NEWS
Casandra Walker Receives $10K to Fund her Non-Profit Organization, Curls and Careers!

Casandra Walker (MPTX Program, Dr. Culty, advisor) was awarded $10,000 from Valero Benicia Refinery to fund her non-profit organization, Curls and Careers! Curls and Careers aims to provide secondary and post-secondary students of color with the resources needed to thrive professionally and academically in the face of adversity. Specifically, the funds awarded from the Valero Benefit for Children’s fund and will be used to provide resources for the academic advancement of low-income and marginalized students in Vallejo, CA and surrounding areas. Casandra was a past recipient of the Culty Diversity Award here at the School of Pharmacy. To obtain more information on Curls and Careers, or to donate, please contact Casandra via Instagram @curlsandcareers or through the website curlsandcareers.org.

PHTS Students are Presented the Culty Diversity Award!

Brandon Ebright and Elisa Stephens (PHTS Program) were awarded the 2019 Culty Graduate Student Diversity Scholarship. Dr. Martine Culty, Associate Professor in the School of Pharmacy, established this award in 2017 to enhance diversity in the graduate student body. Brandon obtained his BS in Chemistry from Rice University, while Elisa completed her BS in Chemistry at Pitzer College. The Culty Diversity Award is for first-year PhD students from a underrepresented backgrounds and carries an award amount of $2,500, which can be used for travel or purchase of educational materials to enhance the training experience. Pictured: Brandon Ebright, Annie Wong-Beringer, Martine Culty, Elisa Stephens, and Dean Papadopoulos.

Pharmacy Graduate Alliance (PGA) Corner

PGA Paint Nite was a success!
The Pharmacy Graduate Alliance (PGA) hosted a Paint Nite on November 13th in collaboration with Paint & Sip Studio LA. The students were able to learn how to create a one-of-kind canvas painting! All new painters were welcome to this event! For more information on upcoming PGA events, please email the PGA President, Hugo Avila at hugoavila@usc.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS
BCLA Holiday Biotech Networking Mixer Tuesday, Dec 10, 6 pm: Come and celebrate another great year with BCLA! We are hosting a holiday biotech networking mixer at Nixon Peabody in DTLA. As always, the program will include short presentations from partners and sponsors, as well as a festive photo-booth to get everybody into that holiday mood. Location: Nixon Peabody, 300 South Grand Avenue, Suite 4100, Los Angeles, CA 90071. Please RSVP: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-biotech-networking-mixer-tickets-796045202637aff7cb0d7bee3e.

Interviewing and Negotiation Skills Workshop by Denise Johnson, Friday, January 17, 2020 11:00 – 1:00pm in CHP G24/25: Denise Johnson is the Career Services Manager at the USC Career Center and has taught this workshop for many years! Please join us to learn about appropriate behavior during interviews and job negotiations. All graduate students are invited to attend this workshop! This event is co-sponsored by the School of Pharmacy, Keck School of Medicine, and the Graduate School. Lunch will be provided for all attendees. RSVP details to follow!

Student Seminars (Wednesday at noon in PSC-104):
Dec 4: Rita Algerri (CXPT, Wong-Beringer lab)
Dec 11: Taqijan Tu (PSCL, Stiles lab)

USC School of Pharmacy Office of Research and Graduate Programs
Associate Dean: Annie Wong-Beringer, PharmD
Newsletter Editor: Liz Aguilinga, PhD; Contributors: Rosie Soltero, Wade Thompson-Harper
Photo credit: Isaac Mora (Media Dept.), Michele Keller, Director of Communications and Marketing
Email: PHARgrad@usc.edu
Website: https://pharmgradprograms.usc.edu/
1065 Zonal Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90089
(323) 442-1474

CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS!
Larry Rodriguez (PSCI Program, Dr. Daryl Davies, advisor) was a first-author on a publication titled, “A newly developed anesthetic based on a unique chemical core” which was published in PNAS in July.

Xiaojing Shi (PSCI Program, Dr. Yong ‘Tiger’ Zhang, advisor) is first-author on a manuscript titled, “Genetically Engineered Cell-Derived Nanoparticles for Targeted Breast Cancer Immunotherapy”, which has been accepted for publication in Molecular Therapy. Tianting Hou and Menglu Han, two former master students in the PSCI Program, were co-authors on this publication.

Sharon Wu (CXPT Program, Dr. Houda Alachkar, advisor) was first-author on an article titled, “The mitochondrial transcription machinery genes are upregulated in acute myeloid leukemia and associated with poor clinical outcome” published in Metabolism Open in June.

Pooja Vaikari (CXPT program; Dr. Houda Alachkar, advisor) was first-author on two publications this summer! Pooja published an article titled, “CYP3A4 exhibits a unique biotransformation capability associated with poor overall survival in acute myeloid leukemia” in the Journal of Experimental Haematology in July 2019. Her second first-author manuscript titled, “Clinical and preclinical characterization of CD99 isoforms in acute myeloid leukemia” published in Haematologica in August. Sharon Wu and Jiawen Yang were also co-authors on this publication.

Jiawen Yang (CXPT Program, Dr. Houda Alachkar, advisor) was first-author of an article titled, “Characterization of upregulated adhesion GPCRs in acute myeloid leukemia” published in Translational Research in October. Sharon Wu was also a co-author.