Tzu-Shyang Kevin Lin defended his Ph.D. and has been offered a position at Lodo Therapeutics!

Tzu-Shyang Kevin Lin (PSCI Program, Dr. Clay Wang, advisor) defended his dissertation, which focused on “Genetic and Chemical Characterization of Two Highly-Reducing Polyketide Synthase Gene Clusters From Aspergillus Species” on Friday, March 16, 2018. During his graduate career Dr. Lin published a first-author publications entitled, “Bioinformatic Pathway of the Reduced Polyketide Product Citreverdin in Aspergillus terreus var. annuus Revealed by Heterologous Expression in Aspergillus nidulans” and was a middle-author on a second publication entitled, “Overexpression of a three-gene corrinoid pigmen biosynthetic pathway in Aspergillus nidulans reveals the first NRPS known to acetylate tryptophan.” Dr. Lin has recently accepted a Scientist position at Lodo Therapeutics and is set to begin the position in July. Lodo Therapeutics is a biotech startup company based out of New York City that launched in 2016 with the aim of discovering novel antibiotics from unculturable soil bacteria. Congratulations Dr. Lin!

Two USC School of Pharmacy Graduate Students received the APPE Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Pharmaceutical Sciences!

Larry Rodrigues (PSCI program; Dr. Daryll Davies, advisor) received the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (APPE) Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Pharmaceutical Sciences. The APPE pre-doctoral fellowship in Pharmaceutical Sciences supports a diverse group of talented students as they pursue advanced pharmaceutical sciences education. Recipients of this fellowship are awarded $10,000 to use toward enhancing the graduate training experience. Congratulations Larry and Alicia!

Rosie Soltero received the USC Staff Recognition Award!

Rosie Soltero, Program Specialist for the Office of Graduate Affairs, received the USC Staff Recognition Award at the monthly Staff Assembly general meeting on Tuesday, April 3. The USC Staff Recognition Award is presented to a USC staff member who demonstrates outstanding job performance, dedication and willingness to assist in problem solving beyond the job requirements, positive attitude and commitment to the USC Code of Ethics. Rosie Soltero has been a part of the Office of Graduate Affairs for almost five years and a part of the USC Trojan Team since 2005. Congratulations Rosie!

PHARMACY GRADUATE ALLIANCE (PGA) CORNER

PGA to host Trivia Night in April, PGA Board Recruitment Event on May 10th, and End of Year Luncheon on May 17th!

- Come show off your trivia skills at the PGA Trivia Night Event on Tuesday, April 24, 2018; 4-6 pm in PSC 104! The top three teams will receive prizes!
- Interested in joining PGA? Check out the PSCA Board Recruitment Event on May 10, 2018 for 4-5 pm; Location TBD.
- Come celebrate the End of the Year Luncheon on May 17, 2018; 12-2pm in PSC 104.

If you would like to contact the PGA Board, please email pga@usc.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graduation Celebration Wednesday, May 9, 6 - 8:30 pm. The graduating class of 2018 from all School of Pharmacy degree programs are invited to the final celebration before Commencement. The Class of 2018 Student Awards will be presented at this time. The event will take place at the Lower Pappas Quad. RSVP to Cheryl Stanovich at stanovic@usc.edu.

The 113th Annual USC School of Pharmacy Commencement Friday, May 11, 2 pm: The Commencement Ceremony will take place in Broad Lawn.

Healthcare leader and entrepreneur Eileen Goods will be the distinguished alumnus speaker. The Commencement Ceremony will be immediately followed by a reception at Pappas Quad, on the Health Sciences Campus and is expected to last about one hour. Tickets are required to attend the Commencement Ceremony. For additional information, please contact Cheryl Stanovich at stanovic@usc.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BCLA’s Pasadena Biotech Mixer, Monday, April 23, 6pm-9pm: Biotech Connection LA (BCLA), in partnership with Innovate Pasadena and Caltech Postsdoc Association, brings you another biotech mixer, this time in Pasadena! Come network with fellow academics and industry professionals from all over LA and enjoy appetizers and drinks at Dabney Lounge located in Caltech’s campus. Reserve your spot now for this highly anticipated mixer! Stay tuned for more information.

Dabney Lounge (Caltech Campus) 1200 E California Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91125. RSVP Here: https://pdasianmixers2018.eventbrite.com

2nd Annual USC School of Pharmacy Alumni Awards Gala, Saturday, April 29, 5-9 pm: Join the USC School of Pharmacy alumni and friends as we come together to honor outstanding leaders who have made significant contributions to the pharmacy profession. USC Town and Grove Ballroom, 556 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90089. For more information, to purchase individual tickets, or sponsor a table please visit pharmacisty.usc.edu/gala or contact Cheryl Stanovich at stanovic@usc.edu or (323) 442-1738.

Student Seminars (Wednesdays at noon in PSC-104):
- April 18: Zhefu Dai (PSCI, Zhang lab)
- April 25: Michelle Graw (MPTX, Wang lab)
- May 2: Xuanhui (Sharon) Chen (MPTX, Wang lab)
- May 9: Hao Guo (PSCI, MacKay lab)

UC School of Pharmacy Office of Research and Graduate Programs

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CONGRATULATIONS

Rita Algert (EXPT Program, Dr. Worgheringer, advisor) was selected for the 2018 ASM Research Capstone Program Fellowship, which will provide up to $2000 in travel funds for Rita to present her poster entitled, “Immunomodulatory Effects of Antistaphylococcal Antibiotics on Host innate Immunity against S. Aureus Ex Vivo” at the ASM Microbe Meeting June 7-11 in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Darin Oppenheimer (DPharm/MS Reg Sci’17) co-authored a Drug Information Association (DIA) presentation entitled, “Digital Health Evolution from a US Perspective.” Their paper was also presented to the DIA legal community and the Medical Device and Diagnostics community via webinar on February 13, 2018.

Amelia Spinrad (Reg Sci Program) and undergraduate researcher, Jackie Chen, presented a poster entitled, “Applying Implementation Science to Improve the Quality of Clinical Trials in an Academic Health Care Setting” at the Student Genenology Association Research Forum in March 2018.

Ash Truong (PSCI program, Dr. Andrew MacKay, advisor) received the Dr. B. Olive Graduate Educational Grant. This grant awards $2,000 to students enrolled in a program of graduate study and research that will advance their career. This grant was awarded by the Lambda Kappa Sigma elevating Women in Pharmacy. Ash Truong is the first male to obtain this award.