Biography: Laura A. Hart, PharmD, MS, BCPS, BCGP

Laura Hart is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of California (UC) San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) and an affiliate member of the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology & Palliative Care within the UC San Diego Department of Medicine, School of Medicine. Her clinical specialty is geriatrics, and she is passionate about improving health and quality of life for older adults not only through her clinical practice, but also through efforts in teaching, service, and research. Prior to starting her current position at UC San Diego in September 2018, she completed her undergraduate, pharmacy school, and postgraduate training in Seattle, WA. She received her B.S. in Public Health from the University of Washington in 2010, followed by her PharmD degree from the University of Washington School of Pharmacy (UWSOP) in 2014. She then went on to complete a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System in 2015. She returned to the UWSOP to complete three additional years of specialized postgraduate training in geriatrics: a PGY2 Residency and Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy, completed in 2018. During this time, she also earned her Master of Science degree through the Comparative Health Outcomes, Policy, and Economics Institute at UWSOP.

In her current role at UC San Diego, Laura is dedicated to optimizing medication use to improve the lives of older adults through her efforts in clinical practice, teaching, service, and research. In 2020, she implemented a pilot program to embed a clinical pharmacist within the UC San Diego Health Geriatric Medicine Clinic. Following this pilot program, she has continued serving as the clinic's dedicated pharmacist; in this role, she conducts medication review visits to optimize medication therapy for clinic patients and provides medication-related consultations for physicians, clinical staff, trainees, and patients. In addition to her clinical practice, she serves as the coordinator for the SSPPS geriatric pharmacotherapy elective and delivers various lectures related to geriatric pharmacotherapy throughout the PharmD didactic curriculum. She has also provided didactic teaching sessions related to medication use in older adults to physician fellows and neuropsychology trainees. She has also mentored numerous pharmacy students and postgraduate trainees interested in geriatric pharmacy. In addition, she serves as co-lead of the Medication Education Team for the San Diego/Imperial Geriatric Education Center Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program. She has given numerous presentations related to medication use in older adults to clinicians and community members in the San Diego region. She has also been invited to provide platform presentations at the national level for several healthcare professional organizations. Further, through her research, she aims to influence safe and effective medication use in older adults. Her research to date has focused largely in the areas of central nervous system-active medication use, falls, and dementia. She is also interested in evaluating innovative pharmacy practice models in the care of older adults. She has presented her research as posters at numerous national conferences and has published several manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. She has also mentored several PharmD students on research projects related to geriatric pharmacotherapy.

Laura has been a dedicated member of ASCP since she was a PharmD student; during this time, she served as a student leader (First-Year Liaison, President-Elect, and President) within the UWSOP ASCP Student Chapter and was also active on ASCP national committees. During her postgraduate training at UWSOP, she mentored members of the UWSOP ASCP Student Chapter and precepted several of their community outreach events. She is currently the faculty advisor for the UC San Diego SSPPS ASCP Student Chapter and continues to serve ASCP at the national level. She serves on the Medication Safety and Transitions of Care (MSTOC) Committee, for which she currently leads the ASCP Medication Safety During Transitions of Care Online Toolkit Workgroup and previously co-led the ASCP MED-PASS Booklet Workgroup. In Fall 2022, she will take over as a co-lead of the MSTOC Committee. She is also a member of the Pharmacy Educator and Research Council, and as part of this serves on the Geriatric Curriculum Guide Revision Committee and as a poster abstract reviewer for the ASCP Annual Meeting. Additional national service to ASCP has included serving as a reviewer for ASCP Annual Meeting and regional meeting continuing education presentations, as well as BCGP activities such as self-assessment exams. She has also served as a reviewer for ASCP's peer-reviewed journal, The Senior Care Pharmacist.