Annual Report

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As we celebrate our second year as a school, it’s important to reflect on the steps that we took to get here. The innovative vision of Henry and Susan Samueli and Chancellor Howard Gillman served as the catalyst for the founding of the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences and the creation of our Doctor of Pharmacy program.

While we officially became a school July 30, 2020, our school was already well known for its strong foundation in pharmaceutical sciences with our existing Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Master of Science in Pharmacology, and PhD in Pharmacological Sciences.

This has been a 16-year journey in the making, and I am excited to share the accomplishments and honors of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni over this past year.

We are training future leaders and problem solvers who will bring progressive changes to advance scientific discoveries and bring progressive changes to our healthcare system to reduce inequities, expand access, and optimize medication therapy for individual patients and across patient populations. Our students are being taught and mentored by scientists who are pioneers in the discovery, development, and delivery of new drugs, devices, and diagnostics.

As we continue to grow and expand as a school, I would like to thank our dedicated and committed staff and faculty who have been instrumental in supporting our mission and students. We would not be where we are today without you.

With over 623 students enrolled in our four academic programs this year, I have no doubt our graduates will make impactful, positive changes to individuals, communities, and to the healthcare industry.

Here is our 2021-2022 year in review.
WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2020, the UC Irvine School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences is the first public pharmacy school in the Los Angeles-Orange County region.

We offer the following undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees:

- Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Master of Science in Pharmacology
- Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacological Sciences
- Doctor of Pharmacy

Our school encompasses two departments: Pharmaceutical Sciences (established in 2007) and Clinical Pharmacy Practice (established in 2020).

As part of the Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences, we actively collaborate with schools and programs in medicine, nursing, and population, public health, and the Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute to educate, train, and mentor the next generation of pharmaceutical scientists and clinical pharmacists.

Together, we will make positive impacts for individuals, communities, and our healthcare system.

MISSION

Be a driving force for advancing health and wellness of individuals and society, through:

- Innovative and integrative learner-centered education
- Leading pharmaceutical research and discoveries
- Leadership in interprofessional patient-centered healthcare
“Our vision is to be a leader in transformational advances in team-based pharmacy practice, research and healthcare.”

Jan D. Hirsch, BS Pharm, PhD
Founding Dean
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences offers four academic programs which include undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees:

Bachelor of Science Pharmaceutical Sciences

UCI's undergraduate degree in pharmaceutical sciences integrates concepts from biology, chemistry, chemical engineering, pharmacology, and physiology while preparing graduates for careers in the health sciences and the pharmaceutical industry.

Rankings:

- #1 institution for students admitted into a pharmacy school in California.
- #2 institution for number of students admitted into pharmacy school nationwide.
- Top 5 feeder program for pharmacy schools nationally.

Master of Science Pharmacology

UCI's Master of Science in Pharmacology is a two-year, 100% online degree program designed to teach students:

- The fundamental principles of pharmacology
- Mechanisms of drug action
- Current topics in drug discovery
- Strategies, techniques, and critical thinking skills needed for drug research

The program is designed for working professionals who are interested in advancing their careers in the pharmaceutical industry or enhancing their competitiveness for admission to other degree programs.
PhD in Pharmacological Sciences

UCI’s PhD in Pharmacological Sciences program provides a unique opportunity for those interested in any scientific discipline represented by the pharmaceutical sciences faculty to have a year of broad, interdisciplinary training and self-selected lab rotations followed by focused doctoral research in the pharmaceutical sciences research group of their choice.

Students can choose from one of three tracks within the program: Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmacology, or Medicinal Chemistry.

Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)

The UCI PharmD program is a four-year professional degree program that prepares graduates to be practice-ready pharmacists who are problem solvers, independent lifelong learners, team players, and leaders who will drive transformative changes in the healthcare system.

The curriculum is taught by faculty from the departments of pharmaceutical sciences and clinical pharmacy practice and is delivered through innovative instructional methods and evidence-based practices.
The UCI School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences encompasses two departments – Pharmaceutical Sciences and Clinical Pharmacy Practice – and spans a continuum from discovery, development, and delivery of new drugs, devices, and diagnostics all the way to optimizing medication therapy in patients and patient populations.
The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences offers undergraduate and graduate students unparalleled training for future careers in pharmacy, medicine, and biomedical research. Our innovative, rigorous curriculum integrates concepts from biology, chemistry, chemical engineering, pharmacology and physiology. Alumni pursue exciting professional opportunities that improve our society's health and well-being.

Pharmaceutical scientists are rapidly changing the field of drug discovery and development. Graduates of our program are well qualified to seek employment in the public and private sectors, or pursue graduate degrees such as PhD, MD, or PharmD.

The Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice engages current and future pharmacists to enhance patient care, promote health equity, and advance science through education, collaboration, innovation, and health policy. Our innovative curriculum focuses on integrative health and patient-centered care.

In robust synergy with UCI Health, the only academic health system in Orange County, UCI is transforming education, discovery, and patient care to benefit the region, state, and nation.
“Pharmaceutical scientists have been instrumental in discovering and developing innovative drugs that save thousands of people’s lives and improve the quality of life for many others. I am excited for us to continue to move into a new era of drug discovery.”

Andrej Luptak, PhD
Chair
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
The extract of the plant Corydalis yanhusuo prevents morphine tolerance and dependence while also reversing opiate addiction, according to a recent study led by the University of California, Irvine.

Over the past two decades, dramatic increases in opioid overdose mortality have occurred in the United States and other nations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the opioid epidemic has only worsened. The documented effects of YHS, the extract of the plant Corydalis yanhusuo, could have an immediate, positive impact to curb the opioid epidemic.

The opioid epidemic was triggered by an overprescription of opioid analgesics. In the treatment of chronic pain, repeated opioid administrations are required. This ultimately leads to tolerance, physical dependence, and addiction.

A possible solution consists of a co-medication that maintains the analgesic benefits of opioids while preventing their adverse liabilities. The research findings show that YHS, when coadministered with morphine, inhibits morphine tolerance, dependence, and addiction. If YHS is used with morphine at the start or during pain management, there will be less need of morphine and thus less risk of addiction.

“Opiate tolerance is of utmost importance to opiate users,” Professor Olivier Civelli, said. “They need to constantly increase the need of opiates to reach the same analgesic response. This is what leads to opiate overdose. YHS prevents opiate tolerance, so there is less need to increase opiate consumption.”

YHS has been used as analgesic in traditional Chinese medicine for centuries. It is considered safe and readily available for purchase, either online or as a “botanical” in certain grocery stores.

Along with Civelli, the research team also included Lamees Alhassen, co-first author and a student in UCI’s PhD in Pharmacological Sciences program, co-first author Khawla Nuseir of the Jordan University of Science and Technology, along with Allyssa Ha, Warren Phan, and Ilias Marmouzi from UCI’s Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Shalini Shah from the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Care at the UCI School of Medicine.

“It is critical that we decrease the use and abuse of opiates. To help achieve this goal, we are proposing the use of this therapeutic plant. When used in animals, the Corydalis extract prevents pain and the negative effects of opiate use. The next step would be to test it with humans.”

Olivier Civelli, PhD
Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Corresponding Author
Brian Paegel And His Research Team Take An Unconventional Approach To Drug Discovery

A passion for science and intellectual humility describes the spirit that Professor Brian Paegel, embodies as he pushes through new drug discovery technology development at the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Taking an unconventional, high-risk approach to drug discovery, Paegel and his team of 14 have engineered microchips that run searches for new drugs. In the midst of a 23-year journey, Paegel’s unrelenting approach has served him well. His most recent efforts to expand the druggable proteome received recognition from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a $2 million Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award – a high honor that he was humbled to receive.

“This award is recognition both from peers and the NIH that a laboratory’s research activities are central to the nation’s biomedical research enterprise,” Paegel said. “I am very proud of the laboratory’s hard work toward delivering next-generation drug discovery technology. It has been a team effort!”

The NIH gift represents years of hard work and the support of a dream team of interdisciplinary collaborators both across and outside the UC system, including RNA chemical biologist Robert Spitale, a fellow professor at UCI; ribosome structural biologist Jamie Cate, a UC Berkeley professor of chemistry; and RNA drug targeting pioneer, Matthew Disney, Scripps Research professor of chemistry.

“Receiving the NIH grant is an honor that we do not take lightly,” Spitale said, “I’m incredibly proud to be a part of a team that is taking a bold approach to drug discovery and is being recognized and rewarded for such efforts.”

When asked about what makes UCI an ideal place for his work, Paegel expressed appreciation for the strength of the institution’s chemical and synthetic biology community, as well as the department’s generosity of the research endeavors of the Paegel lab.

“You have to make sure that you are passionate about your research. Science is more than 90 percent failure. When you’re operating at the frontiers of human knowledge, it can be very daunting.

The only way to push through is to keep saying, ‘this problem is so cool – I have to come back and try again tomorrow.’”

Brian Paegel, PhD
Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
As part of the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, the UCI Center for Healthspan Sciences aims to increase human longevity and improve “healthspan,” the time in people’s lives when they experience mental and physical well-being.

The center’s primary goals are to engage in evidence-based, multidisciplinary educational and research programs to help improve everyday life in a way that will inspire healthier lifestyle choices and habits.

“Establishing the Center for Healthspan Sciences was a professional dream of mine,” said Mahtab Jafari, the center’s director and professor of pharmaceutical sciences. “I’ve been a clinician, scientist, and educator for the past 27 years in my career. The focus of my research and teaching has always been on adding ‘healthy years’ to human life and to prevent age-related chronic conditions. I also believe that as a scientist, it is my duty to serve the community by sharing evidence-based information and differentiating science from hype.”

The Center for Healthspan Sciences received a $1.3 million donation from the Kay Family Foundation in spring 2021. The funding will be used to create novel educational programs, healing protocols, and will support studies to understand how lifestyle changes can improve healthspan.

Studies have shown that while the average lifespan in the U.S. is 79 years, the healthspan—the number of healthy years—is only 63 years. Jafari’s research and teaching team focuses on closing the gap between healthspan and lifespan, to extend human longevity and improve quality of life.

“I am very excited for what the future holds for the center. We will be engaging in some leading-edge research and a new way of thinking about health and healthcare. I hope our evidence-based educational programs will not only help the community understand the importance of healthy lifestyles but also give healthcare providers the tools to provide best-in-class care.”

Mahtab Jafari, PharmD
Director, Center for Healthspan Sciences
Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
A PhD Student Uses Artificial Intelligence To Aid Drug Discovery

Aakankschit Nandkeolyar, a PhD candidate in the department of pharmaceutical sciences, wants to revolutionize the pharmaceutical industry using his background in automation and engineering.

“With an interdisciplinary degree like the one I’m working towards at UCI, I want to push the industry to its next revolution. Using artificial intelligence to find connections that would require hours of work from a human is exciting. This machine learning will help researchers look at different molecules and find more novel drug candidates.”

Aakankschit Nandkeolyar
PhD Student
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Many leading pharmaceutical companies use artificial intelligence technology to prompt research and development. Artificial intelligence in the pharmaceutical industry can be seen among many leading companies, including GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), a UK-based company investing in machine learning and AI to automate drug discovery.

It was while Nandkeolyar was completing an internship with GSK that he met and published a paper with David Mobley, professor of pharmaceutical sciences.

“Dr. Mobley drew me in [the Pharmacological Sciences PhD program] with the idea of screening compounds with automation and using computational methods to accelerate drug discovery.”

Mobley coordinated a Statistical Assessment of the Modeling of Proteins and Ligands (SAMPL) challenge Nandkeolyar participated in while interning at GSK. The SAMPL challenge helps to improve the accuracy of current computational models to estimate associated physical properties that are useful for the design of new pharmaceutical products.

Computer-aided drug design methods have improved over time, along with the rapid growth of high-performance computing capabilities. However, their applicability in the pharmaceutical industry is limited due to insufficient accuracy. A key emphasis is on lessons learned, allowing participants in future challenges to benefit from modeling improvements made based on earlier challenges.

As an intern, Nandkeolyar collaborated with Mobley and worked with the data provided by GSK. He oversaw the collection of data and updated the progress of the project. “Dr. Mobley drew me in with the idea of screening compounds with automation and using computational methods to accelerate drug discovery,” said Nandkeolyar. “Experimentalists and computational researchers are from two different worlds that are not well connected because they speak different languages, so I want to bridge their fields in the pharmaceutical industry.”
Cassandra Saucedo Balances Parenting And Graduate School To Start Career Path In Pharmacology

As a mother of five children, ages 9, 11, 13, 16, and 17, Cassandra Saucedo balanced the responsibilities of parenting and graduate school with kindness, patience, and determination.

Saucedo started the UCI Master of Science in Pharmacology program in the fall of 2020 and received her degree at the 2022 commencement.

“So, what’s next? Truly an Anteater for life, Saucedo was born at the UCI Medical Center and aims to add a PhD from UCI to her bachelor of science in neurobiology, and now master’s degree, she earned at UCI.

UCI PhD Candidates Take Action To Mentor And Support Fellow Students

If anyone could understand a student’s challenges, triumphs, and quest for excellence, it’s other students. Alexandra Rogers, Brandon Latifi, and Chelsea Marie T. Parrocha had that exact idea in mind when they founded the Pharmaceutical Sciences Mentor Program at the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

“Thankfully, the MSP program is very flexible for parents and people working full-time. The pandemic brought a unique challenge with five different grade levels now at home, so I adjusted by setting up a classroom at home for the kids. I was at the front of the room working on my MSP assignments where I could also help them if they needed me.”

Cassandra Saucedo
Master of Science in Pharmacology Graduate, ‘22

As PhD candidates themselves, they thought about what they can do to ensure student success in their department.

The Pharmaceutical Sciences Mentor Program is a student-led initiative aimed to develop an inclusive and supportive environment for first-year students. Program mentors range from second- to fifth-year PhD candidates, while mentees are incoming first-year candidates.

“Our main goal for the program is to create an inclusive environment where we ensure everyone has the correct support and guidance to succeed. This can include getting feedback on setting up rotations, advice on navigating graduate school or creating a work/life balance.”

Brandon Latifi
PhD Candidate
Pharmaceutical Sciences
“This is truly an exciting time with clinical pharmacy expansion. Our faculty are committed to grow our flagship Doctor of Pharmacy program, patient care services, innovative multidisciplinary research, and a lot more within and beyond the UCI community.”

Alexandre Chan, PharmD, MPH
Founding Chair
Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice
Beyond The Corner Drugstore

The role of the pharmacist is evolving beyond dispensing medication to addressing the increased intricacy and cost of supporting the wellness of the country’s aging and diverse population. **There is a growing demand for pharmacists to have direct patient interaction in settings such as medical clinics and offices, hospital ambulatory sites and community clinics.**

No other healthcare professional has more extensive training in medications and safety than pharmacists, who serve as the medication experts on interdisciplinary teams involving doctors, nurses, and other professionals. Pharmacists are uniquely qualified to manage medications, both individually and in combinations from numerous prescribers.

The ability to coordinate the patient’s complete regimen allows the pharmacist to ensure methods for accurate and effective dosage; discuss medication safety; identify and address possible side effects; and assist in managing chronic health conditions.

“Having different experts addressing the patient’s needs delivers more targeted, less generalized care. When the team comes together, they put together a personalized plan,” **Joyce Yu-Chia Lee, health sciences clinical professor** says. “More pharmacists are stepping out from their traditional role behind the counter dispensing prescriptions to working side-by-side with doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals to provide evidence-based medication management. These cost-effective collaborative care models contribute to improved patient outcomes, satisfaction and quality of life.”

Collaborative care programs have consistently been shown to improve health outcomes and to be cost-effective, and have been implemented in clinics, health centers, hospitals and retail pharmacies across the U.S. for more than a decade, under state-specific regulations.

**Since arriving on campus in 2020, Lee launched the first pharmacist-led comprehensive medication management clinic at the UCI Health Family Health Center in Anaheim,** where she works collaboratively with the care team to optimize medication use among patients with chronic diseases. “There are so many possibilities for implementing this approach,” she says.

“A strong working relationship between pharmacists and physicians is necessary to optimize personalized care. This team-based holistic approach, or collaborative care model, prioritizes patient safety, improves outcomes and helps reduce cost.”

**Joyce Yu-Chia Lee, PharmD**
Health Sciences Clinical Professor

In her recent study, Lee found that after community pharmacists receive training to collaborate with doctors in providing direct care, patients experienced improved clinical outcomes and quality of life. This team-based approach is particularly effective for individuals with chronic conditions as well as underserved populations or those who live in rural areas where doctors’ offices and hospitals are many miles away.

Lee concludes, “Many people aren’t aware that pharmacists can go past the traditional role and venture beyond the retail stores. Collaborative care is possible.”
UCI Welcomes Inaugural Doctor Of Pharmacy Class At White Coat Ceremony

The inaugural class of student pharmacists at UCI began on September 24 at the White Coat Ceremony, a rite of passage marking the transition from the study of preclinical to clinical health sciences. The white coat is universally recognized as a symbol of the commitment students are making in joining a trusted health profession.

As part of the UCI College of Health Sciences, UCI’s PharmD program offers a unique education that provides a wide range of interprofessional and experiential opportunities. Healthcare teams include doctors, nurses, and public health and integrative health professionals, allowing students to learn how to treat the whole patient in a wide variety of medical settings, ranging from primary to specialized care.

Inaugural Class of Student Pharmacists

41 California residents
83% UC Graduates
56% First-generation college students

23 Female
18 Male
46% UCI Graduates

“At UCI, we will prepare our future pharmacists to have a strong science background so they can become medication experts for treating complex patients and diseases of the future. Our students will also be trained in an interprofessional environment that will focus on providing cost-effective healthcare as medication experts for patients and healthcare team members.”

Jan D. Hirsch, BS Pharm, PhD
Founding Dean
“You choosing to be part of a health profession and essential worker during this challenging time of our history speaks volumes of who you are. These choices will forever change you. They will make you stronger, more resilient, and give you the courage to create new pharmacist roles and transform the profession to better serve individual patients and promote health equity for all.”

Megan H. Nguyen, PharmD
Founding Associate Dean
Pharmacy Student Affairs
UCI Research Team To Improve Health Disparities Among Ethnic Minority Cancer Patients Using Real-Time Analytics Data

A UCI research team was awarded a grant from the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association to evaluate the satisfaction of ethnic minority cancer patients’ care from oncology pharmacists at the UCI Health Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The research team led by Alexandre Chan, professor and founding chair of clinical pharmacy practice, will use an innovative strategy to integrate real-time analytics of patient-reported outcomes into personalized pharmacy education among ethnic minority patients who are newly diagnosed with cancer and undergoing anticancer treatment at the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center located in Orange County, California in a majority-minority county. Over 35 percent of the population is Hispanic/Latinos, and 21 percent are Asian Americans. Orange County is also home to the largest Vietnamese population in the United States.

Chan hopes his research team can engage oncology pharmacists using real-time analytic data to tackle health disparities and improve pharmacists’ early recognition of health issues to increase early interventions.

“The rich ethnic diversity at the UCI Health Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center makes our cancer center an excellent environment to evaluate interventions to reduce health disparities in ethnic minorities.”

Alexandre Chan, PharmD, MPH
Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Founding Chair
Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice
UCI Student Pharmacist Finishes Top 10 At APhA-ASP National Patient Counseling Competition

Hung Tran, a first-year student pharmacist, advanced to the final round of the 2022 American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) National Patient Counseling Competition. Tran prevailed as one of the top 10 finalists among 122 other student competitors. The goal of the APhA-ASP National Patient Counseling Competition is to encourage student pharmacists in their efforts toward becoming better patient educators.

“There are usually well over 100 participants consisting mostly of students in the final year of their PharmD program,” said Christine Cadiz, health sciences clinical associate professor. “This feat is incredible, and we are so proud of Hung for his hard work.”

The goal of the APhA-ASP National Patient Counseling Competition is to encourage student pharmacists in their efforts toward becoming better patient educators. The competition is designed to reflect changes that are occurring in practice, to promote and encourage further professional development of the student pharmacist and to reinforce the role of the pharmacist as a health care provider and educator.

“I am honored to represent UCI at the 2022 APhA-ASP National Patient Counseling Competition,” said Tran. “I want to thank my family, friends, professors, and cohort, who were always there to support me. This competition will definitely be one of my best memories in pharmacy school.”

UCI Health Sciences Students Administer Nearly 400 Flu Vaccines

Student volunteers from the UC Irvine School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Program in Public Health, the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing, and the Student Health Center provided flu shots to nearly 400 undergraduate and graduate students in a three-day, pop-up clinic at Anteater Plaza.
UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

623 Total Students

498 Undergraduate Students

125 Graduate and Professional Students

33 Faculty

Degrees Awarded:
- 107 Undergraduate
- 12 Master’s
- 3 PhD

623 Total Students

- 498 Undergraduate Students
- 125 Graduate and Professional Students
- 33 Faculty

107 Undergraduate

- 53 PhD students
- 31 MSP students
- 41 PharmD students

UCI

- Top 10 Public Universities by U.S. News & World Report for the past eight years in a row.
- 9th in the nation among public universities on Forbes’ 2022 list of “America’s Top Colleges”
- 9th in Money.com’s 2022 survey of “Best Colleges”

Accreditation Status

WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC):
Approved as of November 30, 2020

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE):
Candidate status approved as of June 30, 2022

*2021-2022 PharmCas Applicant Data Report
2006
Bachelor of Science program established

2007
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences established

2012
PhD program established

2018
Master of Science in Pharmacology established

2018
Search for the Founding Dean commenced

2019
Founding Dean joined UCI

2019
Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice established

2020
The University of California Regents Approved the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences and new PharmD program

2021
First PharmD class enrolls in September

WHAT’S NEXT?

2022
Launch the Neurotherapeutics Institute

2024
Launch the Center for Chemical Biology

2024
Launch Bioanalytics Facility

2025
Achieve full accreditation for the PharmD program

2027
Launch new master’s program

2030
Attain top 20 status in research funding for pharmacy school rankings
2021-2022 NEW FACULTY

Lauren Albrecht, PhD
Assistant Professor
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Nana Entsuah, PharmD
Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor
Clinical Pharmacy Practice

Shawn Griffin, PharmD
Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor
Clinical Pharmacy Practice

Thomas Martinez, PhD
Assistant Professor
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Aya Ozaki, PharmD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacy Practice

Aryana Sepassi, PharmD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacy Practice

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Jan D. Hirsch, BS Pharm, PhD
Founding Dean

Melanie Joe, PharmD
Founding Associate
Dean of Pharmacy Professional Affairs

Sarah McBane, PharmD
Founding Associate
Dean of Pharmacy Education

Megan Nguyen, PharmD
Founding Associate
Dean of Pharmacy Student Affairs

Rob Spitale, PhD
Founding Associate
Dean of Research

Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, PhD
Founding Associate
Dean of Pharmacy Assessment and Quality
American College of Clinical Pharmacy 2021 Clinical Practice Award

Joyce Yu-Chia Lee, PharmD
Health Sciences Clinical Professor

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy is a professional and scientific society with more than 15,000 members from over 60 countries committed to excellence in clinical pharmacy. The American College of Clinical Pharmacy 2021 Clinical Practice Award is given to one member who has developed an innovative clinical pharmacy service, provided innovative documentation of the impact of clinical pharmacy services, demonstrated leadership in the development of cost-effective clinical pharmacy services or shown sustained excellence in providing clinical pharmacy services. Lee is a founding faculty member of UCI’s School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences and the first to earn the prestigious recognition.

2021 Samueli Scholar

Olivier Civelli, PhD
Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Civelli is part of the inaugural class of Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute Samueli Scholar awardees which recognizes current UCI faculty whose achievements show extraordinary promise to advance basic, translational, or clinical scholarship in integrative health and have a history of contributions of national distinction in their disciplines.

Peter P. Lamy Memorial Lecture Award

Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, PhD
Founding Associate Dean of Pharmacy Assessment and Quality

The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, the leading national pharmacy organization for the care of older adults, awarded Watanabe, the 2021 Peter P. Lamy Memorial Lecture Award for improving drug therapy for the elderly.
Anteaters in Pharmacy Alumni Chapter

Anteaters in Pharmacy is the official UCI alumni chapter dedicated to pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences, and the overall sector. Members engage in our community, build their networks, volunteer together, and contribute to UCI.

Thank you to the alumni mentors who share their wealth of diverse knowledge and experiences as they served in our inaugural Anteaters in Pharmacy Mentorship Program!

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Karolina Kapustova ‘17
President
PGY2 Emergency Medicine
Pharmacy Resident

Lauren Law ‘13
Vice President
Senior Medical Science Liaison

Michelle Ding ‘09
Treasurer
Pharmacist Treatment Specialist

Eric Samuels PhD ‘19
Mentorship Chair
Senior Scientist

Gabriel Gamo ‘19
Events Chair
Senior Project Specialist

Jenny Nguyen ‘21
Communications Chair
PharmD Candidate

Ryan Kwok ‘23
Student Liaison
Upcoming PharmD Candidate

Meredith Kwok
Senior Director of Alumni Relations
Samueli College of Health Sciences

Mentors
Includes alumni with graduation years of 1976 through 2019, from Orange County, California to Ann Arbor, Michigan

Mentees
Includes 20 undergraduate students and 24 PharmD students

Interested in joining Anteaters in Pharmacy?
Contact Meredith at m.kwok@uci.edu.
Make a Meaningful Impact

Your tremendous philanthropic support, partnerships, and donations support our students and innovative healthcare leaders to accelerate scientific, clinical, and educational innovations.

By making a gift today, you help define the future of health and wellness by supporting those who will provide it in the decades to come. Let’s create a brilliant future for healthcare – together.

CONTACT

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Senior Executive Director of Development, Health Advancement
matt.spencer@uci.edu

Donate Online: https://pharmsci.uci.edu/giving/