

CougarRx News

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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May 2020

A NOTE FROM LINDA GARRELTS MACLEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Today we would be gathered at the Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox applauding our graduates for their hard-earned degrees. Instead, we are recognizing our students for their pursuit of excellence via a [virtual celebration](#) given the ongoing stay-at-home order in Washington state. Along with holding this improvised celebration for our students, we would like to share this milestone with you. Here you will find inspirational messages from pharmacists, alumni and graduating students. It is a testament of our students' successes and a time capsule to the unique situation that we find ourselves in today.



Not only does the webpage recognize this rite of passage for our students, but it also has some encouraging reminders for all of us who work in the field of pharmacy—whether you are an educator, administrator, advocate or provider.

[Assistant U.S. Surgeon General Scott Giberson's keynote](#) on pharmacists being the gatekeepers of health in particular resonated with me. Senior Director of Talent Acquisitions for Albertsons Companies, [Tim Maynard](#), also offered unique advice on dreaming bigger while blazing a successful career path through his humbled approach in taking opportunities big and small. Pharmacy Manager for Albertsons Companies and recent Cougar alumni (class of 2019) [Hannah Mason](#) shared thoughtful words of encouragement. Only one year out of our college, and Hannah has already shown great strides in her career. While we couldn't guide our students through the Oath of Pharmacist this year, we hope you can also appreciate this [creative rendition of the Oath](#).

Our students' resiliency and adaptability during these challenging circumstances in the last few weeks have been an inspiration. I have no doubt in the greatness they will achieve as they move on to the next phase of their lives and careers. Reaching graduation without delay and against the backdrop of an unprecedented pandemic was also made possible by the brilliant and dedicated faculty and staff moving this college forward. They have advocated in the best interests of our students, presented new and creative ways to teach classes, and spent tireless hours behind the scenes improvising to ensure that our students made it to this day despite the current stay-at-home mandate and other hurdles we faced.

Grateful is the one word that encapsulates my sentiments right now as we reach this finish line for our graduating class. While I know it has been a difficult few months for many, this global crisis just so happens to be a health issue. Our students are prepared to directly impact this unfolding story. As we move forward in the next few months, let's go forth and conquer with courage.

Finally, we want to hear your stories on the frontlines. Please send photos of yourselves to pharm.social@wsu.edu telling us how you are helping out your community. We would like to share the great work that is being done by our Cougar community across the nation.

With best regards and much respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Garrelts MacLean".

Linda Garrelts MacLean, interim dean
WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Top Stories

WSU Health Sciences names Mark Leid dean of WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Original Announcement from WSU Health Sciences

Washington State University Health Sciences has named Mark Leid the next dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Leid, PhD, is currently an Oregon State University (OSU) College of Pharmacy professor and the associate dean for research. He is also a WSU Pharmacy alum.

“As a native of eastern Washington and a 1983 graduate of the College of Pharmacy, WSU has always held a special place in my heart. WSU trained me and made my entire career possible,” Leid said. “The current public health crisis highlights the clear need for the continued expansion of the role of pharmacists in team-based health care. I am highly enthusiastic about returning to the college and working with faculty and staff to train the next generation of exceptional, Cougar pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists.”

With experience as a pharmacist and a researcher both in the United States and France, Leid has a vast and relevant background. His lab is known for its discovery of proteins that play key roles in the development of several organ systems. His current group research is directed at explaining the mechanisms by which specific proteins control mammalian developmental processes, such as that of the craniofacial skeleton.



Mark Leid will begin his new role as dean of the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on July 1.

“With Dr. Leid’s hire, it is particularly satisfying knowing we are bringing one of our own home,” said Daryll DeWald, vice president and chancellor for WSU Health Sciences. “What’s more, his unique ability to connect with individuals and inspire significant breakthroughs was evident throughout the interview process. It came as no surprise to us that he’d been voted pharmacy professor of the year six times by his students. We’re excited about his potential to do groundbreaking work at WSU.”

Added DeWald, “This is also an opportune time to express our gratitude to interim dean, Linda Garrelts MacLean, who showed thoughtful drive during her tenure. Her contributions are to be commended.”

Garrelts MacLean will hand over the reins to the college on July 1, 2020, then return to her role as a clinical professor and vice dean of external relations in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

“Mark will be joining us at a critical time as the college continues to advocate for improved access to pharmacist-provided health and wellness services in the communities that our graduates go on to serve. Our students are the medication experts. Additionally, the upward trajectory in our research is also putting our college on the map nationwide. I have every confidence that he will move forward these important initiatives to ensure that our graduate students, student pharmacists, faculty and staff thrive as our program flourishes.”

Leid will take the helm of a college going on 130 years at Washington State University that currently educates more than 600 students. The College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is headquartered in Spokane and has students in both Spokane and Yakima. Graduates go on to work in government agencies, advocacy, businesses, research and community pharmacies. The college brought in \$9.4 million in research funding in FY2019.

After receiving his degree in 1983, Leid spent two years practicing community and hospital pharmacy in Walla Walla, Washington, before entering graduate school at OSU. Leid continued to work as a pharmacist on evenings and weekends during his graduate studies. He received a PhD in pharmacology from OSU, then spent three years as a postdoctoral fellow in the Laboratoire de Génétique Moléculaire des Eucaryotes in Strasbourg, France. Mark returned to OSU as an assistant professor of Pharmacology in 1992, where he has been since.

Managing diabetes during the COVID-19 pandemic

The deleterious impact that the COVID-19 virus has on people living with diabetes is now well known. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), people living with diabetes are at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19. When the American Diabetes Association (ADA), a non-profit that seeks to educate the public about diabetes, had to quickly pull together a panel of experts to study the impact the virus has on people living with diabetes, they called on WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences professor, [Joshua Neumiller](#), who has dedicated his professional life to researching diabetes.

“It is clear that diabetes...increases the risk for poorer COVID-19 outcomes via increased lengths of stay [at the hospital], need for mechanical ventilation, and certainly mortality,” said [Neumiller in his latest podcast](#) with the ADA.

The [COVID-19 Expert Advisor Panel](#) researches and studies a broad range of areas to provide guidance to the ADA, consumers and health care professionals. The panel will provide rapid communication and best practice to health care professionals across multiple disciplines.

In his podcast with the ADA, Neumiller discusses recommendations on medication when caring for individuals with diabetes.

According to Neumiller, one of the best ways people living with diabetes can prepare is to ensure that they have several weeks’ worth of supplies, such as insulin or necessities needed to measure blood glucose to minimize trips to the pharmacy and subsequently decrease the risk of exposure. Should an individual contract the virus, it would also ensure that they have the supplies needed if they are quarantined.

“I’ve been talking to folks who have COVID-19 and at home managing it themselves and don’t require hospital care and there is the other group who have diabetes and are fearful. For those folks, it’s really reinforcement of sick day management and what they should be thinking about should they become ill,” said Neumiller.

Neumiller also recommends that health care providers should get a thorough and accurate representation of a patient’s medications when they are admitted to a hospital for COVID-19 symptoms. Many drugs prescribed to people with diabetes, such as metformin and SGLT2 inhibitors, can impact patients under respiratory distress.

Still, the ADA and Neumiller say that the lack of clear data on many medications such as the interaction between COVID-19 and NSAIDs, like ibuprofen, has [caused some whiplash for many health care providers](#) and patients monitoring their medications. The most important thing, according to Neumiller, is to follow evidence-based data.

You can [listen to Neumiller’s podcast with the ADA here](#) and [access ADA resources](#) on how to manage diabetes during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Josh Neumiller, professor at the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, is part of a COVID-19 Expert Advisor Panel for the American Diabetes Association.

WSU student group helps international students navigate life in Spokane

By [Addy Hatch, WSU News](#)

When Shamema Nasrin and her husband moved from Bangladesh to Spokane to attend the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, they didn’t know how to drive.

They didn’t know how to use a swipe card, pay taxes, or how to register for a Social Security number, which is required of international students.

“Everything was new,” Nasrin said recently of the couple’s experiences when they arrived in 2015. She and her husband both were pursuing doctoral degrees at WSU Health Sciences Spokane.

To help a growing number of international students attending the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical

Sciences, Nasrin and other students formed the Association of International and Intercultural Students of Health Sciences in the fall.

Members of the group's board come from five countries. Though all attend the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nasrin said they hope to include students from other programs on the Health Sciences campus in time.

"The starting point for me was that we need to do something for international students to help them transition from a whole different culture," Nasrin said.

The registered student organization started by pairing up international students with American students to learn the bus system and find grocery stores and other services.

Because securing housing is another issue that's difficult for international students, group members have offered to tour apartments and send photos and application forms to prospective students, Nasrin said.

Nasrin credited the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences for creating a welcoming atmosphere for international students. The association also works closely with WSU Health Sciences' [Student Diversity Center](#), which has helped focus the group's activities, she said.

"We are so proud of Shamema and her husband, Maha, who have created a home away from home in our community," said Interim Dean Linda Garrelts MacLean, who has mentored the couple since they arrived at the College. "The faculty, staff and students in the college and campus have built a supportive environment that embraces international students and adds to the substance of our academic community."

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new uncertainty to the lives of international students, Nasrin said.

"As international students we're worried about what's happening in our home countries and what will happen next with us," she said, citing possible visa concerns.

But the members of the Association of International and Intercultural Students of Health Sciences are continuing to work on behalf of fellow students, now compiling a resource guide.

"We're still answering questions for international students and are collecting information and links that we're updating regularly," Nasrin said. "We're also preparing for events to benefit students when things get back to normal. It's a unique time for all of us."

WSU pharmacy graduates set record with residency matches

WSU Doctor of Pharmacy graduates set a record-breaking year in residency matches. The College has seen consistent growth in residency matches each year, which is facilitated by the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP). Nearly two-thirds of students who participated in the match received residency.

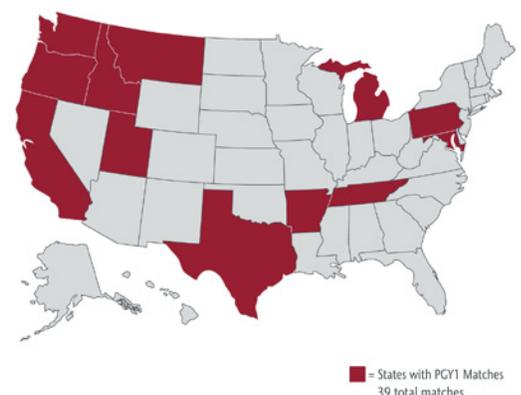
"I am so incredibly proud of our student pharmacists. Each year, our graduates continue to impress us with the number of residency matches setting a record from previous years. These residency and fellowship experiences represent incredible opportunities for our students as they prepare for future successful careers," said Linda Garrelts MacLean, interim dean for the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.



The Association of International and Intercultural Students of Health Sciences board, photographed in early March, are (l-r): Keti Bardhi (lower left); Farheen Shaikh (upper left); Yuening Liu; Ruby Siegel; Mahamadul (Maha) Haque; Shamema Nasrin; and Peter Obi.

2020 PHARMACY MATCH RESULTS

WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences



39 fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy students matched with an ASHP-accredited postgraduate year one (PGY1) residency. In addition, two graduates secured an ASHP-accredited year two (PGY2) residency. The residencies are situated across 12 states, including Washington. Students took residencies in various fields including community pharmacies and health system administration and leadership.

Residencies help student pharmacists apply the skills and knowledge they learned in school to real patients, situations and settings. Through residencies, student pharmacists develop leadership skills, improve patient care, refine skills and advance their growth in clinical judgement. One of the best ways to expose new graduates to various career paths in pharmacy has been through residencies.

Spotlight on Success

Pharmaceutical Sciences student awarded for research in nanotechnology to treat stroke and brain tumors

Xinyue (Sheena) Dong has spent the last four years as a pharmaceutical sciences graduate student researching how nanoparticle-based systems could be used to deliver treatments and treat brain disease. Recently, she was recognized for her hard work with the annual Harriett B. Rigas Outstanding Woman in Doctoral Studies Award presented by the Association for Faculty Women.

Originally from Chongqing, China, Dong came to Washington State University in 2015 after completing her undergraduate coursework at the China Pharmaceutical University in Nanjing, China.

“As an international student who has never been to the US before joining the program, I received lots of help from faculties, staff and other graduate students at WSU. I quickly adapted to the new environment and made a lot of friends here,” said Dong.

In April 2020, she completed the work for her PhD degree from the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences with the successful defense of her graduate dissertation, “Design and engineering of nanoparticle-based drug delivery systems for improved therapy of ischemic stroke and glioma.”

The defense of her dissertation wasn’t the first time Dong’s research has been put to the test. During her time at WSU, she has shown herself to be an accomplished researcher and effective communicator, having published 13 peer-reviewed papers, six as first-author or co-first author, and received awards for the 2019 WSU Three-Minute Thesis Competition (First Place), and First and Second Place for the 2018 and 2019 Research Day Poster Presentation Competition at WSU Spokane campus.

Her research focuses on utilizing nanoparticle-based drug delivery systems to deliver therapeutics to the diseased brain to treat two brain diseases: ischemic stroke and glioma (a type of brain tumor).

“Brain diseases cause high disability and mortality, but current treatments are still unable to cure most of the brain diseases. Effectively delivering the drugs to the brain is a major challenge. Therefore, I want to utilize a novel delivery approach, nanoparticle-based drug delivery system, to improve the therapeutic efficacy of the drugs for brain disease treatment,” said Dong.

The nanoparticle-based drug delivery system packages drugs in the mini-scale nanoparticles. She aimed to use nanoparticle-based drug delivery systems to 1) treat ischemic stroke through the targeting of inflamed tissues and 2) treat glioma by bypassing the blood brain barrier to improve the delivery of anti-cancer drugs.

She explained that using nanoparticles could allow for the specific targeting to inflamed tissue (such as in stroke patients), prolong delivery of treatments, and control drug release (so that only inflamed tissue that needed treatment were exposed to the drug therapies).



Xinyue (Sheena) Dong

In the case of glioma, she further explained that one of the challenges of treatment is getting the drugs to the tumor. People have a blood-brain barrier which protects the brain but can also prevent treatments from reaching tumors in the brain. By using neutrophils (a part of the white blood cells which can eat up any foreign objects they see in the bloodstream), the nanoparticle-drug system can be transported by neutrophils to cross the blood-brain barrier. Once neutrophils reach the brain, the anti-cancer drugs will be released to fight the tumor.

After leaving WSU this spring, Dong is headed on to a postdoc research fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, where she will continue her research into brain diseases.

Celebrating college excellence

The hard work of students, faculty, and staff are essential to the success of any college. And the exemplary faculty, staff and students at the Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences help us thrive in an ever-changing health care landscape.

Every year the college takes a moment to recognize just a few of these students, faculty, and staff who demonstrate excellence in all that they do. While this year's staff awards have been postponed until the fall, we are proud to announce the 2019-20 student and faculty award recipients.

STUDENT AWARDS

The Student of the Year awards are selected by the faculty and recognize students who have shown a commitment to academic performance, leadership, scholarship, service and professionalism.

First-year (PY1)



Kennedy Erickson
Spokane

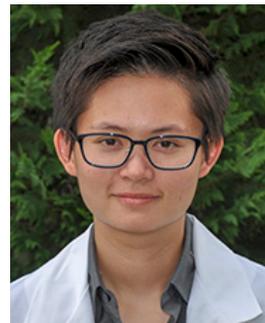


Viktor Golovin
Yakima

Second-year (PY2)



Robyn Hart
Spokane



Lermey Uong
Yakima

Third-year (PY3)



Connor Capdeville
Spokane



Virginia Gonzalez
Yakima

Fourth-year (PY4)



Nadia Bamfo
Spokane



Megan Baker
Spokane



Nancy Johnson
Spokane



Johanna Pantig
Spokane



Debbi Li
Yakima

Pharmaceutical Sciences graduate student awardee:



Ruby Siegel, Ahmed lab

FACULTY AWARDS

Every year students nominate professors that they felt went above and beyond, both in and outside of the classroom. The Teacher of the Year award recognizes these outstanding teachers that demonstrate excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching; and who contribute to fulfilling the college's student-oriented mission.

First-year (PY1) Faculty Awardees:



Connie Remsberg
Spokane



Damianne Brand-Eubank
Yakima

Second-year (PY2) Faculty Awardees:



Susan Marsh
Spokane



Rustin Crutchley
Yakima

Third-year (PY3) Faculty Awardees:



Kyle Frazier
Spokane



Dana Bowers
Yakima

Fourth-year (PY4) Faculty Preceptor of the Year:



Megan Undeberg

Pharmaceutical sciences graduate program:



Salah-uddin Ahmed

2020 Chancellor's Excellence Award recipients

The Chancellor's Awards are bestowed annually to students, faculty, staff and community partners who advance leadership and engagement at WSU Health Sciences. Recipients of these awards demonstrate exceptional leadership and service to the university and the community and/or support leadership development and engagement of WSU students. The college is pleased to announce that of the 15 awards, six hail from the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.



Ana Vergara
CHANCELLOR'S LEGACY AWARD

This award recognizes graduating students (undergraduate, graduate, or professional) whose influence, ideals, and activities throughout their college career have had a lasting, positive impact at WSU Health Sciences.



Brandy Seignemartin
CAMPUS COMPACT AWARDS

Every year, each WA Campus Compact member institution has the opportunity to select two students for the Student Civic Leader Award. The Student Civic Leader Award recognizes outstanding students who are dedicated to making a difference on their campuses and in their communities.



Rozita Zandkargar
LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Chancellor’s Leadership Award honors students for their leadership and academic contributions to the campus, commitment to advancing diversity, and passion for innovation and ingenuity in their chosen field.



Danielle Fitzpatrick
LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Chancellor’s Leadership Award honors students for their leadership and academic contributions to the campus, commitment to advancing diversity, and passion for innovation and ingenuity in their chosen field.



Christopher Bran-Morales
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – STUDENT IMPACT AWARD

This awards highlight students for their capacity building, reciprocity, and innovation in our surrounding communities. Nominations in this category may focus on service-learning, philanthropy, or project-based work that creates a significant and demonstrable community advancement.



Frank Nenninger
CHANCELLOR’S LEGACY AWARD

This award recognizes graduating students (undergraduate, graduate, or professional) whose influence, ideals, and activities throughout their college career have had a lasting, positive impact at WSU Health Sciences.

PHILANTHROPY FOCUS - DEAN’S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Because of COVID-19, many student pharmacists have been displaced from their internship locations and are struggling financially. Several members of the Dean’s Advisory Council (DAC) have taken the lead as the first donors to a new “Pharmacy Student Emergency Fund” to help provide small grants for students. The fund is just getting launched, but the idea is that pharmacy students could apply for small grants of up to \$300 per academic year (as funds allow.) The grants would not need to be repaid, but students would be encouraged to pay it forward by making similar donations after their graduation and in the future.



“The need for financial assistance cannot be overstated. Our students are hurting, “ said Merrie Kay Alzola, class of 1993, and chair of the DAC. “We’re asking the CougaRx Nation to come together and support our students when they need it most,” she added.

Fellow DAC member Steve Riddle, class of 1984, has made a significant donation and is asking others to join him. “Every donation, regardless of size, will make a difference in the number of students who can receive assistance,” he said.

All donors will be recognized in the annual report and invited to the Celebrating Generosity event in the spring. You can find the link to make a gift by visiting our website and selecting “Student Emergency Fund” under “Giving” in our navigation.

Alumni News

- **Robert Scheidtmann**, class of 1966, received the prestigious Bowl of Hygeia award from the California Pharmacists Association. Congratulations, Bob! [Read more](#)
- Congratulations to **Erik Nelson**, class of 2013, who was recently featured in a Spokesman Review article about COVID-19 and his successful pharmacy business model. [Read more](#)
- Sad News—**Mel Coughlin**, class of 1973, passed away on March 29, 2020. Mel was a member of the CougaRx Nation board, a mentor to many WSU student pharmacists, and a die-hard Cougar. He will be greatly missed. He is survived by his loving wife, Wendy, who was always by his side at pharmacy events and football games, as well his children and grandchildren. A celebration of Mel’s life will take place sometime this summer. [View his obituary](#)
- Our last CougaRx Nation event was held in Tucson, Arizona just before COVID-19 hit. We’re looking forward to getting on the road again once we’re on the other side of this pandemic! Check out this photo from the event: (l to r) **Linda Garrelts MacLean**; **Sheri**, ’87 and **Rusty**, ’88 **Crawford**, who are both retired from the VA Hospital in Tucson and recently established a scholarship endowment at the CPPS; **Brian Do**, oncology pharmacist at the VA Hospital in Tucson; **Elaine Truong**, clinical pharmacist at the VA Hospital in Tucson; and **Derek Matlock**, class of 2017, a clinical pharmacist with SinfoniaRx, a medication therapy management firm.
- Warm birthday wishes to **Bert Porter**, class of 1951, who recently celebrated his 92nd birthday. Of course we couldn’t visit with him this year, but his 90th birthday party was quite a celebration. When he blew out his candles, he wished for 10 more years. Happy Birthday Bert from all of us at the College!



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

Other News

With everyone connecting online right now, we want to make sure you can find the information you need quickly and easily

Please take a few moments to complete our anonymous survey to tell us a little more about how you use our website so we can plan how to make it work best for all of our Cougar Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences family.

[Take the Survey](#)

WSU Nursing joins the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on PNWU campus

Having the students on the same campus “will help them cooperate and communicate from the very beginning of their training, with community health being the ultimate beneficiary,” says Dr. Daryll DeWald, vice president and chancellor for WSU Health Sciences.

[Read more](#)

Embedded: A first-person account of COVID-19 testing in Eastern Washington

During the recent spring break, third-year pharmacy student Lee Roy Esposito spent some time volunteering at the Spokane drive-thru testing center for COVID-19.

[Read more](#)

Research identifies critical protein in cancer treatment-related heart damage

New discovery by Pharmaceutical Sciences researchers opens up possibilities for the development of new combination drugs or treatment strategies to reduce heart damage from cancer treatment, which could help increase the life expectancy of cancer survivors.

[Read more](#)

WSUAA Greater Inland Empire Chapter is partnering with BECU to sponsor a Food Drive on May 18-22

The drive will benefit the WSU Spokane Campus food pantry and the Second Harvest food bank. Donations can be dropped off May 18-22 at the three [Spokane BECU financial center locations](#):

- 615 N Sullivan, Spokane Valley
- 916 N Division, Spokane
- 9420 N Newport Hwy, Spokane

*Please check the [website](#) for COVID hours at each location.

Faculty Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

Pharmaceutical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Associate [Peng Xia](#), Pharmaceutical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Associate [Jingrui Chen](#), Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor [Zhaokang Cheng](#) and one co-author published, “PRKAR1A deficiency impedes hypertrophy and reduces heart size,” in *Physiological Reports*, an open access monthly journal published by the Physiological Society and the American Physiological Society. [Read article](#)

Pharmacotherapy Clinical Associate Professor [Kimberly McKeirnan](#) and one co-author published, “Changes in practice scope of pharmacy technicians needed to address community needs during COVID-19 outbreak,” in *Pharmacy Times* in April 2020. [Read article](#)

Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor [Taylor Bertsch](#) and [Kimberly McKeirnan](#) published, “Perceived benefit of immunization-trained technicians in the pharmacy workflow,” in *Pharmacy as part of the Special Issue Pharmacy Workforce Support Personnel*. [Read article](#)

Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor [Nicole Perea](#), [Taylor Bertsch](#) and [Kimberly McKeirnan](#) published, “Considerations in training student pharmacists to perform physical assessment,” in *the Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning* in May 2020. [Read article](#)

R. Keith Campbell Distinguished Professor [John White](#) published, “Don’t DIY COVID-19 treatment,” in *the Inlander* in April 2020. [Read article](#)

SERVICE

Allen I. White Distinguished Associate Professor of Pharmacotherapy [Joshua Neumiller](#) has been appointed to the American Diabetes Association (ADA) COVID-19 Expert Advisor Panel. The panel is comprised of subject matter experts in a broad range of areas providing guidance to ADA on the most timely and appropriate information to provide to both health consumers and professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

[Josh Neumiller](#) will serve as the voting delegate for the ADA and represent ADA at the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) Convention for the term of 2020-2025. [Read more](#)

[Josh Neumiller](#) has been appointed as a Course Director for the 2021 and 2022 ADA Advanced Postgraduate Courses. The Advanced Postgraduate Course is planned and organized by an interdisciplinary group of 5 Course Directors composed of professional diabetes experts from medicine, pharmacy, nursing, dietetics and psychosocial/behavior care. [Read more](#)

Pharmacotherapy Clinical Associate Professor **Megan Willson**, **Kimberly McKeirnan**, Pharmacotherapy Clinical Associate Professor **Jennifer Robinson**, Pharmacotherapy Clinical Associate Professor **Julie Akers** and Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor (Yakima) **Christina Buchman** received an honorable mention from AACP for their work in suicide awareness.

AWARDS

Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor **Kyle Frazier**, Pharmacotherapy Clinical Associate Professor **Megan Undeberg**, and **Kimberly McKeirnan** have been awarded another year of funding for Medication Optimization from the Empire Health Foundation.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Professor **Salah-uddin Ahmed** was selected as the 2019-2020 WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program Teacher of the Year.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Clinical Assistant Professor **Connie Remsberg** and Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor (Yakima) **Damianne Brand-Eubanks** were voted the 2019-2020 Teachers of the Year by College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences first-year student pharmacists.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Clinical Associate Professor **Susan Marsh** and Pharmacotherapy Clinical Associate Professor (Yakima) **Rustin Crutchley** were voted the 2019-2020 Teachers of the Year by College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences second-year student pharmacists.

Kyle Frazier and Pharmacotherapy Clinical Assistant Professor (Yakima) **Dana Bowers** were voted the 2019-2020 Teachers of the Year by College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences third-year student pharmacists.

Megan Undeberg was voted the 2019-20 WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Faculty Preceptor of the Year.

Student Achievement

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES (PH.D.) STUDENTS

Yuening Liu (pharmaceutical sciences, Cheng lab) with faculty co-authors **Peng Xia**, **Jingrui Chen** and **Zhaokang Cheng** published “PRKAR1A deficiency impedes hypertrophy and reduces heart size,” in *Physiological Reports*, an open access monthly journal published by the Physiological Society and the American Physiological Society. [Read article](#)

Xinyue (Sheena) Dong (pharmaceutical sciences, Z. Wang lab) received the Harriet B. Rigas award for Outstanding Women in Graduate Studies from the Association for Women Faculty. [Read more](#)

Ana Vergara (pharmaceutical sciences, Lazarus lab) was selected to receive WSU Health Sciences Chancellor’s Legacy Award.

Ruby Siegel (pharmaceutical sciences, Ahmed lab) was selected as the 2019-2020 WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program Student of the Year.

Madalyn Brown (pharmaceutical sciences, Gibson/Roulet lab) successfully passed her final defense.

Xinyue (Sheena) Dong successfully passed her final defense.

Panshak Dakup (pharmaceutical sciences, Gaddameedhi lab) successfully passed his final defense.

Dunxin Shen (pharmaceutical sciences, Denton lab) successfully passed his final defense.

Mahamudul (Maha) Haque (pharmaceutical sciences, Ahmed lab) successfully passed his final defense.

Jing Wang (pharmaceutical sciences, Wu lab) successfully passed her preliminary exam.

Dana Walters (pharmaceutical sciences, Gibson/Roulet lab) successfully passed his preliminary exam.

Trevor Kirby (pharmaceutical sciences, Gibson/Roulet lab) successfully passed his preliminary exam.

Rakshit Tanna (pharmaceutical sciences, Paine lab) successfully passed his preliminary exam.

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PHARMD) STUDENTS

Thomas Borden with faculty co-authors J. Roberts and Marcia Fosberg Distinguished Professor in Pharmacotherapy **Danial Baker**, Pharmacotherapy Clinical Professor **Terri Levien** and Pharmacotherapy Clinical Professor **Brian Gates** published, “Nasal glucagon and the glucagon autoinjector pen: newly approved novel dosage forms for severe hypoglycemia,” in the Senior Care Pharmacist. [View abstract](#)

Viktor Golovin was selected as the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Student of the Year for the class of 2023 in Yakima.

Kennedy Erickson was selected as the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Student of the Year for the class of 2023 in Spokane.

Lermey Uong was selected as the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Student of the Year for the class of 2022 in Yakima.

Robyn Hart was selected as the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Student of the Year for the class of 2022 in Spokane.

Virginia Gonzalez was selected as the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Student of the Year for the class of 2021 in Yakima.

Connor Capedeville was selected as the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Student of the Year for the class of 2021 in Spokane.

Debbi Li was selected as the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Student of the Year for the class of 2020 in Yakima.

Nadia Bamfo, **Megan Baker**, **Nancy Johnson** and **Johanna Pantig** were selected as WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Students of the Year for the class of 2020 in Spokane.

Brandy Seignemartin was selected to receive the WSU Health Sciences Chancellor’s Campus Compact Award.

Rozita Zandkargar was selected to receive the WSU Health Sciences Chancellor’s Leadership Award.

Danielle Fitzpatrick was selected to receive the WSU Health Sciences Chancellor’s Leadership Award.

Christopher Bran-Morales was selected to receive the WSU Health Sciences Chancellor’s Community Engagement – Student Impact Award.

Frank Nenninger was selected to receive the WSU Health Sciences Chancellor’s Legacy Award.



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