

Newsletter



Alexandre Chan, PharmD, MPH, FCCP, FISOPP, BCPS, BCOP, APh
Professor and Chair

The UCI Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice (DCPP) would like to wish everyone happy holidays!

DCPP has been off to a busy start this academic year. In September, Dr. Lee Nguyen was appointed to the Board of Pharmacy Specialties' Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Specialty Council, and Dr. Joyce Lee received the UC END DISPARITIES Pilot Award as well as the California Society Health-System Pharmacists Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award. Additionally, Dr. Nana Entsuah and Dr. Cheryl Wisseh explored "Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use among Underserved Older Latino Adults." Connected through the Cancer Health Equity Research Partnership (CHERP), Dr. Shawn Griffin and CSU Fullerton Student Gloria Castanon commenced their research on health disparities in Hispanic populations. I am also grateful to be joining my outstanding faculty by receiving a R01 multi-PI grant (2.4 million dollars) from National Institute of health.

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In October, faculty, staff, and friends of the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences and the UCI Health Department of Pharmacy Services joined together as UCI Pharmacy's Anti-Cancer Challenge Team and raised \$6,570. Dr. Griffin and Tania Cuellar led the team as co-captains.

In this newsletter, you will learn more about our clinical faculty and their innovative work through their clinical services, patient-centered research, and roles within professional organizations. Dr. Sarah McBane will give us an insight into clinical services at UCI Health Federally Qualified Centers, and Dr. Lee Nguyen will introduce us to his professional organization involvement. Lastly, Dr. Erin Knox will provide us with an update on experiential learning.

In this issue we will commence a new column to spotlight our Volunteer Clinical Professors. Dr. Codi Peterson, Volunteer Associate Clinical Professor, will be discussing cannabis education and why it is important for UCI and pharmacists alike.

Please be on the lookout for more information regarding our February 13th Department Seminar from noon to 1 p.m. Dr. Zahra Azabadi from the Investigational Drug Services Department at the UCI Health Center will be presenting. ●

► [Click here to subscribe to our bi-weekly emails about our events.](#)

Collaborative Medication Management in an Underserved Population

Sarah McBane, PharmD

Associate Dean of Pharmacy Education
Health Sciences Clinical Professor



I currently provide Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM) at the UCI Family Health Center in Santa Ana. The Family Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center, providing a

range of health care services to underserved population. My clinical service is an extension of the CAREPILLS clinic initially implemented by Dr. Joyce Lee at the UCI Family Health Center in Anaheim. During most of my clinic sessions, I see patients primarily for diabetes management in collaboration with Brenda Flores, FNP. We have established an efficient workflow wherein I will see my scheduled patients and provide CMM, and then Brenda will conclude the encounter and address any non-medication related needs. Our goal for this service is to improve diabetes outcomes for our patients while ideally streamlining their medication regimen. ●



Growth Through Professional Development

Lee Nguyen, PharmD

Health Sciences Associate
Clinical Professor



Professional organizations are an excellent opportunity for pharmacists and pharmacy students to get involved and further the profession of pharmacy. It allows us to meet new people, learn more about the

profession, and share best practices locally and across the US. Over the past few years, I have become involved in several professional organizations. I volunteered with the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) Seminar Planning Committee and the Orange County chapter of CSHP (OCSHP). In addition to participating in the Planning Committee, I was a member of the Clinical Skill Competition Committee tasked with developing the cases for the competition at CSHP Seminar. Locally, I serve as the current Education Affairs co-chair for OCSHP, which helps find and coordinate continuing education speakers and presentations for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in Orange County, California. On the national level, I dedicated my time to the Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists (SIDP) and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). I am presently the vice-chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee at SIDP and will transition into the chair role for the 2023-2024 year.



We are involved in increasing awareness of DEI issues by developing seminars recognizing various heritage months and promoting educational material for SIDP members and the community. To spark interest in infectious diseases, our committee established and awarded 15 educational scholarships to pharmacy students throughout the US to attend IDWeek2023 virtually. Additionally, we created and distributed four \$1,000 DEI educational scholarships for pharmacy residents and students to pay for travel expenses to attend IDWeek2023 in person. Our goal with the scholarships is to help underrepresented groups foster an interest in infectious disease, hoping they will consider pursuing future opportunities in this field. As a DEI committee member, I worked with the Nominations and Bylaws Committee within SIDP to slate members for leadership and board positions. This experience was similar to my committee work with AACP's nominations committee to identify and slate members for leadership positions.

In the coming year, I will continue volunteering with the CSHP Seminar Planning Committee and will put my name up for consideration for chairing the Clinical Skills Competition Committee. Accordingly, I will continue the educational affairs position with OCSHP and maintain my participation in any AACP committee assignments. As the next SIDP DEI chair, I am excited about the new DEI Mentorship program we developed and are piloting this year. Lastly, starting in January 2024, I will begin my appointed position as an Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Specialty Council member to the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS). This appointment is an opportunity to participate in the specialty certification process developed by BPS, as well as ensure that future exam questions include up-to-date and quality questions that are reflective of pharmacy practice. ●

UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Hosted Our First-Annual **APPE + Preceptor Fair**



In November 2023, the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences hosted our first annual APPE + Preceptor Fair. Preceptors gathered to hear updates about the experiential education program as Founding Dean Jan Hirsch offered words of appreciation for our network of affiliates and led us in a “Zot! Zot! Zot!” UCI cheer.

Student pharmacists in the Class of 2025 were then invited to connect and network with preceptors from local health systems and pharmacies, learning about each site's APPEs (Advanced Practice Pharmacy Experiences). Preceptors describe “a day in the life of a student pharmacist”



and provide information about the practice site, including details about other preceptors, patient populations served, and special projects. Student pharmacists can then apply this information to APPE “preferencing,” allowing students to select APPEs that meet their individual educational goals.

The fourth year of the PharmD program is entirely experiential, with six-week APPEs scheduled

across the academic year. These take place at affiliated health systems and pharmacies, including UCI Health, UCLA Health, and CHOC (Children’s Hospital of Orange County). ●

The UCI SPPS Office of Experiential Education is currently soliciting APPEs availability from affiliated sites. You may reach out to PharmEE@uci.edu for additional information or to provide your availability!



Advancing Heal**TH**Care: The Case for Cannabis Education in Pharmacy Schools

By: Codi Peterson, PharmD, MS

Volunteer Associate Clinical Professor
Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice
Cannabis Pharmacology & Therapeutics



For many years, cannabis education in pharmacy schools has mostly been relegated to drugs of abuse classes rather than component therapeutics courses, despite the fact that certain cannabinoids have been FDA-approved for decades. As global attitudes towards cannabis evolve, and both adult-use and medical cannabis markets mature, there is a growing need for medical cannabis experts in this rapidly expanding industry.

Pharmacists, as the medication experts, are uniquely positioned to fill the medical cannabis knowledge gap, providing vital support to patients

and improving cannabis care outcomes. Pharmacists possess the optimal skillset to address a myriad of cannabis-related inquiries, including dosage recommendations, dose titration, drug delivery, potential side effects, and drug to drug interactions. These are some of the most pertinent topics to patients and medical cannabis providers, and it only makes sense to have the pharmacist serve as the content experts in these realms.

Moreover, with the pharmacy profession predicted to experience marginal growth while graduating a higher number of pharmacists than ever before, there is a need for creative expansion into new roles and patient services. The burgeoning cannabis sector provides an excellent avenue for pharmacists to apply their skill set. From formulating cannabis products to dispensing them and offering counseling services, pharmacists can play a pivotal and impactful role across the spectrum of cannabis-care.

Several states, including Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and Virginia, have already recognized the importance of pharmacist involvement in dispensing medical cannabis. These states are late adopters of medical cannabis reform compared to others. Their decision to involve the pharmacist is in stark contrast to early-adopter states such as California, which have a dispensary-based model with no healthcare professional involvement beyond an annual medical cannabis recommendation for a prescriber. The shift in attitudes reflects the lessons learnt from early adopter states. In 2023, Georgia adopted new regulations allowing patients to obtain medical cannabis from independent retail pharmacies.



This legislative trend underscores the increasing acknowledgement of pharmacists to contribute their expertise to this complex field.

Pharmacists, known for their accessibility, are one of the most well-rounded healthcare professionals. It is high time to abandon the avoidance of the cannabis topic and the plea of ignorance. Instead, pharmacists should embrace the opportunity to delve into the field of cannabis medicine, learning how to best support patients with the most effective cannabinoid therapies, whether they be prescription or herbal in nature. By actively engaging in cannabis education, pharmacists can contribute to

the advancement of healthcare, ensuring patients receive the comprehensive and inclusive support they deserve.

There is no better way to prepare pharmacists for these inevitable conversations than by exposing them to the material during their formal education. If cannabis is medicine – and 38 US states and multiple countries around the world now legally agree that it is – then the pharmacist is the ideal healthcare professional to lead the charge at destigmatizing, de-risking, and enhancing cannabis medicine. ●

Happy Holidays from DCPD!



Department's annual gift exchange.