Graduate student awards

**Clay Wang promotion**

Department chair, Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, is delighted to announce the promotion of Clay Wang to Associate Professor effective immediately. (more on Wang, page 9).

**Marco Bortolato**

has recently been appointed as Research Assistant Professor. He is a member of the laboratory of Jean C. Shih.

**Tocagen grant for Wolf**

Walter Wolf and his team, as part of his program using noninvasive 19F magnetic resonance spectroscopy (19F-MRS), is beginning to evaluate the ability to detect the (more on Wolf, page 4)
Dear colleagues:

It has again been a busy and productive term.

My congratulations go out to Dr. Clay Wang who has just been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, a much deserved recognition!

I'd also like to congratulate this year's graduates:

Our MS degree recipients in PPSI include Melinda Hom, Pang-Yu Hseuh, Srikanth Janga and Ling Ren.

Our Ph.D. degree recipients in PPSI include Min Chen, Omar Khalid, Xu Li, Shanshan Liu and Daya Perkins.

Our graduate students fared well in a number of internal and national competitions for fellowship funding; my congratulations go out to our young stars featured on the front page of this newsletter.

Many faculty this term spent considerable time preparing applications for the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds made available to NIH, a much needed infusion of (unfortunately) short term cash into NIH. I congratulate all of these faculty for their extra efforts in responding to this challenge, and in serving on numerous additional study sections to evaluate this bolus of grants during the summer.

Of note in the newsletter, our newest faculty member, Andrew MacKay, has received his first research grant from the USC Research Center for Liver Diseases.

You will also note updates from two former PSCI graduates, Uday Kompella and Joan-En Chang Lin, on their lives post-USC (other graduates, please get in touch with us if you wish to be featured).

I wish you all a happy and productive summer!
Jim Adams

- Ran his 14th LA Marathon (his 18th–all marathons); his fastest for 26.2 miles: 5 hours, 7 minutes, 45 seconds. If you want to sponsor his effort, please go to http://firstgiving.com/jimadams or send a check to Child SHARE, 1544 West Glenoaks Blvd, Glendale, CA 91201. Your gift is tax deductible and benefits abused and abandoned children (www.childshare.org).
- Led a medicinal plant hike in the Deukmejian Wilderness Park, Glendale CA, May 2.
- Presented on the topic about Chumash healing at the Pasadena Sierra Club, April 1, the Montrose Sierra Club, Duckmejian Wilderness Park, April 4, and the Topanga Canyon Docents, Malibu Creek, April 5.
- Attended meeting of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), NIH basic science study section, March 1-3.

Enrique Cadenas

- External reviewer for the Nathan Shock Aging Center in San Antonio, Texas on February 3 and 4.
- Invited speaker for the Spring 2009 seminar series of the University of California at Merced on February 5. Title of talk: Metabolic control of aging and neurodegeneration.
- Attended the Gordon Research Conference: 2009 Oxidative Stress and Disease, in Tuscany, Italy on March 9-13, as a discussion leader in the Diabetes/Mitochondrial Dysfunction session.
- Served as a moderator at a Conference on Micronutrients, Exercise, Energy & Aging Disorders in Paris, France on April 7-10.
- Guest speaker at the 3rd International Congress of Molecular Medicine in Istanbul, Turkey on May 6. Title of talk: “Metabolic targets in a model of Alzheimer’s disease.”
- Attended the International Courses on Toxicology 2009 at the University of Coimbra, Portugal last May 7-8, as an invited speaker for two sessions:
  - Mitochondrial bioenergetics in neurodegeneration and Mitochondrial oxidative/nitrosative stress & the thiol/disulfide exchange system
  - Attended the Diet & Optimum Health Conference of the Linus Pauling Institute, in Portland, Oregon, on May 13-15. He is a member of the International Scientific Advisory Board of the Institute.
Julio Camarero

- Will be assisting the American Peptide Symposium in Indiana University in Bloomington on June 7-12, and the European Protein Society Meeting in Zurich, Switzerland, on June 13-18.

  In both conferences he will be presenting recent work in the development and use of protein splicing for the production and cell-based screening of molecular libraries using the cyclotide scaffold. Cyclotides are medium sized circular polypeptides naturally found in plants. Cyclotides contrast with other circular polypeptides in that they have highly defined, three-dimensional structures, and despite their small size, can be considered as miniproteins. Because of their unique circular backbone and knotted arrangement of the three disulfide bonds, cyclotides are exceptionally stable to thermal and enzymatic degradation. Further, their well-defined structures have been associated with a range of biological activities, including uterotonic, hemolytic, anti-HIV, insecticidal, and trypsin inhibitory activities, and inhibition of neurotension binding. These characteristics make cyclotides ideal candidates to be used as molecular scaffolds for new ligand/drug design and discovery.

Andrew MacKay

Barley a six-month old assistant professor, Andrew MacKay received a $37,500 award from the USC Research Center for Liver Diseases for his study entitled, "Hepatic trafficking and anti-tumor activity of genetically engineered glyco-celles." This is the RCLD’s top award for pilot projects and is renewable for two years.

Nouri Neamati

- Panel reviewer of the following study sections:
  - The Department of Defense (DOD) Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) last March.
  - The Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) last April.
  - NIH Drug Discovery and Molecular Pharmacology Study Section [DMP] last May 27-29.

- Presented an abstract at the 100th annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in Denver CO, on April 18-22.

Sarah Hamm-Alvarez

- Invited speaker at UCLA on May 19:
  - Department of Human Genetics; title of talk: “Rabs and Myosins in lacrimal acinar secretory vesicle exocytosis.”
  - Department of Molecular Medicine; title of talk: “Tear protein production and release by the lacrimal gland: insights into mechanisms associated with Sjogren’s syndrome.”

- Attended the Keck Viterbi Research Retreat on May 12 and talked about the research in the School of Pharmacy.

- Attended the ARVO (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology) Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale on May 1-7. Lab presented two posters:
  - Xu S, Marchelletta RR, Chiang L, Okamoto C, Hamm-Alvarez SF. "Rab11a Distribution and Role in Trafficking of the Polymeric Immunoglobulin A Receptor in Primary Rabbit Lacrimal Gland Acinar Cells.”

- Speaker at the Gordon Conference in Galveston Texas on February 8–13, for the Salivary and Exocrine Gland study section. Title of talk: "Trafficking of rab27b-enriched vesicles in lacrimal acini.”

- Attended NIH study sections last February 3-5 and another upcoming one on June 3-4. The latter date will be her last session and she will be stepping down as chair of the Gene and Drug Delivery System study section.

- Served as session moderator during the Annual West Coast Salt & Water Meeting in Morro Bay, CA on March 13–15.

Walter Wolf

(continued from page 1)

conversion of 5-fluorocytosine (5FC) to 5-fluorouracil (5FU) in patients with brain tumors using the new 3T research magnet. Initial funding for such studies has been made possible by a gift from “Tocagen”, a biopharmaceutical company pursuing the discovery, development and commercialization of products for the treatment of cancer.

- Organized and chaired (in collaboration with Prof. Lowell Schnipper, Theodore W. and Evelyn G. Berenson Professor of Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA) the 5th annual session on Ethical Issues in Cancer Research. The topic in this year’s meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research was: “Ethical Issues in Publications,” and one of the four invited speakers was Vincent H.L. Lee, now Dean of Pharmacy at the The Chinese University of Hong Kong. This was again a very timely presentation exploring how scientists must stress both accuracy and honesty in publications.

- Participated in the 2009 Imaging Biomarkers Roundtable in Chicago last March 16-17.

(to page 9, please)
**GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS**

**Li-Peng Yap,** a postdoc in the laboratory of Enrique Cadenas, gave a 25-minute talk entitled, “The energy-redox axis in aging and neurodegeneration,” summarizing current work carried out in their laboratory. She spoke at the SFRR (Society of Free Radical Research) Symposium in Paris, France on April 8-10, 2009.

The French SFRR, a component of SFRR Europe, organized the 3rd symposium on “Nutrition, Oxygen, Biology and Medicine.” This symposium is a joint meeting with the Oxygen Club of California (OCC). It was an international meeting drawing scientists from all over the globe, such as France, Germany, Spain, etc, aimed at discussing the mechanisms associated with exercise and nutrition in modulating age-related degenerative diseases.

Other USC participants in the meeting were Lester Packer, Kelvin Davies and Enrique Cadenas. Dr. Cadenas served as one of the chairs in the section “Exercise, Energy Utilization, Oxidative Stress, and Antioxidants.”

**Awards**

**Daya Iyer Perkins,** from the laboratory of Ronald Alkana, is a recipient of a university-wide student recognition “Order of Arete” award. The word “arete” in Greek means valor and virtue constituting good character. Subsequently, she has been inducted to the “Rho Chi” and “Phi Kappa Phi” honor societies. Daya is a dual degree graduate this May: Ph.D. in Molecular Pharmacology & Toxicology and Master’s in Regulatory Science.

**Tino Sanchez,** from the laboratory of Nouri Neamati, is the recipient of the Dissertation Award by the California HIV/AIDS Research Program. The award came with a funding of $50,000 for two years. He is working toward the development of drugs for patients with HIV. The disease works by invading an immune cell, using three key enzymes - protease, reverse transcriptase, and integrase - for replication. His work targets the integrase enzyme as it is key in allowing viral DNA to invade host cells. Among HIV therapies, there is currently only one integrase inhibitor that is FDA-approved.

**Shi (Ben) Xu,** from the laboratory of Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, is awarded the SSF (Sjögren’s Syndrome Foundation) Student Fellowship for his project, “Rab11a in the transcytosis of polymeric immunoglobulin receptor (pIgR) in lacrimal gland acinar cells.” Katherine M. Hammitt, SSF’s vice president of research, stated in her email announcing the award to Shi that “…the Research Review Committee had very high praise for your project in particular.” The summer fellowship that will start on July 1 and end on September 30, 2009 came with a monetary award of $3,000.

**James Sanchez,** from the laboratory of Clay Wang, received the fellowship award from AFPE (American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education) beginning September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010, for his research entitled, “The study of the *Aspergillus nidulans* metabolome in the post-genomic era.” The prestigious honor came with a $6,000 monetary award. AFPE wrote in their letter to James that he “… joined a distinguished group of men and women who have received this award in national competition since 1942.”

**Erik Serrao,** another graduate student from the laboratory of Nouri Neamati, has been awarded USC’s Oakley Endowed Fellowship for the academic year 2009-2010. The award includes a stipend of $19,000, up to 12 units of tuition in each of the fall and spring semesters, payment of health and dental insurance, and some mandatory fees. Erik’s project is entitled “Discovery of New Biomarkers and Development of Novel Anti-HIV Peptidic Compounds.” Within this project Erik plans to uncover human proteins that actually facilitate HIV’s replication cycle. These human proteins make specific interactions with HIV proteins. Once these human proteins are known and their roles in infection are characterized, Erik will proceed with developing novel compounds to inhibit the specific interactions that they make with HIV, while still leaving them free to carry out their natural function.

**Letisha Wyatt,** a graduate student from the laboratories of Ronald Alkana and Daryl Davies, is another recipient of the AFPE (American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education) Fellowship Award, also covering the dates from September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

Letisha is urged to identify herself as an AFPE Fellow, joining a group so bestowed deservedly since 1942.
I graduated with a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 1994 under the supervision of Prof. Vincent H.L. Lee at USC. My thesis work involved investigations of the role of ion transport processes in drug transport across the conjunctiva of the eye. I currently serve as a Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Ophthalmology at the University of Colorado Denver (UCD). My research interests include the development of nanotechnology for drug and gene delivery as well as the development of therapeutic agents to treat neovascular and degenerative disorders. Specifically, my laboratory is working on improving the treatment options for diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, and cancers. Additionally, I coordinate a graduate course entitled “Nanotechnology and Drug Delivery” at UCD.

I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent at USC. It was a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary experience for me. My friends originated from virtually everywhere in the world: Japan, Korea, China, Nepal, India, and even the US. My graduate thesis committee was almost as diverse with members from three different departments. A Physiology Department graduate course in biophysics became the basis for my graduate research. Some of my friends from USC have gone on to sponsor my research from industry. Although I joined USC with the intention of pursuing a career in industry, the examples set by my mentor as well as other Professors at USC convinced me to pursue an academic career instead.

Prior to finding an academic position, I worked as a Research Scientist at Balance Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a USC start-up company, focused on developing nasal spray formulations of deslorelin, a peptide drug. In about five months of working experience with Balance, I got to visit...
scientists of Southern Research Institute, Alza Corporation, and Inhale Therapeutic Systems, Inc. Perhaps the most exciting experience for me at this time was to accompany John Daniels (the co-founder of Balance Pharmaceuticals), along with my wife Syamala, in John’s personal aircraft with John at the controls. Somehow we got from Santa Monica to Palo Alto in one piece. What had started as a brief working experience turned into a rewarding long-term collaboration with Balance Pharmaceuticals, Inc. After my departure from the company, Balance Pharmaceuticals maintained my stock options and retained me as a consultant for several years. Although the company itself could not advance to late stage clinical trials due to hormone replacement therapy controversies, the experience helped me to develop a focus on respiratory drug delivery in my laboratory. Indeed, we are still continuing our work with deslorelin. Our nanoparticle technologies based on deslorelin are now the basis of a new startup company, NanoTrans Technologies, Inc., in New York.

In the fall of 1994, I accepted an Assistant Professor position at Auburn University. Auburn is a pretty university town with a culture conducive to social interactions with colleagues. Also, Auburn ingrained in me a great respect for teaching and collegiality. It was at Auburn University that I initiated my research program in drug delivery through assistance from Balance Pharmaceuticals, Inc. as well as Alcon Laboratories, Inc.

After four years as a faculty member at Auburn University, I was recruited by University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in 1998. The attraction of UNMC was the high degree of focus within our department on drug delivery and the interest of NIH in funding these sorts of projects. The move to Nebraska helped me to begin to address questions/issues that the agency may have. My role as a PKDM scientist also includes mentoring to technical staff and developing novel techniques to address ADME (absorption, distribution, metabolism, elimination) of drug development. I interact closely with various groups such as toxicology/pathology, biological sciences, bioanalytical, clinical, formulation, and regulatory on projects during the drug development process. My ability to achieve department and company goals is accomplished with collaboration and help of colleagues that I interact with on a daily basis. This is truly a great team work environment.

My early years as a teaching assistant in the PharmD program at USC made me realize that I really enjoy teaching and mentoring students. I am constantly reminded of my love for mentoring and teaching at the American University of Health Sciences (AUHS) where I serve as an adjunct faculty and an advisory board member in their PharmD program. I have also been asked to mentor students at Cal State Fullerton and the University of California, Irvine. In addition, I also meet with rotating PharmD interns from USC annually to talk about my role as a scientist at Allergan and answer any questions they may have about the drug development process. I have been blessed with many mentors in my life and if I can bless someone in the same way, I would have reached one of my personal goals.

One major highlight of my life after USC has been the birth of my daughter, Joelle, in 2005. I have thoroughly enjoyed motherhood. Juggling a career and family had proven to be quite a challenge; one which I am enjoying every step of the way. I am happy to announce that we are expecting our second child (girl) in August of this year.

All the best to everyone!
A newly-arrived short-term visiting scholar at the laboratory of Andrew McKay is Jenan Abid who is from Altrincham, Cheshire, England. She is an undergraduate student at the University of London, School of Pharmacy. While in USC until June 2009, Jenan will be studying the development of ELP vectors for drug delivery.

Fuhou Chang, a visiting scholar at the Ron Alkana/Daryl Davies Laboratories, is from Inner Mongolia, People’s Republic of China. He is a professor at the Department of Pharmacology at the Inner Mongolia Medical College, Inner Mongolia University, his alma mater for his medical master (pharmacology) and Ph.D. (zoology, molecular genetics) education.

Roberto Frau is from Italy. He completed his university degree in biological sciences (with honors, *cum laude*) and Ph.D. in the Department of Neuroscience at the University of Cagliari in 2007. At this same institution, he is currently on studentship specialization at the School of Pharmacology. As a visiting scholar at the laboratory of Jean C. Shih, he is studying the effects of 5-α-reductase inhibitors on the aggressive and compulsive behaviors in MAO A deficient mice.

Just like Jenan Abid, visiting scholar Sachin Patel is newly arrived and is also an undergraduate student from the University of London, School of Pharmacy. He resides in Wembley, London, England. He is working in the laboratories of Drs. Ronald Alkana and Daryl Davies until June 2009. His project study is researching the effects of LPS on the Hpept1 transporter.

Luis Berrade Urbano was born, raised and educated in Pamplona, Spain. His alma mater for higher education is Pamplona’s University of Navarra, finishing his Ph.D. with honors (*cum laude*) in 2007. Now he is in the laboratory of Julio Camarero for his postdoctoral stint, studying synthesis of new photocaged polypeptides with medical application for the treatment of the pneumonic and bubonic plagues.

Maria Charlotta Edman is from Sweden. She finished her bachelor’s degree in medical biology at the Linköping University; her graduate studies at the University of Kalmar. She started as a visiting scholar in 2007 at the laboratory of Sarah Hamm-Alvarez and is now a postdoctoral research associate, studying the trafficking pathways of the polymeric immunoglobulin receptor in the mouse lacrimal gland.

Kuan-Han Lee is from Taiwan, Republic of China. He is a professor at the Graduate Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chia Nan University of Pharmacy and Science. He finished his bachelor of science at the School of Pharmacy, Kaohsiung Medical University. He took his master of science degree and graduate studies at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the same university. At the laboratory of Clay Wang he will be studying the genomic mining of secondary metabolism in fungi.
Carsten Ehrhardt, adjunct faculty member of the department, is instrumental in cementing a new relationship between USC School of Pharmacy and the Trinity College Dublin School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Ireland. An academic exchange will be promoted by the two schools for the students (graduate and undergraduate), postdocs and faculty.

Ehrhardt has been lecturing for the graduate students of the department and an invited speaker for the seminar series last March 27. The title of his talk was “Development of liposome aerosols for (lung) cancer therapy by inhalation.”

Ehrhardt is a senior lecturer in pharmaceutics and pharmaceutical technology and the director of research at the Trinity College. He took his pharmacy degree at the Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt and Hamburg University. For his doctorate (doctor rerum naturalium), he graduated summa cum laude in Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany. For two summers in 2001 and 2006, Ehrhardt worked at the laboratory of Kwang-Jin Kim of the Keck School of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Kim has a secondary faculty appointment at the department.

Clay Wang

As a visiting professor, he gave a series of three lectures to the students and faculty of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Toyama. His travel was hosted by Professor Ken-ichi Hosoya.
**Baby boom at the Nouri Neamati Lab**

Not only is the laboratory of Nouri Neamati very productive in publishing manuscripts but also in producing babies. Four of his postdocs had babies within a year.

First of these babies is Leonardo, who is born to **Fedora Grande** and husband, Nicola, on July 10, 2008 at 8:40 p.m. (Italy time), weighing 7.93 lbs. and 20" long

Next is **Rambabu Gundla**’s baby, Umesh Kumar Bhat, with wife, Pushpa Latha Gundla. Umesh was born on October 17, 2008 at 4:30 p.m., also 20 “ long, weighing 7 lbs.

The biggest sentiment is expressed by **Xuefei Cao**. “My husband and I have been really busy with parenting. I want to thank everybody in Dr. Neamati’s lab for their support during my pregnancy. Being a mom is a major milestone in my life. From the first day of my pregnancy, I was surrounded by the love and care from everybody in Dr. Neamati’s lab. I have to say that without their unconditional support, I could not have gone through this pregnancy so smoothly.”

Baby Nicky Shi

**Wei-Chiang and Daisy Shen’s first grandchild**

**Layla Shen** was born to the Shens’ son, Jerry, and wife, Lauren, on March 13, 2009, weighing 7 lbs. & 4 oz., 20” long.

**Natalie’s delights**

Born to Natalie Bilbrey’s daughter, Heather Nelson, on November 12, 2008, is Kaylee Grace, weighing 6 lbs. and 13 oz. and 18.5” long, to the delight of brother, Michael Seger Palmer, who turned seven last February 20, 2009.

Natalie belongs to the department’s business office.

The last, and surely not the least of the Neamati Lab babies, is **Raveendra Dayam**’s baby boy, Jayanth, who was born on April 28, 2009 at 1:12 p.m., weighing 6.5 lbs. and 19” long. Mother is Raveena Bollaram, Rav’s wife.

Baby Jayanth Dayam
SEMINAR SERIES

Steve Pandol, UCLA, October 10, 2008
Faculty Host: Roger F. Duncan
Title: Challenges in pancreatic cancer research and treatment

George Kenyon, College of Pharmacy, University of Michigan, February 6, 2009
Faculty Host: Nouri Neamati
Informal Gathering Luncheon

William A. Goddard, Caltech, February 27, 2009
Faculty Host: Nouri Neamati
Title: Predicted 3D structures for coupled receptors G-protein and ligand-GPCR complexes for agonists, antagonists, and inverse agonists

Xiaodong Zhang, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore, March 3, 2009
Faculty Host: Jean C. Shih
Title: Functional analysis of the neuronal-specific tryptophan hydroxylase-2: implications for the role of serotonin in psychiatric disorders

John Shyy, UC Riverside, March 6, 2009
Faculty Host: Bangyan Stiles
Title: Statin, Exercise, and AMPK

Esteban C. Dell’Angelica, UCLA, March 20, 2009
Faculty Host: Sarah Hamm-Alvarez
Title: Endosomal protein trafficking, Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome and schizophrenia

Carsten Ehrhardt, University of Dublin, Ireland, March 27, 2009
Faculty Host: Sarah Hamm-Alvarez
Title: Development of liposome aerosols for lung cancer therapy by inhalation

GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINARS

Ni Zeng, February 4, 2009
Advisor: Bangyan Stiles
Student Host: Xiaoying Chen
Title: Regulation of beta cell quiescence to proliferation by PTEN

Robert Mo, February 11, 2009
Advisor: Wei-Chiang Shen
Student Host: Ni Zeng
Title: Design of siRNA polyplex for enhanced cellular uptake

Yumna Shabaik, March 4, 2009
Advisor: PC
Student Host: Robert Mo
Title: Discovery and preclinical development of AS421 for treatment of pancreatic cancer

Liya Xu, March 17, 2009
Advisor: Ronald Alkana
Student Host: Yumna Shabaik
Title: Mutagenesis and cysteine scanning of transmembrane 10 of the human dipeptide transporter

Jared Russell, March 24, 2009
Advisor: Stan Louie
Student Host: Liya Xu
Title: Liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry method development for small molecules

Anna Scott, April 7, 2009
Advisor: Jean Shih
Student Host: Fei Yin
Title: Inhibition of nitric oxide synthase in monoamine oxidase-deficient mice

Shi (Ben) Xu, April 14, 2009
Advisor: Sarah Hamm-Alvarez
Student Host: Anna Scott
Title: Rab11a-mediated cargo protein sorting and transcytosis in lacrimal gland acinar cells

KOMPELLA (from page 7)

developing the biological aspects of my research. At UNMC my laboratory established and worked with animal models for diabetic retinopathy, choroid neovascularization, and lung cancer. Omaha is an excellent place for raising family. Both our kids, Swathi (8 years) and Rohini (4 years) were born in Omaha. My Nebraska experience was helpful in establishing my research in the area of drug delivery, especially retinal drug delivery. I was fortunate to have worked with some of the most accomplished drug delivery scientists at UNMC.

After a rewarding 10 years experience at UNMC, in March 2008 I relocated to University of Colorado Denver along with all eight members of the laboratory. At UCD we have a Pharmaceutical Sciences Department that reminds me of the faculty at USC. In addition to pharmaceutics and biophysics, we have a significant focus on toxicology including alcoholism and oxidative stress research. In addition, the UCD School of Pharmacy, while being successful in being ranked in the top 10 schools of pharmacy for NIH funding, encourages and appreciates translational research as well. Indeed, the campus has a successful track record in commercializing technologies, especially those related to biotechnology. A key attraction at UCD and the affiliated National Jewish Hospital is its number one National Ranking in respiratory research. While continuing my research in retinal drug delivery, at UCD I hope to better establish myself in respiratory drug delivery. Also, Denver and the surrounding area is beautiful and offers many opportunities for outdoor activities including hiking and skiing.

Do visit us when you are in Denver!
**PUBLICATIONS**

**Roberta Brinton**


**Ian Haworth**


**Andrew MacKay**


**Nouri Neamati**


**Rajindar Sohal**


**Enrique Cadenas**


This study was featured in news media including MSNBC News, Japan Times, ScienceDaily, the National Cancer Institute Bulletin, and Medical News Today.

Axel Schonthal has a secondary appointment with the Department.

**Wei-Chiang Shen**

Amet N, Lee HF and Shen WC: Insertion of the designed helical linker led to increased expression of Tf-based fusion proteins. Pharm Res 26; 523-528, 2009. PMID: 19002568


**Jean C. Shih**


**Bangyan Stiles**


happy faces! graduation day!

Xu Li with mentors, David Ann (R) and Wei-Chiang Shen (L)

Omar Khalid with Dean Pete Vanderveen and mentor, Ron Alkana

Shanshan Liu with the Dean and mentor, Stan Louie

Pang-Yu "Aaron" Hsueh

Shanshan Liu

Aaron with Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, mentor

Min Chen, Daya Perkins and Xu Li

The hooding of Daya by mentors, Daryl Davies and Ron Alkana

Kai-Jin Wu and Aaron’s prized moment – a pose with the Dean

Srikanth Janga with brother Ravi Kiran (L) and cousin, Kiran Sugana (R)

Faculty during graduation march: (L-R) Andrew MacKay, Bangyan Stiles and Clay Wang

Graduates lining up.

Wei-Chiang Shen and Walter Wolf

At the reception-champagne table: (Staff L-R) Josie Morales, Joanne Lee and Celso De La Cruz.

Daya Perkins with family.