

April 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thank you all for another great month in the books. I don't want to jinx it, but if you haven't already heard, we will also be hosting our first in-person commencement in two years. The ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 5 at The Fox Theater in Spokane. Former Assistant US Surgeon General and a two-star admiral with the US Public Health Service Scott Giberson will be the keynote speaker. Scott most recently moved to the private sector as President of AMI Expeditionary Healthcare. We look forward to hearing his insight and wisdom on the future of health care at our 2022 commencement.



As you already know, it's been a challenging two years. Thanks to the help and dedication of our students, faculty and staff volunteering to organize vaccination and COVID-19 test sites, tens of thousands of people across Washington state have been vaccinated against COVID as well as the flu. While we show them our appreciation as often as possible, [CougsGive](#) (today), is a great way to show them our gratitude. Join me in thanking them!

I'm also pleased to introduce our [inaugural class](#) entering our rural health track. These five student pharmacists have vastly different life stories. What ties them together is their passion for helping the most vulnerable people in rural communities. Some of these students are parents of young children, currently completing their first year of our PharmD program; others seem like they have lived five lives with the experiences they have endured. While we navigate through uncertain times, hearing their testimonies reaffirms my faith in the human spirit to overcome obstacles and challenges. I look forward to seeing these students grow personally and professionally in our program.

Seeing so many friends in person at the AACP Interim Meeting in San Diego and the APhA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas was exactly what I needed after two years in the virtual world. Julie Akers ('00) received the APhA Thomas Menighan Pharmacy Management Excellence Award, which is a very big deal. It recognizes an individual who has developed and/or implemented an innovative, original pharmacy program or service that is significant to their practice area. Julie was recognized for her advocacy efforts for pharmacists' provider status, enhanced service implementation, and the management and training for both pharmacists and student pharmacists in the state of Washington. Her advocacy has benefited student pharmacists, as well as nursing and medical students across the state. Congratulations, Julie!

And on the topic of notable women, we are closing with a great story from our own college history: Belle Wenz. Many of you may not have heard of her. She became the first female faculty member after graduating with her bachelor of science in pharmacy degree in 1922. There were only three faculty members at the time. When she first stepped on to campus in 1918, there was a raging pandemic (The Great Influenza), and the first World War was coming to an end. Wenz went on to become the first woman in Washington State College (before it became WSU in 1959), to receive a master of science in pharmacy. Though I won't list all her achievements

in this note, as the list would be far too long, I encourage you to [read her story](#). It makes me proud to be an alumnus of this school and it's interesting to see how our forbearers endured some of the same challenges we experience today.

Sincerely,



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

Top Stories

Pharmacy students training to fill rural health care gap

WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has accepted five students into the rural health track. These first-year students will be the inaugural class in the track and will undergo specialized training and education in rural health care. Upon their graduation in 2025, they will be equipped with the skills, tools, and network needed to work in a rural setting.

“We look forward to working with this small group of talented students. Health care providers in rural areas face a unique set of challenges. This includes advising patients on how to access care if they don't have phone or internet services, or if the nearest health facility is a two-hour drive,” said Angela Stewart, Associate Dean of the Rural Health Initiative. “Pharmacists are often the first line of care for many rural communities, and we want to arm these students with the knowledge and skills for when they return back to a rural community.”

Along with their current coursework building on the fundamentals of pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences, these students will also learn about the demographics, ethnicity, and employment of the diverse populations they will serve. Their rotations in a rural setting will give them knowledge of working with physicians, nurses, and other care providers in various rural settings. This includes rural hospital systems such as critical access hospitals (CAH) with 4 to 20 beds which provide limited inpatient and outpatient care, as well as community pharmacies. Students will also learn how to advise patients on ordering medications as well as how to access pharmacy services after hours.

This initiative was launched thanks to a [\\$2.2 million gift to Washington State University's College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences \(CPPS\) by an anonymous donor](#), which will increase opportunities for PharmD students to focus on the health care needs of residents in rural Washington.

Learn more about the inaugural class and their backgrounds, upbringing, and inspiration to work in rural health.



Amanda Whitehead

Age: 33

Campus: Spokane

Hometown: Eatonville, Washington

Professional Background: Emergency room technician, volunteer firefighter and EMT (emergency medical technician), lead medications aid and nursing assistant

Education: Associates in Science with Honors, Spokane Community College

Professional Interests: Tribal and veteran's health

“Living in a close-knit, small town has always been a great comfort to me and I would like to support the people in my community in my future pharmacy career in a rural area.”



Bradley Brown

Age: 22

Campus: Yakima

Hometown: Rochester, Washington

Professional Background: Behavioral health technician, English teacher for non-English speakers at Centralia Community College.

Education: Associate of Biology, South Puget Sound Community College

Professional Interests: Tribal health

“My best days are when I feel like I’ve made a difference in someone’s life. It’s times like these when my job doesn’t feel like a job, and I want to have that feeling for the rest of my life. For these reasons, I am pursuing a career in patient-centered care in a rural setting.”



Catalina Yopez

Age: 29

Campus: Yakima

Hometown: Prosser, Washington

Professional Background: Outreach and recruitment specialist for Columbia Basin College

Education: Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Washington State University

Professional Interests: Community health care

“I hope that the rural health track will allow me to become a stronger liaison for Spanish-speaking and underserved communities while bridging the health care gap.”



Chase King

Age: 21

Campus: Spokane

Hometown: Normandy Park, Washington

Professional Background: Head lifeguard and lifeguard instructor, pharmacy assistant

Education: Pre-PharmD Coursework with Honors, Washington State University

Professional Interests: Community pharmacy

“As a future pharmacist, I hope to provide care in isolated towns, traveling door-to-door, counseling patients, delivering medicine, and helping with any other medical conditions.”



Michael Sauseda

Age: 40

Campus: Spokane

Hometown: Chico, California

Professional Background: Special forces intelligence manager, special force instructor, special forces senior medical sergeant

Education: Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership, University of West Virginia, Charleston; Associates General Education with Honors, Fayetteville Technical Community College

Professional Interests: Tribal and veteran’s health

“I am applying for the rural health track because it serves the underserved reaches of community, which has been a consistent driving motivation throughout my life. Our motto as a Special Forces Operator was De Oppresso Liber which translates to, “To Free the Oppressed.”

Getting to know your new APhA-ASP national president

Kennedy Erickson, class of 2023, was sworn in as the American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) national president during the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Antonio, Texas in March. Erickson shares what she plans for her presidency and why she believes finding the “Courage to Change,” the theme of her presidency, is crucial to student pharmacists and the field of pharmacy today.



Kennedy Erickson, second from the left, with the 2021-22 National Executive Committee

Can you tell us about your presidential theme?

My presidential theme “Courage to Change” was inspired by several events throughout the pandemic. The first being the exaggeration of pre-pandemic problems facing our society when the pandemic hit. The second being my own experience with burnout in pharmacy. The third being the incredible and brave actions of student pharmacists in making our world a better place despite these circumstances.

There are many problems in our nation that existed prior to the pandemic. Burnout in all niches of pharmacy. Structural racism. Health care disparities. Poor working conditions in pharmacies. Many of the aspects of the pandemic have shown us where our profession and society need to change; changes that we can make for our own wellbeing, and our role in shaping those changes.

Last year, I found myself reflecting on all of this when I was facing burnout. I had way too much on my plate. I was not finding meaning or purpose in much of what I was doing, especially as it related to my job.

So, after a particularly grueling day of work, I finally texted my dad, my greatest confidant and cheerleader. I told him in defeat, that I’d had enough, wasn’t happy, and didn’t know what to do. He responded with a few simple words of advice that have truly changed my life. He said, “Kennedy, life is too short. It’s time to change and change is fun.” Those words were all I needed to hear to have courage to start changing my life for the better. For me, that meant finding a new job, setting boundaries for my own wellbeing, and engaging in extracurriculars that give me purpose. Even though pursuing those changes has been scary along the way. Through this experience, I’ve learned that we can change ourselves, profession, communities, and ultimately our world through courage.



Erickson (far right) with other student pharmacists assisting with COVID-19 testing. Students have spelled out W-S-U with their bodies during a short break between testing.

Although my experience with burnout had some influence on this theme, what inspired this theme the most has been the actions of student demonstrating what it means to have the courage to change at every level throughout the pandemic.

On an individual level, student pharmacists demonstrated courage to change for themselves by promoting and prioritizing their mental health and wellbeing – whether that was through self-care workshops, virtual social hours, or fitness challenges within their chapter. For our profession, student pharmacists demonstrated courage to change by finding innovative and virtual methods to reach their local legislators and advocate for pharmacy. Lastly, student pharmacists demonstrated courage to change our communities by branching beyond their realm of normal when providing care and implementing new services like drive thru immunization clinics, social media campaigns, or virtual health fairs.

This upcoming year, I challenge student pharmacists to continue being courageous. As we continue to adapt and evolve in our ever-changing world, “Courage to Change” is a reminder to student pharmacists to be brave and to have a part in shaping those changes, even if it’s scary. We can’t let our fears stop us from pursuing our dreams and making the world a better place.

What advice can you give current and prospective students looking to become future pharmacists or health care providers who are concerned about burnout in the profession?

Burnout is a sign that something needs to change... so have the courage to change if you are feeling this way. **Be an advocate for yourself.** Set boundaries so that you can have a healthy work/life balance. Pursue activities and projects within your workplace that bring you meaning and purpose. Find hobbies outside of workplace that refuel your passion for your purpose. If you are feeling stuck, just know, you're not. One of the most courageous things a person can do is ask for help when they need it. **In addition to advocating for yourself, be an advocate for your profession.** What can be done to make workplace conditions better to reduce burnout? Utilize your voice and speak up. Talk to your employers, your associations, and your legislators to advocate for changes that need to happen to make your profession better. Your input is valuable and cannot be utilized unless it is heard.



Erickson on one of the many hiking trails in the Pacific Northwest.

What do you want to accomplish during your term as president?

I am excited to get more student pharmacists involved with APhA-ASP. APhA is for every pharmacist, for all of pharmacy. I want every student pharmacist to feel like they have a home within APhA and APhA-ASP and that their voices are being heard.

Why did you choose to pursue a career in pharmacy?

I was originally interested in pursuing a career in neurology, which is why I pursued a degree in neuroscience. However, I kept an open mind throughout my undergraduate studies. After taking psychopharmacology, working in a long-term care pharmacy, and shadowing an array of providers, I decided that pharmacy was for me. The impact that the pharmacists had on their patients, as well as other providers, was inspiring to me. I desired, and continue to desire, to have a similar impact one day for whichever community I choose to call home.

Step into history: WSU pharmacy's first female faculty member

When Belle Wenz first stepped onto the State College of Washington (WSC) campus in the fall of 1918—renamed Washington State University in 1959—the world was in the midst of a global pandemic and World War I was just coming to a close. When she received her graduate of pharmacy (PhG) degree in 1920, women had just won the right to vote, and prohibition was in full swing in the United States. She went on to receive pharmaceutical chemist (PhC) and bachelor of science in pharmacy degrees in 1922, earning a four-year degree in a time when a two-year degree was the norm. It was a time of change and upheaval worldwide, and a time when female faculty members in the sciences were far from common.

Born in Rathdrum, Idaho in 1902, Belle Wenz was the daughter of Doctor Frank Wenz and Sarah Wenz. Her father was a pioneer physician who ran a medical practice and a drug store where he first introduced Belle to pharmacy and medicine—passions which she would carry with her through her time at WSC and beyond.

Due to rising enrollment in the pharmacy program at WSC in the early 1900s, additional faculty was needed and in 1921 the department signed on then-student, Belle Wenz as an assistant in pharmacy with full direction of some classes. Following her graduation in 1922, she was appointed a regular full-time instructorship. She was the first female faculty member to join the then School of Pharmacy, and second faculty member outside of the head of the department.



From The Pharmaceutical Echo, published by the Student Branch of the APhA 1934-25 – Dedicated to Miss Belle Wenz, "A sincere and true friend, on who understands student's problems, and to whom they can go for the best of advice and guidance at any time."



Pharmacy faculty photo in the 1926 Chinook, the Washington State College yearbook.

Ten years later (1932), she also became the first woman, and second student ever, to receive a master of science in pharmacy degree from WSC. Her master's thesis was, "A study of cosmetic formulae," and Wenz would go on to teach a course in cosmetics as part of the pharmacy curriculum. WSC was the second school in the United States to offer such a course. Wenz was instrumental in creating not only the course content but had some equipment designed for the course and manufactured according to her specifications.

Around the same time, Wenz was promoted to the rank of assistant professor, with regents minutes from the time stating, "Miss Wenz

is a young woman of superior ability who has become one of our most effective teachers. Furthermore, she has shown a fine cooperative spirit and has been generous in the time she has given to many college activities."

As an undergraduate, she served as president WSC pharmacy fraternity for women, Phi Nu Phi and served as the first president of the Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS) chapter at WSC (the Mu chapter) when Phi Nu Phi became affiliated with the national sorority for pharmacy women. As a faculty member, Wenz served as an advisor to the Mu chapter of LKS and beginning in 1926 served on the Grand Council of the national organization for a total of 26 years, including two terms as grand president (1928-1932). To promote scholastic achievement, the Mu chapter also awarded an annual prize to the junior with the highest average—in 1956 it became known as the Belle Dirstine award (Wenz's name following her marriage in 1937).

As both a student and faculty member Wenz was also a part of various other roles in Pullman and national organizations dedicated to pharmacy, women, and academic excellence. In 1935 she was even appointed to the committee of the National Association Colleges of Pharmacy covering curriculum and teaching methods. Wenz served as a national correspondent for several national trade journals in the field of pharmacy. She was licensed as a pharmacist in Washington and Idaho and owned a drug store in Rathdrum, Idaho where she ran daily operations during summer vacations.

Wenz left her position at WSC in 1937 when she married P.H. Dirstine, dean of the School of Pharmacy (1917-1952). At that time a nepotism rule was strictly enforced. After leaving the college, she stayed an active part of student's lives, continuing her role as the advisor for the WSC chapter of Lambda Kappa Sigma for years to follow. Class of 1941 graduate, Kathryn Hammarstedt (nee Church) remembered to the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences monthly meetings with the wife of the dean, Belle (Wenz) Dirstine, saying, "She encouraged us that if we were to be pharmacists, we were going to be leaders in many ways in small towns or large cities, and we were going to be relied on in many ways."

Wenz stayed in touch with Lambda Kappa Sigma members at WSC even years later when living in Spokane after her husband passed in 1955. Throughout her life and after her retirement Belle (Wenz) Dirstine traveled extensively around the world until her passing in September 1982.

SOURCES

Thank you to the Washington State University Libraries for their management of the Digital Collections which made the writing of this story possible.

- Miss Belle Wenz Dedication, The Pharmaceutical Echo, published by the Student Branch of the APhA, State College of Washington 1934-25
- The History of the Washington State University College of Pharmacy, 1891-1991 by Allen I. White
- Regents Minutes, 1932-06-04
- 1932 Commencement Program
- Many girls register in pharmacy course, Evergreen, 1935-10-09



1923 Chinook – Wenz in Crimson W sweater received for outstanding performance in women's athletics. She played hockey and baseball.

A NOTE FROM JULIE AKERS

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

March was an amazing month for our faculty, students, and alumni! We were busy with a live national meeting (yeah!), three [Career Seminar Series](#) presentations, and the ASHP match. The momentum will be needed as we move into the last leg of spring semester, plan for graduation, and more CougaRx Nation events to connect!



It was wonderful seeing old and new colleagues from across the country in San Antonio, Texas at the APhA Annual Meeting. Several of our faculty gave oral presentations, our students presented posters, and alumni received awards. It didn't hurt that we were in warm Texas while it was chilly here in Spokane. I want to highlight an alum who unfortunately was not able to be at the conference in person, however, was honored with a significant award. Dr. Nanci Murphy ('77) was awarded the Gloria Niemeyer Francke Leadership Mentor Award. If you know Nanci, you know there isn't a better person to be recognized for leadership and mentoring others. The award recognizes someone who has promoted and encouraged pharmacists to attain leadership positions through serving as a role model and mentor. Nanci has spent years helping pharmacists and student pharmacists find and leverage their strengths to lead in practice. Congratulations, Nanci. We are so proud of you!

I don't recall a month where we had three Career Seminar Series presentations with five speakers total! Our students and faculty were able to gain insight from a variety of practice settings and expand their understanding of pharmacy practice. Thank you to [Dr. Tyler Young \('13\), owner of Vashon Pharmacy](#); clinical psychiatric pharmacy specialists Dr. Aubrie Duke ('16) and Dr. Glen Chase ('15) from Comprehensive Healthcare; and Bayer Pharmaceuticals Medical Science Liaisons Dr. Diego Gomes and Dr. Mike Wang. In addition, we had one presentation in February. Thank you, Dr. Kevin Walker ('12), Chief Strategy Officer with PatchRx.

March is always a stressful month for fourth-year pharmacy students who have either chosen to apply for residency or are actively seeking employment for after graduation. Many of you woke up early March 16 in anticipation of the residency match announcement which would guide your next year. I am proud of each of you, regardless of your plans after graduation. If you matched, congratulations. If you didn't and have entered the second phase of match, my fingers are crossed for April 13. If you are interviewing with potential employers, I am certain you will be highly sought after. Overall, my wish for each of you is to find what you are looking for. Remember, however, that it can change over time. Be open-minded to new opportunities and take calculated risks.

I can't believe that graduation is right around the corner. Dean Leid wrote about the keynote speaker, Scott Giberson. The week leading up to the commencement ceremony will be full of celebrations, the Graduating PharmD Awards Ceremony, and the ever-stimulating exam preparation review of pharmacy law hosted by yours truly. I can't wait to see the graduates that week after a year of online classes and then a year on rotations! Now, for some other upcoming fun! Our next CougaRx Nation event is on [April 28 at Basalt Winery in Clarkston, Washington](#). We hope you can make it!

With my best and, as always, Go Cougs!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Akers".

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

**JOIN OUR
TEAM**

We're looking for dedicated individuals to join our Cougar community for positions in recruitment, experiential services, research, and more!

Click to see positions available at the college and across WSU.

MLK Spirit Awards celebrate service and social justice work

Fourth-year student pharmacist Kellyan Nguyen was chosen for the Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award in Altruism and Community Service.

Read more from the WSU Insider: <https://bit.ly/3jTELPW>

From farm to pharmacy

Tyler Young grew up in Oakesdale, Washington, a town of about 400 people, and a 45-minute drive south of Spokane. He graduated from high school with only 11 other students in his class and his first job was on the wheat farm where he spent summers from ages 14 to 20 spraying weeds in 90-degree heat, driving a tractor, and harvesting the crop.

“We would work 25 days straight, from sunup to sun down,” Young told a class of PharmD students during the college’s Career Seminar Series, “It’s a big part of who I am, and where I’m from.” At the time, a career in pharmacy had never crossed his mind.

Young went on to play baseball at Walla Walla Community College where he earned his associate’s degree. After two years, he moved to Pullman to finish with his bachelor’s degree in biology. It was during this time that he reconnected with his teammate’s father who hired Young as a pharmacy assistant at Tick Klock Drug, a community pharmacy in Colfax, just a 45-minute drive from Washington State University’s Pullman campus. This is where Young found his calling to become a pharmacist and learned the skills needed to run a business. He decided to continue his education at WSU to pursue his Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Shortly after finishing his PharmD in 2013, one of his professors who taught pharmacy business, Linda Garrelts MacLean, introduced Young to a family-owned pharmacy looking for a promising graduate to take over their business on Vashon Island, a small town located in the Puget Sound with scarce health care resources.

The challenges in health care access that Vashon Island faces is similar to many rural communities across the country. Though it is a part of King County, which includes Seattle, access to hospitals can take upwards of three hours via the ferry.

Though Young initially had his reservations about buying Vashon Pharmacy, he took the opportunity to begin working with the family business, not knowing if the deal would ultimately fall through if the two parties did not think they were the right fit. The owners of Vashon Pharmacy at the time wanted someone who would continue to serve and care for the residents of the island as a community health center, not just a transactional relationship between pharmacists and patients.

“I always thought that purchasing the pharmacy was about the dollar amount, but the family was more interested in finding a buyer who would care about the pharmacy the same way they did and look after the community the same way they did,” said Young.

Over three years, Young worked at the pharmacy and finally purchased it in August 2017. Three years with Young at the helm of the pharmacy, and several system upgrades later, the COVID-19 pandemic turned Young’s business on its head. Like the rest of the world, Young had to decide how to stay open.

“Through all of 2020, it was just about trying to hold the fort...Being the only pharmacy on the island we had to show up each and every day,” said Young.

One year later, as COVID-19 vaccines began to roll out across the country, Young quickly mobilized resources and volunteers to put together a COVID-19 vaccination site. Young says that one of the advantages of being an independent pharmacy is being able to pivot and quickly change strategies during the pandemic. He and a team



A photo of Tyler Young’s father working the combine during the wheat harvest in Oakesdale, Washington. Wheat harvesting season takes place in August every year.

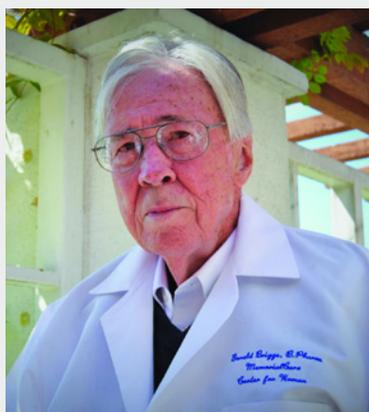
of volunteers administered over 20,000 doses of vaccines. Though COVID-19 was devastating to many communities across the country, for his pharmacy, it created a sense of trust between him and the community, opening up opportunities to be the go-to COVID-19 testing and vaccination site on the island. Aside from COVID-19 testing, Young plans to broaden their scope of test and treat for other minor ailments and conditions such as strep throat and flu among many other things.

“Nothing here is groundbreaking, but many communities don’t have access to this stuff,” said Young.

In the next year, Young says that he will be expanding his operations buying two empty lots to grow the retail side of the pharmacy while adding two clinic rooms to meet with patients. He credits many pivotal moments in his career to the connections he made with faculty, alumni and fellow students and friends at the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.



Tyler Young with his daughter, Alivia, and wife, Amy, outside Vashon Pharmacy with the previous owners of the pharmacy.



PHILANTHROPY FOCUS

Gerald G. Briggs ('68) has contributed funds for a scholarship to benefit pharmacy students who plan to pursue a career in obstetric pharmacy. In 2014, after seeing the benefit of having a pharmacist on the health care team with obstetrics physicians and nurses, Briggs personally funded an obstetrics residency at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane. Alyson Blum ('14) filled that spot. Blum is now working full time at the High Risk Pregnancy Clinic at Sacred Heart as the clinical pharmacist and serves as an adjunct faculty member to the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Briggs also helped to create an elective course at the college to teach pharmacy students about the unique requirements of treating obstetric patients and over 70 students are currently enrolled in the course. Thank you, Jerry: your support and leadership truly make a difference at the college.

Learn more about philanthropic opportunities at the college: pharmacy.wsu.edu/give/

Alumni News

David Bunch ('19) checked in from Minnesota, where he is a medication therapy management (MTM) pharmacist at M Health in Minneapolis. After completing a two-year specialty Pharmaceutical Care Leadership residency, David stayed on at the hospital and is enjoying his new career and new home. He is also doing open mic nights in town. Congratulations, David!

We caught up with **Eddie Warner** ('16) in Las Vegas, Nevada, recently, where he is the manager of a very busy Walmart pharmacy. He said he loves the pace and the patients he serves on a daily basis. He has been with the company almost exclusively since graduation. Eddie said he is hoping to get to Spokane for the [Crimson Gala](#) on October 7.

Skye McKennon ('05) was a keynote speaker at the [2022 Katterman Memorial Lecture – Moving Forward Mindfully: Nurturing a Resilient Pharmacy Community](#). McKennon and WSPA Executive Director Jenny Arnold, a UW graduate, shared the podium at the prestigious annual event.

In Boise, we had a chance to talk to **Ken Webert** ('88). Ken is working for UCB, a mid-size biopharmaceutical company that specializes in immunology. He has a unique job at the company, as he works with the Ecosystem Partner team as a part of the marketing team. Stay tuned for details about a CougaRx Nation event in the Boise area later this year!

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

How to Get Pediatric Immunizations Back on Track

During a recent presentation at the APhA 2022 Annual Meeting & Exposition Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor Kim McKeirnan discussed the gap in vaccinations for children caused by the pandemic.

[Read more from Drug Topics](#)

Finding Joy: The Health Care Professional's Journey to Wellness and Resiliency

Third-year student pharmacist Diana Kang joined the WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine for their Finding Joy podcast to talk about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their learning experiences and various strategies they apply to find joy in their respective learning environment.

[Listen to the podcast](#)

Psychiatric pharmacy residency

The 2022 supplemental operating budget recently signed by Gov. Jay Inslee funded a joint request between the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the University of Washington (UW) School of Pharmacy to establish a psychiatric pharmacy residency program. This will allow WSU to place two residents in a clinical setting in Eastern Washington in 2023 while UW places two new residents at their new mental health teaching hospital now under construction.

[Read more about WSU agenda items funded by the budget](#)

Upcoming Events



[CougaRx Nation Alumni & Friends
Social – Clarkston](#)

April 28 | 5:00 p.m.
Basalt Cellars

906 Port Dr. Clarkston, WA



[Commencement 2022](#)

May 5 | 1:00 p.m.
Spokane, WA

pharmacy.wsu.edu/commencement/



[Crimson Gala](#)

October 7, 2022
Spokane, WA

pharmacy.wsu.edu/homecoming/

[More upcoming events »](#)

Faculty Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

Puneet Kaur (Doctor of Pharmacy Honors class of 2022, Z. Wang lab), Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Associate **Jin Gao** (Z. Wang lab) and Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Professor **Zhenjia Wang** published, "[Liposomal formulations enhance the anti-inflammatory effect of eicosapentaenoic acid in HL60 cells,](#)" in *Pharmaceutics* in February 2022.

Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor **Jennifer Miller**, Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor **Nicole Rodin**, Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor and Director for the Center for Pharmacy Practice Research **Kimberly McKeirnan** published, "[Training student pharmacists to administer pediatric immunizations,](#)" in *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning* in March 2022.

Kimberly McKeirnan and one other published, "[The physician perspective on pharmacist-physician collaboration and trust,](#)" in the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association* in February 2022.

United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR) Director and Professor **Sergei Tolmachev** and two co-authors published, "Potential improvements in brain dose estimates for internal emitters," in *The Million Person Study of Low-Dose Radiation Health Effects special issue of International Journal of Radiation Biology: International Journal of Radiation Biology*.

Sergei Tolmachev, USTUR Assistant Professor **Maia Avtandilashvili**, and nine co-authors published, "Radium dial workers: back to the future," in *The Million Person Study of Low-Dose Radiation Health Effects special issue of International Journal of Radiation Biology: International Journal of Radiation Biology*.

Sergei Tolmachev and co-authors published, "A million persons, a million dreams: a vision for a national center of radiation epidemiology and biology," in *The Million Person Study of Low-Dose Radiation Health Effects special issue of International Journal of Radiation Biology: International Journal of Radiation Biology*.

USTUR Adjunct Faculty **Daniel Strom** and USTUR Assistant Professor **George Tabatadze** published a forum article, "Why 'measurand' is the first scientific word we should teach health," in *Health Physics* in May 2022.

Josh Neumiller published the book chapter, "Type 2 diabetes management: selecting glycemic targets and choosing the right therapy," in *Diabetes Secrets* (pp. 87-92).

Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor **Cheyenne Frazier** and two co-authors published, "['Affirming' journey: narrative review and practice considerations on gender affirming care,](#)" in the *Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy* in March 2022.

PRESENTATIONS

Pharmacotherapy Vice Chair & Allen I. White Distinguished Professor **Joshua Neumiller** and one other presented, "Understanding the role of mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists and the impact on patient care in chronic kidney disease in type 2 diabetes," at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) 2022 Annual Meeting & Exposition in San Antonio, Texas on March 20, 2022.

SERVICE

Sergei Tolmachev served as vice chair of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) committee responsible for the publication of the book, "[NCRP Commentary 31: Development of kinetic and anatomical models for brain dosimetry for internally deposited radionuclides.](#)"

Maia Avtandilashvili served as a member of the NCRP committee responsible for the publication of the book, "[NCRP Commentary 31: Development of kinetic and anatomical models for brain dosimetry for internally deposited radionuclides.](#)"

Maia Avtandilashvili was requested to be on the Science Advisory Board (SAB) expert panel to peer review the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) draft Cancer Risk Coefficients for Environmental Exposure to Radionuclides (Federal Guidance Report No. 16).

Student Achievement

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE STUDENTS

The following students successfully passed their final defense:

- **Ruby Siegel**, November 10, 2021
- **Lindsay Achzet**, November 17, 2021
- **Dana Walters**, January 25, 2022
- **Trevor Kirby**, January 26, 2022
- **Chris Szlenk**, March 8, 2022
- **Shamema Nasrin**, March 28, 2022

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PHARMD) STUDENTS

Puneet Kaur (Honors class of 2022, Z. Wang lab) with faculty co-authors **Jin Gao** and **Zhenjia Wang** published, "[Liposomal formulations enhance the anti-inflammatory effect of eicosapentaenoic acid in HL60 cells,](#)" in *Pharmaceutics* in February 2022.

Kellyan Nguyen (class of 2022) was chosen for the [Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award in Altruism and Community Service](#).

Kennedy Erickson (class of 2023) was sworn in as the American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) national president during the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Antonio, Texas in March.



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
**College of Pharmacy and
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