

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



UCSF School of Pharmacy

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## A Note From the Editor:



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I, the *Therapeutic Window* editor, present to you the 4th issue of the ASSP feature, *Student Spotlights*. With over 400 students in the School of Pharmacy, it can get difficult to know all of our amazing peers.

This feature is intended to serve as a way for you to get to know your fellow School of Pharmacy classmates here at UCSF. Where are they from? What are their hobbies and interests? Why did they choose pharmacy? What is a fun fact most people do not know about them? Read on to find out! :)



— Nikki Oragwam

# P1 Student Spotlight:

## Wahib Ead



*Wahib  
with  
his  
parents  
at  
the  
White Coat  
Ceremony.*

## ABOUT WAHIB

**Wahib Ead** was born in Sacramento and moved to LA with his family when he was 5, due to his father's work. After a couple of years living in LA, his family moved to Folsom, CA and are currently living there now. Growing up, he spent a significant portion of his childhood visiting Lebanon in the summers. His family is originally from Tripoli, a large city in northern Lebanon.

## Why PHARMACY?

During his summers in Lebanon when he was younger, Wahib would spend the whole day with his cousin roaming the streets and messing with soldiers. One day, his grandmother woke up with severe back pain and he was sent to the neighborhood pharmacy to pick up medication for her. When he arrived, there was a huge line waiting for the pharmacist. Since the city had a large poverty population, most of the people there were from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Wahib noticed that these people were going to the pharmacy for everything. The pharmacist was not only just a pharmacist but a doctor, nurse, physical therapist, and psychologist all-in-one. Convenience in terms of access and the lack of funds were some of the reasons for this. Medicine was

a business and, therefore, seeing a doctor was something only those with money could afford. As a result, the pharmacist obtained that role from the community as a respected profession that anyone can turn to for questions. Seeing people consult a pharmacist in this manner and seeing pharmacists regarded as "heroes" or "saviors" had an impact on Wahib. His consultation with the pharmacist on what to get for his grandma's backpain was memorable as well. For undergraduate education, Wahib went to UC Davis and majored in biochemistry and molecular biology. When he volunteered at a pharmacy (Rite Aid), he noticed that people in Davis who had limited access to providers would seek pharmacists for health-related concerns, similar to pharmacies in Lebanon. The manager pharmacist working there embarked her knowledge of the profession onto Wahib and the compassion she showed when helping others, coupled with the similarities he observed in Lebanon, inspired him to pursue pharmacy.

## REFLECTIONS

Going into pharmacy school, Wahib was expecting it to be a lot more work than what he had experienced in undergrad. According to him, it definitely met his expectations in that regard. However, he is relieved that the level of difficulty isn't that much greater. Beyond academics, the people at UCSF went above all of his expectations. His classmates are some of the most talented and accomplished

individuals he's ever met. Everyone is so personable and willing to help others. This environment was nothing at all like what Wahib had predicted. He is amazed and happy to be here.

## IF NOT PHARMACY...

Throughout his life, Wahib has considered other interesting careers. For example, he's always really wanted to be a street performer. Whenever he would visit SF with his family and see street performers here, he thought it was so cool seeing people live day by day off of this talent that few others have. Recently, he's been trying to learn what is called an "Indian Yogi Levitation Act." One of his friends knows how to do it and Wahib hopes to eventually go out and try it one random weekend.



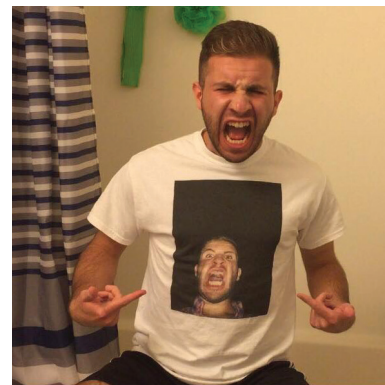
*Example of an Indian Yogi Levitation Act*

At one point, he also aspired to become a professional soccer player. Soccer is one of his favorite hobbies and he plays as often as he could. Wahib has considered being an airplane pilot as well. He liked the idea of flying a machine into the air. He was also drawn to the

lifestyle of pilot: working 4 days a week and spending the rest in a random country. He loves pharmacy though and doesn't regret his decision.

## HOBBIES / INTERESTS

Soccer has been a large part of Wahib's life since he was 7 years old. He's played both recreationally and competitively. In college, he's played less, but it is still something he does whenever he can. Soccer isn't just a way for him to relieve stress. In fact, according to Wahib, the sport has also taught him work ethic and setting and achieving goals. He attributes a lot of his personality to soccer, since it has really shaped who he is. Last quarter, he played on the indoor soccer team here at UCSF. Another thing Wahib likes to do is play the glockenspiel. Using Youtube videos and a \$50 guide, he taught himself how to play the songs "Ocrina of Time" and "Under the Sea." Currently, he is also taking classes on the weekend to learn how to play the violin. He regrets not playing the instrument as a kid and has always loved it. Wahib also enjoys reading self-help books. Two books that he felt inspired him were *Ego is the Enemy* (by Ryan Holiday) and *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F\*\*k* (by Mark Manson). They offered valuable lessons in how to be successful and not care what others think about you. Furthermore, Wahib enjoys talking to his mother. She's his ultimate supporter and he tells her everything. Lastly, Wahib enjoys hanging out with his friends.



*Wahib wearing one of his selfie shirts.*

## FUN FACT

What most people may not know about Wahib is that when he was in college, he tried to start up a unique clothing line. He contacted a company called "UberPrints." Having an extraordinary amount of confidence that this plan would work out, he invested \$300 worth of shirts. Intending to be different from other companies already selling T-shirts and wanting the clothing line to be centered around himself, Wahib put selfies of himself onto the shirts to sell for \$25 each. Unfortunately, whether it was the price or the shirts themselves, things didn't work out as he had hoped and he currently has a wardrobe full of shirts of himself. He wore one to Ugly Sweater Day but otherwise keeps them tucked away at home.

## To My Classmates...

"I wish my classmates would come to class more often."

— *Wahib Ead*

# P2 Student Spotlight:

## Ailin Kim



*From left to right: Ailin Kim and Alicia Kim (Ailin's sister) at the White Coat Ceremony*

“From Molecules to Bedside” has made her realize that pharmacy is so versatile and there are so many options she can take with this career such as industry, research, hospital, etc. Going to pharmacy school has made her more excited that she has made the right choice.

## REFLECTIONS

Ailin had anticipated that graduate school would be very hard in general, so pharmacy school (in terms of academics) is what she had expected going in. However, she hadn't foreseen how supportive the community is here at UCSF. Rather than people being closed-off, there was an overwhelming amount of aid and resources being shared. She is very relieved about that, because that community has been necessary during her time here. She values that everyone in the UCSF community, from her peers to professors and alumni, are here to help each other and truly want you to succeed.

## ABOUT AILIN

**Ailin Kim** was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She lived there for about 8 years before she moved to Atlanta, GA. After about a year, she moved to Southern California and has lived there ever since. As a result of moving around a lot and coming from a Korean household, Ailin fluently speaks three languages: Spanish, Korean, and English. She attended USC for her undergraduate education and currently works at the outpatient pharmacy at Children's Hospital Oakland.

## Why PHARMACY?

When Ailin was 5 years old her family got into a bad car accident. Her

mother suffered the most injuries and has experienced severe migraines ever since the incident. Being very traditional, Ailin's mom turned to Korean or Chinese remedies for her ailments rather than Western medicine. As her Korean daughter, Ailin understood where she was coming from. However, as an American student, she often felt frustrated by this. She knew there were things available that her mom could take to help relieve her pain, but her mother's lack of understanding served as a barrier for her to try other forms of treatments. Wanting to help her mom, Ailin took school more seriously and became very interested in science. In high school, a lot of her mom's friends were pharmacists. She liked their lifestyle: they were able to help others in the pharmacy but still had plenty of time to come home to spend with their family. This was very important to Ailin, since she is very family-oriented. Going to undergrad on a pre-pharmacy track further solidified her decision. However, taking Dr. Kishi's course

## IF NOT PHARMACY...

If Ailin didn't choose pharmacy, she would have definitely still been involved in healthcare in some way. Likely, she would have done something geared more towards the business side, such as a healthcare start-up route. During undergrad, she used to do web development for this online educational company. This made her interested in start-ups since she enjoyed coding. She isn't sure exactly what she would have worked on, but it's that “start-up lifestyle” (i.e. the digital-health industry) that drew her to SF.

## HOBBIES / INTERESTS

Music. Music. Music. Ailin loves discovering new music, making playlists, sharing playlists, going to concerts, playing music, and learning what songs other people like. She plays the piano and, to a lesser degree, the violin. If she could go back in time, she would have chosen to play the cello since she loves its lower octave. She has also tried to teach herself how to play the guitar and the harmonica via Youtube tutorials. Music has been important in her life since she was little. It helps her meet strangers and strengthens friendships. Growing up in Argentina, Ailin was very much into sports when she was little. She hasn't been able to go back to Argentina since her family moved, but in the future she hopes to go backpacking through South America. When she came to the US, English was Ailin's third language and reading was a challenge. Now she really appreciates reading and non-fiction books are her favorite. She also really enjoys coding from her experience working for a web-based company and wishes to

pick it up again. Although, since pharmacy school has started, she hasn't been able to. One of Ailin's goals this year is to find a new hobby.

*Ailin at Lake  
Baikal in Siberia.*

## FUN FACT

In undergrad, Ailin took an elective where she got to learn Russian for a couple weeks. During Spring Break, she and other students in the elective flew to Moscow. From there they boarded the Trans-Siberian train (a 3 day ride) to Irkutsk, a small city in Siberia. That was one of the greatest trips Ailin has done. She especially enjoyed interacting with the passengers that came on the train using an English-Russian dictionary.



## To My Classmates...

"Sending all my love & positivity to my classmates <3 Let's power through P2 year, and treasure our moments together before rotations. P.S. Got any music to share?"

— *Ailin Kim*

## P3 Student Spotlight:

### Uche Mordi



*Uche Mordi, P3 student*

## ABOUT UCHE

Uche Mordi's hometown is Pasadena, CA. Nowadays lives in Torrance, which is like the South Bay Area of Southern California. She currently has two jobs. One is as an inpatient intern pharmacist at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose. Her other job is more of a side project with the Office of Career and Professional Development here at UCSF. There she's working on building a webpage that focuses on non-traditional routes of pharmacy.

## Why PHARMACY?

Uche initially got into pharmacy because it wasn't a profession that she knew much about. Coming from a Nigerian household, her parents had hoped she would go either into medicine or nursing. It was actually from speaking to a church member who chose pharmacy after considering

pre-medicine that she began to look into pharmacy as a possible career path. After asking the pharmacist questions and shadowing her, Uche took it upon herself to learn a little bit more about pharmacy. While she was at USC for her undergraduate education, she worked as a clerk for the community pharmacy on campus. She also really enjoyed organic chemistry in college and didn't pursue a PhD because working solely in the lab would have been boring. She loved learning chemical reactions and saw the overlap with pharmacy.

## REFLECTIONS

Now having been in pharmacy school for nearly 3 years, Uche believes that what she has experienced has matched up with what she had expected coming in since she had asked pharmacy students about their experiences prior. However, nothing could have prepared her for the emotional toll pharmacy school would take on her. While undergrad was taxing to study for exams, professional school is taxing on a whole other level. You have the additional pressure of learning your best for your future patients. Furthermore, it's also different because you are in what Uche refers to as "a gray zone," where you are already in the working field but still in school, which some people don't understand. She didn't expect that kind of disconnect.

## IF NOT PHARMACY...

If Uche didn't get into pharmacy, she would have been a chef for sure. She absolutely loves cooking--it's her passion. It calms her down, so she cooks when she's stressed like before exams. In terms of cuisine, Uche dabbles into everything

that doesn't require a heavy amount of kitchen tools. She still wants to be a chef and would like to eventually open up a restaurant to cook for people later when she retires. Her future restaurant would be a Nigerian-fusion. Uche believes Californians deserve to be introduced to the amazing cuisine that is Nigerian food.

## HOBBIES / INTERESTS

Aside from cooking, Uche is an avid runner. She makes an effort to run multiple times a week, and while she isn't at the marathon-level yet she definitely is a half-marathon runner. Last November, she ran a marathon with her fellow P3 classmate Kelli Walker on Kelli's birthday.



*Uche taking a rest after a run at Zion National Park.*

Also (although this isn't a hobby yet), the minute Uche learns how to swim she knows she'll do it everyday. She really loves the water and how being in water blocks out all the noises of everyday life. Uche would also like to get more into rock climbing. She enjoys it, but needs a UCSF recreation center pass. Lastly, she loves making use of her time here by trying out new eateries. SF is amazingly unique in that there are lots of individualized mom-and-pop shops to eat at that she can't get back home.

## FUN FACT

Uche swears that she can spend half a day on Pinterest. For her, Pinterest is

like a black hole. She'll go in looking for tips to improve her running pace, only to end up later looking at dog costume ideas for Halloween (and she doesn't even have a dog).

## To My Classmates...

"It has honestly been a pleasure to sit alongside, run into class late, and have minor meltdowns in the library with you guys. I think those are all components of this program that we share together. I think that because we've experienced that, it kind of brings us together. Even if maybe I haven't spoken to you a lot during these past 3 years, we do share that experience that only 121 other people can say that they have

shared. Thank you for all the laughs, the tissues when needed, and definitely the support. Also, looking forward to rotations and thereafter, whether through a post-graduate training or even for the people who want to work immediately. Always keep in mind that no matter how far you go in your training or education, you are interacting with people. So please keep in mind of what you say and

how you make the people you interact [with] feel. It's literally the best advice I can give, because there is a saying that goes 'you might not always remember what someone says, but you will remember how they made you feel.' I think that is something to keep hold of when you are interacting with patients, colleagues, etc. I'm excited to see where rotations take us and what the future holds for my fellow classmates, because I know we're all destined for greatness. I've seen the intelligence through every class session. So I'm confident we are going to change the profession of pharmacy."

— Uche Mordi