GREETINGS

Happy New Year to you and yours!

Since the previous edition of the alumni newsletter, new grads were welcomed to their alumni community at the fall 2018 graduation ceremony. Judith Soon, BSc(Pharm)'74, MSc'95, PhD'00 served as the alumni representative who greeted them as they walked across the stage.

On March 13, the Faculty is celebrating two remarkable alumni, the 2019 Alumni Agent of Change, Sarvajna Dwivedi MSc'88, PhD'92 and Alumni Future Agent of Change, Tamara Mihic, BSc(Pharm)'13, PharmD'16. This TED style event will include presentations from both individuals about their career trajectories which have led to this recognition. All alumni are invited and encouraged to attend. An invitation will be sent to you soon.

Shina Boparai, MA
Alumni Relations Manager

EVENTS

UBC CPPD 30th Annual Pharmacy Alumni Update Conference
Saturday, March 2, 2019

Alumni Agent of Change
Wednesday, March 13, 2019

CAREER CORNER

Career Agility (Winter Session 2019)

In this six-week online program, alongside a cohort of your fellow alumni, you will move through a series of activities that will help you gain clarity and confidence about yourself and your optimal career strategy.

Past participants report that Career Agility helped them become energized, optimistic and excited about the future, better equipped to make career related decisions and motivated to take decisive action in their career. Click here to learn more.

Interested in a career at UBC Pharm Sci? Learn more on our website.
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Terence H. (Terry) Brown on December 23, 2018, at the age of 97 years. Dr. Brown was an alumnus of the BSP’49 (Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy program) and a WW II veteran who served in the Canadian Navy. He was also a well-known entity in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences where he was an instructor (1953), assistant professor (1955), associate professor (1966), and associate dean, undergraduate programs (1982). Dr. Brown will be remembered for his distinguished service contributions to his country, UBC, the Faculty, and the pharmacy profession.

UBC Pharm Sci and the Häfeli Lab recently welcomed research collaborators from the University of Copenhagen to the Faculty. Funding from the Lundbeck Foundation helps supports this unique collaboration. Read more at https://support.ubc.ca/successstories/smart-medicines/.

Dr. Mary De Vera, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and a UBC alumna, takes her personal experience and research in a new direction after her own battle with colorectal cancer. Read more at https://news.ubc.ca/2019/01/07/this-scientists-pain-will-be-future-cancer-patients-gain/.

Congratulations to PhD students Zeynab Nosrati and Sunny Yang for being named the 2018 recipients of the Mitchell-Dwivedi Graduate Award in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

**Zeynab Nosrati** is a PhD student supervised by Dr. Urs Häfeli. The award recognizes her cost-effective 3D-printed systems to produce uniform magnetic microspheres that are biocompatible and steerable in MRI machines as a first step to magnetic targeted drug delivery to tumors in humans.

**Sunny Yang** is a PhD student supervised by Dr. Judy Wong. His study shows that the predominant double-helical structure, nucleic acids (DNA, RNA), can also fold into several other alternate structures. One of which is a stable four-stranded structure called the G-quadruplex that can be formed and altered in RNAs within human cells, implicating their potential as drug targets.

The award was established by [Sarvajna Dwivedi MSc’88, PhD’92](https://), together with his wife, [Seema Dwivedi, PhD](https://), in 2015 to “recognize graduate students in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences who demonstrate research excellence and impact through peer-reviewed journal publication. Preference is given to students who take an interdisciplinary approach to their research and/or show exceptional inventiveness or initiative.”
Renée Dagenais  
BSc(Pharm)’15, PharmD’18

Career/profession

Since completing my post-baccalaureate PharmD, I have had the exciting opportunity to work at St. Paul’s Hospital within the multidisciplinary team on the hemodialysis unit. After this position wraps up in February, I look forward to joining the team at the St. Paul’s Hospital cystic fibrosis outpatient clinic.

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

Successfully completing the Post-Baccalaureate PharmD program at UBC is the accomplishment I am most proud of, as it is something I had aspired to pursue since my first year in the BSc(Pharm) program. It definitely wasn’t an easy feat and there were many bumps along the way, but it was very rewarding and I am grateful for the experiences I acquired in the process.

How do you stay involved in the community you live in?

To pay forward the invaluable mentorship and guidance that I received throughout my pharmacy training and career, I participate as a mentor in the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) Student Mentorship Program. In this role, I currently have two mentees who are in the Entry-to-Practice PharmD program at UBC. I also provide informal mentorship to additional pharmacy students and residents who are seeking advice.

Another way that I have become more involved with the CSHP BC Branch is through joining the Advocacy Committee and taking on the role of Pharmacy Awareness Month lead. As a member of the committee, I also look forward to contributing to initiatives aimed at advancing the profession and raising awareness of hospital pharmacists’ role and value within healthcare teams.

What UBC moment are you still talking about?

From my time in the BSc(Pharm) program, Skits Night was always a highlight of each year – both the preparation and filming leading up to it, and the night itself when it all came together. I also had a blast taking part in the UBC Pharmacy lip dub in my second year of the program. Some of the greatest memories in my undergrad years were from the many hours spent studying in the ‘war room’ with my friends, where we always found ways to make our studying more entertaining and there was never a shortage of laughs.

From my time in the PharmD program, the experiences I had and the individuals I met throughout my international electives in Doha, Qatar and Houston, Texas are definitely a highlight.

Who was the biggest influence in your career?

There are many individuals who have influenced my career path and trajectory – clinical pharmacists, professors, instructors, clinical coordinators, directors, preceptors, colleagues, family, friends – all have played a part in helping me attain my goals and aspirations by providing mentorship, advice, guidance, and other forms of support. Getting involved and taking part in a variety of projects, initiatives, and professional associations have also significantly influenced my career. This involvement helped me hone in on what my personal and professional interests are, which led to subsequent opportunities for growth and learning.