PHTS Graduate Program held its Interview Weekend Event on January 26th!

The Pharmaceutical & Translational Sciences (PHTS) Graduate Program held its Annual Interview Weekend Event on Friday, January 26th. The PHTS Program is the umbrella program for the School’s three laboratory-based PhD programs; this allows the students to take courses together and rotate through laboratories in the MPTX, PSCI or CXPT tracks during the first year of graduate school. Twenty-three prospective students from top universities all over the US (eg. Rutgers, Penn State, Ohio State, the University of Michigan, Northwestern, and UC and CSU schools) spent the day learning about the ongoing research projects in the SOP, interviewing with faculty and touring the CORE facilities. The event concluded with a poster session that featured research conducted by current students, an amazing performance by the USC band, and finally dinner in downtown Pasadena. On Saturday morning, the applicants went to brunch with current PhD students in Old Town Pasadena. A second round of PHTS applicants will be hosted on March 6th.

Nhat Huynh, PharmD defended his PhD dissertation!

Nhat Huynh (CXPT Program, Dr. Daryl Davies, advisor) defended his doctoral dissertation titled, “The Preclinical Evaluation of Moxidectin as a Platform for Drug Development for Alcohol Use Disorder.” During his doctoral career Dr. Huynh published one first-author publication titled, “Preclinical development of moxidectin as a novel therapeutic for alcohol use disorder” and two other co-first-author articles titled, “Preclinical evaluation of avermectins as novel therapeutic agents for alcohol use disorders” and “The avermectin family as potential therapeutic compounds for alcohol use disorder - implication for using P2X4 receptor as a drug screening platform.” We congratulate Dr. Nhat Huynh who graduated from our PharmD program and has now finished his PhD with much success during his graduate career!

Graduate students voiced their opinions at SOP Townhall Meeting and Diversity Lunch!

The Office of Graduate Affairs organized a town hall meeting for all graduate students in the School of Pharmacy. This meeting aimed to update the graduate student population on new policies and provide a forum for students to provide feedback or voice any concerns. A second meeting was held with underrepresented minority graduate students, where the students had a chance to discuss how to enhance inclusion and foster a stronger sense of community at USC. These meetings will be held every 6 months to ensure all students have the opportunity to voice concerns and to help improve the programming/services provided by the Office of Graduate Affairs. For more information please email liz.aguiniga@usc.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HSC PhD Career Series happening now, Various Dates, February–April 2018:

The HSC PhD Career Series is for all graduate students on the Health Science Campus and is co-sponsored by the School of Pharmacy, Keck School of Medicine, Public Health Sciences and the Graduate School. Most seminars will be held during lunch time and lunch will be provided for all attendees. Please RSVP for workshops at https://bit.ly/2r8h4in.

“Interviewing and Negotiating Job Offers” Speaker: Denise Johnson, Wednesday, March 28 at 11am-1pm in the Hastings Auditorium.

“Tips for Effective Networking” Speaker: Frances Richmond, Thursday, April 5th from 11am-2pm in SSB 115/116

“LinkedIn” social media presence Speaker: Paula Amoeza, Friday, April 13th from 11am-2pm in SSB 115/116

UPCOMING EVENTS

FDA OCP Summer Internship 2018-Information Session, Friday, February 16 at 5pm:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Office of Clinical Pharmacology is sponsoring a summer internship (8-12 weeks) for 2018, and will sponsor 20-30 interns. USC is roughly one of 15 schools in the U.S. to be invited to partake in this annual internship. Mr. Craig Luis, a former intern, will lead the information session about this rare opportunities, including information on housing in the Baltimore area or Philadelphia. Please email Roocio Pinal to RSVP: Roocio@usc.edu.

BCLA’s 3rd Annual Bioscience Talent Connection (Career Fair), Friday, February 23 2018, 10am–3pm:

All life science professionals in academia, industry, or students interested in learning about career development tips and/or looking for local opportunities should to participate in BCLA’s 3rd Annual Bioscience Talent Connection! It is a full day event which will commence with career development discussions followed by a showcase of life science companies in the SoCal area. Register now for free and take advantage of this opportunity to learn tips on how to advance your career and to meet biotech industry leaders face-to-face! UPC 3753 McCoshk Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90089 (USC Leonard Davis). RSVP Here: https://bcla2018.eventbrite.com.

School of Pharmacy Pharmaceutical & Translational Sciences Graduate Program Interview Event, Tuesday, March 6, 2018:

A second round of applicants for the PHTS Program will be invited for on-campus interviews and have the opportunity to listen to faculty research presentations and participate in lab tours. For more information contact liz.aguiniga@usc.edu.

Student Seminars (Wednesdays at noon in PSC 104):

Feb 21: Julianna Chen (PSCI, Zhang lab)
Feb 28: David Tyrpak (PSCI, MacKay lab)
Mar 7: Shuy Liu (CXPT, Louie lab)

USC School of Pharmacy Office of Research and Graduate Programs

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CONGRATULATIONS

Rita Algorti (CXPT Program, Dr. Wong-Berger, advisor) passed her qualifying exam, which focused on examining the immunomodulatory properties of antibiotics to combat host immune suppressor strategies of Staphylococcus aureus during sepsis.

Zhuo Jeff Dai (PSCI Program, Dr. Zhang, advisor) passed his qualifying exam, which focused on Rational Design of Novel Inhibitors Targeting at the Cytokine Receptors and NAD-Consuming Enzymes.

Laura Henkhaus (HLEC Program; Dr. Jeffrey McCombs, advisor) has been invited to give an oral presentation on “Early Childhood Experiences and Resilience” at the Annual Population Association of America Meeting in Denver in April 28-29, 2018.

Yaping Ju (PSCI Program, Dr. Hamm-Alvarez, advisor) passed her qualifying exam, which focused on Development of A Molecules-Targeted Carrier for Repurposing to Treat Dracunculiasis in A Sjogren’s Syndrome Mouse Model.

Darshin Mehta (HLEC Program, Dr. Hay, advisor) will present two posters at the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) titled, “Impact of physician specialty on HCV treatment care cascade: Evidence from paid claims data from 2010 to 2016.” and “Effectiveness of hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening laws in United States: Evidence from paid claims data from 2010 to 2016.” The EASL meeting will be held in Paris, France on April 11-15, 2018.