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Annual Report
THOMAS J. LONG SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
2023

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Reflecting on the achievements highlighted in this annual report, I see many examples of synergy. These examples show that through collaboration, we can achieve ambitious goals.

Research is a prime example of the synergy of knowledge and application. This year was a banner year for securing grant funding to support research and health care outreach. The teamwork on display in our research labs propels discoveries and scientific breakthroughs.

Our faculty and students work diligently to optimize patient outcomes. In these pages, we recognize our faculty, staff, alumni and community partners; the individuals whose unique skills, knowledge and perspectives create an inclusive, student-centered learning environment. In turn, our students impact the community.

In health care, a team-based approach is essential for providing holistic, patient-centered care. We prepare students to become effective communicators who understand the expertise they contribute to interdisciplinary teams.

It is an honor to work with talented, hardworking individuals who are dedicated to finding innovative solutions to complex health care challenges.

Sincerely,

Berit Gundersen ’84, PharmD
Dean

$3M
Over $3 million in funding from grants to support research and health care outreach

$809K
Awarded in scholarships to PharmD and PCSP students

186
Scholarships awarded to 178 PharmD and 8 PCSP students

185
Combined faculty and staff years of service

53
Faculty publications
Entrepreneurial Board of Governors

Robert Bagdasarian ’74
Gurpartap “Gary” Basrai ’77
Jasmine Basrai

Clark H. Gustafson ’66
Brian Komoto
William Masotti ’66

Robert Nickell ’81
Jeff Sharkey
John Tilley

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Rajesh A. Patel ’87
Pasit Phiasivongsa ’98, ’02
Nirmal K. Saini
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Atefeh Rabiee
Sanjeev Redkar

Pacific Pharmacy Alumni Association Board Members

Veronica T. Bandy ’00, ’08
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Jeanne Gapac-Brady ’93
Marisella Guerrero ’98
Annie Ho ’12
Joseph “Joe” Jolliff ’09
Peter Koo ’92

Johanna Liu ’09
Tom Maez ’85
Adam Morisoli ’10
April Nguyen ’16
Nam Nguyen ’08
Jessica Ocegueda ’20
Osagie Omoruyi ’19

Stacey Raff ’96
Irene (Andrada) Solorio ’15
Catherine Grady Sterk ’77, ’78
Jamie Tobitt ’90
Jolena Tsai ’15
James H. Wall ’16
Edlen Wong ’07
American Pharmacists Association
Operation Heart Award | National First Runner-up

California Pharmacists Association
Innovative Chapter of the Year
Student Pharmacists Quiz Bowl Competition | Second Place

Rifat A. Islam ’24 was a recipient of the 2023 Research Recognition Award from the Cardiovascular Section of the American Physiological Society. She was recognized during the American Physiological Summit, April 20-23, in Long Beach.

Sean McNary ’23, PharmD was named a recipient of the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists Student Leadership Award.

Nancy Y. Nghiem ’24 was a recipient of the U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award.

Hao “Wendy” Wei ’23 was awarded an American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Travelship supported by Merck to attend the PharmSci 360 meeting, Oct. 16-19, 2022, in Boston.

Nahid Sultana ’23, PhD research assistant to Jesika S. Faridi, PhD, professor of physiology and pharmacology, presented “Targeting RRM2 for the treatment of palbociclib resistant breast cancer” at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, Dec. 6-10, 2022, in San Antonio, Texas. Sultana was also honored with special recognition by breast cancer patient advocates and the Guiding Researchers & Advocates to Scientific Partnerships.
Recruitment and enrollment update

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY
CLASS OF 2025

Class size: 192

Average GPA: 3.25
Average age: 23 years old

Gender:
- Male (42%)
- Female (58%)

Ethnicity:
- Asian (65.6%)
- White/Non-Hispanic (5.7%)
- Hispanic (6.8%)
- Two or more races (2.1%)
- African American (2.1%)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.5%)
- Unknown/Other (17.2%)

Prior institution:
- Completed course work at a community college (51.6%)
- University of California (19.3%)
- California State University (20.3%)
- Other (7.3%)
- University of the Pacific (53.1%)

Top 5 schools:
- University of the Pacific
- UC Davis
- CSU Sacramento
- UC Merced
- CSU East Bay
PHARMACEUTICAL AND CHEMICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

Students completed their undergraduate degree at Pacific

Cohort size

59

- Master of science (20%)
- Doctor of philosophy (80%)

Gender

- Male (37%)
- Female (63%)

Country of origin

- United States (53%)
- International (47%)
  - Bangladesh, Belgium, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Zambia

STUDENTS PER FOCUS AREA

18
Bioanalytical chemistry, physical chemistry and biochemistry

22
Biopharmaceutical sciences

7
Chemical synthesis, drug discovery and design

4
Health care outcomes and clinical services

8
Molecular-cellular pharmacology and toxicology
CLASS OF 2023

1
Master of Science in Pharmaceutical and Chemical Sciences graduate

5
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical and Chemical Sciences graduates

158
Doctor of Pharmacy graduates

3
Third highest number of students matching for PGY1 residencies in California

54
PGY1 matches 49 graduates, 5 alumni

7
PGY2 matches

5
Industry fellowship placements

Residencies took the Class of 2023 throughout California and across the county
**Scholarships**

$809,550

amount awarded

186

scholarships awarded

By type

- Immediate need corporate/foundation funded: 49 recipients
- Immediate need individual/family funded: 15 recipients
- Endowed: 122 recipients

Type by program

- Immediate need PCSP: 1 recipient
- Immediate need PharmD: 63 recipients
- Endowed PCSP: 7 recipients
- Endowed PharmD: 115 recipients
“I believe a strong support system can be a driving force to one’s success. The support from others can nurture our passions and provide the courage and confidence we need to take risks. Donors, thank you for your continued support.”

Heusny Sou ’24
Community outreach

39 Events
2,591 Patients served
14,039 Hours volunteered

$2.19M Total potential Part D plan cost savings to beneficiaries assisted
$1,382 Average out-of-pocket savings per beneficiary per annum

CLINICS AND PROGRAMS

Black Barbershop
Clinica Tepati
Diabetes Care Clinics
Diabetes Prevention Program

Medicare Part D Outreach Clinics
Valley Mountain Regional Center
Vietnamese Cancer Awareness, Research and Education Society

3,891 Screenings/services provided

Anemia
Blood pressure machine distribution
Blood pressure testing
Bone density testing
Cholesterol testing
Diabetes screening
Falls risk assessment
Glucometer distribution
Medication Therapy Management
Narcan distribution
Pharmaceutical program assistance/coupons
Sharp container distribution
Vaccines
Pacific launched the first-of-its-kind three-week immersive preparation program for newly minted PharmD to prepare them for the state and national pharmacist licensure exams. Carefully selected alumni and pharmacists offered nearly 90 hours of intensive programming covering more than 40 topics.

**3**

Weeks

**39**

Speakers

**40+**

Topics

**90+**

Hours

**130+**

Attendees

**PLANNING/STEERING COMMITTEE**

Sian Carr-Lopez ’85, PharmD
Berit Gundersen ’84, PharmD
Mary Nakamura

Rajul A. Patel ’01, ’06, PharmD, PhD
Adiyya Sabb
Allen Shek, PharmD

Jessica Song, PharmD
Jim Uchizono, PharmD, PhD

“A program like Rx4Success, dedicated to reviewing what is important, and taught by a variety of pharmacists from various practice settings with helpful tools and clinical pearls, can provide a critical, necessary foundation for graduates as part of their overall testing preparation strategy.”

Tobi Knepler-Foss ’17, PharmD
SPEAKERS

Emilia Abdollahian '22, PharmD  
Preparing for CPJE and NAPLEX

Elena Andrada '22, PharmD  
Preparing for CPJE and NAPLEX

Rajat Bansil, PharmD  
HIV: Prevention, Monitoring and Diagnosis

Kymberli Buyer '18, PharmD  
Over-the-Counter Therapy

Amy Clark '11, PharmD  
Osteoporosis and Menopause

Patrick “Lewie” Deak '15, PharmD  
Lifestyle, OTC - Eyes, Ears, Skin

Drew Dieckmann, PharmD  
Pharmaceutical Calculations

Merry Doerning, PharmD  
Anemia and Thyroid

Le Du, PharmD  
Medication and Patient Safety, Quality Assurance and Improvement

Jeremiah Duby, PharmD  
Biostatistics, Pharmacoeconomics, Pharmacodynamics and Pharmacokinetics

Yesenia Gutierrez '21, PharmD  
The Special in Specialty Medications

Katie Highsmith '12, PharmD  
Oncology

Lauren Honda '00, PharmD  
Compounding

Francisco Ibarra, PharmD  
Congestive Heart Failure, Arrhythmias, Ischemic Heart Disease

Michelle Ito '17, PharmD  
Gastrointestinal Disorders

Jeff Joliff '04, PharmD  
HIV Pharmacotherapy

Joy Joson '03, PharmD  
Renal/Hepatic

Kelsey Kaku, PharmD, MBA  
Emergency Preparedness

Adam M. Kaye '95, PharmD  
Pain and Migraines

Rachel Khuc '21, PharmD  
Toxicology, Antidotes and Anaphylaxis

Tobi Knepler-Foss '17, PharmD  
Insurance, Formularies, Medication Affordability

Men’s and Women’s Health

Kristen Lau '19, PharmD  
Autoimmune Conditions and Gout

Megan Lauzon, PharmD  
Critical Care

May C. Lui '06, '12, PharmD  
Anti-coagulation, ACS and Acute Stroke

Allison Mac '19, PharmD  
Preparing for CPJE and NAPLEX

Kevin Maeda, PharmD  
Pharmacy Information Systems and Technology

Ava Mahan, PharmD  
Labs and Monitoring

Valerie Ngo, PharmD  
Inpatient Pharmacy Operations

Petrus Nguyen-Tu '20, PharmD  
Type 1 Diabetes, Labs and Monitoring Devices

Joshua Park, PharmD  
Every Bug, Every Drug, All at Once: Exploring the Multiverse of Antibiotics, Antivirals and Antifungals

Susie Park, PharmD  
Neuropsychiatry

Yi-Chih Peng '96, PharmD  
IVs and Compatibilities

Neel Prasad '96, PharmD  
Community Practice Pharmacy Operations

Charina Ruiz, PharmD  
Dyslipidemia and Hypertension

Irene (Andrada) Solorio ‘15, PharmD  
Community Pharmacy Operations I

Jessica Song, PharmD  
Pharmacogenomics

Elisa Spitzer ’17, PharmD  
IVs and Compatibilities

Emily Tong '12, PharmD  
Insurance, Formularies, Medication Affordability

Kevin Tran, PharmD  
Infectious Disease II

“...It’s been a great experience. All the lecturers have been knowledgeable, providing good clinical pearls and examples from their clinical practice to illustrate and bring to life this great review.”

Sean McNary '23, PharmD

Milana Vachuska ‘18, PharmD  
Type 2 Diabetes

Mark Walberg ’06, ’09, PharmD, PhD  
Pulmonary Review
SB 493 Elective Protocols
Immunizations and Travel Health

Fred Weissman, PharmD, JD  
California Pharmacy Law Review 2023

Alyssa Wu '13, PharmD  
Pediatrics
Faculty recognition

Pharmacy Teacher of the Year
Carly A. Ranson '13, '17, PharmD, MS, BCGP
Associate Professor
Director of Pharmacy
Co-curricular Programming

Runner-Up Pharmacy Teacher of the Year
William K. Chan, PharmD, PhD
Professor
Chair, Department of Pharmaceutics and Medicinal Chemistry

Regional Coordinator of the Year
Yong S. K. Moon, PharmD
Associate Professor
Regional Coordinator - Los Angeles/Long Beach

PRECEPTORS OF THE YEAR

Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience

Catherine Lo '98, PharmD
Community

Tobi Knepler-Foss '17, PharmD
Health Care Outreach

Kelsea Kerr '03, PharmD
Hospital

Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience

Jeremiah “Jay” Jeson '03, PharmD, APh, BCPS, BCMTMS
Bakersfield

Jeffrey McCamish, PharmD
Fresno

Tim Dang, PharmD
Inland Empire

J.J. “Jonathan” Way, PharmD
LA/Long Beach

Tammy Tang, PharmD, BCCCP
LA/San Fernando Valley

Laura Kawamoto '10, PharmD
Modesto/East Bay/Sonora

Amir A. Haddad, PharmD, MBA, BCPS
Monterey

Michael Xu ‘18, PharmD, MBA, BCPS
Palo Alto

Duong Nishiguchi '12, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP
Redding

Edie Hosier ‘15, PharmD, BCPS, BCSCP
Sacramento

Kayla Giang, PharmD, MS, BCPS, BCCP, BCCCP
San Diego

Distinguished Service Award

Jennifer Branch, PharmD
Sacramento
YEARS OF SERVICE

40
Veronica Semler, director of pharmacy admission, Office of Pharmacy Admission

20
Veronica T. Bandy ’00, ’08, PharmD, MS, FCPhA, FCSHP, BCACP, clinical professor and regional coordinator for Sacramento, Department of Pharmacy Practice

25
Lynda Davis, administrative assistant II, Department of Pharmaceutics and Medicinal Chemistry

15
Sachin A. Shah, PharmD, FACC, FAHA, professor and regional coordinator for Travis, Department of Pharmacy Practice

10
Kimberly Hoffmann ’89, PharmD, clinical professor and regional coordinator for Bakersfield, Department of Pharmacy Practice

10
Eli Benton, evaluation specialist, Office of Pharmacy Admission

5
Myo-Kyoung Kim, PharmD, EdD, BCPS, APh, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice

Marie Scott, PharmD, clinical professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice

Lexie Gonzales, business support specialist I, Office of Professional Programs

Marisella Guerrero ’98, PharmD, associate clinical professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice

Alan Kersey ’92, PharmD, assistant clinical professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice

David W. Collum, MSP, RPh, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice

Veronica Semler

Lynda Davis
NEW FACES, PROMOTIONS AND TENURES

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Melanie A. Felmlee, PhD, was promoted to director of pre-pharmacy, Office of Undergraduate Programs.

Javier Franco ’19 was hired as tech support specialist II, lead, Office of Support Services.

Sonia Garcia was promoted to experiential education outreach coordinator, Office of Professional Programs.

Marisella Guerrero ’98, PharmD was promoted to associate clinical professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Vista Khosraviani, PharmD, APh was hired as associate clinical professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Christine Lee was promoted to business specialist, Office of the Dean.

Lucy Machado-Curran was hired as administrative assistant II, Office of Academic Affairs.

Sara Fouad Mahmoud, PharmD, BCCCP was hired as assistant clinical professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice.

David F. Malewski, PharmD, PhD was hired as director of assessment and accreditation, Office of Academic Affairs.

Anayeli Morales ’15 was hired as program specialist, Diabetes Patient Care Clinics.

Maria Oroso ’20 was promoted to coordinator for student affairs and admission events, Office of Student Affairs and Admission.

Laura R. Perez was hired as clinic coordinator, Diabetes Patient Care Clinics.

Carly A. Ranson ’13, ’17, PharmD, MS, BCGP was promoted to associate professor with tenure, Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Marcus C. Ravnan ’94, PharmD, FCSHP, FASHP transitioned to associate dean, Office of Undergraduate Programs.

Adiyja N. Sabb was hired as administrative assistant III, Office of the Dean.

Marie Scott, PharmD was promoted to clinical professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Eric Shepherd was promoted to assistant dean of finance and operations, Office of the Dean.

Ranjit “Rolly” Kali-Rai ’92, PharmD, MBA, CPPS was hired as associate clinical professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Jessica Song, PharmD, FCSHP was hired as professor and chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice, and was awarded tenure.

James Stack ’17, ’22, EdD was promoted to professional school database and system administrator, Office of Student Affairs and Admission.

Jim Uchizono, PharmD, PhD transitioned to associate dean, Office of Student Affairs and Admission.

Susan E. Webster was promoted to senior assistant dean of development, Office of the Dean.

Sarah E. Wong ’21, PharmD was hired as assistant clinical professor, Diabetes Patient Care Clinics.

Lisa Zamora was hired as administrative assistant III, Department of Pharmacy Practice.
Tiger Stripes
JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

Our faculty and staff are constantly earning their stripes on campus, across the country and around the world.

GRANTS

$572K to address diabetes in our community
Rajul Arvind Patel ’01, ’06, PharmD, PhD, professor of pharmacy practice and director of patient care clinics, on behalf of the Diabetes Care Clinics, received a $552,500 grant from the Abbott Foundation. This funding supports community-based health fairs and creation of Diabetes Prevention Program offerings in multiple locations in high-priority neighborhoods.

The School received a $20,000 innovation track scholarship from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation. The scholarship application was prepared by Dr. Patel, Carly A. Ranson ’13, ’17, PharmD, MS, BCGP, associate professor of pharmacy practice and director of pharmacy co-curricular programming, and Nareeta Sharma ’18, ’21, PharmD, MS, assistant clinical professor of pharmacy practice. The scholarship will support health fairs where Pacific PharmD students will provide services and education for diabetes care and prevention minority and underserved groups the community.

$58K to support Medicare Part D Outreach Clinics
Dr. Patel received a $48,343 Title IIDD- Health Promotion grant from the Human Services Agency and a $10,494 grant from the San Joaquin County Aging and Community Services to support the Medicare Part D Outreach Clinics.

Dr. Patel, Dr. Ranson and Dr. Sharma, in collaboration with Pacific’s master of social work program, received a $30,000 grant from County of San Joaquin to provide in-home services.

Pacific received a $2.5 million grant from the State of California to support underrepresented students pursuing careers in health care. The funding will be used to expand collaboration among the School of Health Sciences, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry and Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy.

$115K grant awarded by Human Services Agency
Dr. Patel received a $115,163 intergenerational grant from the Human Services Agency.

WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Did you recently publish an article in a peer-reviewed journal? Will you be presenting at an upcoming conference?

Faculty, preceptors, students and alumni are invited to submit.

pacific-pharmacy.org/tiger-stripes
Sachin A. Shah, PharmD, FACC, FAHA, professor of pharmacy practice and regional coordinator for Travis, on behalf of the Innovative Clinical and Outcomes Research team, received a $40,000 gift from IN-Ingredients to support clinical trials conducted by students and faculty at Pacific.

Deepti Vyas, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice and director of interprofessional education and instructional design, Long Wang, PhD, clinical professor and program director for master of science in clinical nutrition, Suzanne Galal, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice, et al. received a $24,418 grant from University of the Pacific’s Office of Sponsored Programs for the proposal “Sustained Effect of an Interprofessional Intervention on Diabetes Related Outcomes in Latino Patients.”

Dr. Vyas, Michelle Brady, DDS, assistant professor of clinical oral health, Kris Himmerick, PhD, PA-C, director of assessment, accreditation and sponsored projects, Tracey DelNero, MSPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA, clinical professor and program director for physician assistant studies, and Eric Waldon, PhD, MT-BC, associate professor and program director for music therapy, received a grant from University of the Pacific Office of Sponsored Programs for the proposal “Building a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Toolkit Utilizing Art, Music, and Literature to Train Health Professional Students in Health Inequities.”

The Lipedema Foundation purchased a RESIPHER for the research laboratory of Atefeh Rabiee, PhD, assistant professor of physiology and pharmacology. This $15,000 instrument measures the respiration level of live cells in culture and is critical for Dr. Rabiee’s ongoing research on Lipedema disease.

Dr. Patel received a $33,000 grant from Legacy Health Endowment, which funded 10 scholarships for students to attend the 2023 Pacific Summer High School Institute - Future Pharmacists program.

Dr. Shah received a $18,000 grant for the proposal “Impact of Nelumbo nucifera on Endothelial Function: A Pilot Clinical Trial.”

Pacifie invests $140K in faculty research

Our faculty received nine grants from University of the Pacific’s Office of the Graduate Education and Research. This internal support will allow faculty to seek external funding for these projects in the future.

Mamoun M. Alhamadsheh, PhD, professor of pharmaceutics and medicinal chemistry, received a $20,000 grant for the proposal “A novel drug delivery system for targeting prostate cancer.”

Jesika S. Faridi, PhD, professor of physiology and pharmacology, received a $6,000 grant for the proposal “The potential of RRM2 inhibition to treat Palbociclib resistant breast cancers.”

Xin Guo, PhD, professor of pharmaceutics and medicinal chemistry, received a $20,000 grant for the proposal “Synchronizing the Distribution and Release of Two Drugs by Liposome for Synergistic Activities against Lung Cancer.”

Miki S. Park, PhD, professor of pharmaceutics and medicinal chemistry, received a $20,000 grant for the proposal “PK Studies of TTR-based PAMORAs.”

Roshanak Rahimian, PharmD, PhD, professor of physiology and pharmacology, received a $13,000 grant for the proposal “Targeting endoplasmic reticulum (ER) Ca pumps to preserve T cell signaling functions.”

Rajkumar Sevak, PhD, RPh, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, received a $10,000 grant for the proposal “Development of a Training Program and Screenings in Mental Health for San Joaquin County Residents.”

Dr. Shah received a $18,000 grant for the proposal “Impact of Nelumbo Nucifera on Endothelial Function: A Pilot Clinical Trial.”

David W. Thomas, PhD, associate professor of physiology and pharmacology, received a $15,000 grant for the proposal “Targeting endoplasmic reticulum (ER) Ca pumps to preserve T cell signaling functions.”
$1.7 MILLION R01 NIH GRANT
supports research of opioid antidote

Mamoun M. Alhamadsheh, PhD, professor of pharmaceutics and medicinal chemistry, received a $1.7 million R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study a more potent and longer lasting antidote for opioid overdoses.

“An R01 is the toughest NIH grant to get and the most prestigious among all NIH grants UOP has received,” said William K. Chan, PharmD, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutics and Medicinal Chemistry.

With a team of graduate students, Dr. Alhamadsheh is working to discover a stronger opioid antidote. The research is urgently needed. Illicit synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, account for about two thirds of drug overdose deaths in the United States.

“Current antidotes are not very effective with synthetic opioids because the opioids stay in the body much longer than the antidotes, which causes people to relapse and stop breathing again,” said Dr. Alhamadsheh. “That’s why many patients may require multiple doses of the antidote after the initial rescue.”

Hala Aldawod ’24 provided the majority of the preliminary data using a novel drug delivery approach previously discovered by Dr. Alhamadsheh. Aldawod optimized the technology to counter overdoses by designing a new molecule that stays in the body and releases the antidote slowly rather than all at once.

“The significance of this finding is tremendous. This is the first time someone has increased the half-life of naloxone, while maintaining its full efficacy. The beauty of our approach is that we are empowering drugs that are already approved by the FDA,” Dr. Alhamadsheh said.

The team is currently optimizing the technology in preparation of clinical trials.

“The significance of this finding is tremendous. This is the first time someone has increased the half-life of naloxone, while maintaining its full efficacy.”

Mamoun M. Alhamadsheh, PhD

Left to right: Md Tariqul Haque Tuhin ’22, PhD, Rasha Emara ’24, Dengpan Liang ’22, PhD, Mamoun M. Alhamadsheh, PhD, Arjun Patel ’24, Avishan Kiani ’27, Hala Aldawod ’24
Carlos A. Villalba-Galea, PhD, associate professor of physiology and pharmacology, received a $364,250 R21 National Institutes of Health grant to investigate the interaction of three proteins involved in electrical signaling in neurons and the heart.

Every cell in the body has electrical activity and specialized proteins turn the electrical signals on and off. When these proteins are mutated or have been deleted from the genome, hyperactive electrical activity can ensue, resulting in arrhythmias, epilepsy or pain. Dr. Villalba-Galea’s research is focused on the proteins Kv7.1, NaVβ1 and KCNE1, which are found in the brain and the heart and are essential for modulating electrical activity in those organs.

The NaVβ1 protein regulates the activity responsible for initiating fast electrical signals. This bioelectrical activity can be described as neuronal and cardiac “spikes.” Following the onset of spikes, proteins like Kv7.1 terminate these types of electrical signals. Kv7.1 plays an important role in the cycle of electrical signals behind every heartbeat. The way these proteins behave was thought to be separate processes, but Dr. Villalba-Galea’s research demonstrates there is an interplay between these proteins. This research shows that, unexpectedly, NaVβ1 shuts down Kv7.1 when KCNE1 is absent. This led to the proposal that KCNE1 shields Kv7.1 from the inhibitory action of NaVβ1.

“Our novel finding constitutes a shift in our understanding of how mutations in KCNE1 can affect cellular electrical signaling,” said Dr. Villalba-Galea.

He explains that to develop effective, targeted treatments for complex diseases we must first gain a deeper understanding of human physiology at a cellular level.

Dr. Villalba-Galea is assisted by Moses Kamwela ’26, who is pursuing his doctor of philosophy in molecular-cellular physiology and pharmacology.
Pharmacy Practice

Marisella Guerrero '98, PharmD
Associate Clinical Professor

Dr. Guerrero presented “A Conversation with Dr. Marisella Guerrero: Health Disparities in the Latino Community” at the Center for Identity and Inclusion, Oct. 12, 2022, in Stockton.

Adam M. Kaye '95, PharmD, FASCP, FCPhA
Clinical Professor, Coordinator Community I, Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience Program


Dr. A.M. Kaye and Dr. Patel presented “Opioids Primer” at the Department of Psychiatry San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Service, July 28, 2022, in Stockton.

Cynthia Lee '19, PharmD, MS, BCPS
Assistant Clinical Professor

Aaron Yee '21, PharmD, Dr. Lee, Raneeta Sharma '22, PharmD, Yvonne Mai '13, '15, PharmD, MS, BCGP, BCACP, associate professor of pharmacy practice and regional coordinator for Stockton, et al. presented “Evaluation of a Fixed-Dose 4-Factor Prothrombin Complex Concentrate Protocol” at the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) Seminar, Nov. 9-13, 2022, in Anaheim.

Yvonne Mai '13, '15, PharmD, MS, BCGP, BCACP
Associate Professor, Regional Coordinator · Stockton

Vincent Lu ’21, PharmD, Jocelyn G. Cheung ’22, PharmD, Adam Aboubakare ’22, PharmD and Dr. Mai presented “Pharmacist Impact on Health Care Costs and Clinical Outcomes in an Interdisciplinary Geriatric Clinic” at the 2022 CSHP Seminar.

Rajkumar Sevak, PhD, RPh
Assistant Professor

Dr. Sevak et al. presented “Non-medical use of prescription stimulants and nicotine among community college students” at the 2022 CSHP Seminar.


Dr. Sevak, Allison Mac ’19, PharmD, BCPS, Mark Stackpole, MA, EdD, director of the Office of Academic Success and Instructional Support, and Myo-Kyoung Kim, PharmD, EdD, BCPS, APh, associate professor of pharmacy practice, presented “Sensory processing sensitivity and perceived stress in pharmacy students during transitions in learning environment” at the 2022 CSHP Seminar.

Dr. Sevak et al. presented “Motives for non-medical use of prescription stimulants among community college students” at the 2022 CSHP Seminar.

Physiology and Pharmacology

Robert F. Halliwell, PhD
Professor

Dr. Halliwell, Evan Cheng ’24 and Natalie Chen ’24 presented “Sleeping Your Way to a Healthy and Happy Life” at O’Connor Woods Senior Assisted Living Center, March 20, 2023, in Stockton.

Dr. Halliwell and Hamed Salmanzadeh-Dozdabi ’23, PhD presented “Human Stem Cell-derived Neurons in Long-term Cell Culture as a Model for Antiseizure Drug Discovery” at the New York Stem Cell Foundation meeting, Oct. 18-19, 2022, in New York City.

Dr. Halliwell presented “How to Keep a Healthy Brain Without Really Trying” for the American Association of University Women, Sept. 1, 2022, in Lodi.

Vista Khosraviani, PharmD, APh, associate clinical professor of pharmacy practice, was selected to serve as a member of American Society of Health-System Pharmacists’ Section of Pharmacy Educators Executive Committee.
**Pharmacy Practice**

**Eric G. Boyce, PharmD**  
Professor

Dr. Boyce et al. published “2020 rankings for US PharmD programs, research, and overall quality” in Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy, September 2022.


**S. Lena Kang-Birken, PharmD, FCCP, AAHIVP**  
Associate Professor, Regional Coordinator - Santa Barbara/ Ventura


Dr. Kang-Birken, Elaine Law, PharmD, BCPS, FCSHP, associate clinical professor of pharmacy practice and regional coordinator for San Jose, Dr. Moon, Audrey J. Lee, PharmD, BCPS, FCSHP, professor of pharmacy practice and regional coordinator for San Francisco, Andrew L. Haydon ’12, PharmD, associate clinical professor of pharmacy practice and director of professional programs, and Allen Shek, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice and associate dean of professional programs, published “Assessing Preceptor and Student Perceptions of Remote Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic” in Pharmacy, Aug. 25, 2022.

**Suzanne Galal, PharmD**  
Professor

Dr. Galal, PharmD, Dr. Vyas, John Mayberry, PhD, associate professor of mathematics, Claire Caringal ’21, PharmD, Vy Bui ’21, PharmD, Dr. Rogan et al. published “Training pharmacy students to deliver bad news using the SPIKES model” in Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning, April 7, 2023.

**Adam M. Kaye ’95, PharmD, FASCP, FCPhA**  
Clinical Professor, Coordinator Community I, Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience Program


Clifford A. Young, RPh, CGP, FCPhA, FAWM, associate clinical professor of pharmacy practice and regional coordinator for Fresno, published “You Are a Business - What I Didn’t Learn in Pharmacy School.”

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Dr. A.M. Kaye et al. published “Suvorexant, a Novel Dual Orexin Receptor Antagonist, for the Management of Insomnia” in Health Psychology Research, Jan. 28, 2023.


Dr. A.M. Kaye et al. published “Clinically Relevant Drug Interactions with Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors” in Health Psychology Research, Nov. 3, 2022.


Dr. A.M. Kaye, Jessica S. Kaye ’22, PharmD et al. published “Midazolam nasal spray to treat intermittent, stereotypic episodes of frequent seizure activity: pharmacology and clinical role, a comprehensive review” in Health Psychology Research, Oct. 12, 2022.


Dr. A.M. Kaye et al. published “Historical Pathways for Opioid Addiction, Withdrawal with Traditional and Alternative Treatment Options with Ketamine, Cannabinoids, and Noribogaine: A Narrative Review” in Health Psychology Research, Oct. 6, 2022.


Caroline L. Ko, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, associate clinical professor of pharmacy practice, is the 2023-24 president-elect of the Phi Lambda Sigma national board of directors.

Caroline L. Ko, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP
Associate Clinical Professor


Elaine Law, PharmD, BCPS
Associate Clinical Professor, Regional Coordinator - Palo Alto


Dharma Naidu ‘93, PharmD, BCOP, APh
Assistant Clinical Professor, Regional Coordinator – Monterey


Rajkumar Sevak, PhD, RPh
Assistant Professor

Dr. Sevak, Celine Chandler ’23, PharmD, Dr. Lui, Dr. A.M. Kaye, Dr. Halliwell and Dr. Rogan, published “Impact of a neuropsychiatric therapeutics course and a case-based course on pharmacy students’ mental-health stigma” in American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, May 15, 2023.

Dr. Sevak, Anh B. Nguyen ’21, PharmD, Simran Randhawa ’21, PharmD and Kate M. O’Dell, PharmD, BCPS, professor pharmacy practice, published “Variables affecting pharmacy students’ pursuit and attainment of postgraduate residency and fellowship positions” in Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning, Sept. 15, 2022.

Sachin A. Shah, PharmD, FACC, FAHA
Professor, Regional Coordinator – Travis


Colin Dimond, PharmD, fellow, Dr. Dovan, Dr. Shah, Brandon Tran ’21, PharmD, Kevin Pham ’20, PharmD, fellow, Dr. Hsu, Nancy N. Nguyen, PharmD, BCPS, AAHIVP, FCSHP, clinical professor of pharmacy practice and regional coordinator for Palo Alto, and Dr. O’Dell published “Effect of Nelumbo Nucifera Extract on Anxiety Symptoms in Individuals With Moderate to Severe Anxiety: An Exploratory Study” in Journal of Contemporary Pharmacy Practice, June 22, 2023.

Deepti Vyas, PharmD
Professor, Director of Interprofessional Education and Instructional Design

Dr. Vyas, DelNero, and Benjamin Reece ’01, ’08, ’20, EdD, CCC-SLP, clinical instructor of speech-language pathology, published “Impact of an Interprofessional Education Activity on Student Knowledge and Attitudes Regarding Patient Safety” in Pharmacy, March 24, 2023.


Jim Uchizono, PharmD, PhD, professor of pharmaceutics and medicinal chemistry and associate dean of student affairs and admission, was selected to serve on the 2023-24 national PharmCAS Advisory Committee.
Bhaskara R. Jasti ’95, MPharm, PhD, FAAPS, professor of pharmaceutics and medicinal chemistry, was a recipient of a Pacific Alumni Association 2022 Faculty Mentor Award.

“As one of the first graduate students to be mentored and trained by Dr. Jasti, I benefited immensely from his teaching philosophy, in which he encouraged and nurtured my love of science and technology. When I think about Dr. Jasti, the first thing that comes to my mind is his compassion and dedication to each of his student. As long as I’ve known him, he’s had an open-door policy for anyone needing his help.”

Amit Kokate ’07, PhD

Physiology and Pharmacology

Atefeh Rabiee, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Rabiee et al. published “Flattening of circadian glucocorticoid oscillations drives acute hyperinsulinemia and adipocyte hypertrophy” in Cell Reports, June 28, 2023.

Dr. Rabiee et al. published “Early enforcement of cell identity by a functional component of the terminally differentiated state” in PLOS Biology, Dec. 5, 2022.


Robert F. Halliwell, PhD
Professor

Dr. Salmanzadeh-Dozdabi, Poojari, Dr. Rabiee, Benjamin David Zeitlin, PhD, associate professor of biomedical sciences, and Dr. Halliwell published “Neuropharmacology of human TERA2.cl.SP12 stem cell-derived neurons in ultra-long-term culture for antiseizure drug discovery” in Frontiers in Neuroscience, June 15, 2023.

Roshanak Rahimian, PharmD, MSc, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, has been invited by the scientific review officer of the National Institutes of Health to serve on the Integrative and Clinical Endocrinology and Reproduction Study Section. Dr. Rahimian was also elected to serve on the Cardiovascular Section of American Physiological Society Awards Committee.

Roshanak Rahimian, PharmD, MSc, PhD
Professor, Department Chair

Md Rahatullah Razan ’22, PhD, Said Amissi, PhD, postdoctoral research fellow, Ritat A. Islam ’24, Dr. Rahimian et al. published “Moderate-Intensity Exercise Improves Mesenteric Arterial Function in Male UC Davis Type-2 Diabetes Mellitus (UCD-T2DM) Rats: A Shift in the Relative Importance of Endothelium-Derived Relaxing Factors (EDRF)” in Biomedicines, April 8, 2023.

Carlos A. Villalba-Galea, PhD
Associate Professor

IN THE MEDIA

Research on energy drinks conducted by Sachin A. Shah, PharmD, FACC, FAHA, professor of pharmacy practice and regional coordinator for Travis, was featured in Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s documentary “Science of Drugs with Richard Roxburgh,” Episode 3: The Stimulants, which aired August 2022.

Dr. Alhamadsheh and Hala Aldawod ’24 were interviewed by Capital Public Radio for the article “Cancer patients who take opioids often struggle with constipation. These Stockton-based researchers may have a solution.”

Michael Conner ’12, PharmD, Global MBA, president of the California Pharmacists Association, was quoted in “Local health officials, pharmacists applaud over-the-counter Narcan” for The Business Journal.


Dr. Patel was interviewed by PharmacyTimes for the article “Addressing Language Barriers, Medication Therapy Management at Medicare Part D Outreach Clinics.”

The clinic held at Progressive Community Church in Stockton on February 18, a collaboration of the School’s Diabetes Care Clinics and the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, was featured in The Record.

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