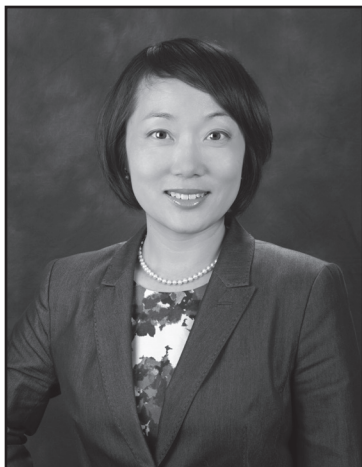


CPFI Presentation

by Jeany Kim Jun, Pharm.D., MPH



Jeany Kim Jun, PharmD, MPH is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science in the School of Pharmacy at Loma Linda University where she teaches the endocrine course. Dr. Jun received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Russian Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1995 and holds a Master's degree in Public Health in International Health and Health Administration from Loma Linda University (LLU) School of Public Health in 1997. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Pharmacy in 2001. After graduating from UCSF, she completed a residency in Primary Care Pharmacy Practice, at the University of Southern California in 2002. Dr. Jun joined the faculty in the College of Pharmacy at Western University of Health Sciences in 2002. As Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, her primary responsibilities were teaching diabetes and asthma management to pharmacy students. Dr. Jun's practice site was at Western University Medical Center where she worked as a clinical pharmacist in the primary care clinic for eight years; she taught diabetes classes for patients at the medical clinic in both Spanish and English. She was also recognized by the students as Preceptor of the Year in 2010 from Western University and received the Teacher of the Year award in 2012 and 2013, from Loma Linda University. Dr. Jun moved to Phnom Penh, Cambodia with her husband and three children in August of 2010 and returned in June 2013. She participated in medical mission work and volunteered at a mission hospital as a pharmacy advisor. She is developing an ambulatory care practice site at Social Action Community Health System in San Bernardino.

Introduction:

For the past several years, the two most common questions I am asked by students is, "How did you end up in Cambodia?" and "What are you doing there?" The answer to the first question is a story that spans nearly 20 years. I hope my story will encourage and challenge you.

My educational background:

During the summer following my first year at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) I went out on my first short-term mission trip to Russia, which was known then as the United Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR). The experience was life altering to say the least. Having fallen in love with the culture and people, and burdened by the need to share the Good News with those unreached, yet incredibly frustrated with my inability to speak the language and communicate with my new friends, I promptly enrolled in Russian language courses upon my return to college. Eventually, I switched my major from biochemistry to Russian Studies. I returned to Moscow, Russia for one year through my university's study abroad program. Upon graduation, I enrolled in a master degree program in public health at Loma Linda University, and majored in international health and health administration. My desire was to live and work abroad. Through Loma Linda University School of Public Health's culminating trip to Honduras, I realized a public health degree was great for macro-level improvement of water quality, agriculture, and sanitation. However, when I spoke with one particular woman who told me how her stomach hurt and how she had frequent headaches, I realized I

could not help the person standing in front of me; I felt the need for a primary care degree. This led me to pursue a pharmacy degree at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), which actually fulfilled my mother's desires for me.

During the first week of orientation at pharmacy school, my Dean, Mary Anne Koda-Kimble, offered some advice that has stayed with me to this day. She encouraged us to "Be in a place where you are a little bit uncomfortable. It will cause you to grow and be stretched. If you are always comfortable, then you will not grow." I took those words to heart and I finished school, and continued in a residency, and if I were honest with myself, ignored her advice.

After graduation, my husband Alex and I bought our first condo, and had our first child. I got my first "real job" out of residency and started teaching, then we had another child, and with the real money earned through my first real job, we upgraded to a bigger house. I gave birth to my third and final child and I genuinely counted my blessings. Both my husband's career and mine were going well, and we were living the American dream; life was very good and very comfortable.

Missions Experience

After my first trip to Russia, I went on various short-term missions and medical missions trips to Mexico and Indonesia. In Indonesia, we went on a vision trip to see how a group of us, married and single folks, in health care, education, and in ministry could potentially do work together. We realized that if we were ever to pursue mission work, we wanted to

go as part of a larger team. Single families sent to the mission field seemed too lonely and lacked enough support. My husband spent a year teaching English in China, and he learned through that experience that he wanted to go to the mission field with his whole family, because it was too lonely as a single person.

Then we found out that our close friends, Lloyd and Eda Kim, were preparing to leave for the Philippines as missionaries with their children. They had been there a few years previously, when my husband and I started having those first conversations about, “Are we just going to live a comfortable life in America? Or is there something more that we should be doing?”—talks, so we thought about going out to the Philippines to join our friends. A group of pastors from our church took a vision trip to the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia, and decided that they were going to redirect and focus all their mission efforts to Cambodia. As a result, Lloyd and Eda moved to Cambodia. At that point, my husband and I looked at each other and said, “I guess we are not going to the mission field, because there is no way that *we* are going to Cambodia.”

Over time, Lloyd had conversations with my husband. My husband asked Lloyd, “What do you need out there in Cambodia?” His answer was, “We just need good, faithful Christians living out their faith. They don’t have to be pastors or seminarians, just good Christians. Whatever they’re doing, be a witness of Jesus Christ as they deal with their children, as they love one another, even as they fight and reconcile, in Christ.”

Alex had to ask himself this question, “Am I trying to build my own kingdom (and trying to get my name known), or am I trying to build God’s kingdom?” He was working and teaching at the University of Southern California (USC) in the doctoral program in higher education. Azusa Pacific University (APU) started to recruit him to come to their institution. He started to think, perhaps APU will let him go out to Cambodia because it is a Christian institution. During the interview he asked if they were willing to let him live and do research in Cambodia as long as he came back to teach his classes. They agreed!

Responsibility to parents:

In 2008, as Alex started to get the wheels turning about possibly going to Cambodia, my father was diagnosed with lung cancer. Alex was in Cambodia with a short-term team when my dad first went into the hospital, coughing up blood. Alex called me and asked, “Do you still want me to continue to pursue going to Cambodia?” I answered, “Yes. At this point, I am willing to follow you because you are my husband, but I am not excited to go. Please pray for me to be excited to go.”

My father ended up passing away within four months of his diagnosis and my mother was left alone. . She was very dependent on my father to take care of everything for her. As an only child the responsibility of caring for her fell on me. She lived an hour’s drive away, so each time I would go to visit her, she asked me to take care of eight things. However, because I had to take my three children with me, I could only do three or four things and left the others for another time. This happened repeatedly, and I realized there was no way that I

could take care of everything for her. God began to speak to me softly, He asked, “Do you know how much I love your mom? Do you know that I can take care of her so much better than you could ever take care of her?” I realized, ‘Yes, God can do a much better job than me.’ So, I wrote her a card and told her what God had put on my heart.

She needed something tangible to wholly accept that God was taking care of her. My mom needed a ride to church. She had started coming to my church, but didn’t have anyone near her who could give her a ride. God orchestrated events in such a way that a good friend of my father moved into her neighborhood. Something happened at his church, so he visited our church the day our family was being commissioned as missionaries. They really liked our church and decided to come. Now, my mom had a ride! She was amazed! Then she also knew, “Wow, God is taking care of me!” It was then that I started to get excited.

Loma Linda University (LLU):

I did not plan on working when I went to Cambodia. Instead, I thought that I would be supporting my husband so that he can participate in ministry. He was a ruling elder at our home church and was going to serve in leadership on the team in Cambodia. So, I thought I would just participate in whatever medical missions opportunities were available. Perhaps I could do some teaching, and be a good mom and a wife. God had other plans, far better than I could imagine.

One day I got a call from Loma Linda University (LLU) asking if I could guest lecture. I had taught diabetes the year before. So I told them, “I’m sorry, I can’t. My whole family is mov-

ing to Cambodia. I've already turned in my resignation from my current position." The response that I got was surprising. "Would you like to explore working with us, since you've already resigned from your other position?" I was thinking, "Um, I'm moving to Cambodia! I won't be here." But he continued and said that LLU had a mission and vision in line with global missions. They were still interested and hired me two weeks before I left. I was very excited now. God even gave us more mission funding. I guess He really wanted us to go to Cambodia!

Training for missions:

In May of 2010, I went back to Honduras to participate in the Advanced Medical Leadership Training course through Mission to the World (MTW), which is recommended for people interested in serving as leaders for medical missions for MTW. All of the health professional team members in Cambodia had done the training and I wanted to be on the same page. While there, the medical director for MTW, Dr. Ted Kuhn, shared a story. As a physician he was trying to climb the ladder of success. Just like you are as students. Competing with peers to get into medical school, then competing to get that residency, then the job. He felt like he climbed that ladder of success only to find that at the top, when he looked over the wall, there was nothing there on the other side. He had put his ladder up against the wrong wall. He encouraged us to put our ladder up against Jesus Christ. I was challenged to say the least, and I reminded of the charge that my Dean shared during orientation in pharmacy school.

For me, the training in Honduras was significant. I thought God had a sense of humor and the irony was not lost on me. During my master's degree, He brought me to Honduras to make me realize that I should go into pharmacy. Once I became a pharmacist, I never used my public health skills. However, during the advanced medical leadership training for medical missions, I realized once again that medical missions was also about public health. I had come back full circle and was excited that I could use both of my degrees.

Cambodia

We arrived in Cambodia in August 2010. There were eight units (i.e., a single person, a married couple, or a family with children) already in Cambodia when we arrived. We were a very diverse group of doctors, nurses, a retired judge, pastors, educators, and interns. In the beginning, we tried to focus on language learning, so while our children were in school, my husband and I attended classes at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. We started to learn Khmer, the language of Cambodia. I participated in weeklong medical missions to the provinces with short-term teams that came from the United States, participated in monthly mobile clinics the local medical team members did in villages other missionaries lived. As the pharmacist, I was responsible for procurement, maintenance and distribution of all the medications that were brought on these trips. My husband also started English classes for the business people who came to the local church.

I then started to go to Mercy Medical Center to volunteer in the pharmacy. In August 2011, the facility moved

into a new building, built from donations mostly from the United States. Doctors, nurses, and now a pharmacist, were volunteering time to see patients. When we moved into the new facility, the medical director asked me, "Can you help save money in the pharmacy? Right now, we spend 80% of the total budget on the purchase of meds." I took on that charge and started to do a few things. First, I created an inventory sheet for the meds that we had in the pharmacy. The more I observed and understood how things were done in the pharmacy, the more I came to realize the recommendations I needed to make. We started with small changes. For example, I asked when we had to print new labels, if we could add the patient's name and medical record number to the label. Then I started to look at what the physicians prescribed and average medications costs for each patient, around \$5 per patient. The medical director needed help in running the facility. We had several meetings and he listened to my ideas. I had to finally admit that I had a degree in health administration, but had no practical experience. The fascinating part for me was that in Cambodia, of all places, I was able to use everything I learned previously, bringing pharmacy and public health together!

Furthermore, I never thought I would be speaking Russian in Cambodia. However, I met with the Cambodian president of a health science university. It turned out he did his medical training in Russia, so his Russian was better than his English. So, we conversed in Russian! Who would have thought, after almost 20 years, God finally connected the dots for me as to why I learned Russian, public health, and pharmacy. This is why I

think whatever experiences you had in the past God will use everything, if you are willing.

Discipleship

Perhaps the single most significant opportunity God placed in front of me was my ability to participate in discipleship. I met my neighbors, two Khmer women with fair English fluency. As we got to know each other, they asked if I could teach English and use the Bible to teach them! We started to meet and initially memorized verses with me correcting their pronunciation. However, it turned into something much deeper and meaningful. We have met together and invested in each other for the past two years. God showed me through them what He is doing in Cambodia, using Cambodians to reach Cambodians.

As missionaries, it takes years to learn the language and culture well enough to converse freely. However this sister, Lyda, already knew the language and the culture, and she was sharing the gospel to her friends. She told me a story of when she was in college, the foreign professor asked if anyone in the class was a Christian. Lyda was the only who raised her hand. After class, all of her friends came up to ask her, "Why are you a Christian?" She answered, "Because, the Bible tells me so. Jesus says, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' Why are you

Buddhist? What do you know about Buddhism?" These friends answered, "Because my parents are Buddhist." They could not answer what they believed. She challenged them and one of her friends became a Christian. As she told me this story, I thought, there is no way I could say these things. I do not know much about Buddhism. I cannot speak the language well enough, but what I can do is disciple women. I wanted to help her grow in her faith in Christ and to become a person who discipled other women and encourages them to grow in the faith.

What I noticed in the young Cambodian church is that they do a lot of evangelism. But when someone becomes a Christian, there is very little discipleship. They are essentially left alone. 'Oh, you're a Christian? That's great.' Really, the challenges begin there. How do you live out your faith? What do you do when you go back home and your parents say you have to go to the pagoda to offer food to your ancestors? There is a huge role to encourage the brothers and sisters to grow in Christ. This is what God has given me to do with these sisters during the past two years. I will continue to disciple them for a few more months before I return to the United States. My prayer is that they will grow in the faith, and in turn, disciple other women.

Summer Medical Mission Trip:

One other opportunity that I had was to receive three Loma Linda University pharmacy students last summer for a weeklong medical mission trip. One other student from Boston who was in Cambodia doing a three-month co-op that I oversaw joined the group. It was wonderful to share with them some of the work in Cambodia and to work together to provide medical care for the people with limited access to health care. The students participated in many activities, such as working in the lab, taking vital signs, fitting eye glasses, teaching children, and working in the pharmacy. Although my family will be returning after three years of service and plans to stay in the United States, I hope to continue my connections with the field team by bringing more students to Cambodia on medical teams.

In conclusion, I am reminded of God's faithfulness. "...that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6, ESV) I hope it encourages and challenges others to realize that God has a plan for each of us. Know that God will use every life experience you have for His glory.