The UCI School of Medicine is pleased to announce the launch of the Advanced Degree Business and Consulting Club (ADBACC). The student-led organization offers a forum for graduate students, medical students, and post-doctoral scholars interested in careers in business and consulting in the life sciences sector. According to PhD students and co-Presidents Eric Gold and Abraham Chiu, a primary goal is to examine opportunities and skills needed to enter the consulting field. To date, the club has held two successful events with more activities planned.

March 30, 2016: Kickoff Event featuring UCI Alumna Karntipa Pisalyaput, PhD, MBA. Students and Post-Docs gathered to learn about ADBACC's goals, aspirations, and upcoming events, as well as network with others who have similar career aspirations. Attendees heard an enlightening talk about Dr. Pisalyaput’s career transition from a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to a Life Science Consultant for Ernst & Young. She discussed the role consultants play in the biopharmaceutical sector and how skills learned in graduate studies could be applied to alternative, nontraditional careers.

April 25, 2016: Case Analysis Workshop featuring UCI Paul Merage School of Business Dean's Professor in Strategic Management, Dr Philip Bromiley. Professor Bromiley demonstrated case study analysis strategies that parallel scientific method, engaging business concepts as data sources. Students were coached on how to think about case studies, develop working hypotheses, and draw conclusions. Working through a case study mimics a consultant's day-to-day duties, and firms use a condensed 20-45 minute case interview format to assess how individuals think about problems. Understanding cases and how to solve problems efficiently were presented as key skills to entering careers in consulting.