While much of the University is working remotely, many of the academic offices are still available to you REMOTELY! Please take advantage of these options, email Wade Thompson-Harper of academic affairs at wharper@usc.edu, additionally, in an effort to reduce the stress of our students, all graduate students now have the option to opt into Pass/No Pass for any course taken during the Spring 2020 semester by the deadline of April 24, 2020. We encourage you to seek advice from the course coordinator or program director before making the change.

For students experiencing food insecurity during the COVID-19 transition period, you can visit Everyday is a Kitchen (EVK) Dining Hall to access 2 meals per day. You will complete your intake form upon arrival. More information can be found here: https://reig.usc.edu/If. To keep up to date with the latest COVID-19 related updates from USC, please check: https://sites.usc.edu/coronavirus/announcements.

Both Rounds of The School of Pharmacy Pharmaceutical & Translational Sciences Graduate Program Interview Weekends were a success! The Office of Research and Graduate Affairs hosted two rounds of applicants for the Pharmaceutical & Translational Sciences (PHTS) Graduate Program Annual Interview Weekend events in January and February. The PHTS Program is the umbrella program for the School’s three laboratory-based PhD programs; this allows the students to take courses together and rotate through laboratories in the MPTX, PSCI or CKPT tracks during the first year of graduate school. A total of forty prospective students from universities all over the US (e.g. Columbia University, the University of Michigan, University of Florida, and various UC and CSU schools) spent the day learning about the ongoing research projects in the SOP from our faculty, interviewing with faculty and touring the CORE facilities. The event concluded with a poster session that featured research conducted by current students, an amazing performance by the USC band, and dinner in downtown Pasadena. On Saturday the recruits went to brunch with our current graduate students to learn about student life here at the USC School of Pharmacy. Applicants have until April 15, the national deadline to make their final decision on admission offers.

Graduate Student Publications!

Santosh Peddi (PSCI Program, Dr. MacKay, advisor) is first-author on a manuscript titled "Nano-technology of an Estriol-Heated Polypropylene Formula for Breast Cancer" published in ACS Biomaterials Science & Engineering.

Joshua Silva (CKPT Program, Dr. Davies, advisor) is first-author on a manuscript titled, "Dihydropyrimidinase protects the liver via changes in lipid metabolism and enhanced hepatic metabolism" accepted by the Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research (ACER) Journal March 2020. Joshua also gave an oral presentation at the Research Society on Alcoholism Conference in February. His presentation was titled, "Plant derived Dihydropyrimidinase (DHRR) reduces alcohol-mediated fatty liver via changes in AMPK metabolic signaling, lipid synthesis pathways, and alcohol metabolites." Joshua is pictured on the right.

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 Session: These sessions will help you lower anxiety, reduce isolation, practice self-compassion, and cultivate your mindfulness skills to stay in the present (Topic: Anti-Isolation and Self-Compassion Mindfulness Drop-in Sessions. Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 12 pm). Join Zoom Meeting here.

Web-basedLessons in Compassion with Inpathy. Inpathy, a web-based individual counseling service, is available as a long-term counseling option for students on SHIP/Aetna.

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. There 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.

ACADEMIC OFFICES

While much of the University is working remotely, many of the academic offices are still available to you REMOTELY! Please take advantage of all the resources available to you during this time.

• SOP Office of Graduate Affairs Virtual Office hours are Monday-Friday 11 am -12 pm

• The Writing Center has moved online: https://dl الجمهورية.نس/wp-content/

• The Office of International Students (OIS) is working remotely: https://ois.usc.edu/category/news. OIS is providing remote assistance to our international community. Several OIS functions such as the OIR Graduation Verification Form, CPT, Program Extension, Leave of Absence, and Reduced Course Load, require signatures from students' academic advisors.

• Parts of Student Health Services are also available online: https://studenthealth.usc.edu. Students are able to access medical services online, they are simply EXPANDED to their services to add remote access for mental health services.

• Undocumented Trojan Online Resource Center

USC School of Pharmacy Office of Research and Graduate Programs

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Dr. Donatus Askoe-Adyer (RegSci Program, Dr. Richmond, advisor) successfully defended his dissertation titled, "Effect of GOFAA Legislation on the Development of Approval of Generic Drugs: A Survey of Industry Views and Experiences."

Dr. Aimee Grees (RegSci Program, Dr. Richmond, advisor) successfully defended her dissertation titled, "Implementation of Unique Device Identification in the Medical Device Industry: A Survey of the Change Management Experience."

Stradha Hakani, (HEDA Program) was awarded the 2020 Spring HCI/AMM School of Pharmacy Dean’s Fellowship for Distinguished MS Students.

Dr. Susan Pusek (RegSci Program, Dr. Pooja Vijaya Vaikari) successfully defended her dissertation titled, "Institutional Review Board Capabilities to Oversee New Technology. Social Media as a Case Study."

Dr. Penny Ng (RegSci Program, Dr. Richmond, advisor) successfully defended her dissertation titled, "Regulation of Pediatric Cancer Drug Development: Industry Perspective."

Dr. Praga Vipin Vekari (CKPT Program, Dr. Al-Atrash) successfully defended her dissertation titled, "Clinical, Functional and therapeutic analysis of C099 in Acute Myeloid Leukemia."

Casandra Walker (MPTH Program, Dr. Cuffy, advisor) successfully defended her thesis proposal titled, "Identification of functional pathways altered in tumors by in utero exposure to low doses of Genistein and DEHP."