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## A MESSAGE FROM GARY M. POLLACK



February 2019

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I recently had the opportunity to speak to colleagues from a variety of programs about issues affecting enrollment in higher education. Factors that negatively affect the “pipeline” of students matriculating into undergraduate programs will, of course, impact the number of students seeking the Doctor of Pharmacy and Doctor of Philosophy degrees, and so are of relevance to research-intensive schools and colleges of pharmacy.

There are several easily-identifiable issues that have the potential to decrease undergraduate enrollment over the next decade. The number of U.S. high school graduates is projected to decrease, although the projections by the National Center for Education Statistics indicate significant regional differences.

The national conversation around immigration policy also will present challenges. In the short run, enrolling international students likely will become more difficult (a particularly problematic issue for graduate programs in the pharmaceutical sciences). Down the road, the number of first-generation students, a population of interest to our professional degree program, also will decrease.

Finally, the pace of increase in the costs of pursuing a college degree continues to outstrip inflation. In public institutions, a significant driver for escalating tuition costs is the continuing erosion of state funding of colleges and universities, often with the explanation that higher education is a private, rather than a public, good. This position ignores the demonstrable impact of institutions of higher education, from creating an educated and capable workforce to having a significant economic impact.

The recent growth of our college provides an excellent example of economic impact. I mentioned this in my [October message](#) last fall. Of course, talking about dollars in isolation misses the more important point. The funds we generate from tuition, research and gifts are used to improve our educational and scholarly programs, supporting the impact we make on our students, on the development of our faculty, and on the health and well-being of the communities that host our programs. There is no question that these represent important elements of “public good,” and we are justifiably proud of the contributions that we make to our state.

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Career Seminar  
Presentation**  
12:00 p.m.  
Walgreens Auditorium



**CougarRx at APhA**  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Washington Athletic Center  
Seattle, Wash.



**Honors Research Day**  
12:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
PBS Lobby



**TIPed**  
PBS Building  
Spokane, Wash.  
[Event details](#)

[More college events >>](#)

## COLLEGE NEWS

### WSU graduate student elected to national STEM board

Spokane-based graduate student Ana Vergara has been elected to the national board of directors for the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science. Her term begins in January 2019.

“We are excited to welcome on the new board members. They bring a wealth of experience from their professional backgrounds and from their involvement with SACNAS over the years,” said Lino Gonzalez, president of Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS).

Vergara is a Ph.D. student at the Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She works in the research lab of [Philip Lazarus](#), and studies how the metabolism of major carcinogens, mainly in the lungs, are influenced by certain enzymes that may be able to indicate an individual’s risk for certain cancers.

Vergara is the sole student elected to the board this year and joins one other student board member. Other incoming board members are from University of Kansas, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, and Iowa State University.

Vergara graduated from Columbia Basin College and from WSU Tri-Cities with a Bachelor of Science in biology and a minor in chemistry. She chose the WSU pharmaceutical sciences program in Spokane because it gave her the opportunity to be close to her family and still get a great graduate research setting.

WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has a reputation for developing leaders in the field and providing students with opportunities to participate in leadership and advocacy on a national level.

SACNAS provides leadership development, career resources and science advocacy opportunities through activities at over 100 student and professional chapters, and through conferences. It is an



organization dedicated to supporting the success of Chicano/Hispanics and Native Americans in attaining advanced degrees, careers and positions of leadership within STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. Its goal is to achieve a diversity in STEM fields that reflects the demographics of the population, including in leadership positions.

## WSU students immunize nearly 800 people in Spokane County

[By Addy Hatch, WSU News](#)

Nearly 800 children and adults in Spokane County are protected against flu, chickenpox, measles, shingles and other illnesses thanks to students and faculty at Washington State University Health Sciences.

Students from the WSU College of Nursing and WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences volunteered at nearly 30 free vaccination clinics around Spokane County this fall. These community-based clinics were held in public schools, shelters, churches, libraries and low-income apartment complexes.

The Spokane Regional Health District provides the supplies and vaccines.

WSU students and faculty have worked with the health district on the program for about four years, said Kari Lidbeck, the district's Immunization Community Network Specialist.

"Without the students we could not provide the services we do," she said.

Flu shots are by far the most common immunizations given at the community-based clinics, followed by Tdap, which protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough).

Sarah Griffith, an instructor at the College of Nursing, said the vaccination clinics are "a wonderful community partnership" between WSU Health Sciences colleges and the Spokane Regional Health District.

### Vaccination clinics by the numbers

- 1,155: Number of immunizations administered
- 778: Number of people served
- 16: Types of vaccines offered

## WSU health sciences transitioning to Spokane-based administration

[WSU Insider article](#)

Washington State University Health Sciences Spokane will transition to a new administrative structure, reflecting the growth of health sciences education at the university. The three colleges at WSU Health Sciences Spokane are the only university colleges based outside of Pullman.

[Read more »](#)



### ACADEMIC FELLOWS PROGRAM

TEACHING | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2019

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## A MESSAGE FROM LINDA GARRELTS MACLEAN



New Year greetings alumni, friends, and colleagues!

I thought you would be interested in reading the message from Don Porter (class of 1977) to the college:

“Please, keep up the good work helping the next generation of pharmacists acquire the tools they need to be successful in helping people and in life... empathy, good communication skills, and a sense of humor.”

Don, we share your perspective!

Training practice-ready graduates who will lead tomorrow’s health care solutions is what we are passionate about. This is why we continuously strive to evolve to align ourselves with the changing health care landscape, because we believe the transformation of pharmacy education will lead to improving health care delivery in America and advancing the health and wellness of our nation.

This is also why we appreciate our TIPed community. If you are not familiar with the college’s Transformation and Innovation of Pharmacy Education (TIPed) Institute, it is a premier academic community dedicated to integrating innovation within curricular delivery to transform the way we teach our health care professionals. The 2019 TIPed Institute in Spokane will offer an environment of inclusion, learning and collaboration for the change agents within pharmacy academia to share ideas and develop action plans to foster authentic transformation. This wonderful opportunity allows us to engage with our peers in order to develop outstanding health care professionals and advance human health for the people in the state of Washington, and across the country.

I was so honored to hear Don’s affirmations that we are on the right course. Our pursuit of excellence in pharmacy education elevates the profession of pharmacy and brings distinction to the rest of CougarRx Nation. This is one of the many, many reasons why I am proud to be a Cougar pharmacist.

If you are also a proud Cougar pharmacist in the class of 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999, or 2009 and are interested joining your class reunion at this year’s Pharmacy Homecoming Weekend, please consider volunteering to serve as a class captain. This role would serve as a contact point for your classmates in order to sit together at Crimson Gala. We are also putting together some resources for those interested in coordinating other independent activities for their reunion groups. Please email [gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu](mailto:gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu) if you are interested in participating.

With Cougar Pride,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Garrelts MacLean".

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

## ALUMNI NEWS



### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - THANH THAI

How student pharmacist Thanh Thai found pharmacy and lost her shyness along the way.

[Read more »](#)



### CPPS FACULTY AWARDED BY ALMA MATER

Joshua Neumiller was selected for the 2018 North Central High School Distinguished Alumnus award.

[Full story on page 6 >>](#)



### ALAMO BOWL

John and Deborah Oftebro and Gerald Danquist joined friends at President Schulz's Alamo Bowl Game reception in San Antonio.

[View photo »](#)

## ALUMNI UPDATES

Since February marks the month that Cupid shoots his famous arrow, we wanted to spotlight a couple pharmacy couples:

- **Krista Aspaas** and **Brandon Arthur**, both class of 2011, met in pharmacy school in 2007 and started dating in 2011. After pharmacy school, they both found pharmacy practice residencies, Krista in Tacoma, Brandon in Indiana. After residency, Brandon moved to Tacoma to be with Krista. They recently moved back to Spokane to be closer to family and married in August 2018. Krista now works as a hospital pharmacist for MultiCare and Providence, and Brandon is a regional clinical informatics pharmacist for MultiCare. They are currently expecting their first baby! Congratulations Krista and Brandon! [View photo »](#)
- **Jim** and **Diann Robbers** will celebrate their wedding anniversary on September 8. They were married in 1957, the same year they both graduated from WSU (Jim with his pharmaceutical sciences degree and Diann with her pre-physical therapy degree). They were high school sweethearts, although they first met when they were only nine years old. Congratulations to Jim and Diann Robbers for over 60 years of marriage! [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](mailto:gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu).



**Online  
CE**

Topics include effective use of medication, dissemination of current research results, and advancing innovation in practice.

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## Spokane pharmacist, WSU professor honored by high school alma mater

SPOKANE, Wash.— Washington State University's Joshua Neumiller was selected for the 2018 North Central High School Distinguished Alumnus award. His picture will be added to the "Honor Hallway" at the school. Neumiller received the award at a ceremony at North Central High School in Spokane on November 30.

Neumiller was selected because of his extensive service and passion for educating people with diabetes to understand their disease and take better control of their health. His career as a distinguished educator includes research, clinical duties, and service as editor-in-chief of the journal *Diabetes Spectrum* published by the American Diabetes Association (ADA).

He joins the group of select Spokaneites with one other inductee this year. A total of 55 North Central graduates have been honored as Distinguished Alumni, a list that includes professional athletes, judges, social workers, business professionals, educators, clergy, entertainers, lawyers, doctors, and two Medal of Honor recipients.

Neumiller is a WSU alumnus, the Allen I. White Distinguished Associate Professor and vice-chair for the Department of Pharmacotherapy at the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. He is a certified diabetes educator and a Fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and the American Association of Diabetes Educators.

Neumiller also currently serves as chairperson for the ADA's Professional Practice Committee that updates the ADA Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes, and holds national and international standing in the diabetes community. In 2016, he received the Albert B. Prescott Leadership Award from the Pharmacy Leadership and Education Institute.



## FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

### Publications

- **Kimberly McKeirnan** co-authored with two others the letter, "Pharmacy technician-administered vaccines: on perceptions and practice reality," in the journal *Pharmacy*, an international peer-reviewed open access journal published by MDPI. [View abstract »](#)
- Pharmacotherapy Professor and Associate Dean of External Professional and Continuing Education **Danial E. Baker** published, "Drug evaluation – eravacycline (Xerava)," in Wolters Kluwer Health's The Formulary Monograph Service (FMS) in December 2018. 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** published, "Drug evaluation – fremanezumab (Ajovy)," in the FMS in December 2018.
- Pharmacotherapy Research Associate **Jesse Dinh** and **Danial Baker** published, "Drug evaluation – tafenoquine succinate (Krintafel)," in the FMS in December 2018.
- **Danial Baker** published, "Drug evaluation – tafenoquine succinate (Arakoda)," in the FMS in December 2018.
- Pharmacotherapy Clinical Professor **Terri L. Levien**, **Danial Baker** and one co-author published, "Drug evaluation – ivosidenib (Tibsovo)," in the FMS in December 2018.
- **Danial Baker** published, "Drug evaluation – omadacycline (Nuzyra)," in the FMS in December 2018.
- **Danial Baker** published, "Drug utilization evaluation – eravacycline (Xerava)," in the FMS in December 2018.

- **Daniel Baker** and four co-authors published, “Drug information training for pharmacists,” in the 2019 edition of Clinical Pharmacy Education Practice and Research: Clinical Pharmacy, Drug Information, Pharmacovigilance, Pharmacoeconomics and Clinical Research. [View abstract »](#)
- Allen I. White Distinguished Professor **Joshua Neumiller** and 22 co-authors published, “Standards of medical care in diabetes,” in the journal Diabetes Care, a publication from the American Diabetes Association, in January 2019. [Read article »](#)
- **Joshua Neumiller** and one co-author published, “Medtronic MiniMed 670G hybrid closed-loop system,” in the peer-reviewed journal Clinical Diabetes, a publication from the American Diabetes Association, in January 2019. [View abstract »](#)
- U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR) Assistant Research Professor **Maia Avtandilashvili**, USTUR Associate in Research **Stacey L. McComish**, USTUR Adjunct Professor **Daniel J. Strom**, USTUR Assistant Research Professor **George Tabatadze**, Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Research Professor and USTUR Director **Sergei Y. Tolmachev**, and one co-author published, “Validation of a system of models for plutonium decorporation therapy,” in the peer-reviewed scientific journal Radiation and Environmental Biophysics in January 2019. [View abstract »](#)
- **Sergei Tolmachev** and two co-authors published, “Potential improvements in brain dose estimates for internal emitters,” in the peer-reviewed medical journal International Journal of Radiation Biology in December 2018. [View abstract »](#)
- **Maia Avtandilashvili**, **Daniel Strom**, **Stacey McComish**, **George Tabatadze**, **Sergei Tolmachev** and one co-author published, “Improved modeling of plutonium-DTPA decorporation,” in the peer-reviewed scientific journal Radiation Research in December 2018. [View abstract »](#)
- **Sergei Tolmachev** and one co-author published, “The United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR): A five-decade follow-up of plutonium and uranium workers,” in Health Physics in November 2018. [View abstract »](#)

## Service

- R. Keith Campbell Distinguished Professor and Pharmacotherapy Chair **John R. White Jr.** was consulted in the publication, “Why does caffeine make us stay up longer?,” in the December 2018 issue of Ask Dr. Universe , a WSU university communications newsletter. [Read article »](#)
- Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor (Yakima) **Dana Bowers** has received the distinction from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties as a Board Certified Infectious Diseases Pharmacist.
- Pharmacotherapy Professor **Tracy L. Skaer** retired from Washington State University on January 2, after nearly 28 years of service. Skaer taught in the Pharm.D. program, and served as a preceptor, mentor and faculty advisor. Her research focused on medication compliance, women’s health, mental health comorbidities, sleep disorders, chronic pain, pharmacoeconomics, and pharmacoepidemiology.

## Awards

- Pharmaceutical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Associate **Jeevan GC** (Natesan lab) received a Postdoctoral Scientist General Travel Award from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) to attend the ASPET Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2019 in Orlando, Florida, this April. This \$800 award is presented to outstanding young scientists to enable them to present their research at one of the largest biological scientific meetings in the world.

- Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor **Julie Akers** was recognized by American Pharmacists Association with the Good Government Pharmacist-of-the-Year Award on January 10, 2019.

## Grants

- **Julie Akers** received \$2,500 over one year from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation Faculty Scholars Program for the project, “Assessing patient factors that influence access to care in community pharmacies.”
- Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Boyang (Jason) Wu** received a Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) (R37) award in the amount of \$1,749,940 over five years from the National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, for the project, “MAOA and AR reciprocal crosstalk in prostate cancer.”
- Boeing Distinguished Professor and Pharmaceutical Sciences Chair **Philip Lazarus** received \$22,500 over 18 months from the Washington State University Alcohol and Drug Abuse Research Program for the project, “The overlapping metabolism of opioids and cannabis: potential consequences for toxicity and withdrawal among opioids users.”

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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

- Team WSU Pharmacy & Research participated in the Arthritis Foundation Jingle Bell Run in Spokane on December 1. A total of 16 people participated and raised \$580. [View photos »](#)

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

- **Nawsheen Zazar** (Yakima) presented the poster, “Patient survey as a tool to determine and improve quality of care in a pharmacy managed oncology care program,” at the 2018 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Anaheim, California, December 2-6, 2018.
- **Tory Knebel** with faculty co-author **Joshua Neumiller** published, “Medtronic MiniMed 670G hybrid closed-loop system,” in *Clinical Diabetes* in January 2019. [View abstract »](#)
- Thomas Borden with faculty co-authors **Terri Levien** and **Danial Baker** published, “Drug evaluation – Ivosidenib (Tibsovo),” in the *FMS* in December 2018.



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