

CougarRx News

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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October 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Fall has begun in earnest here in Spokane as the leaves have changed color and we've already begun to experience our first early-morning frost. We have made it through the first few weeks of the fall semester, and we continue to remain in person thanks in large part to the ongoing commitment of our students, faculty, and staff to being vaccinated, masking, and social distancing.



Fall also brought our first round of interviews with future Doctor of Pharmacy students. I had the opportunity to speak with all of the interviewees and I believe we will have a very promising class of 2026. If you know anyone who you believe would make a great future Cougar student pharmacist, please consider [referring them to our program](#).

Another staple of fall is of course Homecoming Weekend. While we chose to keep to a virtual event again this year, I was pleased to see several dedicated alumni join us and even had the opportunity to learn a little about making kalua from Garry Brown, a 1976 graduate.

Julie Akers, associate dean of external relations and auctioneer in chief, helped fetch a hefty price tag for our auction items, which will benefit immunization training and supplies for our second-year student pharmacists. It was an action-packed hour and I'm so grateful to see new and familiar faces on the screen. I look forward to the day we can all meet in person for the Crimson Gala and a good old-fashioned tailgate.

Ron Schleif, another member of the class of 1976, recently completed a bike ride from Canada to Mexico via the coastal route. You can read Ron's blog here (in reverse order, click on "load more posts" at bottom of each page): livinganddyinginthreequartertime.wordpress.com. Make sure you check out the entries featuring David Bell, also class of 1976. Ron and David seemed to be hard at work sorting out beer quality issues for the city of Lacey. Fortunately, they resolved the issues, but it did require a lot of samples being tested.

I also had the opportunity to spend Friday morning virtually talking with our Dean's Advisory Council. Talking to these impressive individuals put me in mind of a Nipsey Hussle quote, "if you look at the people in your circle and you don't get inspired, you don't have a circle you have a cage." Our Dean's Advisory Council is consistently and exceptionally inspiring. Thank you to all who serve on this group. Everywhere I look I find more people who inspire me, from our students to our faculty and staff, to our alumni and friends.

On that note, I'll end with the reminder that October is National Pharmacists Month. On behalf of myself and the college, thank you to all of the pharmacists (and student pharmacists) for the impact you have in your communities. You stayed on the front lines of this pandemic when many of our health care colleagues went remote. I salute all of you—as many of you have probably heard me say, I truly believe you are helping to save the planet from this pandemic. You make me proud to be a pharmacist and even prouder to be a Cougar Pharmacist! Go Cougs!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Leid, Professor and Dean

WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Top Stories

How one alumnus transformed his Seattle pharmacy into a community center

You probably have never considered your local pharmacy to be a community center. But that's exactly what class of 2008 WSU PharmD graduate Ahmed Ali wanted to create when he started his own pharmacy in the southside of Seattle three years ago. Ali's Othello Station Pharmacy serves the predominantly East African and Somali community in Rainier Valley. It is also the community in which Ali grew up after relocating to Seattle from Somalia in 1998 at the age of 17.

"It was a completely different world and different language. I had to do a lot of learning, and my parents were the driving force for me to pursue pharmacy. They wanted me to succeed and not waste time," he says of his upbringing. "I knew at a young age, growing up in refugee camps, that to live a comfortable life, education was the only way out."

Ali says that patients don't only go to his pharmacy to seek help on medical conditions, or fill their prescriptions, but also to seek translations to understand medical bills or communications from health care providers. "If we can't help them, then we send them to the right place. We help [our customers] make appointments and talk to other health providers so they get the support they need," says Ali.

"We treat people with respect and dignity, and don't want people to just grab their medicine and go. We spend a lot of time in communication and counseling patients. I attended a really good institution that taught me how to be a good pharmacist and how to think outside the box. The best place I could go was to help people who are underserved," adds Ali when reflecting on why he started his pharmacy. For Ali, the most important aspect in running his business and a philosophy he preaches to pharmacy students across the country is to connect with the people in their communities.

- | We treat people with respect and dignity, and don't want people to just grab their medicine and go.
- | We spend a lot of time in communication and counseling patients.

Ali credits the group of Vietnamese pharmacists in the Seattle area with helping him to understand the value of community connection. As he prepared to open his own independent pharmacy to serve the East African and Somali diaspora in Seattle, he consulted with immigrant pharmacists and health care professionals in the Seattle area for advice. "Public health is a passion," says Ali, "But still the pharmacy delivery was missing—so that's when I decided to open a pharmacy."

Ali says that having pharmacies that support underserved communities is a vital solution for public health problems ailing various communities. In the East African and Somali community, many of the new immigrants in the area have a completely different lifestyle than where they originated from in Africa. The abundance of food, lack of exercise, or just getting settled into a new country means that many of the new immigrants suffer from chronic health problems including diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, stress, anxiety and depression. His team of eight employees speak eight different languages, and pride themselves in taking the time to communicate care to their patients.

"We put a lot of effort in prevention," Ali says, "We have to explain that when you have chronic diseases you need to keep taking medicine, and that concept is very foreign to a lot of our customers."

Ali also established the [Somali Health Board](#) to address some of the chronic health problems in his community. In addition to supporting wellness programs, advocacy, and community-based research, the nonprofit has been integral in COVID-19 vaccination efforts and education. Ali has posted videos of himself receiving the vaccine and [hosted webinars](#) on how the pandemic has impacted the Somali and immigrant community.

According to Ali, the Somali and other immigrant communities face unique hurdles in getting access to the vaccine as many work in the service industry such as daytime shifts at markets and stores, or as Uber drivers.



Class of 2008 graduate Ahmed Ali poses in his Othello Station Pharmacy, which serves the predominantly East African and Somali community in Rainier Valley.

“These people don’t have the luxury of going online to make vaccination appointments—particularly seniors who don’t have access to the internet,” says Ali. As a result, his nonprofit has arranged to work with seniors to get vaccinated, administering 500-600 doses each weekend.

So far, his pharmacy has vaccinated over 6,000 people—predominantly people of color— since they began receiving doses on February 13.

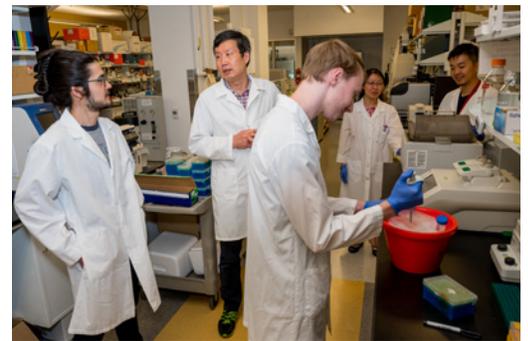
Ali says his next feat is to have a large impact on the pharmacy profession and change some of the misperceptions about health care providers. “We should be seen as solution makers and individuals who are connected to the community.”

Research identifies potential role of ‘junk DNA’ sequence in aging, cancer

*By Judith Van Dongen, Office of Research, WSU Health Sciences Spokane
Originally published July 16, 2021 in the WSU Health Sciences Research News*

We don’t often think about ourselves this way, but our bodies are made up of trillions of living cells. We age as our cells age, which happens when those cells eventually stop replicating and dividing. Scientists have long known that our genes influence how our cells age and how long we live, but how that works exactly remains unclear. Findings from a new study led by researchers at Washington State University have solved a small piece of that puzzle, bringing scientists one step closer to solving the mystery of aging.

A research team headed by Jiyue Zhu, a professor in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, recently identified a DNA region known as VNTR2-1 that appears to drive the activity of the telomerase gene, which has been shown to prevent aging in certain types of cells. The study was published in the journal [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences \(PNAS\)](#).



Jiyue Zhu (second from left) talks to members of his research team inside his laboratory on the WSU Health Sciences Spokane campus, including Ken Porter (far left), Sean Mcgranaghan (center), Fan Zhang (second from right), and Jinlong Zhang (far right).

The telomerase gene controls the activity of the telomerase enzyme, which helps produce telomeres, the caps at the end of each strand of DNA that protect the chromosomes within our cells. In normal cells, the length of telomeres gets a little bit shorter every time cells duplicate their DNA before they divide. When telomeres get too short, cells can no longer reproduce, causing them to age and die. However, in certain cell types—including reproductive cells and cancer cells—the activity of the telomerase gene ensures that telomeres are reset to the same length when DNA is copied. This is essentially what restarts the aging clock in new offspring but is also the reason why cancer cells can continue to multiply and form tumors.

Knowing how the telomerase gene is regulated and activated and why it is only active in certain types of cells could someday be the key to understanding how we age, as well as how to stop the spread of cancer. That is why Zhu has focused the past 20 years of his career as a scientist solely on the study of this gene.

JUNK NO MORE

Zhu said that his team’s latest finding that VNTR2-1 helps to drive the activity of the telomerase gene is especially notable because of the type of DNA sequence it represents.

“Almost 50 percent of our genome consists of repetitive DNA that does not code for protein,” Zhu said. “These DNA sequences tend to be considered as ‘junk DNA’ or dark matters in our genome, and they are difficult to study. Our study describes that one of those units actually has a function in that it enhances the activity of the telomerase gene.”

Their finding is based on a series of experiments that found that deleting the DNA sequence from cancer cells—both in a human cell line and in mice—caused telomeres to shorten, cells to age, and tumors to stop growing.

Subsequently, they conducted a study that looked at the length of the sequence in DNA samples taken from Caucasian and African American centenarians and control participants in the Georgia Centenarian Study, a study that followed a group of people aged 100 or above between 1988 and 2008. The researchers found that the length of the sequence ranged from as short as 53 repeats—or copies—of the DNA to as long as 160 repeats.

“It varies a lot, and our study actually shows that the telomerase gene is more active in people with a longer sequence,” Zhu said.

Since very short sequences were found only in African Americans participants, they looked more closely at that group and found that there were relatively few centenarians with a short VNTR2-1 sequence as compared to control participants. However, Zhu said it was worth noting that having a shorter sequence does not necessarily mean your lifespan will be shorter, because it means the telomerase gene is less active and your telomere length may be shorter, which could make you less likely to develop cancer.

“Our findings are telling us that this VNTR2-1 sequence contributes to the genetic diversity of how we age and how we get cancer,” Zhu said. “We know that oncogenes—or cancer genes—and tumor suppressor genes don’t account for all the reasons why we get cancer. Our research shows that the picture is a lot more complicated than a mutation of an oncogene and makes a strong case for expanding our research to look more closely at this so-called junk DNA.”

NEXT STEP

Zhu noted that since African Americans have been in the United States for generations, many of them have Caucasian ancestors from whom they may have inherited some of this sequence. So as a next step, he and his team hope to be able to study the sequence in an African population.

In addition to Zhu, authors on the paper include co-first authors Tao Xu and De Cheng and others at Washington State University, as well as their collaborators at Northeast Forestry University in China; Pennsylvania State University; and North Carolina State University.

Funding for this study came from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the Melanoma Research Alliance, and the Health Sciences and Services Authority of Spokane County.

A NOTE FROM JULIE AKERS

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As I embrace fall, which includes drinking my pumpkin spice-flavored coffee, it is important to reflect on the past year and plan for what comes next. In my previous career working for a pharmacy corporation, October included forecasting and budgeting for the upcoming year and giving as many influenza vaccinations as I could. Now, it includes reflecting on how fall courses have gone so far, determining what classroom changes would benefit our students, patient care and profession in the spring semester, and taking time to celebrate achievements of those around us. I can’t ever recall reflecting on a past year and seeing so much suffering and hardship hand-in-hand with determination, grit, and resiliency. Our Coug Pharmily has been through a lot. It has not been easy and doesn’t appear that “easier” is just around the corner. I asked Dr. Manpreet Chahal (2010 PharmD, 2008 PhD) as Chair of the CougaRx Nation to write a message of reflection and hope. Here is what he had to say:



Dear CougaRx Nation:

Hello from the Chahal family. I hope this message finds you and your family healthy and well. With that hope, I also recognize that we are living in a pandemic that has impacted our jobs, our families, and our society. Every day we read depressing stories about how this pandemic is taxing our health care infrastructure and how many people are dying. Lost in those news stories are the personal impacts on our Coug pharmily.

Whether you are a pharmacy student, recent alumnus, or a seasoned alumnus, this pandemic has impacted all of us. Many have shared personal experiences on how they are struggling at their jobs regardless of the practice site. Many are worried about exposing vulnerable and high-risk family and friends to the coronavirus. Many are considering leaving the profession and pursuing early retirement. Our pharmacy specific challenges and struggles are best understood by us, therefore, I ask you to reach out to your pharmacy friends, classmates, and coworkers to check in, offer support, offer a virtual hug, and perhaps send them some treats (I like macaroons).

The level of misinformation regarding the efficacy and safety of the COVID-19 vaccines is unprecedented. All of you have come across patients at pharmacies, clinics, and hospitals that have questioned and challenged your advice on the vaccination. These interactions are frustrating, infuriating, and saddening. I think there is opportunity amongst the challenges of communicating the vaccination facts and correcting the various misconceptions that are spreading out like wildfire. We all have been trained to interpret study design, study results, and understand study limitations. Most of our patients have not undergone similar training. We have been counseling patients on safe and effective use of medications from the beginning of our student pharmacist careers. However, this pandemic has posed challenges around counseling that are unprecedented. What is the most effective way to educate our patients? How do we overcome the misinformation they are getting from family, friends, and social media? How do we get ready for the next pandemic? Or the next public health crisis? What do we need to do to win the public's trust? I invite our student pharmacists, faculty, and alumni to brainstorm ideas to overcome this misinformation crisis. Now, more than ever, our profession has demonstrated the impact it can have on the lives of countless patients.

Amid the doom and gloom, I also want to focus on the incredible work that has been accomplished by all of you in getting our communities tested and vaccinated. I have come across so many inspiring stories of our pharmacy students providing vaccinations all around Spokane County, Pullman, and locations around the Northwest. Similar stories can be found of many of our Cougar pharmacy members giving their all to help turnaround this pandemic in every practice site imaginable.

It's an undeniable fact that Cougar pharmacists and Cougar student pharmacists played an integral part in the COVID-19 vaccination roll out. So, a big thanks to all of you for doing your jobs in an exemplary manner for the last year and a half. You make the Cougar pharmacy proud!!

Go Cougs!

Manpreet Chahal, Class of 2010 & 2008
Chair, CougaRx Nation

Thank you Dr. Chahal for sharing your message. During times like this, it is easy to get caught up in the negatives, making it difficult to see the rainbow through the rain. And sometimes it feels like it just keeps pouring, with one storm after another. But we must see the successes. We must celebrate the effort. We must encourage one another to keep going and, as Dean Leid would say, recognize our efforts are saving the world!

I cannot express just how proud I am of the way the profession, and notably our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, jumped in to help society. We should all be proud to be in the pharmacy profession and we should all be proud to be a part of the Cougar pharmacy. It truly is an amazing group of superheroes!

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

Spokane WSU SNPhA chapter recognized nationally

Student organizations allow current pharmacy students to get involved with their peers making an impact on their communities both within Washington State University and the areas that surround them. This summer, one such organization, the WSU Spokane chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA), was recognized for their service during the NPhA/SNPhA 2021 Virtual Convention.

The WSU Spokane SNPhA chapter has 68 members who give their time to present educational events ranging from educating students about specific disease states to cultural competency and awareness. The group's recent Prescription for Service Project was selected as a finalist in the national competition. For the project, "StARSS: Students Advocating for the Rights of Sexual Assault Survivors," students fundraised to purchase clothing kits which were distributed to sexual assault survivors in the Spokane area in partnership with Lutheran Community Services. As part of the project, the Spokane SNPhA members also presented a Sexual Violence Prevention and Education seminar to WSU Spokane pharmacy, nursing, and medical students.

This group of dedicated pharmacy students was chosen for the national SNPhA Chauncey I. Cooper Excellence Award in the large chapter category as well as four top National Initiative of the Year Awards.

Named for the founder of the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA), the Chauncey I. Cooper (CIC) Excellence Award is the highest recognition given to SNPhA chapters. The purpose of the award is to recognize those chapters which through their activities promote the SNPhA goals through community outreach and serving underserved and minority communities.

"I believe that serving underserved communities and advocating for underrepresented groups is vital and impactful to our education, and it will only make us better health care providers," said Jackie Labonite President of WSU Spokane SNPhA chapter.

The WSU Spokane SNPhA chapter also received National Initiative of the Year Awards for their efforts under the following four categories:

- Operation Immunization – dedicated to increasing public knowledge about immunization and administration of vaccines by student pharmacists.
- Remember the Ribbon – a nationwide project to improve HIV/AIDS awareness, education, and prevention.
- Fighting Diabetes – dedicated to educating patients on diabetes care.
- Legislative and Membership Benefits Initiative – dedicated to advocating for the pharmacy profession and health care issues through legislative action.



Fall 2020 SNPhA members partnered with the Range Community Clinic William A. Crosetto Mobile Health Care Unit to administer COVID-19 on the WSU Pullman campus.

Preceptor Insight: Tanya Snodgrass

Preceptors play a critical role in the education of the next generations of health care providers. They are an indispensable part of any pharmacy school.

At the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, faculty and volunteer preceptors are practicing pharmacists who supervise student pharmacists in clinical settings, where students gain experience working with real patients. Through teaching and mentorship, preceptors play a critical role in shaping a student's future career.

Each issue of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences [Preceptor Highlights](#) features a preceptor for WSU students, to take a closer look at who they are and why they do what they do. The following is the feature of Tanya Snodgrass at Gritman Medical Center from June 15, 2020.

What motivated you to become a preceptor?

There were many people, in my journey to becoming a pharmacist, that were truly inspiring. I had the opportunity to work with amazing preceptors when I was a student. These preceptors were passionate about their patients and the profession of pharmacy. To this day, they continue to have an influence on my career and how I think about the profession of pharmacy. They were my inspiration for becoming a preceptor.



Tanya Snodgrass, preceptor at Gritman Medical Center

What is one “ah ha” moment you had while precepting?

I had forever believed that you could not teach people to care. I felt that it was one of those unteachable qualities that students either had, or they didn't. I had an “ah-ha” moment when I realized that some students, who didn't seem to care, just didn't understand their value. They didn't know how important they were to the patient care team. Helping students understand their value would often change their outlook on the entire rotation. You can't teach people to care, however, you can show them that they are valuable. Sometimes, that makes all the difference.

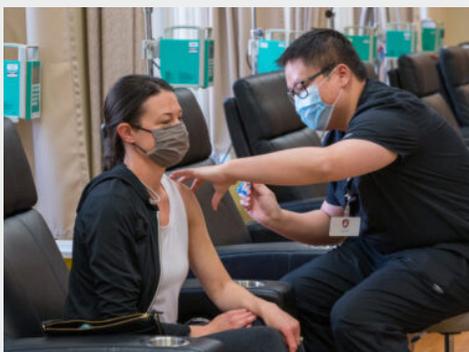
Do you have a memory of a notable success or positive experience you had with a student?

I had a student that was terrified to go on codes, however he was very interested in pursuing a career in hospital pharmacy. We had an amazing opportunity for him to participate in a region wide trauma drill. The drill involved ambulance teams from several towns, law enforcement, Life Flight, and coordination with several hospitals. After participating in the all-day drill, he was no longer afraid to go on codes. He now thrives in high intensity codes as a pharmacist. This was a huge transformation in his outlook on code situations.

You can learn more about precepting at the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on our [Preceptors & Resources webpage](#).

Volunteer to mentor a student in the class of 2024

Our PY2 students have completed their IPPE Community rotation and can now opt-in to participate in the Fred Meyer Alumni-Student Mentor Program. This is a great opportunity for alumni and preceptors to guide Cougar student pharmacists and support them in academic excellence, career development, and networking, while providing firsthand insight and expertise from someone in the field. Matching will occur in early 2022 and we are seeking mentors! If interested please email pharmacy.gocougs@wsu.edu.



PHILANTHROPY FOCUS

Robert Larsen, a resident of Pullman who is not a pharmacy alumnus, recently made a gift to the college with the note, “I would like this donation to be directed to the College of Pharmacy [and Pharmaceutical Sciences] for their continued outreach and assistance in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic within our region.”

What a nice way to show gratitude for the work of our students and alumni! If you would like to learn how you could make a similar gesture, please visit pharmacy.wsu.edu/give/.

Alumni News

Ahmed Bassyouni, class of 2019, recently was married and Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor and Director of Health Outreach and External Residency Research **Julie Akers** was the officiant. Here are some photos from the festivities!



All of the groomsmen and groomswoman were alums of the college L-R: Peter Martsin (Spokane), Osmark Jauregui (Yakima), Thomas Camacho (Yakima), Zohal Sarwary (Yakima), Mevan Haji (Yakima).



Julie and Ahmed waiting for his bride, Danielle, to come down the aisle.



First dance

Classmates **David Bell** and **Ron Schleif** (class of 1976) have remained close friends throughout the past four decades, and as you may recall named the Bell-Schleif “BS” Conference Room in the Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences Building on the WSU Spokane campus. Ron recently completed a 41-day bicycle tour of the Pacific Trail down the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington. On his trek he stopped for some beverages with David Bell near Olympia, Washington at the Fish Tale tavern. Go Cougs!



It wasn't exactly the Crimson Gala, but **John Oftebro** (class of 1965) still visited the Doubletree Hotel on October 8 and was joined by family and friends to have “their own little Gala” the night before the Homecoming game in Pullman. And the Cougs got the win on Saturday, so what could be better! John is joined by his daughter, **Mary**, his wife **Deborah**, classmate **Gerry Danquist**, and friends **Sally Eberhardt** and **Ed O'Brien** (both WSU Alums) . With a little good luck, we will be honoring John and others next fall in person at the 2022 Crimson Gala (fingers crossed!).



Debra Kwong White, class of 1995, is now the Regional Business Director, Northwest for ADMA Biologics.

John Swenson, class of 1968, has let us know that his colleague **Tyler Fischback**, class of 2010, has been promoted at Confluence Health in Wenatchee. Tyler is now the Director of Pharmacy Operations for all of the hospitals and clinics operated by Confluence Health. Congratulations, Tyler! You make us proud!

John and Claudia Swenson are embarking on a month-long vacation in their new motor-home and will be heading south to Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, where they will visit family and friends, including classmate **Jane Bugbee**, who recently lost her husband Roger. Our condolences to Jane, who has also been a lifelong supporter of 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 pharmacy.gocougs@wsu.edu!

Other News

Culturally Appropriate Care in the Pharmacy: Treating Underserved or Marginalized Patient Populations

Range Community Clinic Ambulatory Care Fellow Alexander Maciejewski served as a panelist in a Pharmacy Times webcast discussing the application of cultural humility within pharmacy practice. Panelists also addressed their approach to working with underserved or marginalized populations and shared their own experiences within in their communities.

[See the webcast from Pharmacy Times](#)

NACDS Foundation awards \$130k in scholarships

The Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences was chosen among seven colleges of pharmacy by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation Scholarship Program to receive funds for educational programs. The college will incorporate a mandatory Mental Health First Aid training course for student pharmacists, preparing them to identify and support individuals who are experiencing mental health challenges.

[Read more from Drug Store News](#)

Indigenous health program receives \$250,000 grant for clinical simulation space

Native American Health Sciences (NAHS) Director Naomi Bender talked with KHQ about the recent donation from Bank of America to expand clinical simulation space on campus. The space will allow students—both Native and otherwise—the opportunity to learn about indigenous health and wellness from Native healers.

[See the story from KHQ](#)

Fentanyl is flooding into the Inland Northwest, triggering a deadlier phase of the opioid crisis

Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor Nicole Rodin spoke with the Inlander about fentanyl.

[Read more from the Inlander](#)

Faculty Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

Boeing Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences **Philip Lazarus**, Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate in Research **Christy Watson** and two other co-authors published, "[Cannabinoid metabolites as inhibitors of major hepatic CYP450 enzymes, with implications for cannabis-drug interactions,](#)" in Drug Metabolism and Disposition in September 2021.

Philip Lazarus, **Christy Watson**, Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Professor **Gang Chen** and three other co-authors published, "[Inhibition of UDP-glucuronosyltransferase enzymes by major cannabinoids and their metabolites,](#)" in Drug Metabolism and Disposition in September 2021.

Allen I. White Distinguished Associate Professor of Pharmacotherapy **Joshua Neumiller** and four co-authors published, "[Optimizing use of SGLT2 inhibitors and other evidence-based therapies to improve outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease: An opportunity for pharmacists,](#)" in the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy in June 2021.

Josh Neumiller and two co-authors published, "[Easing the financial burden of diabetes management: a guide for patients and primary care clinicians,](#)" in the Practical Pointers section of Clinical Diabetes, a publication by the American Diabetes Association, in August 2021.

J. Roberts and Marcia Fosberg Distinguished Regents Professor of Pharmacotherapy and Director of the Drug Information Center **Danial Baker** published, "[Dasiglucagon](#)," in Hospital Pharmacy in September 2021.

Danial Baker published, "Drug evaluation – ibrexafungerp (Brexafemme)," in Wolters Kluwer Health's The Formulary Monograph Service (FMS) in September 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.

Pharmacotherapy Clinical Professor and Director of Quality Assurance Improvement & Accreditation Preparation **Terri Levien** and **Danial Baker** published, "Drug evaluation – aducanumab (Aduhelm)," in the FMS in September 2021.

Terri Levien and **Danial Baker** published, "Drug evaluation – olanzapine/samidorphan (Lybalvi)," in the FMS in September 2021.

Danial Baker published, "Drug utilization evaluation – torsemide (Soaanz)," in the FMS in September 2021.

PRESENTATIONS

Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor **Megan Undeberg** and co-presenters participated in the AACP annual meeting presentation, "[Strike up the band: 200 years of pharmacy education](#)."

Josh Neumiller presented "Meeting people with diabetes where they are: lessons learned from the home environment," for the Maryland Chapter of the Association for Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (ADCES) on September 21, 2021.

Range Community Clinic Ambulatory Care Fellow **Alexander Maciejewski** served as a panelist in the Pharmacy Times webcast discussion, "[Culturally appropriate care in the pharmacy: treating underserved or marginalized patient populations](#)," on September 13, 2021.

Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor and Director for the Center for Pharmacy Practice Research **Kimberly McKeirnan**, Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor and Associate Dean for External Relations **Julie Akers**, and one co-author published, "[Pharmacy technicians are valued more than ever: insights into a team-centered immunization approach](#)," in the Influenza Guide for Pharmacists supplement in Pharmacy Times in July 2021.

SERVICE

United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR) Assistant Professor **Maia Avtandilashvili** was appointed as a member of the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP) Scientific Committee 6-13, "Methods and models for estimating organ doses from intakes of radium."

USTUR Director and Professor **Sergei Tolmachev** will serve as a subject matter expert in the area of measurements for NCRP Scientific Committee 6-13, "Methods and models for estimating organ doses from intakes of radium."

Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Professor **Sue Marsh** served as a panelist for the American College of Sports Medicine's webinar discussion about the film, "Picture a Scientist," on September 22, 2021.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Professor and Interim Chair **Kathryn "Kay" Meier** was selected as a [2021 Fellow of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics \(ASPET\)](#).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Professor and Director of Industry Engagement **Bhagwat Prasad** received \$2,995,048 from Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD), NIH for a five-year research project titled, "Ontogeny of drug transport."

Student Achievement

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE STUDENTS

Shamema Nasrin (Lazarus lab) and **Yadira Pérez Páramo** (PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2021) with faculty co-authors **Christy Watson** and **Philip Lazarus** published, "Cannabinoid metabolites as inhibitors of major hepatic CYP450 enzymes, with implications for cannabis-drug interactions," in Drug Metabolism and Disposition in September 2021.

Shamema Nasrin, Keti Bardhi (Lazarus lab) and **Gabriela Fort** (2018 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow) with faculty co-authors **Christy Watson, Gang Chen** and **Philip Lazarus** published, "Inhibition of UDP-glucuronosyltransferase enzymes by major cannabinoids and their metabolites," in Drug Metabolism and Disposition in September 2021.

Shamema Nasrin presented, "Implications for cannabis-drug interactions: the inhibitory potential of major cannabinoids on UGT enzymes," at the 24th North American ISSX virtual meeting as one of the top five predoctoral finalists.

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PHARMD) STUDENTS

The WSU Spokane chapter of Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) received the following awards at the NPhA/SNPhA 2021 Virtual Convention in July 2021:

- Chauncey I. Cooper Excellence Award – Large Chapter of the Year
- Four National Initiative of the Year Awards
 - Operation Immunization
 - Remember the Ribbon
 - Fighting Diabetes
 - Legislative and Membership Benefits Initiative



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
**College of Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Sciences**

Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

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