

## NEWS

### Graduate Affairs Hosts Alumni Advisory Group Event



The USC School of Pharmacy Graduate Affairs Office has begun a new initiative to reach out to alumni from our lab-based Graduate programs, alumni who have advanced to a cross section of influential positions and successful careers in industry, academia, research, government, and others. Our first **Alumni Advisory Group** meeting was held on Friday, October 7th from 1-4.30pm in PSC-701, followed by a meet and greet reception with current grad student leaders (PGA, AAPS-USC). In addition to the 6 invited alumni, Dr Annie Wong-Beringer, Assoc Dean for Graduate Affairs, Dr Ian Haworth, Chair of the Graduate Curriculum Committee, and the Program Chairs for our lab-based PhD programs (Drs. Duncan, MacKay and Louie) were in attendance. Our new dean, Dr Vassilios Papadopoulos, gave an introductory welcome. The goal was to gain insights and feedback on 1) strengths of our programs that facilitated success and 2) what we can improve on to meet contemporary and future demands in pharmaceutical and translational sciences so that we could develop/add new opportunities for our graduate students and ready them for careers in the biomedical field. All agreed that the event was a resounding success, with more to follow. *Pictured (from left):* **Michael Shiue** (Pfizer), **Nick Mordwinkin** (Ultragenyx), **Hovik Gukasyan** (Pfizer), **Melissa Agnello** (UCLA), **Letisha Wyatt** (Oregon HSU), and **Ashutosh Kulkarni** (Allergan).

### Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs Holds Graduate Student Open Forum

**Dr Annie Wong-Beringer**, Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs and Interdisciplinary Programs, held a Graduate Student Open Forum on Tuesday October 4th from 12-1pm in PSC-104. A total of 50 students representing all the USC School of Pharmacy Graduate Programs (CXPT, MPTX, PSCI, PHTS, Health Economics and Regulatory Science) attended. The students were given an update on changes made to the program over the past year which included establishment of the umbrella PHTS program, expanded recruitment for domestic and underrepresented minority students, implementation of TA guidelines, professional development series, and a monthly newsletter to improve communications, etc. In turn, students provided feedback on the curriculum-coursework and qualifying exam format, research infrastructure, GAO staff support, professional development needs, and social space within the school. Suggestions for improvement related to the above will be communicated to the respective office/department and committees for consideration.

### Regulatory Science and CTSI Host Boot Camp on "Good Clinical Practice"



Regulatory Science and SC Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) hosted a one-day Regulatory Boot Camp on Monday October 3rd from 9-4pm in McKibben Hall on **"Good Clinical Practice (GCP): Audits and Inspections"**. The event was part of an educational series sponsored by the Greater LA CTSA Consortium, designed to address the complexities of conducting clinical trials. The attendees included clinical study personnel from research sites across the greater Los Angeles in addition to USC students and faculty.

## PHARMACY GRADUATE ALLIANCE (PGA) CORNER



### Graduate Students Attend USC Trojans Football Game at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum

The Pharmacy Graduate Alliance (PGA) organized a group of grad students to attend USC's recent football game against Arizona State on Oct 1st at the Coliseum (USC won the game 41-20). A fun time was had by all! To find out about future PGA events, please follow us on Face Book or email us at [pga@usc.edu](mailto:pga@usc.edu).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**USC Graduate Students Establish a Local Chapter of GWIS:** CXPT student **Rita Algori**, along with several other USC graduate students, are currently recruiting new members to establish a local chapter of **Graduate Women in Science (GWIS)** - an international network of science professionals and scholars. Membership is open to graduate students as well as to those further along in their careers. In an effort to further GWIS's commitment to cultivating well-rounded women in the sciences, the Los Angeles chapter of GWIS was created to provide a headquarters for existing GWIS members, as well as welcome new members who are seeking career support and networking opportunities. LA GWIS members will have access to the national fellowship application, as well as networking events, online workshops and career development tools. Public service and mentorship opportunities will be implemented for women looking to advance their scientific careers while also giving back to the community at large. Another goal is to develop strong relationships with USC faculty members on both campuses as well as industry professionals to bridge the academic community and biotech industry. For more info send [email](#).

**CXPT Student Chairs Graduate Student Consulting Club:** Four HSC-based graduate students started the **Graduate Student Consulting Club (GSCC)** in Fall 2015. CXPT PhD student **Neal Desai** was one of the founders and Vice-President for 2015-2016 and Chair for 2016-2017. GSCC is an Advanced Degree Consulting Club (ADCC) at USC, similar to what many other universities have. GSCC has been a GSG-recognized student only organization at USC that promotes consulting as a career option for all graduate students (PhD, MD, PharmD, JD, MS). While the core group are from HSC, most of the members are from UPC where case practice sessions are held every week. In order to expand the student organization, they are looking for: (1) **Speakers from consulting firms** to come and talk to members about a career in consulting: what it takes, how to apply, how to prepare, strengths/weaknesses of graduate students and (2) **Recruiters from consulting firms** like BCG, Bain, KPMG and Ernst & Young. For more info, visit their [website](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Oct 21:** Zhe Li (PSCI, MacKay lab)

**Nov 4:** Li Zhou (MPTX, Shen lab)

**Nov 11:** Alick Tan (CXPT, Rodgers lab)

**Nov 18:** Kevin Lin (PSCI, Wang lab)

**NIH F31 Fellowship Writing Workshop:** Wed October 5th through Wed November 16th, from 8-9am in PSC-200. [Email: PHARgrad@usc.edu](mailto:PHARgrad@usc.edu)

### USC School of Pharmacy Office of Graduate Affairs

Associate Dean: Annie Wong-Beringer, PharmD

Newsletter Editor: Kathryn Rich; 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](mailto:PHARgrad@usc.edu)

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

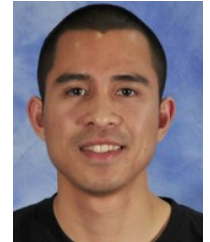
1985 Zonal Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90089

(323) 442- 1474

## Upcoming Events



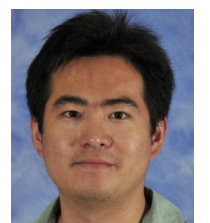
## CONGRATULATIONS



**Nhat Huynh** (CXPT program; Dr Daryl Davies, advisor) is 1st-author on a new publication in the journal *Neuropharmacology*. Former CXPT student, Anna Naito, is a co-author.



**Cho-Han Lee** (HE program, Dr Jeff McCombs, advisor), presented a poster at the AMCP Nexus 2016 Conference, held in National Harbor, MD, on October 3-6.



**Yilong Li** (2016 graduate PSCI program; Dr Julio Camarero, advisor), is 1st author on a new publication in the journal *Biopolymers*.



**Anna Papinska** (2016 graduate PSCI program), presented at the USC-Allergan Postdoc Fellowship reception hosted by the PGA on Sept 24. Anna is currently completing a 1-yr postdoc fellowship at Allergan.



Recent MS Reg Sci graduate **Amrit Jaggi** started a 2-yr rotational position in regulatory affairs with J&J Medical Devices on Sept 26. She was also selected to join the Accelerate leadership program at J&J.