Welcome our faithful readers! The Donations and Design Committee of the Medicare Class of 2015 is pleased to present to you our first issue of year four of *The Donut Hole*.

In this issue, we will be showcasing this year’s Roast n’ Toast which occurred during grad week, highlight the personalities (I promise we have some despite what Dr. Patel might think) of the new Medicare class, and provide you some policy updates on the 2016 Medicare Part D benefit. But that’s not all! We will also be introducing you to Dr. Matt Cheung, the newest member of the Part D family, under the Faculty Spotlight, and reintroducing some of our beloved Part D professors/staff.

We hope you are as excited as we are for what this upcoming Medicare season has in store. Cheers to another year of applying knowledge, making a tangible impact on the lives of those we serve, and trying to help others—health-wise, emotionally, and financially!

Sincerely,
The Medicare Donations & Design Committee 2015

Jackie Chou, Naomi Le, Liz Lieu, AnnMarie Magnasco, Elhaam Mesghali, Annie Minhduc Nguyen, Thao Nguyen, Liz Qi, Gabby Reyes, and Monika Wan
CSV Fresno
From Fresno
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? A medical doctor. I feel it’s the only other profession that fits my personality.
What do you love most about yourself? My eyelashes
Pet Peeves? Waking Up
Biggest fear? Disappointing my parents

UOP Pre-Pharm
From Hacienda Heights
Biggest fear? Growing old and not being able to fulfill my dreams
The best part of waking up is? Breakfast burritos from the UC
Strangest food you’ve ever eaten? Boiled Snails

UOP Pre-Pharm
From Agoura Hills
If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be? It would be short lasting... as in my mom would take it off of me before anyone else got to see.. But maybe one of those ones that move when you flex!
Pet Peeves? People sharing tooth brushes

UCSD
From San Francisco
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? Flight attendant
Strangest food you’ve eaten? Fried dove
Pet Peeves? Shirt tags sticking out of shirts

UCLA
From San Gabriel
Biggest fear? Cockroaches
If you were to get a tattoo, where would it be? Lower back
If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be? Maldives
Where’s Waldo? In the toilet bowl

What do you love most about yourself? I love that I am optimistic. It’s what makes me passionate about what I do and keeps me motivated and dedicated even when I run into trouble
The best part of waking up is? Getting dressed and putting on makeup. My inner 5-year-old still likes to play dress up every morning
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? I would have been a lawyer for the United Nations working in different areas pertaining to international law.

If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be? I would love to have the experience of going on an African safari.

Best part of waking up is? Getting a fresh start.

If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? A cultural anthropologist...or a ceramicist!

Strangest food you’ve ever eaten? Jellyfish

Where’s Waldo? He’s hiding from Chuck Norris.

If you hadn’t been a lawyer for the United Nations working in different areas pertaining to international law, what would you be? A disappointment to my parents.

What is your biggest fear? Escalators. I had a traumatic experience as a child and I’ve been scarred for life.

If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be? If I had to get another tattoo, I would probably get my Japanese mon (my family’s crest)

If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be? I think it would be fun to travel across Europe!

Biggest fear? Holes (tryphophobia)...it’s bad

If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be? THUG LIFE, under my toes

Where’s Waldo? Right there...no, no, there! HE’S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!

If you weren’t a lawyer for the United Nations working in different areas pertaining to international law, what would you be? A disappointment to my parents.

What is your biggest fear? Escalators. I had a traumatic experience as a child and I’ve been scarred for life.

If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be? If I had to get another tattoo, I would probably get my Japanese mon (my family’s crest)

If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be? I think it would be fun to travel across Europe!

Biggest fear? Someone creeping over my shoulder and reading my computer screen

If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be? If I had to get another tattoo, I would probably get my Japanese mon (my family’s crest)

If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be? Sleeping in a hammock at the Maldives

Pet peeves? Noisy eaters and double standards.
UCD
FROM SAN JOSE
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? Teacher. I like working with kids and taught at a summer camp for 4 years during undergrad
Biggest fear? Computer Viruses
If you had to be on a TV show, what would it be? The Johnny Karate Super Awesome Musical Explosion Show

UC Irvine
FROM ANAHEIM
Biggest fear? Clowns
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? Photographer/Travel Blogger
If you had to be on a TV show, what would it be? Leverage
Best part of waking up is? Coffee

UC Irvine
FROM ANAHEIM
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If you had to be on a TV show, what would it be? Leverage
Best part of waking up is? Coffee

SDSU
FROM SAN DIEGO
If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be? Amalfi Coast, Italy
Strangest food you’ve ever eaten? Steak Tartare
Who has influenced you the most? My dad, he’s my hero.

UCSD
FROM SAN DIEGO
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? Teacher. I like working with kids and taught at a summer camp for 4 years during undergrad
Biggest fear? Computer Viruses
If you had to be on a TV show, what would it be? The Johnny Karate Super Awesome Musical Explosion Show

SJSU
FROM SAN JOSE
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? A pediatric oncologist
What is your biggest fear? Flying insects
Strangest food you’ve ever eaten? Balut... it was okay, but I probably wouldn’t want to eat it again

UC Berkeley
FROM SAN FRANCISCO
Strangest food you’ve eaten? I tried stinky tofu and it was actually pretty good
If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be? I’ve always wanted to visit Egypt, but a close second would be Taiwan. I’ve heard a lot about the night markets and food stands. Can’t wait to try it!

UOP Pre-Pharm
FROM CASTRO VALLEY
Biggest fear? I hate Drop Zone. I just can’t do the whole falling thing
If you had to be on a TV show, which one would you choose? I would be on Gossip Girl! I want Blair and Serena’s wardrobe!
Pet peeves? Bad drivers!

UCSD
FROM SAN DIEGO
If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be? Amalfi Coast, Italy
Strangest food you’ve ever eaten? Steak Tartare
Who has influenced you the most? My dad, he’s my hero.

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If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? Teacher. I like working with kids and taught at a summer camp for 4 years during undergrad
Biggest fear? Computer Viruses
If you had to be on a TV show, what would it be? The Johnny Karate Super Awesome Musical Explosion Show

CSUN
FROM ENCINO
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? I would travel the world and find the best places to go, eat, see, relax and start blogging to share my findings of earth’s treasures with others
Who has influenced you the most? My dad, he’s my hero.

UC Irvine
FROM ANAHEIM
Biggest fear? Clowns
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? Photographer/Travel Blogger
If you had to be on a TV show, what would it be? Leverage
Best part of waking up is? Coffee

UOP Pre-Pharm
FROM SUNNYVALE
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? If I wasn’t a pharmacist, I would be a veterinarian, a wildlife rehabilitator, or a professional badminton player
If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be? It would either be of paw prints, because I love animals, especially cats, or an outline of Taiwan because I am Taiwanese
CSU East Bay
From Hayward

Strangest food you've eaten? Sea Urchin (Uni). Looks gross, but surprisingly delicious.

If you had to be on a TV show, what would it be? Man vs. Food. When it comes to food, I never back down from a challenge.

If you could vacation anywhere in the world? Sydney, Australia.

CSV Long Beach
From La Palma

If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be? A tiny cross in the back of my shoulder.

If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be? All parts of the world. Duh!

UC Irvine
From Culver City

If you weren't a pharmacist, what would you be? I would definitely be a manager at Anthropologie and travel the world as an art collector!

What do you love most about yourself? My hair! But you would never know...

Pet Peeves? Slow cars...I just can't.

UOP Pre-Pharm
From Elk Grove

Pet peeves? When people shake their legs and the entire table/chairs shake too...-

If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be? A cross on the side of my wrist or a bible quote or just an inspiring quote on my shoulder blade.

UOP Pre-Pharm
From San Jose

If you weren't a pharmacist, what would you be? At one point, I wanted to be an astronaut and then I read somewhere that you had to be over 5 feet tall to be one...

What do you love most about yourself? I've been told I have "font-like" handwriting.

UOP Pre-Pharm
From San Jose

Who has influenced you the most? My 8th grade science teacher, Mr. Ross. He opened my mind to the endless possibilities of science and the mysteries of the world and universe around us. He helped me find a direction and passion in my life.

If you weren't a pharmacist, what would you be? An astrophysicist or astronomer.
UCLA From Uddevalla, Sweden
Who has influenced you the most? My father has influenced me the most. Without his initiative and perseverance, my family would have never had the opportunity to leave Afghanistan during the war. Even in his last moments, he continued to encourage me to never give up in life and follow my heart and my dream of becoming a pharmacist.

UC Davis From Oakland
What do you love most about yourself? Ahh man, that’s a hard question. Where to start? Everything!!! But maybe my nose, I broke it many times.

Where’s Waldo? Dude, you just missed him, he was here just a minute ago.

UC Berkeley From Calabasas
The best part of waking up is? Having my dad call me every morning to wake me up.

What do you love most about yourself? My sincerest effort to help others reach their highest potential as long as they try, also... my hair/nails!!

UC Berkeley From Pacifica
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? I would open up my own boba shop!

Best part of waking up is? My morning routine of two chocolate chip waffles and a glass of milk.

If you had to be on a TV show, what would it be? Human Tetris.

UOP Pre-Pharm From Cerritos
If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be? "this too shall pass" on my mid-back to remind myself that no matter what burdens I carry, they too shall pass.

Who has influenced you the most? My sister. She gives me her words of wisdom and encouragement all the time...literally!

UOP Pre-Pharm From Stockton
Biggest fear? Fainting...

If you had to be on a TV show, which one would it be? Chuck. Because it would be awesome to be a spy, know every type of self-defense art, and have a super-computer in your head!

Best part of waking up is? ...Is Folger’s in your cupppppppppp?!

UC Davis From Fremont
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? I would probably stick to my Indian roots and go with computer engineer, or anything tech for that matter.

What is your biggest fear? People hearing me snore.

If you had to be on a TV show? The Mindy Project.

 UC Berkeley From Pacifica
If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be? I would open up my own boba shop!

Best part of waking up is? My morning routine of two chocolate chip waffles and a glass of milk.

If you had to be on a TV show, what would it be? Human Tetris.

UOP Pre-Pharm From Antelope
What do you love most about yourself? Being brown!!

If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be? My grandma on my chest.

If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be? Visit the 7 Wonders!

UOP Pre-Pharm From Antelope
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If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be? My grandma on my chest.

If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be? Visit the 7 Wonders!

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Best part of waking up is? ...Is Folger’s in your cupppppppppp?!
**CU Sacramento**
From atwater

**Biggest fear?** Drowning. Being out in the water gives you no control of your surroundings, that’s why if I am in the water I wear a life jacket

**Where’s Waldo?** With Carmen San Diego

**CSV Sacramento**
From atwater

**Biggest fear?** I have a pretty big fear of heights. I do have bungee jumping on my bucket list though...

**CSU Sacramento**
From San marino

**If you weren’t a pharmacist, what would you be?**
I would probably use my math degree to be a cryptologist. It would be fun to make and break codes!

**Where’s Waldo?** With Carmen San Diego

**Biggest fear?** Spiders

**If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be?**
Korea!

**UC Riverside**
From Moreno Valley

**Biggest fear?** Settling, losing my loved ones, clowns, failing school, not finding a job, etc.

**What do you love most about yourself?** What’s not to love about me :)

**Pet peeves?** When people don’t text back but you see them post on social media

**UOP Pre-Pharm**
From Bakersfield

**If you were to get a tattoo, what would it be?**
Some meaningful words on my ribcage?

**Where’s Waldo?** With Carmen San Diego

**Biggest fear?** Losing a family member

**If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be?**
There is no good part to waking up. Sleep is too precious

**Pet peeves?** Slamming doors

**UOP Pre-Pharm**
From Moreno Valley

**What do you love most about yourself?**
What’s not to love about me :)
Meet Our Advisors

Dr. Ed Rogan

Dr. Rogan received his PharmD at the University of Iowa in 1997. Dr. Rogan joined the Pacific family in January 2014 with a wealth of experience, previously working at an independent pharmacy (Green Brother’s Pharmacy), where he was the pharmacy manager and ran the community site for Pacific’s APPE program. With his dedication to, and excellence in teaching, Dr. Rogan received the Stockton Region Preceptor of the Year award in 2006. Dr. Rogan is very involved with both the community and the profession. He has served as President of the San Joaquin Pharmacists Association twice, and has lent his support/mentorship to many pharmacy students and pharmacists over the years.

As a faculty member of our Medicare Part D program, Dr. Rogan is very interested in Medicare research, especially studying both patient and public health perspectives. Additionally, he is passionate about teaching, and therefore he would love to further delve into research involving teaching and learning, and examine more effective ways to educate and present information.

Dr. Joseph Woelfel

Dr. Woelfel earned his Bachelor of Science in pharmacy in 1970, Master of Science in pharmacy in 1972, and his Doctorate of Philosophy in clinical pharmacy in 1978 all from the University of the Pacific. When he joined the Pacific Pharmacy family in 2006 to teach in geriatrics and pharmacy management, he served as one of the founding faculty members (Dr. Walberg was another) of our Medicare Part D program. Dr. Woelfel has been instrumental in making the Part D program as successful as it has been through his leadership, vision, commitment and support.

Dr. Woelfel has delivered disease state presentations on MTM services to prepare Medicare students for the outreach season. Currently, he is working on making our Medicare clinics sustainable with the billing of services provided at these events, including immunizations and MTM. Among future projects, Dr. Woelfel plans on setting up avenues that will provide resources to patients and family members going through transitions of care. When asked what he appreciated most about the Medicare program, Dr. Woelfel responded that what most resonates with him are the smiles...on the faces of the beneficiaries we assist, and on the faces of students once they realize the impact they have had by delivering these much needed services.

Dr. Linda Norton

Dr. Norton is a Pacific Alumni. Graduating in 1991, Dr. Norton returned to the Pacific family again in 1993 as a faculty member after completing a two year drug information fellowship with the American Academy of Pain Management in Sonora, CA.

Currently, Dr. Norton is working on Medicare research with several students from the Medicare class of 2014. Their research efforts are focused on patients’ self-reported health concerns and what can be done to address these concerns. The goal of their research is to better understand beneficiary concerns so as to strengthen the provider-patient relationship.

Dr. Norton has been an ardent supporter of the Medicare program for several years and has been a behind the scenes juggernaut. Thank you Dr. Norton for all that you have done, and continue to do, for our Medicare program.

Linda Selvidge

Linda graduated from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor’s of Science in genetics. Linda joined the Medicare Part D program as a project manager in September 2014 and is essential to much that we do. She works behind the scenes to keep everything organized, on budget, on schedule, while aiming to keep everyone happy (which we know is no easy task). She attends all weekly subcommittee meetings to keep all teams on track and make sure things continue to run smoothly. Prior to this semester, Linda worked closely with Dr. Patel in identifying ways that the outreach events and logistics run with maximal efficiency. Linda put it best when she said that a Medicare outreach event is like a “healthcare outreach event on steroids!”

Stay tuned for Part Two of “Meet Our Advisors” in Issue 2!
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

Dr. Matt Cheung

“Don’t worry about bothering me!”

By Liz Qi

Even before meeting him in the Medicare class, I had seen Dr. Cheung around campus several times. Through an event with our No Disease Left Behind group, I came to learn of his work with orphan drugs and clinical research. As a member of the AMCP board, I learned of his work as our AMCP Co-Diplomat and became familiar with his wide range of managed care experience. So, Dr. Cheung was no stranger, but even so, I was not quite sure what to expect when we began planning for the interview.

Sitting down to conduct the formal interview, I felt almost apologetic for taking up Dr. Cheung’s time when I learned that he spends his Fridays traveling to and from the South Bay to Stockton (for the Medicare class) and then back home again. Dr. Cheung was gracious and reassured me by saying, “Don’t worry about bothering me! I love and enjoy working with all of you.” This phrase soon became my foundational understanding of who Dr. Cheung is as a person. He has a strong mentoring disposition and genuine willingness to share. In fact, he wishes that he had embarked on a career in academia earlier in his career. For Dr. Cheung, academia is both the forefront of knowledge and the center of young enthusiasm. He is always motivated and energized by the

Occupational Experience:
A whole array of jobs related to healthcare/pharmaceutical industry

Pharmacist: mostly hospital, some retail per diem work

Managed care: PBM start up (created the formulary, rebate contracting, claims analyses), first to present the concepts and implementation of a prescriber report card at AMCP

Pharmaceutical companies:
- Managed Care Science Liaison
- Account Executive
- District Manager
LET’S GET TO KNOW DR. CHEUNG!

Alma Mater:
University of Wisconsin-Madison (BS Pharmacy & Ph.D. [Pathology & Laboratory Medicine])
University of Western Ontario Medical School (Post-doc in molecular biology)

Hometown:
Born and raised in Hong Kong; left at the age of 21 and has not returned since.

“At first, I had no money, then I had no time. Finally, I had no reason to return since my whole family came to the US. I also lost contact with all my friends and classmates, many of whom have moved to other countries.”

Childhood dream:
“To marry the most beautiful girl in my third grade class...but I never told anyone.”

Hobbies:
Fixing things

“I am obsessed with fixing broken stuff until it becomes impossible to fix, then taking it apart and saving all the parts that perhaps can come in handy to fix other things.”

Favorite quote:
“If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change” by Wayne Dyer

students’ passion for the profession of pharmacy. Dr. Cheung’s desire to help others is evident through his candid words: “Sometimes my advice may not help a particular person,” Dr. Cheung admits.

“So my approach is that before I give you an answer, give me a little more information.”

Delving more into his professional endeavors, it soon became clear to me that his desire to share his experiences in hopes to assist others was an important factor. For someone with such a wide breadth of pharmacy experiences, I had to ask whether there were jobs that he went into expecting something only to find out that it was completely different. Dr. Cheung affirmed that he had gone into a job expecting it to be more of a coaching role, with a focus on clinical and scientific personnel development. He had chosen to pursue the position because he saw it as an opportunity to foster the development of young professionals through his mentorship. However, it turned out to be more of an administrative post.

While achievement of professional goals is rewarding, Dr. Cheung talks about a more personal motivator. He feels very lucky and grateful to be where he is today. He was fortunate enough to have the support of his family—six older sisters and an older brother—as well as many different teachers and mentors who guided him throughout his career. Dr. Cheung believes in paying it forward, and always finds time to give back, and provide opportunities to others just as others gave to him.

While continuing our discussion, Dr. Cheung was candid when asked about his professional aspirations. He laughed and conceded that he initially viewed a career in pharmacy as a “back-up”. His original goal was to go to medical school and become a medical research scientist. Unlike most of us who merely wonder about what could have been, Dr. Cheung has a brother who
went to medical school and knows that the grass is not always greener on the other side. He knows that the path to medicine would not have ultimately made him happy. “Life would have been very different if I got into medical school,” Dr. Cheung contemplates.

“I’m happy that I didn’t get what I thought I wanted.”

We continued the interview with several more questions toward his ‘new, official’ role in the Medicare class.

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<th>Even though you are considered a new Medicare faculty member, you’ve been involved with the Medicare class for several years now. How did the relationship between you and the class first start?</th>
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<td>“I don’t remember exactly how. I became a Diplomat for Pacific AMCP in 2010. After I left Novartis in July 2012, I reached out to a few students and exchanged e-mails with Dr. Patel on how I could contribute more to help student pharmacists as a pharmacist volunteer. When Dr. Patel asked me whether I would like to attend a Medicare event and serve as a preceptor, I said ‘yes’ without knowing that he took it to mean I will be attending every event. I enjoyed the first one so much, I never told him that I initially only thought of attending one or two events. Eventually, I think I ended up gladly attending 10 or 11 of the 13 events that year.”</td>
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<th>What has been your most rewarding/memorable experience from a Medicare event?</th>
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<td>“Many, but one stands out above all...we identified a patient who was unaware that he had a hypertensive emergency. We called the paramedics who took him to the ER and got the proper medical care.”</td>
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<th>What is your most rewarding/memorable experience from working with the faculty or students at Pacific?</th>
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<td>“Many, but Dr. Patel and I co-presented a lecture at AMCP on the opportunities associated with the Medicare Part D class. Afterwards, one of the attendees came up and announced that she was going to spearhead the same type of effort at her school/region.”</td>
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<th>How do you think your role in the Medicare class will change now that you are a class faculty member?</th>
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<td>“I have only been precepting the MTM interventions that students perform the last three years. I would like to learn enough to help answer questions on Part D plan selection and/or other activities this year.”</td>
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<th>What do you most look forward to this upcoming Medicare season?</th>
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<td>“Seeing the implementation of the meducation®RS platform.”</td>
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I must admit that I dragged out the interview a little just to hear exactly what about meducation™ RS caught Dr. Cheung’s eye. After precepting at so many of our Medicare health fairs, Dr. Cheung knows that at every event there are seniors with language barriers. He sees meducation™ RS as a way to improve access to healthcare. Many times, even if they have health care, many patients have poor health literacy. As a reviewer for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, Dr. Cheung also advocates their vision: for patients and the public to have information they can use to make decisions that reflect their desired health outcomes. And hopefully meducation™ RS will be a way for students to help seniors and other beneficiaries better understand their medications. Being able to have written instructions and information in their own language is empowering for the patients.

We wrapped up the interview soon after. I hope I was able to show you a side of Dr. Cheung beyond his professional resume. From my interview, I can safely say that we are lucky to have Dr. Matt Cheung as the newest member of the Part D faculty!

“Patients are more motivated to reach out and ask questions,” Dr. Cheung explains. “Sometimes they give up asking because of the language barrier. So we want to be more inclusive of non-English speakers.”
Words of Wisdom
From the Medicare Class of 2014

**Study during car rides to health fairs (sometimes this is your only free time during the week). Bond with your classmates as you are stuck with them for the next several months and they are all in the same boat as you and they are your new best friends! Enjoy the experience as much as you can!** - Kristine Markham

**Know the infrastructure of Medicare Part D and Top 200 drugs' side effects and counseling points. They will come in handy during outreach events.** - Yifeng Li

**Try to connect with your patients on a deeper level instead of reading off of your laptop. Your patients are very interesting and entertaining people!** - Jenny Pham

**Take the time to talk to the volunteer pharmacist preceptors! It’s a unique experience to spend so much time with such a diverse group of pharmacists who share your interest in community service. Ask them lots of questions - even if it’s just during down time in between beneficiary interventions!** - Katy Suko

**Enjoy every moment of this class because it will be over before you know it. It may be time consuming, but the experience you will gain and the relationships you will make with your fellow students, professors, and patients is definitely worth it.** - Marcus Melberg

**As open enrollment season approached, I thought I would have to take a deep breath and dive under for a long 2.5 months before I’m free again. However, what I should’ve done instead was breathe - breathe through the hunger, the troubleshooting, the chaos, the laughter, the personal stories, the satisfaction. Breathe in the experience and inspiration from the work you do, and nourish yourself with the challenges and situations you are immersed in, because if you pass out from lack of oxygen, Dr. Patel will leave you at the site.** - May Chen

**What advice would you give to the new Medicare Class based on your experience in the Medicare Part D course last year?** - By Elizabeth Lieu
Congratulations to the recent graduates of the Medicare Class of 2013!

We are pleased to list students from the 2013 Medicare Class who recently graduated from the Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. From our Medicare class to yours, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors! The Donut Hole congratulates the following students:

Dr. Shirin Alavi  
Dr. Caroline Ha  
Dr. Emily Kung  
Dr. Amy Pham  
Dr. Albert Tasmin

Dr. Tina Alidad  
Dr. Stephanie Ham  
Dr. Melanie Larkin  
Dr. Janice Quach  
Dr. Thuan Tran

Dr. Marian Awad  
Dr. Ally Hsu  
Dr. NhuAnh Le  
Dr. Joanna Rao  
Dr. Emmellin Tung

Dr. Michael Cheung  
Dr. Tiffany Huang  
Dr. Yvi Le  
Dr. Artin Shahbazian  
Dr. Udom Vang

Dr. Anna Cho  
Dr. Melanie Jee  
Dr. Thanh Ly  
Dr. Megan Shimada  
Dr. Thi Vu

Dr. Heidi Cho  
Dr. Christopher Joe  
Dr. Karen Nguyen  
Dr. Katie So  
Dr. Jack Zeng

Dr. Sandeep Dosanjh  
Dr. Lauren Kato  
Dr. Katrina Ordanza  
Dr. Nicholas Stearns  
Dr. Stephanie Zhao

Dr. Marc Edmundson  
Dr. Mari Koshakaryan  
Dr. Jennifer Pham  
Dr. Hanna Sung

Dr. Benjamin Fong  
Dr. Brittney Kubota  
Dr. Nhieu Pham  
Dr. Stefan Ta Duc
It was recently that time of year again! We were able to celebrate another graduating Medicare Class at the 5th annual Roast n’ Toast that was held on May 14th, 2015 during grad week. This year, the theme was “NEON”, and many attendees came dressed in their favorite bright (blinding?) attire!

This event would not have been possible without the spectacular efforts of the Party Planning Committee which was comprised of nine members of the Medicare Class of 2014 including: Justin Bachman, Sofia Campos, Jennifer Im, Stephanie Kattoula, Tina Liu, Yifeng Li, Kristine Markham, Utsav Patel and Katy Suko. This group put on quite the event and we send our sincere thanks to them for their herculean efforts on our behalf! So, what was the Roast n’ Toast all about...

We started the night by congratulating students from the Medicare Class of 2013 for reaching another impending milestone (GRADUATION!), and honoring them for their dedication to the program. As usual, the most anticipated part of the night was their “roast” of Dr. Patel.

The event’s first roasters, Karen Nguyen and Lauren Kato (see 2nd picture on the right), “roasted” Dr. Patel about his inconsideration when he took his Medicare students out for dinner...“I don’t know if it is a coincidence, but he never asked us what we wanted to eat!” Nevertheless, they claimed they enjoyed the time they spent in the Medicare program, and also the ability to share their daily life stories with Dr. Patel (he must have a lot of free time on his hands).
Our second roaster, Thi Vu, spent 6 weeks working closely with Dr. Patel during an APPE elective rotation, in addition to her past involvement with the course and Medicare research. Thi shared candid photos and videos of Dr. Patel and commented on his (lack of sense for) fashion, visceral dislike of cats, and, of course, his unhealthy love of all things Tabasco. Everyone in the house was very impressed and entertained by Dr. Patel’s over excitement during his trip to the Tabasco factory in New Orleans. The man took pictures of everything in the factory including a trash can!

Last but not least, the third set of roasters included Sandeep Dosanjh, Jennifer Pham and Emmellin Tung. They gave us a crash course on what we should know about Dr. Patel. They started by complaining about Dr. Patel’s proofreading abilities (he should be banned from enabling the track changes function in Word), his prompt yet excessive e-mail replies late on a Friday night, his habit of holding a clipboard everywhere he goes (ever heard of separation anxiety?), and the roasters were able to bond with audience members who have also “suffered” in the Medicare program.

After the roast, the Party Planning Committee unveiled a video spoof entitled “The Fresh Prince of Medicare”. For those who haven’t seen it or want yet another laugh at Dr. Patel’s expense you can view the hilarious video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IJ3NNcp9PA

Later in the evening many enjoyed a good old fashioned game of Jeopardy. First, 2nd and 3rd year Medicare students teamed up to answer questions on topics including sports, music, current events, movies and facts about Dr. Patel. The winning team was comprised of Connie Chong, Sean Chow, Gina Copak, Elena Lenkova, Lily Liu, Rebecca Liu, Shaun Manuel, and Elhaam Mesghali.

All throughout the event, students shared stories, laughed, reminisced, took photos in the photo booth (see pictures below), and enjoyed their time together. All in the room shared a common bond and the event truly felt like a family reunion.

It was definitely a wonderful night filled with joy and laughter. Thank you very much to all those who attended and shared in creating some special memories. We definitely look forward to next year’s Roast n’ Toast and think it could be the sassiest event yet!
What’s new with the Medicare Part D Class?

By Elizabeth Lieu and Thao Nguyen

HICAP Certification

This year the entire Medicare Part D class will become certified HICAP counselors! HICAP is California’s Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program, which offers educational and counseling services to help Medicare beneficiaries make informed decisions regarding Medicare-related health insurance. Being HICAP-certified will allow us to provide services such as counseling Medicare beneficiaries about their health insurance choices, assist with plan enrollment in Medicare health and prescription drug plans, help beneficiaries with Medicare insurance claims and appeals, and help the HICAP offices who have been so supportive of our program over the years. While HICAP certification typically requires ~24 hours of training, Medicare students from our class will be able to become certified by completing just a fraction of those hours due to the extensive education we get in the nuances of the Medicare Part D benefit through our two Medicare classes at the University of the Pacific.

meducation®RS

Medicare students will also be utilizing meducation®RS, a software program by Polyglot, to print intuitive medication summaries for patients during this year’s Medicare clinics. By inputting each patient’s medications into the program, Medicare students will be able to instantly generate personalized medication instruction regimen summaries that the patients can take home or access online, and a personalized medication list (see picture to the right).

Above: An example of a patient’s drug summary created by meducation®RS. (Picture courtesy of pgsi.com)

These personalized instructions and drug summaries will be available in over 20 languages, make use of pictograms, and use simple vocabulary to ensure that patients of all reading levels can better understand how to take, and what to expect of their medications. We feel that the addition of meducation®RS to our medication therapy management services will help increase medication adherence and overall well-being of those we serve.
THE 2016 MEDICARE PART D STANDARD BENEFIT

PATIENT PAYS:
5% OF COVERED DRUGS
-OR-
$2.95 FOR COVERED GENERIC DRUGS
$7.40 FOR COVERED BRAND NAME DRUGS

PATIENT PAYS:
45% OF COVERED BRAND NAME DRUGS
58% OF COVERED GENERIC DRUGS

PATIENT PAYS:
25% OF COVERED DRUG COSTS
UP TO $737.50 (25% OF $3,310-$360)

CATASTROPHIC COVERAGE
$7,062.50

COVERAGE GAP (DONUT HOLE)
$3,310

COINSURANCE
$360

DEDUCTIBLE
$0

TOTAL DRUG COSTS (PLAN + PATIENT)

CHANGES FOR MEDICARE ADVANTAGE AND STAND-ALONE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced key provisional changes for Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans (MA-PDs) and Stand-alone Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) in 2016 including:

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

- MA-PDs must establish and maintain efficiency with network pharmacies to guarantee timely and accurate point-of-sale transactions

MEDICARE PART D

- Make drug dispensing to beneficiaries with Part D plans residing in Long Term Care Facilities more efficient
- Part D sponsors offering Employer Group Waiver Plans (EGWPs) must provide discounts to EGWP enrollees according to the defined standard benefit
- Establishes a 2-year ban on Part D applications from organizations that are qualified for stand-alone PDP contracts, but decline such contracts

BOTH MEDICARE ADVANTAGE AND MEDICARE PART D

- Medicare Advantage organizations and Part D sponsors must ensure their business plans meet certain minimum standards (i.e. MA organizations and Part D sponsors must restore critical operations within 72 hours of a failure)
- Notice of changes - MA organizations and Part D sponsors must provide annual notice of plan rule changes to CMS and enrollees at least 15 days prior to the annual coordinated election period for changes in the upcoming year
- Requires lawful presence or U.S. citizenship for enrollment in cost, MA, and Part D plans; also establishes disenrollment of individuals with unlawful presence status