

NEWS

134th USC Commencement Ceremony Held at HSC on Friday May 12th



The School of Pharmacy Satellite Commencement Ceremony was held at 3pm in the Health Sciences Campus Pappas Quad on Friday May 12th. In addition, **Alick Tan** (final year CXPT student, see photo at right) received the “*Order of the Arete*” for outstanding leadership, scholarship, service, and commitment to the university and community at the 2017 Student Recognition Ceremony held at UPC on Thursday, May 11th.

Pictured at left (from L-R): MPTX, PSCI and CXPT graduates Alick Tan, Zhechu Peng, Ishan Patil, Richa Aggarwal, Maira Soto, Li Zhou, Christine Solinsky, Tao Bi and Weiwen Sun. *Absent:* Isaac Asante, John Gallagher and Asma El-Magboub.

Congratulations to Our Students for Academic Year 2016-2017!!



The Pharmacy Graduate Alliance (PGA) hosted the annual end-of-year Commencement Luncheon on Tuesday, May 16th in PSC-104. Awards for the best teaching and research assistants were announced, and all students graduating in 2017 (PhD, MS, and DRSc) were presented with certificates.

Pictured at left: (from L-R) **Nhat Hunyh** (Best TA, CXPT), **Dab Brill** (Best TA, PSCI), **Maira Soto** (Best RA, CXPT) and **Pooja Vaikari** (Best TA, MPTX). *Absent:* Li Zhou (MPTX), Zhen Meng (PSCI), Sang Cho and Chia-Wei Lin (HE).

To view a [slideshow](#) reflecting on our graduate student accomplishments for the academic year 2016-2017—including **Honors and Awards, Publications, Leadership, and Invited Presentations** — please click [here](#).

PHARMACY GRADUATE ALLIANCE (PGA) CORNER

PGA Elects Officers for 2016-2017

The new **PGA Board** will be as follows: **Aida Kouhi** (President), **Charles Caldwell** (Vice-President), **Hugo Avila** (Finance Director), **Jeff Dai** (Secretary), **Juliana Chen** (PSCI rep), **Michelle Grau** (MPTX rep), **Larry Rodriguez** (Reg Sci rep), **Rita Algorri** (CXPT rep), **Elmar Aliyev** (HE rep), and **Wade Thompson-Harper** (staff member). If you would like to contact the Board, please email us at pga@usc.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Research Fellowship Programs Begin: Eight USC PharmD students were accepted into this year’s Dean’s Summer PharmD Research Fellowship Program, while six undergraduate students will participate in our SURF Program. The SURF students are from UCLA, UCSB, Oregon State, CSULA, Univ Georgia and Loyola Marymount University. The goal of both programs is to attract competitive students who have a strong desire to pursue a PhD in one of our graduate programs. Both programs are 10-week, full-time programs and include a mandatory orientation, a 4-part bioinformatics lecture series, and a final presentation day on Thursday, July 27th, from 12-3pm.

Bioinformatics Workshop Series: Bioinformatics faculty at Norris Medical Library will offer a series of four 90-minute Bioinformatics seminars this summer. The dates are as follows: Fri July 7, Fri July 14, Wed July 19 and Wed July 26 from approx. 12– 3pm (exact time TBA). All 1st year PHTS students are required to attend, but anyone interested is welcome to join. Please contact Yibu Chen at yibuchen@usc.edu for more information.

Health Economics Graduate Students Give Invited Presentations: Three HE graduate students presented papers at last month’s International Liver Congress in Amsterdam : Justin McGinnis, Darshan Mehta and Xue Han. In addition, seven HE graduate students presented papers at last week’s ISPOR Annual Meeting in Boston: Soo-In Bang, Wei-Han Cheng, Cynthia Gong, Xiayu Jiao, Cho-Han Lee, Chia-Wei Lin and Andy Nguyen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

USC School of Pharmacy Graduation Celebration on Friday June 2nd: This is the end of the year Graduation Gala for all graduating students. Our **Graduate Student Awards** will be recognized at this celebration. The event will be held from 5-8pm at the Broad CIRM Center Lawn. Please plan to attend!

AAPS Student Chapter Hosts Seminar on Friday June 2nd: The AAPS Student Chapter will host a seminar given by Dr Tao Zhang, Senior Scientist at Pfizer, at noon on Fri June 2nd in PSC-200. The title of the seminar is: “*Enabling Role of Pharmaceutical Scientist in Early Stages of Small Molecule Drug Development*”. All are welcome to attend!

3rd Annual BCLA Entrepreneurship Summit, Saturday June 3rd: The 3rd Annual BCLA Entrepreneurship Summit will be held on Sat June 3rd from 8am till 5.30pm at CNSI, UCLA. This event is free and open to all. For more info and to register, click [here](#).

Student Seminars (Wednesdays at noon in PSC-104)

May 24: Tamar Cohen (CXPT, Rodgers lab)

May 31: Asma El-Magboub (MPTX Haworth lab)

June 7: Charles Caldwell (CXPT, Cadenas lab)

USC School of Pharmacy Office of Research and Graduate Programs

Associate Dean: Annie Wong-Beringer, PharmD

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

Photo credit: Chris Jones and Isaac Mora (Media Dept), Michele Keller, Director of Communications and Marketing

Email: PHARgrad@usc.edu

Website: <https://pharmgradprograms.usc.edu/>

1985 Zonal Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90089

(323) 442– 1474

Upcoming Events



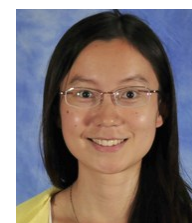
CONGRATULATIONS



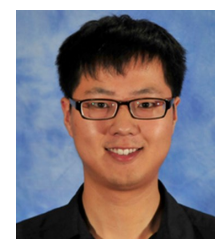
Alick Tan (CXPT program; Dr Kathy Rodgers, advisor) received the “Order of the Arete” 2017 Student Recognition Award.



Zoe Wagner (PSCI program; Dr Wei-Chiang Shen, advisor) has been offered a faculty position at Bentley Univ, Boston.



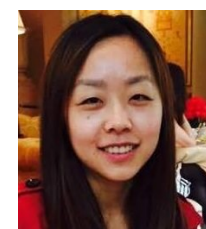
Si Li (PSCI program; Dr Pin Wang, advisor) successfully defended her dissertation defense on May 3rd.



Weiwen Sun (PSCI program; Dr Clay Wang, advisor) successfully defended his dissertation defense on May 22nd.



Asma El-Magboub (MPTX program; Dr Ian Haworth, advisor) successfully defended her dissertation defense on May 25th.



Li Zhou (MPTX program; Dr Wei-Chiang Shen, advisor) has been offered a summer internship at Takeda Pharmaceuticals.