NEWS

Amgen Thousand Oaks Campus Visit was a success!

On Friday, November 30th approximately 40 students and postdocs were selected to tour several labs at the Amgen Thousand Oaks Location following the end of the USC—Amgen seminar series. This year the attendees were able to visit five labs during the Amgen site visit, including the 3-D modeling lab, the Flow Cytometry and FACS Sorting Core Lab, the Materials Management Facility, the High-Throughput Screening Lab, and Film/Formatio...n and Transportation Facilities. The site visit ended with a networking lunch and a reception, which allowed the student to get more information on working at Amgen from Amgen scientists and postdocs. This annual site visit provides the attendees the opportunity to view how research is conducted at Amgen.

Jingyu Chen won the “Presidential Poster of Distinction” Award!

Jingyu Chen (PSCI Program, Dr. Barangan Stiles, advisor) received the “Presidential Poster of Distinction” Award for her poster presentation titled, “Anti-cathepsin Signal Regulates the Expansion of SOX9+ Tumor Initiating Cells (TICs) During Liver Cancer Development” from the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD). Jingyu presented her research at AASLD: The Liver Meeting, which was held from November 9-13 in San Francisco, CA. Jingyu also received a USC School of Pharmacy Travel Award to attend this conference. Congratulations Jingyu!

First-author publications from our graduate students!

Elmar Aliyev (HLEC Program, Dr. Joel Hay, advisor) published an article titled “The cost-effectiveness of ustekinumab compared to infliximab and adalimumab in biologic-naive patients with moderate-severe Crohn's disease” in Pharmacotherapy. May 2018. Pictured on left. Lucas Gutierrez (CXPT Program, Dr. Houda Alachkar lab) published an article titled “Mobilastatin reduces Regulatory T cells markers in Acute Myeloid Leukemia” in the December 2018 edition of Scientific Reports. Lucas also presented a poster titled “Development of T Cell Receptor Analysis Based Strategy to Identify Leukemia Specific Neoantigens” at the American Society of Hematology earlier this month. Pictured on right.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

School of Pharmacy Pharmaceutical & Translational Sciences Graduate Program Interview Weekend. Friday-Saturday, February 1–2, 2019: Top prospective applicants for PHTS 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, February 1st. Prospective students will have the opportunity to mingle with faculty and graduate students during the poster session on Friday, February 1st at 4:00 pm. The program will end on Saturday with a social event that includes an excursion of Old Town Pasadena with current graduate students. For more information contact email mcotero@usc.edu.

Twitter for Scientist Workshop by Dr. Maren Preis, Friday, January 11, 2019, 11am–1pm in PSC 108: Dr. Preis has presented several workshops on science communications and social media usage at national conferences including AAPS and AAPS. All graduate students are invited to attend this workshop, which aims to teach students how to use social media as a scientist, with an emphasis on the Twitter platform. This event is co-sponsored by the School of Pharmacy, Keck School of Medicine, Public Health Sciences and the Graduate School. Lunch will be provided for all attendees.

Interviewing and Negotiation Skills Workshop by Denise Johnson, Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 12:30–2:30pm in SSB 115/116: Denise Johnson is the Career Services Manager at the USC Career Center. Denise has presented this workshop in the past, which aims to teach students appropriate behavior during interviews and during the job negotiations. All graduate students are invited to attend this workshop, with an emphasis on the Twitter platform. This event is co-sponsored by the School of Pharmacy, Keck School of Medicine, Public Health Sciences and the Graduate School. Lunch will be provided for all attendees.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Classes begin: Monday, January 7th

Student Seminars (Wednesdays at noon in PSC-104): The Student Seminar Series will go on break from Dec 12th– Jan 9th for the Holiday Break.

Jan 9: Mincheol Park (PSCI, MacKay lab)
Jan 16: Tao Ma (PSCI, Xie lab)
Jan 23: Larry Rodriguez (PSCI, Davies lab)
Feb 6: John Beckford (CXPT, Alachkar lab)
Feb 13: Michelle Grau (PSCI, Wang lab)

USC School of Pharmacy Office of Research and Graduate Programs

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CONGRATULATIONS

Fan Fei (PSCI program, Dr. Jianming Xie, advisor) passed his qualifying exam, which focused on Targeting B-cell lymphoma with an enhanced chimeric antigen receptor-T cell therapy.

Cho Han Lee (HLEC Program, Dr. Jeffrey, advisor) passed his qualifying exam, which focused on The Price and Clinical Impact of Specialty Drug Management in the US Healthcare System.

Pooja Vaikari (CXPT Program, Dr. Daryl Davies advisor) passed her qualifying exam, which focused on Evaluation of P2X4 Receptor Modulation as a Novel Approach for Treating Parkinson’s Disease.

Alicia Warnecke (CXPT Program; Dr. Daryl Davies advisor) passed her qualifying exam, which focused on Characterization of Mutations in the Mitochondrial Encoding Electron Transport Chain Complexes in Acute Myeloid Leukemia” at the American Society of Hematology in San Diego.

Sharon Wu (CXPT Program, Dr. Houda Alachkar, advisor) presented her poster titled, “Characterization of Mutations in the Mitochondrial Encoded Electron Transport Chain Complexes in Acute Myeloid Leukemia” at the American Society of Hematology in San Diego.

Jawen Yang (CXPT Program, Dr. Houda Alachkar, advisor) presented her poster titled, “Characterization of Upregulated Adhesion GPCRs in Acute Myeloid Leukemia” at the American Society of Hematology in San Diego.