NPEC Corner: Get to know your members

Topic of the Month How are new practitioners being affected by COVID-19 (i.e. hours worked, lifestyle changes, homebound)?

Jaron Lopez, PharmD

Alma Mater: University of Illinois at Chicago, Class of 2019

Please describe your responsibilities with CSHP NPEC and what NPEC has done for you.

My current responsibilities are working with my fellow committee members to organize the NPEC mentorship program, assist with the newsletter, and conduct a membership survey. Being a member of the NEPC committee has allowed me to network with other pharmacists in different fields and keep up to date with changes in our profession.

Uyen Thai, PharmD

Incoming Position(s): PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident, Adventist Health

Alma Mater: Touro University California

Name a time when you provided excellent patient care while working as a pharmacist.

I have a lot of interest in oncology and am slowly working towards the goal of becoming an oncology pharmacist. One of the most memorable oncology stories I remember was when I went the extra mile to create a chemotherapy handout for a patient newly diagnosed with multiple myeloma in the hospital. The complexity of the form of cancer along with the confusing 3 drug treatment made it challenging for the patient to understand. I made sure that I
was as detailed and thorough as possible on the handout so that the patient could fully understand what he was taking. In the end, the patient was very thankful and appreciative of the work I had put in for him, which gave me a great sense of gratification.

**What tips do you have for new practitioners pursuing PGY1’s?**

*Passion! Make sure you have a clear reason why you want to pursue a PGY1 residency and be able to showcase that message on your applications and interviews. If you are truly passionate about something, you will always find a way to make it work.*

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**Kimberly Wong, PharmD**

**Current Position(s):**

- Inpatient Operations Pharmacist, Laguna Honda Hospital
- Staff Pharmacist, Walgreens

**Alma Mater:** Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Class of 2016

**How has being involved with NPEC helped you to grow in your career?**

I have met experienced pharmacists after being matched through the NPEC Mentorship Program and after attending Seminar last year. Hearing their own stories and paths into pharmacy gave me insight into what hard work looks like. I highly encourage new practitioners to sign up to be a mentee for career advice and advancement. Designing the program this year has also opened up opportunities to learn about my peers and their career goals.

**What personal or work-related experiences do you have with COVID-19?**

I directed and managed the community pharmacy workflow when the Grand Princess Cruise had docked into Oakland. These passengers needed their maintenance medications after being out at sea for an unexpected longer period of time. I’m glad I was working at one of four stores chosen to help with this state of emergency. We all became HEROES and HEROINES amidst this public health order. It was awesome to be part of a team of pharmacists, interns, techs, and cashiers who helped save those lives quarantined on the Grand Princess Cruise. That time was, above all else, about patient care - which I am proud to say I was a part of this movement.
NPEC Committee Members

New Practitioner Executive Committee 2020-2021

Vanya Chan - Chair
New Practitioner Year 4 – Loma Linda University Medical Center

Vanya currently works as a clinical pharmacist at Loma Linda University Medical Center. She has the opportunity to practice in both the inpatient and ambulatory care setting, where she has worked on managing warfarin therapy at the Anticoagulation Clinic.

She received her Doctor of Pharmacy from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. Prior to moving to California, she has served as Board of Director of the New Hampshire Society of Health-System Pharmacists as well as a committee member for American College of Clinical Pharmacy Adult Medicine Practice and Research Network.

Brooke Betts - Member
New Practitioner Year 1 – Stanford Health Care

Brooke received her Pharm.D. and M.S. degrees at Regis University in Denver, Colorado. She is a current Acute Care PGY1 resident at Stanford Health Care with interests in administration and leadership, informatics, and quality improvement initiatives. Brooke has enjoyed learning and networking at various CSHP events hosted by her local chapter and is enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve on the New Practitioner Executive Committee this year!

Stephanie Ho - Member
New Practitioner Year 3 – Kaiser Permanente, Oakland Regional Offices

Stephanie Ho is a clinical pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente Oakland Regional Offices. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy, where she served as the CSHP student chapter President and Student Section Executive Committee (SSEC) Co-Chair. She went on to complete her PGY-1 residency training at Kaiser Permanente San Rafael Medical Center and PGY-2 drug information specialty residency with Kaiser Permanente Drug Information Services. As a resident, she continued to be involved with CSHP and served on the New Practitioner Executive Committee (NPEC) and as Secretary of Quatra County Society of Health-System Pharmacists (QCSHP). She is excited for the opportunity to continue to serve on NPEC and on the QCSHP board as President-Elect this year! In her free time, she enjoys sleeping in, trying new boba, watching movies, and traveling.
**Mylien Hoang - Member**

New Practitioner Year 1 – Kaiser Permanente

Mylien Hoang is currently a PGY1 pharmacy resident at Kaiser Permanente Diablo Service Area (KPDSA). She received her Pharm.D. and M.S. degrees at Touro University California (TUC) and is now also completing a teaching certificate as an adjunct faculty member through TUC. During pharmacy school Mylien worked as an ambulatory care intern at KPDSA and was simultaneously leading the Resident Lecture Series for the Diablo Chapter of CSHP (DSHP), which she co-chaired the past 4 years. Mylien has always been drawn to ambulatory care, pharmacy informatics, medication safety, and to promote innovative ideas to advance pharmacy practice. Mylien has enjoyed her prior experience participating in local chapter events of CSHP, as well as serving as CSHP President for her college of pharmacy and SSEC board member when she was a pharmacy student. Mylien has been a CSHP member since 2012 and is looking forward to serving on the New Practitioner Executive Committee this year!

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**London Kim - Member**

New Practitioner Year 2 – Cedars Sinai

London Kim is an IV pharmacist at Cedars Sinai in Los Angeles, California. Prior to her current position, she worked as a lead pharmacist in long term care facilities with a focus on operational management. Then, London pursued her career as a clinical staff pharmacist at the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital where she led several committees to improve medication efficacy and quality, including the Antibiotic Stewardship Committee, MERP Committee, and more. London has previously took on leadership roles as a student pharmacist in professional pharmacy organizations. She is looking forward to serving on the New Practitioner Executive Committee this year!

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**Uyen Thai - Member**

New Practitioner Year 1 – Adventist Health

Uyen received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Touro University California in 2019. She will be starting her PGY1 residency at Adventist Health this coming June. Her clinical interests include oncology, drug information and quality improvement initiatives. As a student pharmacist, she took on various membership roles in professional organizations and has been a CSHP member since 2015. She is looking forward to serving on NPEC this coming year!
Katrina Zywiec - Member
New Practitioner Year 3 – Kaiser Permanente - Napa

Katrina Zywiec is an ambulatory care pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente, Napa Solano Area and an assistant professor at Touro University California. She earned her PharmD from Touro University California in 2017. She completed a PGY-1 Managed Care Pharmacy Residency at Kaiser Permanente Washington and a PGY-2 Health System Pharmacy Administration Residency at Sutter Health, Sacramento. As well as serving on NPEC, she is currently serving as the New Practitioners Director and Community Outreach Chair for the Diablo Chapter of CSHP (DSHP) and a member of the ASHP Section Advisory Group (SAG) for Strategy and Industry Disrupters. Her hobbies include reading, hiking, and spending quality time with her husband of 10 years.

NPEC Mentorship Program

NPEC has launched its second mentorship program in March 2020. Due to the current public health order surrounding COVID-19, this is the first year it has become virtual. Forty-four CSHP members have signed up to be mentors/mentees with this program. We look forward to gathering feedback on what participants liked and what can be improved.

Annual Membership Survey

- Please fill out our membership survey: [https://forms.gle/YoGZMK66g1nMbFgd6](https://forms.gle/YoGZMK66g1nMbFgd6)
- It will take less than 5 minutes and we want to know what events you would like to see our chapter host!
Get more involved with CSHP

CSHP NPEC 2020 Members  https://www.cshp.org/page/NPEC

Vanya Chan, Chair
Mylien Hoang
Uyen Thai
Brooke Betts
London Kim
Kimberly Wong
Stephanie Ho
Jaron Lopez
Katrina Zywiec

NPEC events

NEW PRACTITIONER CE SPEAKER OPPORTUNITY

Reasons to volunteer as a speaker

1 Engage Young Professionals
   Show off your hard work! Be a leader within the pharmacy profession and engage your peers with interesting, educational topics.

2 Increase Involvement in CSHP Activities
   Get involved on the local and state level! Make your voice heard, and help bring new ideas and a fresh perspective to the organization.

3 Make a Meaningful Impact
   Elevate the pharmacy profession! Educate current and new practitioners on the changing healthcare system and emerging new drugs.

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