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### AACP NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD STREAK CONTINUES

Dr. Sherry Wang's patient safety research  
garners CUSP its fourth AACP New  
Investigator award

P.  
15

### NEW BUILDING EXPANDS STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

The new 56,000 sq ft Campus Center  
building provides an anchor for life at  
the Rinker Health Science Campus.

# ON THE CUSP

2023 IN REVIEW

# DEAN'S MESSAGE



**Rennolds Ostrom, PhD**

Interim Dean and Professor  
Chapman University School of Pharmacy

2023 has been a banner year for the Chapman University School of Pharmacy. Our students, faculty, and staff continued to demonstrate excellence across all areas of our mission. Our sixth graduating class of pharmacists received their doctoral diplomas in May and have entered the profession, many of them in residency programs across the US. Our students continue to achieve on regional and national stages. Mulan Homo '25 placed in the top 10 in the ASHP patient counseling competition. The CUSP Quiz Bowl team again won first place at CSHP Seminar. ASHP named two CUSP students to their national Pharmacy Student Forum Advisory Groups, appointing Elyn Lam '24 to the Society Development Advisory Group and Megan Shieh '24 to the Career and Leadership Development Advisory Group.

CUSP faculty continue to make their marks on the national pharmacy and research landscapes. Three faculty were named Fellows of prominent national organizations in 2023. Dr. Emmanuelle Schwartzman was honored as Fellow of ASHP. Dr. Marc Fleming was recognized as Fellow of the APhA. Dr. Karl Hess was named Fellow of the International Society for Travel Medicine. Dr. Jerika Lam received a grant from Gilead to conduct a clinical trial on HIV prevention outcomes in pharmacy-provided PrEP. Dr. Ajay Sharma and Dr. Moom Roosan was awarded the AACP 2023 Innovation in Pharmacogenomics Teaching Award. Dr. Amy Kang was honored as one of Orange County's 40 Under 40 for her impactful research and clinical care in infectious disease. My laboratory was awarded a new \$2.2M grant from NIH to study compartmentalized cAMP signaling in asthma.

We remain committed to our mission of ensuring patient safety through education, training, and awareness. We are again partnering with CSHP to host the Pacific Coast Patient Safety Conference in San Diego, February 29 - March 1. We hope you can join us in learning from the top patient safety clinician scientists and researchers from around the US. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our numerous community and corporate partners who have continued to support our mission and vision. Together, we are making a meaningful impact on healthcare and patient well-being. I am immensely proud of the dedication and passion exhibited by our students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Our collective commitment to innovation and excellence propels us forward into 2024 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rennolds Ostrom', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Rennolds Ostrom

# CONTENT

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# FUELING INNOVATION: 2023 GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

16

Active Awards

12

Faculty with  
Active Funding

10

New Awards

\$3,048,736

Total Funding



Dr. Sherif Elshahawi received a R03 grant from National Institute of General Medical Sciences to continue his work inventing antibiotics that inhibit resistant bacteria to “last resort” antibiotics. Dr. Elshahawi received \$138,000 from the NIAID for his proposal titled “Mechanisms and In Vivo Activity of a Next Generation Daptomycin Antibiotic.”

Gilead’s NOVA RFP awarded Dr. Jerika Lam \$82,871 to fund a clinical trial study on HIV prevention to produce outcomes that will help put an end to the HIV epidemic. Dr. Lam’s project, which will investigate the complex factors influencing the adoption of pharmacy-

based PrEP.



Dr. Ajay Sharma has been awarded a \$1.71 million grant from National Eye Institute for a five-year research project to investigate the pathology of oGVHD. Dr. Sharma’s project will investigate the role of macrophages in oGVHD which will likely yield more effective mechanism-based treatments.

Dr. Rennolds Ostrom was awarded over \$2.2 million for an NIH R01 grant by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute for critical basic science research into developing new drugs for people with asthma, which will explore ASM cell mechanisms to optimize their signaling within sub-cellular compartments for enhanced cell function.



# FROM LAB TO PUBLICATION: THE IMPACT OF STUDENT RESEARCH

Students in every academic program at Chapman University School of Pharmacy have the opportunity to participate in research and earn authorship on peer-reviewed scientific publications. The impact of this initiative gives graduates an advantage in their careers, with students becoming published authors in reputable academic publications on an annual basis in growing numbers.

One recent publication, titled “KCa 2.2 (KCNN2): A Physiologically and Therapeutically Important Potassium Channel” published in the Journal of Neuroscience Research, provided 3 PharmD candidates their first brush with publishing. Starting with hands-on research experience, students also assisted with drafting, finalizing, and submitting the research for consideration in a scientific journal.

Dr. Jennifer Totonchy, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies and a guiding force behind student involvement in research, expressed enthusiasm about the students’ contributions. “I’m always excited and impressed when PharmD students partner with our research faculty and make significant contributions to scientific publications during their time at CUSP. It speaks to their incredible work ethic, their dedication to the development of new therapeutics and the tremendous potential of pharmacists as significant contributors to the future of pharmaceutical science.”

Students who partake in the research opportunity exemplify the broader benefits of gaining experience early on. These achievements significantly contribute to students’ success both during their academic journey and in post-graduation endeavors.



## 2023 STUDENT AUTHORSHIPS

1

UNDERGRADUATE

27

PHD

12

MASTERS

10

PHARMD



### DR. SEOANE-VAZQUEZ AUTHORS ARTICLE FOR JAMA INTERNAL MEDICINE

Dr. Enrique Seoane-Vazquez contributed his findings in “Assessment of FDA-Approved Drugs Not Recommended for Use or Reimbursement in Other Countries, 2017-2020,” to JAMA Internal Medicine that examined why some new drugs approved in the US have not been approved or recommended for reimbursement in other countries, and how costly those drugs are. The study found that out of 206 new US drug approvals from 2017 through 2020, 47 drugs were refused marketing authorization or not recommended for reimbursement in other countries due to unfavorable benefit-to-risk profiles, uncertain clinical benefits, or unacceptably high prices. The reported median US cost for these drugs was \$115,281 per patient, per year.

## LEADING PATIENT SAFETY INITIATIVES

Dedicated to Providing Health Care with a Patient-First Approach, Chapman University Launches a New Research Center Leading Patient Safety Initiatives in California

After almost a decade-long history of focusing teaching, research, and practice on the critical importance of patient safety, Chapman University has launched a new center dedicated to the thoughtful and intentional approach of patient safety. Founded on the principles of research, education, and community engagement, the Patient Safety Center for Research and Education (PSCARE) tackles two of the most critical healthcare issues of our time: preventing medication errors and managing Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).

Fueled by the wealth of talent that supports this groundbreaking initiative, PSCARE serves as a foundational piece for the movement in the Orange County community as the world embraces and leans into more patient-safety-centered approaches in its healthcare practices. PSCARE has brought together a diverse and highly skilled team of faculty members that aims to provide interdisciplinary collaboration to address some of the most pressing patient safety concerns today, including medication error prevention, opioid overdose prevention, OUD treatment, prescribing errors, and safe medication disposal. These topics further splinter into more niche research areas, for example, evaluating medication errors during patient transition from hospital care to a skilled nursing facility.

Director Dr. Marc Fleming, a health services researcher with expertise in behavioral theory, leads the three teams that cover the initiatives of PSCARE: The Research Team, the Education Team, and the Community Engagement Team.



Dr. Fleming invited alumna Dr. Tiffany Nguyen to present “Preventing Opioid Overdose: Individual Compassion, and the Roles of Buprenorphine and Naloxone” at Chapman University Homecoming on Sept. 23, 2023

### EDUCATION

PSCARE’s education practices target healthcare trends, including a transition towards value-based care and disseminating knowledge, best practices, and evidence-based guidelines. PSCARE offers ethical and financially sound strategies that can transform healthcare systems.

Geared toward preventing medication errors, PSCARE offers training including Continuing Education that equips professionals with the skills to deliver safe, high-quality services. These address inappropriate prescribing practices, reducing adverse reactions, and promoting evidence-based prescribing. Education stresses the importance of naloxone and buprenorphine in the management of OUD and overdose prevention, including strategies to reduce stigma.

The founding Education Team includes Drs. Laressa Bethishou, Lawrence Brown, Khaled Elsaid, Marc Fleming, Jeff Goad, Reza Taheri, and Jerika Lam.

## RESEARCH

Bridging the gap between health outcomes researchers and clinicians, PSCARE ensures that evidence-based solutions are developed and effectively implemented in a range of health care settings.

With a growing emphasis on implementation science, PSCARE develops multidisciplinary synergistic solutions by utilizing the wealth of knowledge and expertise at CUSP, while also exploring opportunities to build new external collaborations. By conducting research and developing education, PSCARE will improve health outcomes for the greater Orange County community with the opportunity to have international influence.

The founding Research Team includes Drs. Laressa Bethishou, Lawrence Brown, Khaled Elsaid, Marc Fleming, Amy Kang, Moom Roosan, Enrique Seoane-Vazquez, Sherry Wang, and Kimberly Won.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Beyond its immediate role in healthcare, PSCARE extends its reach into the communities via our programming and partners, combating drug overdoses and diversion by championing the responsible disposal of unused medication. Proper disposal of controlled prescriptions for controlled substances safeguards vulnerable individuals and also contributes to the preservation of local water supplies and the environment.

Participation in take-back programs and responsible disposal is a collective effort to ensure a safer and healthier community. PSCARE is proud to serve community resources, providing updates on medication disposal kiosks and other safe medication disposal methods, such as Deterra®, to protect the community.

The founding Community Engagement Team includes Dr. Marc Fleming and Dr. Karl Hess.

## PACIFIC COAST PATIENT SAFETY CONFERENCE CONTINUES TO SHAPE FUTURE PATIENT AND MEDICATION SAFETY

Partnering with the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Chapman University is hosting the third annual Pacific Coast Patient Safety Conference. Crafted for an intimate place of learning, connection, and collaboration, this conference is like no other and provides a platform for healthcare professionals to enhance their expertise. This multi-day conference is tailored for a diverse audience, including pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, physicians, nurses, safety officers, and students across all levels and practice settings.

Occurring between February 29 through March 1 at Hilton San Diego Bayfront, a range of exciting topics will be presented. These include “Patient Safety in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)” by Dr. Emily Do,



**PACIFIC COAST**  
**PATIENT SAFETY**  
**CONFERENCE**  
C S H P • C U S P

“Impact Organizational Safety Culture Through Ethical Leadership” by Dr. Robin Betts, as well as guided round table discussions and poster exhibits.

*Registration information is available on the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists website*

FOLLOWING A TRIUMPHANT 2022, CHAPMAN EMERGES WITH

## VICTORY AT CSHP SEMINAR

Chapman returned to the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists Seminar, where the remarkable performance of our students and contributions to the field by our faculty set a benchmark for success

### QUIZ BOWL

Among 13 other schools of pharmacy in the state, CUSP emerged victorious in the Quiz Bowl competition for the second consecutive year. The most competitive element of the conference, Quiz Bowl topics tested overall knowledge on “Infections in the Immunocompromised”, psychiatry, informatics, and conclusion in the case of a calculation.

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Elyn Lam, PharmD 2024 candidate, was recognized for her exemplary leadership roles in student organizations and her

greater contributions to Chapman University. Elyn served on the executive board of Chapman’s CSHP-ASHP chapter in her second year as a pharmacy student before beginning her Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences this fall.



Led by Tali Faggiano (Co'24), the Quiz Bowl members include Nikki Derleth, Tristian Domingo, Mulan Homo, Mirna Mikhail, Megan Shieh, Helen Vu, Tinarena Awaradia, Noble Chea, and Marayah Colarines.

## ASHP NAMES 2 CUSP STUDENTS TO THEIR PHARMACY STUDENT FORUM



The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists have selected two Class of 2024 PharmD candidates to serve on Pharmacy Student Forum groups for the 2023-2024 term amidst a highly competitive field of nominees.

Elyn Lam has been appointed to serve on the Society Development Advisory Group for her unique perspective to offer meaningful contributions. Megan Shieh’s exceptional leadership abilities and clear vision for guiding fellow students through their career journeys have propelled her to join the Career and Leadership Development Advisory Group.

## CHAPMAN PLACES TOP 10 IN NATIONAL PATIENT COUNSELING



Mulan Homo, a second-year PharmD candidate, achieved a top-ten placement at the National Patient Counseling Competition. Hosted by the American Pharmacists Association, contestants navigate a series of state qualifiers to participate in nationals among hundreds of other PharmD candidates. Mulan’s success was rooted in excellent communication, truthful and positive interactions with patients, and commitment to excellence in patient education.

Mulan’s victory follows CUSP’s Vivian Ly’s Runner-Up placement in the national competition in 2022.



# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS PROJECT WINS STATE-LEVEL COMMUNITY PROJECT AWARD

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, Chapman's CSHP/ASHP chapter organized a week-long advocacy project with engaging activities and valuable learning opportunities for students, staff, and faculty on the Rinker campus. The week offered a diverse range of activities that aimed to engage and educate the Rinker campus community to raise awareness about mental health by cultivating an inclusive and supportive environment. The California Society of Health-System Pharmacists recognized their efforts and awarded the chapter the 2023 Student Chapter Community Service Project Award.

Health professional students engaged in activities focused on practical self-care tools such as pet therapy, meditation, and calming exercises. A self-reflective session culminated in a temporary art installation featuring ribbon-shaped notes displaying students' thoughts on mental health and coping strategies. The community mural, created collaboratively by students, faculty, and staff, showcased coping mechanisms, personal experiences, and perspectives on mental health awareness. This provided another opportunity to express the significance of mental health and promoted open conversations to reduce the stigma and enhance understanding within the Rinker community. Participating earned students mental health awareness green ribbons to display on their bags and belongings, advocating for mental health visibility throughout the year.

Kierra Koehn, PharmD '25 and a Student Wellness Committee Member, took great

pride in organizing this event to support her peers' well-being. "I was thrilled to be able to bring a mental health conversation to the Rinker campus. My hope was to provide students with tools and information on how to better their mental health while working through our academically rigorous programs. The attendance we received from the students was overwhelming in the best way possible."

**"The attendance we received from the students was overwhelming in the best way possible."**

Julie Barbour, a licensed therapist at Rinker Campus's Student Psychological Counseling Services, was also part of the core team of staff and faculty that guided the CSHP/ASHP students on best practices for the event series. "Events throughout the week are a great way to deliver important information about mental health concerns and self-care in a fun and engaging manner that can serve to reduce the stigma around mental

health and accessing services," Julie says. "Any time we come together as a Rinker community, we provide the opportunity to undermine the loneliness that students experience. They get to see faculty and staff working on their behalf to say, we see you, and we are here for you."

The programming was made possible by CSHP/ASHP student leaders, including Kierra Koehn, Megan Ly, Joseph Chen, Whitney Chilenos, and Vincent Thai, Drs. Mary Gutierrez and Jerika Lam, staff members Julie Barbour and Jessica King, as well as two student representatives from Chapman's Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences.

This is the second time in Chapman's history to be recognized for this award. In 2020, Chapman was awarded the community project recognition for our Naloxone Education and Awareness project.



*Chapter members stand with Dr. Mary Gutierrez and Julie Barbour in front of some activities.*



## 2023 FELLOWSHIP RECOGNITIONS



Dr. Marc Fleming, PhD, MPH, FAPhA

*Professor, Chair, Department of  
Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy*

2023 Fellow of the  
American Pharmacists Association



Dr. Emmanuelle Schwartzman, PharmD,  
Aph, CDCES, BCACP, FASHP

*Professor and Chair,  
Department of Pharmacy Practice*

2023 Fellow of the American  
Society of Health-System Pharmacists



Dr. Karl Hess, PharmD, Aph, FCPhA,  
FAPhA, FISTM

*Professor, Department of  
Pharmacy Practice*

2023 Fellow of the International  
Society of Travel Medicine

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## AACP NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARDED TO DR. YUN "SHERRY" WANG

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy supports early-career pharmacy faculty in independent research initiatives, setting the stage for future extramural funding.

Dr. Wang's primary research focuses in on patient safety in a dry lab setting, a research initiative driven by her interests in health service research and pharmacoepidemiology. The lab's special focus on substance users and chronic disease patients utilizes diverse real-world datasets to explore various projects, including "Spatiotemporal Disparity Mapping of Buprenorphine Treatment," and "Treatment Adherence Disparities among Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer."





## AACP'S INNOVATION IN PHARMACOGENOMICS TEACHING AWARD

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy awarded two of our faculty, Dr. Moom Roosan and Dr. Ajay Sharma, the Innovation in Pharmacogenomics Teaching Award. The pair received national recognition as a team for their innovative learning and teaching strategies.

To Dr. Moom Roosan, it was a moment of personal triumph as it “acknowledges our hard work and dedication to advancing pharmacogenomics education.” She went on to say that “embracing technology, interactive learning, and real-world case studies has allowed us to create a dynamic and enriching educational experience for our students.”

### Dr. Amy Kang Makes Orange County and National Headlines

In 2023, Assistant Professor Dr. Amy Kang was recognized on several occasions for her excellence in pharmacy on both community and national stages.

Following her American College of Clinical Pharmacy Futures Grant, the Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce recognized Dr. Kang as a 40 under 40 awardee. Of all those recognized, Dr. Kang was the only pharmacist.

In November, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy recognized Dr. Kang's dedication to the field by naming her as a recipient of the Infectious Diseases Practice Research Network (ID-PRN) New Practitioner Award, a nod to her outstanding contributions to the future development of infectious diseases.



## HIGH SCHOOLERS LEARN FROM CHAPMAN PHARMACY FACULTY, EXPLORE FUTURE CAREERS AND PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

When Chapman University's School of Pharmacy started the Pharmacy Summer Research Program for high school students last year, Associate Professor Hamid Montazeri thought a few students would sign up. They got 20, including an applicant from China. In 2023, they got 47 applications. "It has exceeded our wildest dreams," said Dr. Hamid Montazeri, who is in his second year directing the program.

The goal of the program is to serve the community by showing high schoolers what pharmacists do and what research in pharmaceutical sciences entails. They learn to use scientific literature to complete and present a research project, under the guidance of CUSP faculty.

**"It definitely opened up a new door of possibility for me"**

She added that a particular motivator was the school's APEx five-year accelerated doctor of pharmacy program.

Erica Kim, an incoming senior at Sunny Hills High School in Fullerton, said she'd never had an experience like the summer research program. Learning about Montazeri's research into

delivery systems targeting cancer cells was interesting "because a lot of things he's talking about I'm learning, especially in bio or chem, but he goes into more depth," she said.

The high school students also did lab tests to observe processes like blood clotting, made a pharmaceutical gel in the compounding lab, asked current students questions about everything from study habits to juggling extracurricular activities, and got advice from the School of Pharmacy's career specialist. Montazeri said more information was added this year to enhance the campus experience. Organizers considered that families look for summer programs for their high schoolers, and they wanted the research program to be inclusive.

The program gained interest mainly through word of mouth and contacts at high schools. "It's amazing how students start planning for their futures so early," he said. The high school summer research program supports Chapman's strategic plan goal to strengthen and expand graduate health science programs, advancing health care to meet community need.

Atrin Jafari, who will be a junior at Arnold O. Beckman High School in Irvine, was already interested in working in health care when she found out about the program. "It definitely opened up a new door of possibility for me." She



# CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH CITY OF HOPE FOR TWO NEW RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Based in Orange County, Chapman University is located in one of the most active healthcare centers in the United States. Irvine in particular boasts some of the nation's leading hospitals, including City of Hope Orange County located on an 11-acre Irvine campus, Lennar Foundation Cancer Center. Most recently, Chapman University partnered with City of Hope Orange County to offer two new post-graduate training programs for recent Doctor of Pharmacy graduates.

Both programs, the PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency and the PGY-2 Pharmacy Residency in Medication Use Safety and Policy will welcome their inaugural residents on June 30, 2024. The PGY1 Pharmacy Residency is an immersive program that elevates PharmD graduates to expert practitioner status, equipping them with a skill set in diverse patient care, practice management, leadership, and education. Alumni of this PGY1 residency will emerge as well-rounded professionals prepared not only to provide exceptional patient care, but also to pursue board certification and advanced educational opportunities, including qualifying for PGY2 residencies. From achieving optimal drug therapy outcomes to skillfully educating fellow healthcare professionals and patients on crucial drug-related topics, residents will become leaders in enhancing the safety of the medication-use system.

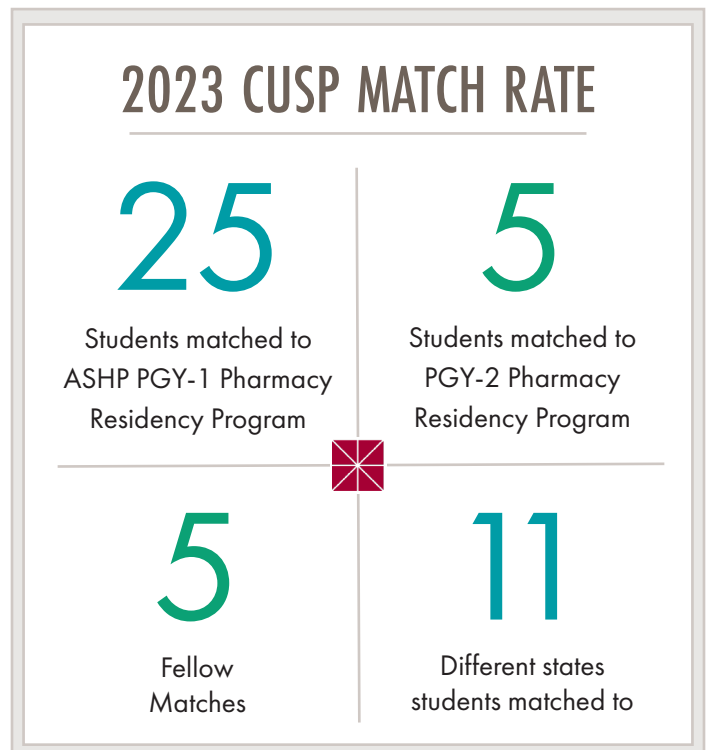
The PGY2 pharmacy residency program in Medication Use Safety and Policy is designed to equip graduates to become subject matter experts in enhancing patient safety, compliance, and quality within medication-use systems. Residents will undergo advanced training covering critical elements such as evaluating vulnerabilities in the 11 elements of medication use, cultivate expertise in regulatory and accreditation requirements, Lean Six Sigma principles, and have rotations in adult hematology, inpatient and clinic operations, and other rotations. Focusing on the forefront of industry best practices, residents will collaborate on real-time Medication Event and ADR Analysis, contribute to groundbreaking research projects, and participate in multidisciplinary committees to



*Dr. Jeff Goad, Dr. Jelena Lewis, and Dr. Rennolds Ostrom with Dr. Wafa Samara and Dr. Rachel Mashburn from City of Hope.*

make a tangible impact on medication-use systems.

Both of these programs encourage residents to develop and follow a personal philosophy of practice while continuously monitoring and improving their performance. As an added bonus, participants will complete a Teaching Certificate through Chapman University School of Pharmacy, enriching their skills and opening doors to various career paths that are foundational skill sets for roles in education, including lecturing, facilitating, and precepting.



# Notable Alumni News

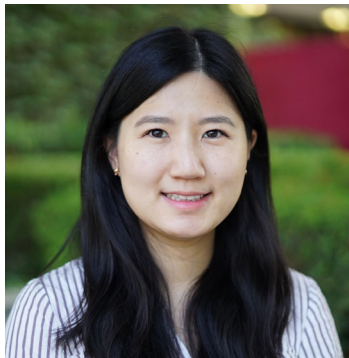


## **Dr. John Andraos Joins Western University of Health Sciences as an Assistant Professor**

*Doctor of Pharmacy, Class of 2019*

In less than ten years since the inception of Chapman University School of Pharmacy, a PharmD graduate from our program has achieved a significant milestone by joining the faculty at another institution. This marks the first instance of a graduate from our school assuming a teaching role in higher education.

In his new role as a faculty member for the College of Pharmacy, he brings valuable experience gained from completing both a PGY-1 and PGY-2 residency. Dr. Andraos is also a proud graduate of the APEx program.



## **Dr. Jenny Kim Awarded APhA's Incentive Grant**

*Doctor of Pharmacy, Class of 2022*

The American Pharmacists Association named Dr. Jenny Kim an Incentive Grant recipient in their 2023 award series for her proposal, "Internal Medicine Physician

Perception of a Clinical Pharmacist in Medical Practice and the Impact of Pharmacist's Involvement in the Clinic."

"Community pharmacist are the most accessible health care professionals, and their roles continue to evolve to this day... This opportunity will highlight the integral role of community pharmacists to improve patient's health outcome by medication management, medication and disease education, help reduce cost-related medication non-adherence and many more while empowering patients to take ownership of their health."



## **Alyanna Corpuz Joins Stanford Laboratory**

*MS Pharmaceutical Sciences, Class of 2022*

Upon graduation, Alyanna Corpuz joined Dr. Oliver Dorigo's laboratory at Stanford University in the Ob/Gyn department. The team is actively engaged in the laboratory

exploration of innovative targeted therapy methods for ovarian cancer. This involves utilizing cell culture systems, arrays of human tissues, and mouse models specific to ovarian cancer. The team assesses combination drug regimens in women exhibiting low responsiveness to platinum-based chemotherapy with the ultimate goal to enhance the quality of life for advanced-stage patients through the identification of a novel and effective treatment strategy.

# PharmD, Class of 2023

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**Dr. Ada Anthony-Wise**  
*she/her*

Dr. Adaeze “Ada” Anthony-Wise is currently a Global Regulatory Policy and Intelligence Fellow at Janssen. She maintains the belief “that pharmacists’ consistent interactions with people in the community is helping to reveal the array of responsibilities we have in healthcare.”

With a passionate spirit, Ada was introduced to Chapman University’s Accelerated Pre-Pharmacy Experience (APEX) at 17 years old as a strong candidate for the program. Drawn to APEX for the opportunity to be exposed to a uniquely wide-array of experiences, she describes APEX’s value as a “unique, once-in-a-lifetime academic experience”, calling her time at Chapman University’s APEX and PharmD programs as “a wonderful mix of social and academic euphoria.”

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**Dr. Mason Myers**  
*they/he*

Graduating at the age of 23, Dr. Mason Myers matched into their dream first postgraduate year residency program after graduating from Chapman’s APEX program and earning their Doctor of Pharmacy.

Mason’s desire to pursue health care was sparked by their childhood experiences with family members’ diagnoses and their knowledge of the LGBTQ+ health disparities, including HIV/AIDS and barriers to gender-affirming care. Mason admits it didn’t always come easy for them, recalling their first hospital IPPE. “I remember standing outside feeling overwhelmed when it suddenly hit me, ‘I’m about to do what I’ve dreamed about doing.’” Currently, Mason cares for patients at Oregon Health and Science University and enjoys their daily view of Portland as they commute via gondola daily.

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**Dr. Vivian Lu**  
*she/her*

Driven by community involvement and leadership, Dr. Vivian Lu found her true calling as a pharmacist in her pursuit of health care. “I wanted to work together with patients and other professionals to make medication recommendations and provide education.”

“There are definitely opportunities to share with others that are not familiar with a pharmacy that pharmacists can work in a variety of other settings such as industry, managed care, hospital, and more.” Now a PGY-1 resident program at the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System in Reno, Nevada, Vivian left her mark at CUSP through her involvement in APhA-ASP/CPhA, Kappa Psi, and Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Honor Society. Vivian also served as a Student Ambassador and competed in the AACCP Mock Trial Competition.



## CAMPUS CENTER AT RINKER CAMPUS CELEBRATES ITS GRAND OPENING

Chapman University celebrated the grand opening of its Rinker Health Science Campus Center on October 25, 2023. Operational since summer 2023, the highly anticipated space offers meeting, study and community space at the Rinker Campus. The facility offers academic and student support services, open and private student spaces, food, and student-selected art and photography. Additionally, it provides more event spaces, which allows for not only school-related events, but also partnerships with external groups.

“Irvine is becoming a hub for health sciences,” Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan said before the ribbon cutting at the ceremony. “We need a pipeline of people who are going to be able to do the work. Thank you for considering Irvine as your home.”

Brenda Kilzi, PharmD candidate and Class of 2025 student president, followed Mayor Khan’s remarks saying, “Within these walls, we discover our passions, unlock our potential and shape our futures.”

Investment in graduate health science programs is one of the pillars of Chapman’s strategic plan, including achieving a state-of-the-art Rinker campus in the next five years.



The Rinker campus is constantly evolving. As Chapman’s newest campus, Rinker has the most modern technology available. Scan to discover early-concept designs, and constructed environments that may differ from actual renderings.



Campus Center amenities include:

- Paws Cafe, serving lunch and dinner and offering a coffee bar
- Panther Store, selling books and apparel
- Panther Pantry (food pantry)
- Prayer and reflection room
- Amazon locker, laptops for checkout and wireless charging packs
- Student organizations workroom







## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION: A YEAR IN REVIEW

CUSP introduced an updated mission and vision statement in June 2023, which now emphasizes a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The initiative, led by the dedicated internal DEI Task Force, enhances the language defining CUSP's core values to target inclusive approaches that extends across all facets of CUSP, guided by the unwavering commitment to create an empowering and uplifting educational environment. The revised mission statement underscores dedication to DEI in classrooms, labs, research centers, and campus life.

The task force has made significant strides since late 2022, and has shaped outcomes besides an updated mission and vision to ensure a community-driven approach. The DEI Task Force has not only influenced the mission statement but has also initiated a comprehensive plan to implement equitable practices throughout CUSP. This involves engaging an agency to guide the institution toward greater equity in curriculum, admissions, recruitment, and community engagement. As a pharmacy school, CUSP recognizes its responsibility to lead by example, incorporating DEI principles into the curriculum to foster critical thinking, empathy, and cross-cultural understanding among students.

*The updated mission and vision statement can be found on the back cover.*

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS BRIDGE GAPS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

Ralphs Grocery Company has graciously provided two scholarships for Doctor of Pharmacy candidates who have demonstrated leadership, maintained excellent academic standing, and proved strong interest in community pharmacy through the Ralphs Scholarship Program.

Chapman University is immensely grateful to our partners at Ralphs Grocery Company for their continued support in developing our students to become the innovative healthcare leaders of tomorrow. We are thrilled to be able to provide financial support to students through our partnership, and know that this donation will make a significant impact on the lives of the recipients and their patients.

The Walgreens Diversity Donation has awarded two scholarships to PharmD candidates. The donation's initiatives are aimed at promoting inclusivity in the classroom and increasing the enrollment of underrepresented students. The Walgreens Diversity Scholarship was awarded to a student involved in community pharmacy, advocates for inclusion, and represents an underrepresented group in pharmacy, and the Walgreens Multilingual Scholarship granted a student fluent in multiple languages with an interest in community pharmacy. The Walgreens Diversity Donation aligns seamlessly with our expanding mission and core values, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Walgreens for their generosity and partnership.

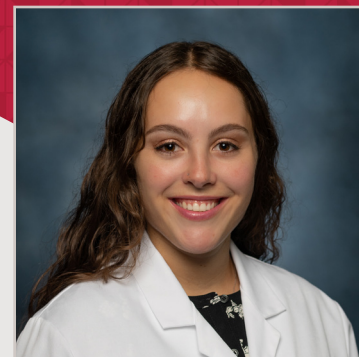
# INAUGURAL PHARM.D. LEADERSHIP COHORT COMPLETES ITS FIRST YEAR

Established in 2021, the Doctor of Pharmacy Leadership Emphasis program was created to shape well-rounded student leaders, both in and out of the classroom, by empowering them with the skills and knowledge to become exemplary leaders in healthcare. At the heart of the emphasis program lies the commitment to equip candidates with personal and professional skill sets, including confidence, empathy, and innovation, as well as skills in communication, collaboration, and ethical decision-making.

The inaugural cohort was comprised of five outstanding PharmD Class of 2024 candidates (from left to right), Mariam

Mekhael, Journey Cordero, Tali Faggiano, Rosa Le, and Megan Shieh, each selected for their academic performance and involvement. Each held leadership positions in student organizations and are involved in research projects, making well-rounded students.

The program's cohort size has expanded for Class of 2025, increasing from 5 students to 11. Already, the Class of 2025 cohort has had high-levels of research project activity, spearheading community events for both Chapman and Orange County, and have received professional recognition from national pharmacy associations.



"It's certainly helped hone my leadership skills, whether that's through the leadership courses we take in the classroom setting or the additional leadership involvements both on campus or in the community. All of those experiences have helped me grow as a leader, both personally and professionally, and I certainly feel more equipped to serve as a leader in the pharmacy profession post-graduation."

-Tali Faggiano



## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM:

# UNVEILING THE POWER OF IPPE ROTATIONS

Woven into the PharmD curriculum, IPPEs have secured Megan Shieh's confidence in her future in healthcare. Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) expose future pharmacists to a variety of healthcare settings and provide valuable learning both inside and outside the classroom.

These trimesterly courses send PharmD candidates like Megan into a rich variety of practice sites to gain experience during rotations in ambulatory care/primary care, community pharmacy, and hospital/acute care settings where they provide care to patients under the supervision of experienced pharmacists. While in rotation, students continue to be supported by Chapman University's experiential faculty and staff, including discussing their rotation experiences and current assignments.

These rotations provide pharmacy students with hands-on experience to further develop essential pharmacy practice skills and gain valuable insights into their future career options. "All of the rotations give valuable insight into teamwork and communication, be it with patients, pharmacists, or other professionals in the healthcare field," Megan says. Regardless of the rotation settings, each rotation exposed her to the many settings



where pharmacists function and solidified her interest in the field.

Certain rotations, like at the Children's Hospital of Orange County, give students greater focus on pediatrics, and some give more insight to patients with psychiatric conditions, like at the Patton State Hospital.

These specialized experiences broaden students' knowledge and help them discover areas of interest within the pharmacy field.

**"I cannot understate the value of excellent preceptors in this field. Although they have all had different approaches, all of my preceptors were eager to teach; my experience would not have been as enriching had it not been for their support."**

While activities experienced during rotations are not necessarily designed to directly align with what is taught didactically, the classroom and experiential learning opportunities do enhance each other. This blend of theory and practice creates a well-rounded learning experience, preparing students for their future roles as pharmacists.

One crucial piece of advice from experienced students is to embrace project opportunities during IPPE rotations. "Hands-on work is an excellent way to immerse yourself in your position, depending on what type of rotation you have. Even though it may seem like a lot of work on top of a potentially busy schedule, this IPPE might be your only opportunity during pharmacy school to pursue a specific type of project in healthcare during your time as a pharmacy student."

# WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2026



## Our Mission & Vision:

Educate and promote diversity in the next generation of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists to improve health through engaging in inclusive and equitable team-based, patient safety-focused health care and conducting transformative research and scholarship.

We accomplish this by:

- Empowering students to become self-learning professionals through flipped learning andragogy that leverages state-of-the-art technology and teamwork.
- Providing an infrastructure that emphasizes collaborative research and scholarship that makes a difference in people's lives.
- Creating a diverse and inclusive culture that equitably supports, nurtures, and mentors students, faculty and staff to be successful and makes it a top academic institution to study or work in Orange County.
- Optimizing delivery of healthcare for those with diverse and unmet needs in Orange County.
- Establishing strategic partnerships, collaborations and alliances to advance our mission.
- Embracing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in all facets of our educational programs.



## ALUMNI, LET'S CONNECT!

Being an active Chapman alum means belonging to a family for life, with over 55,000 people rooting for your success.

- Start a new job?
- Want to mentor a current Panther?
- Looking for a way to get involved?

Scan the QR code, fill out the survey, and we will be in touch!

