August 2018

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Health professions programs embraced the concept of “evidenced-based care” long ago. A core belief we all hold is that careful observation of the world around us informs decision-making, and acting on sound observational data is more prudent than simply “following our gut.” We teach evidenced-based philosophy and we emphasize the value of informing health care with carefully-conducted biomedical science. The “evidenced-based” mantra has permeated everything we do in the academic sector, from business decisions to student recruitment to instruction in the classroom. In many respects, this is the “golden age” of data-supported decision making, at least from the perspective of the academy.

Despite its obvious value, the evidenced-based approach to addressing issues of importance in the public sphere is under continuous assault. The latest example of this assault, one that is directly relevant to the health professions, is the recent decision of the federal government to no longer fund the National Guideline Clearinghouse, an information repository of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Given the enormous volume of information related to the provision of health care and the rapid pace of new developments in therapeutic approaches of all kinds, a searchable database allowing clinicians to weigh different treatment options based on their merits would seem to be of some importance. Given the number of dollars flowing through U.S. health care (more than $3 trillion) and biomedical research (more than $30 billion) annually, linking research to health care decision-making in a digestible format would seem to make business sense as well. Given the modest costs of the NGC (just over $1 million per year), maintaining the clearinghouse would seem to be as close to a no-brainer as you can get.

A question for the academic sector, and especially those of us in science-based disciplines, is why have we failed to convince the broader community of the value of using information to make decisions? One reason is, perhaps, the tendency for optimistic scientists to over-promise and under-produce. Fifty years ago, my mother (mothers are, of course, the most consistent bellwethers we have) became convinced that jetpacks would become the dominant mode of transportation within her lifetime. When the end of her life neared, she felt personally betrayed by our jetpack-free society and placed the blame squarely on the shoulders of “those scientists”. A perhaps more relevant example is the health care sector’s inability to adequately address (and to some extent enable) the ongoing opioid crisis. The failure of science and technology to improve people’s lives, regardless of whether the expectation for improvement is a reasonable one, erodes confidence in science and, by extension, the reliability of data.

So, what can we do? Canada perhaps serves as a useful model. Our neighbors to the north have successfully integrated science and science communication with public policy. At minimum, all of us need to be more engaged with our communities, be committed to telling our stories clearly and comprehensively, and take every opportunity to demonstrate the value of data and information in making individual decisions and formulating broader policy.
Best wishes,

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**AUG. 10**  
Research Day  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
WSU Health Sciences  
Spokane, Wash.  
[View details]

**AUG. 16**  
White Coat Ceremonies  
August 16-17  
Yakima, Wash. & Spokane, Wash.  
[View details]

**AUG. 24**  
Dean’s Annual Welcome Back! BBQ  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
PBS building patio, Spokane  
[Event details]

**SEPT. 28**  
Pharmacy Homecoming Weekend  
September 28–29  
Spokane, Wash. & Pullman, Wash.  
[More college events »]

COLLEGE NEWS

**New study reveals how shift work disrupts metabolism**  
WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPPS) Assistant Professor Shobhan Gaddameedhi was the senior co-author on a recent study that dispels the belief that the metabolic disruption in shift workers is driven primarily by the brain’s master clock.  
[Read more »]

**Two post-graduate fellows join CPPS faculty ranks**  
Two WSU CPPS post-graduate pharmacy fellows will join the college as faculty this August.  
[Read more »]

**Graduate student recognized for excellence in scholarship**  
Yadira Xitlalli Pérez-Páramo is a graduate student in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program at WSU in Spokane. She recently received
Dear Alums, Colleagues and Friends of Pharmacy,

The lazy, hazy days of summer mean that September is just around the corner! Please put Friday, September 28 on your calendar and join us in Spokane for the second annual Crimson Gala to celebrate the contributions of our preceptors, mentors and alumni!

Additionally, we will be honoring the legacy and contributions of Dean Emeritus Larry Simonsmeier, who served in leadership roles at the college for over two decades. I hope you will consider sponsoring the gala as proceeds will name a space in our building for Larry Simonsmeier and also help support our student pharmacists.

A perspective provided by Larry Simonsmeier in “The WSU Pharmacist” from 1980 articulates the value and quality of our program and describe how our graduates will make a difference in the profession. Highlighted in this issue are award winners who are still leading and advancing practice: Margo Wallace Hollenbeck, Karen Samels, Lisa Lybecker (Stagaman), Dennis Hoover, Susan Marchi (Kellogg), and Steven Smith.

I believe the class of 1980 was proud to have been led by Dean Simonsmeier!

Sue Merk (class of 1976 ) has signed up as a Cougar sponsor of the gala and I wanted to share her testimonial with you:

“Pharmacy is a great career and attending the WSU College of Pharmacy was an awesome experience. The personal relations and lifelong friends I met at WSU are what make me honor the College of Pharmacy and great leaders like Larry Simonsmeier, who had a lasting impact on my education and career.”

John Nguyen (class of 1989), and his wife Nam–Phuong, are also Cougar sponsors of the Crimson Gala and said they feel “honored to be a part of the WSU family.” Their son, Tyler, will begin his second year of pharmacy school in Yakima later this month.
And here is more good news! (Drum roll please) I am proud to announce that this year every pharmacy student who qualified for a scholarship was awarded one! In fact, we awarded 276 scholarships this year.

How did we get here? There are many aspects associated with being able to award these funds to our students, including:

- Scholarship endowments: These endowments provide a perpetual source of funding for scholarships, as well as the college and WSU, on a yearly basis. One of these donors is Professor Danial Baker (class of 1978), who established the Arby and Cathaline Baker scholarship to honor his parents.
- Annual events: Proceeds raised from events such as our Crimson Gala are also part of the equation.
- Annual scholarships: Donors who support individual scholarships and/or give to the “alumni scholarship fund” round out the picture.

I also want to share the story about how we funded the final $21,000 needed to support all students with a scholarship this year. When our scholarship committee realized we were just short of the money needed to fund all of our qualified scholarship applicants, a “last push” effort was launched. Within a week, we met our goal and I am pleased to say that Cougar pharmacists are the best!

Our website lists all of our scholarship endowments and annual scholarship donors, but you can view a list of the individuals who came through for us during this “last push” appeal for scholarships on our Facebook page. And, thank you to our anonymous donor as well!

Finally, our name change is complete! As Dean Pollack discussed in his comments last month, our move to become the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is strategic and describes the structure that makes us strong. You can watch his eloquent remarks from the celebration we hosted for faculty and staff online.

With Cougar Pride,

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

ALUMNI NEWS

2018 EXPRESS SCRIPTS SCHOLAR
Masooma Zehra, class of 2019, was selected as one of four Express Scripts Scholars this year. The program supports dual-degree students. Zehra is in the WSU Pharm.D./MBA program.
Read more »

WSU RANKS IN TOP 3 FOR NCPA BUSINESS PLAN
Our student pharmacists Frank Nenninger, Chad Schmitt and Peter Tang will be representing WSU as a top-three finalist team in the NCPA Student Business Plan Competition this October!
More details »

CREATE YOUR LEGACY, SUPPORT EXCELLENCE
"Because Cougs help Cougs," is what Manpreet (class of 2010) and Lindsey Chahal told us. They are new Legacy donors to WSU! We featured them in a #PhilanthropyFriday post on our Facebook page recently.
More details »
ALUMNI UPDATES

- **Celeste Tabon**, daughter of Patrick and Cassie Tabon, who are both class of 2012, keeps them on their toes! Patrick and Cassie said they feel grateful they had the past 14 months for Celeste to get to know her grandfather, who recently passed. Patrick is now working as a professor at the USC School of Pharmacy while Cassie runs the family's independent pharmacy in Southern California. [View photo »](https://apps.pharmacy.wsu.edu)

- Justin Ruffridge, class of 2008, was elected to fill an open city council seat in Soldotna, Alaska, this April. Congratulations Justin! [Read more »](https://apps.pharmacy.wsu.edu)

- We were sad to hear recently about two of our alumni who have passed away: Gary Damiano, class of 1955, died on July 18 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He was 84. [Read more »](https://apps.pharmacy.wsu.edu)

- Elmer Schorzman, class of 1950, died in June at his home in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, at the age of 93. [Read more »](https://apps.pharmacy.wsu.edu)

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

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Crimson Gala, SEPT. 28 | TAILGATE, SEPT. 29

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Publications


Presentations


Service

- **Shobhan Gaddameedhi** participated in the 770 CHQR Global News Radio program in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, with show host Danielle Smith on July 20, 2018, to discuss his recent research.

Grants

- Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Boyang (Jason) Wu** received a Conquer Cancer Now Award in the amount of $120,000 over two years from the [Concern Foundation](https://apps.pharmacy.wsu.edu) for the project, “Dissecting stromal signals to target prostate cancer microenvironment.”

- Pharmaceutical Sciences Professor **Jiyue Zhu** and **Shobhan Gaddameedhi** received a
Pennsylvania State University team science sub-award in the amount of $255,000 over three years for the project, “Regulation of telomerase and telomere homeostasis during acral melanoma development.” This funding originates from the Melanoma Research Alliance.

- Pharmacotherapy Professor K. Michael Gibson and Pharmacotherapy Clinical Professor Jean-Baptiste Roullet received an R01 grant in the amount of $3,199,718 over five years from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, one of the National Institutes of Health, for the project, “Natural history of Succinic Semialdehyde Dehydrogenase Deficiency (SSADHD), a heritable disorder of GABA metabolism.”

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) students

- **Panshak Dakup** (pharmaceutical sciences, Gaddameedhi lab) received a Student and New Investigator Travel Award in the amount of $750 from the Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society (EMGS) to attend its annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in September 2018.

Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) students

- **Masooma Zehra** was selected as one of four Express Scripts Scholars this year. The program supports dual-degree students. Zehra is in the WSU Pharm.D./MBA program. [Read more »](#)
- **Frank Nenninger**, **Chad Schmitt** and **Peter Tang** will be representing WSU as a top-three finalist team in the NCPA Student Business Plan Competition this October. [Read more »](#)