

May 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

And just like that, we are FINISHED! The class of 2021 has graduated and is off to make us proud and we are on to summer. First, congratulations to the class of 2021. You made it. It has been a long and difficult year, but there is nothing more rewarding than to see our students don their caps and gowns to share with their loved ones the pride and joy of earning their degrees. While this year's commencement was not traditional by any means, it still made for heartfelt memories. The college hosted a [virtual awards ceremony](#) honoring all our Doctor of Pharmacy graduates, and a [successful drive-through ceremony last week](#). On behalf of the college, we are all so proud of our graduates.



Seeing our students cross that stage would not be possible without the support of people like Jim, class of 1957, and Diann Robbers, who recently made another significant gift to the James and Diann Robbers Pharmacy Student Research Fund. This endowment, which has been supporting student travel and research for more than ten years, is now being expanded to help us recruit the best and brightest students to the college, and expand the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program. We are so grateful to have such committed alumni who are willing to invest in our students so that the next generation of Cougar pharmacists can succeed.

Another great win: thanks to your support for this year's [#CougsGive virtual event](#), the college raised nearly \$14,000. This too will also go far in helping to support our students in their education. During this pandemic, our students have stepped up to volunteer their time and effort to vaccinating thousands. I'm grateful we can show our appreciation for all the work they are doing to protect the health of their communities. Though the pandemic continues to devastate communities around the world, hearing your stories has continued to be the guiding light as we feel our way through this pandemic. In particular, this recent story about [class of 2008 alumni Ahmed Ali](#) and his pharmacy which caters to the diverse community of South Seattle reinforces our mission as educators in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences.

Finally, it is with a very heavy heart, I announce that Vice Dean Linda Garrelts Maclean, professor, mentor, and longtime advocate for the pharmacy profession will be retiring on June 30. While this is bittersweet news for everyone at the college and the pharmacy community at large, we wish her the best as she moves to the next phase in her life. Despite her busy schedule, Linda has mentored students and colleagues, and selflessly lifted others up to help them achieve their full potential. She is truly one of a kind, fearlessly optimistic, with a personality which instantly brightens any room and her impact on the profession has been felt far and wide. If you know Linda, then you know that she's always on the move. While she will be stepping back from her daily duties in the college, she will continue to advocate on behalf of the college and profession in her appointment as Emeritus Professor, which she details in her note below. On behalf of the college, thank you, Linda, for your decades of service. We are so honored and privileged to have you

in our community and wish you the best in this next chapter of your life. Please join me in congratulating Linda on her retirement.

Thank you all for another wonderful academic year in the books.

Sincerely,



Mark Leid, Professor and Dean  
WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

*Editor's note: This is the final newsletter for the 2020-21 academic year. The next CougaRx News will be published in August 2021. Have a great summer!*

## Congratulations, class of 2021!

All of us at the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences wanted to take a moment to recognize your perseverance and celebrate this amazing accomplishment.

In recognition of all of the hard work it took to get here, we've set up a Virtual Celebration page. Check it out to see the messages from keynote speaker Tyler Fischback, and your chosen student speakers, as well as a list of everyone graduating this year, recognition of award winners and honors students, and the Oath of a Pharmacist.

View the webpage: [pharmacy.wsu.edu/2021-virtual-celebration](https://pharmacy.wsu.edu/2021-virtual-celebration)



## Top Stories

### Class of 2021 celebrates at a distance

When the class of 2021 first began their Pharmaceutical Sciences and Molecular Medicine and Doctor of Pharmacy journeys, no one could have imagined how it would end—there was no global pandemic on the horizon and it was beyond imagination that their final year would be spent any differently than those of their predecessors.

During commencement week, the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPPS) celebrated all that the class of 2021 has accomplished over the past year and the course of their graduate education. The celebrations began with a Doctor of Pharmacy [Virtual Senior Awards Celebration](#) on Thursday, May 6 and continued on Friday when graduates were invited to participate in a [drive-through commencement](#) on the WSU Health Sciences Spokane campus before wrapping up the commencement week with a [YouTube ceremony](#) held by Washington State University on Saturday, May 8.

“We are here to acknowledge and celebrate this singular achievement in your lives and nothing can change that,” said CPPS Dean Mark Leid during the drive-through ceremony. “You have stepped up and faced adversity and demonstrated your resilience repeatedly over the past year and we are so very proud of you. Congratulations, graduates for a job well done.”

All pieces of the celebrations can be found on the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences [virtual celebration page](#) which recognizes the accomplishments of the four PhD of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Molecular Medicine, one Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences and 164 Doctor of Pharmacy graduates.

Through video messages posted to the page, guest speakers and alumni showed up to congratulate graduates on this milestone in their lives. As keynote speaker, Tyler Fischback, class of 2009, said in his [video address](#), “A picture of what it looks like to grow professionally is the person with their hand up saying, ‘I’ll help.’”

This year’s graduates have raised their hands again and again: stepping up to help in their communities, adapting to change, and persevering through a global pandemic. As a whole, the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty and staff wishes the class of 2021 a heartfelt congratulations and Go Cougs!

### **WSU pharmacy graduates lead residency matches in Washington state**

WSU PharmD students led in accredited residency matches in Washington state this year. More than 67% of fourth-year pharmacy students seeking a residency matched, according to the [American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists \(ASHP\) data](#), which coordinates the official match process for pharmacy schools nationwide. This year, 47 WSU PharmD students matched, up from 41 students last year.

Residencies are post-graduate training programs which allow new pharmacists to perform as a licensed practitioner to train under the supervision of an experienced preceptor. Residencies are highly sought-after positions to help pharmacists gain experience, leadership skills, advance their growth of clinical judgement, and hone their skills as a practicing pharmacist.

“I was on cloud nine and felt a tremendous weight lifted off my shoulders,” said fourth-year pharmacy student Minwoo Park about the residency match experience. Park will start his residency at Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, Washington with a focus on hospital administration and leadership this summer. “The residency application/interview process really forces you to take a cold, hard look at yourself. It was brutal, but I’m glad it’s over!”

The college has seen consistent growth in residency matches each year. Pediatrics, ambulatory care, acute care, pharmacy informatics, hospital administration and leadership, geriatrics, and inpatient care are just some of the areas of specialization that WSU PharmD graduates will focus on in their residencies this year.

“Our students have shown incredible resiliency this year despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Our leading residency matches are just another testament of how our faculty have worked creatively to help students match with prestigious institutions across the Pacific Northwest and West Coast,” said Dean of WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Mark Leid.

WSU pharmacy students not only found success in residency matches this year, but many have also gone on to start new positions as pharmacists immediately following graduation. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an [increased demand for pharmacists in recent months](#). Community pharmacies in the region have advertised signing bonuses ranging from \$1,000 for pharmacy interns to \$20,000 for pharmacists.

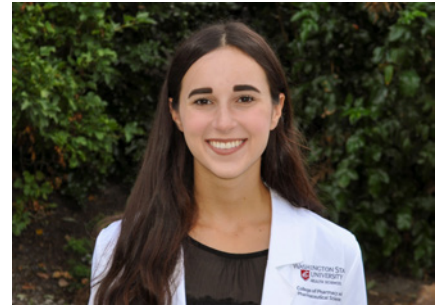
“We are seeing postings for pharmacy positions on our job board every week. These aren’t just single positions, but mass hiring for community pharmacists as organizations ramp up COVID-19 vaccine administration,” said Vice Dean Linda Garrelts Maclean. “Pharmacists are on the frontlines in guarding the health of their communities—and that’s how we are preparing our students through our curriculum.”



Following graduation this May, Minwoo Park will be entering residency at Providence St. Peter Hospital specializing in hospital administration and leadership.

## WSU pharmacy students take APhA virtual meeting by storm

A year of virtual meetings has in no way slowed down WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences students. This year at the virtual American Pharmacists Associations (APhA) annual meeting WSU pharmacy students made waves: Carissa Teeters, class of 2023, presented and passed a resolution during the house of delegates; Zachary Coleman, class of 2022, was selected to serve as the chair of the national Policy Standing Committee; the WSU chapter of APhA-ASP (APhA-Academy of Student Pharmacists) received the Operation Immunization 2019-2020 First Runner-Up Award; and second-year Kennedy Erickson was elected APhA-ASP President by her peers across the nation. This is the first time that the college has had a student elected to the national role.



Kennedy Erickson, APhA-ASP National President-elect

“As a former APhA trustee, I know how valuable this opportunity will prove to be as just a first step in a very promising future for Kennedy,” said Vice Dean of External Relations Linda Garrelts McLean.

Erickson, class of 2023, is from Olympia, Washington and completed her Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Neuroscience at Western Washington University before coming to the Washington State University. Here’s what she had to say about her new role.

### What you will be doing as the APhA-ASP National President-elect?

My goal is to collaborate with national, regional, and chapter officers to establish a National Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for student pharmacists. Pharmacists and student pharmacists are uniquely positioned within their communities to advocate for equal and equitable health care and to make a difference in their patients’ lives. My hope is to:

- Create an inclusive environment that gives a stronger voice to marginalized communities
- Give members a safe and collegial place to listen, be heard, and learn from diverse perspectives
- Identify and work to resolve inequalities within our organization and profession

In addition to working to accomplish goals outlined in my platform, I will be learning about and serving the Academy in any way that I can. I will help coordinate leadership conferences, outreach visits, and will be reading about accomplishments of student pharmacists nationwide when I read the Chapter Achievement Reports for the annual Chapter Achievement awards. Ultimately, my role is to support student pharmacists nationwide and I am excited to see how that looks this year as we begin to transition back into normalcy!

### What made you pursue the position?

Ultimately, I pursued this position out of a desire to serve student pharmacists nationwide and to give back and improve upon an organization that has already given me so much as a future provider. APhA-ASP provides incredible opportunities for students to develop professionally, network, apply their clinical knowledge and skills through outreach, and utilize their voices to make the world around us a better place. I ran for this position with a goal of establishing a National Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee because APhA-ASP has incredible resources and platforms for student pharmacists to use their voices to make a difference. I believe with the right tools, we all can work to be better listeners, friends, and advocates for change. I believe a DEI committee can identify how to unite our profession so we can work to dismantle social inequalities within our organization, profession, the health care system, and the communities we serve.

### What about this experience are you most looking forward to?

I am very excited to support, serve, and network with student pharmacists – no matter what that looks like this upcoming year! I love hearing creative and innovative ideas from students nationwide because they always inspire me to get creative. I am looking forward to supporting members in their professional growth and helping their chapters in any way I can in hosting advocacy, patient care, leadership, and networking events.



### **Why do you believe it is important for pharmacy students to be represented in national organizations?**

It is so important for student pharmacists to be represented on a national level because we are the future of the profession! Through advocacy, patient care outreach, and leadership development, our voices and actions influence the scope of practice and level of care pharmacists can provide to their communities. As pharmacy continues to progress and evolve to meet the everchanging needs of our communities, it is important that our voices are represented in organizations such as APhA-ASP.

### **What specific issues will student pharmacists be advocating for across the nation?**

Although a lot of issues pertaining to pharmacy right now are state-specific, a topic that student pharmacists will be advocating for nationwide is federal provider status for pharmacists. By removing regulatory, reimbursement, and payment barriers, pharmacists will be enabled to work at the top of their license and provide the highest quality of care to their patients.

### **Why did you choose the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences?**

I was born and raised in Washington and I wanted to stay in-state as I plan to live here for the rest of my life. WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences was lucrative to me as it is the most affordable program in our state. I was also drawn to WSU CPPS because of the active learning model. I am a kinesthetic and team-based learner, so I was really excited when I learned WSU CPPS offers this model of education. After going through the admission interview, I immediately accepted my acceptance offer because of how supportive the faculty, staff, and students were throughout the process. I knew without a doubt that this was a community that I wanted to be a part of.

### **Do you have any advice for future pharmacy students?**

- Find activities – both personal and professional – that bring you fulfillment. When you are happy and fulfilled, you will inspire both your peers and patients to be the best they can be.
- Get to know your peers, faculty, and alumni! You will hear it over and over... pharmacy is a small world. Having a supportive network can help you leverage your goals as a future pharmacist!
- Try to do things that push you outside of your comfort zone! We all have room to grow. Trying something new is a great way learn about your strengths, interests, and yourself in general!

### **Is there a specific field of pharmacy you are interested in? Why?**

Since I am a “neuro-nerd,” I am currently very interested in learning about novel methods to treat mental health conditions. I have been reading literature regarding the use of psychedelics, transcranial magnetic stimulation, ketamine, and pharmacogenomics to help treat these conditions. As a future pharmacist, it is important to stay up-to-date and knowledgeable about up-and-coming therapies in order to provide the highest quality of care to our patients.

### **Where do you want to work as a pharmacist? What is your dream job?**

My dream is to work as a psychiatric pharmacist in either a community or hospital setting in a rural town. By 2025, the demand for psychiatrists will be 25% higher than the supply. Pharmacists are the perfect solution to fill this gap in care. I believe this shortage will disproportionately impact rural communities, so I would like to be there to provide these services to patients who may not otherwise have access to them.

I would also love to work in academia to teach and mentor future leaders in our profession and collaborate with WSPA and APhA to continue advocating for patients and our profession.

**REFER A FUTURE COUGAR PHARM.D!**

## A NOTE FROM LINDA GARRELTS MACLEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Though I look forward to the next phase in my life, it has been bittersweet announcing my retirement. There has been an outpouring of love, support, and gratitude from colleagues and friends of the college, and I feel so thankful to have been able to serve WSU and the pharmacy profession for over 25 years. I will truly miss seeing you all daily, hearing about your successes personally and professionally, and working with you in the trenches. Above all, I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a part of your lives and helping to advance our mission as a college.



While a retirement announcement may sound like the conclusion of a long career, it is really just the start of a new chapter in my life. In my new capacity as Emeritus Professor, I will continue to advance the mission and vision of the college and profession by serving on the boards of BAVI Health, Spokane Teaching Health Clinic, Pharmacy Quality Alliance, and Community Pharmacy Foundation. It is my personal charge to ensure that our college and faculty have opportunities for leadership roles so that they can continue to develop and enhance the reputation of our institution as a leader and visionary for the practice and program. So, while I may not be involved in the day-to-day operations of the college, I'm very much invested in paving the way for future generations of leaders in pharmacy.

Thank you all for coloring my life with your ideas, wisdom, unwavering commitment to our college and students, and everything in between. I'm grateful to have had this privilege to serve with you.

In the meantime, the college will be hosting a [virtual alumni reception](#) at the Northwest Pharmacy Convention on June 11 from 5:00-5:30pm PST. This event will be open to all alumni, regardless of whether you register for the Northwest Pharmacy Convention. It will be a great opportunity to catch up and see some familiar faces.

With best regards and much respect,

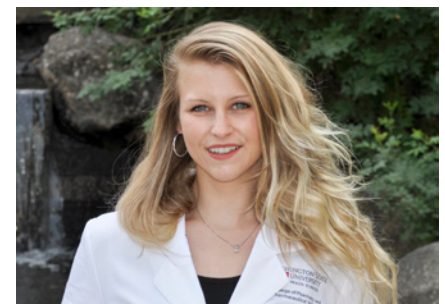
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Garrelts MacLean".

Linda Garrelts MacLean, Vice Dean of External Relations  
WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

## Spotlight on Success

### Pharmacy student recognized as Woman of Distinction

Health care professionals by nature are in the field of helping others, often giving their time and energy to improving the lives of their patients. Even so, there are those who truly go above and beyond to serve the need of others, putting the lives of those around them above their own to make the world a better place. Third-year pharmacy student Misty Lefler is just such one of those people.



Misty Lefler, class of 2022

Lefler gives her time generously, volunteering to help with COVID-19 [testing](#) and vaccinations at health fairs, flu clinics, and other community wellness events. The improved access to care granted by these events is a passion of Lefler's, and she has published several articles on the ways pharmacists can promote equitable health care for all patients. In the past year, as president of the WSU Spokane American Pharmacists Association—Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) chapter, she has also found new ways to keep students socially connected via virtual means.

In honor of all that she does for Washington State University and the community around her, Lefler was recently awarded the WSU 2021 Graduate Student Woman of Distinction. She and five other Women of Distinction were recognized by the University during a virtual ceremony April 16. Lefler was nominated by fellow WSU pharmacy student and WSU Spokane APhA-ASP president-elect Kennedy Erickson, class of 2023.

“Misty leads by empowering and lifting others, and she embodies what it looks like to provide empathetic help and care to students and community members alike,” said Erickson. “[She] continually works to make the world a better place, and I have been honored to have her as a trusted mentor and role model within my life.”

The college recently caught up with Lefler to ask about her award and experience as a pharmacy student:

### **How do you feel about this accomplishment?**

Receiving the 2021 Woman of Distinction Award is by far my greatest accomplishment since beginning the pharmacy program.

The level of gratitude and honor I feel is unlike anything I have ever felt. I could not have received recognition without the support and perseverance of the 2020-2021 APhA-ASP WSU Chapter leadership team and Chapter Advisor Dr. Jennifer Robinson. Everything we’ve accomplished this year is due to their dedication to meeting the needs of WSU and the community.

### **How do you believe the role of the pharmacy student has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

As student pharmacists we are accustomed to seeking out and meeting specific needs of patients and community members. It is because of our previous efforts to provide influenza vaccinations and education on disease state management that I believe we are capable of rising to the challenge of providing vaccinations and testing during the pandemic. On a much larger scale, we’ve received recognition for the positive impacts volunteering has made.



Misty Lefler assists with COVID-19 testing on the WSU Pullman campus.

### **How do you feel being a part of this moment in history?**

Having the training to provide care and guidance during this time is something I am extremely grateful for. Since the pandemic began pharmacists and interns have played a pivotal role in supporting our patients, our families and members within the community while minimizing the impact of COVID-19. We’ve administered vaccinations, testing and safely maintained acting as a highly accessible resource. I’m proud to be a part of efforts to get past the pandemic!

### **Why did you choose the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences?**

My first time visiting the Spokane campus I was amazed by the relationships students had with the faculty! It was obvious that there was a unique bond within this community, and I very much wanted to be a part of it. There is an unparalleled amount of spirit and pride within WSU and could not be more grateful for the experiences I’ve had the last three years! Go Cougs!

### **What is your favorite thing about WSU?**

My favorite things about WSU are the outstanding professors and student pharmacists who have become my ‘pharmily’ these last few years. I have always appreciated the Cougar community that comes with being a student at WSU. I feel that no matter where you go, there will be people to help you when needed!

### **Do you have any advice for future pharmacy students?**

My advice for student pharmacists is to build as many relationships and seek out as many experiences as you can. When you start pharmacy school, you feel like it will last forever but in truth it goes more quickly than you can imagine. The friendships with your peers and professional relationships you develop will be the most valuable. Also, don’t ever believe like you don’t belong here! Imposter syndrome is in everyone, and you have earned your spot.

### **What's next for you?**

In the next month I will be starting my last year of pharmacy school and completing advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPE) rotations in Spokane. I'm eager to put all that I've learned into practice as I transition into my role as a pharmacist. Following graduation and completion of a residency I hope to work as an ambulatory care pharmacist. In between these plans I will also be marrying Kegan Coplan, a WSU CPPS graduate as of this May.

### **Is there a specific field of pharmacy you are interested in?**

I am very interested in ambulatory care pharmacy because of it involves utilizing clinical knowledge while building trust and working directly with patients long term. I like that this field entails being part of a patient's journey, finding solutions specific to each person and seeing improvements while collaborating with a health care team to reach their goals.

I have also considered pursuing academia. I believe it would be very rewarding to be an educator and mentor for future pharmacists.

### **What is your dream job?**

I plan to stay very open minded, but right now my dream job would be working at either the Indian Health Service or VA. I'm interested in both populations because of the diversity of the patients, the opportunities available to improve their overall health and working with an interdisciplinary team to increase positive outcomes.

### **Anything else you want to add?**

I am deeply honored to receive this award! Whatever the future holds I am grateful for every experience I've gained at WSU. I'm thankful for the mentors and faculty who have helped me become the student pharmacist I am today. I look forward to finding opportunities to stay involved during my final year and as an alumna! Go Cougs!

## **Celebrating college excellence**

As COVID-19 spread across the globe, colleges found themselves pivoting to distance learning experiences leaving students, faculty and staff to adapt to a rapidly changing environment while navigating the implications of a global pandemic. Though everyone in the college deserves to be recognized for persevering through this difficult year, several have been recognized by their peers for their outstanding leadership, teamwork and service.

"Despite all the struggles and challenges our faculty, staff and students have faced, [they] all continue to adapt while finding ways to make a difference in the college and your communities. Thank you to all of you for your dedication and congratulations to those we are recognizing with awards this year, I couldn't be prouder to be a part of this community," said College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Dean Mark Leid.

Every year the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences takes a moment to recognize just a few of these students, faculty, and staff who demonstrate excellence in all that they do. This year's awardees were recognized during several virtual events with the support of Spokane Teachers Credit Union (STCU). The college is proud to announce the 2020-21 student, faculty and staff award recipients.

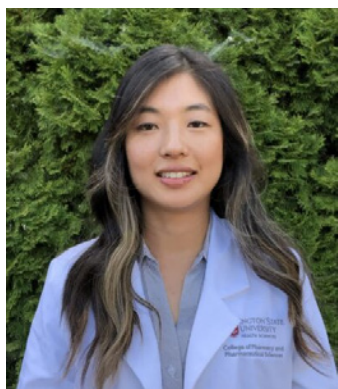
### **Student Awards**

The Student of the Year awards are selected by the faculty and recognize students who have shown a commitment to academic performance, leadership, scholarship, service and professionalism.

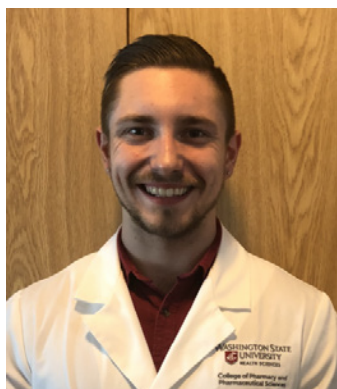
"In times of extreme struggle, we often see the best of humanity shine through if we really look for it. [These awards] celebrate those in our community who have done truly remarkable work over the last year," said Associate Dean for Professional Education Jennifer Robinson during the virtual awards ceremony. Robinson was joined by Yakima Director of Student Success and Assistant Professor of Pharmacotherapy Damianne Brand-Eubanks in the presentation of the pharmacy student awards.



### FIRST-YEAR (PY1):



Elissa Chung, Yakima



Fred Lienhard, Spokane

### SECOND-YEAR (PY2):



Dana Rabourne, Yakima



Artem Golub, Spokane

### THIRD-YEAR (PY3):



Trevor Schultz, Yakima



Elizabeth Satterwhite, Spokane

### PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEE:



Christopher Szlenk, Natesan lab

*The fourth-year (PY4) awards were presented during the virtual Senior Awards Celebration as part of the commencement proceedings.*

### Faculty Awards

Every year students nominate professors that they felt went above and beyond, both in and outside of the classroom. The Teacher of the Year award recognizes these outstanding teachers that demonstrate excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching; and who contribute to fulfilling the college's student-oriented mission. Over the past year, students had an opportunity to learn virtually from faculty members from both campuses; for that reason, this year's selections are not designated by campus.

### FIRST-YEAR (PY1) FACULTY AWARDEES:



Damianne Brand-Eubanks, Yakima  
Director of Student Success,  
Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor



Connie Remsberg, Pharmaceutical  
Sciences Assistant Professor

### SECOND-YEAR (PY2) FACULTY AWARDEES:



Sorosh Kherghehpoush,  
Research Fellow



Jennifer Miller, Assistant Professor of  
Pharmacotherapy

### THIRD-YEAR (PY3) FACULTY AWARDEES:



Brian Gates, Director of Residency Training, Pharmacotherapy Professor



Josh Neumiller, Vice Chair & Allen I. White Distinguished Associate Professor in Pharmacotherapy

### PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES FACULTY AWARDEE:



Zhenjia Wang, Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Professor

### FOURTH-YEAR (PY4) FACULTY PRECEPTORS OF THE YEAR:

Pharmacy students spend their fourth and final year of the curriculum on rotations, gaining real-world pharmacy experiences. In addition to teaching courses at the college, these faculty members serve as preceptors, guiding students through their experiential rotations.



Megan Giruzzi, Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor



Nicole Rodin, Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor



Megan Undeberg, Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor

### Staff Awards

The Staff Excellence Award recognizes staff who exhibit exceptional work, foster an atmosphere of trust and respect, and serve as effective ambassadors for the college. Faculty, staff, and students had the opportunity to submit nominations, and a faculty committee reviewed the applications and determined the winners.



Kelly Bronson, Computer Based Testing and Instructional Support Specialist



Sarah Kenney, Academic and Student Success Advisor Lead

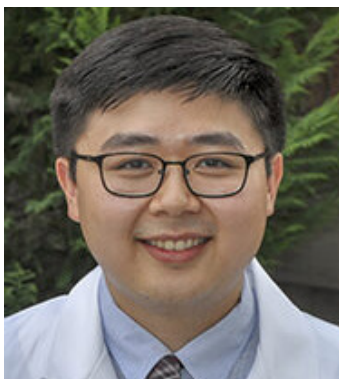


## CPPS students and faculty recognized by University

Across Washington State University (WSU) spring is a time to recognize those who go above and beyond, making an impact in their programs, the University, and their communities. Along with the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPPS) internal awards, students, faculty and staff are also recognized by WSU Health Sciences and by the University. It is with great pride the college announces the following WSU President's Awards for Leadership and WSU Health Sciences Chancellor's Excellence Awards received by CPPS students and faculty.

### The President's Award for Leadership

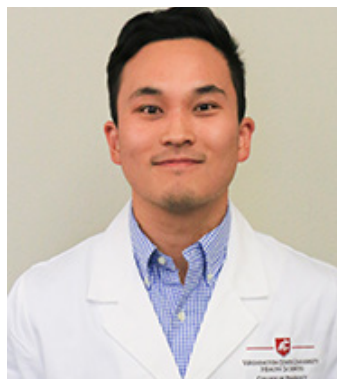
Every year, leaders across Washington State University are chosen for the President's Award for Leadership in honor of their exceptional leadership and service to students, WSU and the community. This year, seven pharmacy students were recognized during a [virtual Leadership and Engagement Awards of Distinction \(LEAD\) award ceremony](#) on April 20, 2021. The college is pleased to announce the following seven CPPS Doctor of Pharmacy student awardees.



Brian Wu,  
Yakima class of 2022



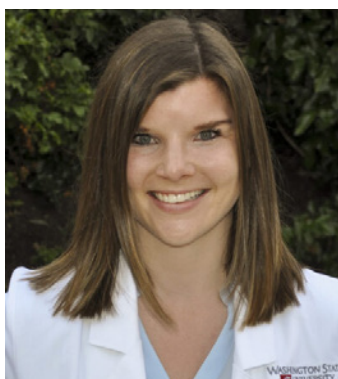
Dana Rabourne,  
Yakima class of 2023



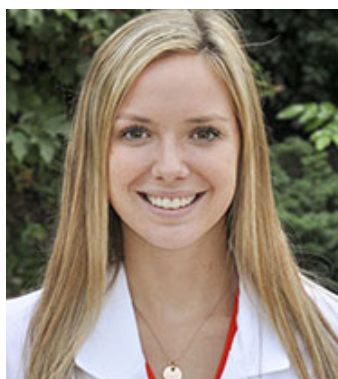
Minwoo Park,  
Yakima class of 2021



Misty Lefler,  
Spokane class of 2022



Olivia Hiskey,  
Spokane class of 2023



Shannon Patterson,  
Spokane class of 2022



Trevor Schultz,  
Yakima class of 2022

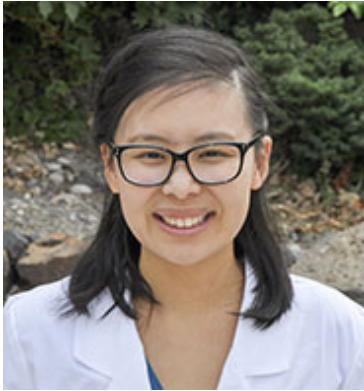
### Chancellor's Excellence Awards

The Chancellor's Excellence Awards are bestowed annually to students, faculty, staff and community partners who advance leadership and engagement at WSU Health Sciences. Recipients of these awards demonstrate exceptional leadership and service to the university and the community and/or support leadership development and engagement of WSU students.

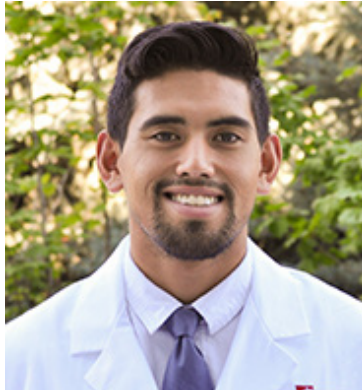
The chancellor presented the awards during two livestreamed ceremonies with [faculty and staff awards](#) presented April 21 while [student awards](#) were presented the following day. The college is pleased to announce the following seven CPPS awardees.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Chancellor's Leadership Award honors students for their leadership and academic contributions to the campus, commitment to advancing diversity, and passion for innovation and ingenuity in their chosen field.



Stephanie Vien, Doctor of Pharmacy candidate, Spokane class of 2022



Shayne Fontes, Doctor of Pharmacy candidate, Spokane class of 2022



Virginia Gonzalez, Doctor of Pharmacy candidate, Yakima class of 2021

## STUDENT, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

This award highlights students and community partners for their capacity building, reciprocity and innovation in our surrounding communities. The Student Impact and Registered Student Organization (RSO) Impact Awards recognize service-learning, philanthropy or project-based work that creates a significant and demonstrable community advancement. The Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) plans, organizes, coordinates and executes programs to improve health, the educational and social environment of minorities and underserved communities.



### STUDENT IMPACT AWARD

Kellyan Nguyen, Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate, Spokane class of 2022



### RSO IMPACT AWARD: SNPhA

The SNPhA RSO Impact Award was accepted by Spokane SNPhA President Erica Seu, Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate, Spokane class of 2022



Shamema Nasrin, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Molecular Medicine PhD candidate

## STUDENT LEGACY AWARD

This award recognizes graduating students (undergraduate, graduate, or professional) whose influence, ideals and activities throughout their college career have had a lasting, positive impact at WSU Health Sciences.





Senthil Natesan, Pharmaceutical  
Sciences Assistant Professor

### CHANCELLOR'S EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

The Office of the Chancellor and Vice President for Health Sciences presents this award to honor a faculty member who exemplifies scholarly teaching and effective mentoring of students as future health care professionals or researchers to impact the health of individuals and communities.



### PHILANTHROPY FOCUS

Kudos to Professor Emeritus **Gary G. Meadows** and his wife, Kathleen, for continuing to support the Mortar and Pestle Scholarship at the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Gary and Kathleen have funded this annual scholarship for many years while Gary was on faculty at the college, and we're grateful that they are continuing with their support. The Mortar and Pestle Scholarship is awarded annually to a single parent with financial need who is pursuing a pharmacy degree at WSU. Thank you, Gary and Kathleen for your generosity and your long-term investment in our students. Your support truly makes a difference! For information on [philanthropic opportunities](#) at the college, please contact Kelly Sylvester, Director of Development, at 509-368-6675 or email [Kelly.sylvester@wsu.edu](mailto:Kelly.sylvester@wsu.edu).

## Alumni News

**Sally Hughes** PharmD, RPh, BCMAS, class of 2020, is currently in her two-year post-doctoral fellowship in Clinical Management with HealthTrust and Belmont College of Pharmacy. Over the past year, during the fellowship, she was hired as a drug information and analytics contract pharmacist for HealthTrust, completed a teaching certificate program in which she co-instructed Biomedical Literature and Health Assessment to Belmont pharmacy students, precepted fourth-year APPE students on rotation, and worked in the Christy Houston Drug Information Center. Recently, she was mentored by WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences J. Roberts and Marcia Fosberg Distinguished Professor of Pharmacotherapy and Director of the Drug Information Center Danial Baker, PharmD, FASHP, FASCP to pursue a board certification as a medical affairs specialist to further her experience and career options in the pharmaceutical industry with the Accreditation Council for Medical Affairs (ACMA). She achieved the Board-Certified Medical Affairs Specialist (BCMAS) certification from ACMA in May of 2021 and believes that it will open new doors and provide her with more in-depth industry training that is needed to excel in the medical affairs career path. By the end of the fellowship, she aims to be a Medical Science Liaison for a pharmaceutical company back in Washington state.



**Ahmed Ali**, class of 2008, owner of Seattle's South End's [Othello Station Pharmacy](#) was recently featured in the [Seattle Times](#) for his work in helping to educate and vaccinate the diverse community about COVID-19. A lack of access to the internet and computers, as well as difficulty using the state's vaccine eligibility tool has been a hurdle to vaccine access for many in the community. Ahmed hopes to address this issue by encouraging patients to call the clinic to book their appointments. Additionally, his staff's knowledge of multiple languages has helped to bridge the communication barrier. Ahmed has also helped to establish the [Somali Health Board](#) in Seattle which has sought to make COVID-19 vaccines easier to access for people of color in the Rainier Valley, many of whom are immigrants and refugees.



**Joe Samek**, class of 1992, is working long hours administering COVID-19 vaccines to scores of patients in North Spokane for Rite Aid, and is "loving it" he said. Being on the front lines of the pandemic is hard work but rewarding. The one drawback? Not getting a lot of time to interact with patients. Joe, who spent 19 years with Shopko before they declared bankruptcy, said he grew very close to many of his patients at the Shopko pharmacy. Many of those patients come see him at Rite Aid to seek his health care advice. Patient interaction is the reason he has stayed in community pharmacy all these years and loves it, especially during the pandemic. Thank you, Joe, and to all of our WSU pharmacists for your service to the community during COVID. We are so grateful to you!

**Robert (Bob) Scheidtmann** and **Sam Deliganis**, class of 1966, are taking the lead on setting up a Fireside Chat with Dean Mark Leid. The meet-and-greet with the dean will take place via Zoom next month, and interested classmates can email Kelly Sylvester at the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences ([Kelly.sylvester@wsu.edu](mailto:Kelly.sylvester@wsu.edu)) for details. Bob and his wife Deborah recently moved to Bend, Oregon, from the bay area to be closer to family, and he's happy to be back in the Northwest.



The class of 1966 celebrated its Golden Grads reunion in 2016 on WSU's Health Sciences Campus in Spokane.

Want to be listed in our alumni updates? Send us your career information or let us know what you've been up to at [pharmacy.gocougs@wsu.edu](mailto:pharmacy.gocougs@wsu.edu)!

## Other News

### WSU women honored for their accomplishments

Misty Lefler, class of 2022, was recently chosen as the Washington State University Graduate Student Woman of Distinction. [Read more from the Daily Evergreen](#)

### Newly discovered protein helps rheumatoid arthritis symptom

Pharmaceutical sciences researchers discovered a protein that will help treat chronic inflammation resulting from rheumatoid arthritis. [Read more from the Daily Evergreen](#)

### There's a lot of buzz about potential benefits of vitamin B-12. Do I need to take a B-12 supplement?

According to Pharmacotherapy Chair John White it's unlikely. Most people get enough vitamin B-12 from their regular diet. [Read more from the Inlander's Health and Home Magazine](#)

### Asking for support made emergency contraceptive fundraiser a success

Students from WSU's College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences held a fundraiser to purchase emergency contraceptives, which will be provided to students for free. [Read more from the Daily Evergreen](#)

# Faculty Scholarship

## PUBLICATIONS

Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor and Director for the Center for Pharmacy Practice Research **Kimberly McKeirnan** and five co-authors published, ["Improving pneumococcal vaccination rates among rural older adults through academic detailing: medicine, nursing and pharmacy partnership,"](#) in the Molecular Diversity Preservation International (MDPI) Journal in March 2021.

Research Fellow **Sorosh Kherghehpoush** and **Kimberly McKeirnan** published, ["Pharmacist-led HIV and hepatitis C point-of-care testing and risk mitigation counseling in individuals experiencing homelessness,"](#) in Elsevier's March 2021 Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy Journal.

**Kimberly McKeirnan**, Vice Chair and Allen I. White Distinguished Associate Professor of Pharmacotherapy **Joshua Neumiller** and one co-author published, ["Teaching advanced pharmacy practice experience students to be effective teachers of second-year pharmacotherapy students,"](#) in Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning

Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Anil Singh** (Ahmed lab) and four co-authors published, ["EGCG, a green tea catechin, as a potential therapeutic agent for symptomatic and asymptomatic Sars-coV-2 infection,"](#) in Molecules in February 2021.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Associate **Jingrui Chen** (Cheng lab) and Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Zhaokang Cheng** with student co-authors **Yuening Liu** (pharmaceutical sciences and molecular medicine), **Shayne Fontes** (Doctor of Pharmacy), and **Erika Bautista** (Doctor of Pharmacy) published, ["Physiological and pathological roles of protein kinase a in the heart,"](#) in Cardiovascular Research, the international journal of the European Society of Cardiology for basic and translational research, spanning all topics within cardiology and cardiovascular biology in January 2021.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Abdul Basit Shaikh** (Prasad lab) and Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Professor **Bhagwat Prasad** with student co-author **Deepak Ahire** (pharmaceutical sciences and molecular medicine), and one other co-author published a research article, ["Ultrasensitive quantification of drug-metabolizing enzymes and transporters in small sample volume by microflow LC-MS/MS,"](#) in the Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences in April 2021.

## PRESENTATIONS

The United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR) held its annual [Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting](#) on April 8-9, 2021 via video conference. The meeting included updates by Department of Energy AU-13 Program Manager Joey Zhou, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Dean **Mark Leid**, and WSU Tri-Cities Chancellor Sandra Haynes. USTUR staff and collaborators gave nine presentations about research and operations at the USTUR.

Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor (Yakima) **Dana Bowers** presented via videoconference, "The wonderful world of antibiotics," to Mr. Karim's seventh-grade microbiology class at North Central High School in Spokane, Washington four times over April 26-27. The presentation was a primer on antibiotics, antimicrobial resistance and the path to becoming a pharmacist.

Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor **Cheyenne Newsome** was recognized in the WSU Insider article, ["Raising trans awareness in pharmacy education and across campus,"](#) for her continued advocacy and work on transgender patient care in pharmacy education.

## GRANTS & AWARDS

Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Senthil Natesan** was selected to receive the WSU Health Sciences Chancellor's award for Excellence in Teaching.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Professor **Zhenjia Wang** was selected as the [2020-21 WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program Teacher of the Year.](#)

Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Connie Remsberg** and Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor and

Yakima Director of Student Success **Damianne Brand-Eubanks** were voted the 2020-21 Teachers of the Year by College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences first-year student pharmacists.

**Sorosh Kherghehpoush** and Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor **Jennifer Miller** were voted the 2020-21 Teachers of the Year by College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences second-year student pharmacists.

Pharmacotherapy Professor and Director of Residency Training **Brian Gates** and **Joshua Neumiller** were voted the 2020-21 Teachers of the Year by College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences third-year student pharmacists.

Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor **Nicole Rodin**, Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor **Megan Undeberg** and Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor (Yakima) **Megan Giruzzi** were voted the 2020-21 WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Faculty Preceptors of the Year by fourth-year student pharmacists.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Boyang (Jason) Wu** has been awarded an R01 from the National Institutes of Health—National Cancer Institute (NIH—NCI) in the amount of \$1,942,816 over five years for his project, “Deciphering mechanisms of tumor stromal interactions in prostate cancer.”

Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Associate **Md Masud Parvez** (Prasad lab) received third place in the Drug Metabolism and Disposition category for his poster titled, “Proteomics-informed scaling of irinotecan metabolism, transport, and gut microbial activation explain its intestinal toxicity after intravenous dose,” at the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2021 in April 2021.

## Student Achievement

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) STUDENTS

**Yuening Liu** (Cheng lab) with faculty co-authors **Zhaokang Cheng** and **Jingrui Chen** and Doctor of Pharmacy student co-authors **Shayne Fontes** and **Erika Bautista** published, “Physiological and pathological roles of protein kinase a in the heart,” in Cardiovascular Research in January 2021.

**Deepak Ahire** (Prasad lab), with faculty co-authors **Abdul Basit Shaikh** and **Bhagwat Prasad** and one other co-author published a research article, “Ultrasensitive quantification of drug-metabolizing enzymes and transporters in small sample volume by microflow LC-MS/MS,” in the Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences in April 2021.

**Christopher Szlenk** (Natesan lab) was selected as the 2020-21 WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Molecular Medicine Graduate Program Student of the Year.

The following students successfully passed their preliminary exam:

- **James Nguyen** (Paine lab), January 12, 2021
- **Shelby Coates** (Lazarus lab), March 22, 2021
- **Deepak Ahire** (Prasad lab), March 29, 2021
- **Peter Obi** (Natesan lab), April 1, 2021
- **Victoria Oyanna** (Clarke lab), April 13, 2021
- **Paul Panipinto** (Ahmed lab), April 19, 2021
- **Keti Bardhi** (Lazarus lab), April 20, 2021
- **Farheen Shaikh** (Ahmed lab), April 21, 2021
- **Sheena Sharma** (Prasad lab), April 22, 2021

The following students successfully passed their final defense:

- **Soumyadeep Sarkar**, March 15, 2021
- **Yuening Liu**, April 8, 2021
- **Xiaolu Zhu**, April 14, 2021



**Joshua Gallo** successfully passed his final exam for a Master of Science degree on January 5, 2021.

**Shamema Nasrin** (Lazarus lab) was selected to receive WSU Health Sciences [Chancellor's Legacy Award](#).

**Deepak Ahire** (Prasad lab) received second place in the Drug Metabolism and Disposition category for his poster titled, "Inter-individual variability and differential tissue abundance of mitochondrial amidoxime reducing component 1 (mARC1) enzyme in human," at the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2021 in April 2021.

#### DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PHARM.D) STUDENTS

**Shayne Fontes** (class of 2022), **Erika Bautista** (class of 2021) with faculty co-authors **Zhaokang Cheng, Jingrui Chen** and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Molecular Medicine student co-author **Yuening Liu** (Cheng lab) published, "[Physiological and pathological roles of protein kinase a in the heart,](#)" in Cardiovascular Research in January 2021.

**Misty Lefler**, class of 2022, was chosen as the Washington State University [Graduate Student Woman of Distinction](#).

**Catherine Chung** (class of 2024) with faculty co-author **Josh Neumiller** published, "[Always reevaluate background therapies when starting a new glucose-lowering agent,](#)" in the Disasters Averted forum on March 30, 2021 of the Diabetes in Control's website.

**Maggie Godsey** received the APhA-ASP Senior Recognition for the [graduating class of 2021](#).

**Taylor Birkland** received the Wolters Kluwer Clinical Drug Information: Facts and Comparisons Award Excellence in Clinical Communication for the [graduating class of 2021](#).

**Peter Bonilla** received the Mylan Pharmaceuticals Excellence in Pharmacy Award for the graduating class of 2021.

**Nicole Conde, Katie Couch, Zhanhuang Huang** and **Hanh Nguyen** received the Merck Manual Award for Academic Excellence for the [graduating class of 2021](#).

**Katie Couch** received the Providence Health Care Foundation: Larry G. Bettsworth Providence Sacred Heart Health System Pharmacy Award for the [graduating class of 2021](#).

The following students were selected as the 2020-21 WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences [Students of the Year](#):

- **Elissa Chung**, Yakima class of 2024
- **Fred Lienhard**, Spokane class of 2024
- **Dana Radbourn**, Yakima class of 2023
- **Artem Golub**, Spokane class of 2023
- **Trevor Schultz**, Yakima class of 2022
- **Elizabeth Satterwhite**, Spokane class of 2022
- **Austin Nguyen**, Yakima class of 2021
- **Lee Roy Esposito**, Spokane class of 2021

The following students were selected to receive the WSU Health Sciences [Chancellor's Leadership Award](#):

- **Stephanie Vien**, Spokane class of 2022
- **Shayne Fontes**, Spokane class of 2022
- **Virginia Gonzalez**, Yakima class of 2021

**Kellyan Nguyen**, Spokane class of 2022, was selected to receive the WSU Health Sciences Chancellor's [Student Impact Award](#).

The Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) was selected to receive the WSU Health Sciences Chancellor's [Registered Student Organization Impact Award](#).

The following students were selected to receive the WSU [President's Award for Leadership](#):

- **Brian Wu**, Yakima class of 2022
- **Dana Rabourne**, Yakima class of 2023
- **Minwoo Park**, Spokane class of 2021
- **Misty Lefler**, Spokane class of 2022
- **Olivia Hiskey**, Spokane class of 2023
- **Shannon Patterson**, Spokane class of 2022
- **Trevor Schultz**, Yakima class of 2022

**Kayla Leland**, class of 2022, recently attended the Independent Pharmacy Conference (IPC). [Read more about her experience on Instagram](#).



*College of*

## Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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