Many exciting alumni activities are taking place in the coming months at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Starting with graduation on Thursday, May 30, where our most recent alumni and the first Entry-to-Practice PharmD class will be officially welcomed at the ceremony followed by the annual Dean’s Reception.

The Alumni and Friends Reception is also being hosted by Dean Coughtrie on Wednesday, June 26 in Kelowna, BC. All alumni in the Kelowna and surrounding areas are invited to attend. Please register [here](#).

With the advent of the entry-to-practice doctor of pharmacy program, the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences has graduated its last full cohort of the bachelor of science in pharmacy program. To celebrate, alumni who graduated from 1949–2019 are requested to ‘SAVE THE DATE’ for a “Wrap Party” taking place on Saturday, September 14, 2019. The day will include continuing education opportunities, a chance to enjoy on-campus attractions, other alumni UBC Homecoming Day activities at a festival, followed by an evening reception and dinner to celebrate the many successes of the program. The event is being spearheaded by a volunteer committee comprised of BSc(Pharm) alumni, faculty and staff.

If you would like more information about the Faculty’s alumni related activities, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shina Boparai, MA
Alumni Relations Manager

**GREETINGS**

**CAREER CORNER**

*Interested in a career at UBC Pharm Sci? Learn more about the positions and how to apply on our website.*
Alumni News

NEWS AND KUDOS

Thank you to all alumni who volunteered as interviewers for this year’s Multiple Mini-Interview process for the Entry-to-Practice PharmD program on May 4 and 5 at the Pharmaceutical Sciences building. Over 350 prospective students were interviewed over the two days.

Judith Soon, BSc(Pharm)’74, MSc’95, PhD’00, associate professor at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and chair of the Interprofessional Medication Reconciliation event (IP MedRec) Planning Committee, helped facilitate the IP MedRec educational program to train future healthcare practitioners to provide high quality medication reconciliation at transitions in care.

Now in its seventh-year, the IP MedRec event continues to grow and attendees included pharmacy, medicine, nursing, nurse practitioner, and pharmacy technician students as well as practicing community pharmacists, nurses, and pharmacy technicians. Read the full story here.

The study "Prehospital analgesia with intranasal ketamine (PAIN-K): a randomized double-blind trial in adults," of which Peter Zed, PharmD’98, professor and associate dean, practice innovation, is a co-investigator, was recently featured in the media. Read the article here.

Best podium presentation, Postdoctoral Fellow:
Nikki Salmond (supervisor: Dr. Karla Williams)

Best podium presentation, Senior PhD:
Kate Johnson (supervisor: Dr. Mohsen Sadatsafavi)

Best podium presentation, Junior PhD:
Anne Nguyen (supervisor: Dr. Shyh-Dar Li)

Best podium presentation, MSc:
Griffin Pauli (supervisor: Dr. Shyh-Dar Li)

Best poster presentation, Postdoctoral Fellow:
Magda Aguiar (supervisor: Dr. Mark Harrison)

Best poster presentation, Senior PhD:
Zeynab Nosrati (supervisor: Dr. Urs Häfeli)

Best poster presentation, Junior PhD:
Sumreen Javed (supervisor: Dr. Karla Williams)

Best poster presentation, MSc – Group A:
Lovelyn Charles (supervisor: Dr. Urs Häfeli)

Best poster presentation, MSc – Group B:
Jessica Nahrstedt (supervisor: Dr. Urs Häfeli)
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Suzanne Solven

Program and grad year
BSc(Pharm)'87

Career/profession
Associate Vice President, Audit, Investigations and Quality Assurance Pacific Blue Cross

What accomplishments are you most proud of?
I am always looking for solutions to systemic problems that impact the health and well-being of populations. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to positively impact the lives of British Columbians by being a major contributor to or leading major drug policy development to ensure sustainable drug plans for British Columbians, which include:

• evidenced-based drug policy
• common drug review process
• drug pricing negotiations
• drug policy evaluations

In addition, leading the development and implementation of significant public safety initiatives for British Columbians, which include:

• Drug Safe BC
• Strengthening pharmacy practice in opioid substitution therapy
• Elevating the quality of pharmacy care in vulnerable patient populations
• Strengthening ethical pharmacy practice
• Helping to ensure the sustainability of private healthcare insurance by winning the war on benefits fraud

How do you stay involved in the community you live in?
I believe in getting involved and giving back to the community, while maintaining a work/life balance. Currently I am involved in the following:

• member of UBC’s alumni advisory council
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT continued

- member of UBC Therapeutics Initiative Oversight Committee
- UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences LEAP student preceptor
- active member of youth sports community
- school parent volunteer

What UBC moment are you still talking about?

The wonderful, gooey, cinnamon buns that helped me survive!

Who was the biggest influence in your career?

I have had the privilege of working with leading experts and very dedicated and passionate professionals. I have been surrounded by people who challenge and ask difficult questions all in the spirit of accomplishing new and great things! I consider myself very lucky to have been mentored by several people who were life-changing in my career path. It is very difficult to pick one person, but if I had to choose, I would say Bill Mercer, who was an assistant deputy minister at the Ministry of Health when I was there. Bill took me under his wing early in my career at the Ministry. I can only assume he saw leadership potential in me because he guided, supported and mentored me in so many positive ways that helped me rise to the executive director level at PharmaCare.

My career took a very interesting path, not one that I had set out on or even knew about when I graduated from pharmacy in 1987. I often say that I was in the right place at the right time and worked really hard! But I can say that my pharmacy education has been instrumental in my success because it taught critical thinking, curiosity, problem solving, root cause analysis and enhanced communication skills. I am very proud to be a part of the UBC alumni community and try to pay forward my expertise to mentor the next generation of pharmacy leaders.

EVENTS

UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences Alumni and Friends Reception in Kelowna, BC - Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Class of BSc(Pharm)'94 is currently planning their 25th anniversary reunion. If you would like more information or would like to get involved, please contact the organizers by email or through the class Facebook page.

Class of BSc(Pharm)'74 is currently planning their 45th anniversary reunion scheduled to take place on Friday, September 13, 2019. For more information, please email the organizing committee or contact the alumni relations manager.

If 2019 is a milestone year for your class and you would like to plan a reunion event, please contact Shina Boparai.