Closing the Health Care Gap

...establish board recognition for an advanced practice pharmacist...

Pharmacist Provider Act

SB-493

...The Legislature further declares that pharmacists are health care providers who have the authority to provide health care services...
Message from the Dean

We are shaping the future

I am proud to report that our pharmacy Class of 2013 had more graduates entering residencies than any class in our history. Their destinations include residencies at VA Medical Centers (5), Kaiser Medical Centers (5), WesternU (3), Sharp Healthcare Systems (2), USC (2), UCSF, Stanford Hospital and Clinics, San Joaquin General Hospital, Community Regional Medical Center (Fresno), White Memorial, and Palomar Medical Center. All of our 2013 graduates and those who have preceded them are filling important roles throughout the world of pharmacy; each and every one trained to provide health care solutions. The value that pharmacists will be able to add to disease and medication management will be expanded significantly with the passage of Senate Bill 493. This bill, which amends six sections and adds another six sections to the California Business and Professions Code will recognize pharmacists as health care providers and create a new advanced practice pharmacist designation for expanded roles in direct patient care. Our students have campaigned and lobbied for this legislation, and even supported the California Pharmacist Political Action Committee by contributing nearly $10,000, with the assistance of some of our faculty. They recognize that their hard work and advocacy for changes in pharmacy practice are not so much about them as it is for their future patients. I can truly say that at WesternU we are shaping the future of pharmacy.

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

*RxBound*, Volume 4, Issue 2, Summer 2013

2 Ray Symposium: Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention  
Featuring Patricia B. Crawford, DrPH, RD,  
Director, Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins  
Center for Weight and Health  
Cooperative Extension Nutrition Specialist

4 WesternU lecture by Sen. Hernandez focuses on health care changes

6 Closing the Health Care Gap: California State Senate Bill 493

8 College of Pharmacy Hosts Inaugural Scholarship Golf Classic

11 Alumni Events

12 Students in Action: News from student clubs, organizations and events

17 Student Profile: Eva Levbarg, PharmD '14

18 Commencement 2013

20 East West Dinner honors Victor Law, RPh, BPharm

21 College of Pharmacy Honors Day

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

24 Research Spotlight: Highly Competitive NIH Funds Awarded to Pharmacy Faculty

25 College of Pharmacy Residents attend Western States Conference

26 Preceptor Profile: Ken Thai, PharmD

28 Office of Experiential Education News

30 New Faces and Faculty News

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**Closing the Health Care Gap .......Page 6**

**College of Pharmacy Hosts Inaugural Scholarship Golf Classic ............Page 8**

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Addressing the nation’s worsening obesity epidemic was the topic of Western University of Health Sciences’ annual Ray Symposium — Global Lectures in Health Care held on Thursday, April 18, 2013 in the Health Education Center on the WesternU campus.

Keynote speaker Dr. Patricia Crawford, RD, Director of the Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Center for Weight and Health at UC Berkeley, and a Cooperative Extension Nutrition Specialist, gave a presentation entitled “Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention,” in which her message was that slowing, and ultimately ending, the national obesity epidemic will require a cultural change that must be led by parents, educators, community leaders, and future generations of health professionals.

The Ray Symposium is organized by the College of Pharmacy and the Interprofessional Education Program in honor of Max Ray, MS, PharmD, Dean Emeritus of the College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Crawford has conducted research in the prevention of childhood obesity for more than 20 years, and served as the principal investigator of the 10-year longitudinal National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Growth and Health Study. She has also served on the Institute of Medicine (IOM) 2010–12 Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention Committee, has consulted on the HBO series “The Weight of the Nation,” and has been an advisor to the United States’ “Let’s Get Healthy” Task Force. She has served on the California Legislative Task Force on Diabetes & Obesity, and the IOM of the National Academies’ Standing Committee on Childhood Obesity Prevention.

Dr. Crawford is an adjunct professor for the School of Public Health at UC Berkeley, where she also received her masters and doctorate degrees in public health.

In her presentation, Dr. Crawford cited a number of statistics in describing the severity of the obesity epidemic in the United States, including:

- One out of three children, and two out of three adults, are overweight or obese.
- 37% of adults are pre-diabetic.
- 3% of adults have undiagnosed type 2 diabetes; 8% have a type 2 diagnosis.
- Americans, on average, consume 12% more calories than they did 40 years ago (daily average of 1,996 calories in 1971–74 vs. 2,234 calories in 2005–08).
- On any given day, 30% to 40% of children eat fast food.
- 20% of the weight increase in children from 1977 to 2007 can be attributed to sugar-sweetened beverages.
- 21% ($190.2 billion) of annual medical spending in the U.S. is on obesity-related illness.
- 23% of adolescents are diabetic or pre-diabetic.
“If nothing else moves you about what I say, this is the (statistic) that should move you,” Crawford said of the adolescent diabetes/pre-diabetic figure. “This is unacceptable.”

She did not point to a single cause for the surge in obesity over the past 40 years, but rather attributed it to a variety of factors, including poor access to fresh produce and food variety in urban communities; a lack of emphasis on physical activity, especially for children; the addition of calorie-laden sugar and carbohydrates to a broad range of food to make them more appealing; and an absence of meaningful nutrition education in communities and schools.

“What we’ve done in this country is make it pretty darn easy to eat a lot of food that makes us heavy,” she said.

Crawford, who served as an adviser for the HBO series “The Weight of the Nation,” and is a member of several weight- and obesity-related board and committees, presented the recommendations from one of those groups — the Institute of Medicine’s Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention committee — for curbing the obesity epidemic. The recommendations, which take a whole-community approach to solving the problem, include:

• Increasing places and opportunities for physical activity.
• Reducing unhealthy food and beverage options, and making their healthy replacements affordable.
• Making schools the focal point of obesity prevention.
• Transforming message environments about nutrition.

Crawford noted that most schools offer only four hours of nutrition education per year, while older children and adolescents consume more than 7.5 hours of media each day. Nutrition information must be increased in schools and incorporated into the media children consume, Crawford said.

Some small victories have been achieved in the battle against childhood obesity recently, Crawford said, including passage of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2012, which increases schools’ federal reimbursement for lunches by 60 cents and gives the USDA authority for all foods sold at school. In California, passage of a law ending soda sales on school property also has curbed their consumption by young people. Consequently, school lunches are now, on average, healthier than lunches brought from home. Children receive up to half of their daily calories in a school setting, and with healthier choices available, “we’ve found that children are more likely to select healthy foods if they are offered healthy foods,” she said.

But much work clearly remains to be done, and Crawford said that health care providers must be one of the main messengers about good nutrition and healthy lifestyles.

“You, in a way, have the bully pulpit with your patients. They trust you. They believe you. It’s up to you, to adults — to all of us, really — to educate everyone. We can begin to make healthy choices the easy choice,” she said.

“We have to change the culture, and you all are the culture leaders. We can begin to start changing the environment in which our children live.” ■

Opposite page: Crowd photo provided by ValeStock / Shutterstock.com. Below: Maria Lambros, PhD, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Ray Symposium attendees; Sheryl Cloos, PharmD, FAHA, FCCP, BCPS (AQ Cardiology), Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, Max Ray, PharmD, Dean Emeritus of WesternU College of Pharmacy; Dr. Crawford, Dr. Lambros, and Dan Robinson, PharmD, FASHP, Dean, College of Pharmacy.
“The Changing Face of Health Care,” a presentation and discussion of the ramifications of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and several proposals to help implement it in California, drew about 300 people to the Health Education Center at Western University of Health Sciences on Friday, April 12, 2013.

The talk, led by state Sen. Ed Hernandez, D-24th District, was intended to help current and future health providers gain a better understanding of the immediate and future impact of the ACA, and about how new laws and proposed laws in California will augment the federal ACA.

After opening remarks by Gary Gugelchuk, PhD, WesternU’s Provost and Chief Operating Officer, and an introduction by Dean Elizabeth Hoppe of the College of Optometry, Hernandez — himself an optometrist — said he appreciated how WesternU students are trained with an eye toward collaboration and with an understanding about how health care needs to evolve.

“You are entering (health professions) at the absolute most exciting time in the history of our country for health care,” he said.

He also encouraged every student to join their respective student and professional associations to learn what they can do to influence health policy at local, state and national levels. “Voice your opinion. Engage in government. Then return to your community and share what you’ve learned,” Hernandez said.

### Pharmacists are the most overtrained and underutilized health workforce in this country, which is why expanding the scope of what they can do (SB 493) makes sense as demand for health services grows under the ACA.
Hernandez then reviewed the broad strokes of the ACA, including that:

- As of January 14, 2014, everyone over the age of 18 must have health insurance.
- Every citizen can keep their own insurance.
- Those who opt to not have insurance must pay a penalty of 1% of their annual income or $95, whichever is greater.

The senator said California is “leading the nation” in implementation of the ACA, a process recently enhanced by several Senate proposals (presented below) to help the state comply with ACA requirements and also change the scope of practice for several health professions.

- SB X1-1 would implement the expansion of Medi-Cal coverage allowed under the ACA to currently ineligible low-income adults in California, including those with incomes at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level, resulting in more than 1.6 million newly Medi-Cal eligible Californians. SB X1-1 also would establish a defined health benefits package for enrollees.
- SB X1-2 would implement the key consumer protections of the ACA in California’s individual insurance market, preventing insurance companies and health plans from denying coverage or charging excessive premiums on those who have pre-existing health conditions and requiring that insurance premiums be based solely on age, geography, and family size.
- SB X1-3 would authorize medical “bridge” plans to allow individuals who lost their Medi-Cal coverage to retain their plan, and allow families with children in Medi-Cal or CHIP and parents who are in the Exchange to enroll the entire family in the same plan and provider network. The goals are to provide continuity of care and coverage, as well as to assure coverage of the entire family in a single plan and provider network.
- SB 491, which would amend the Nurse Practice Act by deleting a requirement that certain acts be performed pursuant to a standardized procedure or in consultation with a physician and surgeon, and also authorizes a practitioner to perform specific additional acts, including, among others, diagnosing patients, performing therapeutic procedures, and prescribing drugs and devices.
- SB 492, which would designate optometrists as primary-care providers to diagnose and treat patients with chronic diseases, such as diabetes.
- SB 493, which would authorize pharmacists to administer drugs ordered by a prescriber, and would expand other functions, including furnishing prescription medications not requiring a diagnosis. It also would authorize pharmacists to order and interpret tests to monitor and manage drug therapies, and to independently initiate and administer routine vaccinations.

The latter three proposals are crucial as the ACA takes effect, Hernandez said, because the nation already has a shortage of primary care physicians. More health professionals are needed — quickly — to help carry out its mandates, and many of them already are qualified to do more than what the law allows them to do.

Pharmacists, for example, “are the most overtrained and underutilized health workforce in this country,” he said, which is why expanding the scope of what they can do (SB 493) makes sense as demand for health services grows under the ACA.

Hernandez cautioned that passage and implementation of the proposals won’t be easy. “There’s tremendous opposition from organized medicine to the scope of practice bills,” he said.

A brief Q&A session followed the presentation.
Closing the Health Care Gap

By Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD, FASHP, Dean, College of Pharmacy

There has been both tremendous anxiety and cautious optimism as the medical community prepares for the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in January 2014. How will we possibly provide for the 30 million previously uninsured individuals who will soon be eligible for health care services, and how will we do that in a way that controls cost, improves access, and ensures quality? This challenge is amplified when one considers that access to health care is currently inadequate due to existing shortages of primary care physicians.

In a recent editorial, I asked the question, “How many doctors are enough?” According to the Council on Graduate Medical Education, in order to adequately meet the population’s medical needs, there must be between 60 and 80 primary care physicians for every 100,000 people. The state of California is presently far behind that goal with only 16 of its 58 counties meeting that criterion, and adding five million newly insured patients next year will negatively tip the scale even further.

California state senator, Ed Hernandez, a licensed optometrist, has proposed a common sense solution; allow highly educated, licensed health care professionals to practice to the full extent of their training to help close the gap. Nurse practitioners, optometrists, and pharmacists are currently prevented from serving patients to the fullest extent possible by onerous laws and regulations in California. Senator Hernandez has introduced Senate Bills 491, 492 and 493 (SB 493 is affectionately known as the “Pharmacist Provider Act”) to address this opportunity.

In November 2012, I was honored to be invited by Senator Hernandez to participate on the Joint Taskforce on Provider Status along with 22 others whom I admire tremendously, among them being WesternU College of Pharmacy Dean’s Advisory Council members Steve Gray, Kaiser Permanente, and Rebecca Cupp, Ralphs Grocery Stores. In addition, Claire Spahn, a 2013 WesternU pharmacy graduate and current resident at Stanford University Hospital, was the only student who participated on the task force. Co-chairs, Sarah McBane, UCSD School of Pharmacy, and Ryan Gates, Kern Medical Center, provided outstanding leadership, and task force members Brian Warren, CPhA Government & Professional Affairs, and Jonathan Nelson, CSHP Government Affairs, did much of the behind the scenes leg work meeting with senate and assembly committee staff and the countless special interest groups. CPhA and CSHP Presidents and CEOs also played a significant role in closed door negotiations that eventually led to a bill that has gained widespread support from an amazingly diverse group of interests.

On April 12, 2013, the deans of all nine WesternU health professions colleges signed a letter that was addressed to the Senate Health Committee. This was a wonderful show of solidarity and support for the principles of interprofessional health care that we teach and practice here at WesternU. I am sharing this letter in hopes that it will illuminate the issues and highlight the major features of SB 493. I am sharing this letter, presented in its entirety on the following page (page 7), in hopes that it will illuminate the issues and highlight the major features of SB 493. This is indeed a time of great opportunity for the profession of Pharmacy.

“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”
— Winston Churchill
As a provision of the Affordable Care Act, an estimated 5 million Californians, all currently without health insurance, will enter the health care system in January 2014. A large percentage will need primary care services in the 42 out of 58 counties of the state that are already in short supply of primary care providers.

Solutions:

• Ensuring that Californians will have adequate access to care will require a comprehensive, multifaceted approach.

• Increase the number of primary care physicians who practice in underserved areas through expansion of training programs, support of residency training and incentives such as loan forgiveness.

• Increase utilization of highly trained non-physician providers, such as pharmacists, nurse practitioners, optometrists and others who could provide services that take full advantage of their professional training.

• Recognize that successful implementation of patient-centered medical homes and accountable care organizations will depend on health professionals who are working at the highest level of their training to deliver team-based care.

• According to the American Medical Association, “As the provision of health care in this country becomes more complex, a fully coordinated, quality-focused and patient-centered health care team represents the optimal means by which Americans will receive their health care.”

Pharmacists are highly-educated and under-utilized members of the care team. Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) education consists of an estimated 6,800 hours of post graduate clinical education and training, which extensively covers direct patient care, disease prevention and management, and clinical rotations in a variety of health care settings. Many graduates also complete post-doctoral residency or other certificate programs in specialty practices. Pharmacists have been acting as direct care providers for decades in federal and managed care systems (Veterans Administration, Department of Defense, Indian Health Service, Kaiser, etc), and more recently through collaborative practice agreements in 46 states (including California) and through Medicare Part D authorized medication management services.

SB 493 seeks to improve patient access to health care by empowering pharmacists to provide basic care services in collaboration with physicians and in systems of care such as patient-centered medical homes, accountable care organizations and other settings where patients receive medication treatment. All of the authorities in this bill are currently within the pharmacist scope of practice, but they are tied to specific care settings. This bill will enable pharmacists to make more significant contributions to the care team to improve care for patients.

What SB 493 will do:

• Declare pharmacists as healthcare providers, ensuring that health plans and other systems of care can include pharmacists as members of the health care team.

• Allow pharmacists to initiate prescriptions for travel medicines that do not require a diagnosis, provide hormonal contraception, and smoking cessation drugs.

• Streamline the process for obtaining authority to provide immunizations.

• Make it easier for physicians to refer patients to the pharmacist member of the care team for ongoing medication therapy management.

• Authorize pharmacists working in collaboration with physicians, health facilities, and other systems of care to:
  • Perform patient assessment
  • Order and interpret laboratory tests to monitor patient progress
  • Adjust a patient’s prescription when necessary and medically appropriate
  • Discontinue medications that are duplicative, unnecessary, or life-threatening

We, the undersigned, represent the health professions colleges of Western University of Health Sciences, the largest training program for health professionals in the State of California. We fully support the value that team-based care will provide to the population of California, and as such, we are in full support of Senate Bill 493.

Sincerely,

Paula M. Crone, DO, Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific
Stephanie D. Bowlin, EdD, PA-C
Dean, College of Allied Health Professions
Daniel Robinson, PharmD
Dean, College of Pharmacy
Karen Hanford, EdD, MSN, FNP
Dean, College of Graduate Nursing
Phillip D. Nelson, DVM, PhD
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Elizabeth Hoppe, OD, MPH, DrPH
Dean, College of Optometry
Steven Friedrichsen, DDS
Dean, College of Dental Medicine
Lawrence B. Harkless, DPM
Dean, College of Podiatric Medicine
Michel Baudry, PhD, Dean, Graduate College of Biomedical Sciences
The inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic raised more than $13,000 for student scholarships, a strong start that is only expected to improve in coming years, according to College of Pharmacy (COP) officials.

From 2003 to 2012, WesternU COP and the USC School of Pharmacy partnered with Good Neighbor Pharmacy for a scholarship fundraising tournament at Robinson Ranch Golf Course in Santa Clarita, California, with the proceeds evenly split between the two colleges. WesternU COP opted to begin doing its own tournament this year, and drew more than 90 golfers to Morongo Golf Club at Tukwet Canyon near Calimesa, California, on May 23, 2013, raising $13,500 in the process for the College’s general scholarship fund.

Golfers included private and corporate supporters of the College, individual and team golfers from all over Southern California, COP alumni, and WesternU faculty and staff. Several College of Pharmacy faculty also turned out for the post-tournament awards banquet and raffle.

“I have attended many golf fundraising events, but none have surpassed this inaugural Scholarship Golf Classic in terms of preparation, coordination, venue, and player satisfaction,” said College of Pharmacy Dean Daniel Robinson, PharmD, FASHP. “We owe so much to our planning team, our student volunteers and our amazing sponsors. I am already looking forward to next year’s event as we continue to expand our scholarship support for truly deserving students.”

Plans already are underway for the College’s second annual tournament next spring.

By Jeff Keating, Executive Director, Public Affairs and Marketing
Thank you to our **GOLD SPONSORS**: 

**Alpha Medical Pharmacy, Inc.**

Victor Law, RPh, CEO

Photos left to right, top to bottom: John Forbing, Secretary, WesternU Board of Trustees, Otto Reyer, WesternU Director of Financial Aid, Thomas Fox, WesternU Senior Vice President, University Advancement, and Jeff Keating, WesternU Executive Director of Public Affairs and Marketing; Bill Burrows, Director of Development, University Advancement, and Mike Quick, National Vice President, Good Neighbor Pharmacy Development and WesternU Board of Trustees member; Daniel Robinson, Dean, College of Pharmacy; Edgar Cardona, Michael Henn, Amer Khamis, Matt Reeser from McKesson; Patrick Chan, PharmD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, Jesse Martinez, PharmD, Vice Dean, Academic Diversity and Development, Phillip Nelson, DVM, PhD, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and John Cronin, PharmD, JD; students from Kappa Psi and APhA-ASP perform; prizes for the silent auction; Victor Law almost wins putting contest while Sam Bodilla’s ‘15 father looks on; recognition awards.
THANK YOU
College of Pharmacy faculty and staff who made gifts in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic!

Thank you to our SILVER SPONSORS:

Top right: College of Pharmacy alumni, Lihn Nguyen, PharmD ’13, and Greg Collins, PharmD ’00, with alumni parent Bill Collins, PharmD, and Sunil Prabhu, BPharm, PhD, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs.

Second row: Dean Robinson and CKAPhA President Chang Yoo; Ben Stone of Rexam Vials with two of his sport collectibles silent auction items; CKAPhA President Chang Yoo and Daniel Rim of Cardinal with their foursomes.
Alumni Dinner 2013, Long Beach

On February 22nd, over 30 College of Pharmacy alumni, faculty and staff gathered at Gladstones down on the Long Beach Marina for dinner and some friendly networking. Dean Robinson and his wife Jackie were joined by faculty members Jim Scott, Jesse Martinez, and Sam Shimomura, and by staff members Julie Avila and Letty Ramirez. Everyone was also pleasantly surprised by the special appearance of recently retired faculty member Wally Murray and his wife Annie as well! The Dean toasted the group thanking them for all of their wonderful support of the College of Pharmacy programs and events during the past year. He directed their attention to the power point slide show presented during the dinner, and reminded one and all that they are always welcome to return to campus for a visit to see the incredible new campus for themselves whenever they like. Thanks again to everyone who joined us in Long Beach!

West Coast Pharmacy Exchange
(formerly CPhA Outlook)

WesternU College of Pharmacy alumni, faculty, students and staff attending CPhA Seminar in Monterey, California this past March were treated to some excellent seafood at the Paluca Trattoria restaurant on the Monterey peer. There were over 30 in attendance, including two of our alumni, Chen Chen, PharmD ’08, and Ann Vu, PharmD ’07.

Be on the lookout for more information about upcoming events. We hope to see you there!

Alumni, what’s new with you? Please email your news and photos to rxbound@westernu.edu

Join us during CSHP in Anaheim at Downtown Disney’s “Naples Ristorante e Pizzaria” on November 1st! The link to register is http://cshpwesternudinner.eventbrite.com
The American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists

By Kamran Mahramzadeh, PharmD ’16

The WesternU Chapter of APhA-ASP/CPhA has been thoroughly supportive of legislation regarding pharmacist provider status. In April 2013, a group of our members visited the State Capitol in Sacramento, CA to participate in California Pharmacy Legislative Day. There we had the opportunity to both expand our knowledge about the SB 493 legislation and speak with our state senators and assembly members in an effort to garner support for our profession.

Following the State Capitol visit, our organization continued to show support by providing avenues for students to be involved. By inviting several guest speakers to address the importance of the current legislation, we were able to raise a generous amount for donation to the California Pharmacists Political Action Committee (CPh-PAC). Additionally, we partnered in a joint letter writing campaign with various pharmacy organizations on campus and successfully sent over 180 letters to our local legislators in support of SB 493.

Consequently, APhA-ASP/CPhA will continue to provide opportunities for our members to be involved and show support for legislation that will further our profession.

Rho Chi Society
Gamma Sigma Chapter

By Mintra Lam PharmD ’14

In early March, WesternU’s Gamma Sigma Chapter attended the Rho Chi Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California. This year, the Rho Chi Annual Meeting was especially important as the Gamma Sigma chapter hosted chapters from regions nationwide. At this meeting, chapters had the opportunity to discuss national club matters, vote on national positions and approval of new chapters, and further strengthen relationships between chapters. During the annual meeting we also had the privilege and great honor of having our keynote speaker, be none other than Dr. Joseph T. DiPiro. His message to those in attendance was that pharmacy must be on the headlines of tomorrow. He urged students to find innovative ways to become part of the forefront of healthcare with the underlying theme of his message being greater collaboration.
This year, the Gamma Sigma chapter collaborated with USC and Loma Linda chapters to host our very first mixer events for our student members. We also continued the traditions of hosting the annual Alumni Wine and Cheese Event, participating in health fairs and organizing events for Pharmacy Educator Week. Lastly, our annual Initiation Banquet was held on March 21st, 2013 where we inducted 30 members including students from the classes of 2014 and 2015 as well as two faculty members.

**NCPA**

National Community Pharmacists Association

*By Corey Edwards, PharmD ’15*

The focus of the student chapter of NCPA at WesternU has been to inform our membership of the changing aspects of community pharmacy practice along with inciting interest in independent ownership. For the coming school year, our activities will continue to focus on this niche. Since the majority of jobs available are in the community, and with the changes at the legislative level, students need to be continually aware of the possibilities in our scope of practice. To allow this, we will focus on connecting members to experienced pharmacy owners through dinner meetings in small groups that will allow students to have a dialogue and learn about how being their own boss lends a certain freedom of practice and peace of mind.

The Good Neighbor Pharmacy NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition is an opportunity for a team of 4–6 students to put these connections and resources into practice. The coming semester will bring anticipation of judgment from last year’s plan and the excitement of building a new team for this year. This is where our connection with experienced business owners will be an invaluable resource. We also get a lot of support from the college of pharmacy, as we all want to win 1st place.

The top 3 plans are presented at the national convention in October. This is another great opportunity for our members to learn more about community practice, network, and share ideas with other students and pharmacists. We will be expanding our incentive package for all of these events due to the success of our various fund raising activities. Annually, we have candy gram sales, food sales, a talent show, and a CPR certification course.

**AMCP**

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy

*By Jennifer Du, PharmD ’15 and Ani Khachatourian, PharmD ’14*

This year the WesternU AMCP student chapter was very effective and active in working beyond the bounds of the College of Pharmacy campus. Two events that illustrate this are the 6th Annual Western Region Managed Care Student Conference, and the Script Your Future Medication Adherence Challenge.

The 6th Annual Western Region Managed Care Student Conference was held on June 22nd and 23rd here on the WesternU campus. This event was fully student-run by the student pharmacist membership of the WesternU AMCP student chapter. Its goal was to bring together students and practicing pharmacists in the Western region to exchange ideas and learn about current trends in managed care pharmacy. The theme of the conference was “The Changing Landscape of Pharmacy Practice in Managed Care,” highlighting the significance of pharmacist roles in areas such as industry, health plans, academia, pharmacoeconomics,
PBMs, legislation and regulatory affairs; this was facilitated by speakers leading student-oriented lectures, panels, and activities in their respective areas of expertise. It was our honor to welcome the largest number of speakers present in the history of this conference. Our three keynote speakers were Dr. Edith Rosato, CEO of AMCP, Dr. Perry Cohen, co-founder of AMCP and president of The Pharmacy Group, and Dr. Craig Stern, president of Pro-Pharma Pharmaceutical Consultants. Other notable speakers included Drs. Diane Giaquinta, Richard Bullard, Rebecca Cupp, Kathleen Kaa, and Vinson Lee. We provided a bonus networking opportunity and a dinner reception to conclude the first day of programming. The second day of the conference focused on building effective networking skills, and included a residency and fellowship panel to address the students’ questions and provide them with guidance. We had a great turnout of student pharmacists from the Western region, and we would like to thank them here for attending. We would also like to thank our sponsor, The Pharmacist Professional Society of the San Fernando Valley (PPSSFV), Dr. Lily Lee, the Western Region Diplomat Director, Dr. John Jones, our chapter diplomat, Drs. Anandi Law and Micah Hata, our chapter advisers, the current and past AMCP board members, Dr. Daniel Robinson, our Dean, Associate Deans Drs. Sunil Prabhu and Sam Shimomura, past event hosts USC and UCSF, and the manager of student development at AMCP, Sarah Vizcaino. Without their help and coordination, this event would not have been possible.

The Script Your Future Medication Adherence Challenge offered our AMCP members a chance to learn more about how to help people better manage their health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol. WesternU student pharmacists went out to visit various senior centers in the community and educated the residents on the importance of medication adherence. The seniors were shown a short video clip that was filmed, produced, and starred WesternU students and faculty. The video addressed common medication errors people tend to make, and discussed various ways to avoid them. A game of bingo was then played using words that would further drive home the message of proper medication usage. The winners received 7-day pill cases to make it easier for them to remember to take their medication daily. After the bingo game, student pharmacists answered questions from the seniors about their individual medications. This opportunity allowed the student pharmacists to both expand their knowledge and experience, and to help their community as well.
**Phi Lambda Sigma**

**Gamma Nu Chapter**

*By Jeff Dai, PharmD ’15*

The Gamma Nu Chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma was busy this past semester continuing its tradition of recognizing emerging leaders and fostering leadership development. During the annual initiation banquet in December, we celebrated the accomplishments of our newly inducted members, including faculty member Dr. Rudolf Mireles. In February, our annual Target Case Competition teams developed and presented innovative business solutions for this year’s theme: “Positioning Target as a one-stop-shop for guest’s health and wellness needs.” In April, we hosted outreach events for pre-pharmacy organizations at Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State San Bernardino, Cal State LA, and Cal State Northridge where PLS members connected with students and conveyed the message of lifelong service and involvement. Wrapping up a busy semester, we launched our very first newsletter in May which highlighted leadership styles, chapter events, and time management tips.

For the upcoming semester, the Gamma Nu Chapter is excited to welcome the Class of 2017 and encourage them to unlock their leadership potential, develop leadership skills, and become future advocates for their profession.

**ASHP-CSHP**

**California Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists**

*By Vincent Duong PharmD ’15*

**Collaboration and Outreach**

This year, many of the pharmacy related clubs collaborated to target community needs. In February 2013, ASHP/CSHP on campus contributed alongside with other pharmacy clubs on a project called Script Your Future. Our goal was to promote medication adherence. To achieve this, educational material regarding the importance of medication adherence and the consequences of nonadherence was prepared and presented all month. Promotion of medication adherence was executed through clever use of social networking sites.

The video that was used to promote medication adherence can be found at this link: http://goo.gl/ooDfd

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*Images: Gamma Nu Chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma Target Case Competition: (top row) Target management, (bottom row) Linda Damh, PharmD ’14, Lydia Abu, PharmD ’15, Christina Vuong Nguyen, PharmD ’15, Teresa Lo, PharmD ’15, and Kitty Huynh, PharmD ’15.

Gamma Nu Chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma outreach event for pre-pharmacy organizations at Cal Poly Pomona: Jenny Lee, PharmD ’15, John R. Flores, PharmD ’15, Maureen Ngo, PharmD ’15, Suluck Chaturabul, PharmD ’15, and Peaches Reyes, PharmD ’15.

Linda Lay, PharmD ’15, at a medication adherence event.

Thomas Schnetz, PharmD ’15, Vincent Duong, PharmD ’15, Kate Miyamoto, PharmD ’15, at CSHP Cancer Awareness presentation at Pomona area high schools.*
On May 20th and 21st of 2013, ASHP/CSHP WesternU Cancer Awareness Subcommittee reached over 1900 high school students in the Pomona area, and educated the students about skin cancer prevention. Members from the subcommittee including student volunteers delivered presentations discussing skin cancer screenings such as how to assess moles, types of skin cancer, and statistics about who is at risk. Most importantly, preventative measures were emphasized. Some students were so responsive that they began to apply the sunscreen, which was provided at the end of the presentation before they walked to their next class. With summer approaching and the abundance of sunshine in California, a little education about sun safety can go a long way in preventing skin cancer.

Poster Day

By Jim Scott, PharmD, MEd, FCCP

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

First Place in the Health Sciences Track

Carrie L. Bitterlich, “Efficacy of ciprofloxacin for prophylaxis of BK virus infection in kidney transplant recipients.” (Preceptors Don Vu, Bow Kawewat, Julie Poulsen, Ian Hutchinson, Robert Naraghi, Tariq Shah, and David Min)

First Place in the Community Track

Valerie Bonifacio, “California Pharmacy & Compounding Center Compliance with Best Practices for Pharmaceutical Compounding.” (Preceptors Glen Olsheim, David Schapiro, and Jayne Han)

Best Business Plan — Advanced Elective in Entrepreneurial Independent Pharmacy Ownership

Kathrin Bosnoyan, PharmD ’13; Preceptor, Dr. Narek Derhartunian ’07 at Armen Pharmacy.

Congratulations to all of the class of 2013 graduates for their hard work during their final projects as student pharmacists!!

Photos top to bottom: Dean Robinson and Betty Chang, PharmD ’13; Dr. Stephen O’Barr and Carrie Bitterlich, PharmD ’13; Valerie Bonifacio, PharmD ’13; Trang Le-Tran, PharmD ’13 and Dr. Jesse Martinez.
ASHP Student Leadership Award

Fourth-year College of Pharmacy student Eva Levbarg is one of 11 students to be nationally recognized with the 2012–2013 ASHP Student Leadership Award from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) for achievement in health-system pharmacy practice and campus leadership.

Levbarg was identified as someone who represents the very best attributes and accomplishments of ASHP student members. College of Pharmacy Associate Dean Sam Shimomura, PharmD, FASHP, CGP, and Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration Patrick Chan, PharmD, recommended her for the award.

Levbarg has extensive health-system work experience at UCI Medical Center in Orange, California, at its Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, and more recently as a pharmacy intern at Garfield Medical Center in Monterey Park, California. She also completed a summer research fellowship at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System under the direction of WesternU Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration Cynthia Jackevicius, PharmD, who has published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) and other major medical and pharmacy journals.

“Eva is a tireless worker who manages to balance school, work, community service, leadership activities and her personal life in a remarkable manner,” Shimomura said. “She is extremely well organized and gets things done.”

Levbarg is WesternU’s American Society of Health-System Pharmacy (ASHP)/California Society of Health-System Pharmacy (CSHP) Student Chapter President, which recently received the “Chapter of Distinction” award from CSHP.

Levbarg said ASHP/CSHP club advisors Chan and Mark Nguyen, PharmD, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, were instrumental in her attaining this honor.

The award, sponsored by ASHP and the ASHP Research and Education Foundation, is given to student members in their second through fourth years of pharmacy school. The award winners will receive a plaque, an ASHP drug information reference library, and a $2,500 cash award.

Paul Ambrose Scholar 2013

Eva Levbarg, PharmD ’14, was one of only 45 students to be selected nationwide as a Paul Ambrose Scholar, 2013. Included as part of this award is an invitation to attend the annual four-day Paul Ambrose Scholar Symposium in Washington, D.C., a microgrant for a community-based health education project, and a ½ year membership in the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR).

The symposium introduces the scholars to influential public health professionals, encouraging them to become leaders in addressing population health challenges in their own careers. The community-based health education project microgrant provides funding for the Ambrose scholarship recipient to address one of the Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicators, and the APTR membership provides the scholars the opportunity to work with health professionals from across the academic prevention community who are focused on advancing population-based public health education and research. Eva would like to thank Dr. Sam Shimomura for encouraging her to apply for this national award, Dr. Thomas Kleyn for becoming her mentor in this process, and Dr. Patrick Chan for assisting her in securing her travel funding.
Graduates, today you are closing one chapter and beginning another as you start the next phase of your life. Unlike in previous years, you have not been flooded with multiple job offers and big signing bonuses. Yes, finding a job in pharmacy is a bit more difficult today. You are entering the profession right in the midst of our evolution ...from a focus on drug distribution, to one of patient care services.

Through your education, you have acquired unique knowledge and skills about the medication use process. Because Western University of Health Sciences has the ability to give you some of the most advanced experience in team based care with other health professionals, you are well prepared for our future health system delivery models using patient centered medical homes and accountable care organizations.

I also see our profession's specialty expertise continuing to develop. This specialization will eventually support a referral system, where a pharmacist in a general setting can refer their patient to a specialist pharmacist. This referral network is already beginning today with transitions of care.

Here in California, your SB 493 leads the country in moving our profession in this direction. Your class deserves a round of applause for your leadership in promoting this legislation.

I also believe your medication expertise will lead to new roles and careers in more nontraditional settings — places like the FDA, CDC, and Public health and employee wellness programs.
You will need to be proactive and innovative to create these future roles for yourself. You will need to compete with others from other disciplines to secure these nontraditional roles. I know you are brilliant and energetic and passionate to make a difference! I believe you will Create Your Future!

Class of 2013, how I wish I was graduating with you today because I believe you couldn’t be entering the profession at a more exciting time. There are so many rewarding opportunities ahead for application of your knowledge and expertise!

As Eleanor Roosevelt said, “the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams!”

Alumni Message
Mehdi Amiri, PharmD ’11

I am deeply happy to have been privileged to participate in this important occasion; I am also honored and proud to stand before you as an alumnus of the WesternU College of Pharmacy. On behalf of the Alumni Association, congratulations to all of you. Welcome to the ranks of the most honorable of professions, that of a pharmacist, who is the most accessible medication expert to the public. There are emerging potential roles of pharmacists in the new health care world, but in short, we pharmacists provide society with the most accessible care at the lowest cost with the highest quality training. I encourage all of us to get involved with The Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative, also known as PPMI, and SB 493 “Putting Pharmacists on the Health Care Team”.

As students, we received much from WesternU and the alumni who came before us; thus I urge all of us to now share our time and experience with current and future students by becoming active alumni, as well as active members of our respective professional communities.

I ask that you use the WesternU Alumni Association as a way to stay connected to the College of Pharmacy. When you can, give back to the College. Remember, no matter where you end up working, do not forget WesternU and where you came from, and always be proud of the discipline of learning and the art of caring. As Mother Teresa said:

“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, and kindness in your smile.”
On Saturday, April 13th, 2013, Western University of Health Sciences honored longtime San Gabriel Valley pharmacist and entrepreneur Victor Law, RPh, BPharm, at the University’s 7th annual East West Scholarship Dinner at the Hilton San Gabriel.

Mr. Law, President and Chief Pharmacist for Alpha Medical Pharmacy Inc. in Alhambra and San Gabriel, was lauded for his broad and sustained service to his community, including terms as president of the San Gabriel Valley chapter of the California Pharmacists Association, chairman of the board at Garfield Medical Center, and as a member of the governing board at San Gabriel Medical Center. He recently was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve on the California State Board of Pharmacy, and he received the Community Leadership Award from the Boys and Girls Club of Western San Gabriel Valley in 2007. Mr. Law is also a former Merchant of the Year in the 49th Assembly District, and has been a longtime supporter and active sponsor of WesternU College of Pharmacy scholarships and programs (Dean’s Advisory Council member, annual sponsor of Legislative Awareness Day and College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic).

The University awarded scholarships to 34 health professions students in the colleges of Allied Health, Dental Medicine, Graduate Nursing, Optometry, Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Podiatric Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine. The University also honored East West Committee Chairman Stanley K. Wong, PhD, for his many years of service to the committee and to the University. Dr. Wong is retiring at the end of the 2012–13 academic year.

Philip Pumerantz, PhD, president of WesternU, began the evening’s festivities by thanking East West’s many longtime financial supporters, noting that without people like them, WesternU itself would not be possible. “I want you to know that your investment in these young people and this University will continue to pay dividends for many years to come.”

Dr. Pumerantz also paid tribute to Dr. Robert Colen, COMP ‘94, the 2011 East West honoree, who died suddenly in the summer of 2012.

Gold Sponsors for the East West Dinner included Kon Leung, DDS, and Josephine Yeong; Pacific Alliance Medical Center; and Victor Law, RPh, Alpha Medical Pharmacy Inc. Silver sponsors were CVS Caremark, Geri and Bob Witt, and New Valley Medical Group Inc. **

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*Melanie S. Lim Endowed Scholarship
** Las Familias Chan y Mah Pharmacy Scholarship

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By Jeff Keating, Executive Director, Public Affairs and Marketing

East West Dinner honors Victor Law, RPh, BPharm

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Top: East West Scholarship recipients at Honors Day with Sam Shimomura, PharmD, FASHP, CGP, Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration and Associate Dean for College Advancement, Soojung Kim, PharmD, and Daniel Robinson, PharmD, FASHP, Dean of the College of Pharmacy. Bottom left: Dean Robinson, Victor Law, RPh, BPharm, and Stanley Wong, PhD; Bottom right: Mr. Law and Mike Eng, California State Assemblymember.
honors day
april 4, 2013

USPHS EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH
PHARMACY PRACTICE AWARD
Linda Danh, PharmD 2014

albertsons/SAV-ON SCHOLARSHIP
Clement Lin, PharmD 2013
Jack Lam, PharmD 2013
Yasamin Rahimian, PharmD 2013

albertsons/SAV-ON FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP
Daisy Rivera, PharmD 2016

AzizyanTs family Scholarship
Jinoo Lee, PharmD 2013

california korean american
pharmacists association
Diana Chang, PharmD 2015

Cardinal health pharmacy
SCHOLARSHIP
Ami Kawatkar, PharmD 2013
Mark Sabillo, PharmD 2013
Stephane Ly, PharmD 2013

CVS charitable trust, INC.
Erik Kirakosyan, PharmD 2014
Stephen Kang, PharmD 2014
Nhi Dinh, PharmD 2016
Michelle Poon, PharmD 2014

hearst Scholarship
Bernadette Derakhshian, PharmD 2013

indian pharmacists association
endowed Scholarship
Chandni Dudhiya, PharmD 2014
Ankit Bhalodia, PharmD 2014

national association of
chain drug stores foundation
pharmacy partners Scholarship
Cindy Fan, PharmD 2013
Reem Karkar, PharmD 2015
Jack Lam, PharmD 2013

ralphs pharmacy Scholarship
Lauren Hirao, PharmD 2013

Rite aid Pharmacy Scholarship
Reem Karkar, PharmD 2015
Kate Miyamoto, PharmD 2015
Nancy Shabani, PharmD 2014

Rite aid FOUNDATION Scholarship
Fabiola Escalante, PharmD 2014
Monica Muniz-Delgado, PharmD 2017
Sharise Redmond, PharmD 2014

Rx prep Scholarship
So Hyun Kim, PharmD 2013

Safeway Pharmacy Scholarship
Pauline Phan, PharmD 2013

South bay pharmacists
association Scholarship
Purvi Vira, PharmD 2016

Target case competition
SCHOLARSHIP
Lydia Ahn, PharmD 2015
Kitty Huynh, PharmD 2015
Teresa Lo, PharmD 2015
Christina Nguyen, PharmD 2015

Tribute to caring Scholarship
Beatriz Arellanes, PharmD 2016
Sadaf Askarinam, PharmD 2016
Samuel Duque, PharmD 2016

United Drug Scholarship
Celeste Briones, PharmD 2015

Vietnamese pharmacists
association (VPha in the usa)
Pauline Phan, PharmD 2013

Walgreens Scholarship
Nogie Demirjian, PharmD 2013
Richard Garcia, PharmD 2013
Caitlin Geiger, PharmD 2014
Lusineh Keshishian, PharmD 2014
Eva Levbarg, PharmD 2014
Wey Ling Phuah, PharmD 2013
Ranjit Sidhu, PharmD 2015
Michael Trillanes, PharmD 2013

Walgreens Diversity Scholarship
John Flores, PharmD 2015

Walmart Pharmacy Scholarship
Nancy Shabani, PharmD 2014
Generous Support for WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarships & Student Programs

Corporate/Association Giving January – June ’13

Thanks to our corporate and association partners for their continued support!

• $12,000 from CVS Caremark in support of several College of Pharmacy programs and events ($5,000 Gold Sponsorship of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic, $4,000 in support of College of Pharmacy scholarships, and $3,000 in sponsorship of the 2013 Commencement Banquet).

• $11,750 from AmerisourceBergen/Good Neighbor Pharmacy in support of the 2013 WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic ($7,500 Signature Sponsorship), the WesternU College of Pharmacy Class of 2013 Commencement Banquet ($3,500), and a gift-in-kind for the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic ($750 value).

• $9,000 from New Albertsons, Inc. (formerly Albertsons/SUPERVALU) in support of College of Pharmacy scholarships ($4,000), the Class of 2013 Commencement Banquet ($1,000), and the 2013 College of Pharmacy Dean’s Welcome Dinner ($4,000).

• $7,000 from the California Korean American Pharmacists Association in support of the CKAPhA Scholarship Endowment Fund ($5,000), and a Silver Sponsorship in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic ($2,000).

• $6,000 from Cardinal Health in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic ($1,000 Tee Sponsorship), and the College of Pharmacy 2013 White Coat Ceremony ($5,000).

• $6,000 sponsorship from Target in support of the 2013 WesternU IPE Health Fair.

• $5,000 from Walgreens in support of the WesternU College of Pharmacy Class of 2013 Commencement Banquet ($3,000), and the 2013 College of Pharmacy Dean’s Welcome Dinner ($2,000).

• $4,900 from Ralphs Grocery Company in support of the 2013 Ray Symposium ($2,000), the annual Ralphs Pharmacy Scholarship ($2,500), and a gift in kind for the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic ($400 value).

• $2,000 Silver Sponsorship from Vons/Safeway in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $2,000 Silver Sponsorship from HD Smith in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $2,000 Silver Sponsorship from the United Pharmacists Network, Inc. (UPNI) in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $1,000 from McKesson in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $1,000 from Live Oak Bank for an ad sponsorship in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.
• $1,000 from California Pharmacy Lawyers for a Tee Sponsorship in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $1,000 from Pharmacists’ Helping Hands for a Tee Sponsorship in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $1,000 from MICRO Merchant Systems for a Tee Sponsorship in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $1,000 from Rx relief for a Tee Sponsorship in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $1,000 from NACDS Education Foundation in support of College of Pharmacy scholarships for 2013–14.

• $1,000 from K&B Pharmacy Associates, Inc. (Brian Garner, PharmD and Ken Thai, PharmD, owners) for an ad sponsorship in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $1,000 from Natalie’s Catering (Georgiy Azizyants and Natalie Tarasenko) in support of the 2013 Ray Symposium.

• $800 from RxReverse (Joe Delaney, Principal) in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $250 from the Vietnamese Pharmacists Association in the USA (VPhA in the USA) for an ad sponsorship in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $385.40 gift-in-kind contribution from Berry Plastics Corporation in support of the inaugural WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

Gifts from Alumni, Friends & Family, January – June ‘13

Thank you for supporting our student pharmacists!

Alumni Donors
• Tamara Pimenthal, PharmD ’06
• Sandra Chan, PharmD ’02
• Urvashi Thakkar, PharmD ’12
• Di Wu, PharmD ’11
• Melinda Mah, PharmD ’10
• Giang Nguyen, PharmD ’01
• Mehdi Amiri, PharmD ’11
• Dara Abacan, PharmD ’09
• Ann Vu, PharmD ’07
• Haikui Parsamyan, PharmD ’10
• Yen Luong, PharmD ’08

Family & Friends
• $4,000 from Soojung Kim, PharmD, to complete the Melanie S. Lim Endowed Scholarship, in honor of her daughter.

• $2,000 from Tony Chan, PharmD, owner and President of ABC Pharmacy and a Trustee of WesternU, for a Tee Sponsorship ($1,000) in support of the 2013 WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic, and a gift ($1,000) for the College of Pharmacy Dean’s Discretionary Fund.

• $1,000 from Joel Weber, PharmD, member of the College of Pharmacy Dean’s Advisory Council, in support of the College of Pharmacy Dean’s Discretionary Fund.

• $750 from Brian Thai, PharmD, owner of SAV-NOW Pharmacy, in support of the 2013 WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $600 from Phoung Nguyen, PharmD, President of Aqua Pharmacy, in support of the 2013 WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $250 from IR Patel, RPh, owner of Bi-Rite Pharmacy in support of the 2013 WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $250 from Fletcher Jones Motor Cars in support of the 2013 WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic.

• $200 from Chi Fuu Lin, WesternU College of Pharmacy alumni parent.

Melanie S. Lim Endowed Scholarship Completed

This spring, Soojung Kim, PharmD, made a generous gift of $4,000 to complete the scholarship endowment in memory and honor of her daughter, Melanie S. Lim. Dr. Kim, Pharmacy Recruiter for Rite Aid, is a longtime loyal supporter of the student pharmacists at WesternU’s College of Pharmacy. She frequently visits the campus and presents the $1,000 scholarship at the College of Pharmacy Honors Day Ceremony and/or the East West Scholarship Dinner to the selected student pharmacist. The six recipients of the scholarship so far are Arpie Mikaelian, PharmD, Kathy Truong, PharmD, Beverly Mojica, PharmD, Cindy Fan, PharmD, Jinoo Lee, PharmD, and Christina Nguyen, PharmD. The completion of the endowment ensures that the scholarship will be given indefinitely. Thank you, again, Dr. Kim, for your generous support.
Research Spotlight

Highly Competitive NIH Funds Awarded to Pharmacy Faculty

**Treatments and therapies for Kaposi’s Sarcoma-Associated Herpesvirus**

David Sanchez, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

College of Pharmacy Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences David Sanchez, PhD, received a $223,499 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to investigate treatments and therapies for Kaposi’s Sarcoma-Associated Herpesvirus (KSHV).

KSHV is the cause of several cancerous-like diseases, especially in immune-compromised individuals such as AIDS patients. Transmission of this virus occurs mainly via the oral mucosa, and work to limit the spread of the disease will focus on how a person’s innate immune system can remove the virus in that part of the body.

“Our bodies should see a virus is there and get rid of it through our innate immune system,” Sanchez said. “But our immune system doesn’t get rid of certain viruses. This project will attempt to understand how KSHV is recognized and why the immune system does not get rid of it.”

Sanchez is trying to determine which viral proteins interact with our cellular proteins, and find ways to stop that interaction.

“Virus proteins stop production of our immune proteins,” he said. “A virus blocks that path somewhere, so our ultimate goal is to relieve that block and let the cell do its job. Let our body get rid of a virus normally as it should.”

The College of Pharmacy provided Sanchez startup funds to establish his research. The NIH funding, through the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, is a special grant series for new investigators to get their projects going, with the intent of these researchers then applying for larger grants.

This two-year funding will allow Sanchez to hire a postdoctoral fellow to assist with his research, with additional support from the College.

**Investigation of Platelet G-Protein Coupled Receptors**

Fadi Khasawneh, BPharm, PhD  
Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

College of Pharmacy Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences Dr. Fadi Khasawneh, BPharm, PhD, received a three-year grant, with a total of $416,976 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to investigate platelet receptors/proteins that are involved in the pathogenesis of certain forms of thrombosis-based diseases, such as heart attacks and stroke.

Dr. Khasawneh’s funding will help him investigate two receptors or proteins on the platelet surface, namely, the P2Y1 and the thromboxane receptors, which are not yet targeted for clinical purposes. This research aims to address fundamental aspects of the structural biology and signaling of these two receptors, using platelets from healthy human volunteers, and from rodents. Collectively, results obtained from these studies should provide fundamental information concerning P2Y1 and thromboxane receptor biology and structure, and may define new therapeutic targets and/or aid molecular modeling study predictions for organic derivatives/agents for treating thromboembolic disease states.

**Other Grants and Contracts:**

- **Micah Hata and Roger Klotz**
  - Awarded $1,000 to support their efforts in upcoming health fairs by the Million Hearts/NACDS Foundation “Heart to Heart Community Health Fairs.” Their proposal was rated the top of all applicants and came with a commendation on their work

- **Micah Hata and Emmanuelle Schwartzman**
  - Recipients of a Partners in E grant in the amount of $20,000 for the first year of a 2-year award.

  Partners in E was developed as an education and outreach program by the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) with funding by the CA DHHS. The focus of the Partners in E program is to educate and deploy a pharmacy student workforce with the attitudes, knowledge, and skills required to identify and resolve barriers to e-prescribing. Pharmacy students will receive comprehensive classroom instruction on pharmacy informatics and specific e-prescribing issues from school or pharmacy faculty experts.
I am pleased to report that our residents proudly represented WesternU in their Western States Conference presentations on May 14, 2013, in San Diego, California. Their presentations were outstanding!

This year we had five residents present their projects:

**Stephanie Liang, PharmD**, WesternU College of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA. “Preparedness of Student Pharmacists in Providing Travel Health Services.”

**Mai-Chi Hong, PharmD**, WesternU College of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA. “Risk Factors Associated with Vancomycin Nephrotoxicity Across Different Acuity Levels of Care.”

**Binh Tang, PharmD**, WesternU College of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA. “Evaluation of Medication-Use Expectations on Secondary Non-Adherence.”

**Po Ying Fung, PharmD**, WesternU College of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA. “Accuracy of Heparin Weight-Based Dosing in Obese Patients.”

**Sonal Mahajan, PharmD**, WesternU College of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA. “Gradual Dose Reduction or Possible Discontinuation of Antipsychotics in JHA Patients After Three Months as per New CMS Guidelines.”
Dr. Thai opened El Monte Pharmacy in 2006. From the beginning he wanted to advance the idea of a community pharmacy that went beyond pharmaceutical care. He began offering immunizations and then expanded other services, such as diabetes care through glucose testing and diabetic shoe fitting. That eventually progressed into Medication Therapy Management (MTM).

**Preceptor Profile: Ken Thai, PharmD**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, WesternU College of Pharmacy

By Rodney Tanaka, Senior Communications Writer

California Senate Bill 493, authored by state Sen. Ed Hernandez, D-24th District, would authorize pharmacists to administer drugs ordered by a prescriber, and would expand other functions, including furnishing prescription medications not requiring a diagnosis. It also would authorize pharmacists to order and interpret tests to monitor and manage drug therapies, and to independently initiate and administer routine vaccinations.

This is one of many proposed bills geared to help California comply with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by changing the scope of practice for several health professions.

Ken Thai, PharmD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice for the Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy, epitomizes the expertise that an individual has to have in order to become a provider status pharmacist, said Jesse Martinez, PharmD, College of Pharmacy Vice Dean, Academic Diversity and Development.

“This provider status isn’t for every pharmacist,” Martinez said. “It is for pharmacists who have had special training and who have an expertise in certain aspects of services provided to the patient as a recognized provider and reimbursed through insurance and government programs.”

A visit to Thai’s El Monte Pharmacy highlights this point. The pharmacy is bustling with activity, with employees hustling to fill prescriptions and patients sitting down for in-depth discussions about their medications and health with pharmacists.
Thai owns four pharmacies and trains WesternU College of Pharmacy students at many different points in their four-year curriculum. Introduction to Pharmacy Practice students get early lessons in the proper way to document prescription transactions and filling prescriptions, Martinez said. Third-year students might rotate through El Monte Pharmacy to learn how to make a community practice successful. Thai also mentors fourth-year students taking an advanced elective in independent pharmacy ownership, mentoring them to develop a business plan and create a financial projection including a community pharmaceutical services analysis — all the aspects of owning a pharmacy, Martinez said.

Being a pharmacist entails a lot more than dispensing medications, Thai said. PharmD students might say that their main tasks are the same as a pharmacy tech, a perception he wants to change. “To me, that’s a tragedy. You go through all those years of school,” Thai said. “The minute they’re here, I tell them, ‘I want you to think you’re a pharmacist. I want you to look at what this staff pharmacist or manager is doing, and understand what’s going on behind the scenes.’ They’re not just looking at medications. They’re making sure what the staff is doing is appropriate. They’re following up on interactions with physicians and with patients.”

From day one he places his pharmacists in the middle of the pharmacy. “They’re the person controlling everything that’s going on,” Thai said. “It’s important that students understand that. A big part of being a pharmacist is working with other health care providers, not just looking at medications. Those days are over. You can’t operate like that.”

Thai opened El Monte Pharmacy in 2006. From the beginning he wanted to advance the idea of a community pharmacy that went beyond pharmaceutical care. He began offering immunizations and then expanded other services, such as diabetes care through glucose testing and diabetic shoe fitting. That eventually progressed into Medication Therapy Management (MTM).

“We’ve been doing that in collaboration with WesternU for the past year and a half,” he said. “We had already been doing it, but not under that title.”

The pharmacy receives reimbursement for some of these services as an intermediary, while other times a patient’s insurance does not cover it. For example, Thai might receive compensation for an initial patient consultation, but not for the many times he provides follow-up care and assistance. But he does not want to deny his patients that high level of service, so he provides it.

“This type of stuff is not unusual. We do it all the time. Now they’re officially putting it in a bundle and calling it something more recognizable. It seems like a big thing but we’ve been doing it a long time,” Thai said.

Thai said he believes SB493 would improve patient care, but it would have a minimal impact on his business because he’s already providing these services.

“What it does do is pharmacists will be formally recognized for this and get paid for it,” he said. “Right now we’re not fully recognized as providers doing something for our patients. It’s important to let the health care system know that part of the health care team is not being fully utilized. The key thing is for patients to have better care. Ultimately the health care system will see huge savings. Some patients on 15 to 20 medications might only need six or seven. There might be duplications or some medication is treating side effects of other medications. Once we go through the entire process, we could optimize your care by streamlining some of the medications, utilizing the ones that might give you better outcomes.”

The bill has been opposed by certain physician groups including the California Medical Association (CMA), arguing that some of its provisions...
On-site Continuing Education

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

News from OEE

The Office of Experiential Education recently offered a continuing education program on Medication Therapy Management (MTM). The “MTM-A Clinical Approach” program was held at the WesternU campus for both preceptors and alumni in June.

After the lecture, the 35 participants broke into small groups where they discussed a MTM case utilizing the tools presented during the lecture. Participants said that they enjoyed the session and looked forward to more information on the delivery of MTM services in the future. This CE will be repeated next in Orange County at Fountain Valley Regional Medical Center in September (please see below for details).

Upcoming CE Events

Maximizing the Opportunities for Learning on Pharmacy Practice Experiences
August 13, 2013, The Orange Hill Restaurant, Orange, CA
October 8, 2013, 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, San Diego, CA

MTM: A Clinical Approach
September 21, 2013, Fountain Valley Regional Medical Center, Fountain Valley, CA

For more information contact Renee Cook at rcook@westernu.edu, or access through www.evalue.net for the links to reserve your spot.

Save the Date!
Rotations Fair, October 24, 2013

On October 24, WesternU College of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Education will hold its 4th annual Rotations Fair. The purpose of this event is to provide third year students an opportunity to meet with key preceptors and managers prior to the selection of their rotations. This will assist students in selecting the most appropriate clinical rotations for their career path.

Please contact the OEE office for more information email: oee@westernu.edu
Resources available to our WesternU preceptors at no cost

The WesternU OEE offers a variety of resources to help our preceptors become better mentors.

**Online Preceptor Development Continuing Education**
- Pharmacist’s Letter Preceptor Training and Resource Network
- Collaborative Education Institute (accessible through www.e-value.net)
- Scholar’s Experiential Education teaching module
- Hospital Pharmacist Monthly
  - 80-minute Audio Programs Downloadable as an MP-3 Format
  - Updates on Medication Management Regulatory Standards
  - Promoting the Role of the Chief Pharmacy Officer
  - Medication Safety Tips and Pitfalls
  - In the News — Articles of Interest
  - Establishing Medication Clinical Guidelines
  - Sentinel Event Alerts
  - FDA MedWatch Alerts and Black Box Updates
  - Updates to the Federal 340B Drug Pricing Program
  - Tips for Increasing Pharmacy Operational Efficiency
  - Interviews with Experts and Newsmakers
  - Pharmacy Technology and Informatics
  - Tools for Managing the Pharmaceutical Budget

- **University library access**, including access drug information resources and clinical research portals (upon appointment of a clinical faculty appointment)

For more information on any of these preceptor tools, contact the OEE Office at OEE@westernu.edu

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**PRECEPTORS OF THE YEAR**

*Patrick Chan, PharmD, PhD*
Olive-View UCLA Medical Center, Sylmar, CA

*Felix Pham, PharmD*
Pacific Hospital of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA

*Janssen Sacro, PharmD, and Brian Yamate, PharmD*
Citrus Valley Medical Center, Covina, CA

*Joanne Evans, PharmD*
Phillips Ranch Pharmacy, Pomona, CA

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**Ken Thai, continued from page 27…**

resemble the practice of medicine. In negotiation with medical group representatives and with minor amendments to the legislation, the CMA and others have decided to remove their opposition and take a neutral position on the bill. This paves the way for pharmacists to realize provider status and ensure that patients benefit from the valuable services that pharmacists are trained to provide.

Physicians are uniquely qualified to diagnose disease, and nothing in SB 493 questions that role, Thai said. But no one can deny that pharmacists are the medication experts. Pharmacists provide in-depth knowledge on what medications can do and how they affect our patients, and physicians should better utilize this resource, he said.

“You quarterback the team, but allocate duties, especially as it pertains to medication, to us. We’re doctors just like you,” Thai said. “Every player has a significant role to play to improve health care outcomes.”

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**CONTACT US:**
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Office of Experiential Education
309 E 2nd Street, HPC 203
Pomona, CA 91766
Email: OEE@WesternU.edu
Telephone: (909) 469-5517

Visit us online at: www.westernu.edu/pharmacy-oee
New Faculty

Anne Kugler, PharmD, BCACP
Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice and Administration

Dr. Kugler earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biology and chemistry at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Long Island University (LIU) in Brooklyn, NY. After completing her residency training at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, NY, she taught at LIU as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice for five years. During that time, she started multiple ambulatory clinics at the Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY and participated in the development of a specialty residency in Ambulatory Care. Dr. Kugler was a part of the first group of Ambulatory Care specialists to earn the Board Certification in Ambulatory Care (BCACP) in 2011. Dr. Kugler joined the College of Pharmacy in July of 2012. She now helps outpatient veterans at the VA Long Beach. Her research interests include the scholarship of teaching and learning, smoking cessation, and nutrition.

Faculty Honors & Awards

Arezoo Campbell
- Elected as Treasurer for the 2013–2014 Executive Committee for the Southern Chapter of the Society of Toxicology

Sheryl Chow
- Invited by pharmaceutical companies, Novartis and Symbiotics to serve on the national multidisciplinary Serelaxin Steering Committee (3 year term)
- Served as a panelist for the “Pharmacologic Pearls in Heart Failure” session at the American College of Cardiology (ACC) meeting, San Francisco, CA, March 9–11, 2013

Eric Gupta
- Inducted as a Fellow of the National Lipid Association
- Re-elected to another three year term to the Pacific Lipid Association Board of Directors
- Served as Delegate in the APhA House of Delegates representing California at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, March 1–4, 2013

Hyma Gogineni
- Represented WesternU at the APhA Career Pathway training for faculty, and completed faculty training for the MTM program. American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, March 1–4, 2013

Karl Hess
- Served as Delegate for APhA-APPM in the APhA House of Delegates and as member of Policy Review Committee and attended Community Pharmacy Residency Showcase. American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, March 1–4, 2013
- Appointed as an APhA Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management (APhA-APPM) Delegate at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, March 1–4, 2013
- Received accreditation from the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) for 3 years.
- Completed his term as Speaker of the House of Delegates; and was installed as the Trustee for the Academy of Pharmacy Educators for 2013–14. California Pharmacists Association West Coast Exchange Meeting, Monterey, CA, March 14–18, 2013
- Appointed coordinator for the APhA-APPM Immunizing Pharmacist Special Interest Group (SIG)

Janice Hoffman
- WesternU representative of the Pharmacy Leadership Society at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, March 1–4, 2013
- Served as Delegate for Academy of Pharmacy Educators, California Pharmacists Association West Coast Exchange Meeting, Monterey, CA March 14–18, 2013

Cynthia Jackevicius
- Invited to teach at the McMaster University Evidence Based Medicine (EBM) workshop as senior tutor.
- Selected to serve on the editorial board of the journal Circulation — Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes. This honor is in recognition of her productivity and reputation as a researcher and scholar in the area of cardiovascular medication use outcomes

Roger Klotz
- Attended the Board of Trustees meeting; served as a delegate in the House of Delegates. He also served on Reference Committee B, as well as on the Nominations Committee. He presented a session on “Nutritional Planning by the Pharmacist for Diabetic Patients.” California Pharmacists Association West Coast Exchange Meeting, Monterey, CA, March 14–18, 2013

Maria Lambros
- Invited to participate as an external evaluator as part of the self-evaluation process for the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Pharmacy and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of Pharmacy

Continued on page 32
College of Pharmacy Professor/Chair named APhA Fellow

By Rodney Tanaka, Senior Communications Writer

College of Pharmacy Professor and Chair of Pharmacy Practice and Administration Anandi V. Law, BPharm, PhD, was recently selected as a Fellow of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA).

“Receiving this award is a great honor as much as it is humbling. I value what it stands for, and I have such admiration and respect for those who have received it before me,” Law said. “The wonderful thing about this award is that I have been recognized for doing what I personally consider to be so rewarding: education, scholarship, and work within professional associations.”

Fellows are either members of the APhA Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management (APhA-APPM) or the APhA Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science (APhA-APRS) with a minimum of 10 years’ professional experience. Dr. Law was selected by the APhA-APRS.

“I would encourage students and colleagues to continue striving for personal and professional excellence, and to get involved in local, state and national organizations, because we can take what we do locally and make a larger impact,” Law said. “When we do our best, the process and the outcomes provide benefit to all, and individually and collectively, we can reach goals of raising the bar on health care.”

To become a Fellow, members must have demonstrated exemplary professional achievements and service to the profession through activities with APhA and other national, state or local professional organizations, according to the APhA website. The new Fellows were officially recognized at the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Los Angeles, held March 1–4, 2013. The APhA awards and honors program is the most comprehensive recognition program in the profession of pharmacy.

“Achieving Fellow status in the American Pharmacists Association is a great honor that demonstrates recognition for exemplary professional achievement and service by one’s peers,” said College of Pharmacy Dean Daniel Robinson, PharmD, FASHP.

“Dr. Law, as Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, has been a natural leader within the College of Pharmacy, and a mentor to many faculty and graduate students. Her leadership on a national level will now and forever be recognized in the FAPhA designation appended to her name.”

Please join us in congratulating each of these faculty members for their accomplishments in the areas of science, practice and education. We look forward to many years of continued success and sustained contributions to the WesternU academic community.
Anandi V. Law
- Chair of a Health Policy Forum which she convened and moderated on “Dialogue and Debate on the Many Facets of Medication Safety.” American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, March 1–4, 2013
- Inducted as a Fellow of the American Pharmacists Association at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, March 1–4, 2013
- Selected to serve as APhA-APRS (Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science) Delegate to the 2013 APhA House of Delegates
- Moderator of Pharmacy Law update Session I, California Pharmacists Association West Coast Exchange Meeting, Monterey, CA March 14–18, 2013

Emmanuelle Schwartzman
- Served as Chair of Credentials Committee of the Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society meeting at American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting, Monterey, CA, March 1–4, 2013

James Scott
- Inducted on Feb. 27, 2013 as the President of the San Fernando Valley Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists.

Jeff Wang
- Invited to be on the Pre-Nanomedicine for Drug Delivery Science (Pre-NDDS) peer review panel for the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (DoD-CDMRP).
- Organized and co-moderated two sessions at the National Biotechnology Conference of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) in San Diego, held on May 20–22, 2013: 1) The ABCs of ADMET; and 2) Cutting-edge technologies for injectable peptide drugs. Also gave a podium presentation entitled “Is lipidization a commercially viable approach for peptide drug delivery?”
- Invited to serve as a grant reviewer for the Medical Research Council of the United Kingdom

Teacher of the Year
Kabirullah Lutfy, PhD
Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Faculty Service Awards
Micah Hata, PharmD
Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice and Administration

Fadi Khasawneh, PhD
Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Doreen Pon, PharmD
Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice and Administration

Continued from page 30

EXPANDED CONTENT
pages 33-38
Faculty Publications


• Le QA, Doctor JN, Zoellner LA, Feeny NC. “Minimal clinically important differences for the EQ-5D and QWB-SA in Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): results from a Doubly Randomized Preference Trial (DRPT).” Health and Quality of Life Outcomes, 2013, 11:59.


• DiVall MV, Haynes MS, Marsh WA, Neville MV, O’Barr SA, Sheets EA, Calhoun LD. “Perceptions of Pharmacy Students, Faculty Members, and Administrators on the Use of Technology in the Classroom.” American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, Volume 77, Issue 4, 2013: Article 75.
WesternU breaks ground on student housing project

Western University of Health Sciences held a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday, June 19, 2013, for a new student housing project at Third and Linden streets adjacent to the Health Professions Center. The project is a mixed-use, 173,000-square-foot graduate student housing community that is scheduled to be completed by August 2014. The four-story building will include student-focused apartment-type residential quarters, as well as about 10,000 square feet of administrative space to be occupied by WesternU.

From left to right: Robert Kim, Hanover Pacific executive managing director; Gary Gugelchuk, WesternU provost and COO; Kevin Shaw, WesternU CFO and treasurer; Beverly Guidry, WesternU vice president for Enrollment Management and University Student Affairs; Debra Lockwood, Provident Resources Group executive vice president and CFO; Philip Pomerantz, WesternU president and Elliott Rothman, Pomona mayor, participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new student housing project on Wednesday, June 19, 2013.

Faculty Presentations

Janice Hoffman

Cynthia Jackevicius
- Jackevicius CA, Tu JV, Ross JS, Ko DT, de Leon N, Krumholz HM. Use of niacin in the United States and Canada. JACC 2013; American College of Cardiology (ACC) Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Quang Le

Doreen Pon

Sam Shimomura
- Shimomura S, The Unique Challenges of Managing Parkinson’s Disease: Actionable Insights for Pharmacists. CE event sponsored by the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy, June 8, 2013, Irvine, CA.

Jonathan Watanabe
- Watanabe JH, Properties of propensity score matching procedures on covariate balancing and estimation: Influence of the number of the number of propensity score digits used on matched sets created. Annual Meeting of the International Society of Pharmacoconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), May 18-22, New Orleans, LA.
- Watanabe JH, Effect of neurologist ambulatory visits on use of disease-specific pharmacotherapies for chronic neurological conditions. Annual Meeting of the International Society of Pharmacoconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), May 18-22, New Orleans, LA.
- Watanabe JH, Retrospective cohort study evaluating liraglutide and exenatide in a veteran population. Annual Meeting of the International Society of Pharmacoconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), May 18-22, New Orleans, LA.
- Associations of Pharmacy Benefit and Medication Adherence for Statin users: Multi-year Longitudinal Assessment in the MarketScan Commercial Database. Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Annual Meeting, April 2-5, 2013, San Diego, CA.
- Watanabe JH, Sullivan SD. Impact of Copayment Escalations on Simvastatin Users: Multi-year Longitudinal Assessment in the MarketScan Commercial Database. Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Annual Meeting, April 2-5, 2013, San Diego, CA.
Po Ying Fung (Acute Care Resident)
- Poster presentation: Accuracy of Heparin Weight-Based Dosing in Obese Patients. Western States Conference, May 14, 2013, San Diego, CA.
- Presentation: Anticoagulation Therapy. St. Mary Medical Center, July 9, 2013, Los Angeles, CA.

Mai-Chi Hong (Infectious Diseases Resident)
- Poster presentation: Risk Factors Associated with Vancomycin Nephrotoxicity Across Different Acuity Levels of Care. Western States Conference, May 14, 2013, San Diego, CA

Stephanie Liang (Community Pharmacy Practice Resident)
- Primary author: Recent changes in acetaminophen products. The Collaborative Education Institute (CEI).

Sonal Mahajan (Pharmacy Resident)
- Poster presentation: Gradual Dose Reduction or Possible Discontinuation of Antipsychotics in JHA Patients After Three Months as per New CMS Guidelines. Western States Conference, May 13-16, 2013, San Diego, CA.
- Publication: Mahajan SA, Hoffman J. Gradual Dose Reduction or Discontinuation of Antipsychotics in Patients after 3 Months Using new CDPH and CMS Guidelines. California Long Term Care Medicine Annual Meeting, April 2013, Los Angeles, CA.

Lingyun Lu (Cardiology Outcomes Fellow)

Binh Tang (Ambulatory Care Resident)

Don Vu (Transplant Fellow)
Don’t miss the incredible creativity of our College of Pharmacy student pharmacists, alumni and faculty in the newest edition of WesternU’s award winning Humanism in the Health Sciences magazine.

Contributing Editors from the College of Pharmacy: Abigail Argujo, PharmD ’15, Kathleen C. Gozum, PharmD ’15, Brandon Samson, PharmD ’16, Elena Younessi, PharmD ’15

Faculty Advisor: James D. Scott, PharmD, FCCP, A.AHIVE, Associate Dean for Experiential and Professional Affairs, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, College of Pharmacy

Dr. Scott, advisor’s message “Maintaining Your Humanism Throughout Your Years of Practice” ............................................................ page 6
Nichelle Nguyen, PharmD ’13, photo gallery ........................................................................................................... pages 20-23, 54
Brandon Samson, PharmD ’16, essay “The Pharmacist and the Musician” ................................................................. page 26
Carrie Bitterlich, PharmD ’13, essay “Dignity in Death and Loss: A Conflict of Views” ................................................. page 33
Daisy Rivera, PharmD ’16, poetry “I am Latina” ........................................................................................................... page 36
Sonny Rhee, PharmD ’13, essay “Dispensing Words Under the White Coat” ........................................................................... page 50
Alana Zapata, PharmD ’15, fine art “Study of Sargent’s Lady Agnew” ............................................................................ page 53

Print copies are available on campus or an electronic version is available online at http://www.westernu.edu/communications-media

- Publication: Vu D, Shah T, Hutchinson IV, Min DI. Effect of Ciprofloxacin prophylaxis on BK virus infection after renal transplantation. Transplant Infectious Disease, 2013.
- Publication: Vu D, Tellez-Corralles E, Shah T, Naraghi R, Hutchinson IV, Min DI. Gene Polymorphisms of UGT1A8, UGT1A9 and HNF1a are associated with Gastrointestinal Symptoms in Renal Transplant Recipients taking Mycophenolic acid. Transplant Immunology, 2013; May 27. S0966-3274.
- Awarded: ACCP Immunology/Transplant PRN resident/fellow travel award; ACCP, October, 2012 Annual Meeting.
- New Investigator Research Award: American Society of Transplant, Community of Pharmacy, May 2013 ($1000).
Alexander Lacuran
- Poster presentation: Mapping the Binding of G Protein-Coupled Receptor Kianse4γ (GRK4γ) with Gαs. Experimental Biology 2013, April 24, 2013, Boston, MA.

Olivia Lin
- Poster presentation: The 5-HT2A Receptor Antagonists Pizotifen and Cyproheptadine Inhibit Serotonin-enhanced Platelet Function. Experimental Biology 2013, April 24, 2013, Boston, MA.
- Received a competitive travel scholarship to the meeting.

Shyang Lung
- Poster presentation: Pilot study using an Alzheimer’s disease animal model to assess the role of particulate matter exposure in neuroinflammation and amyloid production, Society of Toxicology, March 11, 2013, San Antonio, TX.

Jenny Nguyen
- Poster presentation: Mapping the Binding of G Protein-Coupled Receptor Kianse4γ (GRK4γ) with Gαs. Experimental Biology 2013, April 24, 2013, Boston, MA.
- Poster presentation: Proteomic assessment of the binding partners of GRK4γ: an approach to understand the molecular mechanisms of GRK4γ action. Experimental Biology 2013, April 24, 2013, Boston, MA.
- Poster presentation: Role of MEK and RSK in Blood Pressure Regulation. Experimental Biology 2013, April 21, 2013, Boston, MA.

Emily Rietdorf
- Poster presentation: Complement MAC expression in heart failure, Experimental Biology Conference, April 24, 2013, Boston, MA.

PharmD Student Recognition
- Celine Gharibian was awarded the WesternU Summer Research scholarship to work with Dr. Gollapudi Shankar
- CSHP members Nikki Shamamyan and Lusineh Keshishian, were recognized as the Students of the Year during the San Fernando Valley Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (SFVSHP) Installation Banquet
- Lusineh Keshishian, PharmD ’14, was selected as a Fellow in the Los Angeles Schweitzer Fellowship Program, which helps support projects to reduce health care disparities in the Los Angeles area. With her faculty mentor, Dr. Doreen Pon, Lusineh will be working to increase HPV vaccination rates among Pomona teens.
SAVE THE DATE!

September 18-21, 2013

Intensive Course in Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review
Marina del Rey Marriott - Marina del Rey, California

Accreditation provided by:

Visit http://geronet.ucla.edu/ic for complete information

Contemporary Compounding

Intensive CE Certificate Course
Save the Date: October 18–20, 2013

Instructors:
Wallace J. Murray, PhD
Professor Emeritus, Pharmaceutical Science

Jesse F. Martinez, PharmD
Vice Dean, Academic Diversity & Development

Rudolf Mireles, PharmD
Clinical Associate Professor
Director, Patient Care Center Pharmacy

Erik Tosh, RPh
Director of Professional Services and Business Development-Letco

Dana B. Nelson, PharmBS, PharmMS, FASCP
CEO/President and Pharmacist in Charge, Health Plus Pharmacy

Conference Fees: $1,200
(Cancellations made 10 days in advance of class date are fully refundable. If cancelled in less than 10 days, there is no refund, however, you may reschedule for a future class.)

Goals and Objectives

• Demonstrate proficiency in the use of the electronic balance, hot plate/stirrer, hand-held blender, Ungulator, ointment mill, capsule machine, powder blender, homogenizer, and general laboratory processes, devices, and equipment.

• Demonstrate proficiency in the formulation, compounding, packaging and dispensing of:
  • liquid dosage forms (general, oral and topical)
  • powder dosage forms (oral and topical)
  • cream, gel and ointment dosage forms (topical, transdermal and vaginal)
  • lollipop and troche dosage forms
  • stick (lip balm) dosage forms
  • suppository dosage forms (rectal and vaginal)

• State the importance of quality control and quality assurance procedures.

• Discuss pertinent professional, state, and federal compounding laws and regulations.

• Discuss the importance and availability of compounding references and resources.

• Review the fundamentals of building and marketing a compounding practice.

Location Information
The conference will be held on the WesternU campus, 309 E. Second Street, Pomona, CA, 91766.

CE Coordinator Contact Information
For more information, please contact:
Renee Cook, Manager of Continuing Education
Phone: 909-706-3826 • Fax: 909-706-3473
Email: rcook@westernu.edu

CE Accreditation
Target Audience: Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians
Activity Type: Practice Based

Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education.

1.7 CEU’s or 17 Contact Hours.
UAN #0059-0000-13-085-L03-P, 0059-0000 and #0059-0000-13-085-L03-T, 0059-0000

Certification requires attendees attend the entire course, pass an examination, and complete an evaluation. Partial credit will not be given.

Register Online at www.westernu.edu/pharmacy-continuing-education or the eventbrite registration directly: http://westernuoctobercompoundingcourse.eventbrite.com
Calendar 2013

Aug. 5–9  Orientation Week, WesternU, Pomona, CA
Aug. 10  Convocation and White Coat Ceremony, Pomona, CA
Sept. 7  Indian Pharmacist Association (IPA) Tradeshow, Garden Grove, CA
Sept. 18–21  Annual Intensive Course in Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review, Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 13  Residency Showcase, WesternU, Pomona, CA
Oct. 12–16  NCPA 115th Annual Convention & Trade Expo, Orlando, FL
Oct. 13–16  ACCP Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM
Oct. 16–18  AMCP Educational Conference, San Antonio, TX
Oct. 18–20  Contemporary Compounding Intensive Course, WesternU, Pomona, CA
Oct. 24  Rotations Fair, WesternU, Pomona, CA
Oct. 31–Nov. 3  CSHP Annual Seminar Booth 164, Anaheim, CA
Nov. 1  WesternU Dinner at CSHP, Naples Ristorante e Pizzaria, Anaheim, CA
Nov. 5  Career Day, WesternU, Pomona, CA
Nov. 9  A Tribute to Caring, Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, CA
Nov. 10–14  AAPS Annual Meeting & Expo, San Antonio, TX
Nov. 20–23  ASCP 44th Annual Conference & Exhibition, Seattle, WA
Dec. 8–12  ASHP Midyear, Orlando, FL