MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We had a terrific start to the fall 2021 semester with everything back in full swing. It is such an enormous pleasure to see our student pharmacists in person, again.

Five new PhD students from around the globe overcame barriers created by the pandemic to join us in Spokane this fall. All of these superb students come to us with a background in pharmacy and I am certain that they will enhance the research environment of the college and health science campus.

The college held white coat ceremonies in both Spokane and Yakima. During these ceremonies I had the privilege to hear speeches from our keynote speaker Shandra Calmes ('05) as well as two inspiring student pharmacists, Spencer Knudson ('23) and Dana Rabourne ('23). Nick Bruck ('04) again stepped in to lend a hand by helping students into their white coats. Nick is a District Manager for Walgreens, a yearly sponsor of this event. Neither ceremony would have been possible without the continuous and generous support of Walgreens. A very big thank you to all speakers, participants, and Walgreens for a successful, in-person white coat ceremony.

The speakers struck a common theme at the white coat ceremony, imploring student pharmacists to take risks, get out of their comfort zone, not let fear keep them from trying new things, and give themselves the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and failures. This is advice that all of us could use from time to time.

Speaking to our newest students I couldn’t help but reminisce on the beginnings of my own pharmacy education at WSU 42 years ago. Pharmacy school—and the profession—looked vastly different from what our students are facing today. I spent nearly the entirety of my pharmacy education on the Pullman campus, first in College Hall, and then in Wegner for my last two semesters. The latter building was much more pleasant than the former, but College Hall put us right in the thick of things and in the middle of campus! Now, our student pharmacists are on a beautiful WSU Health Sciences campus in Spokane and the PNWU campus in Yakima, learning side-by-side with medical and nursing students. In addition, we have all had to adapt to new ways of teaching and learning over the past 18 months. Our first week of classes was only the second time our second-year students stepped foot onto campus, having participated in four days of in-person training last spring. Those students are overjoyed to be back in the classroom.

During this first week of classes second-year students completed their point of care testing and vaccination certifications – the importance of which has been demonstrated time and time again over the past year as student pharmacists have gone into their communities to help with COVID-19 testing and now COVID-19 vaccinations. Since the first COVID-19 vaccinations were made available, our pharmacy students have helped administer tens of thousands of vaccinations, side-by-side with their future colleagues from the College of Nursing.
Meanwhile our students in the pharmaceutical sciences and molecular medicine graduate program found ways to continue conducting their research and thesis projects, even as everything shut down around them. They donned masks, they socially distanced, they were tested and retested many times for COVID-19, they persevered—and they never left campus. Faculty members continued to teach, albeit remotely, and write winning grant proposals at an amazing rate. I am truly in awe of all of the dedicated scientists, researchers, and future pharmacists we have in our program—and the faculty who train them.

Thank you all and I look forward to tackling the new academic year with you as partners!

Sincerely,

Mark Leid, Professor and Dean
WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Top Stories

CPPS welcomes class of 2025, reintroduces class of 2024

Each Doctor of Pharmacy student at the Washington State University begins their journey with the donning of their white coats. This simple coat is symbolic. It represents professionalism, caring and trust that each future pharmacist must earn from their patients.

Returning to an in-person ceremony after the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the move to a virtual ceremony last year, this year this symbol holds particular weight. For the first time, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences White Coat Ceremonies combined two classes, not only welcoming the incoming class of 2025, but celebrating the progression of the class of 2024 into their second year. The Yakima ceremony took place Thursday, August 19 followed by the Spokane ceremony on August 20. The ceremonies were made possible with the support of Nick Bruck, class of 2004, who coated the students and Walgreens for sponsoring the white coat ceremonies and for donating the white coats that will be worn by our student pharmacists during their pharmacy education.

As the college celebrated the donning of the white coats by its first- and second-year students, the importance of pharmacists in the communities they serve has never been clearer. Over the past year pharmacy students across the country have stepped onto the frontlines, testing and vaccinating in the communities they serve. Soon the 90 new pharmacy students joining the class of 2025 will have the chance to join these ranks.

These student pharmacists are taking their first steps on the well-tread path of the generations that came before, including the keynote speaker for the ceremony, Division Pharmacy Manager for Albertsons Safeway Corporation Dr. Shandra Calmes, class of 2005, who donned her own white coat from the college in a similar ceremony twenty years prior.

In her speech Calmes recognized the many changes that the college and profession have undergone since her own white coat ceremony. The college, then located on the WSU Pullman campus, has grown and expanded moving to the Spokane campus with an extension in Yakima. Meanwhile the profession has similarly grown and expanded as the role of the pharmacist has changed. Where once the idea of immunizing pharmacists seemed impossible, now pharmacists across the country are administering COVID-19 vaccinations on a daily basis. Calmes challenged students to push back against barriers to accomplish that which others say is impossible.
“I challenge you to spend the next four years dreaming bigger each year, understanding that each success leads to new challenges, each failure brings new understandings to build upon and the only thing that will ever limit your possibilities is throwing in the towel,” said Calmes. “For those with the courage and resilience to continue, the impossible is merely an achievement waiting for you to unlock, before moving on to the next challenge.”

**How one professor is combating a silent epidemic in eastern Washington**

Just as the COVID-19 epidemic exploded on the world stage in early 2020, a silent epidemic was also taking place in parallel to the spread of the deadly virus: drug overdoses, which increased nationally by 42% in May 2020 compared to year before, according to ODMAP. Law enforcement and public health experts believe the growth of overdoses was a result of state-mandated stay-at-home orders. Job losses, reduced income, and increased stress and anxiety have led to increased drug use as a coping mechanism for many. In 2020, fentanyl overtook methamphetamines as the drug most involved in overdoses in Washington state.

This is where Assistant Professor in Pharmacotherapy Nicole Rodin has made it her mission to educate communities in eastern Washington about the dangers of illicit fentanyl and the use of naloxone, the antidote to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

“I really believe in education. I think that a large part of a pharmacist’s job is educating on the medications being prescribed,” said Rodin.

Working with the United States Attorney’s Office, Rodin has helped to educate the public on how illicit fentanyl works in the body and circulated in the community. They hope that the trainings bring greater awareness of how these illicit substances enter local communities and target various populations.

“Who is most at risk? As [Dr. Rodin] and I have said: everybody. With illicit fentanyl and these fake pharmaceuticals, it is literally like playing Russian roulette,” said Stephanie Van Marter, Assistant US Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, who works with Rodin to hold trainings with various community members and the public on the risks of illicit fentanyl.

Rodin hopes these presentations inform consumers on the highly addictive nature of illicit fentanyl. Along with presenting these seminars, Rodin also mentors WSU pharmacy students in the American Pharmacists Association- Academy of Student Pharmacists Operation Substance Use Disorder (APhA-ASP SUD). She and her team of students have held trainings for health care providers, community members, as well as sororities and fraternities on the main WSU campus in Pullman, along with individuals who have a history of opioid abuse.

“Our student pharmacists have not only enjoyed being part of this effort, but they have made such an incredible impact,” said Rodin. “These community groups know so much more about what pharmacists and student pharmacists can do to make a difference.”

Their presentation not only educates the public on how opioids work on the cellular level, but also how easily one can overdose as a result of ingesting, inhaling or absorbing fentanyl-laced drugs. According to their presentation, just 2-3 milligrams of fentanyl is enough to cause a person serious harm or even death. For comparison, a Splenda sugar packet is 30 milligrams, and taking just 3-5 granules would be sufficient to cause a fatal overdose.

“Fentanyl is getting more common and is not always as easily detected as other drugs because it can be easily concealed in various formulations or products,” said Rodin.

The most alarming part of this silent epidemic is that people are unknowingly purchasing fake pharmaceuticals laced with illicit fentanyl. Fake OxyContin, Xanax, Percocet, and baby aspirin are just some of the counterfeit pills being trafficked through eastern Washington.
“These fake pharmaceuticals look identical to real pharmaceuticals,” said Rodin. “In working with community partners in different fields, you see such a wide variety of perspectives and you get to see how close to home this epidemic really is,” said Rodin.

Rodin recommends that those who wish to learn more about the impacts of illicit fentanyl can tune in to her free, on-demand training, which is open to the public.

“The end goal with the trainings and education is to increase awareness on what we are seeing in our community, decrease stigma around substance use disorder, and connect people with resources,” said Rodin.

**Q&A with the new executive director of graduate programs**

Salah-uddin Ahmed has been named the new executive director of graduate programs at the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPPS). In his new position, will provide oversight and vision for the Pharmaceutical Sciences and Molecular Medicine graduate program at the college.

Ahmed has taught in the graduate program since he first joined the college in April of 2014 first as an associate professor and now as a full professor with tenure. In addition to his new role, Ahmed will continue to teach in courses focused on topics varying from the fundamentals of molecular and cellular mechanisms in diseases and toxicological studies to drug discovery and development.

The college recently caught up with Ahmed to learn more about him and his new role:

**What will you be doing in your new role? What are your top priorities?**

My passion for training graduate students in my lab landed me in this new role. In my role as the executive director of graduate programs, I will be working towards the overall improvement of our pharmaceutical sciences and molecular medicine graduate program. Our graduate students, graduate faculty mentors and the policies governing this program are essential components that need attention. For graduate students, we want to initiate programs for personal and professional developments that will prepare them for postdoctoral opportunities in industry and academia. For graduate faculty, we plan to introduce workshops or training on effective mentoring and developing leadership skills.

I want to provide more opportunities to our graduate students for their professional and personal training so that they are well-prepared to transition successfully to the next level in their career, whether it be industry or academia.

**What is your current research focus?**

My research lab is studying the role of inflammatory proteins called cytokines and chemokines in the pathogenesis of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, gout, and osteoarthritis. Using cells derived from tissues donated by these patients, we study how these cells contribute to inflammation and joint destruction observed in these diseases. These findings will lead to the identification of novel therapeutic targets that could further be tested in clinical settings in order to develop safer and cost-effective therapies.

**What first sparked your interest in the sciences?**

After I completed my Master in Toxicology, I learned that some medications prescribed for different ailments are one of the major causes of toxicities reported in population. That is where I got interested in research in the area of nutrition and chemoprevention. This further evolved into my current research interests of understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of disease pathogenesis and identifying novel targeted therapeutics in the treatment of chronic inflammatory diseases.
What made you interested in autoimmune and inflammatory diseases in particular?
I am fascinated by how immune system serves as body’s defense to external infections or physical injuries. On a contrary note, sometimes without any external cause, the same immune system gets activated and starts attacking one’s own body part, a phenomenon called ‘autoimmune response’ by mistake leading to diseases that could commonly be termed as ‘autoimmune diseases.’ If the immune system attacks joints in the body, it leads to a disease called rheumatoid arthritis; if it attacks brain, then it leads to multiple sclerosis; or if it attacks pancreas, it is termed as ‘Type 1 diabetes.’ All these autoimmune diseases have common underlying miscommunication within our immune system. My research interest in this area is to understand how immune system attacks local cells that form the tissue/organ (in our case, synovium in the joints of rheumatoid arthritis patients) and what we can learn from the inflammatory response these cells generate so that we can develop more targeted and safer therapeutics in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Some of these findings could potentially be applied to other autoimmune diseases that develop by the similar pathogenic mechanism.

What do you like to do in your free time?
In my free time, I usually prefer to travel with family to national parks, beaches, and lakes. I also try my hands on cooking Indian recipes (it looks like I am improving). I find it to be a good de-stresser.

What drew you to the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences?
I was impressed by the mission of the college and team that was built around that mission. I saw opportunity to succeed and contribute to the success of others in the college. In addition, I just fell in love with the Pacific Northwest and wanted to spend my professional years here.

What is the best advice you ever received and why did it impact you?
The best advice I received from my mentors is to do science that is impactful, has application, and provides direction for future research. It changed my perspective on how I pursued my research and interpreted my findings as a young scientist that would allow me to get funding to an overarching career goal of fulfillment and purpose. Since then, I have taken incremental steps towards those goals.

What is your favorite thing about Washington State University (WSU)?
The collegial environment and dedicated graduate students, and the impact WSU has on our region makes me feel good.

What are you most looking forward to about the fall semester?
I am looking forward to the in-person classes and training of students in all professional courses on campus. Our graduate program team is also actively working to make personal and professional life of graduate students on campus pleasant.

A NOTE FROM JULIE AKERS
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Well, we have officially begun educating future pharmacists in person again. What a great feeling! It has been wonderful to have the hallways and classrooms full of energy. Although we are all wearing masks, I can assure you the smiles of students, faculty and staff are shining through their eyes!

As part of orientation week on the Yakima and Spokane campus, I provided a “Future of Pharmacy” presentation. Our first-year pharmacy students had great questions, many focusing on the varied types of careers possible upon licensure. One area of emphasis is mental health. Prior to the pandemic, many communities were already struggling due to a shortage of mental health providers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported an increase of those experiencing anxiety or depression from 36.4% of the population in August 2020 to
41.5% in February 2021. In addition, those reporting unmet mental health care needs rose from 9.2% to 11.7% during that same period. How can pharmacists use their knowledge and skills to positively impact the mental health crisis? What career opportunities exist for pharmacists in this specialty field?

To address those questions, I find it best to ask someone in the field. We were fortunate to hear from Dr. Audrey Wadhwnani (’18) who serves as a Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner at the Salt Lake City Veterans Affairs.

I’d like to start with my heartfelt gratitude to the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, my professors, preceptors, colleagues and my family for enabling me to succeed in achieving my aspiration of working as a Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner.

I started my journey as a pharmacy student at the Spokane campus in August 2014. Early in my learning journey I discovered my profound interest in improving the management of mental health conditions. With my dad’s words of wisdom ringing in my head, “Always begin with the end in mind,” I focused on learning about the many ways a pharmacist can help patients suffering with depression, anxiety, psychosis and substance use disorders in the clinic setting.

During my second year, I was one of the co-founders of our College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) group on campus. During my third year, I presented a case study in treating substance use disorders after completing my 3-week IPPE rotation. After receiving great feedback, I became even more determined to achieve my goal of becoming a mental health practitioner upon graduation from the program. To this effect, I completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at the Roseburg Veterans Affairs (VA) with emphasis in Mental Health rotations in the inpatient and clinic setting. Fortunately, my residency program director Dr. Rene Endow, a board-certified mental health pharmacy practitioner, took me under her wings and steered me to engage in focused mental health readings, topic discussions, case reviews/presentations, and shared many clinical pearls with me. Under her oversight, I built my confidence as a mental health practitioner and was selected for the PGY2 Mental Health Residency at the Salt Lake City VA. With support from outstanding preceptors and my residency program director, I successfully graduated in July 2020. I then was fortunate enough to be hired as a Mental Health Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner at the Salt Lake City VA.

A day in the life of a Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner

I operate with an advanced scope of practice, collaborative practice agreement and privileges to prescribe mental health medications including controlled substances. Between working from home and/or the Community Based Outpatient Clinic, I manage a panel of more than 200 patients recovering from substance use disorder. In a typical day, I engage in 6-7 direct care patient encounters using face-to-face, video telehealth or phone-based encounters. Additionally, I engage in student/resident teaching, population management by reviewing disease state specific mental health registries to identify opportunities for patient referrals and market my professional services to VA primary care providers who practice in rural settings. I am responsible for achieving desired access, quality and patient experience metrics and periodically receive a personalized performance scorecard to benchmark and help guide my practice. I have demonstrated a high level of commitment and engagement through building my clinic from scratch and achieving, or getting very close to achieving, most of my performance targets within 6 months.

I welcome future aspiring Doctor of Pharmacy students to feel free to reach out to me for guidance/counseling. Once again, my dad’s words of wisdom ring loud in my head, “Help others find their voice and in doing so find yours.”

What a great example of a pharmacist finding their passion and weaving it into a career that provides value to the community. Many of you could tell a similar story of finding your passion in the profession, and I hope to share more of those stories through this column in the future.

With my best and, as always, Go Cougs!

Julie Akers, Associate Dean of External Relations
WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Spotlight on Success

Scholarships propel student to pursue her dreams

Kellyan Nguyen, class of 2022, has spent her pharmacy school career giving back to the community. As the first person in her family to attend pharmacy school, Kellyan credits her parents with instilling in her an appreciation for hard work, dedication, and resilience. She has put these traits to the test over the past year as the Women’s Health Fellow, working alongside non-profit, community organizations that reduce gender-based inequities in health care and cater to the overall well-being of young girls and women of Washington. Through partnerships with Planned Parenthood, YWCA, PhRESH (Pharmacists for reproductive education and sexual health), Range Health, and the Hispanic Business Professional Association, Nguyen was able to help create many long-lasting initiatives that positively shape and impact the women in the community.

“Together we were able to brainstorm innovative and resourceful ways to overcome barriers and bridge disparity gaps, especially in populations that suffer from lack of economic resources and access to basic health care,” said Nguyen. “I hope that the connections I have built and the initiatives I have created leave a permanent mark and become an inspiration to future students to carry forth and build upon.”

Nguyen will do her part to continue her legacy in the upcoming year as the Cougs in the Community Student Director.

Recently, she was recognized for her impact in the community with the Chancellor’s Student Leadership and Community Engagement Scholarship and the Chancellor’s Excellence Community Engagement Student Impact Award, honors which she counts among her biggest accomplishments since coming to the college.

“Receiving this scholarship allows me to fearlessly strive for my passions and empowers me to work harder towards my dreams. I am incredibly honored to have this achievement be a part of my WSU legacy,” said Nguyen.

The college had a chance to catch up with Kellyan to see why she chose WSU for her Doctor of Pharmacy and her future aspirations following graduation.

What made you want to get your pharmacy degree?

When I was a graduate student working at Mahidol University’s Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Bangkok, I became fascinated with the topic of pharmacology, particularly mechanisms of action and drug development. Studying pathways and biochemical interactions that a pharmaceutical can produce in the human body piqued my intellectual curiosity. Following that initial spark, I began interning at the Thai Red Cross to gain further insight into the role that pharmacists play in an interdisciplinary team. I was impressed with the amount of time and patience pharmacists spent counseling, explaining complex drug regimens in layman’s terms, and initiating a proactive course of action. I began to view pharmacists as medical counselors, educators, and advocates as it was a common observation to see pharmacists advocating for their patients as well as for their profession. From these pivotal moments, I aspired to emulate the pharmacists I observed who performed their duties well and took the initiative to go above and beyond the call of duty.

Why did you choose the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences?

What stood out to me the most was how WSU heavily emphasized the importance of equal opportunity for their students. Being a student of color, I was impressed that a large portion of WSU Spokane’s matriculation was made up of minority and first-generation students. For me, those percentages are more than just numbers, it means that I am a part of an equitable education system. Following my interview, I was confident that WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences had the tools and resources that would allow
me to become the pharmacist I envisioned to be. The mission and vision of WSU Health Sciences personally resonated with me because it embodies the epitome of what it means to be a healthcare leader. I was also drawn to the plethora of student-led organizations and community engagement and service-learning programs that the college offers.

What was your/your family’s reaction when you got into pharmacy school?
Both my family and I were extremely ecstatic! Being a daughter of immigrants, I am grateful for the countless sacrifices my parents have made so that I can relentlessly chase after my dreams. Having the opportunity to be the first in my family to attend pharmacy school was a proud moment for all of us.

What is your favorite thing about WSU?
My favorite thing about WSU is how immensely supportive the WSU Health Sciences faculty and staff have been throughout my pharmacy career. As a woman in science, I often face unique challenges and consider myself fortunate to have such strong female mentors. Many of the accomplishments that I have achieved these past three years would not have been possible without all their mentorship and guidance. I also appreciate how encouraging my pharmacy classmates and interprofessional peers have been throughout my journey. It shows me the importance of establishing a strong support system and having that sense of community. Being from Hawaii and moving to a new state, it was initially intimidating to leave my comfort zone. However, the life-long friendships that I have made makes that transition worthwhile.

What is your dream job?
My dream job is to practice in a hospital or ambulatory infusion center as a clinical pharmacist specializing in oncology. I believe everyone has been affected in some way by cancer, whether they are a cancer survivor, or they have a family member or close friend who has been diagnosed with cancer. My aspiration stems from my own personal experiences of losing loved ones, which became a motivating factor to find a profession that allows me to change the course of the disease for others. The science has always fascinated me, but the opportunity to help patients through difficult times is the main reason I chose to pursue this field.

Why do you believe scholarships are important?
I believe scholarships are important because they play a crucial role in making education more accessible and affordable while encouraging students to be successful in both the pursuit and completion of their degree. From personal experience, receiving college scholarships has allowed me to focus on my studies and aspirations without worrying about the financial burdens associated with higher education. In addition, I also believe that it encourages philanthropy in recipients to “pay it forward” and support educational opportunities for future students.

A shot in the arm
People aren’t usually excited to get their shots, often cringing at the sight of the needle or putting off appointments. The COVID-19 pandemic flipped that familiar trope, with many enthusiastically rolling up their sleeves for the vaccination and chance to return to a more normal life.

Pharmacy and nursing students and faculty of Washington State University shared in that enthusiasm, delivering tens of thousands of vaccinations.

Read more from the WSU Insider: bit.ly/2YEMmu5
CPPS grant helps prepare high school students for bioscience careers

From the first day of kindergarten, children are asked what they want to be when they grow up. Their answers vary as much as the kids themselves, each dreaming of who they will be as an adult. But after they’re asked, what then? How do they find the path for these careers? Who supplies the map?

Thanks to a grant from Career Connect Washington, the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences hopes to help them find their way. As part of the project, the college has helped to create a series of job spotlights under the KSPS Career Explore NW:

- Community health worker
- Occupational therapist
- Registered nurse

The spotlights, featuring previous participants in area Project Lead the Way Biomedical Science classes, allow students, parents and community members to visualize how the program can help students take the next steps in their future careers. Project Lead the Way (PLTW), one of the nation’s leading PreK-12 STEM curriculum providers, is deeply engaged in the success of students, teachers and schools in our region and across Washington State.

“It’s about understanding how the Project Lead the Way Biomedical Science program in area high schools can help guide students and enable them to make better career choices,” explained Adjunct Faculty Katrina Rogers who oversees the project. “It also helps employers understand the students as potential candidates. The public doesn’t necessarily understand what the students are learning in this program. It’s a much broader skill and knowledge set than most people envision.”

Rogers is working with Gregg Godsey, an adjunct faculty member in the WSU College of Education, and Diane Lashinsky, the senior director of school engagement for PLTW on this project. With time, the team hopes to create more spotlight videos on the Career Explore NW site and build a Career Launch endorsed program to introduce PLTW Biomedical Science students to regional and statewide employers. Recent additional funding on the grant allows them to be expand the project in Eastern Washington and start to work with educators and industries in Western Washington.

PHILANTHROPY FOCUS

Winning a scholarship is not only a positive experience, but it can also be a life-changing one. John Oftebro, class of 1965, received a small scholarship in the 1960s and that vote of confidence made such an impact, he never forgot it. For the past several decades, John has paid back that scholarship several times over, and convinced his classmates and fellow pharmacists about the benefits of scholarships and philanthropy. That’s why he is creating the John Oftebro Leadership in Innovation Scholarship to provide significant scholarship support to the top fourth-year student pharmacists at WSU and help spark innovative careers in pharmacy. Thank you John, and other philanthropically-minded alumni, for all you do for our students and program.

John will also be receiving the R. Keith Campbell Lifetime Achievement Award when the Crimson Gala returns in 2022. Proceeds from the event next year will benefit the new scholarship.
Alumni News

On the way to the Yakima White Coat Ceremony Dean Mark Leid had a chance to stop by Gibbons Pharmacy in Toppenish, Washington where he caught up with Greg Gibbons, class of 1982 and Jeanine Charvet-Pederson, class of 1977.

During his trip to Yakima, Dean Leid also had the opportunity to catch up with Lanae Wiater, class of 2007, who opened Creekside Pharmacy in Davenport, Washington in October 2019. Read more about Lanae and Creekside Pharmacy

A memorial service was held for William (Bill) Gaskins, class of 1969, on August 17 at the Pullman Presbyterian Church and virtually via YouTube livestream. Gaskins was a pillar of the WSU pharmacy community and was honored for his contributions to the college and the pharmacy profession with the first-ever R. Keith Campbell Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

A celebration of life in memory of Mel Coughlin, class of 1973, will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 11 at the New Heights Church-Central Vancouver Campus.

Over the summer we heard from class of 2016 alum Jessica Zering who is currently the antimicrobial stewardship pharmacist with Astria in charge of both the outpatient and inpatient sides. She writes guidelines to encourage good and safe antibiotic choices, updates the antibiogram, educates providers in regards to medication safety with antibiotics, participates in daily rounding, and makes daily antibiotic recommendations. She also wears other hats – including assisting with Astria’s 340B program, working on order sets to encourage medication safety, and heading up the COVID-19 monoclonal antibody infusion efforts. Last April, she even had the privilege of educating the community regarding the existence of these monoclonal therapies via KVEW.

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

Indigenous-developed simulation space planned for WSU Spokane with Bank of America grant

Washington State University Spokane’s Native American Health Sciences (NAHS) program will build what is believed to be the nation’s first indigenous-developed and instructed clinical simulation space at the Center for Native American Health on campus. The clinical simulation space will allow students—both Native and otherwise—the opportunity to learn about indigenous health and wellness from Native healers.

Read more from the WSU Insider

Future therapists and pharmacists gain real-life experiences

Training programs at Cougar Health Services give therapy and pharmacy student interns opportunities to practice what they learn in their classes while serving undergraduates. The Cougar Health Services Pharmacy will host three Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience interns this fall, each of whom will do a six-week rotation in the clinic.

Read more from the WSU Insider

Precept2Practice

WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty-preceptors were featured in June and August podcast episodes of the CEimpact podcast series Precept2Practice.

– Precepting during pandemics
– Helping students transition to employment

Sustained effort from us all is the only way to get past this pandemic

Are we wearing masks or not? Do the vaccines work or not? And for how long? What about social distancing? The deans of Washington State University’s colleges of nursing, pharmacy and medicine share their insight on vaccinations and getting past the pandemic in this opinion piece in The Spokesman-Review.

Read more from The Spokesman-Review

Faculty Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

J. Roberts and Marcia Fosberg Distinguished Regents Professor of Pharmacotherapy and Director of the Drug Information Center Danial Baker published, “Drug evaluation – sotorasib (Lumakras),” in Wolters Kluwer Health’s The Formulary Monograph Service (FMS) in August 2021. 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.


PRESENTATIONS
Allen I. White Distinguished Associate Professor of Pharmacotherapy Joshua Neumiller and two co-presenters participated in the American Diabetes Association (ADA) webinar titled: “Diabetes is primary: ask the experts live,” on July 28, 2021.

SERVICE
Josh Neumiller was elected by the membership of the Association for Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES) to serve on the 2021-2022 ADCES Nominating Committee.

Drug Information Center Resident Regan Smith and Danial Baker served on the panel of examiners for the Master in Clinical Pharmacy (MCP) students Research Thesis Defense at the College of Pharmacy, Gulf Medical University on August 4, 2021.

AWARDS
Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor and Associate Dean for External Relations Julie Akers received the Grand Council Deputy Award from Kappa Psi.

Student Achievement

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE STUDENTS
Rakshit Tanna (Paine lab) was awarded a registration grant to attend the 24th North American ISSX Meeting to be held virtually on September 13-17, 2021. He received complimentary registration for the meeting and all four short courses.

James Nguyen (Paine lab) was awarded an F31 fellowship from the National Institutes of Health National Center for Complementary & Integrative Health for his project titled, “Assessing transporter-mediated natural product-drug interactions using a translational research approach.”

James Nguyen was awarded a Loan Repayment Program grant from the National Institutes of Health National Center for Complementary & Integrative Health for his project titled “Assessing transporter-mediated natural product-drug interactions using a translational research approach.”

Farheen S. Shaikh (Ahmed lab) has been awarded a Medical and Graduate Student Preceptorship Award of $4000 from the Rheumatology Research Foundation for the project entitled, “Epigenetic regulation of TWEAK signaling in rheumatoid arthritis synovial fibroblasts.” As a recipient, she is also eligible to receive a complimentary registration for the upcoming ACR convergence.


DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PHARMD) STUDENTS

The subcommittee Pharmacists for Reproductive Education and Sexual Health (PhRESH) within the WSU Washington State Pharmacy Association (WSPA) chapter raised $1,200 last semester through CougStarter to fund an emergency contraceptive drive in Pullman. Over the past year, PhRESH has been giving presentations on contraceptives and how to access them in our community. With the $1,200 raised, PhRESH was able to distribute over 140 emergency contraceptives to students during Welcome Week and provide pamphlets specific to Pullman on reproductive health care services in the area and where they can learn more about or access contraceptives in the future.