

Monthly Newsletter

January/February Issue



Hey VHIO!

Welcome back to Cal! There are a lot of exciting events coming up this semester, and we can't wait to work with you all again!

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Officer Updates

Fertimpact

The Vietnamese and Chinese Departments finished translating documents for FertImpact over New Years! Vietnamese and Chinese members who are interested in helping out our partnership with this research project should contact the corresponding Language coordinators for more information.

Vietnamese Updates

Meeting Judy (from AHS/Walking Club) to see if we can help her with her "Patient Navigator Project" which focuses on the use of volunteers in the front line clinical setting to assist patients and facilitate clinic flow.

Training Updates

There will be 3 mandatory workshops for returning members throughout this semester. Exact dates and locations will be updated later.



Upcoming Events

- February 9th: February CPHC
- February 12th: First General Meeting
- February 23rd: Mandatory Workshop #1
- March 16th: Mandatory Workshop #2
- April 27th: Mandatory Workshop #3

Alumni Spotlight: Karen Vong

My name is Karen Wong, and I graduated from UC Berkeley with a major in Integrative Biology in Summer 2012. I began volunteering with VHIO in my third year, and joined the officers board as the secretary in the following year. My experience with VHIO has been exceptional as it allowed me to take advantage of my cultural background and utilize my language skills to make a difference in reaching out to the underprivileged populations. Not only did I learn more about proper medical interpreting etiquette, I also improved my communication skills through direct interaction with patients and providers. Throughout my time with VHIO, I made some great friends and mentors who have provided me support and advice in pursuing academic and professional goals. Therefore, I strongly encourage all of you guys to take advantage of the resources and opportunities that VHIO offers to enrich your undergraduate experiences and explore your various interests!

My post-grad life has been busy yet fulfilling. Inspired by my experience with VHIO, I am now working as a full-time clinical research associate/ bilingual health coach at UCSF as part of a research study entitled "KARE: Kidney Awareness Registry and Education". This 2- year long research project aims to examine patient-provider communication and promote patient-centered care by providing health education and teaching self- management skills to patients. As a health coach, I use medical registries to identify care gaps for primary care intervention, and counsel both English and Chinese-speaking patients to be proactive in their care. My clinical experience with VHIO has definitely prepared me well for the job!!



To end, I hope to be able to attend more VHIO events and meet all of you! Feel free to email me at wong.karen16@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding school work and/or career goals! ☺ Thank you for all your hard work!