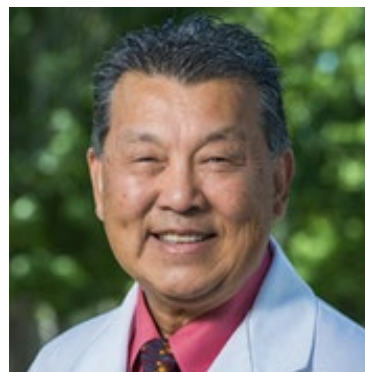


Building Relationships Powers Progress: “Pump Up the Volume ... and Dance!”

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Born and raised in Southern California, I was fortunate to have experienced many things that made my early life unique and may have contributed to my personality as an extrovert, which is clearly NOT the profile of a “typical” pharmacist. My father was an Artist and my mother loved to sing, both of which helped to develop my right-brain creativity. My love of music and singing led me to join rock and roll band in my late-teens and early twenties. More on the aftermath of this experience later.



My scientific journey began with a Bachelors in Biology, and led to my eventual acceptance to USC School of Pharmacy, which was delayed by one-year due to my obligation to the US Army.

My career path mirrors Johnny Cash in that “I’ve been everywhere”. I began my internship in community pharmacy at what was then known as Sav-On Drug Store. Upon graduation, I decided to gain hospital experience through a Residency at LAC/USC Medical center, which led to a twenty-year career in health-system pharmacy and my active engagement with CSHP. Becoming the Director of Pharmacy for a health plan enhanced my understanding of the dynamics between insurers and providers. This background created the opportunity for a nearly twenty-year career in the pharmaceutical industry as a Medical Science Liaison. A desire to influence young professionals has led me to Keck Graduate Institute School of Pharmacy where I have served as a faculty member for the past five years.

During this entire time, I have remained active in CSHP serving on the majority of the CCTFs and on the Board of Directors. I have been a member of the San Gabriel Valley Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SGVSHP) since it was created in the 1980s and have served as its President for three terms.

Returning to the “extrovert”, my personal observation is that pharmacists traditionally have been the “unsung heroes”, being somewhat reluctant to “toot their own horn”. As a result, members of the public are only aware of pharmacists in the traditional community role and have little awareness of the wide variety of practice areas pharmacists are involved with in health-systems, ambulatory care, managed care, and the pharmaceutical industry. The critical role that pharmacists have played during the

Covid pandemic has created a large wave of positive publicity making this the “perfect storm” for increasing public awareness of the value of pharmacist. My goal, as CSHP President, is to produce a professional video suitable for PBS, and other streaming platforms that will increase public awareness of the value of the pharmacist as a member of the health care team. I intend to begin a crowd funding campaign within CSHP to ensure that our members get the opportunity to help support this important project.

As an extrovert I believe that our profession has never had a better opportunity to develop relationships with key stakeholders, which include health care provider groups, legislators, and policy makers so that we can tell the “pharmacist’s story that needs to be told”. Our challenge is to seek out and engage individuals and groups with a similar vision for the future of health care in California.

I am hoping that each of you will find a way to connect with me so that, TOGETHER, we can move the profession forward, shift away from our traditional role of unsung hero and help pharmacists gain the recognition and respect they deserve.