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June 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The summer months are usually a time to reconnect, reflect, and plan for the next academic year. In the second half of May, I had the opportunity to share the college's accomplishments and challenges with our Dean's Advisory Council followed by a terrific reception with area alumni in Seattle. Our council members contribute their professional expertise, taking a day out of their busy schedules, many traveling from afar, to ensure that our college thrives, and I thank them for their time and continued guidance.



As we seek re-accreditation this fall (last week of October), our faculty and staff have been doing a deep dive on our educational offerings and everything that we do. It is a much-needed exercise to evaluate and re-calibrate our efforts for the next eight years. Terri Levien has been leading the self-study effort on the college-side and many of our faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners have offered wonderful advice as we work toward completing this process. All of these perspectives will help to make the college better for future generations of Cougar pharmacists and scientists. Thanks to everyone—it takes a village.

Part of this self-study requires feedback from our most recent alums. For class of 2018, 2019 and 2020, we hope you will take five minutes out of your busy schedules to evaluate our program. The survey has been sent to your email accounts (likely your WSU email), by AACCP (you can search "aacp.org" in your emails). We hope that you will also rally up your classmates to take the survey. All feedback is anonymous and will help us tremendously. The class with the most responses will get a pharmacy reunion t-shirt for those who respond to the survey!

It was a joy to see so many Cougs at the [2022 Northwest Pharmacy Convention](#) in Coeur d'Alene this past weekend—after two years of virtual events. Julie Akers ('00) and Leon Alzola ('91) led a lively evening at the Fred Meyer Alumni-Mentor reception that was highlighted by a [spirited Cougar fight song](#) as we merged our reception with that of the University of Washington School of Pharmacy. The tremendous support our alumni display for the college is very much appreciated and highly inspiring. You are the heart and soul of the profession in the State of Washington. Thank you.

Finally, I know it's still several months away, but I'm pleased to announce that we will be hosting the [Crimson Gala](#) in person for the first time since 2019. We will honor two people who have dedicated their lives to the pharmacy profession: John Oftebro ('65) and Linda Garrelts MacLean ('78). The gala will take place on Friday, October 7 and it will be a night filled with class reunions, prizes, and a chance to reconnect after three long years. All proceeds from the gala will go towards funding student scholarships. It's a year of many firsts since we have been back in person, and this will be the first Crimson Gala for me. I hope you will join me for a wonderful evening to reunite with friends and colleagues.

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

Balancing military service and pharmacy school

Colton Sorensen is one of many service men and women who pursued his doctor of pharmacy degree at Washington State University. Colton, who served in the United States Marine Corps, shares how his military training as a marine translates to becoming a better health care provider as a pharmacist. In 2020, Colton was asked to press pause on his third year in pharmacy school to deploy to Georgia, a country which shares a border with Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Turkey. The deployment ended up delaying his graduation by one year. Along with an active-duty tour to the countries of Georgia, Afghanistan, and Qatar, Colton also served in Lithuania for a 1-month training exercise. At the end of his 8-year military service, 26-year-old Colton held a rank of sergeant or grade of E-5. Colton graduated in May 2022 and will begin his residency at St. Michael Medical Center in Silverdale, Washington.



Why did you want to pursue your PharmD?

I was looking to serve others as a health care professional and as a member of a health care team. I wanted to be involved in the decision-making process regarding patient care. I also knew that pharmacy provided a wide variety of career opportunities, and the work-life balance was very reasonable in comparison to a lot of other health care professions.

What did you do while serving and how did it change your perspective?

Throughout my career in the Marine Corps my main role was in supply and logistics. I had to undergo basic training and combat training in San Diego, California, as well as supply school training in Jacksonville, North Carolina. I spent a lot of time helping supply and prepare the ammunition for the artillery cannons, ensuring all marines were equipped with proper military gear, and assisting in ordering parts and equipment for our vehicles, artillery cannons, radio equipment, and armory. I would also help plan out ranges, funeral details, and events for our unit.

My time spent in the United States Marine Corps gave me a very solid foundation in small unit leadership, teamwork, communication, decision making, active listening, time management, and mission accomplishment.



Colton (left) works with his Georgian counterpart (right) while conducting field operations with the Georgian infantry. The photo was taken in the Caucasus mountains during his third year in pharmacy school.

Do you have any advice for people in the military who may be considering pursuing their PharmD?

It is very doable to pursue a PharmD while serving in the military. The most important aspects for me included communication and time management. There were several instances where I had conflicts with drill weekends and exams, labs, presentations, simulations, and other assignments. The faculty and staff at WSU are very understanding and willing to help facilitate accommodations. I was very grateful for their willingness to help me when I got the call to be deployed in the middle of my third year.

What did you like most about your experience at WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences?

I enjoyed my fourth year APPE rotations the most. Rotations were where I found my passions and understood which aspects of pharmacy school I saw myself utilizing the most. During the first 3 years I really enjoyed the events put on by the clubs and organizations on campus. This allowed for me to make a lot of friends and get to know people in the classes above and below me.

Discovery could improve cancer immunotherapy

By Sara Zaske, *WSU News*

A type of white blood cell previously known only as a helper in the immune system appears also to be the instigator of the body's defenses against cancerous tumors. The discovery could lead to more effective cancer immunotherapy, a promising treatment which uses the body's own immune system, rather than radiation, to attack cancer cells.

In an animal study, Washington State University researchers found that a population of T cells called CD4-positive helper T cells helped start a chain of antitumor immunity defenses that allow killer cells to better infiltrate melanoma and breast cancer tumors. T cells belong to a class of white blood cells known as lymphocytes which move throughout the body's lymphatic system.

Many previous studies, and current immunotherapies, have focused primarily on the role of one-type of killer cells, called CD8-positive T cells. Yet, less than 20% of patients respond to those therapies and the initiating role of the CD4-positive helper cells could make those therapies better, said Hui Zhang, lead author on the study published in [The Journal of Immunology](#).

"One of the most challenging parts of current cancer immunotherapy is the low response rate," said Zhang, a WSU assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences. "The lack of knowledge of how to enhance lymphocyte infiltration into the tumor hampers the success of improving the response rate to cancer immunotherapy. Our finding shows promise in solving this problem."

Cancer is the second leading cause of death both nationally and worldwide. Currently, surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy are the conventional approaches to cancer treatment. However, those approaches cannot cure many cancers because some become metastatic, spreading from the primary tumor throughout the body, and certain cancer stem cells can become resistant to chemotherapy and radiation.

A relatively new treatment, immunotherapy has shown promise in curing a range of cancers, but only a relatively low number of patients respond to it. Zhang's research team hopes to change that with the knowledge of the mechanisms that help start the body's immune defenses.

The immune system has two types of killer cells: the CD8-positive T cells, and so-called "natural killer" cells. Both can attack virally infected cells and cancer cells.

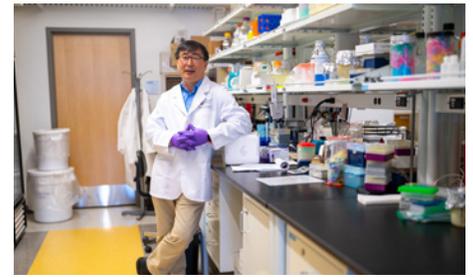
Natural killer cells are innate and roam around the body. They act as the first line of defense in our immune system but cannot recognize specific antigens – toxins or other foreign substances in the body – on their own. After the natural killer cells start to work, the CD8-positive T cells, which can recognize specific antigens, arrive. While CD8-positive T cells and their mechanisms have been well studied and are used in current immunotherapies, not much is known about how to activate natural killer cells' antitumor function.

Using genetic knock-out mice experiments, Zhang's group found evidence that a certain type of CD4-positive T cells, called tissue-resident memory T cells, may be critical in activating those first lines of natural killer cell defenders. Their experiments showed that they were effective against both melanoma and breast cancer tumors.

"We found that this specific population of CD4 T cells were the key player to initiate the antitumor immunity," said Zhang.

The specific CD4 T-cells together with the natural killer cells not only killed tumor cells and controlled tumor progression but also enhanced infiltration of other white blood cells, or lymphocytes, into the tumor.

In future studies, the researchers plan to continue to investigate the precise cellular and molecular mechanisms of this antitumor immunity—first in mice to develop an effective cancer immunotherapy. Then, the team hopes to move on to clinical trials in human subjects.



Hui Zhang's lab is focused on immunology and cancer biology with a specific emphasis on alcohol-related immunotoxicology and immunotherapy.

“Our goal is to develop a powerful cancer immunotherapy approach that is effective for all patients with different types of cancer,” said Zhang.

This research was supported by National Institutes of Health as well as WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences startup funds.

Interview with an infectious diseases pharmacist

May 22 is Infectious Diseases Pharmacists Day intended to recognize ID pharmacists and their impact on patient care and contributions to the health care team. This year's theme for ID Pharmacists Day is deprescribing antibiotics amid COVID-19. To understand the role of ID pharmacists and what patients can do to protect their health, we speak to our very own infectious diseases expert and assistant professor at the college, Dana Bowers.



Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor and infectious diseases pharmacist Dana Bowers

What does an infectious diseases (ID) pharmacist do and how do they differ from other pharmacists?

ID pharmacists focus on the appropriate use of antibiotics. We make sure that when patients are prescribed an antibiotic, that it is the correct one for their infection. We help select antibiotics that will treat the infection safely and effectively. Most ID pharmacists are located in hospitals, but we are moving more into clinics and other outpatient settings. ID pharmacists have specialized training in infectious diseases and antibiotics that is above what a general pharmacist receives.

How did you become interested in becoming an ID pharmacist and what is your experience?

I have been interested in ID ever since pharmacy school. After graduation, I completed a one-year general pharmacy residency in a hospital, then I completed a two-year clinical research fellowship in infectious diseases. During my fellowship, I took care of hospitalized patients and did research in a lab investigating novel combinations of antibiotics to treat multi-drug resistant bacteria or “super bugs.” Currently, I teach infectious diseases to pharmacy students during their third year. Students are taught common infectious diseases that they will encounter like bladder, lung and skin infections and the most appropriate treatment for these diseases.

What is antimicrobial stewardship in laymen’s terms and why is it the focus of ID pharmacists?

Antimicrobial stewardship is ensuring that antibiotics are used appropriately. This includes starting the correct antibiotic for the most likely bacteria causing the infection, while minimizing patient harm. Additionally, this includes stopping antibiotics when they are unlikely to benefit the patient, such as in viral infections. This is the focus of ID pharmacists, because antibiotics are frequently prescribed inappropriately which can result in patient harm and contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance. When resistance occurs, we are left with limited treatment options or there aren’t any antibiotics left that can kill the bacteria.

Can you tell us about the 2022 theme (Deprescribing antibiotics in COVID-19) and why it is important?

Antibiotics are not helpful for treating viral infections. As COVID is the most prominent viral infection in recent history, various treatment options have been suggested that are not supported by evidence-based medicine. Some of these medications have not been shown to be effective and can harm patients. As an ID pharmacist, it is important to me that patients use antibiotics when they are safe and effective. Part of the role of an ID pharmacist is to help provide reliable, evidence-based education to both patients and other health care professionals.

What sort of questions can a patient ask their pharmacist and physician to ensure that they are receiving the right treatment/ not being overprescribed antibiotics?

I think that it is important for patients to be actively involved in their care. We call this “shared clinical decision

making.” If patients would like to have a discussion with their health care provider about the appropriate use of antibiotics, here are some questions to ask a health care provider:

- Are antibiotics necessary for this condition?

There have been studies done that if a health care provider thinks that a patient wants antibiotics (regardless of whether the patient actually does) they are more likely to prescribe antibiotics. By patients asking this question, it opens up a dialogue if the provider was prescribing an antibiotic because that is what they thought the patient wanted or they were unsure of the diagnosis. Some infections can be caused by both viruses and bacteria, like upper respiratory tract infections – it is most likely a virus, but sometimes antibiotics are prescribed just in case (which is not appropriate).

- What are some other things, besides antibiotics, that I can do to help me feel better?

I think that this empowers patients to participate in their own health care. Some typical responses to this question include non-pharmacological treatments (rest, fluids, etc.) and over-the-counter medications (Tylenol or ibuprofen) that can help treat the symptoms.

- What I can I do to prevent this from occurring the in future?

This also engages patients/providers into good hygiene practices or vaccines if available.

A NOTE FROM JULIE AKERS

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Spring is always a time of growth, renewed energy, and excitement. That definitely fits the tone for May in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Graduation week started with a law review given by yours truly. In addition to being an examination prep day (which appeared to require a lot of caffeine), it was also a day for graduates to reconnect after a year on rotations. It warmed my heart to see the hugs, handshakes, and fist pumps that lead to stories being shared about adventures from rotations. Next up was the [awards ceremony](#) for the class of 2022. Watching their class video (great job Robyn Hart), it was evident they have built a strong class “pharmily” despite the challenges the pandemic threw their way. They are the epitome of perseverance. I couldn’t be prouder. And then the class of 2022 got to do something the previous two classes didn’t—walk across the stage at the Fox Theater at [commencement](#). Retired Rear Admiral and President of AMI Expeditionary Healthcare Scott Giberson gave an inspirational keynote address which was followed by the Oath of the Pharmacist led by WSPA CEO Jenny Arnold and WSPA President Ryan Oftebro. Congratulations to the class of 2022!



We were fortunate to have Scott Giberson on campus prior to commencement to give a presentation titled “Infectious Leadership.” I believe I can speak for all who attended that we could have listened to him speak on this topic for several more hours! Thank you, Scott, for giving our program so much of your time. We truly appreciate you.

During a visit to Seattle last month, Dean Leid, Senior Director of Development Kelly Sylvester and I reconnected with many alumni as well as met with colleagues at Amazon’s downtown offices and had a tour of The Spheres. It is always exciting to hear about innovation occurring in health care and the integral role pharmacists and technicians play in this work.

And, finally, we started June off with the first in-person [Northwest Pharmacy Convention](#) since 2019! Thank you to the WSPA for putting together an exceptional convention, scheduling great speakers, and adding Oregon into the fold along with Montana and Idaho at this event. The CougaRx Nation leadership held a planning meeting to

discuss the exciting events in 2022, including the upcoming alumni event on [June 23 at Cougar Crest winery in Walla Walla, Washington](#). We hope you can join us!

Watch for more details about [Pharmacy Reunion Weekend](#) which includes the Crimson Gala on Friday, October 7 and a football away game watch party on Saturday, October 8. I know Dean Leid mentioned this in his message, but I want to reiterate how important the Crimson Gala is this year for the college. We are excited to finally be able to present John Oftebro with the 2020 R. Keith Campbell Lifetime Achievement Award (longest standing awaiting awardee in the history of the award thanks to COVID-19) and to honor Linda Garrelts MacLean as the 2022 R. Keith Campbell Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. The Crimson Gala is also a time of reunions so watch for communication on the years being celebrated and some friendly competition between cohorts. We will be celebrating not only reunions for 2022 but those we missed in 2020 and 2021. Let's max out the room capacity at the event and make it one to remember!

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

Pharmacy Careers: Interview with a medical science liaison

The [Career Seminar Series](#) aims to feature various professions in pharmacy. Diego Gomes, a Senior Medical Science Liaison for Bayer Pharmaceuticals, shares his insights on how a PharmD degree translates to a promising career in the pharmaceutical industry.



Can you tell us about yourself and what you do as a medical science liaison.

A medical science liaison is responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with key opinion leaders (KOL), also known as thought leaders. A KOL is a trusted person and well-respected professional in certain areas in the medical field. These people are responsible not only for academic institutions or departments but also involved in health care decisions. They can be hospital executives, or they can be leading important research groups inside universities or even being the chief of the department inside a big hospital. These KOLs can be found within research institutes, they can be physicians and clinicians, also pharmacists and they are responsible for influencing or generating a lot of insights that are of great value to pharmaceutical industries that not only help their commercial strategy, but also help to identify treatment gaps in certain disease states.

Why would someone with a PharmD degree be a good candidate to be a medical science liaison?

Someone with a PharmD would be a great fit to become a medical science liaison because that professional would be able to bring together the clinical experience and the pharmacy experience. They would have a broad understanding on how a disease is seen, not only from a clinical perspective, but also in identifying gaps or patient adherence and knowing the structure of molecules or the development of new technologies. Potentially someone without a PharmD would not be able to have a clearer perception.

What does an average day in your life look like as a medical science liaison?

An average day in my life starts with checking my emails. I try to answer any important questions. As an MSL, we

are constantly getting questions that cannot be found in the product information, so mostly off-label questions. I also do virtual or in-person meetings with KOLs. As an MSL, you cover a territory that includes metropolitan areas to states or even regions. In my case, my territory goes from Alaska to Nebraska, so at the end of the day, I like to finish my day trying to set up new meetings and prioritizing specific regions in my territory and then I have to make plans to hop on a plane and spend at least one or two days somewhere else.

What's the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is seeing that in the long term, we are affecting patients' lives in a direct way. I came from a research background in which all the experiments I used to do on the bench was a small contribution to the scientific world. But being able to speak to physicians about a new drug and seeing that being implemented, seeing the results on people's lives, and improving health care, that is the most rewarding part of the position for me.



Diego presents medical information to primary care physicians at a medical center in Los Angeles.

Can you tell us about your career path and how you got to where you are today?

My major was in biological sciences, after that I got involved with other PhD and PharmD students in a research path, so I pursued academic life for about 10 years. I ended up being a fellow where I worked with other PhD students also some PharmDs and made the transition back to the pharmaceutical world back in 2019 getting a job as a medical science liaison. Now, I not only have the opportunity to work with MDs and PharmDs, but also nurse practitioners and other PhDs, all of us acting as a medical science liaisons.

If a pharmacy student wants to learn more about becoming a medical science liaison, what should they do?

If you want to learn more about what an MSL is and how you can become an MSL, you can find a lot of information on LinkedIn. One of the characteristics for a good MSL is being able to connect with other people, so don't feel afraid to connect with me on LinkedIn or finding other MSLs online because we are usually very receptive and very welcoming to new people who are trying to break into the area. There is also an MSL association—you can find information online. As long as you are engaging and you can communicate well and you love to talk about science with other people, you are already a good candidate to become a medical science liaison.

What career advice do you have to offer to students?

Don't be afraid to try. Don't be afraid to go beyond what people expect of you as a pharmacist. You have a wide variety of opportunities you can explore so don't be restricted or constrained to one specific job. The world of a medical science liaison is very interesting, but it also gives you a lot of opportunities for internal growth inside the pharmaceutical world as far as becoming a director, becoming a scientific director, many in the pharmaceutical industry take PharmDs and put them in positions to be the head of a whole therapeutic team. So, you can start as an MSL, but nothing will stop you from conquering new levels in your career pathway.

Student Perspective: Professional organizations and conferences for success

Zoe Shelton, a fourth-year student pharmacist, shares her insights on professional organizations and how staying active has helped contribute to a more enriching PharmD experience. She is currently the Northwest Region Province Secretary for Kappa Psi, the oldest and largest national pharmaceutical fraternity.

For students who are considering pharmacy school, can you tell them why it's important to get involved with professional pharmacy conferences and organizations?

It is extremely important to get involved with pharmacy organizations on campus



and to attend professional pharmacy conferences. Without getting involved in pharmacy organizations, I would not have had most of the opportunities I have been given during my journey as a student pharmacist. I also would not have had the pleasure of meeting so many other pharmacy students who support me and who constantly encourage me to continue to be involved in new ways. Joining pharmacy organizations has opened so many doors for me, and I am so thankful for the experiences I have had and for the people I have met through this. I have also been able to attend several professional pharmacy conferences (both virtual and in-person) through joining organizations. These experiences have allowed me to network with many health care professionals and have influenced my personal growth as a health care professional.

Which conferences did you attend during the school year and can you share your experiences?

One of the professional pharmacy conferences I was able to attend this school year was the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting. APhA is the nation's oldest and largest pharmacy organization, and the annual meeting usually brings in upwards of 10,000 health care professionals. This year's APhA Annual Meeting was held in-person in San Antonio, Texas, and it was so great to be able to travel to and attend such a large and engaging conference. Attending this meeting not only allowed me to connect with student pharmacists and other health care professionals from across the nation, but also gave me the opportunity to attend many educational sessions and witness the House of Delegates discuss policy changes that pertain to pharmacy. This experience has encouraged me to continue attending professional pharmacy conferences so that I can meet and work with other health care professionals who are passionate about advocating for the progression of pharmacy.



Zoe Shelton (fourth from the left) at the 2022 American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas in March. The APhA Annual Meeting is a comprehensive meeting for pharmacy professionals and future leaders in pharmacy to learn about leadership, career opportunities, and patient safety from nationally recognized experts.

The other professional pharmacy conference I was able to attend this semester was Kappa Psi's Northwest Province Winter Province Assembly. Attending this conference in person was the first time I had been able to attend an in-person conference throughout my educational career, and I am so thankful that I was able to attend. Through this experience, I was able to connect with other members of Kappa Psi not only from across our region, but from across the country. I was also able to attend educational sessions pertaining to patient care and took part in voting on legislative proposals. Our college's chapter, Beta Pi, also won a couple of awards at this conference, including the Most Creative Chapter Award and the Furthest Traveled Chapter Award! As the Regent (President) of our chapter, I was given the pleasure of accepting these awards, and am very proud of our chapter for winning these. Lastly, I am honored to mention I was also nominated for and voted into a regional position at this conference!

Can you tell us more about Kappa Psi?

Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc., is the oldest and largest pharmaceutical fraternity. This fraternity is a professional fraternity, and we really focus on professional growth, leadership, community education and involvement, and the promotion of the profession of pharmacy. The fraternity is also co-ed, and refers to all members as "Brothers." One aspect of being a Brother in Kappa Psi that is unique to other pharmaceutical organizations is that once you become a Brother, you are a Brother for life. This is a special and important aspect because our Brothers make up a very tight-knit community, and being a part of this community has provided such an immense amount of support. It truly feels like being a part of a big family. Being involved in this organization throughout my journey as a student pharmacist has also allowed me to grow so much as a professional, and I am thankful for the opportunities offered by this organization.

What does the regional officer do and when do you take office?

My position on Kappa Psi's Northwest Province Executive Board is the Secretary, and I took office the same day I was elected. In this role, my main responsibility is to communicate with chapters across the region about

any chapter related matters. I am also responsible for assisting in the organization of our next Winter Province Assembly. My other responsibilities include typical secretary duties, such as organizing meetings, maintaining records, and working with the other executive board members to assist them with any of their tasks.

What are the most pressing issues you hope to tackle in your new role?

The most pressing issues I hope to tackle in my new role are resolving the communication barriers that have risen over the past couple of years, as well as figuring out how to increase involvement in chapters across our region. Over the past couple of years, colleges of pharmacy nationwide have had a sizeable decline in the amount of involvement from students, and it will likely take some time for student pharmacists to get back to how things used to be. I would like to start working on ways to support each other with this challenge. I want to connect with Brothers across our region so that we are more involved in helping one another and our communities. It is also a goal of mine to work on supporting one another in order to make sure everyone knows they aren't alone and that our team is here to help them.

Pictures from the Northwest Pharmacy Convention

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Fred Meyer Alumni-Mentor Reception during the Northwest Pharmacy Convention.

See the photos: <https://bit.ly/3xvgK82>



PHILANTHROPY FOCUS

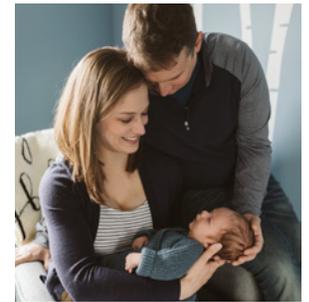
Congratulations to James ('57 BPH, '61 MS Pharm.) and Diann ('57 BS Ed.) Robbers for their recognition as Laureates of Washington State University. Laureates are recognized by the WSU Foundation for lifetime giving of over \$1 million to the university. Jim and Diann have been donors to WSU for 39 years! The Robbers established a scholarship endowment at the college in 2007 to support PhD students and fund travel to professional conferences. Their endowment also supports [summer research fellowships](#), Research Day, and scholarships to recruit top-ranked PharmD students to the CPPS. We are grateful for their commitment to our college, our students, and the pharmaceutical sciences.

Alumni News

Brandon Arthur ('11) recently celebrated his 10-year anniversary with MultiCare Health System (MHS). He began his career at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup in June 2012. In that role, he served as the clinical critical care pharmacist and PGY1 preceptor. Brandon and his wife, **Krysta (Aspaas) Arthur**, who is also a WSU pharmacy alumna from the class of 2011, moved to Spokane a few years ago. In 2018, Brandon transitioned into his current system-wide role in pharmacy informatics and serves 10 hospitals and all of MHS clinics including Indigo. His official title is Clinical Informatics – Pharmacy Informatics Analyst. Congratulations, Brandon!

Dean's Advisory Council member **Jill Kerrick Walker** ('87) has a new position with Merck & Co. She is now the Regional Medical Scientific Director, Perioperative & Neuroscience for Merck Research Laboratories under the U.S. Medical Affairs division of Merck. Jill is based in Portland, Oregon.

Sean Goerke (Leonard) ('15) and her husband welcomed son Jackson into the world in March. She recently transitioned from Clinical ER to a Clinical NICU position at Sacred Heart in Spokane.



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!

Wave the Flag for Pharmacy

Summer is here meaning it's time to send in photos of you and your loved ones as you "Wave the Flag for Pharmacy!" Wherever your travels take you these next few months, be sure to snap some photos of your trip with a Cougar flag and send it in so we can share it on social media and in our monthly newsletter. To make things more interesting, whoever submits the photo with the most "likes" will receive a can of Cougar Gold Cheese and bottle of Dedication Red wine* from Cougar Crest Winery (thank you Debbie Hansen, class of 1980!).

You can submit your photos by emailing them to pharmacy.gocougs@wsu.edu any time between now and Labor Day (Monday, Sept 5). Please include the name(s) and class year(s) of anyone in the photo along with any additional information such as where the photo was taken, who in the photo is a pharmacy (or WSU) student or alum, or if there's a story behind it. If you don't have a flag and need to borrow one, please email Kelly Sylvester at Kelly.sylvester@wsu.edu.

We'll add all the photos to a [Facebook album](#) and post them to the [@wsupharmacy](#) Instagram with #wavetheflagforpharmacy as we receive them – so be sure to check them out, and if you see any you like, vote for the winners with your likes/reactions!

* Must be 21 or older to be eligible to win. Winner will be notified via the channel they submit their photos by September 30.

John ('68) and **Claudia Swenson** sent us these wave the flag photos from their trip to Italy:



Claudia Swenson waves the flag in Lucca, Italy.



John Swenson ('68) waves the flag in Lucca, Italy.



John and Claudia Swenson wine tasting in Montepulciano, Italy.



Claudia Swenson waves the flag at the Leaning Tower of Pisa.



John Swenson waves the flag at the Leaning Tower of Pisa.



John and Claudia Swenson at Bruano, an island off shore from Venice, Italy.

Leon ('91) and **Merrie Kay** ('93) **Alzola** sent us this picture from Burgundy, France where they celebrated Merrie Kay's birthday:



Other News

Coug Day with Spokane Indians Baseball

Join your WSU Spokane colleagues and alumni on Sunday, June 19, for Coug Day with the Spokane Indians. Don't miss this triple play: Cougs, Father's Day, and baseball as the Spokane Indians take on the Hillsboro Hops with the first pitch at 1:05 p.m. Tickets will give you full access to the Pepsi Porch and White Claw Corner. The deadline to register is Monday, June 13, at noon.

[Register here](#)

Upcoming Events



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

June 23 | 6:00 p.m.
Cougar Crest Winer
50 Frenchtown Rd. Walla Walla, WA



[Crimson Gala](#)

October 7, 2022
Spokane, WA
pharmacy.wsu.edu/homecoming/

[More upcoming events »](#)

Faculty Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Associate **Jin Gao** (Wang lab), Pharmaceutical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Associate **Yujie Su** (Wang lab), and Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Professor **Zhenjia Wang** published an Invited Review article of "[Engineering bacterial membrane nanovesicles for improved therapies in infectious diseases and cancer](#)," in *Advanced Drug Delivery Review*, a peer-reviewed resource from the Elsevier online in May 2022.

Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor **Rustin Crutchley** (Yakima) with student co-author **Angelina Gladchuk** ('22 PharmD) and four other co-authors published "[Cathelicidins and defensins antimicrobial host defense peptides in the treatment of TB and HIV: Pharmacogenomic and nanomedicine approaches towards improved therapeutic outcomes](#)," in *Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy* online in May 2022.

PRESENTATIONS

Vice Chair and Allen I. White Distinguished Professor of Pharmacotherapy **Josh Neumiller** presented, "ADA guideline update – standards for diabetes education," at the WSPA/WADE Diabetes Education Day on May 13, 2022.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Hui Zhang** presented a poster and oral presentation titled “Tissue-resident memory CD4+ T cells play a dominant role in the initiation of antitumor immunity,” at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) Annual Meeting 2022, held from May 06 – 10, 2022 in Portland, Oregon. He also received a 2022 AAI Travel Grant to support him in attending this conference.

SERVICE

Pharmaceutical Sciences Associate Professor **Sue Marsh** has been appointed to the American Physiological Society (APS) Cardiovascular Section Steering Committee for a three-year term and will represent the Section on the APS Fellows Committee.

Student Achievement

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE STUDENTS

Sean McGranaghan (Zhu lab) successfully passed his preliminary exam May 13, 2022.

Farheen Shaikh (Ahmed lab) won first place in the graduate student poster competition for her poster titled “TNF- α interacts with TWEAK/Fn-14 Axis in human rheumatoid arthritis synovial fibroblasts,” at the American College of Rheumatology Knowledge Exchange held in Orlando, Florida in April 2022.

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PHARMD) STUDENTS

Angelina Gladchuk ('22 PharmD) with faculty co-author **Rustin Crutchley** and four other co-authors published “Cathelicidins and defensins antimicrobial host defense peptides in the treatment of TB and HIV: Pharmacogenomic and nanomedicine approaches towards improved therapeutic outcomes,” in *Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy* in July 2022.



Farheen Shaikh, ACR best poster



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