Greetings,

We are nearly halfway through our Moving Targets Seminar Series. On September 1st we hosted Dr. Pamela Bjorkman from CalTech as she discussed using high resolution technology to identify novel viral glycoprotein architectures to enhance immunopharmaceutic development. If you missed this presentation, you can watch the rebroadcast of this seminar using this link.

Our judging period has been extended and the winners of our Young Investigator Award competition will now be presented on September 15th, after Dr. Yvonne Chen’s seminar. We greatly appreciate your patience. To view the competition submissions, please visit our website http://www.movingtargets.la/young-investigator-awards-video.

As we continue to make our way through the semester, we hope that you continue to engage with our virtual content and reach out if you have any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Sam Garza
Min Choi
AAPS Chair
AAPS Vice Chair
Eunjoo Pacifici, PharmD, PhD
Chair, Department of Regulatory and Quality Sciences
Professor

What have you been doing during the months since the stay at home order?
I have been mostly stuck in my seat in front of my computer as my days continue to “zoom” by. We completed our spring courses and are currently teaching our summer classes while planning for fall semester... all in a fast-changing landscape and focusing on supporting our students. I moved my yoga class to zoom and have been holding 1-hr class twice weekly at 7am. For outdoor recreation, my husband and I cycle in our neighborhood and around the city to exercise, dine in sidewalk cafes, or pick up groceries.

What have you learnt during the months that you have been at home regarding your research and yourself?
Humans are quite resilient. Our students continue to be engaged in their studies and conduct research, they are thoughtful and considerate during this time of uncertainty, and they are learning new skills and approaches that will help them in their future careers. We are able to see regulatory science in action during this pandemic, from regulatory processes that allow expedited access to medical devices and therapeutics to the design of clinical trials and selection of outcome measures to determine the safety and efficacy of new drugs and vaccines. We may not know what the future may bring in terms of new unmet healthcare needs, but we are confirmed in our knowledge that the world will always need scientists and healthcare/ regulatory professionals to protect global public health.

What changes have you been putting into your routine after we got back to campus?
We are not yet back on campus but when we are, we will need to practice physical distancing, facial coverings, and cleaning procedures to keep our students, staff, and faculty safe. It will be challenging for me to lecture with a face covering to a group of students seated far apart from each other also with face coverings, but these are extraordinary times that require extraordinary measures and we will do what needs to be done to protect public health.

What resources have you been using to keep updated with COVID news and/or to cope with cabin fever?
FDA, NY Times, and LA Times. I watched Hannah and am watching Space Force; I also enjoy watching Chef’s Table.

Do you think COVID-19 exposed or showcased the pharmaceutical industries ability to act in times of crisis?
COVID-19 highlights the importance of coordinating across governmental agencies (regulatory, research, and public health), private sector (pharmaceutical and medical device industry), and academia (virology, vaccine research, epidemiology) to respond rapidly to a fast-moving global pandemic.

What is one bright point that you have for us during/after this pandemic?
Learn to cook so that you can nourish yourself with healthy and delicious meals that cost little. Along with a good fitness routine and a mindful approach to science, you will be positioned for success in this ever-changing world.
What would you like to be improved upon after this pandemic (as a school, society or yourself)?
I would like to see a more efficient national coordination to protect public health that allows a rapid response to epidemics/pandemics and a comprehensive healthcare system that can transcend periods of societal distress.