Dear Friends and Colleagues:

In this contributing op-ed, Molly Worthen has made an impassioned plea to reconsider how higher education evaluates learning outcomes within a curriculum. Although her comments are directed at undergraduate degree programs, the underlying philosophy of her thesis, and many of her specific comments, are applicable to advanced areas of study as well.

The underlying problem, as articulated by Professor Worthen, is in the attempt to measure student success in a variety of domain areas, from skill development to analytical acumen to communication ability, with standardized, inflexible tools. The approach does not capture the nuances associated with learning, has a tendency to reduce the teaching and learning paradigm to the lowest common denominator, and consume a disproportionate (in comparison to benefit) amount of resources. The learning outcomes mindset also has the tendency to place blame for student failures on the curriculum, or the faculty delivering the curriculum, as opposed to other relevant factors (students who are not college-ready due to insufficient funding of primary and secondary education, for example).

What can, or should, we do to develop rational approaches to evaluating the effectiveness of our programs? Unfortunately, as with most questions of importance, there appear to be no easy answers. The ultimate metric, the degree to which our graduates succeed in their chosen professions, is not amenable to real-time measurement and decision-making. We therefore are left with the task of identifying surrogate measures that are linked directly to the curriculum and are predictive of future success (along the lines of selecting biomarkers that are predictive of drug response or toxicity).

Have we hit the mark in health professions programs? From where I sit, the answer clearly is “no.” We arguably have done a credible job of identifying learning outcomes that are related to coursework and other learning experiences. However, there is resistance (entirely understandable; also entirely unacceptable given our charge as educators) to demonstrating that those outcomes, while logical in their construction, tell us much about our students’ future success.
Issues such as this are ideal for considering in semi-formal settings of educators and academic administrators, such as our upcoming TIPed meeting and similar sessions sponsored by other programs. The general concept of how we might better predict the future (how we select students who will succeed in our programs as well as how we best prepare those students to be impactful professionals) is of central importance to everything we do.

Best wishes,

Gary M. Pollack
Dean, College of Pharmacy
Washington State University
Dear Alums, Colleagues and Friends of Pharmacy,

Watching the days get longer means that spring is coming! There are so many things to look forward to this year. On March 13, Dr. Richard Okita, a program director with the National Institutes of Health National Institute of General Medical Sciences, will be our 2018 Allen I. White Lecturer.

If you are in the Spokane area, please join us in the Walgreens Auditorium at WSU Health Sciences Spokane. You may click on the following site link to RSVP: https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eWqkJK06oP0sp7

This lecture series honors Allen I. White, dean emeritus of our College of Pharmacy. Many of you, like me, benefited from his mentorship and vision for pharmacy. Dean White talked with us about a future where pharmacists care for patients in novel ways and a future where pharmacists take responsibility for care decisions – all of these conversations were held long before terms such as provider status, collaborative drug therapy agreements and MTM were described. When you look at the leadership and
mentorship Dr. Okita has provided during his career, it becomes clear why Dean Pollack believes he is a perfect fit as the Allen I. White keynote speaker.

Another important contributor to advancing the pharmacy profession, especially advocating for provider status in Washington state, is our 2018 commencement speaker: former Washington State Senator and WSU College of Pharmacy Alumna ('68) Linda Evans Parlette. Linda sponsored the 2015 Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5557 that requires health insurance carriers to recognize pharmacists in the same way as other health care providers. The day that bill was signed into law was historic and we were proud to have our own Associate Dean Jennifer Robinson in the governor’s office that day.

Linda Evans Parlette has made a real impact on the ability of a pharmacist to practice as part of the health care team to tackle the nation’s health care problems and collaborate on solutions to make our world a better place. She is a shining example for our graduating pharmacists and I am excited and honored to have her speak at commencement in May. Her message about leadership and service will be inspiring! I’d like to give a quick note of appreciation to the Albertsons Companies for their support as presenting sponsor of the 2018 commencement ceremony.

Finally, I hope to see many of you on Saturday, April 21 at the Celebration of Life honoring Keith Campbell. We will have an open house and tours of the soon-to-be named “R. Keith Campbell Applied Patient Care Lab” from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the PBS building. At 2 p.m. we will convene at the Doubletree Hotel, where Keith’s family is hosting a Memorial Service followed by a Celebration of Life event. It should be a memorable send-off for an unforgettable person. All are welcome to attend and RSVPs are requested online at bit.ly/rkc-memorial.

Funds are still being raised to name the Applied Patient Care Lab in honor of Keith. If you would like to make a contribution, please visit this link or call 509-368-6675.

With Cougar Pride,

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

MORE COLLEGE NEWS

COUG DAY
Shannon Kozlovich, a graduate

COMPOUNDING
The local Washington State

NAME CHANGE
In November 2017, the WSU
student in pharmaceutical sciences, led a team of five students to represent the WSU Health Sciences campus at the Coug Day at the Capitol event in Olympia. Read more

University Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition was held on Saturday, January 20 in Spokane, Wash. Read more

Board of Regents voted to approve a change to the official name of our college to the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Read more

ALUMNI UPDATES

- **Timothy Maynard**, class of 2007, is now the director of pharmacy recruiting and college relations for Albertsons Companies. He has been with Albertsons since 2007, first as an intern, then as a pharmacy manager in the Tumwater, Wash. store. In his new role, he is based at the company’s corporate headquarters in Boise, Idaho. Congratulations, Tim!

- **Mahmoud Abdel–Monem**, dean emeritus of the WSU College of Pharmacy, made a significant gift to the Jessie Senora Sims Walker Endowment so that a scholarship will be awarded every year. Jessie Senora Sims Walker was the first African–American graduate of WSC and majored in pharmacy studies. Monem retired from WSU in 1998.

- **Ian Warren**, class of 1989, is pleased to announce that his mother, Janet Ruth Warren, just celebrated her 85th birthday on February 26. Janet, who raised nine children as a single mother, continues to work several days a week for a local doctor in Spokane. Ian has established the Janet Ruth Warren Financial Need Scholarship at the College of Pharmacy in honor of his mother.

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 Professor and Associate Dean for Professional and Continuing Education **Danial E. Baker** published, “Drug evaluation – Avelumab (Bavencio),” in Wolters Kluwer Health’s The Formulary Monograph Service (FMS) in August 2017. Wolters Kluwer Health is a drug and health information publisher, the FMS is a resource used in the formulary decision making process for hospitals and managed care systems on recently released and investigational drugs.


- **Danial Baker** and one co-author published, “Drug evaluation – Ocrelizumab (Ocrevus):


• Terri Levien, Danial Baker and one co-author published, “Drug evaluation – Amantadine extended release capsules (Gocovri),” in The FMS in December 2017.


Presentations

- Pharmacotherapy Professor K. Michael Gibson presented at the Rare Disease Day in Spokane on February 28, 2018.

Service

- Joshua Neumiller served as an abstract reviewer for the American Diabetes Association’s 78th Scientific Sessions.

Grants

- Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor Kimberly McKeirnan received $10,000 over one year from the Institute of Translational Health Science as part of her appointment to the Translational Research Scholars Program.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) students
The WSU chapter of Kappa Psi, Beta Pi, won the award for best chapter report at the Kappa Psi Northwest Province Winter Assembly on February 17–18, 2018. The assembly includes eight collegiate chapters and six graduate chapters. The video they created for their report can be viewed on YouTube.

Mark Nguyen was selected as historian for the Kappa Psi Northwest Province.


Kiranjot Brar and faculty co-authors Terri Levien and Danial Baker published, “Drug evaluation – Amantadine extended release capsules (Gocovri),” in The FMS in December 2017.


JOBS

- **Clinical Assistant Professor**: Kootenai Health
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**: Pharmacotherapy, Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**: Pharmacotherapy, Providence St. Peter Hospital Olympia
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**: Pharmacotherapy, Virginia Mason Memorial Hospital
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**: Pharmacotherapy, WSU Spokane
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**: Pharmacotherapy, WSU Spokane