USC's Community-Based Residencies Snapshot

With this first issue of the USC Community-Based Pharmacy Residency (CPRP) Newsletter, we introduce the program and highlight some of the newest developments happening in the profession of pharmacy from our dedicated residents from this year as well as last year.

USC’s CPRP is one of the oldest and largest accredited residency programs in the nation with the program launching over 22 years ago. Currently, the residency program has 6 residents in the program annually. Our program prepares pharmacy school graduates for a career in which they advance and impact the practice of community pharmacy. As community pharmacy continues to expand, USC’s CPRP prepares pharmacists to practice within a specialized niche and to adapt with the changing role of the pharmacist as seen with the variety of different focuses of the program (community pharmacy, corporate, specialty, and geriatrics). The residencies are designed to provide pharmacists with experience in the many roles available in the community setting, including patient care, leadership advocacy, and education.

As they graduate from the program, these residents will be ready to provide direct patient care in a variety of settings, with additional opportunities to enhance their skill set to inter-professional practice. There is a place for every skill set given their tasks can vary drastically on a day-to-day basis. There is no such thing as a “typical day” for a community pharmacy resident.

We are pleased to share that our community pharmacy residents are using their knowledge and expertise to help conduct high quality and innovative yearlong patient care-based research projects aimed at improving our understanding of unique pharmacy-based healthcare challenges. Residents represent the School of Pharmacy and present their research results at the Western States and ASPH Midyear conferences.
USC Pharmacies Community Residency Program
Whitney Fakolade, PharmD

Edwin Shamtob, PharmD
“Completion rates of multi-dose adult and travel vaccine series with pharmacist intervention in a community setting: A retrospective analysis of administrative data.”

Ralphs Community Residency Program
Jeremy Dow, PharmD
“Pharmacist Impact on Gaps in Statin Therapy in Patients with Diabetes Located in Areas with High Social Vulnerability”

CliniCare Community Residency Program
Helena Mahsahradjian, PharmD

Diane La, PharmD
“Impact of Pharmacist-led Intervention on Improving Patient Adherence for Medicare Star Ratings”

USC Geriatrics Residency Program
Megan Mathews, PharmD, MS Pharmacology
“A comprehensive analysis of high-risk medications contributing to inpatients falls in geriatric patients”
Pharmacist Management of Hypertension for Oral Chemotherapy Patients

by Gabriel Wang, Pharm. D.
PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Resident Specialty Pharmacy

The USC Specialty Pharmacy started a clinical service in 2020 to manage hypertension in oncology patients on oral chemotherapy agents with a high incidence of hypertension. As the 2020-2021 specialty pharmacy resident, my residency project examined the impact of this pilot hypertension management program. Pharmacists called enrolled patients on oral chemotherapy to collect and assess home blood pressure values, using the program’s protocol as a guide. If blood pressures were elevated, the pharmacist would provide lifestyle recommendations to the patient and antihypertensive recommendations to the provider, as needed. My study compared the blood pressure control of patients followed with this pilot program over a 3-month period, versus a control group of patients not followed with the program. We found that 19 of 29 (66%) patients in the program had blood pressures at goal at the end of the 3 months, compared to 21 of 50 (42%) patients in the control group with overall blood pressure at goal over the course of a year (p = 0.04 with an alpha level of 0.05). There were also 69 pharmacist recommendations made to patients in the 3 month period, and 4 antihypertensive modification recommendations made to providers (all of which were accepted by the providers). Overall, we found improved blood pressure control and reduction in mean blood pressure readings when patients on oral chemotherapy were followed with a pharmacist-led hypertension management program, which demonstrates positive clinical outcomes from our pharmacy’s new clinical service and a potential groundwork for a future collaborative practice agreement for specialty pharmacist management of hypertension in oncology patients.
Repeated Seroprevalence of COVID-19 Antibodies in Pharmacy Students and Staff

by Allison Chacon, Pharm. D.
PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Resident

When reflecting on the last year and half, it is hard to think about what our “normal” was. A lot of activities that were so common, are now activities that we debate if it is worth the exposure. Things like going out to a bar, getting on a plane and attending sporting events are all decisions that don’t come easy anymore. The light at the end of the tunnel came at the end of 2020 when the vaccines gained emergency use authorization to be administered to 16 years and older.

With the addition of vaccines to fight COVID-19, came a lot of hesitation and wondering if it really worked. The manufacturers published their safety and efficacy data, but there was still some hesitation as to whether or not it would help bring an end to the pandemic. Nonetheless, our fearless front line workers were waiting in line for the vaccine beginning in late December 2020. Our research team worked to put together a study that could help detect antibodies, and track how long they could be detected for. This would help give us some information on the durability of the vaccine response and maybe help guide some light on if and when booster vaccinations might be needed.

With the guidance of Dr. Richard Dang and Dr. Raffi Svadjian, we started a study on students, staff and faculty of the USC School of Pharmacy called RxSAPhE which stands for Repeated Seroprevalence of COVID-19 Antibodies in Pharmacy Employees and Students. We had 120 participants enrolled in our study, with a majority of those being vaccinated without a history of COVID-19 infection. 77 participants completed their third month appointment, and all those who were vaccinated or had a history of COVID-19 infection, continued to have IgG antibodies detected. On average, the participants were 4 months post 2nd dose vaccination at this appointment, which shows durability of the vaccine to that point.

Every month when the test would come back positive for the IgG, it was a mini celebration that there was still some protection from the vaccine. While it is not just IgG antibodies that provide protection from COVID-19, it’s still exciting that there is something that is detectable each month. We hope to continue to see these results throughout the future months of the study and continue to provide a sign of relief that there is still protection in each of the people who have been vaccinated.
Assessing Pharmacists' Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs, and Readiness to Administer COVID-19 Vaccines

by Kyle Fischer, Pharm. D.
PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Resident

With more than 90% of Americans living within 5 miles of a pharmacy, pharmacists have been a widely discussed and utilized resource to provide COVID-19 vaccines. Prior to authorization and throughout their mobilization, COVID-19 vaccines have received considerable amounts of skepticism and hesitancy not only amongst the general public but amongst healthcare professionals, which has impacted vaccination rates across the US. Our primary objective was to determine pharmacists' knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and readiness to administer COVID-19 vaccines, as they have been integral component in rolling out vaccines across the US. We developed an anonymous, online self-administered survey for registered pharmacist in the State of California that was made available from November of 2020 to January of 2021. A total of 258 pharmacist responded of which 52% were female, and nearly 70% worked in a community-based setting.

Overall 68% of respondents indicated they were ready to receive a COVID-19 vaccine when it was made available, while 77% were ready to administer the vaccine. Potential concerns over vaccine safety and efficacy has been an obstacle to receiving a vaccine, and 64% of pharmacist believed that a vaccine would be safe, and 74% believed it would be effective. Overall, pharmacist reported high vaccine knowledge with the highest self-perceived knowledge in vaccine mechanism of action (80%), and storage (82%). While these results suggest vaccine hesitancy may exists, the majority of pharmacist are knowledgeable and believe the vaccine will be safe, efficacious, and are ready to receive and administer them. These results also suggest educational interventions could be implemented alleviating the potential vaccine hesitancy that exist. This is the first of two surveys that will be distributed to assess for changing perspectives, as our results are limited by a small population size and a time when vaccine accessibility and eligibility was limited.
Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support Program

by Anahit Metosian, Pharm. D.
PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Resident
Clinicare Pharmacy

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) recommends that “all people with diabetes should participate in diabetes self-management education and support (DSMES) and receive the support needed to facilitate the knowledge, decision-making, and skills necessary for diabetes self-care”.

DSMES has demonstrated numerous benefits, including reducing hospitalizations and readmissions, reducing health care costs, as well as improvements clinical, psychosocial, and behavior aspects of diabetes care.

Here at Clinicare Pharmacy, six patients are currently enrolled in the DSMES program. The study was implemented in July 2020 and is still ongoing. All patients enrolled in the current DSMES program are completing training with AADE7 curriculum. Patients were referred to the program through standing collaborative practice agreements (CPA) with physicians. The study design is shown below:

To examine the effectiveness of DSMES among the enrolled patients, point of care glucose readings were collected at each clinic visit with some readings above patient specific goal, which may have been due to pandemic restrictions. Two patients, however, were simultaneously enrolled in DSMES and DSM, one of which showed the greatest A1c reduction.

So far, only patients 1, 2, and 6 completed the study, with improved post test scores in their understanding of diabetes self-management. As the study continues, we hope to see more patients benefit from DSEMS and becoming more knowledgeable in diabetes care.
USC SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
COMMUNITY PHARMACY
RESIDENCY PROGRAM
GRADUATES & CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

1999-2000
Peggy Tilbury, Pharm.D.
Current: Intermountain Healthcare, Park City, Utah

Peggy Han, Pharm.D.
Current: Head, Medical Affairs Executive Directors (MEDs), US Medical Affairs

2000-2001
Reda Al-Houssayni, Pharm.D.
Current: Independent Pharmacy Owner, Olive Branch Pharmacy, Los Angeles, CA

2001-2002
Edith Mirzaian, Pharm.D., BCACP
Current: Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy/Assistant Dean of Curriculum at the USC School of Pharmacy

Linh Lee Youn, Pharm.D.
Current: Division Health & Wellness Leader, Ralphs Grocery Co

2002-2003
Hooman Milani, Pharm.D.
Current: Manager, Pharmacy Clinical Services, Keck Medicine of USC

Ken Thai, Pharm.D.
Current: CEO of 986 Degrees Corporation, adjunct assistant professor of pharmacy practice at the USC School of Pharmacy, USC School of Pharmacy Board of Counselors member

2003-2004
Kari Trotter Wall, Pharm.D.
Current: Director, USC University Park Campus Pharmacy/Health Center Pharmacy

Nancy Pham, Pharm.D.
Current: Pharmacy Owner - Complete Care Compounding Pharmacy

2004-2005
Kim La, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, NAMM California

Joycelyn Mallari Yamzon, Pharm.D.
Current: Associate Professor and Vice Chair, Marshall B Ketchum University

Ly Nguyen, Pharm.D.
Current: Optum Rx

2005-2006
Karl Hess, Pharm.D.
Current: Vice Chair and Associate Professor of Clinical and Administrative Sciences, KGI School of Pharmacy

Rachel Abrishami, Pharm.D.

2006-2007
Katty Hsu, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Coordinator, USC Campus Community Pharmacy

Marilyn Lavee, Pharm.D.
Current: Ambulatory Care Pharmacist, Kaiser

2007-2008
Melissa Durham, Pharm.D., BCACP, FAAPM
Current: Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, USC School of Pharmacy and Director, Experiential Education Programs

Rachel Mashburn, Pharm.D.
Current: Senior Manager, Pharmacy Operations, Cedars-Sinai Medical Network
Currently enrolled in Executive MPH program at UCLA

Emmanuelle Mirsakov, Pharm.D.
Current: Associate Professor, Western University of Health Sciences

2008-2009
Julie Lu-Amio, Pharm.D.
Current: Ambulatory Care Pharmacist, Kaiser Permanente

Leah Movsesian, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Coordinator, USC Verdugo Hills Professional Pharmacy
2009-2010
Jelena Popovich Lewis, Pharm.D.
Current: Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Chapman University

Michael Marquez, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Ralphps Pharmacy

2010-2011
Rachel Sperling, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Sharp Medical Center

Pamela Lincoln Giang, Pharm.D.
Current: Director of Pharmacy, Concerto Health Care

Anahita Dashtaei, Pharm.D.
Current: MTM Pharmacist, Sharp Medical Center, San Diego, CA

2011-2012
Tania Houspian Grigorian, Pharm.D.
Current: Medical Science Liaison - AstraZeneca CVMD

Tasneem Vazifdar Sheikh, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Cedars Sinai Medical Group

Michelle Fox, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, University of Michigan Health Sciences (UMHS) Specialty Pharmacy Services

2012-2013
Roya Mohajer-Jasbi, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, USC School of Pharmacy, Medication Management Center

Catrina Derderian, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Cambridge Health Alliance, Boston, Massachusetts

Albert Bach, Pharm.D.
Current: Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Chapman University College of Pharmacy

Samuel Lee, Pharm.D.
Current: Independent Pharmacy Co-owner, Garfield Prescription Pharmacy

2013-2014
Richard Dang, Pharm.D.
Current: Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy & Clinical Pharmacist
Director, PGY1 & PGY2 Community-Based Pharmacy Residency Program

Hovik Mekhjian, Pharm.D.
Current: Ambulatory Care Pharmacist, Kaiser Permanente, Antelope Valley

Yalda Dorosti, Pharm.D.
Current: Outpatient Pharmacy Supervisor, Kaiser Permanente, Downey 24-hour Pharmacy

2014-2015
Ani Amloian, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Ralphs Grocery Company

Crystal Bairian, Pharm.D.
Current: Anticoagulation Management Pharmacist, Kaiser Permanente, Woodland Hills, CA

Tracey Low, Pharm.D.
Current: Pharmacy Manager, Ralphs Grocery Company, Santa Barbara, Ca

Allison DePaul, Pharm.D.
Current: Pharmacy Manager, Ralphs Grocery Company, Whittier, CA

Eric Chiu, Pharm.D.
Current: Specialty Pharmacist, Cedars Sinai Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy

2015-2016
Jessica Barsegian, Pharm.D.
Current: Ambulatory Care Pharmacist, Kaiser Permanente

Ani Ekizian, Pharm.D
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

Maral Semerjian, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Huntington Hospital

Karin Kharloubian, Pharm.D.
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Facey Medical Foundation

Bellamay Montesa, Pharm.D.
Current: Staff Pharmacist, Ralphs

Samantha Wu, Pharm.D, APh
Current: Manager of clinical pharmacy operations, Facey Medical Foundation

2016-2017
Havan Truong, Pharm.D., CSP
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Keck Medicine of USC Specialty Pharmacy
Brigitte Nguyen, Pharm.D., APh  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, USC Campus Pharmacies.

Jonathan Tran, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Venice Family Clinic

Diana Hoang, Pharm.D.  
Current: Ambulatory Care Pharmacist, Kaiser Permanente

Havan Truong, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Keck Medicine of USC Specialty Pharmacy

Mona Marzban, Pharm.D.  
Current: Founder/Advanced Practice Pharmacist, PRSCRBD Health

2017-2018  
Krysty Avila, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, St. John’s Well Child & Family Center

Jia-Yin Shum, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Scan Health Plan

Anthony Vo, Pharm.D.  
Current: Pharmacy Specialist of Clinical Applications and I.T., Loma Linda University

Emily Phung, Pharm.D.  
Current: Transitions of Care Pharmacist, Cedars-Sinai

2018-2019  
Anna (Szeto) Park, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist - Oncology, USC Specialty Pharmacy

Tam Phan, Pharm.D., AAHP  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Los Angeles LGBT Center, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy

Michelle Hormozian, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Coordinator, USC Medical Plaza Pharmacy

William Lu, Pharm.D., APh  
Current: Lead Clinical Pharmacist, CliniCare Pharmacy

Selin Shirvanian, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

2019-2020  
Dru Lezina, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Ochsner Specialty Pharmacy

Negin Sazgar, Pharm.D.  
Current: Staff Pharmacist, Los Angeles City Run COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

Kyle Frankie Lee, Pharm.D.  
Current: Staff Pharmacist at Capsule Pharmacy

Alis Bogumian, Pharm.D.  
Current: Staff Pharmacist, Los Angeles City Run COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

Selina Amranyan, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist/Transitions of Care Pharmacist, Clinicare Pharmacy

Laila Fard, Pharm.D.  
Current: Pharmacist in Charge, Ralphs Pharmacy

2020-2021  
Nicolette Santilli, Pharm.D.  
Current: Pharmacist in Charge, Ralphs Pharmacy

Anahit Metsoian, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Clinicare Pharmacy

Alexis Lang, Pharm.D., MSG  
Current: Ambulatory Care Pharmacist, Cedars Sinai Medical Network

Gabriel Wang, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist – Oncology, USC Specialty Pharmacy

Allison Chacon, Pharm.D.  
Current: PGY-2: PGY2 Pharmacy Practice Community Pharmacy USC (Pain Management and Rheumatology)

Kyle Fischer, Pharm.D.  
Current: Clinical Pharmacist, Clinicare Pharmacy