

ON THE CUSP

2025 IN REVIEW

DRIVEN BY RESEARCH

Faculty and students
revolutionize healthcare,
from the lab to
clinical practice



CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

School of Pharmacy

ON THE CUSP

2025 IN REVIEW

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Mission and Vision of CUSP:

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.

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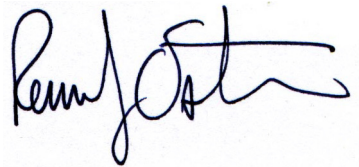
A Message from Dean Ostrom

The Chapman University School of Pharmacy celebrates another tremendous year. Our students, faculty, and staff continue to demonstrate excellence across all areas of our teaching, research and service missions. Our eighth 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 at the highest levels. The Quiz Bowl team secured first place at CSHP Seminar for the fourth time and won the top honor for the CSHP music video competition for the fifth time. We are excited to be launching a new Master of Science degree in regulatory affairs, which is enrolling students for Fall 2026.

CUSP faculty continue to make their marks on the national pharmacy and research landscapes. Dr. Jeff Goad was named to the CPhA Hall of Fame and Dr. Kathy Besinque was honored by CSHP as the Pharmacist of the Year. New NIH grants have been awarded to Drs. Cintia Citterio (R01), Coco Yang (R01 and R15), and Key Parang (R15). Dr. Amy Kang secured a grant from the Society of Infectious Disease to advance antimicrobial stewardship. Dr. Sherry Wang was named researcher of the year by Women in AI.

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 Monterey, CA February 26-27, 2026.

We are grateful for our numerous community and corporate partners who have continued to support our mission and vision. Together, we are making a meaningful impact on the health of our communities. I am immensely proud of the dedication and passion exhibited by our students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Our collective commitment to excellence propels us forward into 2026 and beyond.



Rennolds Ostrom, Ph.D
Dean, Chapman University School of Pharmacy

\$1.7 Million Awarded to Citterio to Unravel Hypothyroidism Research

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) has awarded Cintia Citterio, Ph.D., a \$1.7 million, five-year R01 grant as the sole Principal Investigator.

This major award builds on the success of a K01 from a NIDDK awarded in 2023, which continues the work of the Citterio lab's unique model to unravel mysteries surrounding thyroid dysfunction. It will allow her team to further dissect the relative importance of two key thyroid hormones in crucial aspects of physiology, including thyroid disease, energy homeostasis, thermal control, and weight regulation.

Her study, "Dissecting the relative roles of thyroid hormones T3 and T4 in energy homeostasis and thyroid growth," will contribute to the understanding of how two thyroid hormones, triiodothyronine (T3) and thyroxine (T4), each contribute to metabolism and thermogenesis. Thyroid hormone deficiency, or hypothyroidism, affects 5–10% of the population and is often characterized by goiter, reduced energy expenditure, and weight gain.

Although T4 treatment normalizes TSH in hypothyroid patients, it often fails to restore energy expenditure, and weight gain persists. T3 treatment aids weight loss but results in wide fluctuations in blood T3 levels. T4 and T3 are synthesized in the thyroid gland at two opposite ends of the protein known as thyroglobulin under TSH regulation.

Leveraging this biology, Citterio's laboratory has genetically engineered experimental models that produce normal levels of T3 but negligible levels of T4, allowing for the investigation of a "T3-only" hormonal environment and its metabolic consequences. In this R01 project, a novel model will be used (along with other models) to study how the body utilizes T3 when T4 is nearly absent, including its impact on the body's ability to produce heat, utilize energy, regulate body weight, and control thyroid gland mass.

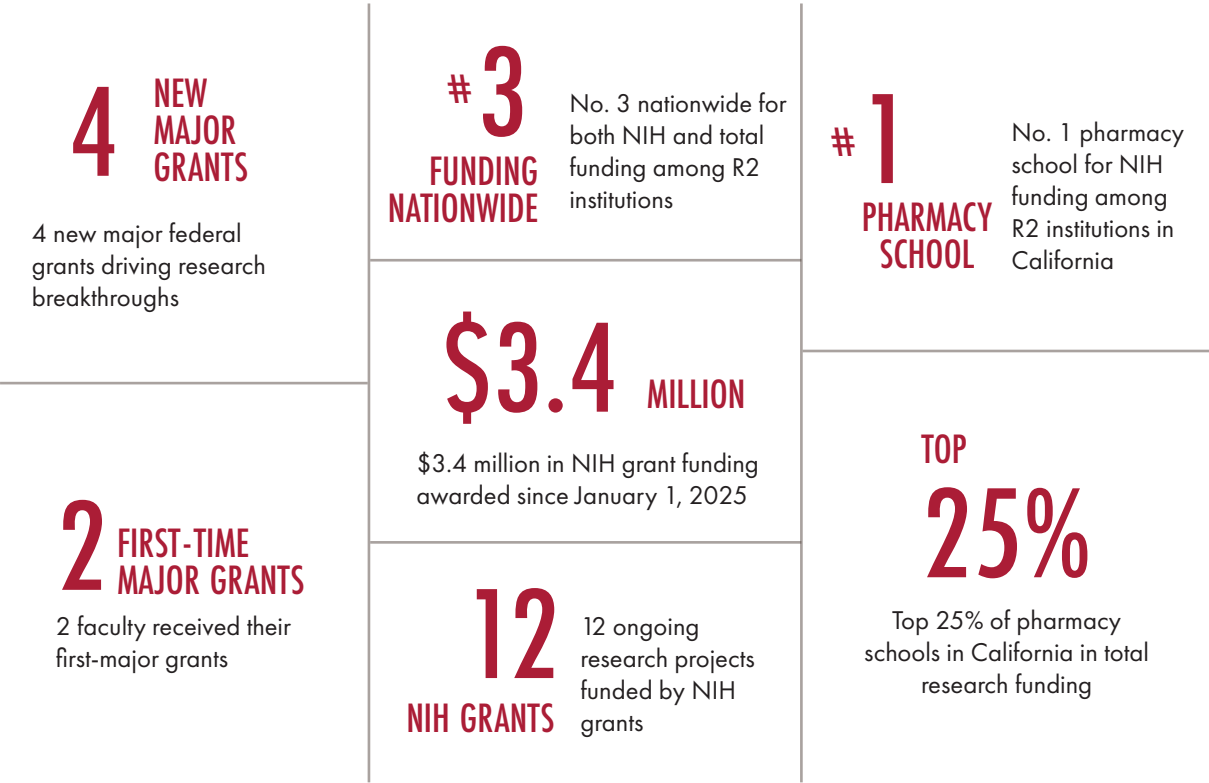
Collectively, the findings from this project are clinically relevant for improving the treatment of human hypothyroidism and goiter, as well as for targeting pathways therapeutically that promote weight loss.



Research Excellence

With 18,200 square feet of state-of-the-art lab space and 7 faculty clinical sites, our researchers drive innovation in diverse areas in both wet and dry labs, and specialized cross-functional research centers across all landscapes. Our faculty blend scientific and clinical experience, maximizing our impact in areas such as neurological disorders, drug discovery, and health technology, driving innovation and improving patient outcomes.

Our internationally recognized researchers allow CUSP students to become involved in research early in their academic journeys at Chapman, fostering the educational foundation that drives curiosity. Our discoveries improve outcomes across patient lifespans, from our labs, to clinical practice, and out into the community.



Research excellence is found throughout Chapman University. Each of our 11 schools and colleges engage in award-winning research that pushes the boundaries of research, scholarship, and academic ventures.



PUSHING THE BLOOD BRAIN BARRIER, ONE DISCOVERY AT A TIME

The Center for Targeted Drug Delivery (CTDD) is our latest research center, created to advance precision drug delivery technologies and translate novel technologies into impactful therapies.

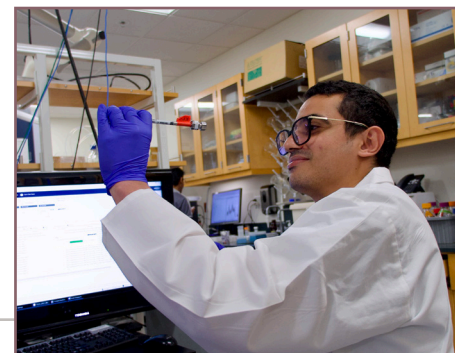
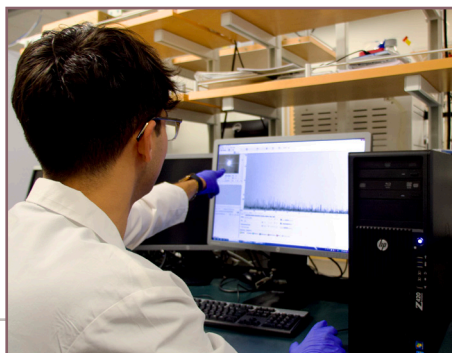
The CTDD provides a formal structure that will deepen interdisciplinary collaborations among faculty researchers, industry partners, and other leading research institutions, while also attracting new partnerships. By uniting researchers to advance precision drug delivery, the center will accelerate innovation, expand into broader therapeutic areas, and train the next generation of scientists.

“Targeted drug delivery researchers are advancing therapies that are more effective and safer, addressing urgent healthcare challenges such as rising cancer incidence, drug resistance, and the demand for precision medicine,” says Kamaljit Kaur, Ph.D., professor of medicinal chemistry and the director of CTDD. “Our work spans aggressive cancers like triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) and melanoma, as well as conditions such as uncontrolled bleeding, infections, cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases.”

Since 2011, more than a dozen antibody-drug conjugates

(ADCs) have been FDA-approved to deliver chemotherapy selectively to cancer cells. However, ADCs are often associated with significant toxicities such as immunogenicity and ocular side effects. CTDD investigators are pioneering peptide-drug conjugates (PDCs), which provide comparable precision with the potential for improved safety. Similarly, CTDD researchers are developing technologies to deliver therapeutics across the blood-brain barrier (BBB), a critical need for treating diseases such as Alzheimer’s.

Breakthroughs at Chapman University show the vast potential for further collaborative research, including a study led by CTDD researchers Kaur, Surya Nauli, Ph.D., and Rachita Sumbria, Ph.D., which identified a novel TNBC target protein (Yao et al., Scientific Reports, 2025), marking a key advance in drug delivery for this type of cancer. Similarly, Sun Yang, Ph.D., and Kaur reported a small peptide for targeting melanoma cells, both aggressive cancers that kill thousands of people per year.



Kaur provides hands-on learning opportunities for Chapman students, gaining experience directly in state-of-the-art laboratories



Recently, a grant was awarded by the NIH-National Cancer Institute to support Chapman University’s pioneering work in cancer-focused targeted drug delivery. Keykavous Parang, Ph.D., Pharm.D., and Yang received funding to develop PDCs aimed at mitigating cardiotoxicity and overcoming drug resistance in cancer.

“The success of PDCs will impact the future breast cancer patients with TNBC in several ways,” says Kaur. “First, treatment with PDCs will increase the therapeutic efficacy of current chemotherapy drugs and will be effective in several-fold lower dose than the free drug, reducing the toxic side effects of chemotherapy. Secondly, physicians will not have to reduce the dosage, which is often necessary in the case of high toxicity associated with chemotherapy. Finally, the use of optimal dosage will reduce the chances of developing drug resistance and improve the quality of life in breast cancer patients, ultimately increasing patient survival and benefiting women’s health.”

The CTDD supports a collaborative, high-performing team of investigators with complementary expertise in computational biology, medicinal chemistry, engineering, and pharmacology to research one of the greatest mysteries facing healthcare. By pooling resources and knowledge, the research center will enhance productivity and provide innovative drug delivery technologies that address critical unmet medical needs.

“Targeted drug delivery researchers are advancing therapies that are more effective and safer, addressing urgent healthcare challenges such as rising cancer incidence, drug resistance, and the demand for precision medicine.”

- Kamaljit Kaur, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Director of the
Center for Targeted Drug Delivery





\$415,000 AWARDED TO PARANG AND YANG FOR SAFER CANCER TREATMENT

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has awarded a \$415,500 Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15) to Keykavous Parang, Pharm.D., Ph.D., and Sun “Coco” Yang, Ph.D., to support their innovative cancer research at Chapman University.

The project develops next-generation peptide-drug conjugates (PDCs) designed to improve the safety and effectiveness of doxorubicin (DOX), a chemotherapy drug used for the treatment of a range of cancers, such as breast, lung, ovarian, gastric, and thyroid. While doxorubicin has been a powerful treatment for cancers, its clinical use is often limited by both severe cardiotoxicity and by development of drug resistance in cancer cells. This often causes clinicians to escalate doses for effective therapy, at the expense of causing heart damage and reducing patient quality of life.

Despite extensive research, the safe, effective, and exclusive delivery of DOX to target cells remains elusive. The long-term objective of this proposal is to harness the potential of cyclic- and hybrid cyclic-linear peptide-DOX conjugates to address DOX heart toxicity and combat drug resistance in cancer cells.

Parang and Yang’s research aims to create novel peptide-based delivery systems that target cancer cells selectively, including drug-resistant tumors, while reducing harmful effects such as cell death on healthy heart tissue. By improving drug delivery and minimizing toxicity, their work could help pave the way for safer and more effective chemotherapy options for patients.

Targeted drug delivery represents a promising new approach to cancer therapy. This grant supports the progress of this approach, as well as providing opportunities for students to participate in research.



SEOANE-VAZQUEZ SHAPES THE NEXT ERA OF GENE AND CELL THERAPIES

Enrique Seoane-Vazquez, Ph.D., has been awarded a two-year, multi-Principal Investigator grant for his project, “Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products: Clinical and Patient-Centered Outcomes.”

The project will conduct the most comprehensive evaluation to date of Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs) between 2010 and 2025, and is funded by Arnold Ventures. The study will assess:

- Safety, efficacy, and clinical outcomes at the time of FDA approval, and
- Post-marketing requirements and real-world evidence, and
- Strengths and limitations of accelerated approval pathways, including the Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy (RMAT) designation, and the
- Economic and population-level impact of ATMPs

ATMPs, including gene therapies, cell therapies, and tissue-engineered products, provide life-changing new treatment options for patients with severe and life-threatening diseases. Since the FDA approved the first cell therapy in 2010, sipuleucel-T, 37 ATMPs have been authorized in the U.S., including 26 gene therapies and 11 cell and tissue-based products. The pace of approvals continues to accelerate, with nine ATMPs approved in 2024 alone.

While these therapies hold tremendous promise, many are approved based on limited clinical evidence from small, single-arm, or non-randomized trials. These constraints, which are often driven by the rarity and severity of targeted conditions, raise important questions about evidence quality, long-term safety, and the strength of the regulatory framework guiding ATMP development.

“Advanced therapies hold extraordinary promise, but their rapid development has outpaced our understanding of their long-term safety, actual performance, and economic impact. This project is a critical opportunity to evaluate the evidence behind select treatments and strengthen the guidelines that outline their use.”

- Enrique Seoane-Vazquez, Ph.D.
Professor of Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy



Leveraging Machine Learning For Drug Discovery

As the next wave of healthcare innovation unfolds, CUSP faculty are harnessing growing technology to accelerate drug discovery and development. Our faculty are pioneering the movement to integrate AI-powered tools to enhance clinical decision-making and research, and to influence the nation’s patient safety policies.



Associate Professor Moom Roosan, Pharm.D., Ph.D., leverages emerging research technologies to bridge her interdisciplinary expertise, expanding the possibilities of pharmacological and behavioral studies to influence computational drug design and discovery. With the employment of machine learning (ML), Roosan’s research demonstrates how high-level neural networks designed to model human cognitive processes can synthesize complex data and generate predictive insights that would traditionally require months of research.

One finding revealed promising drug discovery opportunities using graph neural networks (GNNs), with futuristic potential to contemporize areas like drug-target interaction prediction, drug repurposing, and drug-drug interaction analysis. In a recent editorial in *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, Dr. Roosan wrote that by “leveraging vast datasets and computational power, ML has enabled researchers to uncover

patterns, predict outcomes, and accelerate drug development processes that were previously unimaginable.”

Researchers at CUSP found that ML may redefine the scientific drug development process, shortening years of testing to mere months. Utilizing machine learning as an alternative allows researchers at Chapman University to be dynamic, nimble, and methodical in exploring novel therapies that might have remained undiscovered.

CUSP’s state-of-the-art technology ensures our faculty and their research teams remain at the forefront of AI-driven healthcare tools. With these tools, students gain a critical understanding of healthcare’s evolving landscape and learn firsthand best practices as healthcare continues to embrace deep research and its byproducts. These developments inspire Chapman University faculty to explore where else this technology can be applied to improve patient care.

\$3M R01 Fuels Yang’s Breakthrough Research In Melanoma Treatment

Sun “Coco” Yang, Ph.D., has been awarded a \$3 million 5-year R01 from the National Institutes of Health as Principal Investigator to advance care for melanoma, an aggressive form of skin cancer.

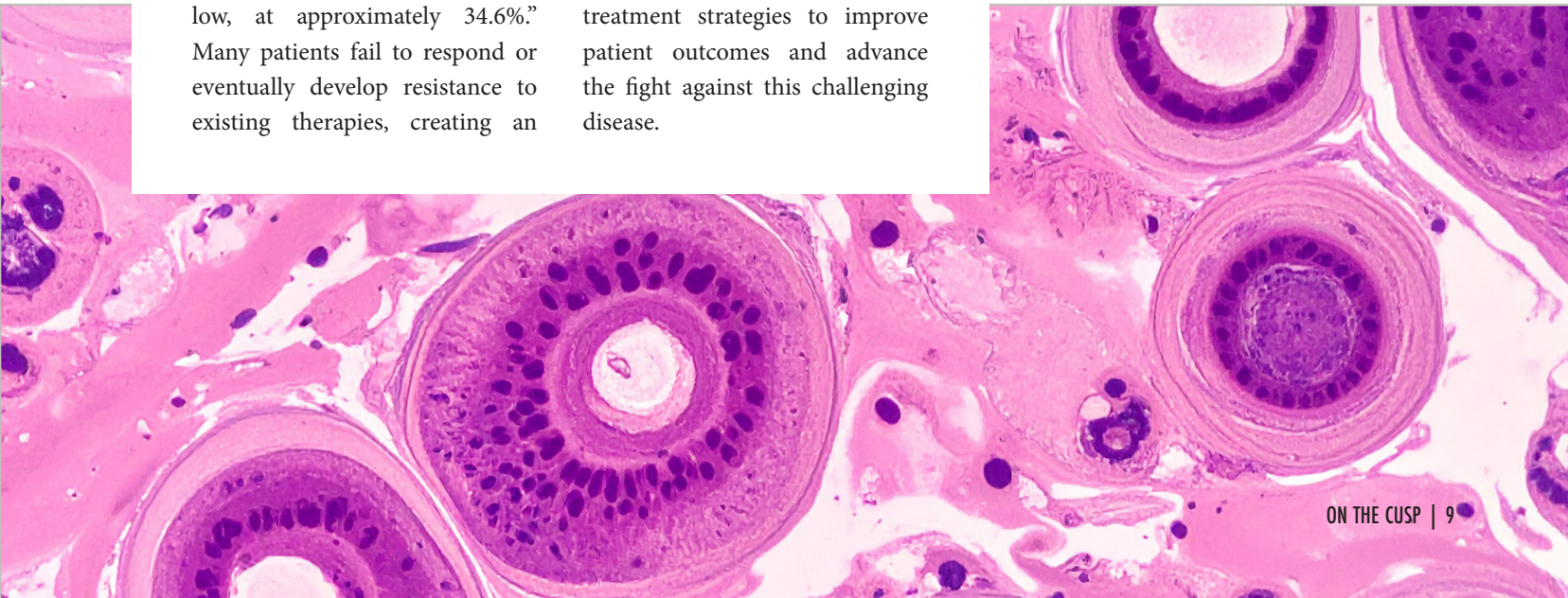
Yang, Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, is a clinical scientist with dual expertise in clinical pharmacy and basic research. In addition to providing direct patient care at City of Hope, her lab at CUSP develops novel treatments for cutaneous melanoma.

“Human cutaneous melanoma is one of the few cancers in which the incidence rate continues to increase. In 2025, approximately 104,960 new cases of invasive melanoma are expected to be diagnosed in the U.S.,” said Dr. Yang. “Despite the recent advances in immune and targeted therapies, the 5-year survival rate of the metastatic disease remains low, at approximately 34.6%.” Many patients fail to respond or eventually develop resistance to existing therapies, creating an

urgent need for new treatment options.

Yang’s research team has made significant advancements in understanding the role of neuronal nitric oxide synthase (nNOS) in melanoma development and disease progression. In collaboration with Richard Silverman, Ph.D., at Northwestern University and Jennifer Totonchy, Ph.D. at Chapman University, Yang’s work has yielded key insights into the development of small-molecule inhibitors targeting nNOS with the potential to enhance the anti-tumor activity of immunotherapy for patients diagnosed with melanoma.

As PI, Yang is leading a multidisciplinary team to develop a first-in-class small-molecule nNOS inhibitor for melanoma therapy. The findings have great potential, potentially transforming mechanistic insights into novel treatment strategies to improve patient outcomes and advance the fight against this challenging disease.



Headlines in High Impact Journals Reflect Nauli's Research Impact

The impact of scientists like Nauli on the progress of medicine and the power of science improves health care, increases patients' lifespan, and ultimately saves lives.

Each day, researchers push the boundaries of science in pursuit of new developments in medicine and human health. Faculty at CUSP, including Surya Nauli, Ph.D., are leading these developments to share with the world and have recently published in two different high-impact journals.

In scientific research, few journals are as respected within the medical profession as Science and Nature. One of Nauli's groundbreaking studies was recently published in Nature Communications, part of the Nature portfolio, with an impact factor of 14.7. This particular study reports that the function of progesterone receptor component-2 (PGRMC2) is essential for the heart's ability to adapt to physical stress, such as exercise and low-oxygen environments like high altitude. Without PGRMC2, the heart fails to function optimally, increasing the risk of damage and heart failure. The findings suggest PGRMC2 as a promising target for future therapeutic investigations.

Nauli's second study appeared in Bioactive Materials, a leading biomedical journal with an impact factor of 18.0. The research uncovers the discovery of cilia, a tiny, hair-like structure found on animal cells, as a novel method of drug delivery. Drug delivery with cilia may be able to reduce the biotoxicity of many drugs, as cilia exist naturally in the body and are therefore naturally biologically compatible. The implications are vast, especially for certain diseases linked to non-functional cilia, such as blindness, hypertension, and neurocognitive diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.



This research has significant potential for developing new drug delivery methods and commercial applications. Bioactive Materials has published this research as front-page news in their recent edition due to the impact of Nauli's findings, and his work is currently under consideration for patent application by Chapman University.

New developments in cardiovascular biology and pharmaceutical sciences inspire Chapman University researchers and faculty to further uncover new lifesaving applications and advance health.

Dustin Le Returns to Chapman University as Pharmacy Faculty

In June 2025, we were pleased to welcome Dustin Le, Pharm.D., as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice.

Le is the first faculty member in our young history to also be a CUSP alumnus after earning his Doctor of Pharmacy in 2020*. Before attending Chapman University, Le completed his Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience at the University of California, Riverside.

Le serves as the Lead Emergency Medicine Pharmacist at Rady Children's Hospital – Orange County, where he practices in the Emergency Department, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), and Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU). Prior to Rady Children's Hospital, Le served as a pharmacist in both the Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department at Harbor UCLA Medical Center.

In addition to his clinical role, Le teaches in Nephrology, collaborates with other colleges and schools at Chapman University for interprofessional events and educational activities, as well as serves as the faculty advisor for CSHP/ASHP-SSHP.

Le takes joy in mentoring Pharm.D. students in research, leadership, and professional development.

His contributions to pharmacy were recognized when he was named Pharmacist of the Year at CHOC (now, Rady Children's Hospital – Orange County) in 2023. His academic and clinical interests in emergency medicine, acute care pharmacotherapy, toxicology, and pediatrics make him a strong addition to our faculty.



*CUSP previously hired alumnus Michael Phan as Research Assistant Professor for a 1-year contract

LEADING INTERNATIONAL POLICY: GOAD'S GLOBAL IMPACT

Jeff Goad, Pharm.D., received several major awards in 2025 for his outstanding accomplishments and service in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry. Notably, Goad was inducted into the California Pharmacists Association's (CPhA) Hall of Fame and was the inaugural recipient of the International Society of Travel Medicine's (ISTM) Excellence and Achievement Award.

Goad's April 2025 induction into the CPhA Hall of Fame marks the organization's highest honor for career achievement. In CPhA's announcement, Goad is praised for his 25+ years of dedication to travel health, immunization services, and infectious disease prevention. In addition, CPhA mentioned his activity as a clinician in college travel health, his publications of over 90 articles and book chapters, and that he has presented at more than 350 conferences and seminars, in addition to educating thousands of students across healthcare.

ISTM honored Goad as the inaugural recipient of the Excellence and Achievement in Travel

Health Pharmacy Award. This award is granted biennially to only one individual whose work has a significant impact on clinical practice or research within pharmacy-based travel medicine. Goad also earned the title of Fellow from ISTM in April 2017, and has been a leading figure in travel health pharmacy throughout his career. As the current president of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (2024-2026) and founding chair of the ISTM PPG, he has provided leadership to the organization at both national and international levels.

"My passion always has been to advance pharmacy's role in immunization and travel medicine, making sure that pharmacists have a seat at the table in shaping public health. This recognition isn't about me, but the collective progress pharmacists have made in healthcare."

This year, Mike Pavlovich, Pharm.D., was also named to the CPhA Hall of Fame. Pavlovich is a longtime member of CUSP's Dean's Professional Advisory Board and previously served as a Trustee for APhA.



WANG EARNS TOP AI RESEARCH AWARD

Sherry Wang, Ph.D., is the winner of the Women in AI's AI Researcher of the Year Award (North America). This honor was presented on June 6 at the 2025 Women in AI Summit & Awards in Canada, which hosted hundreds of visionary minds who are responsible for advancing impactful applications of artificial intelligence.

This year's nomination pool saw over 250 nominations and was reviewed by a panel of 55 expert jurors from three countries. Wang was selected for her research leadership in Ethical Healthcare AI, a nod to both her technical contributions as well as her dedication to advancing applications of artificial intelligence in medicine.

At Chapman University, Wang hosts a research collaboration hub for scientists who leverage artificial intelligence in healthcare research to address critical challenges across the United States in areas including geriatrics, addiction, and drug delivery. This hub emphasizes mitigating algorithmic biases, developing



ethically grounded machine learning algorithms, and facilitating privacy-preserving data exchanges.

Currently, Wang's research investigates chronic disease management and addiction through healthcare delivery effectiveness using real-world data (RWD). Her research has been supported by artificial intelligence funds, including the National Institutes of Health's AIM-AHEAD program and the McGovern Foundation's McGovern Training Program in Trusted AI.

PREPARING TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

In one of California's largest safety-net hospitals, future pharmacists are presented unique challenges during experiential learning to provide compassionate, safe, and patient-centric care.

At Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, patients navigate medical complexities while also facing difficult realities like unstable housing, limited income, low health literacy, and living with chronic conditions that often go untreated for years. These challenges ask healthcare providers to think creatively and compassionately about how to provide specialized care, including Gary Fong, Pharm.D., a clinical preceptor, Assistant Professor, and Assistant Director of Experiential Education at Chapman University who practices in infectious diseases.

From an instructor's perspective, Fong sees the complexities as a valuable training opportunity.

"Working at Harbor is fulfilling because there is a sense that you are doing your best for patients who need it the most. The impact that your care can have on these patients is often life-changing. And for our students, that's where their growth happens. They don't learn what's just clinically correct, but learn how to care for people with real constraints."

As Fong teaches students how to interpret and

care for different, unique situations, he also faces a misconception in healthcare.

"There is often an assumption that the best treatment is the one most backed by evidence," he says. "But we need to ask, what's the 'best' for this patient, in this situation? It is not always the best idea to make a patient change their life so that it works for a first-line treatment plan, but instead, we should be critically evaluating the literature to see if an alternative option may be just as effective, given the circumstances. The best medication is the one that the patient can actually take."

In Infectious Diseases I, Pharm.D. candidates explore the science behind antibiotics and treating conditions such as skin infections and pneumonias. These are diseases that are very common across most populations, including patients Fong serves at Harbor. "We intentionally spend time talking about how to make antibiotic selections that work for patients beyond efficacy and safety," he says. "We ask, can they take it two times a day with food? Does it require refrigeration? These are limitations care professionals don't routinely consider for all patient populations."

Applied Pharmacokinetics informs students how to tailor doses using clinical parameters such as kidney function and weight. "At Harbor, we have a significant number of patients who are overweight and/or have chronic kidney disease. We also have a large patient population with varying degrees of amputation from diabetes-related complications or who are para- or quadriplegic from trauma like gunshot wounds. All of these factors, in addition to living situation and resources, mean a patient's dosing regimen may not follow a standard template."

During their third and final year, Pharm.D. students can put these lessons into practice by spending one of their six, six-week-long APPE rotations at Harbor. At Harbor, they may gain experience in ICU, neurology, infectious diseases, immunocompromised services, and other departments relevant to patient populations served at safety-net hospitals.

"Students typically work with patients on their own in the morning, then discuss their patients with me and the other preceptors before going on patient care rounds with the team. These rounds may take one to three hours daily. After our rounds, we debrief with our students and then follow up on needed items or questions asked by the team. We give students significant independence to develop confidence and clinical reasoning."

Independent thinking is especially important in safety-net hospitals, where best-practice care often means thinking beyond standard clinical guidelines.

"When a patient is discharged, it is our responsibility to come up with a treatment plan that works for the patient, not one that just works for us," Fong explains. "For patients who do not have stable housing, we have to consider avoiding medications that require

refrigeration or any special storage requirements. In selecting treatments, we need to be cognizant of the patient's insurance situation and how that impacts the affordability of medications. Patients are more likely to decline rather than advocate for themselves and ask for an alternative."

Cultural awareness is also essential. "A majority of our patients do not speak English as their first language, and many come from regions where infections often considered uncommon in the United States may be more common," Fong describes. "Patients also may use home remedies that affect how we prescribe. We have to adapt to their practices and must be extra diligent if prescribing a medication that requires more extensive counseling."

Through both his teaching at Chapman University and his clinical leadership at Harbor-UCLA, Fong is nurturing the next generation of pharmacists to think critically about each individual patient, one dose at a time.



Expanding The Role Of Pharmacists In Africa



In bridging continents and public health disciplines, Chapman University’s Jeff Goad, Pharm.D. and another pharmacy leader, John Gräbenstein, Ph.D., are redefining the role of pharmacists in global immunization efforts.

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and Population Services International (PSI) partnered with Goad and Gräbenstein to bring a proven U.S.-based immunization training model to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Ibadan, Nigeria. Over 100 pharmacists from the two participating countries learned vaccination skills using hands-on, practice-based training, using a modified version of the APhA certificate program that has already taught more than half a million pharmacists in the United States.

“Train-the-trainer” sessions led by Goad and Gräbenstein taught faculty from six universities and pharmacists from both chain and independent pharmacies, gaining both the tools to integrate immunization education into pharmacy curricula and into continuing education programs. Since

the training in August 2025, the program has already seen ripple effects as new educators are positioned to train others, consistently multiplying the ability to vaccinate for disease prevention across several regions of Africa.

While pharmacists in Ethiopia and Nigeria are not yet authorized to administer vaccines, initiatives like these make progress towards greater accessibility to life-saving vaccinations. The training projects in Nigeria and Ethiopia are paving the way to build the infrastructure necessary for policy change. By preparing now, these trainings ensure an educated workforce ready to deliver once regulations evolve.

Goad teaches courses in immunizations, travel medicine, and epidemiology at Chapman University, and is an international in pharmacy-based travel health services. Currently, he serves as the first pharmacist president of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. Gräbenstein also has Chapman University associations, and was the recipient of a 2019 Chapman honorary doctorate degree.



ASHP’s Leadership Scholars Grant Bridges Language Gaps

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Foundation has awarded Jennifer Ko, Pharm.D., the Pharmacy Leadership Scholars Grant for her project, “Fostering Patient-Pharmacist Concordance with Patients Who Speak Spanish”.

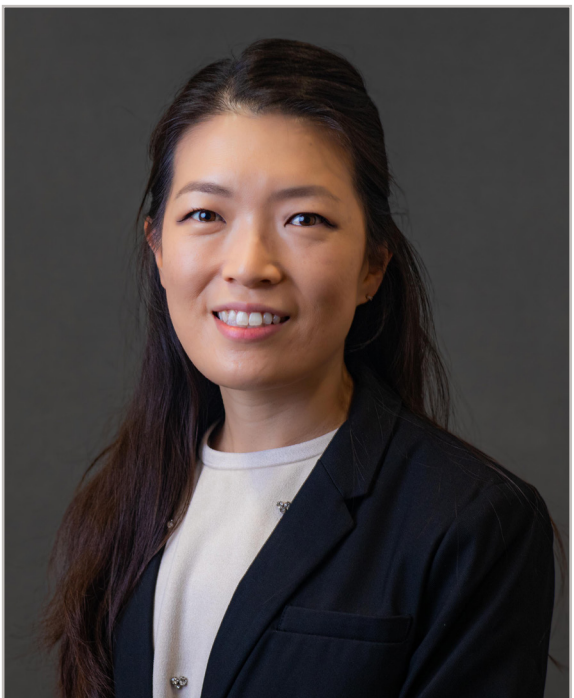
The project began investigation into how language concordance (LC) and concordance on health beliefs regarding medication-taking (CMT) between pharmacists and Spanish-speaking patients affects patient trust, starting in mid-2025. The research focuses on developing and validating a survey tool in Spanish to assess CMT as well as analyzing the relationship between LC and patient trust, and the outcomes will assist in the creation of training materials to enhance concordance in clinical pharmacy services for improved health outcomes in Hispanic populations.

By late 2025, the data is collected and preliminary analysis is being conducted.

“I’ve learned many lessons about working with patients with limited English proficiency (LEP) through this research project,” says Ko. “It has been rewarding to hear patient perspectives on the level of involvement they would like to have in care decisions, as well as the relationship patients would like to have with their clinical pharmacist. These perspectives have sparked exciting future research ideas. We have also experienced some unforeseen barriers related

to recruiting participants and communicating with participants about compensation. This invaluable feedback has helped us rethink processes to improve our research methods when working with LEP populations.

Other Chapman University School of Pharmacy faculty and staff are collaborating on this grant, including Jerika Lam, Pharm.D., Richard Beuttler, Psy.D, and Emmanuelle Schwartzman, Pharm.D., on the grant.



Formula for Teaching Innovation

Honored with the Excellence in Healthcare and Innovation Award by the Greater Irvine Chamber, Emmanuelle Schwartzman continues to shape the next generation of pharmacists.

Emmanuelle Schwartzman, Pharm.D., was honored with the Excellence in Healthcare and Innovation Award at the Greater Irvine Chamber’s annual event celebrating achievements in health care, medical technology and life sciences.

“I’m truly honored to receive the Excellence in Healthcare Executive Award from the Irvine Chamber of Commerce,” said Schwartzman. “It’s humbling to be recognized for work that I’m so passionate about—helping shape the future of pharmacy and

health care. This award is a reflection of the amazing colleagues, students and mentors who have inspired and supported me along the way. As chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Chapman University, I’m excited to keep pushing for progress and innovation in our field.”

Schwartzman has shaped the careers of health care professionals through innovative teaching and dedicated mentorship. Her leadership extends nationally as she has served as the president



of the Rho Chi Honor Society, the academic honor society for pharmacy, and serves as a practicing ambulatory care pharmacist serving underserved populations at a federally qualified health center.

Schwartzman’s expertise in health care communication has had important impacts on patient outcomes and interdisciplinary collaboration. She conducted extensive training on motivational interviewing and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), and her published works, including Assessing Communication Skills in Student Pharmacists and Transgender Patients – Communication Pearls for Pharmacists, have become invaluable resources for health care professionals.

A recognized leader in preceptor development, Schwartzman has trained more than 150 pharmacy students, mentored nearly 80 residents and fellows and provided hands-on clinical training

at her practice sites. She was named a Fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (FASHP) in 2022 for her contributions to the field.

Schwartzman’s efforts to enhance pharmacy education are highlighted through her previous role as a guest accreditor for ASHP, where she helped accredit pharmacy residency programs nationwide, and through her work on the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Aspiring Academics Advisory Committee, a committee focused on initiatives to encourage pharmacy students to pursue academic careers.

Schwartzman’s work continues to highlight CUSP’s role in advancing pharmacy education, preparing future health care leaders and supporting the continued growth and innovation in the health care field.

Kathleen Besinque Retires, Leaving Legacy of Legislative Advocacy and Dedication to Education



In August 2025, Kathleen “Kathy” Besinque, Pharm.D., retired from teaching following a distinguished 42-year career in pharmacy education. Besinque’s retirement was appropriately marked by being awarded the 2025 Pharmacist of the Year by California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP).

Besinque’s career is defined by her service and advocacy to the pharmacy profession,



and she is a nationally recognized expert in women’s health. Notably, Besinque is known for advancing pharmacy practice through legislative efforts, authoring language that enabled California pharmacists to furnish both emergency and self-administered hormonal contraception.

She was added to the California Pharmacy Hall of Fame by California Pharmacists Association (CPhA) in 2020, and is a Fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), CSHP, and CPhA, among other honors and awards. Her leadership includes serving as President of CPhA, Chair of the House of Delegates for CSHP, and holding dozens of leadership roles on a national scale.

Besinque earned her Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Long Beach, and subsequently received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Southern California (USC). Later in her career, Besinque returned to USC to pursue her Master of Science in Education. She completed her PGY-1

with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and USC Ambulatory Care. Immediately, Besinque began teaching at USC and then at Loma Linda University, serving in several roles, including Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Assessment.

Besinque’s tenure at Chapman University began in 2017, and her influence has been pivotal in shaping the evolution of CUSP. She has taught each of our cohorts, contributed to the Dean’s Council, and dedicated several years of service as the Assistant Dean for the Office of Experiential Education.

Following decades of teaching and advocacy, Besinque’s career is remembered for her commitment to advancing pharmacy practice and compassionate education. Besinque is looking forward to spending more time with her family, including recently-added grandchildren, but will remain active in the pharmacy community.



Mary Gutierrez, Psychiatric Expert, Retires After Decades of Teaching Excellence

After nearly 35 years of service in academia, Mary Gutierrez, Pharm.D., will be retiring in December 2025, concluding a career of expertise and commitment to advancing pharmacy. A nationally recognized authority in psychiatric pharmacy, Gutierrez has long been board-certified by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties and has contributed to the evolving practices of mental health care.

Gutierrez earned her Bachelor of Science from Pepperdine University and her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Southern California, where she also completed her residency and fellowship training in psychiatric practice.

Joining Chapman University in November 2014, Gutierrez taught each of our graduating Doctor of Pharmacy cohorts. Known affectionately as “Dr. G” by her students, she was voted Teacher of the Year by Pharm.D. candidates in both 2018 and 2022. Prior to CUSP, Gutierrez held faculty

appointments at Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy and the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy, where she was also recognized for her excellence in teaching and mentorship.

Her scholarly contributions include several dimensions of psychiatric practice, including numerous textbook chapters and peer-reviewed publications addressing mood disorders, drug-induced sexual dysfunction, and suicide prevention. Her particular advocacy for suicide prevention

and holistic well-being has influenced interdisciplinary mental health initiatives at Chapman University, leaving a lasting impact on both our students and the Rinker Health Sciences campus.

As Gutierrez prepares to close this chapter, Chapman University extends our deepest appreciation for her service, scholarship, and mentorship. She will be greatly missed, but her impact will be reflected in the students she mentored and colleagues she inspired for decades to come.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2025-2029



ENHANCE STUDENT EXPERIENCES AND SUCCESS

Building a supportive, diverse, and well-rounded student experience that empowers both academic and personal success and growth.

- Strengthen and provide support for programs and initiatives that support student mental and physical health and well-being.
- Foster a personalized, adaptable, and supportive advising experience to nurture and support students' academic success.
- Diversify program offerings to increase opportunities for networking with alumni, experiential learning opportunities, and professional development.



CULTIVATE A THRIVING, INCLUSIVE, FULFILLING WORKPLACE

Creating an environment where faculty and staff feel valued, supported, and empowered to contribute to a vibrant and collaborative workplace.

- Foster a culture that prioritizes employee well-being, encourages professional growth and development, and enables a healthy work-life balance.
- Cultivate an inclusive environment that ensures every employee feels respected, valued, and empowered to contribute their voice.
- Establish clear and consistent communication channels that promote transparency, trust, and open dialogue, empowering all employees to stay informed and engaged.
- Provide regular opportunities for staff and faculty to build relationships.



STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND REPUTATION

Deepening relationships with alumni, industry, and the community to elevate the school's impact and enhance opportunities.

- Build and expand strategic partnerships that increase community engagement, foster mutual success, and strengthen CUSP's reputation as a trusted and valued partner.
- Increase community and partner awareness by expanding CUSP's visibility and showcasing CUSP's achievements and impact in the local and extended community.
- Deepen engagement and cultivate lasting relationships with alumni, new, and existing donors.



ADVANCE CURRICULUM, RESEARCH, AND PRACTICE

Enhancing curriculum, research, and practice to prepare students for the evolving pharmaceutical industry and to position CUSP as a leader in innovation.

- Enhance and modernize curriculum for real-world impact by incorporating emerging trends and providing hands-on learning experiences that ensure students are well-prepared for diverse career paths in both traditional and non-traditional settings.
- Create and implement a focused, intentional research strategy that promotes innovation, supports Fellowships, and addresses critical health challenges, positioning CUSP as a leader in pharmaceutical research.
- Advance pharmaceutical practice by promoting collaborative, patient-centered care models that integrate cutting-edge technology to improve health outcomes.

Shaping the Future of Healthcare Delivery,
Chapman University Launches New Program:

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN REGULATORY AFFAIRS

This career-focused graduate degree is designed to train the rising generation of professionals driving biopharmaceutical and medical innovations efficiently and safely to international markets.



A new Master of Science in Regulatory Affairs (MSRA) program has launched at Chapman University School of Pharmacy, and will welcome its first cohort in fall 2026.

“The MSRA program uniquely blends science, policy, and legal standards, ensuring that innovative healthcare solutions reach patients safely and effectively,” says Marc Fleming, Ph.D., the Chair of the Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy department and who has been foundational to the program. “With our Rinker Health Science campus being located in one of the leading biotechnology regions, our MSRA program positions students to make an immediate impact in public health.”

INDUSTRY-FOCUSED DESIGN AND LEARNING

A satellite campus, the Harry and Diane Rinker Health Science Campus neighbors major industry leaders in Irvine, California, including Edwards Lifesciences, Johnson & Johnson, and Masimo. MSRA program students will have exceptional access to networking events, and mentorship opportunities that will supplement classroom learning. Even in the classroom, many courses will be taught by adjunct faculty who are seasoned industry professionals with decades of experience bringing hundreds of products



“Our MSRA program positions students to make an immediate impact in public health.”

- Marc Fleming, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair of
Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy

ADVISORY BOARD

Committed to the success of our students, these expert industry leaders support the next generation of regulatory affairs professionals.

They provide guidance on curriculum based on timely industry needs, secure networking opportunities for students, and assess program quality to ensure our graduates are career-ready upon graduation.

to patients—from discovery through post-market approval. The 30-credit program covers international and U.S. regulatory frameworks, FDA regulations, and emerging innovations in digital health.

Core courses include Biologic and Biosimilar Applications, Medical Device and Digital Health Regulations, and Biomedical Products Marketing, Pricing, and Reimbursement, and are supplemented with other elective credits to tailor their education to career goals.

Students will also complete experiential coursework. Integrating case studies that mirror real-world regulatory environments enables graduates to cultivate professional skills that demonstrate their applied expertise and industry readiness.

ADVANCING PUBLIC TRUST IN HEALTHCARE

Graduates of the MSRA program will be equipped for impactful careers in roles such as Regulatory Affairs Specialist, Quality Assurance Analyst, Compliance Officer, and Clinical Trials Coordinator, which average a national salary of \$136,550 (U.S. Department of Labor, 2025).

Our Advisory Board, composed of industry leaders from organizations including AbbVie and Applied Medical, helps ensure the curriculum remains career-focused, forward-thinking, and grounded in real-world practice.

Building on Chapman University School of Pharmacy’s long-standing commitment to patient safety, healthcare innovation, and scientific integrity, the MSRA program empowers graduates to advance public trust and drive responsible innovation that improves patient outcomes worldwide.



Robert Ashworth
aTyr Pharma



Scott Beggins
Edwards Lifesciences



Raina Dauria
Johnson & Johnson



Anna Feng
Applied Medical Resources Corp.



Linus Park
Masimo Corporation



James Wabby
AbbVie

Pacific Coast Patient Safety Conference

Revolutionizing patient safety, the CUSP and CSHP partnership fuels the trajectory of patient care

The 5th Annual Pacific Coast Patient Safety Conference (PCPSC) brought together healthcare professionals, patient safety officers, and academic leaders for in-depth discussions on advancing patient safety and optimizing medication safety protocols. Co-hosted by Chapman University and the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP), this year’s conference provided an advanced platform for interdisciplinary dialogue on clinical risk mitigation, healthcare quality improvement, and regulatory implications.

CREATING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

As a specialized boutique conference, PCPSC caters to professionals embedded or interested in pioneering patient safety initiatives, including pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, physicians, nurses, and safety officers. Attendees engaged in continuing education (CE) programming, peer-reviewed case

studies, and interactive policy discussions, all centered around integrating evidence-based safety measures into practice.

“Preventable harm is a critical issue, where people are dying more to poor healthcare than inaccess to healthcare. Healthcare environments remain high-risk, and providers often are wary of institutional retaliation when advocating for patient safety in reaction to a problem,” stated Martin Hatlie, J.D., President & CEO of Project Patient Care and former medical liability defense attorney, in his opening keynote. Hatlie addressed the lack of patient safety prioritization in national policy, emphasizing the need for Patient Safety Scores—a structured accountability measure obligating hospital leadership to proactively address preventable harm rather than passively meeting compliance benchmarks.

Helen Macfie, Pharm.D., retired Chief Transformation Officer for MemorialCare Health System and one of Becker’s Healthcare Top Patient Safety Experts, provided a firsthand account of the real-world impact of preventable medical errors. After losing her father to a patient safety surgical error, Macfie shared her story of how she was further galvanized as an existing healthcare professional to take patient safety even more seriously. “Patient safety cannot be reduced to a procedural checklist. A deeper, systems-based approach is necessary for risk mitigation,” she said, citing statistical data indicating a 25% likelihood of patient harm during a healthcare encounter over a patient’s lifetime, with a 12.5% probability of severe adverse events, a figure reported by the Health Foundation.

DATA ANALYTICS, EQUITY, AND SYSTEMIC RISK REDUCTION

This year’s sessions emphasized the role of predictive analytics, machine learning, and data-driven risk stratification in improving safety outcomes. Robin Betts, R.N., Vice President of Safety, Quality & Regulatory Services for Kaiser Permanente Northern California, outlined a 5-stage equity-centered implementation pipeline, illustrating how disparity analytics can pinpoint demographic-based variability in clinical outcomes. Betts included a recent study that detected disproportionate access delays in emergency care among Asian American populations, which cascaded into the impact of structured data

analysis in risk detection.

The closing keynote was delivered by Rita Jew, Pharm.D., President of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, who focused on closing gaps in practice areas and best practices to facilitate change in health-systems.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS AND CE OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to high-level policy discussions, PCPSC 2025 featured specialized technical sessions with applied strategies for improving patient safety infrastructure. Highlights included:

- “Low-Dose Aspirin for Preeclampsia Prevention: The Crucial Role of Pharmacists” by Sarah Vaillancourt, D.N.P., covering the latest USPSTF recommendations, risk stratification algorithms, and pharmacotherapeutic considerations in obstetric care.
- “Another Piece of the Cost Puzzle: Reducing Waste and Advancing Safe Medication Use” by John Hertig, Pharm.D., presenting literature supporting an institution-specific value proposition for the use of RTA prefilled syringes that benefit both the patient and providers.
- “Patient Safety in the Era of Unknowns” by Robert Imhoff, M.P.P., a forward-looking analysis of emerging safety threats, from AI-driven clinical decision support risks to unanticipated post-pandemic healthcare challenges.

ADVANCING PATIENT SAFETY RESEARCH

PCPSC encouraged researchers to display high-impact studies that span patient safety science, clinical pharmacology, and health-systems engineering. Poster presentations were displayed by rising patient safety professional students and well-versed medical experts, allowing for peer-reviewed discussions outside of sessions that covered practical innovations, predictive analytics applications, and real-world case studies of patient safety event mitigation.

As PCPSC 2025 concluded, attendee feedback indicated their perspective of the valuable sessions, posters, and passive programming, which fostered indelible conversations about patient safety and the need for a fundamental shift toward proactive, data-driven decision-making and cross-disciplinary accountability. Reza Taheri, Pharm.D., Senior Associate Dean of Chapman University School of Pharmacy, reflected on the conference’s ongoing evolution. “PCPSC has established itself as a premier forum for addressing patient safety from an operational, regulatory, and clinical perspective. This conference facilitates dialogue between researchers, frontline providers, and healthcare executives.”

Preparations are already underway for the 5th Annual PCPSC, which promises to expand on this year’s focus areas, incorporating next-generation safety technologies and regulatory policy advancements.



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

Join Us In Monterey, California!

Pacific Coast Patient Safety Conference
February 26-27, 2026
Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa
Monterey, California



INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PROTECT AGING HEARTS



As people grow older, their bodies often carry silent diseases. According to research published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, more than 70% of adults over 70 in the United States have at least one type of cardiovascular disease, which claims millions of lives annually. Two Chapman University School of Pharmacy faculty members, Surya Nauli, Ph.D., and Laura Tsu, Pharm.D., are uncovering innovative methods to minimize vascular diseases and conditions that disproportionately affect older adults.

Rather than accepting one-size-fits-all treatments, Nauli and Tsu are developing healthcare policies and therapies for solutions that are unique as the individuals seeking treatment.

“Our goal is to correct the cause of hypertension, not to treat the symptoms,” Nauli said. In his lab, his team of researchers are uncovering why vascular diseases, like hypertension and aneurysms, take such a heavy toll on older adults, and how therapies can be tailored to meet the diverse biological needs that come with aging. The research is rooted in a belief that no two patients age in the exact same way.

While Nauli focuses on the biology,

Tsu brings the pharmacist’s perspective to patients’ bedsides. Her research seeks to understand how medications behave differently in older bodies, and why that matters beyond providing some relief to cardiovascular conditions.

From managing high-risk therapies like anticoagulants to preventing life-threatening clots in elderly cancer patients, Tsu’s work prepares pharmacists to optimize medication use while also reducing complications. “Cardiovascular diseases, such as heart disease and stroke, are one of the highest causes of death and disability in older adults compared to general adults,” said Tsu. “It is very important that all healthcare providers are aware of how medications can work differently in older adults.”

Despite the prevalence of cardiovascular issues among older adults, universal treatments do not exist. Nauli notes on a particular disease, “a single-drug therapy alone cannot manage hypertension, but a combination of two drugs produces more effective results.” Chapman’s researchers continue to explore solutions that address the root causes of cardiovascular diseases, paving the way for improved patient outcomes for enhanced health and longevity.

DELIVERING LIFE-SAVING SKILLS WITH STOP THE BLEED

In life-threatening emergencies, every second matters, and our students know that mere moments can prevent fatalities. Each year, Chapman University School of Pharmacy students teach our neighbors throughout Southern California to have proactive responses and how to be active bystanders following traumatic events as part of the Stop the Bleed campaign.

Stop the Bleed is a national campaign to equip bystanders with the knowledge and confidence to manage severe bleeding in short periods. Recently, our Doctor of Pharmacy candidates led a hands-on training at an elementary school for the school’s teachers and students through practical exercises designed to build readiness for emergency situations. The event was planned ahead of National Trauma Awareness Month, but the impact of their instruction goes beyond a single day or classroom sessions.

“From a student perspective, it’s incredibly fulfilling to apply the Stop the Bleed training and have the opportunity to teach others,” recalls Kaylie Rozell, a first-year Pharm.D. student. “Participating in broader community events like this is especially meaningful because it helps equip people outside of healthcare with critical, life-saving skills. Although we all hope these skills are never needed in real life, being prepared and knowing how to respond can make all the difference in an emergency.”

CUSP has been participating in Stop the Bleed for several years now, and has taught hundreds of people strategies to take action in the event of severe bleeding until professional medical help arrives, with the hopes of having higher survival rates for victims of traumatic injury. As CUSP’s commitment to health is woven into our academic and patient-safety culture, students regularly lead outreach events similar to this to increase health literacy across diverse populations.



“...being prepared and knowing how to respond can make all the difference.”





Delivering Medical Innovations, One Step at a Time

Regulatory affairs is one of the most impactful careers in life sciences. Professionals intersect science, policy, and innovation to bring effective medical products to the market.

For Priyanka Dheer, MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chapman University School of Pharmacy offered a uniquely supportive environment to explore regulatory affairs during her time as a Master's student. Courses like Ethics, Regulation, and the Pharmaceutical Pipeline and Biopharma Regulatory Economics and Policy connected her technical knowledge to global healthcare systems, patient access, and commercial strategy.

Beyond coursework, rotations with pharmaceutical policy experts like Enrique Seoane-Vazquez, Ph.D., introduced her to trends facing cardiovascular devices, sparking an interest in the innovative opportunities in regulatory affairs. Another mentor, Marc Fleming, Ph.D., helped her design a capstone project that merged her interests in digital health and medical devices to study physician awareness of digital therapeutics in treating opioid use disorder.

"It was incredibly motivating to work with a mentor who not only guided my academic development but also made space for my professional goals," says Dheer. "Dr. Fleming took the time to understand my

passion for medical devices and digital health and pushed me to consider opportunities for publication or presentation."

PURSUING A CAREER IN REGULATORY AFFAIRS

While Dheer graduated from CUSP in 2024 with her Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences, she sees CUSP's new Master of Science in Regulatory Affairs (MSRA) as a powerful opportunity for future professionals interested in the industry.

"The regulatory landscape is growing more complex and globalized, and employers increasingly seek professionals who not only understand the science behind products but also the regulations that govern them," Dheer says. "A dedicated MSRA degree provides deeper and more structured exposure to essential areas like regulatory strategy, submissions, quality systems, and post-market surveillance, all skills that are directly applicable to real-world roles in pharma, biotech, and medical devices."

She adds that the regulatory affairs program will add to what already makes Chapman University unique. "One of the standout aspects of Chapman University is the faculty's deep connection to industry. Not only do they bring their own professional experience into the classroom, but they also frequently invite guest

speakers from industry— regulatory professionals, quality experts, and leaders from pharma and medtech companies— who share real-world challenges and case studies."

A DAY IN THE LIFE

At Hamilton Company, Dheer begins each day by reviewing updates from global and national agencies like the Food and Drug Administration as well as regulators in Europe, where the company's products are shipped to. While she starts most days the same, she is ready for the new, unexpected challenges each day presents.

"No two days are exactly alike, which makes the role both dynamic and intellectually engaging," she says. Dheer is part translator, part strategist, and part detective as she collaborates with engineering, quality, and manufacturing teams to prepare regulatory standards that ensure compliance with international standards.

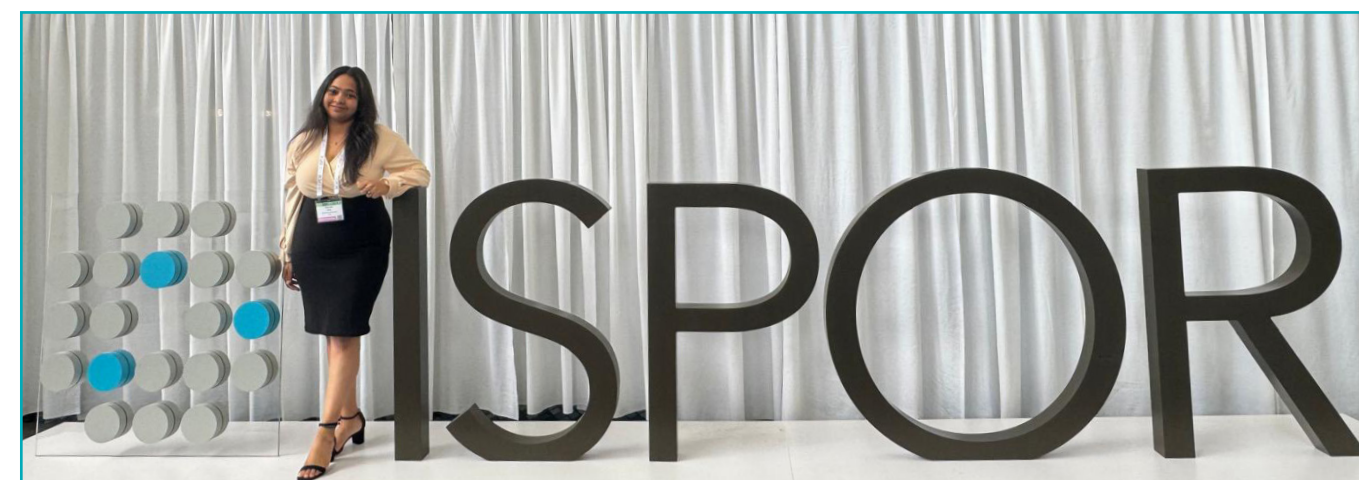
"The role demands a combination of big-picture thinking and meticulous attention to detail. It's about bringing together science, engineering, and regulatory

knowledge to support the delivery of safe, reliable, and high-quality robotic laboratory instruments to customers around the world."

BUILDING CAREER-READY SKILLS

At Chapman, Dheer believes students are set-up for immediate success after graduation. As she reflects at her time at CUSP, Dheer recalls three major lessons that continue to serve her in her role at Hamilton Company.

- Teamwork matters: "It's not just about dividing tasks, it's about building trust, actively listening, and aligning on a common goal to produce high-quality outcomes."
- Be adaptable: "Things don't always go as planned—whether it's shifting timelines, unexpected challenges, or new information, and being flexible and solution-oriented is crucial to moving forward."
- Think big, act with precision: "It's important to see the broader purpose of a project or decision, but at the same time, ensure that the execution is precise and thorough."



Bridging Scientific Discovery with Thoughtful Care

After mastering the art of scientific discovery, Taran Harris returned to the classroom to unite her passion for research with direct patient care.

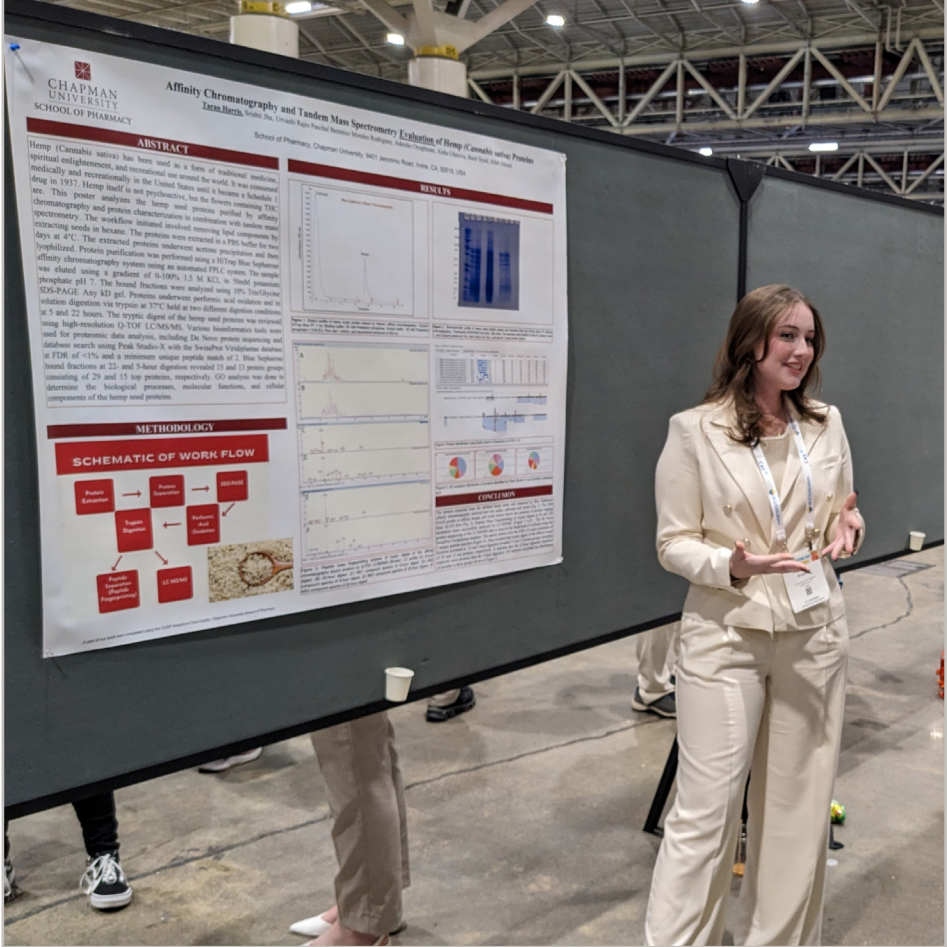


When Taran Harris first stepped onto Chapman University as a Master of Science student, she couldn't imagine how far that initial step could take her. What began as a curiosity about the complexities of protein interactions during her MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences inspired her to pursue a Doctor of Pharmacy immediately afterward.

"The research experiences I gained during my master's are now the foundations of my scientific curiosity and success as a Doctor of Pharmacy student," Taran shares. "It helped me grow confidence as a communicator and as a scientist that can look beyond implications discovered in the lab."

Her time at CUSP has taken her far, literally. Taran has traveled to national meetings and international symposiums, and presented her research in different continents. "Presenting at conferences taught me to effectively communicate my research findings to a wide range of audiences, and to distill complex information into engaging and understandable presentations."

Taran's research journey began in the MSPS program and continues now as a Pharm.D. student. Working under the guidance of Aftab Ahmed, Ph.D., Taran's research focuses on the proteomics profiles of hemp proteins extracts, investigating their anticancer effects on breast cancer cells. In essence, she studies how proteins (the tiny "building blocks" in our cells) function, change, and interact with other proteins within cells, with the hope of uncovering new cancer therapies.



"Earning my MSPS at CUSP was an incredible experience. The small cohort of students and professors created a close-knit environment where collaboration and freely asking for help were encouraged."

"My faculty mentors are the ones who make the research I participate in possible," Taran says. In addition to Ahmed, she also credits Innokentiy "Inno" Maslennikov, Ph.D., and Keykavous Parang, Ph.D., Pharm.D., and other members of her thesis committee for shaping her as a researcher and professional.

When it came time to decide on her next step, Taran wanted to continue her journey at Chapman University. Before starting the program, she revealed that the "Pharm.D. at Chapman University appealed to me because it offers respect, strong earning potential, and opportunities in both industry and clinical settings. This enables me to blend my love of science with my passion for patient care, the best of both worlds."

Currently amid her time as a Pharm.D. student, Taran is confident that the MSPS and Pharm.D. programs were the right choice for her career goals. "The Pharm.D. has helped me further explore my passion for patient care through my IPPE and APPE rotations. The rigor of the program has taught me resilience that I can translate into all areas of my life, from personal relationships to career excellence goals".

At CUSP, that blend of research and real-world clinical application is by design. Our faculty develop mentor-mentee relationships and empower open communication with our students.





Pharm.D. Graduates Find Success in Residency and Fellowship Placements

26 ASHP PGY-1
Residency Matches

10 ASHP PGY-2
Residency Matches

3 Fellowships

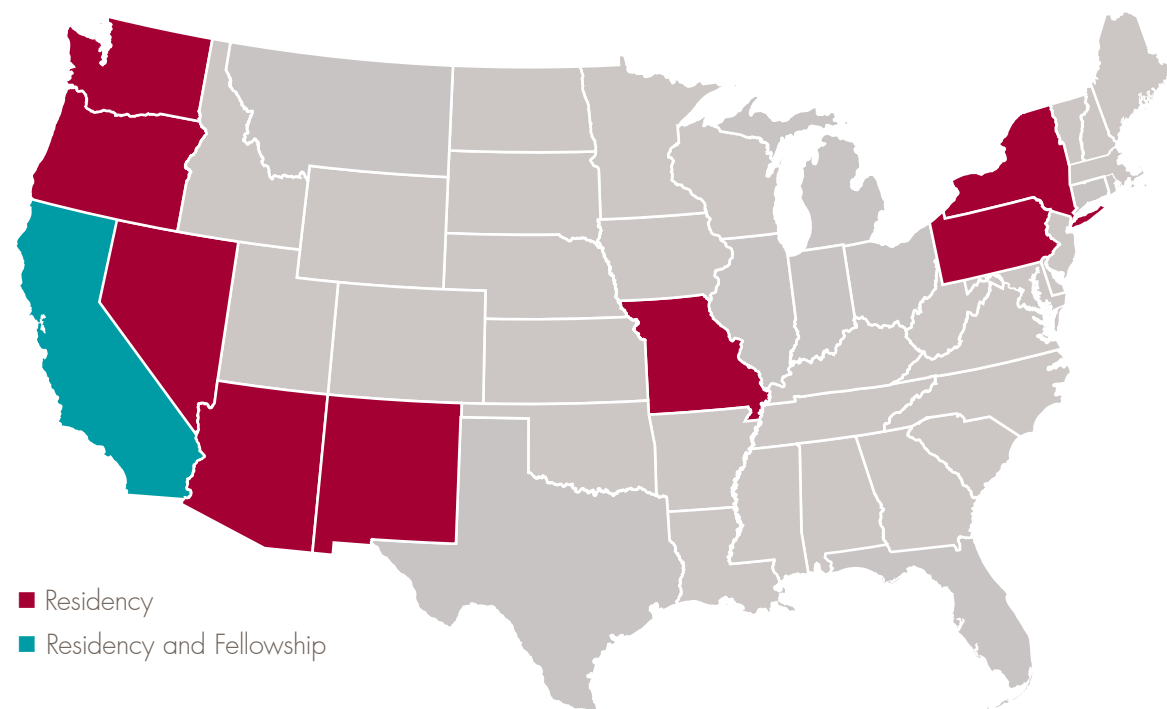
We are proud to announce our Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2025 early career successes. Many who chose to pursue post-graduate residency and fellowship training succeeded, including placements in states across the country such as California, Arizona, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington.

Closing our 10th academic year in spring 2025, our eight classes of alumni continue to bring their expertise and personalized, patient-safety-focused care to health systems across the United

States.

“I am so proud of our students and their accomplishments,” says Jelena Lewis, Pharm.D., and Director of Residency and Fellowship Programs at CUSP. “I know they all worked hard, and now the hard work is paying off.”

Our faculty are excited for CUSP alumni to begin the next stage of their professional training and know our graduates will continue to uphold the shared mission of CUSP to improve patient outcomes across diverse practice settings.



Congratulations, Class of 2025!



Welcome, Pharm.D. Class of 2028!

With cheers from family, friends, and future colleagues filling the Musco Center, 68 Chapman University School of Pharmacy students took their first steps toward becoming pharmacists at the 2025 White Coat Ceremony.

This annual tradition is a rite of passage for many rising healthcare professionals as the ceremony marks the beginning of their accelerated Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and is comprised of individuals who will certainly commit to the belief in patient care, integrity, and lifelong learning. Many are multilingual, some are first-generation, some are Chapman University alumni, and some have several years of healthcare experience already, including founding pharmacies, holding pharmacy technician roles, and hosting healthcare fairs. While no two students share the same story, they all took the Oath of the Pharmacist and dedicated themselves to the safety, wellbeing, and advocacy of their patients.

“You are stepping into one of the oldest and most trusted health professions,” said Senior Associate Dean Reza Taheri, Pharm.D. “You will be called upon to act with integrity, professionalism, and compassion in all aspects of your life- inside and outside the classroom, in the workplace, and in your personal relationships.



Every interaction is a reflection of the pharmacist you are becoming.”

Other notable speakers included:

- Loriann De Martini, Pharm.D., CEO of the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists
- Lilia Xu, Pharm.D., VP of Strategic Development at California Pharmacists Association
- Sara Kurd-Misto, Pharm.D., Chair of the Alumni Advisory Board
- Paul Huynh, Pharm.D., Healthcare Supervisor at Walgreens

The White Coat Ceremony also honors a healthcare leader who exemplifies the highest standard of professionalism, entrepreneurialism, and compassion in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences with the Gavin Herbert Award. Kathy Giacomini, Ph.D., was honored as the 2025 recipient for a multitude of career accomplishments, including her groundbreaking research on bridging the relationship between pharmacogenomics and precision medicine in shedding light on how genetic variation influences drug efficacy.

In just three years, the Class of 2028 will graduate with their Doctor of Pharmacy and prepare to take the NAPLEX licensure exam.



70.6%
Female

68
Incoming Pharm.D. Students

53.6%
Former Accelerated Pre-Pharmacy Experience Program (APEx) Students

91.2%
Local To California



A Message from Sophia Azab, Class of 2026 Cohort President

As the Class President for the Class of 2026, it has been an incredible privilege to represent my cohort and grow alongside a group of compassionate and driven future pharmacists.



My cohort and I agree that our experience at Chapman University School of Pharmacy has been defined by a balance of scientific rigor and community, and that each trimester has presented challenges that test our knowledge, resilience, and curiosity.

What has truly distinguished my experience at CUSP is the faculty who taught me to embrace these challenges and the peers who inspire me to strive for excellence. As I prepare to graduate with my Doctor of Pharmacy and take the NAPLEX exam, I can't help but reflect on my time at CUSP.

CUSP's excellence begins in the classroom, where I spent two years immersed in didactic courses that built the foundation of my clinical knowledge. My professors' expertise and dedication to student learning shaped not only how I think as a clinician, but also my approach to leadership and problem-solving and in my leadership style.

CUSP models a team-based learning style, providing a unique opportunity to collaborate with each individual

in the cohort. I've come to see my classmates as future colleagues who will undoubtedly redefine the pharmacy profession.

Beyond academics, CUSP offers countless opportunities to impact the Chapman University community. In addition to serving as Class President, I held a board position in our student chapter of the Industry Pharmacists Organization, which became a very rewarding part of my experience. One of my favorite memories was helping organize a student event that welcomed Dr. Ethan Melillo, TikTok's favorite medication expert. He shared his insights about his role as a pharmacist in CeraVe and La Roche-Posay, where he works to advocate for skin health solutions in unique patient populations.

As I write this, I am completing my second Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience with CUSP's own Dr. Moom Roosan in an academia setting. This experience has allowed me to make patient interventions through a genetic counseling company and contribute to the development of pharmacogenomics course materials.

With this rotation, I see firsthand how technology and

personalized medicine are transforming the landscape of pharmacy education and patient care, which is truly a valuable perspective to have as a young professional.

Each rotation I have completed has offered unique lessons, but the ones combining patient interaction with innovative science and technology have been especially meaningful. Most importantly, Chapman has provided a community of peers and mentors who encourage me to lead, grow, and learn. I am deeply grateful to my family, friends, and faculty for their support throughout my academic journey.

As I look toward graduation, I am filled with excitement to walk across the stage alongside my incredible cohort, proud to call myself a future pharmacist.

With Panther Pride,

Sophia Azab

Class President
Class of 2026



IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL, STUDENT PHARMACISTS LAY FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE



During summer 2025, three student pharmacists flew across the United States to speak with policymakers regarding legislative agenda items.

The policies on the table, including H.R. 3164, have benefits and consequences for patients from the state of California to the Atlantic.



Student pharmacists shaped the future of healthcare in the nation's capital as part of the Summer Leadership Institute (SLI).

Hosted by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), CUSP students Elena Wu (Vice President of Patient Care), Harvey Duong (OCPhA/CPhA Liaison), and Tien Dinh (APhA-ASP Regional Delegate) attended this year's SLI, where their ideas, voices, and advocacy efforts left a lasting impression.

This weekend conference prepares rising APhA chapter officers for their leadership roles in leading their chapters to a year of success. At this conference, pharmacy students from across the nation attend a series of educational workshops focused on leadership skill development, networking between chapters, and engage with their U.S. Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill.

Chapman students stood out not only for their professionalism but also for their genuine passion for patient safety and making pharmacy accessible. Wu, Duong, and Dinh all recalled David Stollman's "Recruitment Bootcamp" workshop as especially impactful and took his discussions to heart. "Stollman's workshop focused on how to recruit students in a more personal and meaningful way. He encouraged us to build real connections with the key message to recruit with purpose, not pressure."

While in D.C., the students spoke with policymakers and listened in on deliberations for pharmacy-related legislation. They met with congressional staffers from the offices of Congressman Derek Tran, Congressman J. Luis Correa, and Congresswoman Young Kim to advocate for two items:

- H.R. 3164: Ensuring Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act (ECAPS), which would enable pharmacists to be reimbursed as non-physician providers under Medicare Part B for test-and-treat services of RSV, COVID-19, influenza, and strep throat.
- PBM Reform Act, which would improve transparency of costs, reduce patient costs, and protect independent pharmacies.

"What made this experience especially meaningful was being surrounded by student leaders who share a deep commitment to the advancement of the profession," recalls Dinh. All three students shared that attending SLI grew them immensely as emerging pharmacy professionals and noted that the chance to connect with other student pharmacy leaders and guest lecturers was invaluable.

At CUSP, our students steer the future of healthcare by being civically engaged and by interacting with patients early in their studies, which affects their future career, patient care, and pharmacy as an industry.

Chapman Takes California Gold

Competing among 14 schools and colleges of pharmacy in California, Chapman University emerged triumphant in competitions and awards based on knowledge, creativity, and a commitment to the profession at the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists annual seminar.



QUIZ BOWL CHAMPIONS

For the fourth time, the CUSP Quiz Bowl team earned first place for their quick reasoning in the fast-paced, Jeopardy-style competition. Led by team captain Jennifer Le, Chapman Pharm.D. students were tested on topics including child and adolescent psychiatry, critical care, heart failure, infectious diseases, and pharmacy law and ethics. Team members included Bonnie Chen, Tien Dinh, Goldie La, Vivian La, Kayla Linh, Rachel Nguyen, Mia Pham, Katelyn Truong, and Misty Vu. Chapman previously won in 2023, 2022, and 2019.

MUSIC VIDEO COMPETITION

CUSP captured first place in the CSHP Music Video Competition for their video, “Sync With Me,” which explored this year’s conference theme, “Exploring Possibilities: Together in Sync.” The video mirrored the innovative spirit of pharmacy professionals as they adapt to new technologies and collaborative care models in a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape. Directed by Clare Dinh, the student team members included Vivian Nguyen, Yasamin Rahemi, Nanami Yokoyama, Taryn Jim On, Mariana Velarde-Alvarez, Alyssa

Tat, Bianca To, Haley Lorenz, Seoyun “Yuna” Lim, Ashley Duong, Michelle Swe, and several faculty members. Chapman previously won in 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2018.

Faculty and students also received several non-team-based awards for their continuing and historical service to the profession. Although announced in previous months, Kathleen “Kathy” Besinque, Pharm.D., Emmanuelle Schwartzman, Pharm.D., and Misty Vu, Pharm.D. candidate, were honored at the conference-wide award ceremony.

PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR AWARD HONORS BESINQUE

CSHP’s most prestigious award, Pharmacist of the Year, is awarded annually to one member who has made significant and sustained contributions to the pharmacy practice in California. Besinque was awarded for her 40+ year career of service, her expertise, advocacy, and legislative efforts in women’s and reproductive health, mentorship of thousands of pharmacy students, and leadership of evolving educational landscapes in pharmacy schools and colleges. Besinque retired from her outstanding career with Chapman University earlier this year, but continues to teach on a part-time basis.

SCHWARTZMAN RECEIVES THE PRACTITIONER RECOGNITION PROGRAM AWARD

Emmanuelle Schwartzman is one of five pharmacists to receive this competitive award in 2025, which honors active members of CSHP of at least 10 years and their commitment to the profession through service in education, leadership, professional or scientific publications, serving as a mentor and role model, and fulfilling the spirit of serving patients with care.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD RECOGNIZES MISTY VU

CSHP selected Misty Vu as the recipient of the Student Leadership Award for demonstrating outstanding leadership, engagement, and commitment to advancing the pharmacy profession through her involvement in CSHP and other professional activities.



EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

CUSP contributed to the conference by leading several sessions. Some highlights included:

- Guiding with Purpose: Coaching for Learner Growth and Professional Identity, led by Kathleen Hill-Besinque and Emmanuelle Schwartzman
- Resistant Doesn't Mean Untreatable: Evidence-Based Use of New Antibiotics for MDR Gram-Negative Bacteria, led by Amy Kang
- Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: Current State and Future Possibilities, led by Reza Taheri

Several students and faculty displayed their research posters throughout the conference. These displays included evaluative studies, research in progress, practice innovations, and case vignettes.

Our students' ongoing and annual successes are made possible through Chapman University's dedicated faculty, particularly Jerika Lam, Pharm.D., Mary Gutierrez, Pharm.D., Amy Kang, Pharm.D., Dustin Le, Pharm.D., and Laura Tsu, Pharm.D..

Chapman University's continued success at the statewide seminar reflects our academic and professional strength, as well as our commitment to collaboration, mentorship, and innovation.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE CSHP SEMINAR 2026 IN ANAHEIM, CA!



Ghattas Serves on American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Advisory Group

Alumna Katherine Ghattas, Pharm.D., was selected to serve as a Member of the ASHP Pharmacy Student Forum Advisory Group on Advancement of Professional Practice for the 2024-2025 term.

Katherine was selected from a record number of applicants for her proven leadership skills and genuine interest in helping her peers access professional growth opportunities. Currently, Katherine is completing her PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program at Reading Hospital.

“This role allows me to collaborate, advocate, and contribute to supporting and elevating the profession.”

to address challenges faced by pharmacy students nationwide. As part of the advisory group, she enjoyed collaborating with peers to create initiatives that positively impact students' well-being, helping them navigate challenges like burnout and stress, while impacting the profession.

“I am excited about the opportunity to continue growing as a leader through the Advancement of Pharmacy Practice Advisory Group, where I can make a meaningful impact on the wellness and resilience of my pharmacy peers,” Katherine said upon her appointment. “This role allows me to collaborate, advocate, and contribute to supporting and elevating the profession. I am incredibly grateful for the guidance of my mentors, especially Dr. Lewis, whose support and encouragement have inspired me throughout my time at Chapman!”

Katherine graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy in 2025 as part of the Leadership Emphasis cohort. During her time at CUSP, she served as an officer for several student organizations during the 2023-2024 school year. As a Pharm.D. student, Katherine contributed to initiatives supporting her peers in Chapman University's accelerated program.

Acknowledging the pressures of the rigorous program, she chose to focus on wellness and resilience for her role in the ASHP Pharmacy Student Forum Advisory Group and saw this as a unique opportunity to develop resources, like infographics, podcasts, and encouraging messages,



CUSP CONNECT BECOMES HUB FOR LIFELONG CAREER SUCCESS

Launched in 2024, CUSP Connect is Chapman University School of Pharmacy’s exclusive career and networking platform, designed to support students and alumni from their first day of pharmacy school through decades after graduation. The digital platform has reshaped how our students and alumni navigate career development by granting direct access to employers, mentorship, and professional growth opportunities.

Through CUSP Connect, users gain immediate entry to tailored resources including job boards, individualized employer contacts, one-on-one career coaching, CV and letter-of-intent templates, and Chapman’s broader Panther Network. We offer lifelong career services for our alumni on

CUSP Connect, which also allows Chapman University to connect them to school events, volunteer opportunities, and job openings.

The first year of CUSP Connect showed the incredible demand and results, including:

- 90%+ of current CUSP students enrolled
- 400+ jobs posted
- 300+ internships posted
- 127 career and professional events hosted by 33 organizations
- 191 employers/companies registered on the platform

Employers are feeling benefits too, some experiencing almost immediate return on their engagement. It is common for job postings, including a recent Genentech Pharmacovigilance Clinical Scientist role, to receive multiple outstanding applications within days.

Chapman alumnus, Ramsey Halim, Pharm.D. ’20, posted positions for John’s Shop Rite Pharmacy & Medical Supply and hired both a Class of ’24 and Class of ’27 Panther directly through CUSP Connect.

Christopher Vu, Pharm.D. ’23, has also posted roles and contributes to the strong Chapman-to-Chapman hiring pipeline. Their pharmacy staffing team is now almost entirely composed of Chapman University School of Pharmacy alumni.

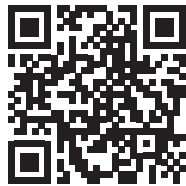
Our Ph.D. and MS programs are expanding

their industry footprint through CUSP Connect as well. In summer 2025, several Ph.D. students and candidates secured regional opportunities and internships with local partners like Siegfried, located next door to the Rinker Health Science campus.

CUSP Connect allows our students and alumni to see upcoming opportunities instantly, and fosters long-term communication with our growing alumni body. CUSP Connect provides students and graduates lifelong professional support, and continues to grow every year.

Are you an employer ready to connect with our students and alumni?

Scan this QR code or visit <https://cusp.12twenty.com/hire>



Panthers receive the highest level of support throughout their time at Chapman University School of Pharmacy. This is only made possible by our strongest supporters, including industry partners, alumni who return as mentors, and families who kindly donate to CUSP’s mission to create the next generation of pharmacists. We would like to recognize and thank the following organizations and families in supporting our student body’s greatness.



The Sethi family
The Matharu family

Josephine Herbert Geiss Foundation
Jusdeep’s Legacy Community Care

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