NEWS

Dr. Paul Beringer has been appointed Chair of the Title of Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy!

Dr. Paul Beringer has been appointed as the Chair of the Titus Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy. Dr. Beringer has been serving as Interim Chair since February of 2017, and as such he has been overseeing the Clinical Department’s contributions to the School’s educational programs, as well as working with the associate deans to guide faculty recruitment and retention strategies. Dr. Beringer has a gleaming background as an educator, scholar, pharmacy practitioner, and clinical/ translational researcher with more than 45 authored journal articles and 20 book chapters in pharmacokinetics, cystic fibrosis, among other topics in pharmaceutical sciences. Dr. Beringer’s research focuses on improving pharmacotherapy for patients with cystic fibrosis, which is a disease characterized by progressive loss of lung function and a decreased lifespan as a result of a genetic disorder. He has been serving as advisor to multiple MS and PhD students. We congratulate Dr. Paul Beringer on his Chair appointment!

Amen Thousand Oaks Campus Visit was a success!

On Friday, Dec 1 approximately 40 students and postdocs were selected to tour several labs at the Amen Thousand Oaks Location following the end of the USC—Amen seminar series. During the Amen site visit, students were able to tour a 3-D modeling lab, a Flow cytometry and FACS sorting core lab, a lab that focused materials management, and finally a high-throughput screening lab. The site visit ended with a networking lunch that allowed the student to get more information on working at Amen from Amen scientists and postdocs. The USC–Amen seminars addressed various topics related to research in the pharmaceutical industry, with approximately 50 students attending each week. The site visit allowed the students to see here that research is conducted.

Graduate students presented their research at the national conferences!

Cynthia L. Gong, Pharm.D. (HUCP Program, Dr. Joel Hay, advisor) presented at the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting 2017 in Orlando, FL. Dr. Gong’s presented on her doctoral research project, which is focused on “Watch Your Dollars: Finding Value in Management of High-Cost Formulary Drugs.”

Jordanna Jayne (CXPT Program, Dr. Paul Beringer, advisor) presented at the 2017 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Meeting in early November in San Diego, CA. Jordanna’s poster featured her most recent results on “Rhesus Theta Defensin-1 (RTD-1) Inhibits Inflammation and Cell Migration in Vivo and In Vitro and Is a Potential Therapeutic for Chronic Lung Diseases.”

High School student, Samiha Mahin, is Featured in the News for Work in Dr. Martine Culley’s Lab!

Samiha Mahin is a high school junior that participates in the USC Science Technology and Research/Engineering for Health (START/ENGINE) Program. Samiha is currently working under Dr. Martine Culley, where she is lead researcher on a project to develop an extra-uterine device that would allow premature babies to continue to develop in the artificial womb until they reach normal development of a full-term baby. Samiha was a semi-finalist for the Outstanding Young Scientist award granted by the California Association of Professional Scientists. Samiha’s efforts have recently gained local attention, as she was featured in the Los Angeles Daily News in November and in ABC News—news article: http://www.dailynews.com/2017/11/13/people-in-the-valley-north-hollywood-teen-finds-a-passion-in-science-and-a-dose-of-real-life/ or watch news video here: http://abc7.com/society/croll-kid-samiha-mahin-is-passionate-about-helping-premature-babies/2717816/. Congratulations Samiha!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bi-annual School of Pharmacy Research and Graduate Education Retreat, Thursday-Friday, January 4-5, 2018: The SGP Research Retreat will take place at the Terranea Beach Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. A selected group of students representative of programs in the School have been invited to participate. The theme of this retreat is “Celebrating our Differences” and will feature keynote speaker Dr. Shawn Harper, Executive Director from the USC Equity and Race Center, faculty presentations, and several break-out sessions that will help address “Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Research and Scholarship” and “Translating Research Discoveries/Innovations into the Health system to benefit patient care.” For more information contact David Hellard at dhellard@usc.edu.

School of Pharmacy Pharmaceutical & Translational Sciences Graduate Program Interview Weekend, Friday-Saturday, January 26-27, 2018: Top prospective applicants for PhDs will be invited for an on-campus interview and have the opportunity to listen to faculty research presentations, and participate in a campus tour, a graduate student poster session and dinner. Applicant interviews will be on Friday, January 26th. Prospective students will have the opportunity to mingle with faculty and graduate students during the poster session on Friday, January 26th at 4:30 pm. The program will end on Saturday with a social event that includes an excursion of the Los Angeles area with current graduate students. For more information contact email: rscholl@usc.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Break: Dec 23 – Jan 1st

Classes begin: Monday, January 8th

Student Seminars (Wednesdays at noon in PSC-104): The Student Seminar Series will go on break from Dec 13th – January 10th for the Holiday Break.

Jan 10: Nhat Hoynh (CPPT, Davis lab)
Jan 17: Aida Kouli (PSCI, Mackay lab)

USC School of Pharmacy Office of Research and Graduate Programs

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CONGRATULATIONS

Adrias “Ada” Blichewicz, (PSCI Program, Dr. Clay Wang, advisor) passed her qualifying exam, which focused on Omics data mining to elucidate molecular adaptation mechanisms of filamentous fungi exposed to the space environment.

Kaneshi “Sharon” Chen (PSCI Program, Dr. Pin Wang, advisor) passed her qualifying exam, which focused on Engineering of Tumor-Specific CAR for Adaptive Cell Therapy Against Renal Cell Carcinoma.

Michelle Grau (MPH Program, Dr. Clay Wang, advisor) passed her qualifying exam, which focused on Using a multi-faceted approach to uncover the production potential of bioactive natural products in fungi.

Hao Guo (PSCI Program, Dr. Andrew Mackay, advisor) passed her qualifying exam, which focused on The management of Sjogren’s syndrome - mediated dry eye with cyclosporine delivered by Ed��m-like Polyplexes.

Tao Ma (PSCI Program, Dr. Kamming Xie, advisor) passed his qualifying exam, which focused on DNA-directed assembly of pMHC multimers for detecting low-affinity T cells and inducing immune tolerance in type 1 diabetes.

Larry Rodrigues (PSCI program; Dr. Daryl Davies, advisor) passed his qualifying exam, which focused on Cross-talk between P2X4 and MMDA Receptors: novel targets for drug development.

Vijaya Peepa Valkar (CPPT Program; Dr. Hozila Alchiheri advisor) passed her qualifying exam, which focused on The Role of CD89 in Leukemia Stem Cell Survival in Acute Myeloid Leukemia.