THE DONUT HOLE



VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1









The Donations & Design Subcommittee of the 2021 Medicare Class is thrilled to present the first issue of the 10th volume of our class newsletter, The Donat Hole.

In this issue, we will introduce our 2021 Medicare Part D Class and reflect back at our virtual Medicare outreach events from the 2020 season. As the University prepares to reopen in the fall, we share with you our plans for the upcoming year! We also have articles about our student heroes planning and manning COVID-19 clinics, a thank you to all who precepted last fall, and a new addition to the Medicare family. Lastly, we share our favorite moments from the 11th annual Roast N' Toast.

The 2021 Medicare Class would like to thank you for your interest in *The Donut Hole* and support of our Medicare program. We are excited to continue building upon the efforts of previous classes and to create our own legacy. We hope this newsletter enlightens you about the new class, and share some highlights of previous and future happenings of our Medicare program. We also look forward to seeing many of you at our events this fall!

Sincerely,



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INTRODUCING THE 2021

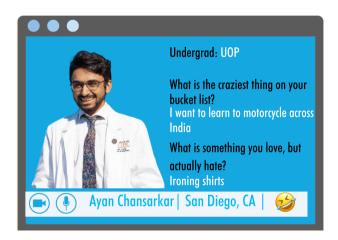








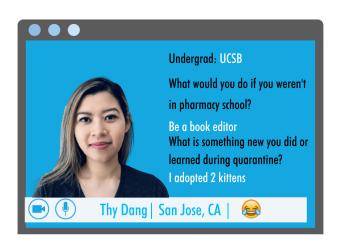


















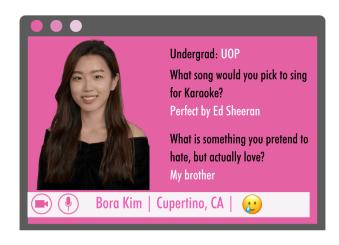


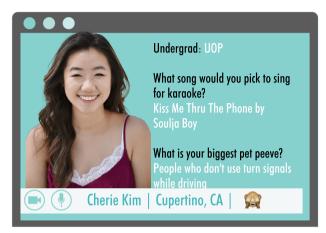




















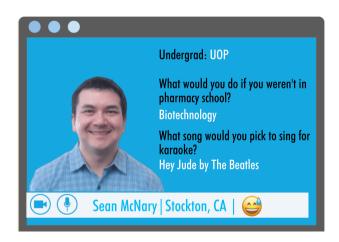










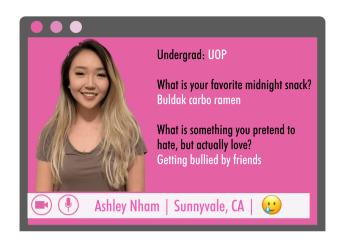


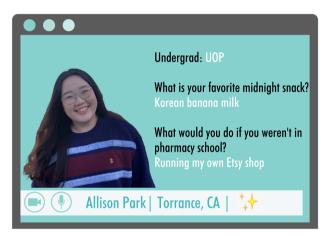


















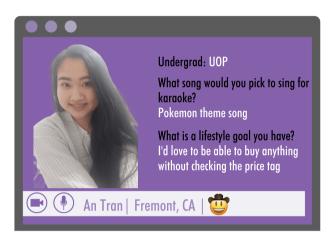


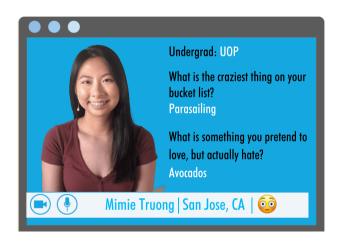














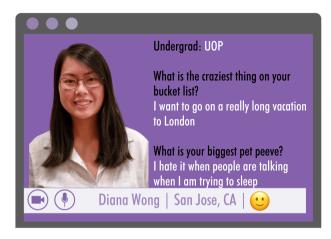




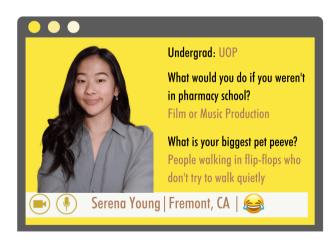
















The unprecedented events of this past year necessitated that our Medicare class acted nimbly and thought outside the box. The previous Medicare class pivoted from in-person health fairs and were able to put together 10 very successful virtual health fairs (see page 14 for some statistics). Our virtual Medicare events were able to serve beneficiaries in several different states, just by word-of-mouth!

With COVID-19 cases steadily declining and vaccination rates climbing, the University has announced plans to reopen in the fall, giving our new Medicare class hopes of holding in-person events once again. We will, of course, be following all COVID-19 guidelines and protocols to ensure the safety of everyone attending our health fairs. Moreover, to continue to best serve our patients and provide them added flexibility, we are also planning a series of virtual events to accommodate those who may still be uncomfortable in large settings, enjoy taking advantage

of our services from the comfort of their own home, or reside out of California.

Last fall, we sent a survey to those who attended our virtual outreach events and asked what kind of events they would like to see in the upcoming year. The results guided our anticipated approach, with 51.9% of beneficiaries saying they would like to see us offer both in-person & virtual events, 28.6% saying they would like only in-person events, and 19.6% saying they prefer only virtual events. Accordingly, we are planning 11 events this year; 7-8 of which will be in-person and 3-4 of which will be virtual. We are excited to see what is to come with this new approach to our Medicare events and look forward to continue serving our patients!

MEDICARE 2020 STATISTICS (*)

The 2020 Medicare Part D outreach events were unlike those of our first 13 years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent shelter-in-place orders, all in-person classes and activities were suspended. Medicare outreach events were no exception, and planning began in April 2020 for alternative ways to deliver our core (Part D plan optimization and Medication Therapy Management [MTM]) services.

For the first time in our Medicare program's history, all of our outreach events were held virtually. Thanks to the efforts of faculty, staff, volunteer pharmacists, pharmacy students, and community partners – and the trust of our patients – the transition from in-person to virtual health fairs was a success. You will find some key statistics from last year's outreach events sprinkled throughout this page.

Interventions Performed

750 Part D Interventions

497 MTM Interventions

Part D Interventional Outcomes

83.6% of served patients had potential cost savings by switching Part D plans

Total estimated out-of-pocket savings for assisted beneficiaries: \$623,32°

Average cost savings per person: \$959

MTM Interventional Outcomes

Medication-related issues identified: 1,333

56 severe medication-related issues requiring prescriber communication



808

Total # of Assisted Patients

Average age: 75.2 years of age 30 additional patients were 90 years of age



10

Total # of Virtual Medicare Health Fairs

Served patients from 7 states (CA, OR, NV, CO, NY, MI, FL) and D.C.

On the special spring evening of May 13th, 2021, Medicare students, both new and old, joined together for a virtual rendition of the annual Roast N' Toast. The two-hour event began with inevitable technical difficulties that were, fortunately, overshadowed by several graduating pharmacy students who created a friendly, comedic environment. One of the most noticeable moments of the evening occurred when students turned on their cameras only to share their unique Zoom background -- a large compilation of Dr. Patel's many faces that was lovingly created by the 2020 Medicare class to celebrate the end of the Medicare season.

ROAST N' TOAST

Dr. Ranson was emcee for the evening and led off the festivities by congratulating the graduating students and revisiting the "Medi" awards they previously received. To no one's surprise, Dr. Patel took every opportunity during the presentation to playfully roast these students. It's no wonder that the rest of the faculty found it appropriate to share a Medicare-focused parody of The Fresh Prince of Bel Air's iconic theme song starring Dr. Patel.

It was refreshing to watch students tell jokes, make puns, and roast Dr. Patel. One of the most memorable moments of the evening was Aeris Lautchang's creative and thought-provoking game that stirred up a great amount of participation. Attendees had to figure out what possible pun could be created with Dr. Patel's full name based on altered pictures of him. Another extraordinarily memorable moment was Dr. Ranson's very thorough narration of a progression of pictures from a 2019 Medicare Social event in which all present learned that Dr. Patel did not know how to blow up a balloon (below).



Dr. Rajul PAW-tel

After all the laughter and roasts, Dr. Patel delivered a tearjerking speech to end the night. He congratulated the graduating class once again and expressed his appreciation for their hard work and dedication. Although we were unable to celebrate together in person, the 11th annual Roast N' Toast did not fail to remind students of their love for the class, each other and the Medicare family.



"The Medicare Minions of 2019 - once you've joined, you can never leave. For all of Dr. Patel's hot air (and difficulty with inflating balloons), he has no difficulty inflating his heart and making sure his class can thrive."

- Iris Chu

From Aeris Lautchang to Everyone:

Chat

The best way to poke fun at someone is by making personalized memes of them... and making a game out of it, too! Too bad no one got a heartfelt speech from Dr. Pun-tel -- I mean, Patel. Cheers to more Roast n' Toasts!

From Duy Tang to Everyone:

The roast and toast provided a great opportunity to destress, catch up, and celebrate both old memories and new beginnings.

-0. Eve

vne message here



Though the pandemic has been a challenging and difficult time for so many, Operation Immunization at the Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy has been able to make a tremendous impact on residents of San Joaquin County and surrounding areas through the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.

During December 2020, the FDA issued the first ever emergency use authorization for the COVID-19 vaccine. Operation Immunization auickly partnered with San Joaquin County Public Health to provide the vaccine for healthcare workers, pharmacy students, and those 65 and older in San Joaquin The County. first Operation Immunization COVID-19 drive-thru clinic was held in the staff parking lot of the pharmacy campus in January 2021. The drive-thru aspect of the clinic has made the vaccine more accessible to the geriatric population since it eliminates the standing waiting time. Under the leadership of the Operation Immunization team, a total of 9,000 vaccinations have been administered. As of June 2021, Operation Immunization has held sixteen COVID vaccine clinics and have planned 5 more in the month of June.

The vaccine clinics consist of pharmacy students, pharmacy faculty and staff, physician assistant students, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, athletic training students, physical therapy students, speech language pathology students, undergraduate students, and other volunteers that work together to make each clinic a success. First year Operation Immunization Co-Chair and current Medicare student Carissa Leung expresses, "With the transition to online learning, we have provided invaluable access to in-person patient care in the form of COVID-19 clinics. Additionally, due to our collaborations with other programs and professions like dentistry, physical therapy, and physician assistant, students are able to practice their interprofessional communication skills and learn more about how other healthcare workers have adapted during the pandemic."

The Medicare team has been responsible for the billing of all COVID-19 vaccines given to Medicare beneficiaries at the clinics. Medicare Part B provides coverage of all COVID-19 vaccines. All net proceeds from the vaccine billing will be used to offset clinic costs (e.g., feeding volunteers, vaccination supplies, personal protective equipment, etc.) and to support student activities.



Thank you to the Operation Immunization team, whose hard work and diligence has been instrumental in serving our School, University and the community at large!

INTRODUCING







BORN ON MAY 28, 2021 6:36 AM | 7 LBS 14 OZ | 19.5"

Jak Rajul Patel

Hello all,

It gives me great pleasure to share some news with you. As many of you know, our journey to having a family has been a roller coaster over the last decade. With little success on our own, we turned to IVF treatments. Despite multiple rounds, and a few years, of trying such we continued to have no luck. Further dampening our hopes, Annie was diagnosed as having endometrial cancer and had to undergo surgery. At the time we had three embryos that were going to be transferred to Annie.

We explored all remaining options and came to the decision that we would explore surrogacy. We were fortunate enough to work with an agency to find an incredible surrogate who was humbly willing to help us have a family. So, nearly five years ago, we transferred our first frozen embryo. We were ecstatic to find out that it took and she was pregnant. Unfortunately, a few months into the pregnancy and upon the first ultrasound we found out that it was an anembryonic gestation (which is a form of a failed early pregnancy, where a gestational sac develops, but the embryo does not form/develop). This news was tough to digest, but we leaned on each other and remained hopeful since we had two remaining embryos.

The surrogate remained committed to helping us and about a year later we transferred our 2nd embryo. Fast forward to October 11, 2017 and we had Raya. The unbridled enthusiasm and sheer gratitude we felt at her addition to the family was something that still moves me.

So, that take us to our third, and last, frozen embryo. The surrogate (and her family) from the first two transfers was amazing and is part of our family. We naturally asked her if she would be willing and able to try once again. Though she very much wanted to, her pregnancy with Raya was difficult and thus she informed us that she would have to respectfully decline. We completely understood. As such, the search was again on to find a surrogate who shared our same values and was well aligned with us.

We were fortunate to find another surrogate and had scheduled to do the embryo transfer in early 2020. However, we know what then happened across the world and this delayed our plans. We finally did the transfer of our last embryo in late fall of 2020....fast forward to Friday, May 28th and Raya now has a brother, Jak Rajul Patel. His first name was created by using the first initials of all four grandparents (two of whose names start with 'A' so we just kept one 'A') first names. As is common in Indian culture, his middle name is his dad's first name (and let's be real it was as close to Rajul Jr. that Annie was going to let me get).

Anyway, thanks for indulging me by reading our story. This decade long journey, with so many twists and turns, has taught us many things ... perhaps most importantly, to always cling to hope and trust that "good things come to those who wait".



THANK YOU Preceptors!

We would like to express our appreciation to all the pharmacists who volunteered their time and efforts to precept during the Fall 2020 Medicare events. Our health fairs would not be possible without your help and expertise. Thank you so much for your guidance!

Sam Abid **Shirin Alavi** Tala Ataya **Amy Blackburn David Carranza Brandon Chan Kevin Chan Larry Chang David Chayka May Chen Matt Cheung Michelle Chinn Roy Choi Sandy Choi Connie Chong Man Chou Ting Tiffany Chu Heather Conner Donna Cruz** Teresa Daizovi **Susan Deng** Jenny Ekmekji **Zohal Fazel**

Poonam Gandhi Stephine Golik Kyra Gong Stephanie Ham Emily Highsmith Katie Highsmith Dan Ho **Tiffany Ho Alyssa Hobby Emily Hou Cindy Hsieh Dina Huynh** Jennifer Im **Christopher Joe Lauren Kato Adam Kaye** Anna Kim/Cho **Tobi Knepler-Foss An Kwan Chun Teresa Kwong Howard Lam Dustin Le Ryan Lee**

Yifeng Li **Elizabeth Lieu Lily Liu Victor Loi AnnMarie Magnasco** Julie Mai Jeremy Matsumoto **Cory Ng Cathy Thao Nguyen** Susan Nguyen Jennifer Nguyen Petrus Nguyen-Tu **Rajul Patel Utsav Patel Neel Prasad Lalit Rajora Carly Ranson Ed Rogan Radha Sampley Navpreet Samra Niki Saqueton Jon Schmidt Matt Serna** Nareeta Sharma

Sila Small **Irene Solorio China Spencer Hanna Sung** Florence Tan **Nanxi Tang Betty Thai Emily Tong** Tien Tran **Tiffany Tran Aaron Tran** Sarah Trinh **Catherine Trinh** Jennifer Truong **Emmellin Tung Justin Vallarta** Monika Wan **Pamela Wightien** Joseph Woelfel **Shannon Wong** Simon Yeung Leona Zhu **Elizabeth Van Zyl**



Congratulations, Class of 2021!

Dr. Herbert Amaya

Dr. Tanya Au

Dr. Hermelinda Avila Mendez

Dr. Sharon Bae

Dr. Justin Chang

Dr. Lisa Chao

Dr. Sharon Cheung

Dr. Iris Chu

Dr. Raquel Franco Gan

Dr. Ashley Guanzon

Dr. Yesenia Gutierrez

Dr. Heather Ha

Dr. Tran Ha

Dr. Lucas Harjono

Dr. Jennifer Ito

Dr. Yasaman Jamalzadehsahrai

Dr. Sehyun Jeong

Dr. Rachel Khuc

Dr. Tae Hyun Kim

Dr. Hue Lai

Dr. Aeris Lautchang

Dr. Sandra Le

Dr. Amy Lee

Dr. Jarita Lee

Dr. Vivian Lee

Dr. Elizabeth Levan

Dr. Edward Liang

Dr. Charlie Lin

Dr. Isabel Mangaoang

Dr. Krista Mistretta

Dr. Vy-Han Ngo

Dr. Kimberly Nguyen

Dr. Sienna Opara

Dr. Carolyn Pak

Dr. Shelly Palsingh

Dr. Kathy Pham

Dr. Muzhda Rezai

Dr. Emily Seko

Dr. Jacqueline Shauh

Dr. Garret Soares

Dr. Genaro Solorio

Dr. Duy Tang

Dr. Alison Truong

Dr. Emilia Wolf

Dr. Haybie Wong

Dr. Sarah Wong

Dr. Shirley Wong

Dr. Sabrina Wu

Dr. Aaron Yee

Dr. Christine Yoon





