

# Social & Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program Newsletter

## Congratulations 2017 Graduates

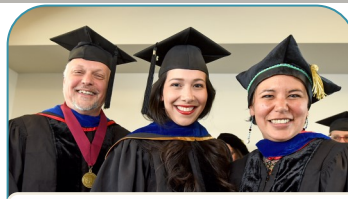


The College of Pharmacy Graduate Hooding Ceremony took place on May 6, 2017 at the TCF Bank Stadium.

Pictured L to R: **Tim Stratton**, Professor; **Ron Hadsall**, Professor; **Don Uden**, Professor; **Jon Schommer**, Professor; **Kristen Janke**, Professor; **Basma Gomaa**, PhD Grad; **Caroline Gaither**, Professor; **Claire Kolar**, PhD Grad; **Raquel Rodriguez**, Asst Professor; **Sirikan Rojanasarot**, PhD Grad; **Chris Jolowsky**, Asst Professor; **Lucy Johnson**, MS Grad; **Bruce Benson**, Asst Professor; **Miigis Gonzalez**, PhD Grad; **Rebecca St Germaine**, PhD Grad; **Michelle Johnson-Jennings**, Assoc Professor; **Marilyn Speedie**, Dean; **Wendy St Peter**, Professor; **Esam El-Fakanany**, Assoc Dean; **Jesse Peterson**, MS Grad (not pictured)



Basma, Siri, Rebecca, Claire



Miigis Gonzalez, PhD (center)



Lucy Johnson, MS



Claire Kolar, PharmD, PhD Grad Student Speaker

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## Director of Graduate Studies Message



Jon Schommer,  
PhD

Hello SAPH Colleagues,

Through generous financial support from our alumni, our program will be able to award a SAPH Alumni Fellowship to one of our program's graduate students starting in 2018. The purpose of the SAPH Alumni Fellowship is to recognize, on an annual basis, a PhD student in the Social & Administrative Pharmacy Program at the University of Minnesota who exemplifies the qualities and aspirations of one of the various content areas in SAPH and to encourage continued growth toward a career of excellence.

I invite you to make a financial contribution to help the SAPH Alumni Fellowship Fund grow even more. For your gift of \$100.00 or more, we will send a SAPH medallion as a token of appreciation. The SAPH Medallion is a way of showing appreciation and also a way of celebrating the connection we have through the SAPH graduate program.

More information about this fellowship -- and how you may donate to the fellowship fund -- can be found on page 11.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jon C. Schommer'.

Thank you for making a difference!

## 2017 Graduates

**Miigis Gonzalez**, Pharm D, **PhD Thesis:** *Exploring community and cultural opportunities to decrease substance abuse among American Indian youth: A photo voice project*

**Lucy Johnson**, MA, **MS**, Thesis Projects: (1) Group purchasing of pharmaceuticals through a prime vendor and (2) How 'track-and-trace' regulation may help fill gaps in the pharmaceutical supply chain.

**Claire Kolar**, PharmD, **PhD Thesis:** *Across the Patient Care Practitioner Threshold: Identifying Threshold Concepts and Evaluating the Teaching of the Pharmacists' Patient Care Process*

**Trung Nguyen** **PhD Thesis:** *Using Random Forest Model for Risk Prediction of Hospitalization and Re-hospitalization Associated with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease*

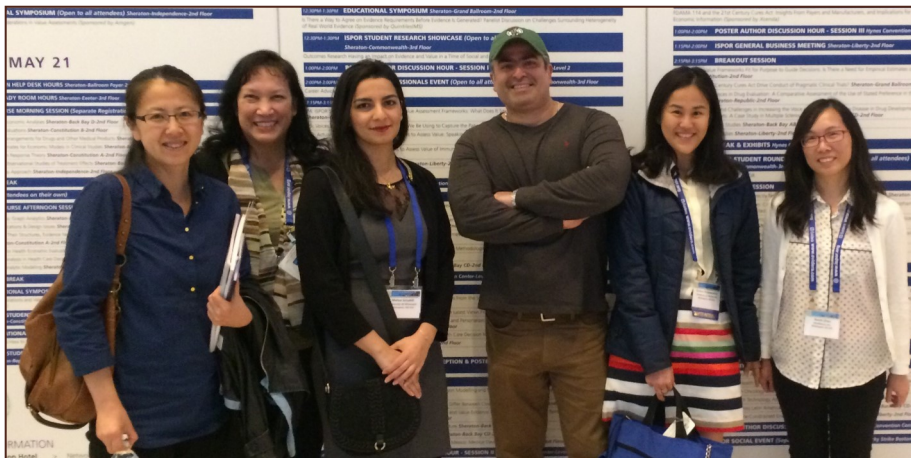
**Jesse Peterson**, PharmD, **MS**, Thesis: *The value of therapy management in a health-system owned specialty pharmacy*

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



**Jesse Peterson (center)** successfully defended his MS projects on May 15, 2017, in the areas of Specialty Pharmacy Practice and the Regulatory Landscape for Biosimilars. Committee members included: Holly Budlong (co-advisor), Tim Affeldt (co-advisor), Jon Schommer, and Robert Straka.

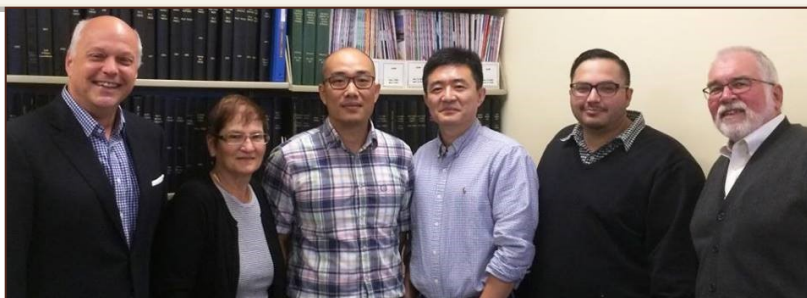
# Student News



## ISPOR 22nd Annual International Meeting

SAPh students and alumni attended the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 22nd Annual International Meeting on May 20-24, 2017 in Boston, Massachusetts. Pictured above L—R: Julie Zhao, Rebecca St Germaine, Mahsa Salsabili, Kashayar Memari, Sirikan Rojanasarot, Rhuizi Zhao ('16 PhD Alum).

**Sirikan Rojanasarot** received the ISPOR Distinguished Service Award. The award is presented to student chapter presidents who represent students in the ISPOR Student Council and contribute significantly to the Health Economics and Outcomes Research Community. Sirikan served as Chair of Membership Outreach Committee of the ISPOR Student Council and the president of UMN ISPOR Student Chapter in the 2016-2017 academic year.



**Trung Nguyen** Becomes the 150th PhD Graduate in the SAPh Graduate Program  
On September 26, 2017, Trung Nguyen successfully defended his dissertation in which he applied random forest modeling for investigating determinants of hospitalization in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary



## Student News



### **PCHS and SAPH Faculty and Students Attended APhA2017 in San Francisco**

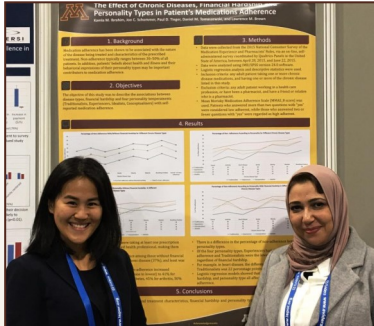
From March 23 through March 28, numerous PCHS and SAPH faculty and students attended the APhA Meeting in San Francisco, CA. Each year, the University of Minnesota, College of Pharmacy has an active presence at this meeting.



### **SAPH Visiting Scholar**

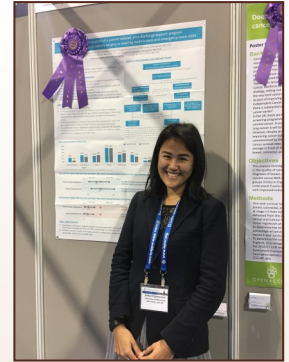
**Dr. Li Yang** from Shenyang University, China was part of our graduate program this past year. The focus of her research is on Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy and the Socio-Behavioral aspects of medication use.

## Student News



### The Glasgow ISPOR 20th Annual European Congress 2017

SAPh Graduate Students, Sirikan Rojanasart and Kamla Ibrahim, presented their research posters at the ISPOR 20th Annual European Congress in Glasgow, Scotland during November 2017.



### 2017 AACP Walmart Scholars

**Anthony Olson** and **Bethany Von Hoff** were selected as AACP Walmart Scholars for 2017 at the annual meeting in Nashville.

### 2016-2017 Outstanding TA Awards

**Bob Bechtol**, **Debbie Pestka**, **Zach Rivers**, and **Bethany Von Hoff** have been recognized with 2016-2017 Outstanding TA Awards by the University of Minnesota, College of Pharmacy.

## Student Activities

**International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research's (ISPOR) UMN team for Flight for Air Climb fundraising event** with the American Lung Association was held February 2017.

**Christy Choi** and **Sirikan Rojanasart** participated in the fundraiser and successfully climbed 31 floors at the U.S. Bank Plaza, Minneapolis, MN. Their team raised \$520.



# Student News



## SAPh Fellowships 2017

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

- SAPh First Year 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



Anthony Olson

## 2017 Fellowship Recipients

**Robert Bechtol**  
Wertheimer Leadership

**Anthony Olson**  
Wertheimer Leadership

**Zachary Rivers**  
CoP First Year Graduate

**Mahsa Salsabili**  
St. Peter & Leiner Family  
Outcomes Research

**Congratulations!**



Robert Bechtol



Zachary Rivers



Mahsa Salsabili



# Graduate Faculty News

## Promotions



**Kerry Fierke, EdD**, was promoted to associate professor. With an emphasis on leadership skills, talents, and abilities of the people around her. She encourages everyone to explore where it will take them. "Leadership is a Journey."



**Michelle Johnson-Jennings, PhD, EdM**, was promoted to associate professor with tenure. She serves as the Director of the Research for Indigenous Community Health. Her expertise lies in biopsychosocial health interventions and in understanding the cultural health beliefs among Indigenous peoples, including traditional healing practices, that serve as protective factors for trauma and stress.



**Serguei Pakhomov, PhD**, was promoted to professor with tenure. His research agenda consists of two areas: 1) spontaneous speech and language characteristics indicative of effect of medications and neurodegenerative disorders on human cognition, and 2) application of natural language processing and machine learning techniques to extracting information from clinical reports and biomedical literature.

## New Faculty



**Joel Farley, PhD '06**, Professor A pharmaceutical outcomes researcher specializing in the evaluation of programs and policies effecting medication use in patients with chronic health conditions. Dr. Farley has expertise conducting research using secondary medical claims data including federal data sets (Medicaid and Medicare), commercial claims data sources (e.g. Blue Cross Blue Shield and MarketScan), and publicly available data sources (Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, and SEER-Medicare).



**Rui Zhang, MS, PhD**, Assistant Professor, was jointly hired as an Assistant Professor in Pharmaceutical Care & Health System and the Institute for Health Informatics. He has extensive education background and research experience in the field of health and biomedical informatics, especially biomedical natural language processing and text mining. His research interests include the secondly analysis of electronic health record (EHR) data for patient care as well as pharmacovigilance knowledge discovery through mining a large scale of biomedical literature.

## Graduate Faculty News



**Oscar Garza, MBA, PhD,** was awarded a \$1,240,753 grant from the **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health** for his project, "Promoting Safety and Worker Health for Immigrant Dairy Workers."



**Brian Isetts, PhD 1985** was awarded as "Person of the Year" from Pharmacists Planning Services at the APhA meeting.



**Randy Seifert, PharmD,** was named the **Peter's Institute for Pharmacy Innovations Endowed Chair** in PCHS College of Pharmacy. As the Peter's Endowed Chair he will focus on the pharmacist workforce in mental health care and the workforce impact on health disparities and the interface of mental health care and primary care.



**Serguei Pakhomov, PhD,** is one of three PIs to have received a U01 grant for the project, "Open Health Natural Language Processing Collaboratory." The total award amount for all five participating institutions is \$7.6M.



**Todd Sorensen, PharmD,** Received the **Harold R. Popp Award** for his outstanding services in the pharmacy profession. This award is the highest honor bestowed by the Minnesota Pharmacists Association (MPhA).



**Rui Zhang, MS, PhD,** received a \$1.15M R01 grant from the NIH/National Center for Complimentary and Integrative Health for his project, "An Informatics Framework for Discovery and Ascertainment of Drug-Supplement Interactions."



## Graduate Faculty News



**Cynthia Gross, PhD, and (Professor Emerita June 2017)** Visited SAPH Col-leagues in Thailand . Dr. Gross spent time at **Mahidol University in Bangkok** to collaborate with SAPH alum Montarat Thavorncharoensap and her grad student Krittipas Kangwanrattanakul. The visit was sponsored by a grant to study quality of life in Thailand from the Thai Royal Golden Jubilee fund and funds from a UMN GPS Alliance travel award. Dr. Gross also connected with many SAPH alumni who completed their PhD with us or worked with us as a Visiting Scholar. These colleagues included: Puree Anantachoti, Krittipas Kangwanrattanakul, Viji Kasemsup, Chulporn Limwattananon, Supon Limwattananon, Phantipa Sakthong, Montarat Thavorncharoensap, and On-Anong Waleekhachonloet.



### Jon Schommer at Xi'an JiaoTong University

**Jon Schommer** connected with colleagues at Xi'an JiaoTong University in October 2017:

- ◆ The 105th Anniversary of Xi'an JiaoTong University's Medical Education and the 80th Anniversary of its Relocation to Shannxi.
- ◆ Chang'an International Conference of Health Sciences and The 6th Australia-Chinese Association for Biomedical Research Conference



**Visiting Scholars Reunion** among University of Minnesota (Jon Schommer), Shenyang University (Li Yang), and Xi'an JiaoTong University's Center for Drug Safety and Policy Research (Yu Fang)



## Alumni News



**Richard Hansen, PhD 2003**, has been named the new dean of the Harrison School of Pharmacy at Auburn University effective May 15. He is the Sandra Kent Gilliland and David Louie Gilliland Endowed Professor and head of the Department of Health Outcomes Research and Policy. Prior to coming to Auburn in 2010, he had been an assistant and associate professor in the Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy.



**Lucinda Maine, PhD 1985**, received the U of M Alumni Service Award in recognition of her service to the College of Pharmacy and the University of Minnesota, and to the profession of pharmacy. U of M President Eric Kaler presented the award at the Alumni Association's celebration event during Homecoming Week on Oct. 19.



**Jagannath Muzumdar, PhD 2011**, was promoted to Associate Professor at St. John's University. Dr. Muzumdar's research focus includes understanding new ways of providing healthcare information to consumers; using advertising theories for healthcare communication; health behavior theories; marketing models of consumer behavior; and educational psychology.



**Greg Rhee, PhD 2016**, is a Postdoc Fellow, Yale School of Medicine (section of geriatrics). Dr. Rhee's research interests include mental disorders; delivery of health care; epidemiologic methods; geriatric psychiatry; health services research; population surveillance; preventive medicine; psychotropic drugs; substance-related disorders; minority health; and integrative medicine.



**Dongmu Zhang, PhD 2006**, is the Director, Epidemiology Data Analytics Head at AbbVie. Dr. Zhang's focus is research methodology, study design, and statistics application in health economics and outcomes research, medication adherence, and marketing research.

Please send your **Alumni News Updates** to Val Cremin ([cremi001@umn.edu](mailto:cremi001@umn.edu)) for inclusion in our next newsletter.

**We enjoy hearing from you!**

## SAPh Alumni Fellowship



### SAPh Medallion

**We have exciting news!** The SAPh alumni have been very generous in supporting the SAPh Alumni Fellowship Fund. Because of alumni support, we will be able to award a SAPh Alumni Fellowship to one of our program's graduate students. Your continued support will keep the SAPh Alumni Fellowship Fund growing.

#### **Background**

The SAPh Alumni Fellowship was created in 2016 by alumni of the Social & Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program at the University of Minnesota. Alumni of the SAPh program are serving in roles throughout the United States and internationally. The alumni hold positions of leadership in academics, the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, professional pharmacy organizations, managed care organizations, health care delivery systems, community health organizations and in private and non-profit health economics and outcomes research companies. University of Minnesota SAPh alumni contributions to the profession of pharmacy and to the delivery of health care are recognized world-wide.

The fellowship has been created to provide an annual award for a graduate student completing their first year of doctoral studies in Social and Administrative Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota. The graduate student will be chosen based on a demonstration of academic accomplishment, research/scholarly activity and professional/community engagement that are hallmarks of graduates from the SAPh program.

#### **Purpose of Fellowship**

The purpose of the SAPh Alumni Fellowship is to recognize, on an annual basis, a PhD student in the Social and Administrative Pharmacy Program at the University of Minnesota who exemplifies the qualities and aspirations of a representative of one of the various content areas in SAPh and to encourage their continued growth toward a career of excellence in their chosen content area.

For your gift of \$100.00 or more, we will send a SAPh medallion as a token of appreciation. The SAPh Medallion is a way of showing appreciation and also a way of celebrating the connection we have through the SAPh graduate program.

Donations may be made out to **SAPh Alumni Fellowship Fund** and mailed to:

Jon Schommer  
University of Minnesota, College of Pharmacy  
7-155 Weaver-Densford Hall, 308 Harvard Street, SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

**You may also make your donation online:**

[https://makingagift.umn.edu/onlinegiving/enterArea.do?ownerCode=O\\_PROF&areaCode=A\\_PHA](https://makingagift.umn.edu/onlinegiving/enterArea.do?ownerCode=O_PROF&areaCode=A_PHA)

Scroll to Bottom of Page, Go to Other, Type in **SAPh Alumni Fellowship Fund**

Click: [Give Now](#)



## SAPH MISSION

The mission of the Graduate Program in Social & 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.

# Social & Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program



## Social & Administrative Pharmacy

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<http://www.pharmacy.umn.edu/departments/pharmaceutical-care-health-systems/social-and-administrative-pharmacy-graduate-program>

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