Congratulations 2016 Graduates

Pictured L to R: Ruizhi Zhao, PhD Grad; Angie Carlson, Professor; Jon Schommer, Professor; John Pastor, Adj. Clinical Assoc. Professor; Ben Aronson, PhD Grad; Brett Benfield, MS Grad; Steve Schondelmeyer, Professor; Bithia Anderson, PhD Grad; Mallory Snyder, MS Grad; Ron Hadsall, Professor; Trung Nguyen, PhD Grad; Greg Rhee, PhD Grad & Tim Cernohous, PhD Grad (not pictured)
Hello SAPh Colleagues;

As we reflect on this past year in the Social & Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program, the word that comes to mind is "relationships." Thank you for your connection with our program and the relational investments you have made. Our program is thriving because of those investments. **We are so very grateful.**

As you peruse this newsletter, consider some of these quotes about relationships:

- "The best relationships usually begin unexpectedly."
- "The greatest relationships are the ones you never expected to be in."
- "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Thank you again for being part of the University of Minnesota, Graduate Program in Social & Administrative Pharmacy.

Sincerely,
Jon Schommer, Director of Graduate Studies

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**2016 Graduates**

**Bitha Anderson**, PharmD, PhD, Thesis: *Specialty Medication Management across Pharmacy and Medical Benefit: Experience of a Self Insured Employer*

**Ben Aronson**, PharmD, PhD, Thesis: *Understanding Diabetes Self-Management Behaviors among American Indian Adults*

**Brett Benfield**, PharmD, MS, Thesis: 1) *Outcomes of an Academic Medical Center Specialty Pharmacy in Comparison to National Specialty Pharmacies in Treatment of Hepatitis C with Harvoni* 2) *High Reliability Organizations (HROs) in Relation to the United States Health Care System and Pharmacy Practice*

**Tim Cernohous**, Pharm D, PhD, Thesis: *A Grounded Theory Approach to Determining a Patient’s Decision to Use Medication Therapy Management Services (Decision Study)*

**Mallory Snyder**, PharmD, MS, Thesis: 1) *Medical Cannabis. 2) 340B Pharmaceutical Pricing Programs*

**Trung Nguyen**, MS, PhD, Thesis: *The Impact of Retail Pharmacy Benefit Design Changes on Medication Adherence and Prescription Drug Utilization Among Commercially Insured Continuously Enrolled Patient with Chronic Disease*

**Greg Rhee**, MA, PhD, Thesis: *Three Essays on Potentially Inappropriate Antidepressant Use among Older Adults in Office-Based Outpatient Settings*

**Ruizhi Zhao**, PharmD, MS , PhD, Thesis: *Impact of insourcing all IV sterile compounding and development of a pharmacist workload and productivity tool at a large academic medical center*
SAPh Graduate Program Members Featured at APhA 2016 in Baltimore March 4-7

SAPh graduate students participated in APhA 2016 in Baltimore, MD in numerous ways March 4-7, 2016. They served as presenters of research, elected officers, delegates, collaborators, and mentors during the meeting. Many SAPh alumni attended the meeting as well.

Theater as an Educational Tool for Health Disparities and Medicines

SAPh Graduate Student Alyssa Bortz, is a research assistant for a project that developed a theater production script about medication and health issues, including health disparities and cultural beliefs about health, illness, and disease, focusing on drugs and medicine. Paul Ranelli is the PI for the project and Jon Schommer is a co-investigator. The research team collaborated with the University of Minnesota Duluth Department of Theater, and Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis.

In the photo above are Alyssa Bortz (research assistant) and Jack Reuler (artistic director, Mixed Blood Theatre Company, http://www.mixedblood.com/staff).

Go Ask Alice is storytelling that grew out of the research project (National Consumer Survey on the Medication Experience and Pharmacists’ Roles) coordinated by Jon Schommer of the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy in Minneapolis and Lawrence (LB) Brown of Chapman University School of Pharmacy in Irvine, California. The survey concluded with an open-ended question, “If you have any comments about medicines, pharmacists, or health, please write them in the space provided,” and about 5,000 of the more than 30,000 respondents had more to say. Paul Ranelli was intrigued by what the respondents—medication users and their caregivers—wanted to share. With those responses and entries from the “Medication Experiences, Stories from Users/Patients” Facebook page, he and graduate student Alyssa Bortz started the process of using theater as the medium to extend the dialog among practitioners and students in the health professions about patients’ perceptions about medications and health.
Sirikan Rojanasarot (left) was awarded the 2015 St. Peter and Leiner Family Outcomes Research Fellowship
Claire Kolar (right) was awarded the 2015 Albert I. Wertheimer Leadership Fellowship

Claire Kolar (L) and Ruizhi Zhao (R) each of whom was selected for a 2016-2017 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. The Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (DDF) gives the University's most accomplished PhD candidates an opportunity to devote full-time effort to an outstanding research project by providing time to finalize and write a dissertation during the fellowship year.

Claire Kolar is recipient of an Olsteins' Graduate Fellowship for 2016—2017: The Olsteins’ award is over and above other funding sources and is in the amount of $4,000.

Anthony Olson (left) was awarded the 2016 SAPh First Year Fellowship to recognize academic performance, scholarly activity, and engagement of a first year PhD student in the SAPh program.

Sirikan Rojanasarot (right) was awarded the 2016 Albert I. Wertheimer Leadership Fellowship to recognize leadership qualities and aspirations.

GRANTS & AWARDS

SAPh Fellowships 2015 & 2016

Created to encourage and recognize leadership qualities and aspirations among PhD students in the SAPh graduate program:

- SAPh Alumni Fellowship
- St Peter & Leiner Family Fellowship
- Wertheimer Leadership Fellowship

Donations to these Fellowship Funds are welcome. Please make your check payable to the University of Minnesota and mail to:
Jon Schommer, College of Pharmacy
7-155 Weaver-Densford Hall,
308 Harvard Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Susan Beaulieu was awarded a Bush Fellowship 2016. In 2016 the Bush Foundation will invest in 24 individuals with records of achievement and extraordinary potential to make significant contributions in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the same geography.

Susan teaches about adverse childhood experiences — ACEs — in Native American communities. Defined as traumatic events, ACEs can negatively impact child health and development and have long-term effects into adulthood. Susan is inspired by the power of resiliency and plans to explore traditional indigenous practices around mindfulness as strategies to promote greater wellbeing for Native American youth. She plans to use her Bush Fellowship to finish her PhD and to invest in her own wellbeing, understanding that she must practice what she teaches to truly have a ripple effect in her community.

Ben Aronson: Understanding Diabetes Self-Management Behaviors Among Indigenous Adults
Robert Bechtol: Evaluating pharmacy students’ perceptions of a modified course sequence teaching evidence-based problem-solving skills and the research process
Alyssa Bortz: The Medication Experience of Transgender People on Hormone-Replacement
Alina Cernasev: A comparison in consumer–pharmacist interaction when seeking Over-the-Counter products in Malta, Europe and Minnesota, USA
Christy Choi: Examining urban patient information-seeking behavior on over-the-counter (OTC) medication selection
Basma Gomaa: Identifying structural changes in a migraine online community on Facebook over time and impact on participants’ engagement behavior
Lisa Hillman: An exploration of patient representation of illness, perceived risk of susceptibility, and beliefs about medications in the early stages of chronic kidney disease
Krittaphas Kangwanrattanakul: Dimensions of HRQoL for Thai population beyond the EQ-5D framework
Tony Olson: The Optimal Roles And Contributions Of Pharmacists In Minnesota Health Systems From The Healthcare Executive Perspective
Sirikan Rojanasarot: Does Access To Coordinated Care Via The Medical Home Model Improve School Absenteeism For Children With Asthma?
Bethany Von Hoff: After the Error: A Phenomenological Exploration of Pharmacists as Second Victims
Li Yang: Comparative Study On The Social And Administrative Pharmacy Postgraduate Education In America and China
Julie Zhao: Willingness to Accept Medication Management Services from Pharmacists by US Adults with Diabetes
Wendy St. Peter was invited to join the Board of Directors of the Kidney Health Initiative (KHI). This initiative is a partnership with the FDA, the American Society of Nephrology and the greater nephrology community. The mission of KHI is to create a collaborative environment to advance scientific understanding of kidney health and to foster development of therapies (drugs, devices and biologics) to improve kidney health. There are over 100 member organizations in KHI including patient organizations, health professional organizations, research institutions, foundations, pharmaceutical manufacturers, device companies, dialysis companies and US and international government agencies.

Kristin Janke received the Excellence in Innovation Award on September 12, 2015 from the Minnesota Pharmacists Association (MPhA) for her work in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) and Leadership. This award is sponsored by Upsher Smith Laboratories and honors a profession member who has demonstrated significant innovation in their work which directly or indirectly results in advancing the profession of pharmacy.

Stephen Schondelmeyer celebrated 25 years as the PRIME Institute and the Century Mortar Club Endowed Chair on October 21, 2015 at the Symposium on Advancing Action on Access & Affordability of Pharmaceutical & Pharmacist’s Services. This daylong symposium was held to honor Dr. Schondelmeyer for his outstanding contributions to pharmacy, health care and society.

The College of Pharmacy Alumni Society also named Dr. Schondelmeyer the 2016 Distinguished Pharmacist Award, the highest award given.

Amy Pittenger was selected for Academy of Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. On November 16th, 2015, she was inducted into the Academic Health Center’s Academy of Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at the University of Minnesota. The Academy recognizes those who have “demonstrated exceptional scholarly contributions to advance learning in their schools and across academic programs.” Dr. Pittenger is a leader in pharmacy and interprofessional education locally and nationally. Dr. Pittenger also has a strong research foundation and her many publications and presentations emphasize her commitment to improving student learning.

Michelle Johnson-Jennings was awarded a Fulbright Scholar and hosted by the University of Waikato in Hamilton, NZ. Research title: Developing an Innovative Indigenous Framework for Indigenous Traditional Healing and the Integration within Western Medicine

Brian Isetts received the PPSI Distinguished Person of the Year award at the APhA annual meeting in March. The award is the highest honor that Pharmacists Planning Service, Inc. bestows on a pharmacist.

Brian Isetts (L) and Todd Sorensen (R) are among the group selected to receive the APhA Pinnacle Award, Category III: 2016 Government Agency-Nonprofit Organization Association. The award celebrates significant contributions to the medication use process through increasing patient adherence, reducing drug misadventures, promoting the use of national treatment guidelines, improving patient outcomes or enhancing communication among the members of the healthcare team.
SAPh Graduate Program Faculty and Students Attend ISPW Conference in Aberdeen, Scotland

SAPh graduate faculty and students participated in the ISPW Conference July 19-22, 2016 in Aberdeen Scotland. Our group contributed posters, workshops, and podium presentations. The conference was attended by 180 scientists from throughout the world. The next ISPW conference will be in July 2018 and held in Leuven, Belgium.
Richard Bertin (PhD 1976) was honored with the 2016 Outstanding Achievement Award at Eastcliff on April 13. This award is the U’s highest non-degree honor. The award was presented by University of Minnesota President, Dr. Eric Kaler. Dr. Bertin was recognized for his outstanding achievements in public health and advancing pharmacy board specialties.

Akeem Yusuf (PhD 2012) is currently at the Center for Observational Research, Amgen Inc. Akeem attended and presented at American Society for Bone and Mineral Research 2016 Annual Meeting in Seattle. He presented on osteoporosis management in elderly Medicare beneficiaries and was awarded the ASBMR’s Young Investigator Award. The ASBMR Young Investigator Award recognizes young researchers who submit top-ranking abstracts. He was recognized with a plaque at the ASBMR President’s Private Dessert Reception held on Sunday, Oct. 11 and received a $1,000 honorarium.

Jagannath Muzumdar (PhD 2011) is currently assistant professor at St. John’s University’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences as won a 2015–16 New Investigator Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) 2015–16 for a study assessing the benefits of using a visual comic-book format rather than text-heavy flyers for educating patients about health issues.

ISPOR INDONESIA CONFERENCE 2016, May 7-10
Jakarta, Indonesia Dr. Bruce Benson (R) represented the SAPh Graduate Program at the ISPOR Indonesia Chapter Conference 2016 in Jakarta, May 7-10, 2016. Dr. Benson made a keynote presentation that highlighted the SAPh graduate program and the research we conduct. Former SAPh faculty member and DGS of the program, Dr. Albert Wertheimer, also served as a keynote speaker. SAPh Alumnus, Ahmad Fuad Afdhal (L) (PhD, 1983) served as conference host and is currently serving as president of the Indonesian ISPOR Chapter.
http://www.ispor.org/RegionalChapters/GetActivityFile/339

Bernard Sorofman (PhD 1984) Dr. Sorofman is a professor of Health Services Research in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science and Executive Associate Dean of the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. His research concerns the interrelationship of patient and pharmacist behavior, as well as the individual health-seeking behaviors of patients and the roles of pharmacists. He also studies the system of pharmacy in society as it relates to access and impact on care. The University of Iowa honored him with the 2016 Honorary Alumni Awards on September 29. Honorary Alumni awardees are recognized for their personal contributions toward pharmacy achievement, leadership, and service to the profession, as well as exceptional service to the college.

Benjamin Aronson (PhD 2016) was hired as an Assistant Professor at Ohio Northern University.

Ruizhi Zhao (PhD 2016) has a new position at HealthCore in Delaware; pictured center—right, with her final defense committee members.
A benefit for the SAPh Alumni Fellowship was held on April 5th at the University McNamara Alumni Center. The main event was to Toast & Roast Professor Ron Hadsall around the “campfire”. The event raised over $20,000. We are close to the endowment goal of $25,000. When fully endowed, we will award SAPh graduate students for excellence in innovation.

Thanks to Professor Hadsall for being such a good sport!

A “Challenge Coin” recognition for donations to the SAPh Alumni Fellowship Fund is being developed to help reach our $25,000 goal. Contact Jon Schommer for more information on this challenge.
For our next newsletter, please submit news and updates to:
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The mission of the Graduate Program in Social and Administrative Pharmacy is to educate and mentor graduate students in the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge to foster appropriate use of drugs in order to improve patient outcomes at the individual and societal level.