A burst of activity has been taking place and I am delighted to share that so many of our alumni are engaging with us this month through a plethora of alumni initiatives – speaking engagements, reunions, and award programs – just to name a few.

The nominations for the Alumni Agent of Change Award are now closed. Thank you to all nominators and nominees for their submissions. Please stay tuned for the announcement of the 2019 recipient.

Moving forward, Dean Michael Coughtrie is hosting an alumni and friends reception on November 6th in Washington, DC at the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) conference. All alumni attending the conference or those in and around DC are encouraged to attend. Please register here.

Wishing you a bright and beautiful autumn!

Shina Boparai, MA
Alumni Relations Manager

ALUMNI BUILDER AWARD

We are pleased to announce that Swamy Yeleswaram, PhD’92 is the UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences recipient of this year’s Alumni Builder Award. Dr. Yeleswaram is being recognized for his distinguished leadership and contributions to the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The Alumni Builder Award honours alumni who, in their own way, have made important contributions to the success of UBC and its alumni community.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Congratulations to the following alumni for being elected to the BCPHA Board following the 2018 election:

Christine Antler, BSc(Pharm)’08 - District 2 - Fraser Valley
Steven Hopp, BSc(Pharm)’02 - District 4 Kootenay/Okanagan

2018 Alumni & Friends Reception at AAPS - November 6, Washington, DC
1988 CLASS REUNION

The class of BSc(Pharm)’88 celebrated its 30 year reunion on September 29th and over 30 people attended the event in Vancouver. A special thank you to Andria Lee and others from her cohort for taking the initiative to plan the reunion. The group also made a generous donation to the Pharmaceutical Sciences Rural Communities Placement Award to benefit an entry-to-practice student pharmacist in their experiential education rotation in rural BC. More information about the award is here.

GRADUATE PHARMD CELEBRATION

Over 70 PharmD alumni gathered on September 28th at UBC to celebrate the culmination of the Graduate PharmD program. A special thank you to Patricia Gerber, BSc(Pharm)’93, PharmD’97 for taking the lead and organizing this momentous event.

CAREER AVENUES

Amy Ku, BSc(Pharm)’87 and Steven Hopp, BSc(Pharm)’02 took the stage at Career Avenues to share their inspiring career trajectories with third and fourth year students in the Entry-to-Practice PharmD program. Alumnus and faculty member Tony Seet, BSc(Pharm)’99 organized this special event, which included an employer exhibit and an alumni speaker panel.

HOMECOMING 2018

Jamie Park, a 2nd year Entry-to-Practice PharmD student, represented the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in a multi-faculty showcase during Alumni day at Homecoming on September 22nd. Jamie also received second place in the 2018 Summer Student Research Program on September 25th. Her research project titled “Smartphone Apps Targeting Medication Adherence: Content Analysis of User Reviews” was of great interest to all at the event. The display included a hands-on component and guests had a chance to build their own candy blister packs to better understand medication adherence. Jamie’s research supervisor was Dr. Mary A. De Vera.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Rao Vadlamudi
MSc 80’, PhD 83’

Career/profession

President of the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association, Immediate Past President of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

While being a faculty member in the University of Mumbai and in the Bombay College of Pharmacy, Mumbai, I have trained and guided many students during their masters and PhD studies, and many of them went on to become highly successful in their chosen careers.

I worked in early drug discovery research in India and was involved in developing high throughput screening systems (perhaps for the first time) in drug industry labs in India and also played a key role in the establishment of an 80,000 sq ft state of the art drug development laboratory for Nektar Therapeutics India limited as the head of R&D.

I started editing the Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 1994 and supported it for over 20 years as an editor, and converted that to a highly sought after online journal in India and southeast Asia! As the president of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA), I was able to establish student fellowships to provide financial assistance to 40 students taking admission in pharmacy colleges across the nation. The funding is provided by the pharmaceutical industry and IPA establishes the award recipient selection criteria, as well as makes the student recipient selections, each year. IPA is the first organization to offer this level of student support. During my tenure as the president, IPA also received the best association award in the country!

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

Professionally, I work as a member of IPA and frequently travel all over the country to give talks on various topics related to the pharmacy and research environment in India. I lecture on drug discovery and development, scientific writing, research methodology and good laboratory practices and the role of pharmacists in healthcare. I also continue to edit and support the publication of the Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences. I participate in advocacy initiatives to influence drug laws and national health policy, which continues to make pharmacists a vital part of the national health policy and national health initiatives.

What UBC moment are you still talking about?

The time I spent as a graduate student at UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences was the most rewarding, fun-filled, high-intensity learning phase of my life. I vividly recall and talk about several incidences and moments from that time, so it is difficult to name just a few. I had a wonderful time working in John McNeill’s laboratory, where the atmosphere was great and filled with learning and research that was both intense and fun! When I was a PhD student, Dr. McNeill’s laboratory embarked on an important project to explore the basis of cardiac dysfunction in diabetes and I was fortunate to be one of the team members who initiated this work in the laboratory. That helped me to develop original thinking and time management skills, as well as the ability to work well in team settings.

Who was the biggest influence in your career?

The following individuals exerted a profound influence on me during my graduate studies, and helped develop my character and career: Dr. John McNeill, Dr. Gail Bellward, Dr. Jack Diamond, Dr. Vladimir Palaty (Department of Anatomy), and Dr. Kath Macleod. I am fortunate that I am able to meet with Drs. McNeill and Macleod at regular intervals these days.

CAREER CORNER

Interested in a career at UBC Pharm Sci? To learn more about current career opportunities and how to apply, visit our website.