Five USC School of Pharmacy Graduate Students were awarded AFPE Fellowships!

This year the USC School of Pharmacy was awarded five out of the thirty American Foundation of Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) Pre-Doctoral Fellowships in Pharmaceutical Sciences! The USC School of Pharmacy is the first school to have ever received five awards in a single year! In addition to the two renewals for Larry Rodriguez and Alicia Warncke (Dr. Davies, advisor), which were highlighted in the February and March Editions of the Graduate Programs Newsletter, respectively, we had three new awards! Rebecca Lim (PSCI Program, Dr. Xie, advisor) was awarded the AFPE Pre-Doctoral Fellowship for her research on "A Universal CAR-NK Cell Targeting Various Epitopes of HIV." Jenny A’Young Park (CXT Program, Dr. Beringer, advisor) was the second new AFPE Fellowship recipient for her research on "Pharmacokinetics-Pharmacodynamics of Vitamin D in Adults with Cystic Fibrosis." Joshua Silva (CXT Program, Dr. Davies, advisor) was the third new AFPE Fellowship recipient for his doctoral project titled, "Dihydropyrimidin/DMH Increases Pinocytosis and Reduces Alcohol-Induced Liver Injury." Congratulations to all the five AFPE award recipients and their advisors!

Pharmacy Graduate Alliance (PGA) Corner

PGA Presents “Trivia Night!”: Join the PGA on Wednesday, April 24th at 4pm in PSC 104 for Trivia Night! Test your knowledge of obscure scientific and fun facts with other students, faculty, and staff! The top 3 teams will receive prizes! For more information, contact Larry Rodriguez at larryrod@usc.edu.

Upcoming Events

Graduate Women’s Writing Group, Monday, April 22, 2 - 4 pm, UPC: Join the Graduate Women’s Writing Group on UPC hosted by Dr. Meredith Drake Reitan, Associate Dean of the Graduate School. This is a wonderful opportunity to get out of the lab and meet other graduate students and postdocs and enjoy some quiet time while you write. This is an informal writing session. Location: Honors Room, OML; G28 on UPC.

BCLA’s Biotech Networking Mixer with Superplanet and Health 2.0, Thursday, April 25, 6:30 pm: The Biotech connection Los Angeles (BCLA) invites you to their biotech mixer! Adam Lyttle, Managing Partner at Superplanet, will inform the audience on how Superplanet will transform healthcare industry with the use of technology. Come learn more about Superplanet and meet others interested in alternative careers over drinks and appetizers. Location: Phase Two Space, 5877 Oboma Blvd (formerly Rodojo Rd), Los Angeles, CA 90016. RSVP here.

2019 Economic Development Summit, Tuesday, April 30, 8 am-3 pm: Join USC Civic Engagement for a full day of learning and networking in support of small business growth and expansion! There will be free workshops in the areas of digital marketing, leadership, business development and much more. RSVP required. Register here.

Annual USC School of Pharmacy Alumni Awards Gala, Sunday, April 28, 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 Gown Ballroom, 556 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90089. For more information, please contact Cheryl Stanoich at stanoico@usc.edu.

Annual USC School of Pharmacy Commencement Friday, May 10, 2 pm: The Commencement Ceremony will take place in Broad Lawn. This year business leader, policy expert, and philanthropist Leonard D. Schaeffer will be the keynote speaker. The Commencement Ceremony will be immediately followed by a reception at Wasserman 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 Stanoich at stanoico@usc.edu.

Student Seminars (Wednesday at noon in PSC-104):
April 17: Hugo Avila (PSCI, MacKay lab)
April 24: Tiange Dong (CXT, Louie lab)
May 1: Fan Fei (PSCI, Xie lab)
May 8: Lucas Gutierrez (CXT, Alachkar lab)
May 15: Tracey Lin (CXT, Louie lab)

USC School of Pharmacy Office of Research and Graduate Programs

Associate Dean: Annie Wong-Berlinger, PharmD Newsletter Editor: Liz Aquinaga, PhD; Contributors: Rosie Soltero, Wade Thompson-Harper

Photo credit: Isaac Mora

CONGRATULATIONS

Adriana Blachowicz (PSCI Program, Dr. Wang, advisor) defended her dissertation in mid-March for her thesis project titled, “Multi-omic data mining to elucidate molecular adaptation mechanisms of filamentous fungi exposed to space environment.” Adriana will begin a postdoctoral position with the Biotechnology and Planetary Protection Group at Jet Propulsion Laboratory NASA in June of 2019.

Julianna Jingwen Chen (PSCI Program, Dr. Zhang, advisor) defended her dissertation in mid-March for her thesis project titled, “Protein A/D-Ribosylation from biochemical characterization to therapeutic applications.” Julianna plans to work on identifying opportunities for personalization in the drug development pipeline as an DRIS Fellow for the FDA upon graduation.

Jordanna Jayne (CXT Program, Dr. Beringer, advisor) defended her dissertation titled, “Therapeutic potential of Rhenium-77 in the treatment of inflammatory lung diseases” in early March. Jordanna plans to work as a Regulatory Affairs Specialist at Hologic in San Diego upon graduation.

Larry Rodrigues (PSCI Program, Dr. Davies, advisor) was awarded the Dolores C. Shoemaker Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate Award and the Blue Ribbon Award at the ASPET meeting in Orlando, Fl in early April. For more information on Larry’s research visit his website: appgrad.com.

Sean Hoan-Yao Wang (PSCI Program, Dr. Shen, advisor) defended his dissertation in early March on his thesis project titled, “Characterization of the Transferrin-Antibody and its potential application in drug delivery.” Sean has been a co-author on two publications during his graduate career.

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