



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY School of Pharmacy NEWS CAPSULE

A newsletter for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends · West Hall · Loma Linda, California · (909) 558-1300 · Website: pharmacy.llu.edu

Summer 2007 · Vol. 1, No. 1

Dear alumni and friends:

The LLU School of Pharmacy is evolving and growing even as we speak. The incoming class of 2011 numbers 65 and is the sixth class to enter our School.

As newly appointed dean of the School Pharmacy since January 31, my commitment is to move forward in collaboration with our valued faculty. The dean's role, in my opinion, is that of a servant-leader—servant to our faculty, students, and alumni colleagues, and leader in setting the vision for our School.

Dr. Eric Mack, well-known by our alumni, has been appointed associate dean for academic affairs. I

am counting on his expertise to help move the School forward in a collaborative way.

This is the first issue of the LLUSP *News Capsule*, a newsletter that, we hope, will keep you informed about the great things taking place in the LLU School of Pharmacy.

Your support and advice are valued and welcome at any time.

I wish you the best and look forward to hearing from you or meeting you personally at some point—perhaps during an upcoming pharmacy conference. Continued success in achieving your personal and professional goals.

Sincerely,
Billy Hughes, PhD



Billy Hughes, PhD, new School of Pharmacy dean; and Eric Mack, PhD, new associate dean

School of Pharmacy receives full accreditation status from ACPE

The administration and faculty of Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy recently learned that the School will move from candidate accreditation status to full accreditation status, according to a recent letter from

the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

This marks a major step in the development of the doctor of pharmacy degree program.

“We received full accreditation

through June of 2009,” says Billy Hughes, PhD, dean of the School. “Two years of accreditation are the maximum we could receive, since this is our initial application.”

The ACPE document reads, “This accreditation action was taken in recognition of the progress made since the last accreditation review and with confidence that existing School and programmatic needs will continue to be addressed in a timely manner and to the satisfaction of the ACPE Board of Directors.”

School of Pharmacy administrators see this new development as a reason for celebration.

“Our faculty and staff have come together to create an excellent learning environment for our students,” comments Eric J. Mack, PhD, associate dean for academic affairs. “With the level of commitment and cooperation they have shown, we believe the School will thrive and continue to experience success.”

School of Pharmacy first on Loma Linda University campus to podcast lectures

The School of Pharmacy, one of Loma Linda University's newer schools, is taking the lead on campus in applying podcasting technology to benefit students.

When pharmacy students who are enrolled in certain classes are unable to attend (for valid reasons, naturally) or want to listen to a lecture again, they now have a better option than the old cassette tape recorder.

Making use of “playable on demand” technology—better known as podcasting—several courses are being recorded and distributed via the Internet for students to access.

Students can listen to the lectures using Apple iTunes or synchronize to an Apple iPod for viewing and/or listening any time, any place.

“While on a morning jog, for instance, a student can review a pharmacology lecture,” explains Stephen Robertson, senior A/V technician and media specialist, department of educational support services.

Steve Vodhanel, educational support specialist for the School of Pharmacy, finds the process of creating a podcast straightforward and efficient.

“We had to get this up and running

Please turn to back page

School of Pharmacy takes part in \$3.7 million Amgen Foundation grant

The School of Pharmacy at Loma Linda University recently received the first installment of a portion of a \$3.7 million grant made by Amgen Foundation to the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF).

Funds coming to Loma Linda University will total \$125,000 and will be dispersed over three years.

School of Pharmacy faculty and students will take part in a program titled "Partners in D," developed by UCSF faculty and students.

The program is designed to help senior citizens become familiar with and fully benefit from Medicare Part D, the U.S. government's first comprehensive prescription drug benefit program for seniors. Six other California schools of pharmacy are taking part as well.

Leading out in LLU's program is Rashid Mosavin, PhD, MBA, associate professor of pharmacotherapy and outcomes science.

Assisting Dr. Mosavin with the project are Nathan Painter, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacotherapy and outcomes science, and Joycelyn Mallari, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacotherapy and outcomes science.

The "Partners in D" program is focused on educating and involving pharmacy students to assist underserved senior citizens through educational meetings conducted in pharmacy and community settings.

These seniors are typically non-native speakers of English, and/or are of lower income.

In addition, the grant requires that the School of Pharmacy create an elec-

tive course to familiarize pharmacy students with Medicare Part D.

Once the pharmacy students complete their training, they will in turn educate medical, dental, and nursing students in Medicare Part D so that these other future health care providers will be able to educate the senior patients they see.

Drs. Mosavin, Painter, and Mallari will primarily work with the medically underserved populations served by SAC-Norton Clinic, a San Bernardino-based facility operated by Loma Linda.



From left, Drs. Mosavin, Painter, and Mallari will spearhead efforts at Loma Linda University to develop an educational program for teaching non-native English speaking and financial disadvantaged senior citizens about Medicare Part D. In addition, the program, known as "Partners in D," calls on pharmacy students to help educate medical, nursing, and dental students about Medicare Part D.

New faculty join School of Pharmacy

Four new faculty recently joined the School of Pharmacy departments of pharmacotherapy and outcomes science, and pharmaceutical sciences.

Wei-Xing Shi, PhD, professor of pharmacology, joined the department of

pharmaceutical sciences in July.

Dr. Shi completed his PhD in neuropharmacology from Yale University School of Medicine in 1990. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, he returned to Yale and joined the faculty in 1994. He completed his appointment at Yale University School of Medicine psychia-

try department as an associate professor.

His research interests are in the mechanisms of drug action on the central nervous system, including those used for treatment of schizophrenia, substance abuse, ADHD, and Parkinson's disease.

Victoria Maskiewicz, PhD, recently joined the department of pharmaceutical sciences. ➔



Dr. Shi



Dr. Maskiewicz



Dr. Lam



Dr. Davis



Members of LLU School of Pharmacy's semifinalist team include (from left) Chase Bui, Mark Crumby, Jasmine Putnam, and Michael Font. The four will travel to San Diego in April to compete in the National P&T Competition finals.

Pharmacy students make it to final eight in AMCP'S National P&T Competition

A team of four Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy students were among the top eight semifinalist teams in a national competition among schools of pharmacy nationwide.

Chase Bui, Mark Crumby, Michael Font, and Jasmine Putnam—all members of the PharmD class of 2008—rep-

resented Loma Linda University at the competition finals in San Diego, April 12 and 13.

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) sponsors an annual pharmacy and therapeutics (P&T) competition for students. The LLU School of Pharmacy has an AMCP student

Prior to coming to Loma Linda, Dr. Maskiewicz served as a consultant in intellectual property, emphasizing biotechnology and pharmaceutical patents. She has extensive pharmaceutical industry experience, specializing in transdermal delivery of small molecules, and injectable and implantable drug delivery systems for recombinant proteins and peptides.

Dr. Maskiewicz received her bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Rhode Island, in Kingston, and her PhD in pharmaceutical chemistry from the University of California at San Francisco. She will teach pharmaceuticals, pathophysiology, and drug information and literature evaluation.

Her husband, Richard Maskiewicz, PhD, joined the School of Pharmacy's department of pharmaceutical sciences in July 2006. They have two children.

Jerika T. Lam, PharmD, assistant professor, HIV/infectious diseases, has joined the department of pharmacotherapy and outcomes sciences department.

Dr. Lam received her bachelor's degree from the University California of

Los Angeles in 1998, and her PharmD degree from the University of Southern California in 2003.

She pursued residency in general pharmacy practice at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center, affiliated with the University California of San Francisco, in 2004. In addition, she completed a two-year fellowship in HIV pharmacotherapy at USC in 2006.

Dr. Lam anticipates her practice site will be at the Desert AIDS Project (DAP) Clinic, a non-profit organization providing medical care and comprehensive support to those living with HIV/AIDS in the desert community.

"My role there will be to work alongside with physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals," says Dr. Lam. "I will help manage their antiretroviral regimens, ensure medication compliance, provide counseling and education about the medications and the HIV disease, monitor for drug-drug and drug-food interactions and toxicities, and participate in clinical trials research."

Linda I. Davis, PharmD, has accepted
Please turn to back page

chapter, whose members took part in the competition.

Eight semifinalist schools are invited to attend the National P&T Competition Finals, held in San Diego April 12 and 13 during the annual AMCP meetings. The award includes a stipend to cover traveling expenses for the students and their faculty advisor.

According to Anh-Vuong Ly, PharmD, director of drug information and assistant professor, School of Pharmacy, Loma Linda University competed among an elite group of educational institutions nationwide with established and prestigious schools of pharmacy.

Dr. Ly is faculty sponsor for the local AMCP student chapter.

Joining them were teams from Drake University, Ohio State University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of California at San Francisco, the University of Maryland, the University of Missouri at Kansas City, and the University of Pittsburgh.

"These are all well-established schools of pharmacy at very reputable schools," Dr. Ly is quick to point out. "Yet our school, which is relatively new to the scene, has made it to the semifinals four years in a row."

To compete, students must prepare five detailed reports on an assigned drug. The reports are typical of those designed by managed care pharmacy specialists to aid a managed care entity in deciding whether a particular drug is a good value for its members—effective for treatment, safe, and cost-effective.

"First, second, and third place winning teams will be chosen, resulting in significant scholarship awards for individual team member," Dr. Ly explains. "Members of the winning teams will also find it helpful when applying to a managed care specialty program."

Founded in 1988, the AMCP is a national professional society dedicated to the concept and practice of pharmaceutical care in managed health care environments.

The Academy's more than 4,800 members nationwide provide comprehensive health care coverage for more than 200 million Americans.

Pharmacy professor studies penguins

A professor in the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy is currently studying penguins found in Antarctica.

Sompom Wanwimolruk, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has completed and published one study, and is in the process of applying for further funding of continued study of the Adélie penguins, which live in several colonies on Ross Island in Antarctica.

Dr. Wanwimolruk is particularly



Dr. Wanwimolruk conducts his research in Antarctica, examining the environmental impact of pollution.

interested in studying the levels of a superfamily of enzymes, known as cytochromes P450 (CYP enzymes), found in the liver.

These enzymes are important for metabolizing—or breaking down—xenobiotics, such as drugs, environmental pollutants, and chemical carcinogens.

A previous paper was published in *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology* (Part C 144 [2006] 148-154) and online at *Elsevier's ScienceDirect* website. This was actually the third paper published by Dr. Wanwimolruk on his research.

This earlier study examined 10 penguin livers obtained from adult birds who died of natural causes—most of them probably by skuas, large predatory seabirds, close relatives of gulls.

CYP enzymes—are found in the liver and help to metabolize various toxins produced by the body or taken in from the external environment. “CYP enzyme levels can be used as a biomarker for pollution levels to which a species has been exposed,” says Dr.

Wanwimolruk. “In the past, little attention has been given to CYP enzyme levels in wild animals.”

The Adélie penguins, a threatened species, are being adversely affected by pollution even in Antarctica.

“We believe the penguins ingest the pollutants through their primary food source, krill, as well as through the air they breathe,” the researcher points out. “Evidence from our first study suggested that the penguins are highly susceptible to the toxicity of environmental pollutants.”

In his follow-up study, Dr. Wanwimolruk plans to collect 90 penguin chick liver samples, most likely killed by skuas.

David Ainley, PhD, of H.T. Harvey & Associates, in San Jose, will physically travel to Antarctica to collect the specimens on his behalf, as well as collaborate in other aspects of the research.

Dr. Wanwimolruk hopes his research will provide new insight into the ability of wildlife—and humans—to cope with dangerous and growing environmental pollution.

New faculty, continued from page 3
ed an appointment as assistant professor in the department of pharmacotherapy and outcomes sciences.

Dr. Davis' pharmacy experience in the inpatient, ambulatory, retail, and the managed care setting, along with clinic pharmacy consulting and international medical missions, brings a unique clinical and corporate perspective to the School.

Prior to joining the faculty at the School of Pharmacy, she served RxAmerica as the clinical programs manager for Sharp Health Plan in San Diego, where she managed the pharmacy benefit for more than 120,000 lives.

Dr. Davis earned her doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Southern California and completed a pharmacy practice residency with the University of California, San Diego

Medical Center. She is also a candidate for a master's in biomedical and clinical ethics at Loma Linda University. Her areas of focus include the promise and challenges of stem cell research, and improving clinical outcomes through patient adherence reporting interventions.

Dr. Davis will be lecturing in the areas of public health and lifestyles, social behavioral pharmacy, and advanced ethics in pharmacy practice.

Podcast, continued from page 1
in limited time,” he points out, “and we did not want to spend significant resources as might be required to turn our classrooms into TV studios.”

Elvin Hernandez, DrPH, assistant professor of pharmacotherapy and outcomes science, is one of three faculty using podcasting technology for courses.

“Podcasting has promising contributions to make,” says Dr. Hernandez, “not only for student learning but also as a self-evaluation tool for faculty.”

He continues, “Students and faculty potentially have an additional mode of

communication to enhance the learning process for both parties.”

In addition to recording lectures, professors can use podcasting creatively for other purposes. For instance, learning modules can be created, as well as study and tutoring sessions recorded and podcast.

“Being creative with the technology is our next step,” Mr. Vodhanel concludes, “but this will depend upon faculty acceptance of podcasting, as well as establishing an efficient work-flow process. We want to make sure our professors are not burdened by it.”



...is published by the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy and is solely intended as an informational publication for students, faculty, staff, and friends of the School. All material is copyrighted by Loma Linda University and may not be reproduced without written permission.

Executive editor..... Billy Hughes, PhD
Associate editor Jim Pinder, MBA
Managing editor/layout Larry Kidder, MA

Summer 2007 · Vol. 1, No. 1
Phone: (909) 558-1300 · Website: pharmacy.llu.edu
Address: West Hall, Loma Linda University,
Loma Linda, California 92350