NEWS

Graduate student publication from Joel Hay’s group:

Jenny Lam (HLEC Program, Dr. Hay, advisor) was first-author (not pictured) and Jonathan Saucedo (HLEC Program, Dr. Hay, advisor) was third-author (pictures on left) on a publication entitled, “A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Realizium in the Treatment of Poorly Controlled Esophagitis Asthma,” published in the Journal of Asthma, July 2018 edition.

Graduate student publication from Paul Beringer’s lab:

Jenny A young Park (MPTX MS Program; Dr. Beringer, advisor) was first-author (pictured on the left) and Jordanna Jayne (CKPT PhD Program, Dr. Beringer, advisor) was third-author (right on the picture) on a publication entitled, “Pharmacokinetics of Tedizold in Plasma and Sputum of Adults with Cystic Fibrosis,” published in Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, June 2018 edition. Jenny graduated with an MS from the MPTX Program in May and will be joining the PHTS PhD Program this Fall.

Congratulations to the School of Pharmacy 3-Minute Thesis Winners!

The annual School of Pharmacy 3-Minute Thesis (SOP 3MT) Competition was held on Wednesday, June 27th. Each of the twelve contestants delivered a 3-minute “elevator pitch” or a short summary that relayed their research project and its value while avoiding scientific jargon. The winners were selected based on their ability to effectively communicate their research in under three minutes, while peeking the audience’s interest in the topic.

Xiaojing Shi won 1st place (PSG Program, Dr. Zhang, advisor), Jeff Dai won 2nd place (PSG Program, Dr. Zhang, advisor) and Lisa Walters won 3rd place (Postdoc, Dr. Davies’ lab). Congratulations SOP 3MT winners! Picture L-R: Jeff Dai (2nd place); Xiaojing Shi (1st place); Lisa Walter (3rd place).

Hugo Avila received the NIH Diversity Supplement!

Hugo Avila (PSG Program, Dr. MacKay, advisor) received the NIH Diversity Supplement Grant to fund his research on, “Intact extracellular switching using genetically engineered protein microdomains.” Hugo is working to develop a protein inhibitor for dynamin-dependent endocytosis by fusing elastin-like polypeptide (ELP) to dynamin2. By applying heat to the dynamin2-ELP, the ELP component can transition from solution to form a micrometer in cells; this property will be exploited to act as a molecular switch for dynamin-dependent endocytosis by sequencing dynamin2 with heat to prevent its function. Congratulations Hugo!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Engemann Student Health Center Feel Better Drop-in Workshops, Thursdays, July 19 – Aug 30, 4-5pm:
The Engemann Student Health Center is hosting free Feel Better Workshops aimed at helping learn how to manage emotions, stress, anxiety, and relationships. The topic varies from week to week (see details below); all workshops are on Thursdays from 4-5pm. Location: Engemann Student Health Center (ESH), Trojan Conference Room, 1st floor. 1031 West 34th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90089. For more information visit https://engemann.usc.edu/events/.

July 19: August 16—Calm Your Anxiety
July 26: August 23—Relationships and Connections
Aug 9—Stress Management
Aug 9—Managing Emotions
Aug 30—Addressing Academic Anxiety

SOP SURF and Dean’s Summer PharmD Students’ Festival Presentations, Thursday, July 26, 21pm:
Students in the USC School of Pharmacy’s Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) program and the Dean’s Summer PharmD Research Fellowship will give a 10-minute presentation on the research that they conducted during the summer. Come support the students! Location: PSC 104. For more information about the SURF Program please email pharmgrd@usc.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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; Dr. Brian Schlochter, who is working on developing an opioid product with reduced addictive potential; Dr. Scott Mosley, whose research focuses on pharmacogenetic implementation aimed at incorporating genetic information with other clinical factors to optimize drug selection; Dr. Rosalie Pacula, who studies the effectiveness of policy interventions aimed at expanding access to prescription opioids, and Dr. Melissa Durham, who will speak from the perspective of a pharmacist in a clinical setting. There will be a poster session, which is open to all students in all fields of research. Abstracts must be submitted by Friday, August 10 for consideration into the poster session. Location: USC School of Pharmacy PSC 112, 1985 Zonal Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90033. Registration is free for all USC faculty and students; all others must pay $50 registration fee. Registration required http://www.movingtargets.ca.us/. For more information about Moving Targets or to submit your abstract to go http://www.movingtargets.ca/

The 2nd SoCal Taiwanese Biotechnology Symposium, July 7-8:
The 2nd 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 bioclusters. 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-14356817435

Student Seminars (Wednesdays at noon in PSC-104):
On break until Fall 2018

CONGRATULATIONS

Laura Henkhaus (HLEC Program, Dr. Leidner; advisor) will give a podium presentation titled, “Children’s sexual abuse and adult human capital” during the Add Health Update Conference on July 23rd at the NIH in Bethesda, MD.

Changrim Lee (PSG Program, Dr. MacKay; advisor) will be a podium speaker at the Society for Controlled Release Meeting in New York City. His presentation is titled, “Elastin-like Polypeptide Mediates Subcutaneous Delivery of Kaposinin in a Murine Model of Sjögren’s Syndrome.” Changrim was awarded a travel fellowship to attend this conference.

Minho Park (PSG Program, Dr. MacKay; advisor) presented a poster on “Image-driven pharmacometrics of matrix metalloproteinase-2/9 targeted elastin-like polypeptides” at the Surfaces and Components in Biology and Medicine conference in Italy.

Larry Rodriguez (PSG Program, Dr. Davies; advisor) presented a poster titled, “Cross-talk between P2X4 and NMDA receptors: implications in alcohol addiction and drug development” at the 2018 Research Society on Alcoholism Conference in San Diego. Larry is currently training at the University of Chicago; this training is funded by his AFPE and NIH Diversity Supplement Fellowship grants.

Katherine St. Martin (DRS Program) presented a poster titled, “Quality Challenges in Cellular Therapy: An Examination of Regulatory Compliance in Manufacturing Institutions” at the DIA 2018 Global Annual Meeting in Boston.

Johannes van Dijk (PSG program; Dr. Wang, advisor) presented a poster titled, “Genome engineering of Haemophilus influenzae FY5130 using the CRISPR-CAS9 system” at the C3DM conference in Amsterdam.