Successful Recruitment Season for SOP Masters, DRSc and PhD Graduate Programs

Over the past several months, the Graduate Affairs Office has been busy with recruitment of new students for the next academic year, starting in Fall, 2016. As a result of a successful recruitment event on February 26th and March 22nd, the new Pharmaceutical & Translational Sciences (PHTS) PhD Program will enroll 11 new students. After first year lab rotations, students will select one of the following tracks: MPTX, PSCI or CXPT, to complete their training. The PSCI and MPTX Masters programs will enroll 7 new students. The Health Economics PhD program will enroll 7 new students; the HCDA Masters program will enroll 50. The Regulatory Science program plans to enroll 13 new DRSc students (Masters programs will be decided in June). See Graduate Programs website.

Wang Lab Team Joins NASA in Space

Led by Dr Clay Wang, the Micro-10 research project – a first-of-its-kind collaboration with Jet Propulsion Laboratory - sent specimens of Aspergillus nidulans to the International Space Station aboard the SpaceX resupply mission that launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on April 8th. The School of Pharmacy and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) are the first research team in the world to launch fungi into space for the purpose of potentially developing new medicines for use both in space and on Earth. PhD students Jillian Romadahl (MPTX) and Adriana Blachowicz (PSCI), both of whom are in Dr Wang’s lab, participated in the project. It is hoped that the stress of microgravity and radiation environment of the International Space Station (ISS) could trigger the production of secondary metabolites by the fungus, potentially leading to new drugs. The project has received significant national and international media coverage, including an article in the LA Times.

SOP Graduate Students Shine at 13th European Genetics Conference in Paris

Johannes van Dijk (MPTX) was awarded a poster prize and Weiwen Sun (PSCI) received a travel award at the 13th European Genetics Conference held in Paris. Both are students in Dr Clay Wang's lab and received travel awards from the School of Pharmacy. The Graduate Affairs Office supports travel awards up to $1000 (domestic) or $1500 (international) each fiscal year to students enrolled in SOP PhD programs who are presenting at a conference (subject to availability of funds). Since July, 2015, 41 students have received travel awards; 35 domestic and 11 international. The Graduate School and Graduate Student Government (GSG) also offer travel awards to students.

PHARMACY GRADUATE ALLIANCE (PGA) CORNER

PGA hosts annual Trivia Night—Thursday, April 27th at 5pm in PSC-104

Everyone is welcome to join! Build teams of 5 people and register by emailing us at pga@usc.edu. Don't forget to include a fun name for your team! The questions will be mostly science and technology based. Food and drinks will be provided. If you think you have got what it takes to win PGA's Trivia Night - register today! For more information see flyer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Research Fellowship Programs: The School of Pharmacy has extended its Summer Research Fellowship Program for undergraduate and PharmD students to include a new Fellowship opportunity (SURF) for undergraduates outside of USC. The summer program is geared towards providing learning and networking opportunities for undergraduate and PharmD students committed to pursuing either a professional or academic research career in pharmaceutical and translational sciences. For further information, visit the Summer Research Fellowship Program website.

Laboratory Safety: We would like to remind all students of the importance of laboratory safety. Make sure that you are up-to-date in your safety certifications and training and that you are properly trained in how to use equipment and chemicals in the lab and common-use areas. Familiarize yourself with all safety procedures, including the location of exits, safety showers, first aid kits, evacuation procedures etc. If you have questions, please ask the faculty member in charge of the lab you are working in.

Summer Fellowship Boot Camp: The Graduate School will host a Summer Fellowship Boot Camp for incoming and rising 2nd year PhD students as part of its Diversity, Inclusion and Access (DIA) initiative. The boot camp will be a 10-day intensive writing workshop from August 3-12th in which participants will complete an application for either an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, or a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. Applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents and are due on June 3rd. Visit application form here.

USC School of Pharmacy Office of Graduate Affairs

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Newsletter Editor: Kathryn Rich; Contributors: Rosie Soltero, Wade Thompson-Harper

Photo credit: Chris Jones and Isaac Mora (Media Dept)

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