Dear Friends and Colleagues:

A new administration in Washington D.C. always brings uncertainty to higher education. Changes in policy, budgetary priorities, and politico-social philosophy can have profound effects on colleges and universities, especially public institutions with a significant research mission.

The current anxiety in higher education is more acute than most of us have experienced in our lifetimes. Within academic health sciences in particular, there are at least three key areas of concern:

• Vulnerability of the NIH budget given the administration’s stated goals directing priorities to other areas. Without associated reductions in entitlement programs, it is unclear how a congress previously committed to a balanced budget will approve these new expenditures without significant cuts in a variety of federal programs, including those that fund basic and applied research.

• “Fake science” may become institutionalized. The first indication of this potential trend is the recent alleged commission on “vaccine safety and scientific integrity” (suggesting that the integrity of the science that has demonstrated conclusively that vaccines are safe and effective will be under attack). A recent outbreak of mumps in Washington state, including a large cluster of cases in Spokane County, is a reminder of the critical importance that immunizations are to public health.

• Restrictions on immigration may have an impact on academic research. A significant plurality of students pursuing advanced degrees in the sciences at U.S. universities are from overseas. These international students are not displacing U.S. citizens from academic programs; there is simply an insufficient supply of domestic students who are interested in advanced training in the sciences, including biomedical and health sciences. The fear of losing the ability to enroll qualified international students in advanced degree-granting programs within the academy is real. The realization of that fear ultimately being a reduction in the science workforce with significant and persistent long-term costs to the economy.

Among these areas of concern, the debate continues as to which one is the most important and how each will impact the policy landscape surrounding higher education and research. In this environment of anxiety we need to keep several thoughts close to both heart and mind; thoughts which are part of the very fabric that our university community is comprised of and which, I believe, cannot be reiterated too much. At WSU we hold the following core values:

• We are committed to being a community that protects the free exchange of ideas while encouraging dialog that is constructive and civil.

• We embrace a worldview that recognizes and values the importance of domestic and global diversity, global interdependence, and sustainability.

Time will tell us what the final policy landscape will look like. In the meantime I know that the progress we have made as a
College, university and community cannot be undone if we keep our core values close to heart and continue to collaborate on the solutions that will advance, promote and protect human health. This is the vision of our college’s land-grant heritage and tradition of service to society, and is why we strive every day for excellence in collaborative research and scholarship, and developing outstanding health care professionals and scientists.

Best wishes,

Gary M. Pollack
Dean, College of Pharmacy
Washington State University

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2
Allen I. White Lecture
12:00 p.m.
WSU Spokane, PBS 101
View details

MARCH 26
CougaRx Reception at APhA
San Francisco, Calif.
RSVP

APRIL 8
CougaRx Reception in Yakima
Location and time TBA

APRIL 21
Celebrating Generosity
5:00 p.m.
WSU Spokane
RSVP

More college events »

COLLEGE NEWS

Pharmacy faculty receives national honor

WSU pharmacy’s Danial Baker is one of 23 members of the Healthcare Quality and Safety Expert Committee who were selected for the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention’s 2016 Award for Outstanding Contribution to the U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) standards.

An award certificate was presented at a special awards ceremony during the meeting of the USP’s governing body, in Rockville, Maryland on February 13, 2017.

The U.S. Pharmacopeia is the organization that has been responsible for ensuring the quality of America’s drug supply since 1820. The USP sets the standards that regulate the strength, quality and purity of medicines, food ingredients and dietary supplements manufactured and sold worldwide in more than 140 countries. Within the United States, these standards are enforced by the Food and Drug Administration.

One of the activities of The Healthcare Quality and Safety Expert Committee this past year was to update the model guidelines of drug categories required by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in all medicare and medicaid drug...
benefit programs. The committee was selected for this award for its continued commitment to develop, strengthen, revise, and promote adoption of healthcare quality standards that address quality and safety related to the use of medications and that are of value to patients and practitioners.

Baker was appointed to the Healthcare Quality and Safety Expert Committee by the USP in 2015 and is serving a five-year term. He has also served on the USP's Medicare Model Guidelines subcommittee, Safety subcommittee, and the Model Guidelines for All Marketed Products expert panel since 2016.

This is one example of how faculty at the WSU College of Pharmacy are contributing to initiatives that address our nation's most pressing public health issues. Through his service to the USP, Baker contributes to the development of programs and guidelines that impact the citizens of the United States and the world.

Baker is an associate dean and professor at the WSU College of Pharmacy in Spokane, Washington. He also serves as the director of the WSU Drug Information Center. He has been a faculty member at WSU for 33 years.

Award will help pharmacy prof lead, advocate for change

SPOKANE, Wash. – Jennifer Robinson, pharmacy clinical associate professor, is one of 30 educators nationwide selected for the 2016-17 Academic Leadership Fellows Program (ALFP) of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

She intends to use the fellowship to become a more effective leader, “so I can better support those around me – my staff and students – and inspire them to be better leaders.”
Dear Alums, Colleagues and Friends of Pharmacy,

As the days slowly get longer, we are looking forward to spring in Spokane! This is the time of year we match our first-year pharmacists to their alumni mentors. This is exciting for me because I get to watch, first-hand, our Cougar pharmacy family grow stronger and more connected. It is an honor and point of pride to help our outstanding students connect with our amazing alumni. As I look forward to the great things our student pharmacists are sure to accomplish, I was also struck

Fellows expand relationships with peers and colleagues in their colleges, universities and other institutions. They are matched with “leadership facilitators” – professionals who mentor them as they learn about administration, leadership development, team building and legislative and public policy issues critical to pharmaceutical and higher education.

The Washington State University College of Pharmacy has a strong reputation for developing pharmacists who become leaders in their health care communities, said Robinson, whose research interests include leadership, innovative teaching methods and clinical community practice.

“I’ve appreciated our college’s focus on leadership development,” she said. “We have a faculty mentor program for new faculty and a teaching development program so we can become better educators.

“Every part of our academic community can grow and get better,” she said. “That’s what this place does. I expect that I will not be the last AACP leadership fellow from WSU.”

Over the last five years, the College of Pharmacy has implemented innovations to the doctor of pharmacy program to offer a better, learner-focused education and in turn develop the health care leaders of the future.

“The focus of this fellowship is really so we can have more advocates for change, whether small changes within our own programs or larger ones across pharmacy academics or practice,” said Robinson. “This is a connection to my peers across academic pharmacy, which gives me a vast group of allies for support in the changes we are all advocating for.”

Robinson is also assistant dean for recruitment and student success in the college. She graduated with a doctor of pharmacy degree from WSU in 2005 and managed Jones Pharmacy in Spokane until 2008 when she joined the WSU faculty.

Dear Alums, Colleagues and Friends of Pharmacy,

As the days slowly get longer, we are looking forward to spring in Spokane! This is the time of year we match our first-year pharmacists to their alumni mentors. This is exciting for me because I get to watch, first-hand, our Cougar pharmacy family grow stronger and more connected. It is an honor and point of pride to help our outstanding students connect with our amazing alumni. As I look forward to the great things our student pharmacists are sure to accomplish, I was also struck
In response to the mumps outbreak, our student pharmacists teamed up with the Spokane Regional Health District and Walgreens to provide emergency response immunization clinics. Read more »

Kirk Heinz, class of 1986, was recently featured in America’s Pharmacist magazine. This article displays Heinz’s passion for pharmacy and his commitment to patient care. Read article »

As alumni and their families stay connected with the college, their children often follow in their parents’ footsteps to become Cougar pharmacists. View the list of generations of pharmacy alumni »

remembering someone who played a role in my career when I was a student pharmacist: Marty Jinks, who was a faculty member and administrator at the college for over 20 years.

Marty was an early champion for pharmacist-provided services, and believed that pharmacists have an obligation to contribute to public health. The students he taught and mentored took this message to heart, and one can see evidence of this in the caring practices developed by many of his former students.

The college maintains several scholarships in his name, including the Martin J. Jinks Memorial Scholarship and the ASHP/Marty Jinks Memorial Travel Award.

Other pharmacy faculty at WSU who pursue public health and were influenced by Marty Jinks include Brenda Bray and Lisa Woodard.

Brenda and Lisa were classmates at WSU and graduated together with their bachelor’s degrees in pharmacy in 1983. They obtained their master’s degrees in public health from the University of Washington in 1985. The two of them are so committed to the cause of public health and the role the pharmacist can play, they established the Brenda S. Bray and Lisa J. Woodard Endowed Scholarship in Public Health.

This scholarship is awarded to a student pharmacist who has demonstrated a strong commitment to public health by promoting an improved quality of life, healthy development and healthy behaviors across all life stages.

I would like to conclude by thanking each of you for the mentoring you provide to student pharmacists and colleagues. The time you take to guide these individuals positively influences how patients are cared for!

With appreciation and pride in the Cougar spirit,

Linda Garrelts MacLean, BPharm, RPh
Vice Dean of External Relations
Clinical Professor

ALUMNI NEWS
ALUMNI UPDATES

• We saw Bridget (Mummey) Eller, class of 2015, and her six-month-old daughter Evangeline, at the NCPA lasagna dinner event. It was great catching up and seeing her little one! View photo »

• Dan Steiber, class of 1981, was recently named the executive vice president of Specialty Pharmacy Times. Great job Dan! He also continues to engage with strategic independent consulting or serve on boards under Genesis Pharma Consultants when time permits. Read more »

• We recently learned that Jace Hovda, class of 2016, welcomed son Liam in October. Congrats Jace!

Want to be listed in our alumni updates? Send us your career information or let us know what you’ve been up to! gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Publications

• Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor Zhenjia Wang, Pharmaceutical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Associate Dafeng Chu, and one co-author published, “Leukocyte-mediated delivery of nanotherapeutics in inflammatory and tumor sites,” in Theranostics, a peer-reviewed resource from the Ivyspring International Publisher. Read abstract »

• College of Pharmacy Dean and Pharmaceutical Sciences Professor Gary M. Pollack and one co-author published the book Foundations in Pharmacokinetics through The University of North Carolina Press in January 2017. Available on the iBooks store »

• Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor (Yakima) Anne Kim and Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor Joshua J. Neumiller published the online continuing medical education program, “Update on biosimilars in the United States: impacts of biosimilar approval for managed care, hospital, and specialty pharmacy,” on Power-Pak C.E. Available online »

• Pharmacotherapy Professor Tracy L. Skaer and one co-author published, “Illness perceptions and burden of disease in patients with fibromyalgia,” in the journal Expert Review of Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes Research, published online December 07, 2016. Read abstract »

• Pharmacotherapy Professor and Associate Dean for Professional and Continuing Education Danial E. Baker published, “High drug prices: so who is to blame?” in the independent, peer-reviewed journal Hospital Pharmacy in January 2017.

• Danial Baker and Pharmacotherapy Clinical Professor Terri L. Levien published, “Lixisenatide,” in the journal Hospital Pharmacy in January 2017. Read article »

Presentations

• Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor (Yakima) Christina Buchman presented, “Prescribing in elderly populations,” for the Benton Franklin County Medical Society 33rd Annual CME Seminar at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, Washington, on February 24, 2017.

• Pharmacotherapy Clinical Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for the Yakima Extension of the Doctor of Pharmacy Program Angela Stewart presented, “Genetic factors in drug metabolism,” for the Benton Franklin County Medical Society 33rd Annual CME Seminar at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, Washington, on February 24, 2017.

• Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor Senthil Natesan presented, “Prediction of drug action and disposition by in-silico methods,” as part of the WSU College of Pharmacy Graduate Research Seminar Series on February 15, 2017.

Grants

• Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Research Professor and United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR) Director Sergei Tolmachev received $5,500,000 over five years from the U.S. Department of Energy to
manage and operate USTUR from April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2022.

- College of Pharmacy Affiliated Specialty Resident Melanie Shelden received $2,500 over two years from the Washington State University I-Corps program, an initiative supported by the National Science Foundation, for the project titled, “Expanding the Innovation Ecosystem at WSU.”

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) students**

- Shannon Kozlovich, pharmaceutical sciences (Lazarus lab), presented, “Stereospecific phase II metabolism of the potent tobacco carcinogen, NNAL,” as part of the WSU College of Pharmacy Graduate Research Seminar Series on February 3, 2017.

- Sara Dumit, pharmaceutical sciences (Tolmachev lab), received the Erwin & Jeannie Foisy Scholarship travel grant from Washington State University College of Pharmacy.


- Xinyue Dong, pharmaceutical sciences (Wang lab), with faculty co-authors Zhenjia Wang and Dafeng Chu published, “Leukocyte-mediated delivery of nanotherapeutics in inflammatory and tumor sites,” in Theranostics, a peer-reviewed resource from the Ivyspring International Publisher. [Read abstract »]

**Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) students**

- Tram Pham, Natalie Tucker and James Kent coordinated 64 student pharmacists who volunteered as part of a series of emergency immunization clinics in the Spokane area in collaboration with Walgreens and the Spokane Regional Health District.

**JOBS**

- Clinical Assistant Professor
  Pharmacotherapy - Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital

- Clinical Assistant Professor
  College of Pharmacy - Yakima