

USC School of Pharmacy

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

April, 2016 Edition

NEWS

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 events 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

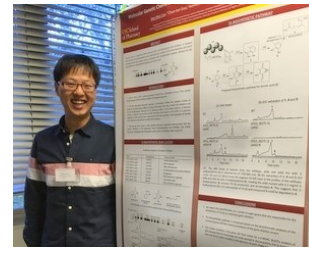


Led by Dr Clay Wang, the **Micro-10 research project** – a first-of-its-kind collaboration with Jet Propulsion Laboratory – sent specimens of *Aspergillus nidulans* to the International Space Station aboard the SpaceX resupply mission that launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on April 8.. 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 Romsdahl** (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; 30 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 undergrads outside of USC. The summer program is geared towards increasing 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 page on the [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. View application form [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Student Seminars (Wednesdays at noon in PSC-104; Click [here](#) for seminar schedule)

April 6: Kevin Lin (PSCI, Wang lab)

April 13: Si Li (PSCI, Okamoto/Neamati lab)

April 20: Jordan Despanie (PSCI, MacKay lab)

April 27: Ishan Patil (MPTX, Cadenas lab)

Trivia Night, Thursday April 27th: PSC-104 at 5pm; Click [here](#) for [Flyer](#).

Bioscience Career Event—Professional Development Meets Networking, Tuesday April 19th: USC Ray Irani Hall, 10 - 6pm.

Note: Includes a [Resume/LinkedIn workshop](#) and [1-on-1 Resume Editing by USC Career Center](#). See [Flyer](#) or [RSVP here](#).

Alumni Awards Banquet, Saturday May 7th: Town and Gown Ballroom, 5pm at UPC

Commencement, Friday May 13th: School of Pharmacy Satellite Ceremony at 3:pm in HSC QUAD

USC School of Pharmacy Office of Graduate Affairs

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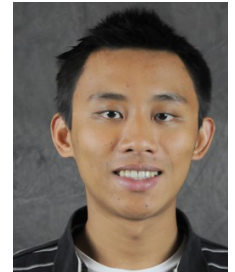
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Upcoming Events



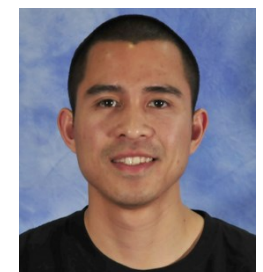
CONGRATULATIONS



Kevin Lin (PSCI, Wang lab) received a prestigious **Endowed Fellowship** from the USC Graduate School for the 2016-2017 academic year.



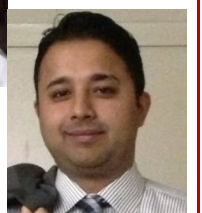
Sam Chen (PSCI, Shen lab) has been awarded a graduate internship at Amgen this summer.



Nhat Hunyn, a CXPT student in Dr Daryl Davies' lab, is joint 1st author on a paper in the latest issue of *J. of Visualized Experiments (JOVE)*. Dr Davies is the senior author.



Mihir Shah (PSCI, Hamm-Alvarez lab) presented a poster at the March, 2016 Cornea Gordon Research Conference in Ventura, CA.



Maira Soto and **Sachin Jadhav** recently got married! Maira is currently a CXPT student in Dr. Kathy Rodgers lab, while Sachin is a former lab member who graduated in 2014 and is now a postdoc at City of Hope.