NEWS

Graduate Student Publications!

Melanie Galano (MPTX Program, Dean Papadopoulos, advisor) published a first-author manuscript titled, “Role of Constitutive STAR in Leydig Cells” published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences, February 2021; check here. She was also a second-author in the same research article. Marcella Kelley (HLEC Program) was second-author on a publication titled, “The Protocol of the Application of Economics & Social psychology to improve Opioid Prescribing Safety Trial 1 (AEOPPS1-1): Electronic Health Record Nudges” published in Contemporary Clinical Trials, February 2021. The article can be accessed here. Marcella also gave a virtual podium presentation at the ISPOR 2021 Conference. Pictured on right.

Pharmacology and Neuroscience

David Han (MPTX Program, Dr. Papadopoulos, advisor) was first author on a manuscript titled, “Tissue Engineering Strategies for Retina Regeneration” published in Applied Sciences, February 2021; check here. Pictured on left.

David Han

Anushka Rajesh (MS in PSCI Program, Dr. Mangul, advisor) was first-author on a publication titled, “Improving the completeness of public metadata accompanying omics studies” published in Genome Biology, April 2021; check here. Pictured on left.

Anushka Rajesh

Cassandra Walker (MPTX Program, Dr. Cutty, advisor) and Samuel Garza (MPTX Program, Dean Papadopoulos, advisor) published the paper “Impact of endocrine-disrupting chemicals on spermatogenesis and consequences on testicular function” in Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology, May 2021; check here. Pictured on right.

Cassandra Walker

Samuel Garza

UPCOMING EVENTS

Noontime Knowledge: Conflict Management Tips With the Ombuds Office - Monday, May 3rd at 12:00pm: This is an opportunity to discuss conflict resolution and communication issues that may arise while working and learning remotely. An open Q&A will be offered during each session. Everyone from the USC community is welcome. Attend session: HERE.

School of Pharmacy Virtual Celebration – Thursday, May 13 at 12pm: Join us for a virtual celebration for the USC School of Pharmacy! This celebration will include speeches from the current students, faculty, staff, and alumni. More details to come in May.

USC School of Pharmacy In-Person Commencement Ceremony for the Classes of 2020 and 2021- Friday, May 14, 8 am, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum: The In-person ceremony will take place at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Graduates of all degree levels from the classes of 2020 and 2021 will be combined. All graduates will be notified via email from Marching Order when they can attend. Please visit https://commencement.usc.edu/ for more details.

Virtual Annual End of Year Celebration for the Graduate Programs – Date TBD: Please join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our graduate students at The Annual End of Year Celebration! All graduate students, faculty, and support staff are welcome to the virtual celebration, which will highlight graduate students that received awards throughout the year. The Best TA and RA Awards will also be presented during the event. There will be games and prizes! More details to come soon!

Student Seminar (Wednesdays at Noon)

May 5—Jawzi Li (Dang Lab) and Alabaha Al Omeran (Davies Lab)

May 12—Wilson Lui (Lu Lab) and Samuel Garza (Papadopoulos Lab)

May 19—Ryan van Damme (Lu Lab) and Liling Chen (Papadopoulos Lab)

May 26—Shruti Singh Kakani (Hamm-Alvarez Lab)

PHARMACY GRADUATE ALLIANCE (PGA) CORNER: By Amy Tran

Professional Development Topic of the Month: Mentorship

An aspect of career development that has been emphasized multiple times by our career development speakers is the invaluable advantage of having a great mentor by your side to guide you through your career path. A mentorship is mutually beneficial relationship in which experienced professionals can impart wisdom and guidance to someone less experienced, and in return they have chances to hone their mentorship skills and broaden their own network. Mentees, on the other hand, can learn more about their desired career path from a seasoned professional, gain access to their mentor’s network, and obtain valuable insight from someone who has already carved their own path. This insight can be invaluable for many of us who are trying to navigate alternative career paths, which may not be so straightforward and therefore may be difficult determine whether we are taking the right steps towards our desired positions.

One approach to finding great mentor is to do some initial self-reflection to figure out what you enjoy about your grad school experience, as well as what you don’t like, what you are good at, and what you can improve on. Then, reach out and conduct informational interviews with professionals in your field of interest to see if their responsibilities align with what you imagine yourself doing in the future. Lastly, once you find a fit, see if that person is open to providing you with greater support as you navigate your future career. Mentorship relationships can be as formal or informal as you like, and you can find support everywhere you look! To contact the PGA Board, please email us at pga@usc.edu.

Project Wellness Resources

Project Wellness has compiled a list of resources to help students cope during the time of physical distancing:◆ Conversations, Connections, and Community (CCC) drop-in sessions on Thursdays at 3:30 PM: All graduate student are welcome to join us at the CCC drop-in sessions on Thursdays at 3:30 PM. These drop-in sessions are casual virtual conversations with Dr. Aguiniga and Wade Thompson-Harper and Elena Williams. These conversations are meant to be a safe space to vent, share good news, or even just catch up with peers! Drop by on Thursdays-No need to RSVP! Zoom Meeting ID: 955 4233 1951 Password: 057898 or click HERE.

◆ MindfulnessUSC Mindfulness and Self-Compassion Program on Mon, Wed, and Fri - 12:00 - 1:00 PM: MindfulnessUSC will be hosting Online Mindfulness and Self-Compassion Drop-ins every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00 - 1:00 PM Join HERE.

◆ Virtual Yoga Classes on Tue at 5:15 PM and Wed at 6:30 PM: Project Wellness is offering live yoga classes via zoom on Tuesdays at 5:15 PM and Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Log in to zoom for these live weekly yoga session led by Jennifer Watson. Join HERE. (Password: 401706).

◆ Web-based Long-Term Counseling with Impathy: Impathy, a web-based individual counseling service, is available as a long-term counseling option for students on SHIP/Aetna.

USC School of Pharmacy Office of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs

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CONGRATULATIONS

Alzahra Al Omeran (CPPT Program, Dr. Davies, advisor) passed her qualifying exam titled, "The therapeutic effect of Urofloxacin on social isolation induced anxiety." John Beckford, PhD—CPPT Program graduate from the Class of 2021 (Dr. Machac, advisor) will be working as a Scientist I in Nest Generation Sequencing in the lab of Taojian Michael Tu.

Shne鲈lel Shapshale (Dr. Mangul, advisor) received a scholarship from the University of Washington for three courses to attend their Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics.


Kerui Peng, PhD (Dr. Mangul, advisor, CPPT PhD Program) was invited to give a tutorial titled, "Comparative analysis of immunogenomics sequencing data in the cloud to facilitate reproducibility and rigor of immunogenomics research" at the ISMB Conference. Dr. Peng also presented at AIRM-Community Meeting V on her project titled, "Type-1: Comprehensive platform for TOC/seq data analysis using interactive notebooks to facilitate reproducibility of immunogenomics research."

She was featured here for that talk.

Amy Tran (MPTX Program, Dr. Cutty, advisor) presented a poster titled, "Col2a1 inhibition in C57Bl6 Mammalian Stem Cell Model Reveals notch signaling activation" at the Society of Toxicology 2021 Meeting. Amy also won first place for an Excellence in Research Award and was invited to give a talk at the USC Stem Cell Specialty Subsection Meeting.

Tessan Michael Tu (CPPT Program, Dr. Stiles, advisor) presented his poster titled, "Roles of CCL5 in Hepatocellular Carcinoma at the Keyston Symposim Meeting."