Jugal Dhandhukia Published Three First-Author Articles During the Summer of 2017!

Jugal Dhandhukia, PhD (PSI program, Dr. Andrew MacKay, advisor) defended his PhD on June 15, 2017 and has since then published three first-author articles related to his doctoral research: 1. “Bi-functional elastin-like polypeptide nanoparticles bind rapamycin and integrins, and suppress tumor growth in vivo” in Biomacromolecules; 2. “Boronic Polypeptides: Multi-Headed Fusion Proteins Promote Subcutaneous Administration of Rapamycin to Breast Cancer in Vivo” in Theranostics; and 3. “Elastin-like polypeptide switches: A design strategy to detect multimeric proteins” in Protein Sci. During his graduate career, Jugal has been a recipient of the Discovery award, the Best Teaching Assistant Award, and chaired the 2014 Annual Moving Targets Symposium. Jugal also received the Order of Anio Award, which is awarded to graduate students that demonstrate significant depth and scope of responsibility in leadership roles that benefit their peers as well as the broader community.

Mansour Dughbaj and Casandra Walker Receive Culty Graduate Student Diversity Scholarships!

Mansour Dughbaj and Casandra Walker (PHTS Program) were awarded the 2017-2018 Culty Graduate Student Diversity Scholarship on September 25, 2017. Dr. Martine Culty, Associate Professor in the School of Pharmacy, established this award to enhance diversity in the graduate student body. The Culty Graduate Award is for first year PhD students from an underrepresented minority background and carries an award amount of $2,500, which can be used for travel or purchase of educational materials that enhance the training experience.

PHARMACY GRADUATE ALLIANCE (PGA) CORNER

PGA will host a Happy Hour!

The PGA Board will be hosting the first happy hour of the 2017-2018 school year on Wednesday, October 18th from 4:00-6:00 pm in PSC 104. Please join the PGA at “The Social Hour.” If you would like to contact the PGA Board, please email pga@usc.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stress, Mindfulness, and Support for Graduate Students, Wednesday, October 18, 10-11 am: The seminar will take place at the NML East Conference Room. Mindfulness has been scientifically shown to reduce anxiety and stress, improve attention, boost the immune system, reduce emotional reactivity, and promote a general sense of well-being. Join us for a discussion on mindfulness, stress and support!

Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute (SC CTSI) and USC Keck School of Medicine Biostatistics Workshop Series, Thursday, October 19, 12:30 pm: The Lunch & Learn Biostatistics workshop will focus on “Study Designs and Data Collection Strategies” and will be held at NRT LE 303/304. Lunch will be provided. Register at eventbrite.com/uscbiosept.

LGBTQ Cultural Competency, Wednesday, October 25, 12 pm: Speaker Rev. Kelley Harrison, PhD, Director of the USC LGBT Resource Center will speak at the lunchtime seminar on increasing LGBTQ cultural competence in PAC 200, Wriggles Conference Room.

Graduate Programs in the Pharmaceutical & Translational Sciences Open House, Wednesday, November 8, 9 am-12:30 pm: The PHTS program will be hosting prospective students interested in attending the USC SOP for their graduate studies. Prospective students will hear from faculty about research projects and will be given tours of the facilities and labs. For more information contact sopharma@usc.edu.

Graduate Students (Wednesdays at noon in PSC-104):

Oct 18: Charles Caldwell (CKPT, Cadenas lab)
Oct 25: Sean Wang (PSCI, Shen lab)
Nov 1: Jordan Despanie (PSCI, MacKay lab)
Nov 8: Kevin Lin (PSCI, Wang lab)
Nov 15: Jillian Romsdahl (MPTX, Wang lab)

CONGRATULATIONS

Laura Henhaus (MEC program; Dr. Jeffrey McCombs, advisor) received the B.B. Robbie Rosenman Annual Memorial Child Malnutrition Research Award at the International Summit on Violence, Abuse and Trauma in La Jolla for her work on “Adverse childhood experiences and adult income in the U.S.” Laura is also the Schaeffer-Amen postdoctoral fellow.

Nhat Huy Nguyen (CKPT program, Dr. Daryl Davies, advisor) published a second-author article titled, “Reduced Expression of Purinergic P2X4 Receptors Increases Voluntary Ethanol Intake in C57BL/6 Mice” in Alcohol- American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology, in September 2017.


Larry Rodrigues (PSCI program; Dr. Daryl Davies, advisor) received the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Pharmaceutical Sciences for Underrepresented Minorities.

Christine Solinsky (CKPT Program; Dr. Roberto Diaz-Brinton, advisor) defended her PhD on October 6th. Her dissertation focused on “An iPSC-based Biomarker Strategy to Identify Neuro-regenerative Responders to Allspregnanolone.”