

Newsletter



Alexandre Chan, PharmD, MPH, FCCP, FISOPP, BCPS, BCOP, APh
Professor and Chair

The UCI Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice (DCPP) recently celebrated our one-year anniversary in our new space, Berk Hall. On January 25th, faculty, staff, and friends of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice joined us at our [ribbon-cutting ceremony](#) for our newly remodeled and decorated home, Berk Hall. With two floors of offices and facilities, this is where our clinical pharmacy faculty will inspire the next generations of pharmacists. We are also grateful to receive donations of pharmaceutical antiques from Dr. Carl F. Zurcher. We sincerely invite you to pay us a visit at Berk Hall and to learn more about us!

In this newsletter, you will learn more about our clinical faculty and their innovative work through clinical services, patient-centered research, and roles within professional organizations. Dr. Nana Entsuah will share with us her clinical role in managing geriatric patients at the UCI SeniorHealth Center. Dr. Aya Ozaki will discuss her research on the creation of a multinational research database to study cardiovascular and cardio-oncology treatment outcomes. Lastly, Dr. Erin Knox will discuss our experiential education program and the opportunities that our chartered cohort class will have. You will also hear from Jeff Yuen, a Volunteer Clinical Professor in DCPP, and a member of the Dean's Leadership Council at School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. He will discuss how he and his company work closely with the pharmaceutical industry and governmental agencies to safeguard public health.

Please be on the lookout for more information regarding our May 14th Department Seminar scheduled from noon to 1pm. Dr. Steven Atallah, Volunteer Associate Clinical Professor, and Dr. Jeffry Nahmias, Associate Professor, at the UCI School of Medicine will be presenting. ●

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Dr. Zurcher's pharmaceutical antiques are now proudly displayed at Berk Hall.



Ribbon Cutting at the entrance of Berk Hall

► [Click here to subscribe to our e-newsletter to receive news from the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences.](#)

Geriatric Clinical Pharmacy; the role of the pharmacist in a holistic approach to caring for the older adult

Nana Entsuah, PharmD

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor



The UCI SeniorHealth Center is highly ranked nationally as a total-care center for older adults. The center specializes in both primary care and memory care for older adults with a broad range of medical conditions and geriatric syndromes. The center is comprised of a team of older-adult care experts, including physicians, social workers, nurses, health coaches, and pharmacists. My role thus far in the SeniorHealth Center has been working with this interdisciplinary team of providers to optimize patient medication regimens and prevent polypharmacy. I currently offer a hypertension service focused on improving blood pressure control particularly within the Black and Hispanic older adult patient population at

the SeniorHealth center. Additionally, I offer comprehensive medication management services with a focus on fall prevention and polypharmacy for older adults with multi-morbidity. As a geriatric clinical pharmacist at the center, I provide both patient and clinician education on evidence-based appropriate medication use in the older adult. This includes education on drug therapy mechanism of action, dosing, drug interaction, safety/efficacy, and cost while emphasizing the importance of deprescribing and close monitoring. I am glad to see the impact my services have had on our medically under-represented patients and look forward to what the future holds. ●

Collaborative Research in Multinational Database

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

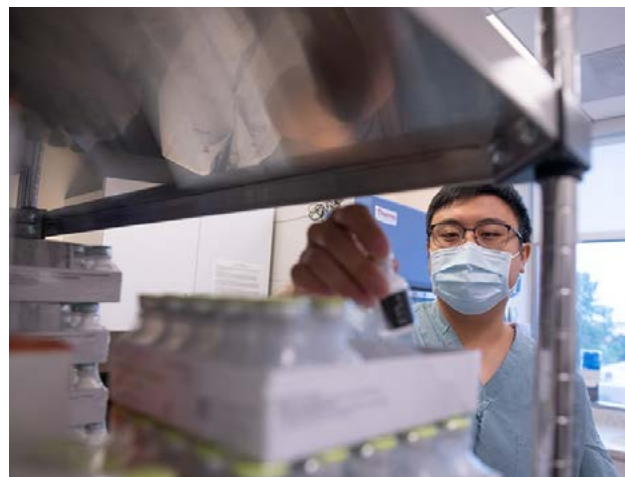


My current research activities using multinational databases focus on evaluating prescription patterns and outcomes in cardiovascular and cardio-oncology areas. The uniqueness of

this research lies in its international scope, which encompasses varied healthcare systems and patient populations across different countries. This diversity offers a comprehensive perspective on global healthcare practices, highlighting the significance of identifying universal trends as well as specific differences.

My academic journey has been defined by a commitment to developing research programs that draw upon my unique background with dual clinical licensing in both the US and Japan as a pharmacist. Anchored by my passion to contribute to healthcare both domestically and internationally, my focus is centered on ensuring the safe and effective use of medications. Our robust international collaboration exemplifies a global partnership that not only seeks to advance precision medicine but also to forge a model for international cooperation in addressing complex health challenges. My career and this research endeavor are dedicated to bridging the gap between diverse datasets and actionable healthcare insights, fostering a community of shared knowledge that spans borders and benefits all. ●

Update from the Office of Experiential Education



Things are abuzz this quarter in the Office of Experiential Education at UCI. Our charter cohort of student pharmacists are in the swing of learning all about Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) opportunities for the next academic year. Each student pharmacist will take six 6-week APPE rotations in required and elective settings. Required APPE courses include community practice, general medicine, ambulatory care, and hospital/health systems. Electives are offered in a large variety of settings to allow an individualized education experience in two different pharmacy settings, ranging from pharmaceutical industry to critical care, ID/antimicrobial stewardship, general pediatrics, psychiatry, oncology, specialty pharmacy, nuclear pharmacy, NICU, medication safety, ED, and many more! Locations include our primary training partners, UCI Medical Center and CHOC, as well as sites in San Diego, Sacramento, Hawaii, and Singapore!

The Office of Experiential Education is so excited to see the Class of 2025 on APPEs and cannot wait to hear about their adventures! ●

Always an Anteater

Jeff Yuen, MBA, MPH

Volunteer Clinical Professor

Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice



Greetings, my name is Jeff Yuen, a former UCI alumni and Lauds and Laurels honoree for the School of Biological Sciences. I am the Founder, President, and CEO of Jeff Yuen & Associates, Inc (JYA).

After working as a Peace Officer for the State of CA, Department of Health Services, Food and Drug Branch, I became a commissioned officer in the US Public Health Services assigned to work for the US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA). After leaving the US FDA, I followed my passion and calling towards the improvement of public health through the advancement of pharmaceutical sciences, working closely with pharmaceutical companies (start-up, small, mid-size, and some of the largest in the world) to assist with the navigation and pre-approval inspection support required by the US FDA prior to approving generic, biosimilar, and/or bio-better biotech products. Often, our consulting firm is on the forefront of new, innovative, and medically necessary finished drug products where there are no other approved treatment alternatives.

Our consulting firm also works diligently to ensure that only products meeting the current good manufacturing practices (CGMP) regulatory requirements in accordance with the Food Drug & Cosmetic Act are released to the marketplace.

Our vision and mission is to support innovation and science while understanding the compliance

requirements from an FDA perspective. Great science must always be balanced with good regulatory compliance.

During the COVID pandemic, we worked tirelessly with Sponsor applicants to get their Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for vaccines approved. Exciting recent biotechnology advances have been made in the areas of Cell and Gene Therapy (patient-specific products), both autologous and allogenic. Being involved with the development of a product through clinical trials to commercialization is truly rewarding. The regulatory journey to US or outside US (OUS) approvals can be full of “twists and turns,” but our expert consultants help with the navigation.

Protecting public health can also mean the necessary recall or market withdrawal of products. These are difficult decisions, but we often are asked to evaluate and provide feedback on business-impacting decisions as expert, objective, third-party consultants. In 2023 and 2024, we have already been consulted on several major recalls and import alerts involving ophthalmic products, 503B compounded medicines, and materials used to tissue and organ transplantation. JYA often works with the FDA, CDER, or CBER, Office of Compliance to come to proper resolution of CGMP compliance issues.

My days are spent on back-to-back conference calls when I’m working from my home office. When I’m not in the office, I’m in the manufacturing plants observing and coaching subject matter experts (SMEs) and key personnel on how to run leaner and more compliant operations. It’s a paradigm that may not always be easy to solve as many believe the cost of compliance and or quality is too high. The answer(s) exist through pragmatic, strong, top-down quality culture; fully integrated, bottom-up quality systems; and strong mid-management supported by progressive leaders! ●

More On Our Open House Event



The Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice is an essential component of the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. It is the home of our clinical pharmacy practice faculty who are developing and delivering didactic and experiential curricula for the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

DCPP offers unparalleled training for future careers in pharmacy. Our innovative curriculum focuses on integrative health and putting the patient first. Our goal is to train students in the classroom and in the field to improve our society's health and well-being.

[For more information: pharmsci.uci.edu](https://pharmsci.uci.edu)