Dear Friends and Colleagues:

At the WSU College of Pharmacy, we believe it is important for us to set an example of the kind of leadership we aspire to instill in our students, and it is important for our alumni and friends to know why we feel this is such an important initiative to pursue. It’s because we are dedicated to advancing, promoting and protecting human health, and that’s done in part through advancing the role the profession of pharmacy plays in the future of health care. As we challenge the status quo to develop practice-ready graduates, we are also growing a community of like-minded peers within the academy. This summer we gather in Spokane to share our experiences and learn from others at our Transformation and Innovation of Pharmacy Education (TIPed) 2017 Institute. Collaboration within this community is vital to seeing the widespread adoption of innovation that will push the quality of our education and the advancement of our profession forward.

We believe in the viability of a robust market for well-prepared pharmacy graduates across a spectrum of positions and activities. It was this belief in the pharmacy profession that caused us to expand our Doctor of Pharmacy program and to establish a cohort of students in Yakima, reflecting our commitment to increase educational and career opportunities, and to enhance access to healthcare for the citizens of Washington state. Of course, quantity does not ensure quality, and our faculty have been totally committed to providing our students with the highest-quality educational experience, as well as the support necessary to become outstanding professionals.

An emerging external measure of programmatic quality is the Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA), developed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. Over the last four years, the proportion of our third-year students scoring in the two highest-percentile decades (above the 90th percentile and between the 80th and 90th percentiles) on the PCOA each increased seven-fold. This substantial increase in high-end performance is coincident with completing implementation of a competency-based approach to educating our students. While other factors may have contributed to the improvement we are seeing on this admittedly controversial national examination, it appears that the pedagogical strategies we have been developing over the past several years are having the impact that our faculty envisioned.

There is no evidence, at least in the salaries earned by pharmacists, of the retrenchment of the profession predicted by some of our doom-and-gloom colleagues. A recent article in Bloomberg listed the 25 best-paying jobs in the United States. Of note was that two of the top five positions were occupied by pharmacy: “Pharmacy Manager” at number two (second only to “Physician”), and “Pharmacist” at number five. Pharmacy continues to be a personally, professionally, and financially rewarding profession, and one that has the potential for profound impact on the health of individuals and communities.

Best wishes,

Gary M. Pollack
Dean, College of Pharmacy
Washington State University
American Pharmacists Association CEO to speak at pharmacy commencement

SPOKANE, Wash.—Tom Menighan, executive vice president and chief executive officer of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), will be the keynote speaker at the commencement ceremony of the Washington State University College of Pharmacy at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 4, at the Martin Woldson Theater.

The APhA is the nation’s largest professional association for pharmacists. The organization has been front and center in the initiative to see pharmacists recognized as health care providers, especially by insurance companies that routinely refuse to reimburse pharmacists for the growing number of services they provide. In 2015 legislation was passed in Washington requiring insurance carriers to recognize pharmacists in the same way as other providers, but not all states have this kind of legislation in place.

This will be Menighan’s second time to WSU in Spokane. He was one of the first presenters of the college’s Preparing for Your Career in Pharmacy Seminar Series in 2013. The seminars support the college’s mission to educate outstanding health care professionals and expose student pharmacists to current pharmacy leaders across the country who are driving innovation, advancing health care practice, and improving people’s lives.

Menighan has been involved with the APhA for over three decades, first as an invited speaker, a senior staff member, then as a volunteer on the board of trustees and even serving a term as elected president from 2001 to 2002. In addition to his work with APhA, Menighan is a pharmacy owner and business entrepreneur. He founded several companies including a Medicine Shoppe pharmacy in West Virginia, and SynTegra Solutions Inc, a company that provided auditing, consulting and health technology services based in Maryland. Menighan also founded SymRx Inc, developed CornerDrugstore.com, and is currently a partner in the multi-state specialty pharmacy chain Pharmacy Associates Inc.

Menighan’s selection as the commencement speaker for pharmacy maintains the college’s practice to bring thought leaders to campus. Previous keynote speakers include former Surgeon General Richard Carmona, former FDA administrator Susan C. Winckler, and prior to that Rear Adm. Scott Giberson, a deputy surgeon general and pharmacist.

Full details on the WSU College of Pharmacy commencement ceremony can be found online.
Post-Graduate Fellowship in Pharmacy Focuses on Teaching Excellence in Higher Education

SPOKANE, Wash.—The Washington State University College of Pharmacy is dedicated to preparing outstanding health care professionals and scientists. As part of its mission to develop practice-ready graduates who are ready to step into the evolving health care landscape and lead tomorrow’s health care solutions, the college is also making efforts to develop the next generation of pharmacy educators. This is why in 2016 the college began a post-graduate teaching fellows program focused on pharmacy education.

“This fellowship program is just one of the many innovative things we are implementing within the College of Pharmacy to improve pharmacy education here at WSU,” says Connie Remsberg, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence at the WSU College of Pharmacy.

The program accommodates two fellows, one in Spokane and one in Yakima, each completing a two-year fellowship. The program prepares fellows for a potential career in pharmacy education in a Doctor of Pharmacy program through a mentored experience in teaching, professional development, and scholarship. The fellowship program is open to applicants with a Pharm.D. degree or equivalent degree (Ph.D., M.D., Ed.D.). The current application period runs through March 31, 2017. Full details and how to apply are listed here.

Curriculum innovation with the College of Pharmacy is just one example of how Washington State University offers a transformative educational experience to undergraduate and graduate students. The Pharmacy Teaching Fellows Program ensures there will be thought leaders and advocates for curriculum innovation within the next generation of pharmacy educators.

WSU expands training for immunizations to increase access to care

SPOKANE, Wash.—The Washington State University (WSU) College of Pharmacy, with permission from the Idaho Board of Pharmacy, is working to expand access to health services in Idaho.

The state of Idaho passed a law in March that allows pharmacy technicians in Idaho to administer immunizations as long as they have been trained. WSU College of Pharmacy’s Kimberly McKeirnan with faculty colleagues Kyle Frazier and Linda Garrelts-MacLean developed a training program to teach pharmacy technicians how to administer immunizations.

McKeirnan and her team received a $5,800 grant from Albertsons Companies, LLC to develop and deliver the four-hour professional education program, which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The training was offered in Spokane and Boise.

“We trained 25 technicians in December and plan to collect data on how many immunizations they give between now and May 2017,” said McKeirnan. More training is planned for other technicians in Idaho who are interested.

“This will hopefully have significant impact on community pharmacy practice,” she said.

The data collected will be used to show how expanding the number of health professionals trained to immunize patients can increase immunization rates, better utilize the skills of pharmacy technicians, and ease the time burden on pharmacists, said McKeirnan.

Research at the WSU College of Pharmacy supports the university’s land-grant mission to address some of society’s most complex issues, specifically WSU’s efforts surrounding developing practical solutions to challenging problems in health care delivery, health care access and disease prevention.
Dear Alums, Colleagues and Friends of Pharmacy,

I am both proud and excited to announce a very special event that we are planning for this fall: we are bringing back Pharmacy Weekend! Please mark your calendars now and join us in Spokane on October 20-21. What is very special about the reinvention of this WSU pharmacy tradition (now called Pharmacy Homecoming Weekend) is we will be hosting an event on Friday evening to honor the distinguished service, accomplishments and contributions of WSU College of Pharmacy Professor Emeritus R. Keith Campbell. I invite you to join me for this esteemed event, it certainly will be a night you do not want to miss!

Our faculty prepare our graduates for success. One of the major elements that sets the WSU College of Pharmacy apart is the lasting relationships that our student pharmacists form during their time here. One very good example is this note Keith happened to forward to me a year ago from Alyson Blum, who is now a Clinical Assistant Professor here at WSU:

Dear Professor Campbell,
The other day, I had a new patient with Type 1 come in. I was reading her OB’s note and he was referring her to me for pregnancy. She is 8 weeks and is very sweet. BUT, I could tell she wasn’t sure how to feel about having a new diabetes care team during pregnancy. I usually take the first appointment to get to know people and how they manage their own diabetes. We laughed, we talked about pumps and CGMs because she wasn’t aware of some of the new technology available. At the end she asked with tears in her eyes, “can I give you a hug?” and I said “of course.” Then she said, “I have had diabetes since I was 4 years old and this is the best appointment I have ever had. You are the only diabetes specialist I have ever seen who I actually believe understands me and my disease.”

I believe life is made up of moments that create life’s course. This moment made me reflect on the moments that got me here and you have played the biggest role in providing these moments. From “you need to be great,” to “you need to go to Camp STIX,” to “Alyson Blum would be prefect for the OB residency,” I wouldn’t be here without you. So thank you for all you have done!! I love my job every day.

This is the impact great faculty members have on future pharmacists, and I know that many of you also have stories similar to Alyson’s! We believe that fostering these relationships and providing opportunities for comradery is not just to the benefit of our students, but also for our alumni and friends to stay connected and interact with each other. This is why we decided to host Pharmacy Homecoming Weekend—so that you can stay connected with the Cougar pharmacy family. I look forward to seeing you there!

With Cougar Pride,

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

STUDENT NEWS
Shelby Denney, class of 2017, followed her passion to pursue veterinary pharmacy. In the process she created an online elective and continuing education course. Read more »

FUTURE OF PHARMACY
Using a patients’ individual genetic information to select drugs and drug dosages specifically effective for them is part of pharmacy’s future. Read more »

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Former senator of Washington’s 12th Legislative District Linda Evans Parlette is the fourth generation in her family born and raised in Central Washington. Read more »

ALUMNI UPDATES

- **Jim Carlson**, class of 1980, is now working for ASHP as an Accreditation Services Associate, conducting accreditation surveys of PGY1 and PGY2 pharmacy residency programs. He is based out of the Seattle area and travels all over the country conducting accreditation surveys. His niece **Megan (Foster) Tilton**, class of 2015, is working at Virginia Mason Memorial Hospital in Yakima.

- We recently heard from **Huy Hoang**, class of 2014. He sent us this great photo at Antelope Canyon, Arizona, about a two-hour drive north of the Grand Canyon. View photo »

- **Margaret Doane**, wife of 1949 pharmacy alumnus Wayne Doane, passed away in December 2016. Our condolences to the Doane family.

- **Jacque Doane**, WSU class of 1972 and pharmacy supporter, was named the “Dorothy Stimson Bullitt Community Service Award” recipient for 2016-2017.

- Thank you to all that joined us at our APhA reception in March! View photo »

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**

- Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor **Kimberly C. McKeirnan**, Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor **Julie M. Akers**, Pharmacotherapy Research Associate **Jennifer C. Czapinski**, and Pharmacotherapy Clinical Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Recruitment and Student Success **Jennifer D. Robinson** published, “Using collaborative drug therapy agreements to train student pharmacists to provide clinical patient care services,“ in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, the open-access official scholarly publication of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), available online March 30, 2017. Read more

- Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Professor **Grant Trobridge** and six co-authors published, “Evidence for the in vivo safety of insulated foamy viral vectors,” in Gene Therapy, a peer-reviewed journal from the nature publishing group. Read more

- Pharmacotherapy Professor **Tracy L. Skaer** published, “Treatment recommendations for fibromyalgia,” in the

- 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 (2017;52(1):5-6).

Presentations
- Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor Hui Zhang presented, “Alcohol modulation of NK cells and CD8+ T cells via IL-15: kill two birds with one stone,” as part of the WSU College of Pharmacy Research Seminar Series on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, in Spokane, Washington.
- Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor and Director of Experiential Services Joshua J. Neumiller presented, “Type 2 diabetes – pathophysiology and pharmacology review,” as a webinar for Postgraduate Healthcare Education, LLC on March, 22 2017.

Service
- Joshua Neumiller was elected to serve a two-year term on the Rho Chi Society Executive Council as Region VII Councilor at the APhA Annual Meeting on March 26, 2017.

Grants
- Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor John Clarke was awarded $714,616 over three years by the National Institutes of Health for the project, “Microcystin-LR toxicity in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis.”

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) students
- Kari Gaither, pharmaceutical sciences (Liu lab), will receive the 2017 Karen DePauw Leadership Award on April 6 in Pullman, Washington. Gaither was chosen for her demonstrated leadership as a WSU doctoral candidate and will receive $1,000 as part of this award, given jointly by the WSU Association for Faculty Women and the WSU Graduate School.
- Sara Dumit, pharmaceutical sciences (Tolmachev lab), presented, “Plutonium biokinetics in the human body under decorporation treatment,” during the European Radiation Dosimetry Group Annual Meeting in Karlsruhe, Germany on February 27 through March 3, 2017.
- Sara Dumit, pharmaceutical sciences (Tolmachev lab), presented, “Chelation treatment after occupational exposure to plutonium,” at the Brazilian Graduate Student Conference at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California on March 11 and March 12, 2017. Faculty co-authors include: Sergei Tolmachev and Maia Avtandilashvili.

Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) students
- The WSU student chapters of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and Operation Immunization provided medication reviews, immunizations and cholesterol screenings to elderly patients at the Deer Park Crossing Senior

- **Natalie Tucker** has been selected as an incoming American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) National Communications Standing Committee member.

- WSU APhA-ASP Operation Immunization 2015-2016 has been recognized with an APhA Regional Award.

- WSU College of Pharmacy elected the following students to the Professional Pharmacy Student Organization (PPSO) executive board: PPSO President-elect, **Casey Aaby**; APhA-ASP, **Yongmin Ko**; ASCP, **Amber Duldulao**; ASHP, **James Nguyen**; NCPA, **Megan Baker**; Director-elect of PR, **Anne Fleming**; Fundraising Chair, **Brandy Seignemartin**.

- **Tory Knebel** was selected to serve on the national student leadership council for the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA).

- **Alec Sisneros** and **Johanna Pantig** were elected president and vice president, respectively, for the 2017-18 Associated Students of WSU Spokane leadership team.

- **Kimberly Paulson**, **Shauna Leggett** and **Megan Baker** placed fourth overall at the national Student Pharmacists Compounding Competition. In addition, their team won a research proposal contest and the college will receive a Medisca Mazerustar, a piece of compounding lab equipment valued at $17,000.

**JOBS**

- **Clinical Assistant Professor**
  College of Pharmacy - Yakima