, thanked CVS officials for working with the university to produce highly skilled graduates who care for their patients.

“As a patient, it’s important to me when I deal with my health professional that I can trust them. That’s all based on the education provided here,” he said. “Thank you for your partnership, support and generosity.”

The announcement reinforced what was already a celebration of the partnership between CVS and the College of Pharmacy. CVS Caremark gave a $75,000 gift in April 2010 to create the new CVS/Pharmacy Student Services Center. Students will utilize the center to plan community outreach projects and other club activities.

“We need to provide infrastructure and support to allow students to do the amazing things we know they are capable of,” Robinson said.

Below: College of Pharmacy Dean, Daniel Robinson (far right), PharmD, celebrates the dedication of the CVS/Pharmacy Student Services Center with CVS Caremark officials (left to right) Amy Holland, PharmD, Director, Pharmacy Recruiting; Papatya Tankut, RPh, VP, Pharmacy Professional Services; and Chi Vi Tran, Manager, Professional and College Relations, CA, Region 60 and 61.
Generous Support for College of Pharmacy Scholarships & Student Programs

Gifts from Alumni & Friends

Thanks to all of our alumni, parents, and friends for their generous gifts.

Alumni:
Luis Aguilar ’00, Nicole Orrell ’01, Richard Tri Nguyen ’05, Long-Shyang Chang ’08, Stephanie Duggan ’10, Siem Woldemariam ’10, and Haikui Parsamyan ’10

We would like to highlight a recent gift made by Giang Nguyen ’01 to the Deborah Robinson Memorial Fund. Deborah Robinson was a member of the College of Pharmacy staff who passed away tragically in 2004, and this fund in her memory provides scholarship support for College of Pharmacy students.

Parent:
Mr. Chi Fuu Lin, the father of Jennifer Lin, PharmD ’01, for two gifts in the past six months.

Friends:
Dean’s Advisory Council members, Joel Weber, Tom Saito and Bradley Trom.
Dr. Soojung Kim in support of the Melanie S. Lim Endowed Scholarship.

Corporate and Association Support

Thanks to our corporate and association partners for their continued generosity.

- $1,100 from UPNI in support of the Legislative Awareness Day.
- $50,000 from CVS Caremark for the 2010 Partner of the Year Award.
- $50,000 from the 2010 Good Neighbor Pharmacy/Institute for Community Pharmacy (GNP/ICP) Scholarship Golf Classic providing five $10,000 annual scholarships to College of Pharmacy students.
- $2,825 from Walmart in support of the 2010 College of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony.
- $2,500 award from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) in support of annual scholarships.
- $5,000 from the California Korean American Pharmacists Association (CKAPhA) to establish the CKAPhA Scholarship Endowment Fund (the first gift payment on their pledge of $20,000).
- $4,000 from Target for the Target Scholarship in support of annual scholarship funding.
- $3,000 from CVS Caremark Charitable Trust for the 5th annual East West Scholarship Dinner in support of annual scholarships.
- $12,000 from McKesson as the exclusive sponsor of the 2011 Ray Symposium.
- $5,000 from CVS Caremark Charitable Trust in support of the College of Pharmacy’s Class of 2011 Commencement Banquet.
- $3,500 from Walgreens in support of the College of Pharmacy’s Class of 2011 Commencement Banquet.
- $1,500 from Ralphs in support of the College of Pharmacy’s Class of 2011 Commencement Banquet.
- $2,500 from Ralphs for the annual Ralphs Pharmacy Scholarship in support of annual scholarships.

East West Scholarship Dinner

The 5th Annual East West Scholarship Dinner was held on April 16, 2011 at the San Gabriel Hilton. Cindy Fan, PharmD ’13 received the Melanie S. Lim Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was established by Soojung Kim, PharmD in loving memory of her only daughter who passed away in 2005. Five other student pharmacists also received East West Scholarships: Nam Cho, PharmD ’12, Rabin Ebrahim, PharmD ’12, Lauren Hirano, PharmD ’13, Luis Moreno, PharmD ’14 and Pauline Phan, PharmD ’13. The scholarships are awarded to students based on academic achievement and community service.
Quang Le, PharmD, PhD
Dr. Le received his BS in Psychobiology and Cognitive Sciences from UCLA, PharmD from Loma Linda University, and PhD in Health Economics and Policy from USC. He has been working as a research consultant for Genentech as well as other health economics consulting firms for 4 years. His research interests include Health-related Quality of Life (HRQOL) methodology, Applied Econometrics, Bayesian-Network Model, Cost-Effectiveness Analysis, and Behavioral Economics. He has published his work in top medical and psychology journals for methodology including Journal of Experimental Psychology – Learning, Memory & Cognition, Medical Decision Making, Medical Care, and Cancer. He is a member of ASCO, SMDM, and ISPOR.

Stacy Rye
Stacy Rye joined the College of Pharmacy in November 2010 as an Administrative Assistant III. She is responsible for assisting the Office of Experiential Education office with student rotations, faculty support, professionalism credit and grades along with other duties. She has over ten years administrative experience in the Real Estate and Off Road Industries. She still spends her weekends doing Off Road Media. Stacy is excited to be a part of the WesternU College of Pharmacy family and looks forward to a long and happy career.

Faculty News & Accomplishments

Grants and Contracts


Hess K, Supsin C “Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perceived Barriers of Elderly Patients and Primary Care Providers Regarding Shingles and Shingles Vaccine Administration.” APhA Foundation Incentive Grants Program.

Jackevicius C “Measuring and Improving the Quality of ST-segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Care.” Canadian Institutes for Health Research (Canadian equivalent to NIH) $1 million over four years.


Honors and Awards

Hess, Karl
• Dr. Karl Hess has been named recipient of the Innovative Pharmacist of the Year Award by the California Pharmacists Association (CPhA). The award will be presented at CPhA Outlook in February 2011.

Klotz, Roger
• Prof. Roger Klotz was elected Chair-Elect of the Executive Committee for the Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Hoffman, Janice
• Completed the requirements to obtain the credentials for a Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (CGP). The purpose of the CGP credential is to identify and recognize those pharmacists who have expertise and knowledge of drug therapy principles for older adults.
• Dr. Janice Hoffman and College of Pharmacy alumnus class of 2008 Chen Chen were appointed to the Academy of Long Term Care Board for the California Pharmacists Association.
• Dr. Janice Hoffman was awarded the Faculty Service Award. This award is awarded to paid faculty who have provided outstanding service to the College of Pharmacy.

Khasawneh, Fadi
• Dr. Fadi Khasawneh was awarded the Faculty Service Award. This award is awarded to paid faculty who have provided outstanding service to the College of Pharmacy.
**Lambros, Maria**
- Dr. Maria Lambros was awarded the Faculty Service Award. This award is awarded to paid faculty who have provided outstanding service to the College of Pharmacy.

**Law, Anandi**
- Anandi Law has been confirmed for a 3-year appointment on the Editorial Advisory Board for the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association.

**Min, David**
- Dr. David Min was awarded the Faculty Service Award. This award is awarded to paid faculty who have provided outstanding service to the College of Pharmacy.

**Schwartzman, Emmanuelle**
- Dr. Emmanuelle Schwartzman successfully received her CDE (Certified Diabetes Educator) certification that demonstrates that “a health care professional possesses distinct and specialized knowledge, thereby promoting quality care for persons with diabetes.”

**Wang, Jeffrey**
- Received the Chinese American Faculty Association of Southern California (www.CAFASC.org) 2011 Service Award. He was recognized on February 26, 2011, during the association’s 40th annual convention. Over the past seven years, Dr. Wang has served as secretary, vice president and president of the association, and continues to serve as a board member.
- Dr. Jeffrey Wang was selected to attend the Mary Frances Picciano Dietary Supplement Research Practicum held at the National Institutes of Health.
- Was invited to review NIH’s R01 grant applications for the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM/NIH) together with the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS/NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI/NIH).

**Publications**


Chow S, O’Barr S, Peng J, Chew E, Pak F, Quist R, Patel P, Patterson J, Heywood J. Modulation of Novel Cardiorenal and Inflammatory Biomarkers by Intravenous Nitroglycerin and Nesiritide in Acute Decompensated Heart Failure: An Exploratory Study Circ Heart Fail published 16 May 2011, 10.1161/CIRCHEARTFAILURE.110.958066, http://circheartfailure.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/CIRCHEARTFAILURE.110.958066v1

Robinson D and WesternU Director of the Interprofessional Education Program Susan Mackintosh, DO, MPH, were members of the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC), which developed core competencies for interprofessional education in the health professions, as well as action strategies to implement the new competencies. The core competencies were announced May 10 by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

**Murray, Wallace**
- Dr. Wallace Murray has been selected to receive the 2011 Rho Chi National Faculty Advisor award. Rho Chi is The Academic Honor Society in Pharmacy.

**Nguyen, Mark**
- Dr. Mark Nguyen was recently installed as incoming President of OCHSP (Orange County Society of Health-System Pharmacists).

**O’Barr, Steve**
- Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was initiated as Chair of the Biological Section and was selected to participate in the 2010-11 Academic Leadership Fellows Program.

**Robinson, Daniel**
- Dean Daniel Robinson was initiated as Secretary of the Council of Deans for AACP. Dean Robinson also served as the Administrative Delegate from WesternU.


Faculty News & Accomplishments (continued)

TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Awarded to a College of Pharmacy faculty member who exhibits excellence in teaching within the professional pharmacy curriculum.

Donald Hsu, PharmD
Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration


FACULTY SERVICE AWARD
Awarded to paid faculty who have provided outstanding service to the College of Pharmacy.

Janice Hoffman, PharmD
Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration

Fadi Khasawneh, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Maria Lambros, PhD
Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

David Min, PharmD
Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration

PRECEPTORS OF THE YEAR AWARD
Awarded to recognize paid and volunteer College of Pharmacy faculty preceptors for their excellence in teaching students during their clerkships.

Jeff Ward, PharmD
Sav-On #6594, San Dimas, CA

Wayne Campbell, PharmD
Beverly Hospital, Montebello, CA

Darrell Chan, PharmD
West Anaheim Medical Center, Anaheim, CA

Donald Hsu, PharmD
St. Joseph Hospital, Orange, CA
**THE PRESIDENT’S SOCIETY AWARD**
Established in 1994 by the President’s Society to recognize academic excellence, financial need and service to the University.
Richard Garcia, PharmD 2013

**ALBERTSONS/SAV-ON SCHOLARSHIP**
Jack Lam, PharmD 2013
Sandip Patel, PharmD 2011

**ALBERTSONS/SAV-ON DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP**
Luis Moreno, PharmD 2014

**CALIFORNIA KOREAN AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION**
Jinoo Lee, PharmD 2013

**CVS CHARITABLE TRUST, INC.**
Cindy Fan, PharmD 2013
Aarohi Shah, PharmD 2012

**EAST WEST SCHOLARSHIP**
Nam Cho, PharmD 2012
Rabin Ebrahimi, PharmD 2012
*Cindy Fan, PharmD 2013
Lauren Hirao, PharmD 2013
Luis Moreno, PharmD 2014
Pauline Phan, PharmD 2013
*Awarded the Melanie S. Lim Scholarship

**GOOD NEIGHBOR PHARMACY/ THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP**
Jonathan Baharvar, PharmD 2012
Anthony Do, PharmD 2012
Marzieh Esmaili, PharmD 2012
Sana Fazai, PharmD 2012
Alex Moiseyev, PharmD 2012

**INDIAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP**
Eva Chung-Levbarg, PharmD 2014

**NACDS FOUNDATION PHARMACY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**
Sandip Patel, PharmD 2011

**RITE AID PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP**
Yehsa Jariwala, PharmD 2012
Dhwani Shah, PharmD 2012
Shreya Shah, PharmD 2012

**SOUTH BAY PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP**
Eva Chung-Levbarg, PharmD 2014

**WALGREENS SCHOLARSHIP**
Eun-Ah Cho, PharmD 2012
Eva Chung-Levbarg, PharmD 2014
Linda Danh, PharmD 2014
Norie Demirjian, PharmD 2013
Ani Khachatourian, PharmD 2014
Erik Kirakosyan, PharmD 2014
Jamie Ky, PharmD 2011
Charles Lam, PharmD 2013
Phung Le, PharmD 2013
Jessica Ng, PharmD 2012
Tracey Ngo, PharmD 2012
AnhDao Nguyen, PharmD 2014
Elaz Panbechi, PharmD 2013
Castor Phan, PharmD 2013
Sandra Pineda, PharmD 2013
Yasaman Rahimian, PharmD 2014
Matthew Rim, PharmD 2011
Richard Vu, PharmD 2011
Maya Yanover, PharmD 2014

**WALGREENS DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP**
Sandra Pineda, PharmD 2013

**WALGREENS SCHOLARSHIP**
Sandip Patel, PharmD 2011
Christopher Tjon, PharmD 2011
Western States Conference
for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows and Preceptors: May 24-27, 2011

Each Spring, residents, fellows and preceptors from the West Coast gather at the beautiful Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California. This year 11 WesternU residents, fellows and alumni gave presentations. They were accompanied by faculty members Dr. James Scott, Dr. Cynthia Jackevicius and Dr. Karl Hess.

Simon Ahn, PharmD, University of California Irvine Medical Center, Orange, CA. “A Retrospective Review of Hypertension Management in Geriatrics Primary Care Clinic.”

Tiffany Bach, PharmD, WesternU College of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA. “Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) of Selected Gram-positive Agents: Impact on Clinical and Economic Outcomes.”

Michelle Candido, PharmD, Kaiser Permanente, Tri-Central Service Area, Greater Los Angeles, CA. “Impact of a Post Discharge Consultation and Follow up Model in The Outpatient Pharmacy Setting on Medication Related Readmissions.”

Benjamin Chun, PharmD, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, Whittier, CA. “Impact of Pharmacist Directed Inpatient Coumadin Education.”

Noelle de Leon, PharmD, WesternU College of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA. “Impact of a Heart Failure Post-Discharge Management Clinic on Hospital Readmission.”


Sevana Ghazarian, PharmD, VA Loma Linda Healthcare System, Loma Linda, CA. “Improving Prescription Label Directions To Enhance Patient Comprehension.”

Sarah Peitz, PharmD, Providence Alaska Medical Center, Anchorage, AK. “Implementation and Analysis of an Oral Unit-Dose System.”

Chariat Supsin, PharmD, WesternU College of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA. “Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perceived Barriers of Elderly Patients and Physicians Regarding Shingles and Shingles Vaccine Administration.”

Xiaojuan Yuan, PharmD, WesternU College of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA. “A Cross Country Study of the Effect of Dibenzodiazepines: Clozapine, Quetiapine and Olanzapine on Thyroid Function in Patients with Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective Disorder.”

Lydia Sun, PharmD, WesternU College of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA. “The Impact of Pharmacy Services in a Nephrology Specialty Clinic.”
The WesternU College of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Education (OEE) has been brainstorming ideas on how to give back to our preceptors, and to help them be even better preceptors than they already are. The Office has continued its relationship with the Pharmacist’s Letter’s Preceptor Development Network, as well as working with the Collaborative Education Institute, to provide online preceptor development.

But, nothing seems to beat a good face-to-face program. In December, 2010, the OEE invited Craig Cox, PharmD, from Texas Tech University to provide some live CE events. The same event was held three different times in three different places in Southern California. The aim was to go out to our preceptors and provide important education.

In the summer of 2011, the OEE sponsored a set of workshops (Integrating Student Pharmacists into Evidence-Based Clinical Practice). As with the first set of CE programs, the event was run in triplicate, to actively engage our preceptors. The first workshop was on the WesternU campus in Pomona on June 18th, with the second being in San Jose on June 25th, and the third on July 30th in San Diego. The primary purpose of this series was to give preceptors concrete examples of how to extend our classroom training of Evidence-Based Clinical Practice (EBCP) into the experiential training arena.

The OEE hopes to continue providing similar events (in different regions) two or three times a year to help meet the needs of our preceptors. These events are free to preceptors and alumni. We certainly hope to see all of our partners at our next set of events!!
Hosts

Sponsored by Dan Ross, Pharm.D. Amy Gutierrez, Pharm.D.

Order online at www.HospitalPharmacistMonthly.com or call 1-800-458-4779
The 9th Annual GNP/ICP Scholarship Golf Classic attracted 169 participants to Robinson Ranch Golf Club in Santa Clarita, Calif. on June 8, 2011.

The event raised more than $232,000, with WesternU’s College of Pharmacy and USC School of Pharmacy each receiving $55,000, including $5,000 toward the fulfillment of a $25,000 scholarship endowment.

The 2010 Good Neighbor Pharmacy (GNP) and Institute for Community Pharmacy (ICP) Scholarship winners from WesternU were: Jonathan Baharvar, Anthony Do, Marzieh Esmaeili, Sana Fazai and Alex Moiseyev, all from the Class of 2012.

“As a scholarship recipient, I was invited to attend the golf tournament in June, which made me feel lucky and fortunate to be surrounded by people who cared and shared similar interests,” Esmaeili said. “This event was amazingly organized and I was able to have a chance to thank the people that were donating money to support this scholarship. I would like to thank everyone who has supported this program in our school and I hope one day I can be the one who can support other students in the prosperity of their future.”

Among the distinguished golfers were WesternU College of Pharmacy Dean Daniel Robinson, PharmD, WesternU board member John Forbing, WesternU Executive Director of Public Affairs Jeff Keating and Dr. Sang-Ju Lee, California Korean American Pharmacists Association Chairman of Scholarship Foundation.

“It is hard to imagine a more worthy cause than to invest in the future of our best and brightest students as they pursue careers in community pharmacy practice,” Dean Robinson said. “The scholarships that are generated through your efforts are turning dreams into realities and ensuring a thriving future for independent pharmacy in California.”

The event featured a successful silent auction that included donations from College of Pharmacy Vice Dean, Academic Diversity and Development Jesse Martinez, PharmD, WesternU board member Vince Naimoli, and Dr. Bill Chung.

Tournament sponsors included Vicente, Lloyd & Stutzman LLP, Professional Audit, Accounting & Tax Services; California Korean American Pharmacists Association (CKAPhA); Brian Komoto, RPh, owner of Komoto Pharmacy in Bakersfield, Calif.; Ken Thai, PharmD, and Brian Garner, PharmD, of K&B Pharmacy Associates, Inc. A Professional Pharmacy Group; and WesternU alumna Melinda Mah, PharmD ’10, owner of Hope Pharmacy in Calexico, California.

WesternU Board of Trustees member Mike Quick of AmerisourceBergen’s Good Neighbor Pharmacy served as the honorary chair for the GNP/ICP Scholarship Golf Classic.

Below inset: WesternU and USC student recipients of the GNP/ICP Scholarships.

Below left: Dr. David Breels, CEO and President for the Institute for Community Pharmacy, Mike Quick and Dean Daniel Robinson.
Student Profiles: Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences

Balagangadhar Karthik Grandhi, MSPS 2012

I received my Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from Kakatiya University, India in 2010 and then worked for a pharmaceutical company. I am currently a first-year student in the Master Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences under Dr. Sunil Prabhu. I feel fortunate and excited to be a part of WesternU. My area of research includes development of novel drug delivery systems, cancer chemoprevention, and application of nanotechnology for controlled release systems. I enjoy cooking, traveling and playing games.

Lavanya Kondapalli, MSPS 2011

I completed my Bachelors in Pharmacy from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, India and am currently in my second year of the Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences at WesternU. I am working under the supervision of Dr. Maria P. Lambros on formulating novel dosage forms and testing them against cancer. I have learned many new techniques in the laboratory with her help and am looking forward to continuing my interest in cancer research. I love to go on vacations and take pictures of animals, birds and sometimes people.

Mandy Liu, MSPS 2012

I graduated from UC Davis with a BS in Biotechnology and BA in Communication, and worked in the microarray industry for 3.5 years. I am currently a 1st-year student under Dr. Ying Huang. Our area of research is on chemoprevention, cancer pharmacogenomics and drug discovery. My hobbies include traveling, cooking, and photography.

Kriscelle Mendoza, MSPS 2011

I received my BS in Animal Science from Cal Poly, Pomona. I have always had a strong interest in research, so I joined WesternU’s 2-year Masters Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2009. Here, I studied Alzheimer’s disease which has widened my experience and perspective on preclinical trials. I hope to take my research experience into veterinary science. Outside the lab, I enjoy outside activities like camping and hiking. I love animals and love to spend my time with them. I also like to crochet and volunteer my time to organize community events.

Justin Moussata, MSPS 2012

I was born in Congo Brazzaville and relocated to China where I received my Masters in Pharmaceutics from China Pharmaceutical University. My experience includes Drug Formulations and hospital pharmacy. I am currently in my first year of MSPS program at WesternU and my field of interest is cancer chemoprevention. I enjoy playing soccer.

John Murad, MSPS 2012

I received a BS in Chemistry from Cal State Polytechnic Univ. Pomona. After working as a pharmacy technician and an air quality analytical chemist testing for the AQMD and EPA, I joined WesternU’s Masters in Pharmaceutical Sciences program. I work at WesternU as a research assistant and teaching assistant for the College of Pharmacy. This program gives me hands on research and development experience in cardiovascular pharmacology projects analyzing platelet function in hemostasis as well as the ability to publish scientific findings.

Vinit Nigudkar, MSPS 2011

I completed my Bachelor in Pharmacy from University of Pune, India in 2008.

I joined WesternU in 2009 and am currently pursuing a Masters in Pharmaceutical Sciences under the supervision of Dr. Guru Betageri and currently working on the project, “Alcohol Dose Dumping of Poorly Water Soluble Drugs.”

Ranadheer Ravula, MSPS 2011

I was born and brought up in India, received a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from Kakatiya University in 2008, and joined WesternU in 2009 to pursue MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences. I am currently working with Dr. Ying Huang on strategies to overcome multidrug resistance in cancer. My other interests include chess, politics and economics.

Sonali Shaligram, MSPS 2011

I was always curious to know how drugs act. With that in mind, I got a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from University of Mumbai in India. Since childhood, I was fascinated to go abroad and get an international level of education so, following my bachelor’s, I joined the Master’s program at WesternU. It has been a very challenging and interesting journey so far. Now, I am ready to finish my master’s and take my education to the next level by pursuing a PhD.

John Tanayuca, MSPS 2011

I received my bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from California State University, San Bernardino in 2009 and started the MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences program at WesternU in January 2010. I work under Dr. Arbi Nazarian studying the neural mechanisms of drug addiction and pain. Currently, I am examining alterations in the molecular mechanisms of addiction in the diabetic state.

Andy Tseng, MSPS 2011

I received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I am currently earning my MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences at WesternU under the direction of Dr. Kabir Lutfy. My area of research is on the role of the endogenous opioid peptides on the rewarding action of alcohol.
This four-day intensive course in geriatric pharmacy emphasizes a functional assessment approach to comprehensive care of older adults and is directed toward health care professionals who care for older persons, and toward faculty in teaching programs in geriatrics and gerontology. The 2011 course will be especially useful to pharmacists who are preparing to take the examination to become a Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (CGP).

At the completion of this activity, the participant will be able to:

1. Describe the changes in physiology and drug disposition that occurs as part of the aging process;
2. Enumerate the basic principles of geriatric medicine;
3. Apply principles of geriatric assessment, geriatric pharmacology, rehabilitation, and long-term care to the patient-care setting;
4. Identify psychosocial problems and ethical issues in decision-making, and formulate an approach to these problems;
5. Apply key aspects of neurology, cardiology, psychiatry, urology, pharmacology and rheumatology as they apply to older patients;
6. Apply pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic principles specific to the care of older adults; and
7. When given a geriatric patient case, analyze the drug therapy to determine the clinical and economic appropriateness.

For more information, please contact Ms. Victoria Kemp at (310) 312-0531 or e-mail: icinfo@ucla.edu
CALENDAR 2011

August 1-5 Orientation Week, WesternU
August 6 White Coat Ceremony & Convocation, Ontario Convention Center, Ontario, CA
September 9 Residency Showcase, WesternU
September 10 Alumni CE Dinner, Newport Beach, CA
September 21-24 CE: Intensive Course in Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review, JW Marriott Hotel, Los Angeles, CA
September 30-CE: Contemporary Compounding “Boot Camp,” WesternU
October 3 Rotations Fair, WesternU
October 8-12 NCPA Annual Convention, Nashville, TN
October 16-19 ACCP Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA
October 19-21 AMCP Educational Conference, Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA
October 23-27 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exhibition, Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC
November 1 Career Day, WesternU
November 3-6 CSHP Seminar, Anaheim, CA
November 12 “A Tribute to Caring,” Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim CA
November 12-13 CPhA Leadership Weekend, Hyatt Regency, Newport Beach, CA
November 16-19 ASCP Annual Meeting, Phoenix AZ
December 4-8 ASHP Midyear, New Orleans, LA
December 5 WesternU Dinner, New Orleans, LA

ALUMNI: WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?

Please email your news and photos to rxbound@westernu.edu

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