NEWS

Graduate Student Publications!

Zheng D. Dai (PhD, Advisor: PSCI Program) was first-author on a manuscript titled, “Rational Design of a Humanized Antibody Inhibitor of Cathepsin B” published in Biotechnology, March 2020. The article can be accessed at: https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.biotechchem.0c00246

Mincheol Park (PhD, Advisor: PSCI Program) was first-author and Dr. Poopia Vijaya Vaikari (PhD, Advisor: CPT Program) was second-author on an article titled, “A Human Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony- Stimulating Factor Fused to Elastin-like Polypeptides Assemblies Biologically-Active Nanoparticles” published in ACS Biomaterials Science & Engineering, April 2020. The manuscript can be accessed at: https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsbiomaterials.0c00246

Larry Rodriguez (PhD, Advisor: PSCI Program) was co-first-author on a publication titled, “Residues in Transmembrane Segments of the P2X4 Receptor Contribute to Channel Function and Ethanol Sensitivity” published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences, April 2020. This article belongs to the Special Issue (Purinergic P2 Receptors: Structure and Function) and can be accessed at: https://www.mdpi.com/1422-0067/21/7/2471. Larry Rodriguez has also accepted a postdoctoral position under a T32 Fellowship at the Scripps Research Institute in the lab of Dr. Mania Robero.

Anh Truong (PhD, Advisor: PSCI Program) was first-author on a publication titled, “Evaluation of extracellular matrix mimetic laminin bioactive peptide and elastin-like polypeptides” published in the FASEB Journal April 2020. This article can be accessed at: https://faseb.org/openlibrary-wiley.com/full/10.1096/fj.201902794R

Josh Silva (PhD, Advisor: CPT Program) published a first-author manuscript titled “A novel pharmaceutical approach using P-glycoprotein (P(1B,2C1)) efflux inhibitor combined with iomeprazole to reduce alcohol drinking and preference in mice” in The Alcohol Journal, August 2020. The article can be accessed at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0741832920302056

Graduate Student Awards!

Fan Fei (PhD, Advisor: PSCI Program) received the USC Endowed Fellowship Award for the 2020-2021 academic year. This fellowship provides a stipend of $34,000 and also covers tuition, health and dental insurance, university mandatory fees. This fellowship will also allow for eligibility to the Graduate School travel grants for conferences and research. Fan will use these funds to continue his research project titled, “Targeting loss of HLA-DR expression in B-cell lymphoma with an inhibitory chimeric antigen receptor.”

Annie Ly (MS RegSci Program) was awarded the annual USC Discovery Scholarship. The USC Discovery Scholar distinction recognizes and celebrates graduating seniors who have excelled academically while making a meaningful contribution to their field of study through exceptional new scholarship or artistic work. This fellowship carries an award of $10,000 to be used toward the student’s graduate studies.

Jenny AY Young Park (PhD, Advisor: CPT Program) awarded the American Foundation of Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) Pre-Doctoral Fellowships in Pharmaceutical Sciences for the second year to work on her dissertation project titled, “Pharmacokinetica-Pharmacodynamics of Vitamin D in Adults with Cystic Fibrosis.” This fellowship carries an award of $10,000 to be used toward the student’s graduate studies.

PROJECT WELLNESS RESOURCES

Project Wellness has compiled a list of resources to help students cope during the time of physical distancing.

Virtual Anti-Isolation & Self-Compassion Mindfulness Meditation Sessions: These sessions will help you relax, lower anxiety, isolate, practice self-compassion, and cultivate your mindfulness skills to stay in the present. These sessions will be offered every Tuesday at 1 pm via Zoom. The upcoming schedule is as follows:

- Jan 26: Compassion Mindfulness Meditation (Inpathy), a web-based individual counseling service, is available as a long-term counseling option for students on SHIPAlana.
- USC Counseling and Mental Health Services: Students continue to have access to counselors, even as academic programs have moved online. Students have the option of 1) “Let’s Talk” On Zoom Sessions, which are informal community sessions facilitated by a counselor; 2) individual appointments to talk to counselors, these are “one-on-one” appointments available both through TeleHealth and can be done in-person if necessary; or 3) Group Counseling via TeleHealth, the group counseling schedules will be posted soon online. For more information on all the options mentioned above, please check: studenthealth.usc.edu
- Free Fitness Classes/Workouts: Project Wellness has compiled a list of free videos and workouts that can be done at-home. To view, click here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Commencement Ceremonies, Friday, May 15 starting at 9 am: There will be a USC-wide special live virtual ceremony conferring degrees for the 2020 graduates on Friday, May 15 at 9 am PDT. Additional details can be found at commencemen.usc.edu. The School of Pharmacy will hold its own virtual celebration of the class of 2020 following the university-wide event (specific time to be announced). This will be an event for all 2020 graduates and their loved ones to celebrate via Zoom.

Student Seminars (Wednesdays at noon in PSC-104):
- May 6: Andrew Mead & Rita Li (CPT, Louise lab)
- May 14: Melanie Galano & Cristina Lin (MPTX, Papadopoulos lab)
- May 20: Kabir Ahluwalia (CPTX, Louise lab)
- May 27: Anh Truong (PSCI, Mackay lab) & Shruti Singh Kakani (PSCI, Hame-Avarez lab)
- June 3: Amy Tran & Casandara Walker (MPTX, Cutly lab)

CONGRATULATIONS

Sophia Angu Chen (Dr. Styles, Advisor: MXPT Program) accepted a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Hong Kong in Pharmacy.

Seng Cho, (Dr. McCombs, Advisor: HLEC Program) accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy.

Heidy Cruz-Parrales (MS RegSci Program) B.S. MCP, RYP has accepted a position as Consumer Safety Officer in the Department of Health and Human Services at the FDA.

Santosh Pedde (Dr. Mackay, Advisor: PSCI Program) will defend his dissertation titled, “Cognate receptor fusion proteins enable parenteral delivery of challenging payloads” on May 6.

Jonathan Salcedo (Dr. Ledwaniwalski, Advisor: HEC Program) will defend his dissertation titled, “Essays in Health Economics” on May 5.

Sharon Wu (Dr. MacKer; CPT Program) will defend her dissertation titled, “The Role of Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Acute Leukemias” on May 6.

Dr. Yiennen Xu (Dr. Joyce, Advisor: HEC Program) accepted a position as an analyst with IQVIA’s economic modeling team, based in San Francisco. This team’s primary responsibility is to build cost-effectiveness models and budget impact models for third parties, as well as evaluated the economic value of a healthcare product or service.