



NEWS CAPSULE

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Inside this issue:

Dean's Message / 2014 Orientation	1
AACP/Walmart Scholars	2
Where Are They Now?	2
Faculty and Student News	3
Grant for Study of HIV/AIDS Prevention	4
Pharmacy Student Network	5
Welcome New LLUSOP Faculty	7
Pharmacy Students Travel to Romania	8

for these most recent students has been a work in progress. The administrative team has been diligent in attracting quality faculty, providing adequate sites for IPPE and APPE clinical rotations, maturing our residency program through cooperative ventures with the Medical Center to achieve 6 PGY1 and 4 PGY2 residencies, insuring that sufficient classroom space is available to accommodate our students, and advancing a culture of scholarship as expected to support a clinical doctoral program—the recently awarded \$2.4 million NIH grant is a highlight of the past year. Central to the mission of Loma Linda University has been the School of Pharmacy's desire to participate in local and global outreach activities. As referenced in the last issue of News Capsule, the School of Pharmacy has been blessed with students, faculty, and staff committed to the mission—all providing pharmacy services to those in need both close to home and abroad. As Dean, I'm confident that all stakeholders will have much to celebrate about the life of our School during our 10-year anniversary. How could we not, given the progress made during the past eight years? Get ready as we countdown to 2012!

—Billy Hughes PhD, Dean

The Class of 2014 meet for the first time as a group during the traditional weeklong orientation event, aimed at informing students about the many topics necessary for a successful start at the university.

From the Dean | Coming of Age

In 2012 the School of Pharmacy will celebrate its 10th anniversary. In anticipation of the decade-long history that will be upon us soon, I would like to recount some important accomplishments on our journey to this point. The inaugural 34 PY1 students in the Class of 2006 to the 85 students who just went through orientation week at the end of September is evidence that enrollment has grown. Building the capacity to support a quality educational experience



School of Pharmacy Celebrates Four Years of Success with AACP/Walmart Scholars Program

—Jim Pinder, JD, MBA

Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy students and residents have been fortunate to receive the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)/Walmart Scholars Scholarship four years in a row, from a program that is only six years old.

The most recent awardees were PY4 student Jefmar Dickey and mentor Jerika Lam, PharmD, AAHIVE, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science. Jefmar said, "Being a part of the Walmart Scholars program benefited me because I was able to witness the future, expansion, and importance of interprofessionalism in the practice of our pharmacy education."

As Mr. Dickey's faculty mentor Dr. Lam said, "It was an honor to be a faculty mentor in the AACP/Walmart Scholars program because I can help contribute to the development and promotion of young professionals interested in academia."

AACP has partnered with Walmart to offer \$1,000 scholarships to 65 student/faculty pairs from schools of pharmacy across the country. The purpose of the scholarship is to help cover the costs for the student to attend the annual AACP Conference with their faculty mentor. At Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy, the remaining student travel costs are covered by donations from alumni, faculty, and staff.

Jen Athay, director of student affairs at AACP, has seen the program grow and develop to the point that student recipients are returning as faculty mentors. This is important as the purpose of the program is to develop future pharmacy faculty members.

According to the latest survey data from AACP, there were 396 vacant or lost faculty positions at schools of pharmacy across the United States, a decrease of 6.8%. This data relates to the 2008/09 year. The report describes how long the positions have remained open, "The majority of positions (50.7 percent) had been vacant for six months or less. Nearly 30 percent (29.7 percent) of vacant positions have been vacant for thirteen months or longer." While the data is trending in the right direction, much work needs to be done and Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy wants to be a part of the solution.

Student recipient Walanika Lum, PharmD, SP'08, adds, "Being a Walmart scholar was an exciting and enriching experience that was not only an honor to be recognized for academic achievements and future educational goals as a pharmacy faculty member, but also a networking opportunity amongst colleagues and mentors to be an ambassador for Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy."

Without Walmart's funding, the program would not be possible. Jeremy Smith, PharmD, regional talent specialist with Walmart, remarks, "Working with AACP to identify those hard-working student leaders is important. Walmart honors their accomplishments and recognizes their success to encourage them and future leaders."



Previous recipients: (listed left to right) Tom Hatch, Katheryn Knecht, Reza Taheri, Jefmar Dickey, Walanika Lum.

Where Are They Now?

Mona Ghomeshi, PharmD (2007 mentee): Clinical Pharmacist specializing in oncology at Catholic Healthcare West, Mercy San Juan Medical Center in Carmichael, California. She precepts students from University of the Pacific and California Northstate College of Pharmacy. She has also been the continuing education coordinator for the Sacramento Valley chapter of CSHP for the past two years. Mona's goal is to dedicate half of her time to clinical work in a hospital and half to didactic teaching.

Walanika Lum, PharmD, (2008 mentee): Pharmacist at Kaiser in Riverside, Calif. She has worked in both inpatient and outpatient pharmacies. Prior to attending pharmacy school Walanika worked at Kaiser in Riverside as a registered nurse for 18 years. She would like to see her career move into academia in the future.

Thomas Hatch, PharmD, (2009 mentee) : Completed a PGY1 residency at Loma Linda University in 2009 and works for Loma Linda University Medical Center as a clinical pharmacist specialist in emergency medicine. He enjoys giving back to the profession by precepting pharmacy students and residents.

Jefmar Dickey, PY4 (2010 mentee): Completing APPE rotations with plans to pursue a residency that offers a teaching certificate. Academia may be in Jefmar's future plans.

Reza Taheri, PharmD (2007, 2009 mentor): Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science at Loma Linda University with a specialty in cardiology.

Kathryn Knecht, PhD (2008 mentor): Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences with an interest in dietary supplements and simulation center learning.

Jerika Lam, PharmD, AAHIVE (2010 mentor): Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science with a specialty in HIV/AIDS and infectious disease.

Faculty and Student News

Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to **Dr. Steve Forland**, the first recipient of the School of Pharmacy's Distinguished Service Award. This award was presented at the 2010 SP commencement services.

One to Watch! Our very own **Dr. Paul Norris**, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, has been chosen one of the Ten People to Watch by the *Journal of Healthcare Contracting* (August 2010). Here is the link to the online version of the magazine (pg. 29): <http://jhconline.com/aug2010digital.asp>. Also, if you are a member of the California Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (CSHP), please consider voting for Dr. Norris as he is running for CSHP President.

Publications and Presentations

Dr. Sui-Fun Wong's abstract, "Retrospective Evaluation to Examine Efficacy and Safety of Half-dose Pegfilgrastim in Breast Cancer Patients Receiving Cytotoxic Chemotherapy" (Green V, Bounthavong M, Margelith D, Wong SF), has been accepted for presentation at the upcoming 2010 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Breast Cancer Symposium.

Dr. Javad Tafreshi's manuscript, "Implications of Iatrogenic, Excessive Sodium Administration during Acute Heart Failure Admissions" has just been accepted for publication in *Pharmacotherapy*.

Earlier this summer, **Dr. Sharlyn Guillemma Vera** was invited to present a lecture at the Leoni Meadows Medical/Dental Retreat. The topic of the medical course was "Update in Drug Therapy for Pain." Treatment modalities, new drugs and drug formulations available for pain management were reviewed in this presentation.

Residents

We extend a warm welcome to our six new **PGY1 Residents** and our four "new" **PGY2 Residents**. Congratulations Residents! New offices for all residents are located on the first floor of West Hall.

We would like to include alumni news in this column. Please forward any items to jneilsen@llu.edu. Tell us what is new and news in your life... This is the place! We look forward to your submissions for the next edition to be published in the spring of 2011!

Student Collaborations

Publications

Dr. Thu Hoang and **Dr. Tomik Gregorian** (Class of 2010) have had a project accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Pharmacotherapy*. A word of appreciation also to **Dr. Ramdas Pai** (SM) and **Dr. Javad Tafreshi** (SP) for their guidance and mentorship of this project. Also, congratulations to **Dr. Priyanka Desai**, former PGY1 resident, for one of her projects has been accepted for publication in *The Journal of Heart Valve Disease*. Once again, words of appreciation to **Dr. Ramdas Pai** (SM), for his priceless guidance with this project.

Dr. Vicki Maskiewicz and student **Sarah Prates** submitted a manuscript entitled "Characterization of Protein Degradation in Serum-Based Lubricants During Simulation Wear Testing of Metal-on-Metal Hip Prostheses." The manuscript was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Biomedical Materials Research: Part B - Applied Biomaterials*.

Research

Graduate student **Brad Karain** is the first School of Medicine PhD student conducting research in conjunction with the School of Pharmacy. Brad is working with **Dr. Wei-Xing Shi**.

This summer the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences hosted students from Yale, La Sierra University, Andrews University, and California Baptist University; these students have been doing research in the labs of **Drs. Shi, Krstenansky, Weldon, and Davis**.

Mission Trips

Two SP faculty traveled to international locations this summer. **Dr. Naomi Florea** and eleven SP students traveled to Romania earlier this summer. More on this trip is published in this issue. **Dr. Linda Davis** and some LLU students traveled to Haiti for a short mission trip. We welcome them back and thank them for giving of their time.



\$2.4 Million NIH Grant will Enable Pharmacy Professor to Study HIV/AIDS Prevention

—James Ponder

Sometimes you have to think small to dream big. Take microbicides, for instance. An assistant professor in the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy thinks the tiny molecules—which kill bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and viruses—have potential for saving thousands, perhaps even millions, of lives by preventing the spread of sexually transmitted HIV.

Richard Maskiewicz, PhD, hopes that combining a unique matrix containing one or more microbicide molecules into a novel drug delivery system might halt transmission of the disease at the point of contact.

According to the December 2009 edition of the United Nations' AIDS Epidemic Update, approximately two million AIDS-related deaths were reported worldwide in 2008. To visualize the impact of that many fatalities, imagine the entire population of San Bernardino County or Riverside County dying of AIDS in a single year.

Although barely past the planning stages, Dr. Maskiewicz' research on the use of subliming solids—compounds that transition directly to a gaseous state without becoming a liquid—for sustained release of drugs recently brought the School of Pharmacy its first-ever National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. The \$2.4 million research award will enable researchers at LLU and two other facilities to conduct a four-year, pre-clinical evaluation of a universal sustained-release system for anti-HIV microbicides.

Dr. Maskiewicz pursued the idea at a modest pace without an extramural research grant until he saw an announcement from the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the NIH last summer. It was for a one-time research grant competition to evaluate highly innovative tactics for interrupting HIV transmission. It seemed like perfect timing.

"I had already obtained preliminary data at LLU," says Dr. Maskiewicz, "so I decided to apply. But first I needed to do some networking to find the right collaborators. I contacted Jim Turpin at NIAID, who referred me to Kevin Whaley in San Diego. He, in turn, suggested Charlene Dezzutti in Pittsburgh." Highly regarded in the research community, Jim Turpin, PhD, is a microbiologist and grant administrator at the NIAID; Kevin Whaley, PhD, is CEO of Mapp Biopharmaceutical, Inc., of San Diego; and Charlene Dezzutti, PhD, is a principal investigator in the network laboratory for the Microbicide Trials Network, a clinical trials program of the NIAID and NIH. The offer to serve as a co-investigator on the study

intrigued Dr. Dezzutti because of her enthusiasm for evaluating the effectiveness of subliming solids microbicide formulations.

With Dr. Dezzutti aboard, Dr. Maskiewicz contacted Sandy Hilliker, PhD, MBA, senior proposal advisor in the department of research affairs at LLU. "Dr. Hilliker offered to help me identify other potential collaborators who were major researchers in the microbicides area," he recalls. By reviewing the recently approved grant applications, Drs. Maskiewicz and Hilliker found the final investigator for his study: Philippe Gallay, PhD, an associate professor of immunology and microbial sciences at The Scripps Research Institute in the San Diego suburb of La Jolla. Dr. Gallay will serve as principal investigator for the project's HIV infection studies.

When Dr. Maskiewicz learned that his project had been approved in June 2010, it was big news not only for the School of Pharmacy, but also the entire university.

Ron Carter, PhD, provost of Loma Linda University, observes that research is a team effort. "Under the leadership of Dr. Rashid Mosavin, chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and with ongoing financial support for research from Dean Hughes, faculty members are encouraged to engage in novel

research with both university and external collaborators. It is exciting to see Dr. Maskiewicz awarded the NIH R01 funding. As the newest clinical doctoral school, this represents another step in a rich tradition of research excellence."

For his part, Billy Hughes, PhD, dean of the School of Pharmacy, affirms Dr. Carter's comments about the role of Rashid Mosavin, PhD, MBA, and says there's still lots to do to maximize opportunities the grant affords.

"The NIH grant awarded to Dr. Maskiewicz is an important step toward developing research excellence in the School of Pharmacy," says Dr. Hughes. "Dr. Rashid Mosavin, during his tenure as chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has systematically nurtured teaching and research excellence among his faculty. Dr. Mosavin has worked with the dean's office to secure seed money to enable faculty to pursue research that is foundational to the pursuit of federal and private grant funding. As dean, I am excited for Dr. Maskiewicz—the real work now begins to ensure that goals are met as required to continue funding."



Richard Maskiewicz, PhD, assistant professor in the LLU School of Pharmacy, recently brought the school its first-ever grant from the National Institutes of Health—a \$2.1 million research award to conduct a four-year, pre-clinical evaluation of a universal, sustained-release system for anti-HIV microbicides.

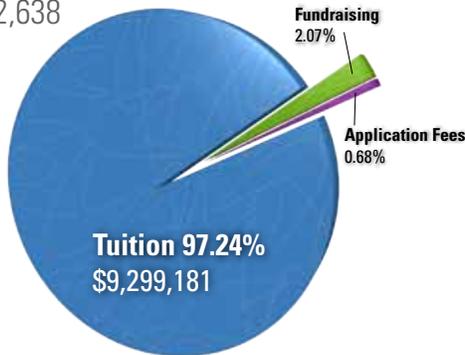
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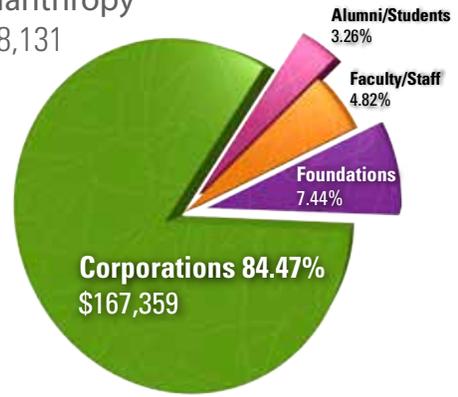


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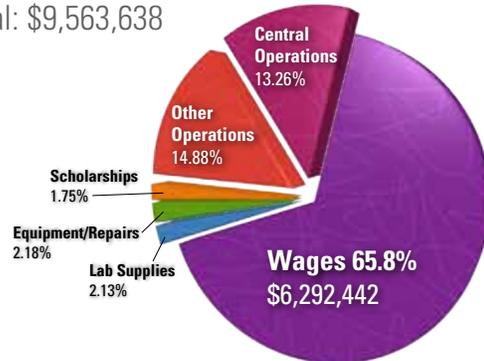
Income
Total: \$9,562,638



Total Philanthropy
Total: \$198,131



Expenses
Total: \$9,563,638



Pharmacy Student Network (PSN)

As the 2010 school year begins, the School of Pharmacy is busy with activity. The new year begins with the largest class ever, 85 students, along with new faculty and staff. Also, welcoming in the Class of 2014 is a new student-driven initiative to introduce a new student experience – the Pharmacy Student Network, or PSN.



Pictured front, left to right: Shady Mansy, Jonathan Nguyen, and Stephen Hom. Behind is David Weldon, PhD, PSN faculty advisor.

PSN began its development last spring when three Class of 2013 students, Shady Mansy, Stephen Hom, and Jonathan Nguyen, realized that their interactions with the classes before them were almost non-existent. “We really took a step back and came to the conclusion that we did not know a lot of the upper classmen in the school, and we wanted to change that,” states Shady.

The goal of the organization is to create a long-lasting social network for LLUSP’s current and future students and graduates. Through the efforts of PSN, and with the advisement of faculty member David Weldon, PhD, the organization expects to provide student support over topics such as academia, social experiences, career networking, and spiritual companionship. The program, for the first time, will create a peer mentorship experience for the students of LLUSP. “We feel like having an experienced student serve as a mentor, along with a social network after graduation, will provide an invaluable opportunity for students and their professional career,” adds Jonathan.

The enthusiasm shared by Shady, Stephen, and Jonathan’s fellow classmates for PSN has been a pleasant surprise, with more than 50 other students from the Class of 2010 signing up to serve as a mentor to the incoming class. “Since day one here at Loma Linda, we have been told by many of our fellow peers and professors that the pharmacy profession is such a small world that the relationships and connections we build while in school are an integral part of maximizing one’s career as a healthcare provider, and PSN allows us to take a step in the right direction to achieve this goal,” adds Stephen.

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Welcome New School of Pharmacy Faculty!

Jeany Kim Jun, PharmD, MPH



Jeany Kim Jun, PharmD, MPH started on July 16 with the School of Pharmacy and is a member of the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science.

Dr. Jun received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Russian Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1995 and holds a Master's degree in Public Health in International Health and Health Administration from Loma Linda University (LLU) School of Public

Health in 1997. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Pharmacy in 2001. After graduating from UCSF, she completed a residency in Primary Care Pharmacy Practice, at the University of Southern California in 2002.

Dr. Jun joined the faculty in the College of Pharmacy at Western University of Health Sciences in 2002. As Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, her primary responsibilities were teaching diabetes and asthma management to pharmacy students. Dr. Jun's practice site was at Western University Medical Center where she worked as a clinical pharmacist in the primary care clinic for eight years; she taught diabetes classes for patients at the medical clinic in both Spanish and English. She was also recognized by the students as Preceptor of the Year in 2010.

Dr. Jun moved to Phnom Penh, Cambodia with her husband and three children in August of 2010, participating in medical mission work. She is working with Mercy Medical Center as a pharmacist and will begin teaching national health care professional students. Dr. Jun is part of a community of missionaries from Mission to the World (MTW), a group whose main priorities are church planting, discipleship, and mercy ministry. She works collaboratively with long-term and short-term medical teams, conducting monthly mobile medical clinics in the rural provinces of Cambodia. In her new role as faculty member with LLU, Dr. Jun will be responsible for developing a sustainable site in Cambodia for health care professional students. She is also responsible for teaching the endocrine course in the School of Pharmacy curriculum. Her research agenda focuses on the emerging problem of diabetes through education and management to the people of Cambodia.

Dr. Jun is married to Dr. Alexander Jun, a Professor of Higher Education at Azusa Pacific University, who is currently conducting research on Cambodian higher education. They have three children, Natalia (age 9), Isaiah (age 6), and Jeremiah (age 4). In her spare time, Dr. Jun enjoys playing the piano and golf. In addition to speaking English, Korean, Spanish, and Russian, she is now working on learning her fifth language in Cambodia (Khmer).

Siu-Fun Wong, PharmD, FASHP, FCSHP



Siu-Fun Wong, PharmD, FASHP, FCSHP, started with the School of Pharmacy July 1 as a member of the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science.

Dr. Wong received her BS degree from the University of California of Los Angeles in 1982 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy in 1986. She completed a clinical residency at the University of

California, Irvine (UCI) Medical Center where she stayed to develop the oncology pharmacy program and the Infusion Center Pharmacy at the Chao Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Wong joined Western University in 1997 where she was a tenured Professor of Pharmacy Practice until her departure to Loma Linda University. She is also a Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCI College of Medicine. Dr. Wong has assumed leadership roles in various national professional organizations. She was named the Leader of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) in 2008 and has been the founding Chair of the SWOG Pharmaceutical Sciences Committee since 1994. She has also been a member of the NAPLEX Review Committee at the National Association of Board of Pharmacy since 2003.

Prior to coming to LLU, Dr. Wong's clinical site was at a medical oncology private practice office in Orange County where she collaborated with her medical colleagues to conduct clinical research, patient consultations, and drug therapy consultations. Dr. Wong initiates and develops research protocols to evaluate innovative treatments and undertakes studies to optimize the care of oncology patients in her practice site and at SWOG. She hopes to continue her practice activities at the LLU Cancer Center.

Dr. Wong lives in Orange County with her family and Reba, her greyhound ex-racer. She enjoys adventurous travel, hiking, music, and reading. Her goal in the near future is to visit the remaining continents that she has not been to: South America, Antarctica, and Australia.

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Executive editor: Billy Hughes, PhD | **Associate editor:** Jim Pinder, JD, MBA

Phone: (909) 558-1300 · Website: pharmacy.llu.edu

Address: West Hall, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California 92350



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
School of Pharmacy

Pharmacy Students Travel to Romania to Provide Medical Care to Poor Villages

—Richard Weismeyer

Eleven students from Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy returned from a mission trip to Romania on August 10, 2010. The trip began on July 31.



Michael Ibrahim, class of 2011 student, is surrounded by children seen at the medical clinic in Burcioaia, Romania.

Headed by Naomi R. Florea, PharmD, the 11 students were off to Romania where they provided medical care to patients in two underserved poverty-stricken villages.

Prior to their departure, the 11 students received intensive clinical training from Andrew S. Florea, MD, a 2001 graduate of the School of Medicine, and Dr. Naomi Florea, in physical examination and diagnosis, disease

state management, patient consultation, as well as cultural appropriateness.

“Having grown up in a developing country myself, I have witnessed first-hand many of the difficulties of gaining access to medical care. I never thought I would find these type of difficulties in a European country,” says Michael Ibrahim, School of Pharmacy class of 2011 student. “But I did in Romania. Through our mission trip to Romania, I have come to feel a deep sense of satisfaction for helping underserved populations, and I am looking forward to continuing the pursuits as I strive to become a doctor of pharmacy.”



Students and faculty member who participated in the Romania mission trip include (bottom row, from left) Michelle Hoang Thuy Nguyen; Anna Lee; Naomi Florea, PharmD; Ashley Schuler, and Myelene Manalo. Top row, from left are Jeffmar Dickey, David Whatton, Michael Ibrahim, Steven Bowen, Steven Hom, and Jean Pierre Bullon.

While in Romania, the team was joined by three local physicians, and together, the medical missions group was involved in screening, diagnosing, and treating hundreds of patients with numerous disease states including congestive heart failure, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, and a wide variety of acute and chronic infectious diseases, as well as other novel disease states.

All of the medications and medical supplies for the mission trip were donated by the Loma Linda University Medical Center pharmacy, thanks to the efforts of Paul Norris, PharmD, executive director of

pharmacy and medical management, LLUMC, and associate dean for clinical affairs and professor of pharmacotherapy and outcomes science, School of Pharmacy.

“The kindness, mercy, and love that poured out of the 11 School of Pharmacy students was unparalleled,” says Dr. Florea. “They worked in the most difficult conditions, caring for hundreds of patients, while maintaining the most hardworking and gracious attitudes. They clearly showed the love of Jesus in all their actions.

“They were shining lights in a darkened world and this opened the door for us to share the gospel with patients in Romania. This trip truly brought all glory and honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”



Jeffmar Dickey (center), a School of Pharmacy student, and a Romanian physician examine a patient.



Ashley Schuler, LLUSP class of 2011, and Michelle Hoang, LLUSP class of 2012, visit with children seen at the medical clinic in Burcioaia, Romania.

The trip to Romania was a unique and life-changing opportunity for all involved to witness first hand the need for medical care in countries outside the United States,” says Dr. Florea, as well as the overwhelming physical, spiritual, and emotional impact that can be made through the medical missions around the world.

“The students from the School of Pharmacy were so well prepared and had such a strong knowledge base,” says Peter

Barbu, MD, a physician from Timisoara, Romania. “After working with them, I no longer considered them students; instead I considered them my colleagues. I count it my privilege to have worked beside them on this medical mission trip.”

“This was definitely the best experience of my life. I honestly still have Romania-withdrawal,” says Anna Lee, class of 2011.

“While Romania was my first mission trip through Loma Linda University, it most definitely won’t be my last,” says Stephen Hom, School of Pharmacy class of 2013. “This was an experience of a lifetime having the opportunity to help others in need of medical service. God has graciously given me the knowledge and abilities to help others, and I undoubtedly will continue to do so throughout the rest of my life.”



David Whatton, class of 2011 student, treats a wound infection on a Romanian gentleman.