UCI again ranks first among U.S. universities younger than 50

It’s the third time the campus has taken top U.S. honors in this category, and as the 50th anniversary of the university draws near, UCI focuses on soaring even higher as one of the world’s premier public institutions of higher education.

President Obama Speaks at Commencement

Bright Past. Brilliant Future.

Turning a special day into a historic event, President Barack Obama addressed more than 6,000 graduating UC Irvine students and 30,000 family members and friends at a commencement ceremony Saturday, June 14, at Angel Stadium of Anaheim.

Sponsored by

University of California, Irvine

Masimo, Foundation for Ethics, Innovation & Competition in Healthcare, Great Park Neighborhoods, Microsemi, Sage, CHOC Children’s, UCI The Paul Merage School of Business, UCI Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UC Irvine Health

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Rethink the role of your pharmacist

You might think of pharmacists as consultants behind the counter when you need to pick up a prescription. Think again.

The role of pharmacy professionals is changing quickly—and in major ways. A pharmacist will be joining your primary care team!

...And UCI’s pharmaceutical sciences department, among the top-10 nationally, is at the forefront of addressing these changes. Simply stated, this dynamic academic community is committed to the discovery and development of solutions to improve the public’s health and well-being.

The future of pharmacy professionals will include responsibilities in new models of care, including chronic disease management, drug benefit plan management, medication therapy management, development of clinical and translational research leadership, and professional counseling.

Community pharmacists are also likely to contribute to meeting the unmet primary care needs of underserved communities by providing direct patient care services where access to primary care physicians is limited.

Why the changes?

The role of pharmacy professionals is changing significantly due to population growth, an aging population, and changing demographics.

More notably, California passed a new law in January 2014, authorizing pharmacists to serve as primary healthcare providers. With proper certification, they may conduct patient assessments, do diagnostic testing, interpret results and prescribe certain medications.

More services will be combined with more clients as a result of the Affordable Care Act and will increase demand for highly trained pharmacists and for the development and delivery of effective pharmaceutical solutions.

Pharmacists represent the third-largest health professional group in the nation, and California has the fifth-highest demand nationwide for pharmacy professionals in hospitals, clinics, retail, government and academic settings.

Faculty in UCI’s pharmaceutical sciences department have an ongoing commitment to training highly qualified practitioners and researchers to meet the growing needs of Southern California’s growing biotechnology and pharmaceutical research sector,” says Richard Chamberlin, founding chair of the department.

UCI faculty will continue to partner with their interdisciplinary colleagues to be at the forefront of developing innovative programs in drug discovery and development, improving therapeutic outcomes and expanding the role of the practicing pharmacist as a key consultant in healthcare teams.

To learn more about how our people are shaping the future of health care that will affect you and your loved ones, visit www.pharmsci.ucl.edu.
UC Irvine: Improving lives and revolutionizing healthcare

About UC Irvine’s Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

- Among the top-10 pharmaceutical sciences departments in the country
- Offers the only undergraduate pharmaceutical sciences degree in California
- California’s top university for producing pharmacy school applicants, with many graduates accepted into the No. 1 school in the nation.

Our people

Pharmaceutical scientists are rapidly changing the field of drug discovery and development, and we have world-renowned scientists with wide-ranging research programs that cover every facet of pharmaceutical research.

Richard Chamberlin, Professor and founding chair of pharmaceutical sciences at UCI, is spearheading efforts to transform pharmaceutical sciences education in Southern California. He is a chemist who has the distinction of training scores of scientists in basic molecular health sciences, particularly medicinal chemistry. His research focuses on developing probes to better understand the molecular details of cellular function in the brain, cancer cells, viral infections, and other normal and abnormal cells. Just one notable leader who trained in Chamberlin’s lab is Sigfried Reich, who co-discovered the powerful HIV protease inhibitor Vincept that has saved the lives of thousands of AIDS patients.

Mahtab Jafari, associate professor, is working on slowing the progression of age-related diseases and prolonging healthy life. She specializes in anti-aging pharmacology and lifespan extension, researching the impact of botanical extracts on aging pathways. Jafari and her students have had many successes in their experiments with botanicals. Testing with fruit flies, which share 75% of their disease genes with humans, Jafari has kept a female fruit fly alive longer than any other scientist known. She is renowned for her work in Orange County and across the nation, and her research has been replicated worldwide.

Weian Zhao, assistant professor and winner of MIT’s TR35 award for the world’s top 35 innovators under age 35, studies how to ultimately control the fate of transplanted stem cells in the body. He explores where the cells go and what they do biologically and therapeutically, which will lead to more effective and safer clinical medicine to treat diseases like multiple sclerosis and cancer. Zhao’s laboratory also develops rapid diagnostics that detect diseases at an early stage—in fact, his team has just developed a test that detects blood infections within minutes.

Our programs

- Our graduates go to work in pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology, research and development, and academia.
- We offer interdisciplinary programs at graduate and undergraduate levels and cross-campus collaborations in research and curriculum.
- The bachelor’s degree in pharmaceutical sciences is the only one of its kind in the UC system, and graduates are highly qualified to find employment or to pursue graduate degrees.
- The graduate program in medicinal chemistry and pharmacology is an interdisciplinary gateway to earning a doctorate in one of four departments: chemistry, molecular biology & biochemistry, pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

UCI Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

In UC Irvine’s Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, each day is filled with the potential for new discoveries that will result in improved therapy for patients around the world.

Pharmaceutical sciences is a dynamic, interdisciplinary field that integrates physical and organic chemistry, engineering, biochemistry and biology to understand how to optimize delivery of drugs to the body and translate this understanding into improved treatments against human disease.