



UPCOMING EVENTS

COLLEGE NEWS

ALUMNI NEWS

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

A MESSAGE FROM GARY M. POLLACK



March 2019

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

“Success” is central to the mission of academic organizations, and our college is no different in that regard. In the contemporary academy, “success” is most commonly viewed as “student success.” Indeed, a Google search of the phrase “student success” returns nearly 1.5 billion (yes, with a “b”) hits. In an attempt to distinguish themselves from their peers, academic programs increasingly focus on devising, implementing, and demonstrating various elements of “student success.”

This paradigm, of course, is not actually new, but is the core element of the scholarship of education. Taking a scholarly, evidenced-based approach to how we educate our students has been an important component of our college’s mission. An outcome of this focus on educational scholarship is the Transformation and Innovation of Pharmacy Education (TIPEd) Institute, which will have its fourth annual meeting in Spokane this coming June. The TIPEd Institute strives to foster the innovation and transformation required to meet the needs of contemporary students and practice, as well as to influence the future of academic pharmacy and the pharmacy profession. Our program is dedicated to integrating innovation within curricular delivery to transform the way we teach our health care professionals in order to revolutionize health care delivery in the United States, and advance the health and wellness of our nation. We 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 is, in essence, a comprehensive “student success” initiative.

Of course, it is helpful to take a broader view of “success” that includes not only students, but staff and faculty. In this regard, it is extremely gratifying to note that seven of our faculty colleagues will be promoted this year: Salah Ahmed and Mary Paine to the rank of Tenured Professor; Sergei Tolmachev to the rank of Research Professor; Zhenja Wang to the rank of Tenured Associate Professor; and Julie Akers, Kim McKeirnan, and Jeannie Padowski to the rank of Clinical Associate Professor. For a college of modest size such as ours, a “promotion class” of this size is phenomenal, and is one indicator of the quality of our faculty. As the opportunity arises, please join me in congratulating these outstanding colleagues.

Wishing you all the best, as well as an end to the late-winter snow and wind in eastern Washington.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH
8

3-Minute Thesis
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
PBS Lobby

MARCH
24

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

APRIL
5

**Celebrating Generosity -
Yakima**
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Apple Tree Resort

APRIL
12

**Celebrating Generosity -
Spokane**
4 p.m. CE, 5 p.m. reception
Health Sciences Building

[More college events >>](#)

COLLEGE NEWS

Meier receives \$100,000 for research of fatty acid receptors

The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics announced that Washington State University's Kathryn Meier is its 2019 David Lehr Research Award recipient.

The award will be presented at Experimental Biology 2019, a conference that brings together five national scientific societies, and \$100,000 over two years to be used in support of Meier's research. The awards ceremony will occur on April 6 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

A leader in research and academia, Meier has received international acclaim for her work on omega-3 fatty acids. Meier submitted a proposal to investigate the impact of free fatty acid receptor agonists (which include omega-3 fatty acids) on the activity of growth factors, with implications for treatment of cancer and inflammatory conditions.

Meier's work in deepening our understanding of health and the onset and progression of disease is an example of how faculty-led research at WSU is receiving national recognition from the scientific community for contributing to the pursuit of healthier people and populations.

The David Lehr Award was created to support American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) members whose research may contribute to pharmacologic knowledge focusing on advancing human health care. The award committee noted that the proposed research would build upon previous discoveries within Meier's lab and provide preliminary data for future NIH grant submissions.



In addition to research, Meier is the associate dean for faculty and student development at the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Spokane, Washington. She teaches and serves as a faculty mentor for the college's Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

In 2018, Meier was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She serves as editor-in-chief of the ASPET journal, *Molecular Pharmacology*, and has been a member of ASPET since 1994.

CPPS announces faculty promotions

SPOKANE, Wash.—The Washington State University (WSU) College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPPS) is dedicated to developing outstanding health care professionals and scientists through a transformative student experience. This means the college also takes care to ensure faculty supporting its research and teaching offerings are “second to none,” that is, according to Gary Pollack, dean of the CPPS.

“Our faculty are contributing to university goals and priorities at a rate that has been simply outstanding,” he said. “As a whole our college is lucky to have faculty and staff that rival any pharmacy program in the country.”

Faculty demonstrating excellence in scholarship and teaching give students the opportunity to learn from outstanding experts in their fields of study. Therefore supporting and providing opportunities for professional advancement of members of faculty is foundational to the student experience at WSU.

In order to be considered for promotion, faculty must have a demonstrated record of contributing to the university through activities in teaching, research and service. Teaching courses and mentoring students also includes connecting teaching practices and course design to program-level goals and learning outcomes, and applying methods supported by the current pedagogical literature. The second element is original research, scholarship and creative activities that result in the dissemination of new knowledge and insights through a variety of media. And in addition to teaching and research, faculty duties include a substantive service component that is centered on outreach and public service that benefits communities and industries external to the university.

The college recently announced that as of July 1, six CPPS faculty in Spokane and Richland will receive the following respective promotions:

- [Salah-uddin Ahmed](#), Professor
- [Julie Akers](#), Clinical Associate Professor
- [Kimberly McKeirnan](#), Clinical Associate Professor
- [Mary Paine](#), Professor
- [Sergei Tolmachev](#), Research Professor
- [Zhenjia Wang](#), Associate Professor

Additionally, [Jeannie Padowski](#) will receive promotion to clinical associate professor. Padowski is a faculty member with the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, but also serves as an instructor of record within the Doctor of Pharmacy Program.



Letter from the editor

Dear friends,

It has been seven years now that I have had the honor of serving as your CougaRx News editor in chief.

This month marks the 97th newsletter I have published for the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The CougaRx Alumni Newsletter started in 2013, with the addition of the Dean's Newsletter in 2014. As our Cougar pharmacy family grew with the college's move to Spokane, the success of our newsletters took off. The alumni newsletter received a SPARK award for excellence in communication from the Spokane Regional MarCom Association, and a marketing and communication award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. When the management of both publications became a juggling act as our alumni events expanded, we consolidated into one monthly CougaRx News publication in the fall of 2016.

I have watched it all unfold, and looking back on how much CPPS has accomplished in this amount of time I am humbled and honored to be the one to help the college tell its story.

I'm writing this segment today because I will be handing off the editorial reigns, and my last day with WSU will be next Wednesday, March 6. I received an amazing opportunity for my next professional chapter, and thus, I need to say goodbye; but I know this will only be goodbye for now. I look forward to watching the future success of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and I hope that our paths continue to cross in the future (can I get a Go Cougs for WSU football!?).

It has been a pleasure to work with so many outstanding students, alumni, faculty, and fellow staff. Thank you for the many amazing years of experience. I will always be grateful for my time at WSU.

With highest regards,

Lori Maricle, APR
Communication, Marketing and Public Relations
WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences



PHARMACY HOMECOMING
WEEKEND
SAVE THE DATES!

Crimson Gala. OCT. 18
TAILGATE OCT. 19



A MESSAGE FROM
LINDA GARRELTS MACLEAN

Dear alumni, friends and colleagues,

I thought I would lead this month with a reflection from one of our fourth-year student pharmacists:

Kevin Smith, 2019 Pharm.D. candidate, Spokane

Reflection on rotation at Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center:

“Even though it was only six weeks, I believe that I have been able to experience such a diverse range of situations that have developed me into a more mature, thoughtful and knowledgeable future clinician...Dr. Wadhvani, you are a wealth of information and wisdom and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you. I feel strongly that you have given me the tools to become a better man through your mentorship. I will leave here today indebted to you for your kindness and willingness to give me precious time from your day and go on to use the lessons you have taught me to become a high quality future pharmacist and more importantly a high quality human being.”

There is no better way to illustrate the transformative student experience our program provides than from student reflections like these. This struck me as a perfect example of student impact, and how our faculty and preceptors work tirelessly to develop practice-ready pharmacists who are prepared to advance health care in our communities.

Reflections like these make me excited about the future of our profession, which will be in the hands of outstanding providers like Kevin. As I internalized this feedback and thought about all the different moving parts that go into our college programs, it makes clear the importance of our upcoming Celebrating Generosity events.

Celebrating Generosity is a wave of gratitude we carry across the state to show our love for our Cougar pharmacy family, and our appreciation for our network of outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, and friends who all contribute to make our college what it is. I say “wave of gratitude” because we will be hosting events in Spokane, Yakima and Seattle. I hope you can join us for at least one of these events so we can say thank you for all you do to provide students like Kevin the opportunity to become outstanding pharmacists.

With Cougar Pride,



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

ALUMNI NEWS



GRADUATE STUDENT PROTECTS THE HEART

Panshak Dakup received a Pre-doctoral Fellowship for research into making radiation therapy less toxic to the heart.

[Full story on page 6](#)



COUG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Bill driven by health sciences students would boost interprofessional education

[Full story on page 7](#)



HEART OF THE MATTER

In honor of American Heart Month, the WSU APhA-ASP introduced the five part mini-series, “Heart of the Matter.”

[View video »](#)

ALUMNI UPDATES

- **Mandi Hopkins**, Ph.D. 2015, accepted a job with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in Tarrytown, New York, and will be starting December 10. Congratulations Mandi!
- **Erik Nelson**, class of 2013, received the American College of Apothecaries’ 2017-18 Albert E. Rosica, Jr. Memorial Award at the American College of Apothecaries/American College of Veterinary Pharmacists Annual Conference & Expo in Florida on February 7, 2019. Congratulations Erik!

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.



Making radiation therapy less toxic to the heart is focus of this graduate fellowship award

SPOKANE, Wash.—Panshak Dakup, a graduate student at Washington State University in Spokane, received a Pre-doctoral Fellowship from the American Heart Association (AHA). The fellowship comes with \$53,688 over two years to support his research, which he is conducting in the laboratory of [Shobhan Gaddameedhi](#) at the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPPS).

“We are interested in pursuing this study because heart failure is a major concern with radiation treatment that target the chest region in breast cancer patients.” Dakup said. “Fortunately, we discovered that the AHA has a way to fund graduate students with projects that aim to improve global cardiovascular health, and my project was relevant this this cause.”

Dakup is working on his Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences. He is from Pankshin, a city in Plateau State, Nigeria, and completed his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Columbia College in Missouri. He first came to WSU in 2014 to participate in the college's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program. The "togetherness" of the faculty and students at WSU and supportive values held by the CPPS influenced him to pursue his Ph.D. here, which he began in the fall of 2015.

"This research started out as my side project. I was interested in investigating how the mechanisms of our biological clocks can be modulated naturally to reduce heart-related toxicity caused by radiation treatment," Dakup said.

Research at the WSU CPPS 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.

The American Heart Association is the largest nonprofit organization in the country dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. According to the AHA, its [Pre-doctoral Fellowship program](#) aims to promote integrated research and clinical training of promising students who intend to pursue careers as scientists, physician-scientists or other clinician-scientists, or related careers aimed at improving global cardiovascular health.

Bill driven by health sciences students would boost interprofessional education

[WSU Insider article](#) by Addy Hatch, WSU News

Coug Day at the Capitol took on special significance for students from WSU Health Sciences this year.

Two student-government leaders from Spokane, part of a delegation of about 100 WSU students from across the state who visited Olympia as part of [Coug Day at the Capitol](#), took the first step in potentially changing state law by dropping a proposal they helped develop into "The Hopper" in the Office of the Code Reviser.

Rep. Marcus Riccelli, D-Spokane, is the lead sponsor of [House Bill 1726](#). It would amend state law to allow pharmacy, medicine and nursing students to be supervised by preceptors from any of those professions while taking vital signs at health fairs and other such volunteer activities as long as the care provided is within the proper scope of practice.

For example, nursing, pharmacy and medicine students all would be able to give immunizations at a community clinic under the supervision of a licensed professional from any one of those disciplines. Under current law, there would need to be a licensed pharmacist, physician and nurse all present as preceptors at such an interprofessional clinic.

"Last year I went to an immunization clinic, and I had a pharmacy preceptor there so I was able to give immunizations, but there were three nursing students who ended up having to go home because their preceptor got sick at the last minute," said Johanna Pantig, president of the [Associated Students of WSU Health Sciences](#) and a third-year pharmacy student.

That doesn't serve students or the community well, said Pantig and Brandy Seignemartin, vice president of legislative affairs for the student-government group, also a third-year pharmacy student.

Students want hands-on experience, they want to serve the community, and they're especially looking for interprofessional experiences, they said.

Similar legislation was introduced in 2015, but it didn't go anywhere. This time, Seignemartin, who Pantig credits with much of the ground work on the current bill, contacted stakeholders in pharmacy, nursing and medicine to address their concerns.

“We added a lot of language to make all the stakeholders happy, that’s how we got to where we are now,” Seignemartin said. “At this point all stakeholders we worked with are either neutral or in support of the bill, which is fantastic.”

She and two others – first-year med student Erin Kaya and third-year pharmacy student Lauren Powell – approached Riccelli about sponsoring the legislation.

The bill was introduced on Jan. 29, but it has a long way to go to become law. Still, the experience has been memorable for the WSU students who worked on it. Both Pantig and Seignemartin envision a future that includes advocacy, they said.

Seignemartin added of the legislation, “I see this as opening new doors for interprofessional education on our campus, which can really make us the health sciences hub WSU is working toward. It’s very exciting.”



FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Publications

- 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, “Improved modeling of plutonium-DTPA decorporation,” in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Radiation Research* in February 2019.
- Pharmaceutical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Associate **Jin Gao** (Z. Wang lab), Pharmaceutical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Associate **Can Yang Zhang** (Z. Wang lab), Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Zhenjia Wang** and three co-authors published, “Neutrophil membrane-derived nanovesicles alleviate inflammation to protect mouse brain injury from ischemic stroke,” in *ASC Nano*, a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by the American Chemical Society in January 2019. [Read article »](#)
- Allen I. White Distinguished Professor **Joshua Neumiller** and four co-authors published, “Sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibition and diabetic kidney disease,” in the journal *Diabetes*, a publication from the American Diabetes Association, in February 2019. [Read article »](#)

Presentations

- **Sergei Tolmachev** presented, “Radioactive actinide particles in occupationally exposed individuals,” at the Centre for Environmental Radioactivity (CERAD) workshop on Health Effects Following Severe Nuclear Events on February 3, 2019, in Oslo, Norway.
- **Sergei Tolmachev** presented, “Bioimaging of samples from the United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries – shedding new light on the biokinetics, dosimetry, and possible biological

effects of actinides in humans,” at the CERAD workshop on Particle Characteristics and Nuclear Forensic on February 5, 2019, in Oslo, Norway.

Service

- R. Keith Campbell Distinguished Professor and Pharmacotherapy Chair [John R. White Jr.](#) served on the panel, “The relevance of clinical pharmacology studies of basal insulins to primary care,” as a supplement to The Journal of Family Practice in January 2019. [View video »](#)

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) students

- [Xinyue Dong](#) (pharmaceutical sciences, Z. Wang lab) with faculty co-authors [Jin Gao](#), [Can Yang Zhang](#), and [Zhenjia Wang](#) and three others published, “Neutrophil membrane-derived nanovesicles alleviate inflammation to protect mouse brain injury from ischemic stroke,” in ASC Nano in January 2019. [Read article »](#)
- An article by [Yadira Perez-Paramo](#) (pharmaceutical sciences, Lazarus lab) was selected for the Author’s Choice for the February 2019 volume of Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers and Prevention. [Read article »](#)

JOBS

- [Associate/Full Professor](#): Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- [Postdoctoral Research Associate](#): USTUR
- [Clinical Assistant Professor](#): Department of Pharmacotherapy
- [Clinical Assistant Professor](#): Providence St. Peter Hospital Olympia
- [Clinical Assistant Professor](#): Virginia Mason Memorial Hospital
- [Clinical Assistant Professor](#): Applied Patient Care
- [Clinical Assistant Professor](#): Kootenai Health



College of

Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Sciences

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