Medication Experts with a New Attitude
Pharmacy Residents
An up-close look at five USC residents as they hone their skills and expertise.

Gifts that Keep on Giving
Estate gifts that touch the lives of students and support cutting-edge research today and far into the future.

FEATURES

Old Friends… New Friends
The School of Pharmacy and Allergan share a storied past and a hopeful future—celebrated at a recent event...

USC IS “SMART EMPLOYER”
In Drug Topics Article
School of Pharmacy Dean R. Pete Vanderveen partnered with Director of USC Health Plans Lisa Macchia to offer USC employees and dependents, covered by the USC Medical Plan, an opportunity to be part of the Diabetes Ten City Challenge, a national program that gives patients the opportunity to meet regularly with pharmacists in an effort to better manage their diabetes. The Diabetes Ten City Challenge is a smart, collaborative approach where the healthcare team joins forces to help the patient reach therapeutic goals. You can read the full article online—go to drugtopics.com and select the May 12 issue cover story.
Pharmacy Residents—
Medication Experts with
a New Attitude.

Featured on the cover are Community Pharmacy Resident Melissa Durham, Ambulatory Care Resident Stephanie Iniguez and Acute Care Resident Teddy Nguyen.

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Pharmacy Residents—
Medication Experts with a New Attitude.

Featured on the cover are Community Pharmacy Resident Melissa Durham, Ambulatory Care Resident Stephanie Iniguez and Acute Care Resident Teddy Nguyen.
“It has, indeed, been a very good year.

Our students have once again won awards and been recognized for exemplary work in state and national competitions. At Commencement, we celebrated this good news as we honored our graduates—178 Pharm.D.’s, 42 M.S. recipients, 12 Ph.D.’s, 32 residents and 4 fellows. As they walked on stage to receive their earned degrees and certificates, I was inspired to be among them and their supportive family and friends. Now I look forward to the good things that these new graduates will bring to our community and our nation.”

—Dean R. Pete Vanderveen, Ph.D., R.Ph.
left: Professor Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, the Gavin S. Herbert Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, hoods new M.S. graduate Melinda Hom.
middle: Staff member Jenik Movssesian celebrated Commencement with her favorite new Pharm.D., daughter Leah.
right: Class President Ashley Thompson observed, “We are finished with school and we are now doctors. We have a bright future ahead of us.”

USC SCHOOL OF PHARMACY STUDENT AWARDS

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION
GATEWAY TO RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP
Diana Xuan Cao

PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
Anna Scott

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION-
ACADEMY OF STUDENT PHARMACISTS
STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD
Brandi Chock

NATIONAL OPERATION IMMUNIZATION AWARD
Dong Dao and Nicholas Ferrarella

PROJECT CHANCE AWARD
Kelly Chang

REGION 8 HEARTBURN AWARENESS CHALLENGE AWARD
Christine Tran

REGION 8 OPERATION DIABETES AWARD
Tapasaya Desai and Margie Patel

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS
ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AWARD
Class of 2008: Christina Phan
Class of 2009: Todd Okamoto

US PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AWARD
Karine Danskey

CALIFORNIA PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION
STUDENT OF THE YEAR
Danielle Colayco

PROJECT HYPERTENSION AWARD
Helen Lee and Christina Qi

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY PHARMACOECONOMICS AND
OUTCOMES RESEARCH
BEST STUDENT PODIUM PRESENTATION
Ning Gu

NATIONAL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION
CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

PHARMACY FOUNDATION OF CALIFORNIA FILM FESTIVAL
FIRST PLACE
Bonnie Hui

RHO CHI
CHAPTER PROJECT PROPOSAL AWARD
“Mental Health and Sleep Disorders”
Michelle Carillo

USC OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Hae Sun Suh

USC STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD
Danielle Colayco
A few decades ago, residency programs for pharmacists were few and far between. No more. Times have changed and the demand for residency positions in pharmacy is trending upward on an accelerated course—from 435 spots nationwide in 1980 to 1,751 spots in 2008... and growing.
Each year, approximately 9,000 Pharm.D. degrees are conferred across the country. Typically, of these, about 16% proceed into residency training programs. These new doctors of pharmacy enter into a year of training that aims to provide an accelerated growth experience that expands their pharmacy competencies, communication skills with patients and other health care team members, and advanced problem-solving abilities. In some cases, residents continue their training for a second year, allowing them an opportunity to specialize.

At a time when the demand for pharmacists is high and companies offer signing bonuses to sweeten six-figure starting salaries to fresh Pharm.D. graduates, why does a new professional choose a postgraduate program?

“Sure, residents are paid less than half of what their classmates, who immediately enter the workforce, make. But, this added training ultimately gives them an edge in the job market—both in terms of salary and a wider choice of positions,” says William C. Gong, Pharm.D. (’74), director of residency and fellowship training at USC.

Further, a June 2007 report on the long-range vision for the pharmacy workforce, published in the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacists notes, “Medication use in hospitals and health systems is a prominent therapy for virtually all patients, and it is inherently complex and dangerous...Interdisciplinary teams will rely on the pharmacist leadership for safe use of medications.”

The residency fine tunes this leadership characteristic of a newly-minted doctor of pharmacy. Here’s a look at five USC residents, reflective of pharmacy residents across the country, who are practicing in a myriad of settings and caring for a diverse patient population. In short, here’s a look at the budding medication experts on today’s health care team—practicing with a new attitude.

**ACUTE CARE RESIDENT:**
**TEDDY NGUYEN, PHARM.D.**
**USC UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND NORRIS COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER**

It’s hard to catch up with Dr. Teddy Nguyen—on some days he might be leading a case discussion with Pharm.D. students or working in the satellite pharmacy in the recovery room managing pain in post-operative patients or doing rounds with a healthcare team of physicians, pharmacists, nurses, residents and students. His days are fast paced and packed with experiences that will allow him to be a “better clinical pharmacist”.

“A lot of people equate a residency year with three to four years of actual work experience,” says Nguyen. “It really bridges the gap between full-time student and full-time professional.”

Working as an acute care resident has provided Nguyen with a broad experience in various hospital settings. He has even shadowed Scott Evans, Pharm.D. (’98), chief operating officer of USC University Hospital, giving him an opportunity to consider what it takes to manage a hospital.

Also at the hospital, Nguyen has worked with transplant patients where the attending pharmacist may be managing a dozen or more drugs for one patient.

Here he saw how vitally important the pharmacist is to the entire team. “They never start rounds without Dr. Kevin Forrester, the pharmacist in charge of transplant patients at University Hospital. They
look to him for drug information and they trust him so much,” says Nguyen.

This broad experience has led him to consider future options that before were not very familiar to him. One of these is the time he has spent at the Norris Cancer Center’s clinic that serves patients on an outpatient basis.

“My oncology experience has really stood out. Working at Norris and seeing the severity of disease in some cases has really made me realize how profoundly the pharmacist can help these patients cope with their disease by providing them the right meds,” he says. “I’ve been able to build relationships with many of these patients and it has been very satisfying. I admire so many of them.”

COMMUNITY PHARMACY RESIDENT: MELISSA J. DURHAM, PHARM.D. (’07)
USC PHARMACIES

Melissa Durham looks out at a future where the pharmacist plays the role on the health care team that best fits the education and experience of the profession while meeting the pressing needs of today’s patients. She knows that the pharmacist role, especially in the community setting, is evolving and she is committed to being part of that evolution.

“I want to be part of the change in community pharmacy. I want to help figure out how we can best care for our patients in new and better ways in the community setting,” says Durham.

In earlier decades, most pharmacy residents were those seeking careers in places like hospitals, nursing homes and clinics. Pharmacists who practiced in the community, whether in retail, independent or specialty pharmacies, usually did not pursue residency training. Today, community pharmacy is a popular residency focus throughout the country.

“USC was the first community practice residency program in California,” says Jeff Goad, Pharm.D. (‘04), MPH, who directs the USC community practice residency. “In the future, residency training will be necessary for all community pharmacists to meet the ever growing complexity of patient care in the community setting.” Goad completed his residency at USC in 1995.
As the nation’s most accessible health care provider, today’s community pharmacist offers services far beyond the dispensing of drugs with the attendant evaluation of appropriateness of the medication and dosage, adverse effects and interactions. “We do this and lots more,” says Durham.

“Community pharmacists provide immunizations, screen for diseases, compound specialty medicines, and ready people for international travel,” says Kari Trotter Wall, Pharm.D. (’03), director of the USC pharmacy on the University Park Campus where Durham’s residency is primarily based. “We also do medication therapy management, regularly meeting with patients who have chronic diseases, like diabetes and asthma, monitoring their progress and devising plans to help them reach therapeutic goals.”

Trotter Wall believes the residency year builds confidence and leadership skills in a new Pharm.D. and these are “vitally important to a successful expanded community practice”.

In addition to fanning the flame that ignites Durham’s dedication to community pharmacy, the residency has provided her with an opportunity to teach Pharm.D. and physician assistant students. “I may pursue an academic career as a result of this experience. That allows me to share my enthusiasm with others while also developing new pharmacy paradigms in patient care.”

COMMUNITY PHARMACY RESIDENT:
EMMANUELLE MIRSAKOV, PHARM.D. (’07)
RALPHS CORPORATION

“At Ralphs, patients call the pharmacist ‘doctor’. This is pretty unique in the community setting and it reflects the company’s attitude toward the profession,” says Emmanuelle Mirsakov who is doing her USC residency at Ralphs.

Mirsakov’s residency is community focused with a twist—providing her with corporate experience at Ralphs headquarters in Compton as well as traditional community pharmacy experience. At the corporate office, Mirsakov creates business plans and protocols for new pharmacy clinical services under the direction of her preceptor Linh Lee, Pharm.D. (’01), who herself completed the USC Ralphs residency in 2002.

According to Lee, the Ralphs residency supports the resident in the corporate setting, at a Ralphs community pharmacy and at safety-net clinic sites where USC provides clinical pharmacy services. Mirsakov says Ralphs has really given her the customized experience she was seeking.

“Ralphs cares about pharmacy and advancing the profession. When I first went to do my work at the Ralphs Westwood store, I recognized it as a great environment,” notes Mirsakov. “It’s well staffed, so the pharmacist has time to provide good service to patients—even going out into the aisles and talking to patients about OTC products.”
an attempt to help manage disease like diabetes or pre-diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia or high cholesterol.

“Often the pharmacist will pick up additional problems in a patient who has been referred,” says Lam. “Recently, we had a patient who was referred for diabetes and we also identified symptoms of heart failure.”

In a given day, Lam sees about twelve patients, sometimes spending up to an hour doing the examination, taking the history and discussing a therapeutic course and its goals. Her quiet, thoughtful approach quickly surfaces and leaves a feeling of being in good hands.

“My residency has given me an opportunity to really develop my patient management skills and taught me to follow a systematic thought process as I evaluate and manage patients,” says Lam.

“The ambulatory care resident works in various safety-net clinics around the city as well as hospital-based programs in anticoagulation and psychiatry,” says Kathleen Johnson, William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Chair in Community Pharmacy and chair of the School’s Titus Family Department. “This allows the resident to gain experience and confidence in dealing with a wide range of disease states and patients from various demographic groups.”

Lam intends to pursue a career in the ambulatory care environment, finding the collaborative practice approach with primary care physicians very rewarding—“the perfect balance between autonomy and collaboration.”

“I've seen how vigilantly working with a patient with extremely high sugar and blood pressure can bring them back into control. This takes hard work on both my part and, mostly, the patient’s,” says Lam. “I work hard explaining why it is important to make changes in diet, exercise, emotional health and lifestyle choices. Taking the time to explain this is so helpful in convincing the patient to do it.”

“And when it all works and comes together, you have a patient whose disease is back in control, a patient who feels better and is happier. That makes it so rewarding.”
CRITICAL CARE/CARDIOLOGY RESIDENT (2ND YEAR): SEUNG LEE, PHARM.D. ('06)
LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITAL AND USC MEDICAL CENTER (LAC+USC)

After eight years of school, most students are eager to jump into the workforce. Not Seung Lee who is a second-year pharmacy resident at USC this year.

“At the end of college, I was tired of school,” says Lee. “At the end of pharmacy school, I was reinvigorated by the hands-on curriculum. I knew I had to do a residency to pursue my passion for clinical pharmacy.”

After a first-year residency in acute care, Lee chose to do a second-year specialty residency in critical care and cardiology under the guidance of Tien Ng, Pharm.D., assistant professor at the School of Pharmacy. Each day, Lee starts her morning on rounds as part of the team of physicians, pharmacists, residents, nurses and students who review patient cases room-by-room. Once rounding is finished, she follows up on medication decisions, making sure the orders are implemented and correctly administered. Of course, “things change in critical care so you have to be ready to alter plans as needed,” says Lee.

Ng explains that the clinical pharmacist contributes to the team by optimizing pharmacologic management for patients. Ng says, “In the hospital, as part of the rounding team, the clinical pharmacist is involved at the moment of decision—not as an afterthought.”

Ng notes that cardiologists are very focused on cardiology drugs. However, they especially need the input of the pharmacist on the other drugs that their patients may also be taking and how these drugs interact with the cardiac medications.

“Pharmacists are trained differently and so we bring a unique perspective to the team,” says Ng who started the USC cardiology residency program. “If a physician sees that you have an important contribution to make and that you have looked at the patient fully—reviewing diagnostic tests and patient history—your contributions will be valued and you will have a seat at the table.”

Sandy Melnick, Pharm.D. ('76), director of pharmacy services at Los Angeles County Hospital and USC Medical Center, notes that the clinical pharmacist is well integrated on the teams caring for patients. “As a result, this program really provides a very focused opportunity for a new pharmacy practitioner. It’s invaluable to the clinician and offers an excellent service to the hospital.”

“My residency has allowed me to put all the pieces together—like a puzzle. Now I’m ready to jump into the workforce with a deeper understanding and the ability to offer an optimized medication plan for my patients,” says Lee.
Gifts That Keep On Giving

Sharon and Bill Cockrell and Bob and Mary Hahn all have something in common. In their own ways, they have and continue to make a difference in the lives of others—by supporting the work at the School of Pharmacy today and in the future with the hopes that it will produce great results.

How do you do such a thing? The two stories that follow tell how these forward-looking individuals used an estate gift model to use their resources to create a better future for many.

K. ROBERT and MARY C. HAHN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Bob Hahn is a lawyer by training. As an undergraduate, he was given a full scholarship. “As a result, I’ve always felt I had to give back,” he says.

As a successful businessman in the aviation field, Hahn recognizes the importance of business in any endeavor. “When I discovered that the School of Pharmacy had a Pharm.D./MBA degree, I knew it was something I wanted to support.”

This dual degree prepares students to meet the challenges of today’s complex health care environment. Students who graduate from this program are in high demand, placed in leadership positions in hospital administration, state/federal agencies, research and managed care, and the pharmaceutical industry.

Hahn and his late wife, Mary, have greatly enjoyed meeting the students they have so generously supported over the past many years. While their gift is very much alive and well today, fully supporting one student each year, Hahn’s business acumen also led him to create an estate gift that will endow the scholarship and keep it supporting students in perpetuity.

Not an alum himself, Hahn has two daughters and one grandson who have graduated from USC. But, as he has become personally involved with many of the students he has supported, he has quite an “extended family” of USC graduates and current students.

According to Hahn, “It’s great to meet the students you’re helping. It’s inspirational to me and to those receiving.”
Bill and Sharon Cockrell aren’t School of Pharmacy alums. In fact, they didn’t know much about the School until the 90’s when a friend told them about the School’s work in drug design and development. Interested in the possibilities of future cancer treatments, they began to support the School of Pharmacy.

Years passed and Sharon was diagnosed with breast cancer. Like most people, the diagnosis led them to learn as much as they could about the disease and its treatment. Sharon survived and regained her health. The Cockrells continued to support the School of Pharmacy’s research efforts.

Some years later, Sharon was diagnosed with a rare sarcoma. She fought the disease and survived for about 20 months—considerably longer than her first prognosis. Toward the end of her life, while she realized the therapies of the day could not save her, she believed in the continued support of the School of Pharmacy’s cancer research and in the promise it held for cancer patients of the future.

Upon Sharon’s death, Bill and friends set up the Sharon L. Cockrell Cancer Research Fund. The first gift of this fund has been made to support the cancer drug design and development work of Nouri Neamati, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

“I was so impressed by Dr. Neamati’s enthusiasm for his work. His outlook is shared by his team members—there’s a camaraderie and a spirit of hope in the lab,” says Cockrell.

Cockrell’s support hasn’t stopped there. He has also set up an estate gift that will eventually endow the cancer research fund at the School of Pharmacy. The Cockrell gift will give in perpetuity and perhaps support the development of a therapy that will save cancer patients in the future. “That’s what Sharon and I hoped,” says Cockrell.

For more information on estate gift planning, contact Jennifer Watson at 323.442.1382 or freeh@usc.edu.
To celebrate the more than 50-year history of the School of Pharmacy and Allergan, Dean R. Pete Vanderveen hosted a luncheon event on March 19 in Irvine with guests of honor USC Life Trustee Gavin S. Herbert, who is a founder of Allergan and Chairman Emeritus of the company’s Board of Trustees, and former Dean John A. Biles.

old friends...new friends

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY CELEBRATES ALLERGAN

While the luncheon immediately recognized the generous support of Allergan to USC’s fellowship program, it was also a rare opportunity to reflect on the role the company has played in the School. Mr. Herbert is a former chairman of the School’s Board of Councilors. “Long before I arrived at USC, Allergan was playing an important leadership and generous support role to the School and we deeply appreciate it,” said Dean Vanderveen.

Allergan’s support of the School of Pharmacy includes the naming of two professorships, the Gavin S. Herbert Professorship in Pharmaceutical Sciences, currently held by Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, and the John A. Biles Professorship in Pharmaceutical Sciences, held by Wei-Chiang Shen. Additionally, Allergan named the Herbert Hall of Administration at the School and has supported a thriving fellowship program with funding at $820,000 for the current academic year alone.

“There would not be an Allergan without John Biles,” noted Herbert referring to contributions Dean Biles made to the company in its early days more than a half century ago.

Dean Biles stood up to thank all at the gathering, especially Gavin Herbert for the tremendous support that Allergan has provided to the School over the past many decades. Dean Vanderveen took the opportunity to note, “Dean Biles truly stands as one of our greatest deans. I can only hope to lead as effectively during my tenure as Dean Biles did during his.”

Other attendees at the event included Allergan executives and this year’s four Allergan fellows. Allergan hosts more USC fellows than any other fellowship site and plans to increase the number to nine in the coming academic year. Attending the event from the Allergan Global Regulatory Affairs group were Rick Wilson, senior vice president; Marty Solberg, vice president and a member
FELLOWSHIP

of the School of Pharmacy Board of Councilors, who has spearheaded the fellowship program; and Matt Moran, senior director, who oversees many of the fellows’ activities.

“There would not be an Allergan without John Biles,” noted Herbert referring to contributions Dean Biles made to the company...”

Janet Cheetham, one of the first fellows in the program when Dean Biles was leading the School, also attended. Cheetham is currently vice president of clinical development at Allergan. As Dean Vanderveen mentioned at the event, “I guess the fellowship program works given Janet’s success at Allergan.”

Director of the USC fellowship program, Bill Gong, attended the event along with Frances J. Richmond, director of the School’s regulatory science program. Many of the fellows are involved in regulatory work at Allergan. Rosemarie Christopher, a member of the School’s Board of Councilors who has been pivotal in the fellowship program, also attended.

ANOTHER ALUM REMEMBERS THOSE USC AND ALLERGAN DAYS...

Malcolm Boghosian, Pharm.D. (’56), M.S. (’61), was Allergan’s sixth employee. “I went there in 1956 as a researcher, right out of USC. It was a very exciting time.”

Boghosian remembers those early days at Allergan as the fulfillment of his boyhood dream to be a researcher. As a child, Boghosian spent endless hours playing with his chemistry set and dreaming about becoming a chemist. “The School of Pharmacy prepared me very well for my career in product research and development at Allergan. Those were really wonderful years among brilliant people.”

Boghosian has been involved with the School of Pharmacy for over 50 years, having served as a member of the Board of Councilors and honored as the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year in 1981. From 1988 to 1989, he served as president of the QSAD Centurion Board of Directors.
Diversity Initiative Is Off To Running Start

Cathey and his advisory group will meet with community voices and students at area schools.

Walter Cathey, Pharm.D. (’62), Special Assistant to the Dean on Diversity, is starting the process of meeting with community leaders, educators and students in an effort to introduce more students of color to the profession of pharmacy.

“We’re laying out plans to bring our Diversity Initiative to the attention of those who are able to help us meet our ultimate goal of bringing more African American and Latino students into the pharmacy profession,” says Cathey. “We’ll be visiting schools and telling young people about the importance of working hard to reach goals and about the profession of pharmacy.”

Working closely with Dean Vanderveen, Cathey also has an advisory group involved in this outreach effort. Members of the group include Gustavus Aranda, Jr., Pharm.D. (’04), M.S. (’06); Roslyn Blake, Pharm.D. (’92); Andrea Cooper, Pharm.D. (’95), M.P.H. (’07); Esan Forde, Pharm.D. (’05), M.S.; Dolly Harris, Pharm.D. (’77); Mario Jimenez, Pharm.D. (’77); Deron Johnson, Pharm.D. (’08); Adrienne R. Matthews, Pharm.D. (’03), M.A; Robert Torres, Pharm.D. (’86); and Harold Washington, Pharm.D. (’91). Faculty representatives are Roberta Diaz Brin- ton, Ph.D., and Mel Baron, Pharm.D. (’57), M.P.A. Kari Trotter Wall, Pharm.D. (’03), director of the UPC Pharmacy, is also part of the group. Yazmin O’Quinn, Pharm.D. candidate (’11), and Paul Vasquez, Pharm.D./M.B.A. candidate (’10), are serving as student representatives.

School Of Pharmacy Begins Re-Accreditation Process

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education will visit the School in late January as part of the process.

The School of Pharmacy has established a Self-Study Committee, led by Associate Dean Fred Weissman, Pharm.D., J.D., to coordinate the School’s efforts to accurately report on all standards required by the ACPE as part of the accreditation process.

The committee, charged with preparing the written documents addressing 30 prescribed standards, includes administration, faculty, staff, students, preceptors and alumni. Recognized by the US Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation, the ACPE accredits the School’s Pharm.D. program.

While the 103-year old school is quite familiar with this procedure, this is the first time it has undergone accreditation using the new standards put in place last summer. These are characterized by more rigorous requirements in some areas to be evaluated by the accreditation team.

“Our School has always enjoyed the highest rating in the past,” says Weissman who led this effort during the last accreditation process in 2002. A top rating affords accreditation for a six-year period while probationary results may require that an institution repeat the entire process in less that the six-year period.

Re-accreditation gives the School an internal opportunity to assess all areas of functioning complemented by the review of a national panel of peers. This year’s guidelines have changed most notably in the areas of assessment and experiential training. Assessment refers to formalized efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of the School’s programs, including performance by students, faculty and preceptors. The experiential guidelines have increased the requirements for clinical training of students beginning in year one.
The 4th Pan-Pacific International Partnership Conference on Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences, jointly organized by the USC School of Pharmacy and its affiliated pharmacy schools in Japan, was held on February 22-23 in Nagoya, Japan.

The conference strives to strengthen research in the pharmaceutical and life sciences through international cooperation and collaboration. The event, held at a different university each year, was hosted this year by the Nagoya City University.

Ronald Alkana, Pharm.D., Ph.D., professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences who serves on the advisory board of the conference, was featured with his presentation on treatments for alcohol disorders. Alkana showed his lab's research findings on the identification of molecular targets in the brain that may lead to future pharmacotherapeutic agents for alcohol abuse.

Alkana’s talk was part of the “Drug Action and Therapy” section of the conference moderated by Paul Beringer, associate professor. Beringer also presented a poster at the conference detailing his work on optimizing the use of pharmacologic agents in the treatment of cystic fibrosis.

Other School of Pharmacy faculty displayed posters highlighting the work from their labs and the labs of their collaborators. These presenters included assistant professors Tien Ng on the effect of dopamine on renal circulation on patients with heart failure; Bangyan Stiles on new therapeutic targets based on the deletion of liver PTEN, a gene that is found in almost all cells of the body; and Clay Wang on the reengineering of E. coli to create a cancer drug.

The annual event was organized by eight universities, with the addition this year of the University of Sydney in Australia.

Professors Clay Wang, Bangyan Stiles (both in front row), Ron Alkana, Tien Ng and Paul Beringer at the Pan-Pacific International Partnership Conference in Japan.
Over 430 people attended the 2008 Alumni/Senior Awards Banquet on May 4 at the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena. Hosted by the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association, this gala affair honored the Class of 2008 and the Class of 1958 as they mark their 50th year in pharmacy. The Honorary Alumna Award was presented to Annie Chin Siu, D.D.S., recognizing her steadfast support of the School.

honing our newest graduates

Christina Phan, Pharm.D. (‘08), was one of five students who won the Allergan Award for excellence in pharmaceutical development studies presented by Ed Lieskovan, Pharm.D. (‘85), and Matt Moran, senior director of the Allergan Global Regulatory Affairs Group.

Danielle Colayco, Pharm.D. (‘08), who spent a good bit of the evening on stage picking up honors, shown here with her five awards, including the Allergan Award, APhA-ASH Mortar and Pestle Award, Margaret and John Biles Leadership Award, Eli Lilly Achievement Award and McKesson Drug Company Award.

Enrique Cadenas, Ph.D., associate dean for research affairs, presented the Karl Hwang Memorial Award for outstanding achievement in pharmaceutics to Jiahong Claire Miao, Pharm.D. (‘08).

THE OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD was bestowed on Raymond T. Poon, Pharm.D. (’71), for his professional achievements and distinguished contributions to the School of Pharmacy. The Roche Preceptor of the Year Award was given to Scott Evans, Pharm.D. (’98), COO of USC University Hospital.
School Launches Nation’s First Doctoral Program IN REGULATORY SCIENCE

Recall of Heparin due to contaminants in shipments from China... lead in paint on toys prompts massive recalls... wires used in implantable heart devices are recalled by manufacturer.

These are just a few of the recent headlines that have scared consumers, creating an uncertainty in the integrity of the foods we eat, the medicines we take and the medical devices we use. Taming these risks are professionals in regulatory science, the discipline that shepherds products through the regulatory environment, charged with making them safer while following government regulations and bringing products, many lifesaving, to consumers faster.

To forestall future headlines like those above, the School of Pharmacy announces the nation’s first program leading to a professional doctorate in regulatory science (DRSc).

“The doctoral program is aimed at mid-career executives in the biomedical and pharmaceutical industries,” says Frances J. Richmond, Ph.D., director of the School’s regulatory science program which has been offering M.S. degrees since 2000. “It will focus on global strategies for dealing with the explosion of new health care products and the web of national laws and international policies that govern everything from clinical trials to manufacturing to advertising.”

“Dr. Richmond has cultivated a rich network of industry partners, many of whom teach in the program and hire our graduates. These partners convinced us of the need to offer the professional doctorate,” says Dean R. Pete Vanderveen.

Classes for students in the doctoral program will be offered at the Health Sciences Campus and via distance education offerings that provide a virtual classroom experience. The program structure has been designed to accommodate working professionals.

Applications are currently being taken for the inaugural class starting in the fall of 2008. Learn more about the professional doctorate program and other offerings at http://regulatory.usc.edu. For more information, contact Kathy Knodel at 323.442.3102 or regsci@usc.edu.
Mel Baron, Pharm.D. (‘57), M.P.A., associate professor at the School of Pharmacy, was named “Pharmacist of the Year”, the association's highest award, and Danielle Colayco, Pharm.D. (‘08), won “Student of the Year” at the California Pharmacists Association (CPhA) annual meeting in Sacramento in February.

California Pharmacists Association
Honors Professor Mel Baron & Student Danielle Colayco

Baron, who joined the USC faculty in 1980, was recognized for his work as an educational futurist and a regional force in meeting pharmacy needs of the community. Back in the 1980s, Baron was a national leader in offering first-year students clinical experiences before most schools were providing any hands-on opportunities to students during the early years of their pharmacy education. This set a national standard of expanded experiential education for pharmacy students nationwide.

Baron also pioneered the role of the clinical pharmacist in safety-net clinics in Los Angeles, serving the needs of the area’s uninsured residents. He spearheaded the School’s first funding grant for safety-net clinic work back in 2002, which today has grown to the School’s expanded services in multiple locations serving some of LA’s neediest patients.

Baron is also known for his work in health literacy having produced two fotonovelas, English-Spanish comic books, addressing folic acid and diabetes. He is currently in production on two additional fotonovelas on pediatric asthma and depression. Researchers who studied the impact of the diabetes fotonovela, identified it as a useful and effective medium for educating adults.

Taking the Association's highest student honor was Danielle Colayco. Colayco’s extraordinary record of leadership in professional pharmacy activities and community outreach garnered her the California title. Next year, having been awarded the Takeda Fellowship, Colyaco will pursue an M.S. in pharmaceutical economics and policy.

Dean Vanderveen (right) congratulates CPhA honorees Danielle Colayco and Professor Mel Baron.
Titus Family Department
OF CLINICAL PHARMACY AND
PHARMACEUTICAL ECONOMICS & POLICY

FACULTY UPDATES

Jeonghoon Ahn, Ph.D., presented multiple posters at International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) meeting, Toronto, in May; with Mike Nichol, Ph.D., “Persistence and adherence of medications for chronic overactive bladder/urinary incontinence in the California Medicaid Program”, ranked 4th most cited article by Value in Health.

Mel Baron, Pharm.D., awarded $20,000 grant from AmerisourceBergen to support pediatric asthma and depression fotonovelas; $20,000 grant from NACDS to support fotonovela on pediatric asthma; named Pharmacist of the Year by the California Pharmacists Association (story on page 19).

Paul Beringer, Pharm.D., awarded $53,000 grant from Webb CF Center for cystic fibrosis research; presented at Pan-Pacific International Partnership Conference (see story on page 15); with Annie Wong-Beringer, Pharm.D., awarded 2008 ACCP Infectious Disease Research Fellowship and 2009 AFPE Clinical Pharmacy Post-Pharm.D. Fellowship to support research of fellow Heather Owens, Pharm.D., M.S.

Kathleen Besinque, Pharm.D., M.S.Ed, discussion panel member at National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day held at UPC in March.

Gil Burckart, Pharm.D., coordinated FDA-American College of Clinical Pharmacology online course, The Future of Medicine-Pharmacogenomics, with faculty members Paul Beringer, Pharm.D., Ian Hutchinson, Ph.D., D.Sc., Stan Louie, Pharm.D., Tien Ng, Pharm.D., and Susie Park, Pharm.D., contributing modules; on a leave of absence while serving at the FDA as associate director for regulatory policy in the Office of Clinical Pharmacology, Office of Translational Science and the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Roger Clemens, Dr.PH, quoted in the Farther Off the Wall website discussing Roger Clemens (baseball player) and B12 supplement shots in February; presented at food & nutrition communicators meeting in Budapest, Hungry, in March; presented information about sodium and hypertension at Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Presents Conference on Health & Wellness in March.

Jason Doctor, Ph.D., invited to contribute to The Encyclopedia of Medical Decision Making for publication 2009; presented multiple posters and podium presentations with students at ISPOR meeting, Toronto, in May; with Kathleen Johnson, Pharm.D., Ph.D., MPH, participated in the 5-state Hemophilia Utilization Group Study meeting held at the School of Pharmacy in February; will present (with colleagues) at the 50th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, Houston, in July.

Julie Dopheide, Pharm.D., presented “Insights in Insomnia for Pharmacists”, educational webcast posted on Sleep Medicine Education Initiative website; participated in 2nd Annual Psychopharmacology Conference as an expert panelist for “Community Issues: Pharmacists Reimbursement for Cognitive Services,” Vancouver, in February; quoted in LA Times, Sports section, about side effects of ADD medication in April; presented “Anxiety Disorder in Youth” at the CPNP Annual Meeting, Arizona, in April; recorded 2 review courses for CPNP.

Jeff Goad, Pharm.D., MPH, appointed to California Department of Public Health Pandemic Influenza Vaccine and Antiviral (PIVA) Advisory group and to the board of directors of the California Immunization Coalition and to the ASHP Commission on Credentialing; presented “Immunization Update and Travel Medicine” at APhA Annual Meeting in March; spoke at the CDC National
Immunization Conference in March; presented “Travel Medicine” at ACCP Spring Forum in April.

**William Gong**, Pharm.D., presented at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in December.

**Emily Han**, Pharm.D., earned designation of Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) from the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS).

**Joel Hay**, Ph.D., interviewed in April by Investor’s Business Daily about the Vytorin controversy; presented multiple posters with students at ISPOR, Toronto, in May.

**Kathleen Johnson**, Pharm.D., Ph.D., MPH, presented “How to Find the Right Partner: Building a High Quality Clinical Services Pharmacy Business Model” and “Building High Quality Clinical Services in Safety Net Clinics: How a College of Pharmacy Can Help” at APhA annual meeting in March.

**Jeff McCombs**, Ph.D., presented at 16th European Congress of Psychiatry in Nice, France, in April; multiple posters presented with students at ISPOR, Toronto, in May.

**Edith Mirzaian**, Pharm.D., presented “Interventions for Changing Public Policy” at Diabetes, Obesity and Heart Disease: Changing the Paradigm to Care, California Endowment Center, in January.

**Tien Ng**, Pharm.D., presented at USC Heart Failure Symposium in February; presented at Pan-Pacific International Partnership Conference (see article on page 15).

**Mike Nichol**, Ph.D., podium presentation entitled “Association of Noncompliance with Diabetes Care Guidelines and Disease Burden in a California Medicaid Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Population” and various posters with students at ISPOR meeting, Toronto, in May.

**Glen Stimmel**, Pharm.D., BCCP, presented clinical psychopharmacology symposium as a visiting faculty at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, in March.

**Kari Trotter Wall**, Pharm.D., pharmacy director, featured professional for the month of February in the Aetna 2008 African American History Calendar.

**Fred Weissman**, Pharm.D., J.D., presented “Recent Pharmacy Practice Court Cases Involving Tort Law Issues” at CPhA Outlook in February.

**Bradley Williams**, Pharm.D., chair of treatment work group revising State of California Guidelines for Management of Alzheimer’s Disease; presented “Parkinson’s Disease: Moving Forward with Treatment Modalities” at APhA annual meeting in March.

**Michael Wincor**, Pharm.D., elected Rho Chi Society regional councilor in March; featured on CBS and KCAL in January discussing drugs found around Health Ledger at time of his death.

**Annie Wong-Beringer**, Pharm.D., reviewer on NIH Special Emphasis Panel for RO1 applications addressing pharmacological approaches to combating antimicrobial resistance; with student Jason Yamaki presented at the 18th European Congress on Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Barcelona, Spain, in April.

**Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy Group** awarded $139,150 Doctoral Fellowship Educational Grant from Baxter Healthcare Corporation.
Today’s pharmaceutical war chest is always in search of the next great compound and among the best places that scientists search for tomorrow’s wonder drugs are the farthest corners of the earth and the depths of the oceans.

This is tough work and takes an army to accomplish it, according to Clay C.C. Wang, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Wang contends that one must construct a synergistic approach to efficiently mine the world—using today’s cutting-edge tools of genomics, molecular genetics and natural products chemistry.

Wang and his colleagues have found support for their approach at the NIH, having been awarded a three-site, program project grant “to mine the Aspergillus nidulans secondary metabolome” in search of promising new therapeutics.

Wang’s collaborators are the overall project investigator Berl Oakley, Ohio State University, and Nancy Keller, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

“The Aspergillus nidulans sounds like a different language. Actually most people know about Aspergillus fungi—the aspergillus terreus gave us lovastatin, the cholesterol medication commonly marketed as Mevacor,” says Wang. “Our project will look at a different Aspergillus species, the secondary metabolite pathways of A. nidulans.”

The project hypothesizes that the next frontier of natural product discovery is not unknown to us but instead undiscovered in the genomes of organisms that have been looked at in laboratories for decades. Looking at other pathways, or secondary pathways, of these organisms requires a collaborative approach using the latest molecular genetic tools, increased understanding of the regulation of these secondary metabolites and analytical tools designed to identify these new pathways. These skills are not to be found under one roof.

“Together, we’ll be able to elucidate the products of these pathways, building on each other’s work,” says Wang. “We expect the project to generate a substantial number of new natural products for development as chemotherapy and antimicrobial agents.”

Wang’s part of the project utilizes his expertise in natural product chemistry to analyze Aspergillus strains that will be provided by his collaborators. Wang will purify and elucidate the structure by sequencing the genome with the hope of ultimately identifying various new compounds.

The five-year grant of $4,910,613 will be divided among the three institutions. Wang’s research is also supported by another NIH grant, an American Cancer Society award and a grant from the State of California.
Will our world’s future see the rich develop into a super species marked by a diet optimized to genetic makeup while the poor, marred by substandard living conditions and malnourishment, develop in a stunted manner marring both physical and mental potential?

This was one of the questions addressed at “Hidden Hunger: Socioeconomic and Scientific Challenges,” held in Santa Barbara on March 12 sponsored by Sight and Life, the USC School of Pharmacy, Oxygen Club of California, and the Linus Pauling Institute. The international conference was attended by noted economists, nutrition experts and scientists, including two Nobel Laureates and a Medal of Science winner.

Faculty attendees from the School included event organizer Lester Packer, Ph.D., adjunct professor, and Enrique Cadenas, Ph.D., the Charles Krown/Pharmacy Alumni Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences and associate dean for research.

Four students from the School of Pharmacy who are considering corporate careers or positions in government were invited to attend the session to learn about this pressing issue and the role of the private and public sectors in solving it. School of Pharmacy students attending were Jerry Chang, Pharm.D. (’08), Danielle Colayco, Pharm.D. (’08), Marcio Fletes, Ph.D. candidate, and Jane Pai, Ph.D. candidate.

The session was framed around the need to develop a sustainable approach to making available high-quality food interventions worldwide. While establishing good nutrition as a human right was put forth, the group also discussed the return on investment, noting the global economic loss due to malnutrition.

The roundtable suggested two primary objectives to address hidden hunger: the development of strategies that improve the availability of micronutrient-rich and low-cost supplementary foods and the need for all sectors of society in developing and industrialized nations to work together to solve this pressing problem.

Jane Pai, Pharm.D., M.P.H., commented during a discussion segment of the conference, “Methods such as improved sanitation and good nutrition help create an environment of equal opportunity for all. This so clearly impacts economic status.”

Pai’s perception is noteworthy as malnutrition stunts the lives and livelihoods of 2 billion people worldwide.

The roundtable was followed by a 2-day symposium on “Oxidants and Antioxidants in Biology”, organized by Professors Cadenas and Packer, along with colleagues from other universities. Roberta Brinton, the R. Pete Vanderveen Chair in Therapeutic Discovery and Development, presented at the symposium.

Adjunct Professor Lester Packer was recently awarded the Chevalier De L’Ordre National Du Merite, Knight of the French Order of Merit, by the President of France. This prestigious award recognizes Dr. Packer’s contributions to French science and the cooperation he has fostered between French and American scholars. Dr. Lester is known for his work in bioenergetics and biological oxidants and the role of free radicals and antioxidants in biology and medicine.
Brinton Tapped For National Institute Of Mental Health Panel

The work of the panel revolves around a review of the NIMH Division of Intramural Research Programs. This division is the internal research unit of the NIMH where scientists investigate a full range of subjects—from mechanisms of brain function at the cellular and molecular levels to clinical investigations into the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness.

The Blue Ribbon Panel sets the course for the development and direction of the Division’s research efforts in the coming decade. This, in turn, impacts research direction of extramural research, as the NIH strives to create a complementary environment between the two.

Brinton is currently the primary investigator on a four-school, $8 million grant examining the impact of hormone therapy on the risk of Alzheimer’s disease. She is also a key investigator of the University’s Clinical Translational Translational Science Award planning grant team.

“Just in...”

Roberta Diaz Brinton has been awarded a 5-year, $2 million U01 Alzheimer’s Disease Drug Development Program Award by the National Institute of Aging. Brinton is the principal investigator of the project entitled, “Development of Allopregnanolone as a Neurogenic Regenerative Therapeutic”. This award is part of a program designed to stimulate research in pre-clinical and testing of novel therapeutic compounds that prevent, delay or reverse the onset of Alzheimer’s disease.
NEAMATI NAMED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF of new journal

Current Molecular Pharmacology is a peer-reviewed print and online publication that informs scientists on the latest work in novel drug development. Nouri Neamati, associate professor at the School of Pharmacy, is editor-in-chief of the new journal, Current Molecular Pharmacology, published by Bentham Science Publishers.

Launched in January, the publication targets researchers involved in drug design and discovery at either the clinical or pre-clinical phase. “Current Molecular Pharmacology will publish the latest developments in cellular and molecular pharmacology with a major emphasis on the mechanism of action of novel drugs in development,” says Neamati. “When we announced this journal to the pharmacology community, there was an immediate swell of interest for the kind of information that it provides.”

Neamati, who has published over 120 peer-reviewed articles and has numerous patent applications in drug design and discovery, is a recognized expert on drug development targeting the HIV-1 integrase protein. His work in cancer focuses on creating oral drugs to treat colon, breast, lung and ovarian cancers, among others.

One of the associate editors on the journal is Joseph D. Miller, associate professor in the Department of Cell and Neurobiology and director of pharmacology at the Keck School of Medicine at USC. Miller, a well-known expert in neuropharmacology, notes, “This journal will publish the very best work of today’s top scientists working in pharmacology. It provides an in-depth look at innovative pharmacological technologies with a focus on cell signaling, genomics, proteomics and metabonomic applications to drug action.”

The international journal has board members from countries around the globe representing academia, government and industry. In addition to Neamati, editorial board members on the new publication from the School include Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, Gavin S. Herbert Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences and chair of the Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences Department, and Michael Kahn, Provost’s Professor of Medicine and Pharmacy.

The journal is slated to publish quarterly with both online and print availability. Complete articles may be downloaded free of charge at http://bentham.org/cmp.

faculty UPDATES

James Adams, Ph.D., quoted on ABC News in February about Britney Spears and drug use; presented medical grand rounds, “Pediatric Use of California Medicinal Plants”, at Women’s and Children’s Hospital in March; featured on Channels 11 and 13 News talking about botox penetration into the brain in April; speaker at 12th Annual Herb Festival, Qual Botanical Garden, in March.

Ronald Alkana, Pharm.D., Ph.D., named to Rho Chi Alumni Honor Roll; presented “Potential Sites of Ethanol Action and Medications Development in Glycine Receptors Suggest by Hyperbaric Studies” at Pan-Pacific International Partnership Conference on Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences, Nagoya, Japan, in February (story on page 15).

Roberta Diaz Brinton, Ph.D., appointed to NIMH Blue Ribbon Panel; awarded $2,017,722, 5-year U01 Alzheimer’s Disease Drug Development Program Award by National Institute on Aging (NIA); from February through April, has presented at Population Council Endocrinology and Reproductive Biology Seminar Series–Center for Biomedical Research, Rockefeller University (New York), 13th World Congress of Gynecological Endocrinology (Florence, Italy), Experimental Biology 2008 Conference, Seminar on Estrogen Mechanisms of Action in the Brain at Case Western Reserve University, Multidisciplinary Research Colloquium Series on Aging, 63rd Annual Society of Biological Psychiatry Scientific Convention.

Daryl Davies, Ph.D., awarded multiple summer stipends supporting undergraduate researchers in his lab from the Rose Hills Foundation Summer Science and Engineering Fellowship.


Clay Wang, Ph.D., presented “Reengineering of E. coli to Create a Cancer Drug” at Pan-Pacific International Partnership Conference on Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences, Nagoya, Japan, in February (story on page 15); awarded 3-site, NIH PO1 grant for project, “Mining the Aspergillus Midulans Secondary Metabolome” (story on page 22).

Walter Wolf, Ph.D., as chair of Multidisciplinary Advisory Council on Noninvasive Studies (MACNIS), met with FDA representatives to strategize future objectives in November; reported progress at Imaging Biomarkers Roundtable in April; presented “Ethical Issues in Cancer Genetics: Advances in Molecular Genetic Analyses of Familial Cancer Syndromes: Ethical Dilemmas Stimulated by Scientific Progress” at 2008 Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in April.
The School of Pharmacy’s annual Scholarship Luncheon was held in Centennial Park on April 10. Almost one-hundred donors and recipients gathered for the event, providing a personal opportunity for students to thank those who have helped make their educations possible.

The 2007-08 academic year broke all records—with over 200 students receiving scholarship assistance.

GRATEFULLY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING NEW SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Soo Hyhn Park Endowed Scholarship
- James H. and John E. Roache Family Endowed Scholarship
- Carol and Craig Stern/Pro Pharma Endowed Scholarship
- G.T. Chuljian Endowed Scholarship
- Valerie and Elwin Goo Endowed Scholarship
- GNP/ICP Endowed Scholarship
- Indian Pharmacists Association Endowed Scholarship
- Kellee Lindauer Scholarship
- Assemblymember Mike Eng Scholarship
Assemblymember Mike Eng (center) enjoyed meeting the future pharmacists Jan Riego, Pharm.D. ('10), and Jessica Lavi, Pharm.D. ('09), who are recipients of his scholarship.

Rite Aid Corporation Scholarship recipient Nicole Tavares, Pharm.D. candidate ('09), gains some professional insight from Conrad Bio, director of college and professional recruitment at Rite Aid.

Polina Litmanovich, Pharm.D. candidate ('10), recipient of the Francis M. Schuler Memorial Scholarship, enjoyed lunching with Sue Schuler.

Kevin Griggs, Pharm.D. ('08), the Kellee Lindauer Scholarship winner, enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the profession with Kellee Lindauer, Pharm.D. ('06).
Snapshots

ALUMNI & FRIENDS

getaway fun and learning

QSAD WINTER RETREAT

Over 30 companies conducted some 400 interviews with students in their final semester of the Pharm.D. program and looking forward to joining the workforce. Interview Day is a unique opportunity for both students and employers, providing a chance to sit down and talk one-on-one with multiple people during the course of the day. For more information about Interview Day 2009, contact Cheryl Stanovich at 323.442.1738 or stanovic@usc.edu.

left: QSAD President Mario Jimenez, Pharm.D. (’77), greets Mike Quick, vice president of sales for the west region of AmerisourceBergen, a supporter of the program. Purdue Pharma also provided support for the program.

right: Professor Jeff Goad presented a discussion on travel medicine at the program. Here he is at the evening reception with Debbie Johnson, R.Ph., and Sylvia Moore, Pharm.D. (’61).

The 2008 Winter Retreat was held at the Ojai Valley Inn and Spas. Attended by over 50 interested alumni and friends, the event provided scintillating educational programs complemented by a gorgeous resort atmosphere. Next year’s program, slated for January 23-25, will be held at the La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad. For more information, contact Mary Wackerman at 323.442.1360 or mwacker@usc.edu.

Jerry Chang, Pharm.D. (’08), and Minh Dang, R.Ph., manager of professional and college relations at CVS/pharmacy.

PUBLIC OPINION in the news

On May 6, Gennady Soskin, Pharm.D. (’04), was interviewed by KCAL 9 reporter Michele Gile about a recent J.D. Power and Associates survey focusing on customer satisfaction in retail and independent pharmacies. Soskin is the owner of The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy in Lake Forest, California. In the survey, The Medicine Shoppe pharmacies received the highest customer satisfaction rating.
Steven Baskin, Pharm.D. (’66), Ph.D., U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, has written a chapter in the Textbook of Medical Medicine released this month.

Jerry Shapiro, Pharm.D. (’69), reacted to the recently passed state Medi-Cal cuts in an opinion piece posted online in California Progress Report on May 2.

Christopher Lomax, Pharm.D. (’78), is director of pharmacy and nutrition services at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles; will present “IVIG-Sparing Treatment of Pediatric ITP: Designing a Protocol in the Setting of a Large Children’s Hospital” at XXI Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis in Geneva, Switzerland, in July.

Mark Henschke, D.O., Pharm.D. (’83), M.M.M., selected as Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Manchester Campus “Physician Preceptor of the Year.”

Mark Burstyn, Pharm.D. (’84), is host of “The Compassionate Pharmacist” on Body Wonders Radio.

Monica Vera-Schubert, Pharm.D. (’88), named vice president of development/recruiting for Echelon Medical Support, Inc.

Nilesh Bhakta, Pharm.D. (’92), opened Remedy Pharm, Torrance, an eco-friendly pharmacy that combines integrative as well as traditional pharmacy practices.

Alexander Cao, Pharm.D. (’01), named Clinical Operations Manager, Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Services and Drug Use Management at Kaiser Permanente-Fontana Medical Center.


Sam Presser, B.S. (’36), passed away on January 21, 2008. A longtime supporter of School of Pharmacy, Dr. Presser and his late wife, Rose, established the Rose and Sam Presser Endowed Scholarship.

Samuel Wolkowitz, B.S. (’50), passed away in September 2007.

Dean Alden Dillingham, B.S. (’51), passed away on May 1.

William Bullard, B.S. (’55), passed away in February.

John W. Berger, Pharm.D. (’58), J.D. (’61), passed away in February.

Dan Leichtfuss, Pharm.D. (’76), passed away on December 29, 2007. Dr. Leichtfuss owned and operated Advanced Pharmacy Homecare in Escondido, CA.

Sunny Yiu, Pharm.D. (’99), passed away in April.

CORRECTION: In the last issue, Stephen P. Morrow, who passed away in August 2007, was incorrectly listed as having a Ph.D. from the School of Pharmacy. Dr. Morrow actually earned his Pharm.D. from the School in 1992.
The School of Pharmacy hosted 130 middle schoolers from La Merced Intermediate School at Kids’ Day on February 22. This year’s island paradise theme offered visitors some inspiration, encouragement and fun. The visiting students got some good advice on safe sex, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, the value of education and the danger of gang involvement. The visitors were also given an on-the-scene look at health care careers and the opportunities that come with a good education.

top: Kalsang Dorji, Pharm.D. candidate (’10), enjoyed showing the students from La Merced Intermediate School around the Health Sciences Campus.

bottom: The middle schoolers surround Kids’ Day coordinator, Brian Yamada, Pharm.D. candidate (’09), at the end of the activity-packed day. Brian is in the middle of the second row.
Music by the “Blue Cat Express Jazz Band”, refreshments and health screenings were the highlights of the Senior Prom held in April at the MacArthur Park Community Center. All senior citizens were invited to dance the afternoon away and encouraged to take breaks at the various health screening posts at the event. USC students offered a variety of screenings including blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, asthma, osteoporosis, heartburn and arthritis. Students also provided information on healthy living choices, alternative medicine and even a couple new dance steps.

Choosing the RIGHT Medicare Part D Plan

Last December, students and residents reached out to USC retirees and the community at large to help senior citizens choose the right prescription drug plans to meet their needs. The customized sessions provided seniors with a thorough analysis of their individual needs, giving each person a variety of choices and a look at how a plan would work for them. The sessions also gave seniors an accurate view of their monthly costs.

School of Pharmacy Holds Unique senior prom

Music by the “Blue Cat Express Jazz Band”, refreshments and health screenings were the highlights of the Senior Prom held in April at the MacArthur Park Community Center. All senior citizens were invited to dance the afternoon away and encouraged to take breaks at the various health screening posts at the event. USC students offered a variety of screenings including blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, asthma, osteoporosis, heartburn and arthritis. Students also provided information on healthy living choices, alternative medicine and even a couple new dance steps.

Ryan Pidanick, Pharm.D. candidate (’11), reviews plan options with Vahid Hadjian at a Medicare Part D information session in Venice.

Nick Mordwinkin, Pharm.D., and Ashley Clark, Pharm.D. candidate (’10), discuss some smart lifestyle choices that may help lower cholesterol with participants at the Senior Prom.

Dancing the afternoon away is Chia Kang, Pharm.D. candidate (’11), with an enthusiastic partner at this year’s Senior Prom.
Students

Student Updates

Elina Baskina, Pharm.D. candidate (‘11), one of 28 students nationwide to receive the Rx Portfolio National Achievement Award.

Carla Blieden, Pharm.D. candidate (’09), and faculty advisor Kathleen Johnson, Pharm.D., MPH, Ph.D., William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Chair in Community Pharmacy, recipients of AACP 2008 Wal-Mart Annual Conference Scholarship Program.

Jerry Chang, Pharm.D. (’08), who will pursue a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical economics and policy, has been awarded a Dean’s Fellowship.

Danielle Colaco, Pharm.D. (’08), awarded the Takeda Fellowship in support of her M.S. studies in pharmaceutical economics and policy.

Daya Perkins, Ph.D. candidate working with Daryl Davies, Ph.D. (’96), awarded a National Research Service Award, $99,609 for three years, supporting research on pressure-based pharmacological alcoholism treatments.

Nazia Rashid, Pharm.D. (’08), awarded the Lilly Fellowship in support of her M.S. studies in pharmaceutical economics and policy.

Dwight Song, Pharm.D. (’08), with Gladys Mitani, Pharm.D., and others, presented “Outcomes of Patients Requiring Dual or Triple Antithrombotic Therapy with Clopidogrel and Warfarin with or without Aspirin” at ACCP meeting, Phoenix, in April.

Nhu Tran, Pharm.D. (’08), incoming M.S. student in pharmaceutical economics and policy, awarded the Amylin/Prescription Solutions Fellowship.

Ji Yao, Ph.D. candidate working with Roberta Diaz Brinton, Ph.D., R. Pete Vanderveen Chair in Therapeutic Discovery and Development, multiple presentations at Experimental Biology 2008, San Diego, in April, finalist for American Association of Anatomists (AAA) Langman Graduate Student Platform Presentation Award and won an AAA Travel Award.

Jason Yamaki, Pharm.D. candidate (’09), presented at the 18th European Congress on Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease in Barcelona, Spain, in April, with Professor Annie Wong-Beringer.


Leaders in the making

In February, ten USC students were chosen to attend the 6th Annual Pharmacy Student Leadership Conference in Sacramento. Pictured here, from bottom to top (left to right) are Khanh Nguyen, Margie Patel; Rosalin Preechakul, Farm Saetern, Hasmig Ekmekdijan, Ashley Clark; Kai Yeung, Yousuf Rahyab, Tania Houspian; Michael Pazirandeh, Professors Mel Baron and Jeff Goad, advisors. All students are Pharm.D. candidates in the Class of 2010 or 2011.
The Brady Scholarship allowed me to attend many pharmacy-related professional conferences, which gave me the opportunity to network with leaders in the pharmacy profession. Conversations with these leaders solidified my decision to pursue a residency after graduation. They helped me see that a residency can open many doors for my future as a pharmacist, so that I, too, can become a leader in the profession.

—FRANCES DONG, PHARM.D. ('08), Edward S. Brady II Endowed Scholarship

It wasn’t always easy growing up in some of the rougher areas of Los Angeles, but with the guidance of mentors and a strong family, I was able to surpass my wildest dreams. I can’t believe that I am now a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Southern California. I will be forever grateful for the scholarships that I was awarded - greatly appreciating the financial assistance that has made it possible for me to pursue higher education. But, more than the monetary value, I so greatly appreciate the thought behind the gift. All that I can say is that scholarships definitely change lives.

—KANDIA HILL, PHARM.D. ('08), Walter Cathey Scholarship, Edward S. Brady II Endowed Scholarship

To learn how you can change a life, contact Mary Wackerman at 323.442.1360 or mwacker@usc.edu.

WWW.USC.EDU/PHARMACY
August 4–8, Monday–Friday
51st Annual Postgraduate Refresher Course
Hyatt Regency, Maui, Hawaii
Information: 323.442.2403 or pharmce@usc.edu

August 21, Thursday
White Coat Ceremony
HSC Quad
Information: 323.442.1360 or mwacker@usc.edu

October 7, Tuesday
2008 Career Day Showcase
USC HSC Quad
Information: 323.442.1738 or stanovic@usc.edu

October 31, Friday
4th Annual Alumni & Friends Golf Outing
Angeles National Golf Course
Information 323.442.1738 or stanovic@usc.edu

November 1, Saturday
Homecoming and Class Reunions
University Park Campus
Information: 323.442.1381 or carr@usc.edu

December 27–January 3 (2009)
Saturday–Saturday
2nd Annual Costa Rica C.E. Program
Hotel Martino, Costa Rica
Information: 323.442.2403 or pharmce@usc.edu

January 23–25 (2009)
Friday–Sunday
14th Annual Winter Retreat
La Costa Resort and Spa
Information: 323.442.1360 or mwacker@usc.edu