School of Pharmacy SURF students have arrived!

The USC School of Pharmacy’s Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) program has begun! This year, the School is hosting SURF students from across the continental US! Each year the School hosts undergraduate students that are interested in pursuing either a professional or research career in pharmaceutical and translational sciences, regulatory and quality sciences, and health economics and policy. All SURF students learn to conduct research under the guidance of faculty and to communicate scientific concepts. The SURF students will also get a chance to learn about the graduate school application process and talk to current graduate students so as to stimulate serious consideration of graduate study. Furthermore, these students will participate in various workshops to help promote their professional development. The SURF students will give an oral presentation of their research to their peers and faculty on July 26, 2018.

School of Pharmacy Graduate student Zhe Li defended her thesis!

Zhe Li (PSCI Program, Dr. MacKay, advisor) defended her dissertation, which focused on “Temperature triggered protein assembly enables signaling switching and peptide drug delivery” on Thursday, June 14, 2018. During her graduate career Dr. Li was a co-author on seven publications! Most recently, Dr. Li was a second-author on a manuscript published in the Journal of Controlled Substances entitled, “Intra-vitreal d8 crystallin fused to elastin-like polypeptide provides neuroprotection in a mouse model of age-related macular.” Congratulations Dr. Li.

Pharmacy Graduate Alliance (PGA) corner

PGA Presents Bowling Night at Xlames LA: The PGA Board would like to invite you to a Bowling Night at Xlames LA, which is located in Little Tokyo (10-15min from HSC) on Thursday, June 21 from 6-8pm. The $5 cover includes food, drinks, and the bowling shoe rental! Xlanes LA address: 333 Alameda st. #300, Los Angeles, 90013. The bowling alley/card is located inside of the shopping center at that address, on the 3rd floor. Please RSVP to mgru94@usc.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The SOP 3MT Competition, Wednesday, June 27, 12-2pm: The School of Pharmacy’s 3-Minute Thesis (SOP 3MT) is a competition where each student delivers an “elevator pitch” or a short summary used to quickly and simply relay their research project and its value in the span of an elevator ride (for this competition, in 3 minutes). An effective elevator pitch is designed to get the attention of a potential funder or employer so that he/she wants to learn more. The concept of the three minute thesis is based upon an international competition in which PhD students are challenged to present their work to a broad audience in 3 minutes. The top 3 contestants will receive a monetary prize up to $300! Location: PSC 104. For more information about the SOP 3MT please email Liz.aguirrea@usc.edu.

Moving Targets Symposium, Friday, August 17, 9am-5pm: This year the Annual Moving Targets Symposium will focus on combating the opioid crisis from an interdisciplinary perspective covering policy, clinical care, and breakthroughs in drug-discovery. The Symposium will feature Dr. Kim Janda, who is working on an anti-vaccine for the prevention of HIV infection; Dr. Rosalie Beringer, who studies the effectiveness of policy interventions aimed at combating illicit drug behaviors; and Dr. Melissa Durh who will participate in various workshops to help promote their professional development. The SURF students will give an oral presentation of their research to their peers and faculty on July 26, 2018.

The 2nd SoCal Taiwanese Biotechnology Symposium, July 7-8: The SoCal Taiwanese Biotechnology Symposium (SoCal TBS) is a 2-day event with multiple sessions including Women in Biotech, Translational Research, presentations by Entrepreneurs and Industry Veterans, as well as two professional development workshops. The event will bring together biotech companies, patent law firms, incubators, and academic professionals across southern California. SoCal TBS will help you from concept to market with industry’s foremost minds and sources from large bio-clusters. Come and network with your fellow academic and industry professionals and make sure to stop by BCLA’s booth. Location: UCLA Ackerman Grand Ballroom. Registration Fee: Starts at $20 (early bird); register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-socal-taiwanese-biotechnology-symposium-tickets-44395817435

Student Seminars (Wednesdays at noon in PSC-104):

June 20: Taojian Tu (PSCI, Stiles lab)
June 27: SOP 3MT Competition
July 4: On break until Fall 2018

NEWS

USC School of Pharmacy Health Economics Students win Best Podium awards!

Xue Han (HLEC Program, Dr. Comberts, advisor) won the Best Student Podium Presentation for her presentation on “Secondary Prevention Using Cholesterol-Lowering Medications in Patients Meeting New Treatment Guidelines: A Retrospective Cohort Analysis” from the Professional Society for health Economics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR). Xiaohan Hu (HLEC Program, Dr. Comberts, advisor) also won the Best Student Podium Presentation for her presentation. Xiaohan’s podium presentation was titled, “Trends in the Economic Value of Newly Approved Cancer Therapies in the US.” Xue and Xiaohan won two out of the three total podium awards given at the ISPOR conference. Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS

Charles Cadenas (CPT Program, Dr. Cadenas, advisor) presented his research titled “An Elastin-like Polypeptide-based Carrier of cyclosporine A to facilitate the Treatment of Sjögren’s Syndrome-Mediated Dry Eye Disease” at the international ARVO conference.

Hao Gu (PSI Program, Dr. MacKay, advisor) presented his research titled “An Elastin-like Polypeptide-based Carrier of cyclosporine A to facilitate the Treatment of Sjögren’s Syndrome-Mediated Dry Eye Disease” at the international ARVO conference.

Tajing Xu (PSI Program, Dr. hamm-Alvarez, advisor) presented her research titled “Comparison of N00 versus M01 Mouse Models of Autoimmune Dacryoadenitis.” at the international ARVO conference.

Wanita Klamgarn (PSI Program, Dr. Hamm-Alvarez, advisor) presented her research titled “Cathespin 5 Inhibitor Reduces Lacrimal Gland Inflammation and Increases Tear Flow In A Mouse Model of Sjögren’s Syndrome.” at the international ARVO conference.

Changmin Lee (PSI Program, Dr. MacKay, advisor) presented his research titled “Elastin-like Polypeptide Mediated Subcutaneous Delivery of Repamycin in a Murine Model of Sjögren’s Syndrome.” at the international ARVO conference.

Amelia Spreafico (Her Sci Program, Dr. Pacifico, advisor) presented her research titled, “Applying implementation Science to Improve the Quality of clinical Trials in Academia” at the Association of Clinical Research Professionals in National Harbor, MD.

Rachel Reyes (CPT Program, Dr. Davies, advisor) presented her poster on “Manipulation of the Gut Microbi-ome: Influencing alcohol consumption behaviors and alcohol-induced in- mune activity” at the Research Society for Alcoholism conference.