Welcome Pharm.D. Class of 2020

Touro University California College of Pharmacy is proud to be welcoming 103 new Pharm.D. students on campus as our Class of 2020! We are looking forward to working with these future pharmacists, who were carefully selected by our Admissions Committee for training in our 2+2 program.

Thanks to support from Walgreens, we recognized several outstanding students in the incoming class with diversity scholarships. Walgreens Diversity Pipeline Awards for incoming students were made to: Fatima Hernandez, Miri Nissan, and Tatiano Ouabo. Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion Awards for incoming students were made to: Allison Morse, Diana Nguyen, Minh Dang, and Manpreet Kaur.

During the upcoming year, the College looks forward to further enhancing our Pharm.D. program by creating new electives and dual degree opportunities, as well as additional professional development, co-curricular, and interprofessional education (IPE) activities.

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

Touro University California offers 12 stimulating post-graduate programs, eight of which are accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). We welcomed 11 new residents and a fellow in July, all of whom serve as faculty in the College of Pharmacy: Melissa Atocha, Stephanie Chin, Gregory Garcia, Deanna Gee, Jason Huyinh, Yasmin Ibrahim, Hasna Manghi, Minh Phuc Thai Nguyen, Brigitte Ouabo, Anthony Pham, Jasmine Reber, and Michael Wong.
Recent COP Highlights

Noteworthy accomplishments of COP faculty and students

Touro University California placed second place in the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) Clinical Skills Competition. The award winning team was comprised of Jonathan Trinh and Danielle Fox! Dr. Lauren Roller, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences serves as the SNPhA advisor.

Dr. Alison McCormick, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and her colleague Dr. Aradhana Tiwari of New York Medical College, received a Seed Grant from the Touro College and University System for their project, "A Novel Approach of Targeted Immunotherapy in Combination with an EBV Vaccine Against EBV Positive B Cell Lymphoma."

Dr. Bijal Shah, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Social, Behavioral, and Administrative Sciences, completed the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Academic Leadership Fellows Program (ALFP).

Dr. Melissa Kirkpatrick, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences, became a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACAP).

Dr. Monica Donnelley, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences, earned the designation of a Practicing HIV Pharmacist (AAHIVP).

Dr. Emily Chan, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences, was appointed to the AACP Continuing Professional Development Section for the Strategic Planning Committee and the Program Committee.

Dr. Shankar Chinta, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was awarded a grant from the American Parkinson’s Disease Foundation for his research project, “Pharmacological Activation of TFEB Using a Small Molecule Promotes Autophagic Clearance of Aggregated α-Synuclein: Implications for Parkinson’s Disease.”

Several faculty members and students presented their research at the annual AACP meeting in Anaheim, CA: Diana DeVore (representing the CAPSLEAD team), Dr. Shadi Doroudgar, Dr. Eric Ip, Dr. Tristan Lindfelt and Dr. Rae Matsumoto.

Dr. Jasmine Reber, Pharm.D., PGY1 resident, was appointed to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) New Practitioners Forum (NPF) Advisory Group for 2016-2017.

Dr. Shane Desselle, Ph.D., Professor of Social, Behavioral and Administrative Sciences, gave several invited presentations at the International Federation of Pharmacy World Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. Alison McCormick, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and her colleague Dr. Chandra Bakshi at New York Medical College was awarded $246,250 in a two-year R21 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for their project, “Preclinical Development of Multivalent Tularemia Vaccine.”

Dr. Monica Donnelley, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences presented, “New Medications in End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD),” at the National Kidney Foundation 49th Annual Medical Symposium in Foster City, CA.

Dr. Emily Chan, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences, was appointed to the AACP Continuing Professional Development Section for the Strategic Planning Committee and the Program Committee.

We are pleased to welcome three full-time faculty who are contributing to the training of our new and returning students.

Shankar Chinta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological and Pharmaceutical Sciences: Dr. Chinta received his Ph.D. in neurochemistry. Prior to joining the Touro University California College of Pharmacy, he worked as a post-doctoral fellow and staff scientist at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging, focusing on neurodegenerative diseases.

Kristen Herzik, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences: Dr. Herzik is a Touro University California alumni (Class of 2013). She completed a PGY1 residency at SFGH and will contribute her expertise as a transitions of care clinical pharmacist at Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego, CA.

Mohamed Jalloh, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences: Dr. Jalloh earned his Pharm.D. at Wilkes University and completed his post-graduate drug information research fellowship at Creighton University. He will contribute his clinical expertise as an ambulatory care pharmacist at Ole Health in Napa, CA.
Faculty and Staff News

Congratulations to the Professors of the Year for 2015-2016: Dr. Adrian Palisoc, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences (P2 Professor of the Year) and Dr. Mike Ellerby, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Biological and Pharmaceutical Sciences (P1 Professor of the Year).

Dr. Laura Baumgartner, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences, was named the new Residency Program Director for our programs.

Dr. Shadi Doroudgar, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Sciences, was named Residency/Fellowship Research Coordinator. She also served as the Touro University California faculty delegate at the AACP annual meeting.

Dr. David Evans, Ph.D. Professor of Biological Sciences, has stepped down from his role as the Director of the Graduate Program to pursue a faculty sabbatical focused on research.

Dr. Alicia Yeh, Pharm.D., received the Excellence in Research Award for the Residency Program.

Dorothy May, the librarian assigned to the College of Pharmacy, will be leaving for a new position at the University of Alabama Birmingham. Tamara Trujillo and Nathaniel Jenkins will continue to support the College while the search for a new librarian is ongoing.

Welcome back to work recent new parents: Dr. Linda Banares (Baby Alicia), Dr. Melissa Kirpatrick (Baby Hazel), and Mrs. Charity Yamada (Baby Mica).

Congratulations to Ms. Christina Montero, Post-Graduate Programs Coordinator, on her recent engagement.

Master’s Program News

Keppler named new director

We welcome to the College of Pharmacy management team, Dr. Daniel Keppler, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological and Pharmaceutical Sciences, as the new Director of the Graduate Program. Nine new master’s students were welcomed to campus in August, who will be working closely with faculty mentors at the Touro University California College of Pharmacy, along with research colleagues in the College of Medicine and the Buck Institute for Research on Aging. The Master’s in Medical Health Sciences—Pharmacy Studies is a 10-month program featuring intensive immersion in research, designed to provide students with the knowledge and tools to be effective scientific or clinical investigators.
Upcoming Events

New Student Orientation: July 29—August 3

University Orientation for new students will be held on July 29, which will include an IPE activity. The faculty and staff will be welcoming the Class of 2020 to the COP on August 1 at our introductory session (8:00 a.m., Lander Hall 160) and ice cream social (3:00 p.m., H84 gazebo), with orientation continuing through August 3.

White Coat Ceremony: August 28, 9:00 a.m.

We will welcome the Class of 2020 into the profession of pharmacy at our traditional White Coat Ceremony. Faculty should plan on arriving on campus by 8:00 a.m.

Career Day/Residency Day: September 28

The P1 and P2 students will learn more about career options for pharmacists and have the opportunity to meet with potential future employers.

October is Pharmacists Month

Stay tuned for a calendar of events. The College is planning a variety of activities including: community service activities, special speakers, participation at CSHP Seminar, and an Open House for prospective students.

Alumni Feature

Dr. Richie Duenas, Pharm.D., Class of 2009, will serve as the keynote speaker at our upcoming White Coat Ceremony. Dr. Duenas is the Chief Executive Officer of Mercury Distribution and the owner of Mercury Pharmacy’s two locations in Vallejo and Fairfield, CA. Dr. Duenas also serves as the Administrator of the 340B federal Drug Discount Program for Solano Country Health and Human Services. He is a strong patient advocate and volunteer with community organizations that advance the quality of life for seniors, those living with disabilities, and other underserved populations.

PharmacyTimes

ISSUE SUMMER 2016