

Nana Entsuah, PharmD

UCI School of Pharmacy &
Pharmaceutical Sciences
2022-2023 **ANNUAL REPORT**

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I am so proud of what the UC Irvine School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences has become in our short time as a school. This year has been marked by growth, achievement, and furthering our identity as a leader in pharmaceutical sciences and clinical pharmacy practice education and research.

Although this is only our third year as the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, we are continuing to build on our legacy that started over 15 years ago with the foundational Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences, followed by the PhD in Pharmacological Sciences and Master of Science in Pharmacology programs. The creation of the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program in 2020 expanded our academic footprint.

As part of the Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences, we have been able to offer interprofessional education to our students, allowing them to collaborate with experts in medicine, nursing, and public health to learn the skills they need to provide integrative, team-based, whole-patient healthcare.

All of our students continue to impress me, our faculty and staff, and the entire UCI community with their accomplishments and dedication to improving the health of patients and populations. Each of our students has taken on the commitment to be drivers of progressive change in our healthcare system and work toward making effective, quality treatment and prevention modalities accessible to all.

Many new faces have joined our school this year. We've welcomed new faculty, strengthening our team of educators in pharmaceutical sciences and clinical pharmacy who, through their research and clinical practice, are advancing transformational solutions in the discovery, development, and delivery of new drugs, devices, and diagnostics. We've welcomed new staff who are essential to achieving our mission and goals. **We would not be where we are today without our team's unwavering commitment to our vision, our school, and our students.**

We are all dedicated to:

- **conducting transformative research** that creates impactful, high-value solutions from drug discovery to clinical practice;
- education that **prepares pharmaceutical scientists and clinical pharmacists for the future**; and
- service that **impacts the broader community**, including educating patients on the safe and effective use of medications.

We are deeply grateful to our friends, industry partners, and alumni for helping us make this possible. If you are interested in joining us on our quest to achieve academic, scientific, and clinical excellence, please contact Sonia Batra, Director of Development (sbatra1@hs.uci.edu) or visit pharmsci.uci.edu/giving. Your generosity helps pioneer the way toward a brilliant future.

I would like to applaud our School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences community for their hard work. As we reflect on the goals we've met and the relationships we've formed over this past year, we look forward to continuing to fulfill our strategic plan.

Throughout our time as a school, we have consistently welcomed brilliant students who I have no doubt will bring forth important shifts in the healthcare landscape. I cannot wait to see — and share with you — the great things they will accomplish during their time with us and in the future.

I am very pleased to share our 2022-2023 year in review.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Jan D. Hirsch, BS Pharm, PhD
Founding Dean



WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2020, the UC Irvine School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences is **the first public pharmacy school in the Los Angeles-Orange County region.**

We offer the following undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees:

- Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Master of Science in Pharmacology
- Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacological Sciences
- Doctor of Pharmacy

Our school encompasses two departments:
Pharmaceutical Sciences (established in 2007)
and **Clinical Pharmacy Practice** (established in 2020).

As part of the Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences, we actively collaborate with schools and programs in medicine, nursing, and population and public health, and the Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute, to educate, train, and mentor the next generation of pharmaceutical scientists and clinical pharmacists.

MISSION

To be a driving force for advancing health and wellness of individuals and society, through:



**Innovative and integrative
learner-centered education**



**Leading pharmaceutical research
and discoveries**



**Leadership in interprofessional
patient-centered healthcare**

VISION

To be a leader in transformational advances in team-based pharmacy practice, research, and healthcare.

A photograph of two scientists in a laboratory setting, wearing white protective suits, blue hairnets, and masks. They are working inside a biosafety cabinet, with one scientist using a pipette. The image has a soft pink and blue color overlay.

**“I believe the UCI School of
Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical
Sciences **has unparalleled
opportunities for impact** given
its portfolio of education,
research, and clinical service.”**

Jan D. Hirsch, BS Pharm, PhD
Founding Dean

UC IRVINE OPENS SUSAN & HENRY SAMUELI COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

In December 2022, the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences administrative office moved into the Samueli College of Health Sciences Complex.

Located near the corner of California Avenue and Bison Avenue, the landmark nine-acre health sciences complex boasts both its environment-friendly, modern-aesthetic architecture and cutting-edge technology that promises to transform learning experiences.

Platinum LEED certification for green building design

LEED-certified buildings reduce costs, lower carbon emissions, and create healthier places for occupants. Platinum is the highest level of LEED certification.

State-of-the-art technology for teaching and collaboration

The building features digital displays at every corner, built-in technology and cutting-edge equipment, ergonomic work areas, and spaces conducive to interdisciplinary collaboration.

Beautiful outdoor spaces with sustainable naturescapes

Featuring lush, drought-tolerant landscapes; living walls; rooftop gardens; and interconnected indoor and outdoor space, the building has a modern aesthetic with a SoCal nature vibe.

UCI WELCOMES PHARMD CLASS OF 2026 AT WHITE COAT CEREMONY

On September 16, 2022, **UCI welcomed its second cohort of Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) students at the White Coat Ceremony held at the Irvine Barclay Theatre.**

The UCI PharmD program was started in 2020 and is uniquely qualified to educate pharmacists for the future because of its strong pharmaceutical sciences foundation, unique Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences structure for delivering interprofessional education, and position within an academic health system, which provides a leading-edge clinical practice and learning environment.

SECOND COHORT OF STUDENT PHARMACISTS AT UCI



49 STUDENTS



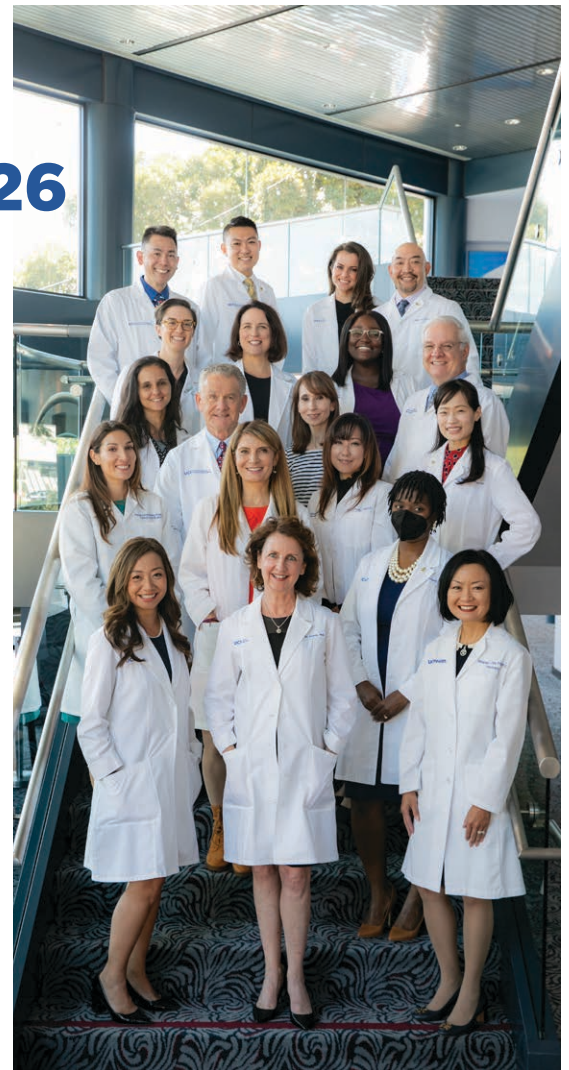
22 % FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS



94 % CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS



65 % UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA GRADUATES

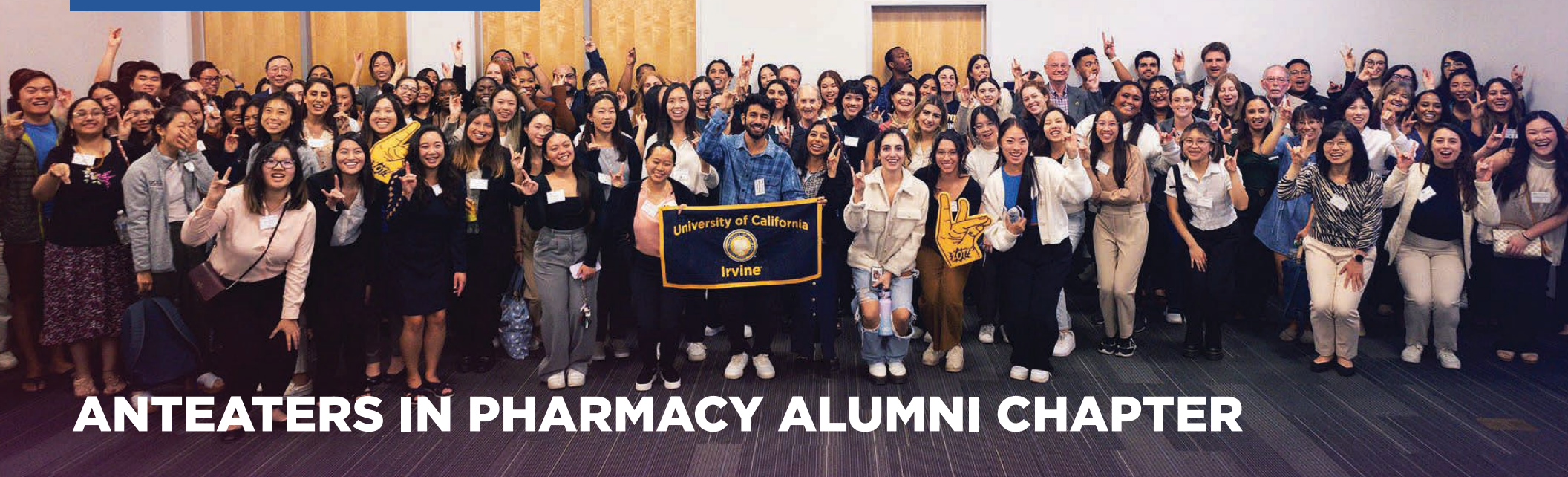


“Students, there are very few times in life that we are given an opportunity to be part of something historic, something bigger than ourselves. You choosing to be part of a health profession and essential worker during this challenging time of our history speaks volumes to who you are.”



“

Megan H. Nguyen, PharmD
Founding Associate Dean
Pharmacy Student Affairs



ANTEATERS IN PHARMACY ALUMNI CHAPTER

Anteaters in Pharmacy is the official UCI Alumni chapter dedicated to pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences students and alumni. Members engage in our community, build their networks, volunteer together, and contribute to UCI.

Thank you to the alumni mentors who share their wealth of diverse knowledge and experiences as part of our UCI Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences Alumni Mentorship Program!



21

MENTORS

Includes alumni with graduation years of 1976 through 2023, from California to Washington



29

MENTEES

Includes 10 undergraduate students and 19 PharmD students

“I am so proud to be a part of the Anteaters in Pharmacy Mentorship Program! As a mentor and alumnus of the pharmaceutical sciences program, I am excited to be able to give back to fellow Anteaters who are curious about a career in pharmacy. Meeting students and helping them shape and achieve their goals has been quite rewarding.

This program reminds me to stay passionate in my career, as each time I share and reflect with my mentees, I get to express my gratitude to previous mentors of mine and the opportunities that UCI has provided me. It's exciting to watch the program grow!”



Allen Tran ('15)

Ambulatory Care Pharmacist



“I have had a wonderful experience mentoring students. It brings me joy to guide the next generation of scientists and help them achieve their dreams. It’s particularly rewarding when they come to me with news of acceptance to prestigious programs, internships, and fellowships.”



Eric Samuels ('18)
Senior Scientist II at AbbVie



Interested in joining Anteaters in Pharmacy? Contact Meredith Kwok at m.kwok@uci.edu

FACTS & FIGURES

22-23 ACADEMIC YEAR

693

TOTAL STUDENTS

35

FACULTY

186

GRADUATE AND
PROFESSIONAL
STUDENTS

507

UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS

25

STAFF

GRADUATE STUDENTS

63 PhD students 34 MSP students 89 PharmD students

DEGREES AWARDED

118 Undergraduate 16 Master's 10 PhD

37%

of all enrolled **undergraduates**
are first-generation students

38%

of all enrolled **student pharmacists**
are first-generation students

69%

of our **master's students** are female

62%

of our **PhD students** are female

UCI ACHIEVEMENTS

#1

Institution for students
admitted into a pharmacy
school in California*

#2

Institution for number of
students admitted into
pharmacy school nationwide*





42%

Since the founding of our school in 2020,
**we've increased the number of female faculty
in our school from 25% to 42%.**

1,300

Alumni from our bachelor's, master's, and PhD programs
Our first cohort from our PharmD program will graduate in 2025.

\$7.3 Million

In faculty **research grants and contracts**

ACCREDITATION STATUS

WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC):
Approved as of November 30, 2020

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE):
Candidate status approved as of June 30, 2022

*Source: 2021-2022 PharmCas Applicant Data Report

**Source: UCI Office of Institutional Research



PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences offers undergraduate and graduate students unparalleled training for future careers in pharmacy, medicine, and biomedical research. Our innovative, rigorous curriculum integrates concepts from biology, chemistry, chemical engineering, pharmacology, and physiology. Alumni pursue exciting professional opportunities that improve our society's health and well-being.

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

UCI SCIENTISTS DEVELOP GENE-SILENCING DNA ENZYME THAT CAN TARGET A SINGLE MOLECULE

BREAKTHROUGH HOLDS PROMISE FOR DISEASE TREATMENTS, PRECISION MEDICINE

Researchers from UCI have developed a DNA enzyme — or DNAzyme — that can distinguish between two RNA strands inside a cell and cut the disease-associated strand while leaving the healthy strand intact. **This breakthrough “gene-silencing” technology could revolutionize the development of DNAzymes for treating cancer, infectious diseases, and neurological disorders.**

DNAzymes are nucleic acid enzymes that cut other molecules. UCI’s team developed the Dz 46 enzyme, which targets the allele-specific RNA mutation in the KRAS gene, the master regulator of cell growth and division found in 25% of all human cancers.

“Generating DNAzymes that can effectively function in the natural conditions of cell systems has been more challenging than expected,” said corresponding author **John Chaput**, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences. **“Our results suggest that chemical evolution could pave the way for development of novel therapies for a wide range of diseases.”**

Gene silencing has been available for more than 20 years, and some FDA-approved drugs incorporate various versions of the technology, but none can distinguish a single-point mutation in an RNA strand. The benefit of the Dz 46 enzyme is that it can identify and cut a specific gene mutation, offering patients an innovative, precision medicine treatment.

Generating DNAzymes with robust multiple turnover activity under physiological conditions required some ingenuity, because DNAzymes are normally very dependent on concentrations of magnesium not found inside a human cell.



“We solved that problem by re-engineering the DNAzyme using chemistry to reduce its dependency on magnesium and did so in such a way that we could maintain high catalytic turnover activity. **Ours is one of the very first, if not the first, example of achieving that. The next steps are to advance Dz 46 to a point that it’s ready for pre-clinical trials.**”

“**John Chaput, PhD**
Professor
Pharmaceutical Sciences

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

LAUREN ALBRECHT, PHD



Albrecht's research applies an interdisciplinary approach to uncover the molecular basis of protein homeostasis, cell renewal, and tissue remodeling. The Albrecht Lab aims to gain key insights of metabolic networks to improve current treatments of human pathologies and organ deterioration that impact a healthy lifestyle.

Albrecht hopes to identify novel dietary and small-molecular therapeutic interventions for treating cancer and bone and kidney disease by clarifying how the high metabolic requirements for aberrant tumor cell proliferation commandeer this molecular machinery.

"Metabolism is the origin of life," Albrecht said. "I am thrilled to be studying metabolism at such an exciting time, as new technological advances have revolutionized the field. Advancing our understanding of cancer cell metabolism has the promise to uncover novel points of intervention through metabolic and pharmacologic-based approaches, or even diet."

Albrecht earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of California, San Diego. While in the lab of structural biologist Dr. Stanley Opella at UC San Diego, Albrecht discovered her passion for translating atomic-level details into large-scale biological processes. This propelled her towards her doctoral studies in cellular biology at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University in the laboratory of Dr. Kathleen Green, examining the molecular basis of genetic skin and heart disease.

THOMAS MARTÍNEZ, PHD



Martínez aims to identify, characterize, and examine the therapeutic potential of microproteins involved in cancer initiation and progression. He is a leader in the emerging field of microprotein proteomics. His UCI research focuses specifically on cancer applications, in collaboration with the UCI Cancer Center and Cancer Research Institute.

Before joining UCI, Martínez worked as an NIH National Research Service Award postdoctoral fellow at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. In the lab, he developed an integrative platform combining ribosome profiling, *de novo* transcriptome assembly, mass spectrometry, and bioinformatics to discover functional smORF encoded microproteins in the human genome.

Martínez earned his PhD in biochemistry and molecular biophysics from Caltech as an NIH NRSA predoctoral fellow under the mentorship of Professor Peter Dervan. His thesis work focused primarily on characterizing the effects of DNA binding pyrrole-imidazole polyamides on DNA replication in prostate cancer cells. He received his bachelor's degree in biological engineering from MIT and trained in Professor JoAnne Stubbe's laboratory, where he studied the mechanism of ribonucleotide reductase.

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

UCI POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW JUAN HU AWARDED NIH K99 PATHWAY TO INDEPENDENCE AWARD

UCI postdoctoral fellow, **Juan Hu, PhD**, has been awarded a prestigious National Institutes of Health (NIH) K99 Pathway to Independence Award.

The NIH Pathway to Independence Award provides an opportunity for promising postdoctoral scientists to receive both mentored and independent research support. The award will fund her work in the Paegel Lab for an additional two years; then, as part of a continuation of the award, she will receive another three years of funding to start her independent academic laboratory.

During her time in the Paegel Lab, Hu developed a high-speed molecular permeation measurement technology that resulted in a significant finding: Molecules permeate through membranes at different rates than their mirror images (enantiomers), an observation that at once touches upon fundamental concepts in medicinal chemistry and the chemical origins of life.

Hu intends to continue her research as an independent faculty member to generate more predictive models of molecular permeation and thereby revolutionize existing lead optimization paradigms.

Since 2007, there have been 21 K99 fellows at UCI. Hu is the first K99 awardee from the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences.



“Cell membrane permeability is a fundamental but underexplored area.

We will be using this new technology to generate large-scale structure permeation measurements with an eye toward emerging modalities, such as targeted protein degradation and RNA-targeted drug discovery.”



Juan Hu, PhD
UCI Postdoctoral Fellow

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

VERTEX DAY AT UCI

UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty and PhD students and scientists from Vertex Pharmaceuticals came together for Vertex Day at UCI, a one-day, annual research symposium featuring presentations by graduate students and faculty from the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Vertex Day is a 15+ year tradition. The event included a career panel featuring Vertex Pharmaceuticals scientists and presentations from UCI pharmaceutical sciences faculty and students, as well as keynote speaker Sabine Hadida, PhD, Senior Vice President and Site Head of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, San Diego.

Huda Barhoosh, a PhD candidate in the Paegel Lab, showcased her research, “Activity-Based DEL Screening: Expanding the Druggable Proteome Through Selective Modulation of Translation,” before being presented with the 2022 Vertex Scholar Award by Hadida.

Vertex Scholars are selected based on high potential and promise, exceptional achievements, and proven resilience when faced with challenges. Each award funds a student’s stipend and fees for one year.



“The Vertex Fellowship Program supports promising pharmacological sciences PhD students focusing on leading-edge drug discovery research. We are grateful to Vertex Pharmaceuticals for their generous contributions and support of our graduate program and students. This gift supports our shared commitment to fostering diversity and equity in the STEM field.”

“ **Jan D. Hirsch, BS Pharm, PhD**
Founding Dean







CLINICAL PHARMACY PRACTICE

The Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice engages current and future pharmacists to enhance patient care, promote health equity, and advance science through education, collaboration, innovation, and health policy. Our innovative curriculum focuses on integrative health and patient-centered care.

In robust synergy with UCI Health, the only academic health system in Orange County, UCI is transforming education, discovery, and patient care to benefit the region, state, and nation.

A NEW APPROACH TO OPIOID ADDICTION

Opioid use disorder (OUD) is a complex and complicated problem in the U.S. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **there were a record-breaking 100,306 overdose deaths during the 12-month period ending in April 2021, driven by fentanyl — that's a 28.5% jump from the year-earlier period.**

"Opioid use disorder is a brain disease, not a character defect or personality flaw, and evidence-based, effective treatment of OUD requires medication. Access to treatment is the major issue, and stringent federal and state laws and regulatory policies present substantial obstacles for patients and providers," says **Jonathan Watanabe**, PharmD, PhD, professor of clinical pharmacy and founding associate dean of pharmacy assessment and quality. "We also have to change the public perception of what achieving and maintaining recovery looks like so that, as a society, we can overcome the stigma associated with taking legally prescribed medications for OUD."

Methadone, buprenorphine, and extended-release naltrexone — all approved by the Food and Drug Administration — have successfully been used to treat OUD.

At the federal level, methadone, which has been prescribed for more than 40 years, is the most regulated drug in the country. There are strict guidelines on who can prescribe it (general practitioners cannot), the clinics that are allowed to use it, medication storage, counseling, urine testing, and staffing. Only Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration-certified opioid treatment programs can dispense methadone for OUD, and most states impose further restrictions on clinic locations, testing, and patient medication pickup schedules. The limited number of clinics allowed to use methadone are out of reach for many people due to distance, the requirement for daily visits, or prohibitive program costs.

Although buprenorphine (which was approved by the FDA in 2002) can be prescribed by general practitioners and obtained at neighborhood pharmacies, many ordinary drugstores do not stock the medication — and those that do carry it ration the number of prescriptions filled.

Extended-release naltrexone can be administered by any practitioner licensed to prescribe medications, but treatment requires the development of a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy for each patient, who must receive an intramuscular injection every four weeks.

In March, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy sponsored "Methadone Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder: Examining Federal Regulations and Laws – A Workshop." Watanabe was appointed to the committee to discuss the factors limiting access to treatment, particularly in communities hardest hit by both the opioid crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In April, the Justice Department issued guidance on how the Americans with Disabilities Act protects people who are in medication-assisted OUD treatment from discrimination. This approach, Watanabe believes, will help the public understand that receiving methadone is not illegal drug dispensing by the provider or usage by the patient, but instead, evidence-based care for a disease. He thinks that integrating pharmacists more widely into treatment programs is a key component.



"We must normalize care for addiction. Medications for opioid use disorder open the door for people to regain their quality of life, repair family relationships, and once again become productive members of society."

“**Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, PhD**
Founding Associate Dean
Pharmacy Assessment and Quality

NANA ENTSUAH RECEIVES UC END DISPARITIES PILOT AWARD TO IMPROVE BLOOD PRESSURE CONTROL WITHIN AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY AT UCI

Nana Entsuah, PharmD, health sciences assistant clinical professor, received a two-year pilot award from the UCLA-UCI Center for Eliminating Cardiometabolic Disparities in Multi-Ethnic Populations (UC END DISPARITIES).

The \$80,000 award will be used to improve blood pressure control within the African American community at UCI through a multi-modal and culturally tailored approach.

UC END DISPARITIES focuses on the inequitable multilevel factors, including structural disadvantage, that accelerate the development and progression of cardiometabolic disease and disproportionately affect low-income and minority groups that comprise Los Angeles County and Orange County (combined population of over 13 million).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in the United States.

“For African Americans in the United States, the risk of developing CVD is about 30% higher than their Caucasian counterparts,” says Entsuah.

A variety of factors contribute to this disparity, including non-optimized pharmacotherapy, medication non-adherence, poor transitions of care, financial disparities, inequitable social determinants of health (e.g., poverty, lack of education, lack of access to healthcare), lifestyle, and a lack of comprehensive patient education.

“There is currently limited culturally adapted, lifestyle modification education material specifically catering to the African American community,” says Entsuah.

Entsuah and her research team’s study aims to reduce disparities in hypertension control among African American patients across UCI’s primary care sites through evidence-based medication management, the development of culturally tailored adjunct interventions, and the provision of community resources to meet social needs.

The investigators of the study have partnered with the Institute for Healthcare Advancement, represented by Dr. Marian Ryan.



“It is our hope that this targeted approach will not only improve blood pressure outcomes in this population and consequently reduce healthcare costs, but it will also highlight and provide a much-needed pathway to addressing these critical disparities and gaps in care for this vulnerable population.”



Nana Entsuah, PharmD
Health Sciences Assistant
Clinical Professor



CLINICAL PHARMACY PRACTICE

CAMPUS COLLABORATION AMONG HEALTH SCIENCES AND STUDENT HEALTH RESULTED IN NEARLY 1,900 FLU VACCINES BEING ADMINISTERED

Throughout October and November 2022, volunteers from UCI's School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Program in Public Health, and the Student Health Center launched a campus-wide pop-up flu vaccine clinic for students before the winter season.

The interprofessional partnership set up pop-up clinics along Ring Road to offer flu vaccines to the UCI student body — the majority of the vaccines covered through UC SHIP. Additional health information was given to students on sexual health, monkeypox, and COVID-19, and students could also pick up complimentary COVID-19 antigen tests.



1,900

In total, the efforts resulted in nearly 1,900 flu vaccines administered over the two-month period.

At last year's pop-up clinic, which spanned over three days, nearly 400 vaccines were administered. Considering the strong demand from last year's clinic and the heightened awareness of this year's flu season, there was a roughly 370% increase in vaccines administered compared to the previous year.



“The success of this pop-up clinic was due to the staff at Student Health Services and our pharmacy students who actively engaged students regarding the benefits of getting vaccinated.”



Lee Nguyen, PharmD
*Health Sciences Associate
Clinical Professor*

STUDENT PHARMACIST HUY PHAM SELECTED AS AN INAUGURAL AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CONSULTANT PHARMACISTS (ASCP) STUDENT AMBASSADOR



“I am excited for this opportunity to participate in ASCP’s pilot program. Not only will I be in touch with other student leaders in ASCP chapters across my region, **but I can also begin building the foundation for our own future ASCP student chapter** here at UCI’s School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences.”



Huy Pham
Student Pharmacist

Second-year UCI student pharmacist Huy Pham has been selected by the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) national organization as an inaugural student ambassador to support their mission to improve care for older people.

ASCP is the leading membership association representing pharmacists, healthcare professionals, and students serving the unique medication needs of older adults. ASCP is an international organization with members located in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and 12 countries. The society’s mission is to promote healthy aging by empowering pharmacists with education, resources, and innovative opportunities.

Pham is one of four student pharmacists in the U.S. selected to serve as a student ambassador in this new pilot initiative. Student ambassadors will serve as a liaison between pharmacy students and local, regional, and national ASCP organizations.

NEW FACULTY

HERMAN JOHANNESMEYER, PHARM.D, BCPP



The UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences welcomed Herman Johannesmeyer, PharmD, BCPP, on January 3, 2023 as a new faculty member serving in the role of health sciences assistant clinical professor.

Johannesmeyer received his PharmD from the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. He completed a two-year pharmacotherapy residency at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, Texas.

Before joining UCI, Johannesmeyer held an appointment as an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at the Marshall B. Ketchum University College of Pharmacy in Fullerton, California and maintained a clinical role at Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo, California.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO JOIN THE UCI SCHOOL OF PHARMACY & PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES?

The first and perhaps biggest reason I was drawn to UCI is that the infrastructure around the school is so excellently designed for learning (from the student standpoint) and professional growth (from the faculty standpoint). It's a very special thing for a university to have its own dedicated hospital. The prospect of working at and taking Doctor of Pharmacy students on rotation at the UCI Medical Center, a hospital inherently built around teaching and learning, was an incredibly exciting prospect for me.

FARAH KHORASSANI, PHARM.D, BCPP



The UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences welcomed Farah Khorassani, PharmD, BCPP, as a new faculty member serving in the role of health sciences associate clinical professor starting September 1, 2022.

Prior to joining UCI, Khorassani served as an associate clinical professor at St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and as a clinical pharmacist in psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital Center in New York City.

She received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University at Buffalo and her PharmD from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Worcester, Massachusetts. She later completed a postgraduate year one residency at New York-Presbyterian Hospital at Cornell and Columbia University Medical Center in New York City and a postgraduate year two residency in psychiatric practice at the University of North Carolina Hospitals in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

WHAT WAS MOST MEMORABLE ABOUT THIS PAST ACADEMIC YEAR FOR YOU?

The most memorable part was assisting with developing the Pharmacotherapy Principles to Practice I: Gastrointestinal & Nutrition course (PHMD 203B) and the PY1 and PY2 Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs). It was rewarding to see how much the students learned over the course of the year during their end-of-year OSCE!

FACULTY AWARDS



PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR

Christine Cadiz, PharmD | *San Diego Society of Health-System Pharmacists*



2022-2023 DISTINGUISHED MID-CAREER FACULTY AWARD FOR RESEARCH

John Chaput, PhD | *UC Irvine Academic Senate*



2022 EMERGING MEMBER AWARD

Shawn Griffin, PharmD | *American College of Clinical Pharmacy
Hematology/Oncology Practice and Research Network*



OUTSTANDING SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST AWARD & PAUL SILVERMAN AWARD IN SCIENCE AND ETHICS

Mahtab Jafari, PharmD | *UC Irvine Womxn's Center for Success
& UC Irvine Ethics Center*

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS



2023 CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF HEALTH-SYSTEMS PHARMACISTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christine Cadiz, PharmD



BOARD OF PHARMACY SPECIALTIES COUNCIL: ONCOLOGY PHARMACY

Alexandre Chan, PharmD, MPH



BOARD OF PHARMACY SPECIALTIES COUNCIL: PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACY

Farah Khorassani, PharmD



TASK FORCE OF THE CALIFORNIA BENEFIT REVIEW PROGRAM

Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, PhD





DEAN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Monica Alfaro Welling | *Co-founder and Managing Director*
Atheln, Inc.

Rebecca Cupp | *Vice President of National Pharmacy Controls*
Kaiser Permanente

Matt Dickason | *Chief Operating Officer*
ImmunogenX Inc.

Diana Hendel | *Senior Partner*
Partnership Advantage

Assad Kazeminy | *Chairman*
AJK Biopharmaceutical, LLC

Jonathan Kowalski | *Executive Vice President and Head*
HEOR at Lumanity

Anthony Morreale, Chair of DLC | *Associate Chief Consultant*
Department of Veterans Affairs Pharmacy Benefits Management

Quan Nguyen | *Partner*
Nguyen Tarbet, LLC

David (Dave) Tang | *Vice President, Global Medical Operations*
AbbVie

Jeff Yuen | *Founder, Principal, President, and CEO*
Jeff Yuen & Associates

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP



Jan D. Hirsch, BS Pharm, PhD
Founding Dean



Melanie Joe, PharmD
*Founding Associate
Dean of Pharmacy Professional Affairs*



Sarah McBane, PharmD
*Founding Associate
Dean of Pharmacy Education*



Megan Nguyen, PharmD
*Founding Associate
Dean of Pharmacy Student Affairs*



Rob Spitale, PhD
*Founding Associate
Dean of Research*



Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, PhD
*Founding Associate
Dean of Pharmacy Assessment and Quality*

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES



Andrej Luptak, PhD
Chair



David Mobley, PhD
Vice Chair of Graduate Studies



Sam Schriener, PhD
Vice Chair of Undergraduate Studies

DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PHARMACY PRACTICE



Alexandre Chan, PharmD, MPH
Founding Chair



MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT

We are deeply grateful to the friends, alumni, and corporations who support the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. Your generosity helps make it possible for our students, faculty, research, and programs to continue to accelerate scientific, clinical, and educational innovations.

If you are interested in investing in the future of the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, we invite you to consider a philanthropic gift to one of these areas:

FOUNDING PARTNERS SCHOLARSHIP

Founding Dean Jan Hirsch created the Founding Partners Scholarship for undergraduates who belong to historically underrepresented groups or who aspire to address social inequities in pharmacy or pharmaceutical sciences. A gift of any amount will help us further promote a culture in which an inclusive student body is able to grow and thrive.

FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

Your gift will provide support for the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences' top strategic priorities. Whether it funds breakthrough research, improved facilities, or student support, any gift — small or large — can make a big impact!

WHITE COAT FUND

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