Beyond the PhD Virtual Conference, March 24: This annual conference is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2021 from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm PST. This year, we will still offer educational talks, roundtable discussions, and networking opportunities. Registration required. [Event link]

Interviewing and Negotiation Skills Workshop, Friday, March 19 from 11:30-1 pm: This workshop will teach attendees how to successfully interview and how to negotiate effectively. Learn the most effective tips and tricks. Registration required: [Bitly link]

Networking on LinkedIn Workshop, Friday, April 9 from 1-2 pm: Attend this workshop to learn more about how to network effectively on LinkedIn. Registration required: [Bitly link]

Student Seminar (Wednesdays at Noon)

Mar 17 – Christian Rabot (Wang Lab)
Mar 24 – Karish Ahluwalia (Loeb Lab)
Mar 31 – Amy Tran (Culb Lab)
April 7 – Shrut Singh Kukum (Hamm-Alvarez Lab)
April 14 – Casandra Walker (Culb Lab)

Professional Development Topic of the Month: Developing Translational Skills

After several years of pursuing a graduate degree, it’s obvious that you are acquiring the knowledge and skills that are necessary for the development as a professional, otherwise known as hard ‘skills’. But did you know that in doing so, you are also developing a series of soft or translational skills that are highly sought after in the workforce? It is important to recognize that working towards a Master’s or PhD degree is an opportunity to cultivate the transferrable skills that will help distinguish you from other applicants in your field.

PHARMACY GRADUATE ALLIANCE (PGA) CORNER: By Amy Tran

Xiaying Chen is currently a clinical pharmacology lead in the Early Clinical Development Department at Pfizer. She received her Ph.D. degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Southern California (Professor Wei-Chiang Shen’s lab) and joined Pfizer in 2011. Xiaying is actively involved in early clinical development of diverse modalities in Oncology, including small molecules, CDK, bispecifics, ADCs and monoclonal antibodies. She is passionate about model-informed drug development and has published over 20 articles in peer-reviewed journals including first-in-human starting dose, dose regimen optimization, population PK & PPD modeling and immunogenicity prediction.

Upcoming Events

2021 Cytotherapy Virtual Conference, March 25–26, 2021: This 2-day virtual conference will bring together scientists and key stakeholders from the fields of translational immunology, T cell engineering, and cell therapy. [Event link]

2021 Global Biotech Innovation Virtual Conference, April 19–20, 2021: The conference will focus on the latest developments in biotechnology, biopharma, and cell and gene therapy. [Event link]

USC School of Pharmacy Office of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs

The Office of Graduate Affairs would like to provide graduate students with a safe space to voice thoughts, suggestions, or concerns: [Bitly link] This comment box will be checked on a monthly basis at the end of the month. If you have an urgent concern, please email Dr. Aguiniga at liz.aguiniga@usc.edu, Wade Thompson-Harper at whager@usc.edu, or Dr. Okamoto at okamoto@usc.edu.