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

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 13
Allen I. White Lecture
12:00 p.m.
Spokane, Wash.

MARCH 18
CougaRx Nation Reception at APhA
Nashville, Tenn.

APRIL 6
Tribute to Excellence
Yakima, Wash.

APRIL 21
R. Keith Campbell Celebration of Life
Spokane, Wash.

More college events >>

COLLEGE NEWS

WSU pharmacy faculty joins research scholars program
Kimberly McKeirnan, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacotherapy at WSU, has been selected for the Translational Research Scholars Program (TRSP) through the Institute of Translational Health Sciences.

The institute is a program funded through the National Institutes of Health and is administrated through the University of Washington. TRSP provides early-stage faculty investigators with targeted and

McKeirnan
structured translational science career development. The program includes research funding up to $10,000, mentoring, peer-to-peer networking, and grant review services.

McKeirnan will be using the grant to develop ways to use smartphone technology to improve patient medication adherence.

“I have enjoyed being part of several grant-funded research projects in the past few years,” McKeirnan said. “I am looking forward to receiving guidance from mentors with translational research experience.”

This is the second scholar program McKeirnan has been awarded. In 2015, she completed the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Foundation Faculty Scholars program, which provided a $2,500 research grant.

McKeirnan was offered the appointment in January 2018. Her appointment will run from March 1, 2018, through February 28, 2019. McKeirnan is from Pomeroy, Washington, and joined the faculty at WSU in 2013 after spending the previous five years working as a community pharmacist.

Richard Okita to present 2018 Allen I. White Lecture March 13

SPOKANE, Wash.—Richard Okita, Ph.D., a program director with the National Institutes of Health National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), will present the 2018 Allen I. White Lecture at noon on Tuesday, March 13, in the Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences Building Walgreens Auditorium on the WSU Spokane campus.

The lecture titled, “Navigating your life in the biomedical sciences: one person’s perspective,” is hosted by the Washington State University College of Pharmacy in Spokane to provide an opportunity to discuss the scientific, social or political aspects of pharmacy or related matters.

Okita was selected as the 2018 speaker based on his expertise in pharmacology and toxicology and his recognition as a national leader in biomedical sciences research and policy.

Okita is a program director in the Division of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biological Chemistry of the NIGMS. He currently administers research grants in the areas of drug metabolism and transport, drug-induced toxicology and drug delivery. He also manages the NIGMS pharmacology and clinical pharmacology T32 training grants; F32 postdoctoral fellowships in the pharmacological sciences, anesthesiology, and clinical pharmacology; mentored career development awards in clinical pharmacology; and the Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) Initiative.

“We are so pleased to be welcoming Dr. Okita back to WSU,” Vice-Dean Linda Garrelts MacLean said. “He was an important part of the college — both for students as well as his faculty colleagues.”

“Dr. Okita is the epitome of NIH program directors,” said Mary Paine, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. “I will be eternally grateful to him for his never-ending encouragement, advocacy, and sage advice.”

Prior to joining NIGMS in 2001, Okita was a professor of pharmaceutical sciences at WSU. He earned a bachelor’s degree in bacteriology from the University of California, Los Angeles, a doctorate in biochemical pharmacology from the University of Southern California, and conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.
Bringing distinguished and renowned speakers to WSU to engage with students and faculty is part of how the College of Pharmacy strives to advance human health through excellence in collaborative research, scholarship and clinical education, and to develop outstanding health care professionals and scientists.

This lectureship was established in 1979 by College of Pharmacy Professors Charles Martin and Vishnu Batia as a tribute to Dean Allen White. The two professors wanted to do something to honor White upon his retirement in 1979. White did not want a banquet or a scholarship, and suggested the lectureship.

**Pharmacy staffer recognized for her crimson spirit**

Anjie Bertramson was selected by Washington State University for the January 2018 Crimson Spirit Award.

The Crimson Spirit Award is a monthly recognition award for individual employees who provided exceptional service and exceeded expectations while representing WSU either internally or externally. Bertramson was recognized for outstanding contributions to the WSU community.

Bertramson just joined the College of Pharmacy as the new Director of Experiential Services. Prior to that she served as lead advisor and faculty-led coordinator within the Office of International Programs at WSU in Pullman for six years. Her nomination recognizes her stellar work in International Programs.

According to the award announcement, her nominator praised her initiative with the First Generation Abroad program. Working with retention advisors in programs including First Scholars and Passport to College, Bertramson built a program that qualifies Pell-Grant-eligible students for the Gilman International Scholarship.

“In addition to ensuring the program met the scholarship requirements, Anjie and her colleagues created trainings to help students understand application requirements and reviewer priorities. These efforts helped many WSU students receive this award, resulting in thousands of dollars’ worth of scholarships and a year with one of the highest Gilman recipient numbers in WSU history,” the nomination said.
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.

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.
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 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.

Full story on page 7

COMPOUNDING
The local Washington State University Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition was held on Saturday, January 20 in Spokane, Wash.

Full story on page 8

NAME CHANGE
In November 2017, the WSU Board of Regents voted to approve a change to the official name of our college to the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Full story on page 8

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!
Advocating for student support, increased access in higher ed

Shannon Kozlovich, a graduate student in pharmaceutical sciences, in her role as director of legislative affairs for the Associated Students of Washington State University Spokane led a team of five students to represent the WSU Health Sciences campus at the Coug Day at the Capitol event in Olympia, Washington, on January 22, 2018.

The event connected students with 103 legislators from around the state to discuss student-related issues and lobby for bills that seek to make college more affordable and accessible for students all over our state. The Spokane team joined 90 other students from other WSU campuses (Pullman, Vancouver, Tri-Cities, Everett, and Global) for the event.

“In addition to meeting with legislators, Lt. Governor Cyrus Habib spoke to our collective group of students and student government representatives from all six of the WSU campuses met with Governor Jay Inslee. The three main issues discussed were increasing funding for suicide prevention and mental health services on our campuses including adding support for our student veterans, the rising cost of text books that can be solved with the implementation of a grant program professors can apply to in order to develop their own in class resources so they don’t have to assign a text book, and finding a way to ensure that all of our students who are raising children have access to safe, close, and affordable child care while they are in school,” Kozlovich said.

“Now that we have laid the groundwork, we will spend the rest of the legislative session working to get beneficial legislation passed by remaining in contact with the legislators from the districts our students are from,” she said.

Kozlovich works in the research lab of Dr. Philip Lazarus in Spokane. She is working on her Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences studying the impact of genotype and tobacco flavoring agents on the detoxification pathway of tobacco carcinogens, and has been involved in student government at WSU Spokane since May 2017.

Providing opportunities for students to coordinate and participate in events like Coug Day at the Capitol is an example of how the College of Pharmacy is dedicated to providing a transformative student experience in collaborative research, scholarship and advocacy, and its commitment to developing outstanding health care professionals and scientists.
2018 WSU compounding competition
The local Washington State University Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition was held on Saturday, January 20.

Drug companies produce medicine in standard doses. Compounding is when pharmacists customize prescriptions to better fit the individual. Not all pharmacies provide compounding services, which makes it an ideal niche for pharmacy entrepreneurs interested in owning their own stores.

Basic compounding is taught in the first year of the Doctor of Pharmacy program. For students who are interested in developing further skill in customized medicine, they can also participate in the college’s compounding club where students can further develop their skills. The annual Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition is one way students can practice their skills and even receive some national recognition.

The following student teams participated in the local competition:
Team #1: Linda Lang, Heather Craig, and Ling Yin
Team #2: Tiba Almaaroof, Tracy Vuong, Ly Dang
Team #3: Shauna Leggett, Megan Baker, Katie Cashman
Team #4: James Nguyen, Jordan Erickson, Justin Chen

The winning team, Team #3, will represent the college at the national competition March 17-18 in Hollywood, Florida. The national competition is hosted and co-sponsored by MEDISCA, a FDA-registered supplier of pharmacy compounding ingredients and products. The purpose of the competition is to promote a higher standard of continuous quality improvement and integrity of compounding, bring excellence and expertise to the compounding pharmacy community, and provide student pharmacists with a rewarding and positive experience in pharmacy compounding.

Judges for the local event included Spokane Pharmacists Wayne Clemens, Jennifer Daily, and Sue Kellogg; WSU Clinical Assistant Professor Connie Remsberg; and Yakima Pharmacist and WSU Clinical Assistant Professor Damianne Brand.

Providing these types of opportunities for students to engage and gain recognition nationally is an example of how the WSU College of Pharmacy is dedicated to advancing human health through clinical education in its Doctor of Pharmacy program, and its commitment to developing outstanding health care professionals and scientists.

College of Pharmacy name change
In November 2017, the WSU Board of Regents voted to approve a change to the official name of our college from the College of Pharmacy to the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Updating our name was important in order to better communicate our balanced mission to advance human health through excellence in collaborative research, scholarship and clinical education, and develop outstanding health care professionals and scientists.

The college communications office is coordinating a gradual roll-out of our new name to accommodate the logistics of redesign and reprinting of materials. We are already beginning to use the new name internally and with some external processes. The transition is planned to be complete with the beginning of the new academic year in August of 2018.
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.


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


• **Danial Baker** and Pharmacotherapy Assistant Clinical Professor Julie Akers published, “Drug evaluation – Benralizuamb (Fasenra),” in the FMS in February 2018.


**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